

The best way you can prove responsibility for what you do is to go out and live it and not get killed doing it.

—Iggy Pop

Stupidity is like hydrogen; it's everywhere. It's the basic building block of the Universe.

—Frank Zappa

Life is a joke. There are only a handful of things in my life that I can say I'm really glad I did.

—Jeff Beck

Can an ape find love in Milwaukee?

MIDLIFE CRISIS #18

3 November 1984

MIDLIFE CRISIS is a magazine dealing with Life, the Universe, Stupidity, and the game of Diplomacy. It is published by Paul G. Rautenberg, 4922 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. 53208. Phone calls to 414-778-0750 might be answered between the hours of 4-11 PM weeknights. Subscriptions are 10/\$5.00, which allows me to break even financially. I can't believe some people feel compelled to charge 70 or 80 cents an issue for zines which are 20 pages or less. They should seek out cheaper printers, websters.

GAME OPENINGS

There are two games starting in this issue, and I have 3 openings left in one more game. There is no gamefee per se, but I do require a \$10 NFR deposit and the maintenance of a sub to the zine. NFR fines are a hefty \$5.00 per occurrence. Signed up for the last game—Wall, Quirk, Delzer, Crosby.
MORE STANDBY PLAYERS ARE NEEDED, AND WILL BE SINCERELY VALUED AND APPRECIATED!

THE HOBBY AT LARGE

There has been more bad news than good news in the hobby over the past year. Feuds between prominent personalities have divided people into separate camps. Bitter correspondence, best left out of print, has been widely circulated and openly discussed. Private lives have been invaded, and there's a lot of talk about real-life lawsuits, copyrights, death threats, and the like. You won't see much of this strife here in Midlife Crisis, although echoes of it are bound to crop up from time to time.

I'm not going to take sides in the Linsey/Byrne dispute, because I haven't seen the physical evidence necessary to establish just who is guilty of what, and why. Lots of people have seen "a" letter from Linsey to Kathy Byrne's daughter, Francine, but apparently it isn't the one which has generated the outrage and controversy. "The smoking gun" seems to have been misplaced or withheld, which is sad considering the responses it is engendering.

I was very sorry to see Kathy resign as BNC. She was doing a very competent job in that capacity. I do think her resignation was more an over-reaction than a necessary recourse. She cites being "hounded" by Bruce Linsey's accusations that she threatened to rule all of his games in Voice of Doom irregular. Yet, even Bruce's defenders (such as myself and Mark Berch) were critical of Bruce's complaints about Kathy. We told him, before he went public with it all, not to make a big deal about something that hadn't even happened yet. Since no one backed Bruce in this instance, and since Kathy never declared any of his games irregular in any case, I don't see how her credibility was undermined. Sure, some of her decisions were questioned from time to time, but in every case she has always had the benefits of the advice and support of various past BNC's. She was never out on a limb, all by herself. And, her decisions were upheld in all the cases that I know of. Kathy's statements that questions about her decisions amounted to nothing more than "harassment" were an over-reaction for sure. Free discussion of hobby-related decisions IS one of the strengths of our hobby, and Kathy always had plenty of forums in which to present her sides on the issues.

THE HOBBY AT LARGE, continued.

Several prominent hobby members have suggested that Bruce Linsey should be barred from playing games in various zines; that he should be forced to give up his position as publisher of the novice packet (Supernova); that he should not be allowed to run the ROUNESTONE POLL. They usually cite his lack of credibility after all the accusations levelled against him. The publisher, Jim Leinel, said in an open letter that if Linsey was guilty of one of the things he was accused of, he was probably guilty of others as well. Terry Tallman has been attacking Linsey in his zine, North Sealth, West George with unqualified vituperation, and he now promises to take his attacks to other zines, via a new "roving subzine." All of the above cited reactions seem inappropriate to me. Linsey's publication SUPERNOVA has never been attacked on its own merits, or discredited as an introduction for newcomers to the hobby. On the contrary, it has been praised as being a fine effort, and pretty non-controversial to boot. The proposal not to allow Bruce to play his games in the Postal hobby, as "punishment" for his alleged misdeeds outside of the hobby and outside of the play of any games, seems ridiculous. I would allow Adolph Hitler, Joseph Mengele, Pol Pot, or Richard Nixon, to play games in my zine. Their may have disagreeable reputations outside of the hobby, but it wouldn't be a factor in determining their eligibility for playing in a game. The only grounds for refusing to let a player enter a game in Midlife Crisis is if one or more of the players, previously signed up, state their wish that other individuals not be allowed to play in that particular game. Playing a game is supposed to be fun, and if somebody's just not able to have fun in the company of somebody else, I'll try to keep them apart.

People, before you make public pronouncements on who is guilty or innocent, don't just take people's word for it. Ask for the physical evidence, and if it is not forthcoming, take accusations with a very large grain of salt. View "testimony" critically—do accusers or witnesses have axes to grind against the accused? If so, it doesn't mean that they are lying, but one has to be careful. In my view, public condemnations of people are very drastic steps, taken only when one is sure that they are necessary, and only when there is irrefutable evidence to back up their arguments. Second hand evidence, and hearsay, even when it comes from your personal friends, has to be examined with great care and objectivity. Otherwise, it is at best "irresponsibility," and at worst "gullibility," to take things at face value.

FOLDING ZINES

Another reason why 1984 has been a sad year for this hobby is the large number of very good zines which have ceased publication. Snaful, Irksome, Voice of Doom, are caput, and Anduin and Thirty Miles of Bad Road stand on unfirm ground. We can only hope that the surviving zines, and the future zines, will take up the slack.

But, there will be no replacement for the VOICE OF DOOM. Considering the sheer volume of pages published in the four-year tenure of the zine, it is amazing how many contained interesting and entertaining letters and articles. Even the controversies that were rife in that zine were interesting, albeit discussed ad nauseum in some cases. The final issue was all of 270 pages, and I'm still wading through it. Bruce Linsey devoted an unbelievable amount of personal time and funds to his zine—far and above what any other publisher that I know of has ever devoted to any other hobby publication. It will be missed.

It is nice to see one of the newer publications, Steve Hutton's No Fixed Address, taking up where VOD's and Anduin's letter columns have left off. The hobby needs places where people can talk to one another about whatever comes to mind. We have a lot of aggressive, intelligent, opinionated people in the Diplomacy hobby. Their correspondence makes for entertaining and thought-provoking reading.

BENZINE, MARK IV

Against all reason, I'm going to try taking on a subzine. Hey, I like Mark Lew, and I feel his style will fit in well with that of Midlife Crisis. If nothing else, it will "pad" the zine in months when I'm not writing up to par. Perhaps then I can stop calling MC "a warehouse with occasional articles."

L*E*T*T*I*E*R*S*

FROM JOHN MICHALSKI: Just got back to town and found #17 in the built up pile here. Since Kathy is smart enough not to continue, let me offer my 2¢. Boardman numbers are for Postal Diplomacy games—that's a definition. TV Dip is not Postal Dip, in my judgment and in that of some others. And that's a good reason right there.

Why do you suggest Kathy change her life or lose it, just because Barch disagrees with her?

Cover editorial was cleverly written. If those "wimpy '60's" are gone, no harm in trying to bring 'em back, huh?

((Why is it smart for a prominent hobby member and former BNC not to contribute to hobby discussions? When I asked Dittar, Kendler, Walker, et al to contribute their opinions on the same subject, did they feel that it was harassment on my part? Geez.

I'm glad you brought up the "change it or lose it" quote. That sentence was very poorly constructed; I never meant it to seem like a death threat, or to intimate that disagreement with Mark Barch was tantamount to being suicidal. I should have said: "When honest disagreements are voiced regarding existing hobby practices, they should not be shunted aside with a casual 'love it or leave it.' When something is wrong, in hobby affairs or in real-life matters, a better truism is 'change it or lose it.'"

Glad to have you around, John. Stay in touch.

FROM ROD WALKER: In MC #15, you flatly stated that "if it were left to me," you would make all e-mail games irregular because they were anonymous. My letter in MC 17 was written to correct that misapprehension: only one e-mail game has been anonymous; the rest have been perfectly regular. (Some e-mail games were declared irregular because the players were mostly local, just as any other postal game would be. The Wordworks game was declared a variant. On some purely technical grounds, I feel it should have been given a MN and declared irregular, rather than being given a MN. If you're interested in an exposition of that bit of trivia, I'll oblige, but not now.

And yes, John Michalski and Dan Stafford certainly have a right to express their opinions. And I have a right to express mine, including my opinion that their opinions represent a new concept in the area of bigotry. Games should not be left out of the ratings systems unless they are "different" to the extent of fundamentally affecting the way in which a given set of 7 people will play. That is true of many 'irregular' games (as well as such variants as Anonymous Dip.). It is not true of e-mail games which differ only in respect of which company or corporation delivers the mail. That sort of discrimination which Michalski, Stafford, and others went to direct against their fellow gamers is not a nice thing.

FROM BRAD WILSON: A very entertaining MC 17. Your front page article is amusing to a radical conservative; especially the part about the campuses. You really can't see anything wrong with the academic world having—horrors—two points of view? Since 1960 our colleges have been monoliths of liberal/Marxist views. Having someone who disagrees with you around isn't a disaster, you know. Try—just try—to find a conservative on a history faculty anywhere. Walter LaFaber at Cornell. Try again. Well, uh, funny, isn't it?

((Paul here. What I was satirizing in that editorial was not the right of conservatives to heckle, but the fact that people on Reagan's campaign staff were encouraging such heckling. These are the same people who have the police rope off all anti-Reagan protesters far away from any location in which he is scheduled to speak.))

BACK TO BRAD: Yeah, I know Blatz is raunchy, but money plays a role, unfortunately. Actually, Genessee Cream ale is cheap as dirt, but very good. Blatz is probably a cut above Hamm's. But what isn't?

((Okay, perhaps it is unfair of a self-proclaimed "beer connoisseur" to bad-mouth cheap, watery American swill beers. Next time you're in Milwaukee, have Baumister or myself take you to try some "real" beers—mostly imports, but we also have a very excellent American beer, brewed here in Wisconsin—Augsburger. Even when I was on strike last year, and was very short on cash, I still could afford to drink Auggie at \$10 a case. I just went without lunch....))

M*O*R*E L*E*T*T*E*R*S

FROM CARL RUSSELL: I was very surprised to see that I NMR'd in 1983 AR last month. Especially since I thought I sent in orders for the game. I'm in too many games and this one is very low on my priority list. Plus the fact that Becker, Makuc, and Rusnak never wrote to me let this game slip my mind. No, I tend to NMR in games where no one writes.

I was pissed off that the Winter supply center chart was screwed up. France: 4 Centers when he had 3. The error wasn't corrected until the next season.

I've played under the worst GM in Dip, Bill Highfield. Guess what? He never corrected his GMing errors. It took Scott Hanson and the Orphan Service to finally get his games going. Some of them are over now. Sorry to ramble on thus.

I guess I've abused your Bling enough. Please don't take it personally; I like you, but you're Bling (or what I've seen of it)leaves much to be desired. I suppose I'm trying to blame you for my NMR, but I tend to do that when I'm pissed off.

((I might suggest that you keep track of your games on a wall calendar. When you get game results with deadlines listed, simply make a note of it on your calendar. Then, even if no one writes to you, you won't be totally unaware of deadline comings and goings. One is, first and foremost, responsible for his own mistakes#.

Yes, I erred on the supply center chart. Russ Rusnak pointed out that mistake at Pudgecon, while I was in the process of addressing and stamping the copies of MC 16. I thought I corrected all seven copies of the players' reports—somehow, yours slipped by, and that is no one's fault but my own. I apologize. However, if you spotted an error, and were so "pissed off" that it had happened, WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE ME RIGHT AWAY AND BRING THE ERROR TO MY ATTENTION? Did you count on one of the other players spotting it? I believe in correcting errors IMMEDIATELY upon notification that they have occurred, and many of my players can testify that I will do this.

Good GMing is something that I aspire to, but admittedly don't always achieve. Yes, I do make mistakes. But I DO go out of my way to correct them, in advance of the deadlines whenever possible. Most players are happy with this, in lieu of the "perfection" they don't seem to get.

I do not accept the blame for your NMR, and the very hint that you DO blame me is patently insulting and ridiculous.))

FROM BRUCE LINSEY: Since you GM without published house rules, I'd like to know in advance how you will rule on the following situations. After all, we all know that playing Diplomacy without house rules is like walking through a dense forest on a moonless night—and I for one don't want to walk into any trees!

1)What is the latest time on deadline day that you'll accept phoned orders? Is this enforced strictly, without exception?

((The latest time is when I walk out the door to go carousing, or when Midnight occurs. Late orders are ignored.))

2)Under what conditions will you separate seasons, including retreats?

((If one person requests a separation, he gets it. I ask only that he not do it for frivolous reasons, such as "just to be an asshole." I wouldn't separate seasons just for retreats.

3)Will you always call a standby for a vacated position, or do you ever use civil disorder? ((I don't like CD, and I'll always call for standbys.))

4) Is impersonation of the GM a permissible tactic? ((Yes. I have no control over how a person plays the game.))

5)Will you call collect for orders to prevent an NMR? Yes, if I have time and have the phone numbers. Often, I will call at my own expense.

6)Do you allow orders conditional upon who is playing a given position (as when a standby has just been called? ((Yes.)) Do you allow Spring orders conditional upon whether another player missed his build during a combined season? Orders conditional upon whether the seasons are separated?

((Yes to all questions. Even when seasons are combined, Winter and Spring are still regarded as separate seasons, one occurring after the other.))

7)How do you handle a "no removals received" situation?

((Furthest fleet not on a supply center, then furthest army not on a supply center. If two fleets or armies are equally distant from home, I'll flip a coin.))

LINSEY LETTER, cont.

8) May we get the game results by phone, and if so, how soon after the deadline? ((You can call anytime after the deadline.))

9) Do you allow black press? ((Yes.)) Will press be printed during the Winter if seasons are separated, or held till Spring (assuming that the player doesn't specify which he wants)? ((I usually print press the same season that it is received; otherwise, it tends to pile up.))

(10) Must draws include all survivors? ((No—any draw unanimously agreed upon is fine with me.)) Does NVR mean or no? ((NVR means no unless it is an NBR, in which case it counts as a yes.)) Do you report only the success or failure of the proposal, or the number of votes each way, or will you make votes public? ((I announce only the success or failure of the vote, and will only publicize votes if specifically requested to do so.))

11) Do you consider that dot in the North Atlantic Ocean to be a supply center? (If so, please switch England with Russia on my preference list!). No. Let's be real, Bruce.

I read with interest Kathy Byrne's letter and your reply. The incident illustrates quite plainly Kathy's attitude that anyone who publicly expresses a viewpoint opposed to hers is somehow harrassing her. I noted with amusement that she didn't attempt to debate the issues or contribute to the discussion, but instead just accused you of taking a cheap shot.

Your page one satire on conservative politics equalled or perhaps even outshone Boardman's similar diatribes. I don't agree with your position, of course, but you do a hell of a job of expressing it.

CONTEST ANSWERS

I only received two written replies to the quiz in last issue, although I believe Marc Peters correctly answered #2 verbally. I will present the question, Brad Wilson's answer, and Bob Achesson's answer, and then the real answers.

Can you name the source of each of the following requests?

1) Bring me my bow of burning gold; / Bring me my arrows of desire; /
Bring me my spear: O clouds unfold! / Bring me my chariot of fire.

BW: From Euripides' Medea. BA: Some faggot. Answer: William Blake, Milton.

2) Please sir, I want some more.

BW: In Animal House, the Omega's initiation involves satirical beatings on pledge's rumps, after which they say, "Please, can I have another, sir?"

BA: Oliver Twist. Bob's right.

3) Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?

BW: From a Sinatra song. BA: Some Yankee Wallflower. Answer: Lewis Carroll, Lobster Quadrille.

4) Give me a lever sufficiently long, and a fulcrum sufficiently strong, and single-handed I shall move the world. BW: From a Hitler speech.

BA: Arm & Hammer. Answer: Archimedes.

5) Now, don't try to reason with me. BW: VOICE OF DOOM. BA: Nixon or Reagan. Answer: Wayne Booth, Now Don't Try to Reason with Me.

6) Will you still need me, / will you still feed me, / when I'm 64? Everybody got this one—the Beatles: Shit Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

7) But, if it's all the same to you, just give it to me, instead
The bouquets while I'm living, and the knocking when I'm dead.

BW: From the Rolling Stones, Dead Flowers. BA: Yeats.

Answer: Louis E. Thayer, Of Post-Mortem Praises.

8) Oh, do not ask, "what is it?" BW: What you say when you look at the Democratic platform. BA: Edison. Answer: T.S. Eliot, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.

9) But of all plagues, good Heaven, thy wrath can send,
Save, save, oh save me, from the candid friend! BW: Mark Barch.

BA: Some idiot who didn't have any friends. Answer: George Canning, The Anti-Jacobin.

10) Give me a handful of lillies to scatter. BW: Josef Stalin. BA: Some out-of-work gravedigger. Answer: Virgil, Aeneid.

11) . . . Won't you please send us a voluntary contribution of \$10 to help defray the costs of printing and mailing the University of Chicago Magazine?

BW: U of C Alumni office. BA: Richard Daley. Answer: The U of C Mag publishing office.

Okay, maybe most of these questions were a little on the tough, literary side. I'll give Brad and Bob 3 issues each just for trying. Thanks, guys.

1984 ?

SORDID BEHAVIOR

Pre-Spring 1901

This will feature a pretty varied bunch; the names of most of them have been plastered across the face of the hobby over the past couple of years.

AUSTRIA (Mark Frush, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt 6, St. Louis, Mo. 63116); Has F Tri, A Vie, A Bud.

ENGLAND (John Crosby, 830 Hunterhill Tr., Roswell, GA. 30075); Has F Edi, F Lon, A Lpl.

FRANCE (Brad Wilson, P.O. Box 327, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL. 60045); Has F Bre, A Par, A Mar.

GERMANY (Uli Baumelster, P.O. Box 6038 Herle Village, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. 20057); Has F Kie, A Mun, A Ber.

ITALY (Bob Sweeney, Jr. 614 Custer, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. 66027); Has A Ven, A Rom, F Nap.

RUSSIA (Marc Peters, 1814 Cameron Dr. #3, Madison, WI. 53711); Has F STPac, F Sev, A Mos, A War.

TURKEY (Richard Delzer, 2952 N. 124th St., Wauwatosa, WI. 53222); F Ank, A Con, A Smy.

The first deadline will be set for eight weeks from now; after that, the usual 4-week deadlines will be observed. Moves for Spring 1901 are therefore due on SATURDAY, 5 January, 1985. Best of luck to all of you!

NEW GAMES !

1984 ?

RIGEL II

Pre-Spring, 1901

Yes, this is the same line-up as in the original Rigel game, with the exception of one player, which was featured in the Voice of Doom. The name of this game is not necessarily set; one wants "Rigel II", while another remarked that he hoped that it would NOT be called Rigel II. I did have other names recommended to me; some are more dignified than others. Dale Balden inspired the names "Crotchless Panties" and "Doggie Style", while Rich Delzer came up with "Vaginal Itch." Well, uh, you see, he wants me to disgust his wife.... Any comments from the peanut gallery?

AUSTRIA (Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St, Apt 3, Dalton MA. 01226); Has A Vie, A Bud, F Tri.

ENGLAND (Bob Sweeney, Jr. 614 Custer, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. 66027); Has F Edi, F Lon, A Lpl.

FRANCE (Nelson Heintzman, 2255 Delaware Ave, #C-4, Buffalo, NY. 14216); Has F Bre, A Par, A Mar.

GERMANY (Steve Knight, 11905 Wintertur Lane, Apt 103 Reston, VA. 22091); Has F Kie, A Ber, A Mun.

ITALY (Rich Reilly, Upham Hall #308, Moscow, ID. 83843); Has F Nap, A Ven, A Rom.

RUSSIA (Ty Hare, 1001 N. Weber, #204, Colorado Springs, CO. 80903); Has F Sev, F StP sc, A Mos, A War.

TURKEY (Dave Kleiman, 651 Fenster Ct. Indianapolis, IN. 46234); Has F Ank, A Con, A Smy.

The first deadline will be extended to eight weeks; after that, the usual 4-week deadlines will apply. Spring 1901 orders are due on SATURDAY 5 January 1985.

1983 Y

MISSIONARY POSITION

Fall 1987

IT'S ALL THERE IN BLACK AND WHITE

AUSTRIA (Nelson Heintzman, 2255 Delaware Ave, #C-4, Buffalo, NY. 14216);
A Arm H, A Ank-S-F Con, F Con-S-ITALIAN F Gre-Bul sc.

ENGLAND (Jim Makuc, 2 Forest Park Lane, Rm 214 Ivy House, Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY. 14853); F Cly-S-FRENCH F Nat-Nwg.

FRANCE (Konrad Baumsister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI. 53130);
F Nat-Nwg, F Mid-Eng, A Pic-S-A Gas-Bur, A Gas-Bur, A Bre-S-A Pic.

GERMANY (Dale Bakken, 1814 Cameron Dr, #3, Madison, WI, 53711);
F Hol-Bel, A Mun-Bur, A Ruh-s-A Mun-Bur, A Tyr-Tri, A Boh-Tyr, F Wal-Iri, A Pru-Sil.

ITALY (Russ Rusnak, 16 West 536 Hensyauckla Rose, Apt 105, Hinsdale, IL. 60521);
A Tyr-r-Pied. A Pie-Tyr, A Ven-S- A Pie-Tyr, A Alb-Sar, F Gre-Bul sc.
F Aeg-S-F Gre-Bul sc, F Ion-Tyr Sea.

RUSSIA (Nancy Irwin, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt 6, St. Louis, MO. 63116);
A Ser-S-GER A Tyr-Tri, F Eng-Pic, F Yrk-Mth, A Edi-S-GER F Wal-Lpl (NSO),
F Nwy-Nwg, A Vie-S-GER A Tyr-Tri, A Gal-Bud, A Rum-S-F Bul sc, F Bul sc H,
F Blk-S-F Bul sc, A Ukr-Sev.

There is a proposal for a R/G draw. Please vote along with Winter C7/Spring C8 orders, due SATURDAY 1 December 1984.

1983 Y

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 1987

AUSTRIA: Has Ank, Smy, Con. (3). Even.
ENGLAND: Has Lpl. (1). Even.
FRANCE: Has Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por. (5). Even.
GERMANY: Has Mun, Ber, Kle, Bel, Hol, Den, Lon, Iri. (8). May build one.
ITALY: Has Ven, Rom, Nap, Tur, Gre. (5). Must remove one.
RUSSIA: Has StP, Sev, Mos, War, Rum, Nwy, Sve, Ser, Edi, Bud, Bul, Vie.
(12). May build one.

MISSIONARY PRESS

WORLD VIA GHOST TO RUSSIA: One can't be sure, but it's clear that you're not a goner yet.

ITALY TO RUSSIA: Hopefully we destroy your southern fleets and you get to rebuild armies that you can send as far up Dale's ass as Dale has stuck his hand up Cococo's. You and Dale can't be stopped, however I am hoping that you will take the whole thing and not bother to share.

UNK MO TO ITALY: Ah, sweet defeatism....

MADTOWN TO CHICAGO: Sorry, Russ. When I get confused and don't know what to do, I always ally with the one with the biggest tits. You understand, don't you?

PARIS TO BERLIN: ...And I showed my good faith in you, too. And where did it get me? Incidentally, Nancy wanted me to tell you, "Thanks for Everything."

GHOST TO MADTOWN, ST. LOOEY, AND BREWTOWN: Being a bit ephemeral at the moment, I don't have to worry, but in the old limp days, I always drooled. You're supposed to use a napkin, gently tucked below the cheeks. ((Such class. By the way, are you referring to the Facial cheeks, or the Anal Cheeks?))

BAKKO TO NELSON: Aww, we missed you at Indy Con! How about coming to Madcon next year?

GHOST TO UNK MO: I must not have been paying attention, but who was the idea-stealing Russian in Porcelain God? This damnazine ((Sic!)) is becoming badly cluttered with defunct press writers.

BAKKO TO UNK MO: We didn't miss you! Marc and I agree...now that you've hit "Dirty Thirty", you're starting to slow down.

UNK MO TO BAKKO: Hey, I can get drunk just as thoroughly in Milwaukee as I can in Indycon, and I don't have to spend 6 or 8 hours on the road, not able to drink a drop in fear of being busted for DWI.

WORLD WAR IIIb

THE FATTED CALF

Winter 2103

SEPARATING THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF

ARGENTINA (Pierre Touchette, 1 Rue Georges, Masson, Quebec, CANADA J0X 2H0); Has A Buenos Aires, A Cordoba, F SW Atl, F Santa Cruz.

AUSTRALIA (Eric Ozog, 1526 N. Lawler Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60651); Builds F Wes Aus. Also has F NS Wales, F Java, A Borneo, F Sumatra, F N Zea.

BRAZIL (James Wall, 1805 University Ave, #5, Madison, WI. 53705); Builds F Belem, A Mato. Also has A Bol, F Cen Atl, F Carrib, A Para, F Berm Tri.

CANADA (Ronald Brown, 70 F. Chesterton Dr, Nepean, Ontario CANADA K2E 5S9); Builds A Ontario. Also has F NW Atl, F Lab Sea, F NW Pac, F NE Pac, A Calif.

CHINA (Ed Wrobel, PO Box 3463, Arlington VA. 22203); Removes Fleet S China Sea, F G of Siam. Has A Manchuria, A Szechuan.

ECM (Mark Keller, 9596 Shunway, Orangevale, CA. 95662); Has F Greenland Sea, F Bay of Bis, F Nat, A Nor, F Spa so, F Wes.

INDIA (Neil Kiersz, 108 Humphrey Rd, Great Valley, NY. 14741); Builds F Madras, F Rajasthan. Also has F East Ind, F Thai, F Pers Gulf, A Saudi, A Kwangtung, A Tibet, A Pradesh.

JAPAN (Jim Makuc, 2 Forest Park Lane, Rm. 214 Ivy House, Cornell Univ, Ithaca NY, 14853); Even. Has F Papua, F Honshu, A Sakhalin, F E China Sea, F Arafura, F W Pac.

KINGDOM of UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT (Brad Wilson, Box 327, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest IL. 60045); Removes A Tunisia, F G of Aden. Has A Sudan, F W Ind, F Somalia.

PERU (Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St, 3rd Left, Providence RI. 02908); Even. Has F Chile, A Rio, A Mexico, F Hon wc, F South Pac, F Panama.

U OF SA: Fleet W Ind retreats to Malagasy. Builds F Transvaal. Also has F Kenya, A Tanzania, A Zaire, F Sw Atl, ((Don Swartz, 155 Vernon Ave #2, Louisville KY, 40206))

USA (Michael Quirk, 3890 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025); Even. Has F Dixie, F Cuba, F Haiti, A Texas.

USSR (Marc Peters, 1814 Cameron Dr, #3, Madison, WI. 53711); Builds A Kazak, F Kamchatka, A Georgia. Also has A Siberia, A Yak, F Fin, A Syria, F South Korea, A Tsinghai, A Mongolia.

WARSAW PACT (Mark Frush, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt. 6, St. Louis, MO. 63116); Builds A Hungary. Also has F Adr, A Egypt, A Israel, F Eas, A Gre, A Poland.

WAE (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct., Deerfield, IL. 60015); Builds A Mali. Also has F Mid Atl, F Sahara, F Gulf of Guinea, A Libya, A Cent Af Rep, A Niger.

I have moves on file for Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, U of SA, and USSR. These can of course be changed before the deadline, which is 1 December 1984. Thanks to Dave Anderson for unneeded standby orders.

THE FATTED PRESS

PERU TO BORED: No greater insult...a Linsey toady? Sir, you shall pay! Identify yourself and come forward for your verbal abuse.

MARK TO MARG: My, my--3 builds--now I hope you remembered your promise not to build in Russia or Georgia. Madlad fighting isn't a pretty sight. All the blood, guts, and broken beer bottles--such a waste.

UNK MO TO MARK: I'm sure he didn't FORGET his promise--he simply broke it.

ARG MO BUENOS AIRES: It's over... BA TO BRA/PERU: Take it...congratulations.

BA TO WORLD: Now they will take over my homeland...Good fight...

BA TO GM: Too bad...there's no luck for me.

GM TO BA: It's not over til it's over.

UNK MO TO ELF: I'll buy the Joy Division Album--that's the one I don't have.

THE WALL TO GM: Krivq. GM TO THE WALL: Rikqv.

PERU TO US: You know that Canada is no lousier than yourself. Fess up and stop passing blame. If you'll let me in, I've got lots of money to help put you back on your feet again. Don't worry, there won't be too many harsh, restrictive rules and you may get out of debt by 2250.

press cont. next page.

THE FATTED PRESS cont.

LLAMALAND TO USSR: I will not have my country married off to Ho Chi Minh! He's been dead for over 100 years, you grave-robbing cossack, wrotel, are you going to stand for this desecration of your noble founding leader?

CAIRO (Pharaoh Press): Dictator Boss Mameluke barely escaped from the chaotic collapse of Upper Egypt under Communist Frenshian furies. Mameluke's small riverboat smuck down the Nile to Khartoum with 53 dancing girls and the US President Quirk, who was visiting to firm up an anti-Madlad alliance. The Boss announced he would continue the war against the Imperialist Europeans, bigoted South Africans, and stab-happy West africans, from Lower Egypt.

MARC TO JAMES: My, my, my, aren't you the testy one? What put you in such a bad mood? Oh yeah, that sucker bet that set you back \$50. If you can't stand a comment or two, don't read the press.

USSR TO LLAMALAND: Too late! Quirk found the powder, and now has a gorilla on his back. Also, he just signed up for another 47 games, and plans on taking over the expired VOD and making it bigger than ever. Burnout is expected 24 hours after his supply of powder is exhausted.

WARSAW TO OLD CAIRO: The Egyptians have been overrun for over 2000 years—what's a bunch of Slovaks compared to a bunch of spear chucking ex-Israelis? Colonel Mommur would be proud of him.

WORLD TO USSR: Stuff it, you stab-happy swami! You'll get yours!!

JIM-BOB TO THE WALL: Do calm down, James. We're all having fun here, aren't we?

SOUTH AMERICA TO MALI: Where are you? Are you in this game? I'm afraid there's altogether too many silly insignificant corners of the earth represented in this game. I'm an imperialist, aren't you?

MARC TO PAUL: Playing the ponies isn't gambling either if you know what you're doing. Betting on any event can be profitable with enough knowledge to make your decisions better than 50/50 guesses.

TRIESTE TO MALI: The stench of a trio of Europeans is only natural—your African senses are used to cow dung and flies—not wine and flowers.

MOSCOW TO CAIRO: Yes, in fact, I do enjoy playing the Rookies. I've always delighted in taking the unpopular choices. Besides, Russia is even more difficult to play in this game than in regular dip—too many bloody neighbors! The challenge makes it fun.

PERU TO ARGENTINA: Now, now, is that any way to talk to your gentle liberator? I might have gotten the mistaken idea that you thought I was going to be a dictator. You're no doubt aware that we are an open democracy (even llamas can vote) with liberal immigration policies (as long as you present yourself as a gift, like the Australian jumping llamas, we'll give you an army or two to command).

PERU TO UNK MO: Quibbles, quibbles. Besides, I GM for Tallan, not the other way around. Vote for the only true hobby sex ghod, Terrence N. Tallan. He's our man...T.N.T. he's dynamite! The preceding has been an unpaid political announcement!

UNK MO TO ALL OF DIPDOM: I'm backing Tootz Michalski for Hobby Sex Ghod, and I'm insisting upon everyone's recognizing Russ Rrrrrusnak as the most Obnoxious hobby personality.

GEORGIA TO MALI: Okay Kaplan, that's it! That's the last insult I'm taking from you. Outta my way, Frush, I'm going to crush that BushWacker! (Hmm, does that mean that he...oops, I'd better leave that one alone!)

PERU TO TASS: Eat muff, then, see if I care (aside to UNK MO: think that will get rid of that anti-capitalist bastard...Russian land, indeed...you know how hard it would be to get a time-share condo off the ground in Siberia?)

JIM-BOB TO MARC: One for all, all for one, that's it exactly. I'm sorry that Paul is all alone in Brewtown too, but what can I do? Maybe Dale would go keep him company ((My liver would never stand the strain!))...what Midwest Mob? All talk, no action. Russ is not your puppy dog ((no, that's Frush!))! Whatcha got? Nothin'! ((We have the biggest and best beer parties in the country, that's what!))

JIM-BOB TO UNK MO: Positively psychic! How did you know I'd been talking to the Wall? I'll bet he's the only one that calls Michael that (P.S. I know, I can't help talking to Walls, you know...)

JIM-BOB TO UNK MO: I got the Unknown M.O. part, but I never connected it to Sirens of Titan. By the way, it's a very adolescent book. I thought it was hilarious at 14-15, but recently found it utterly childish and boring on re-reading it...ah, first novels.

UNK TO BOB: Yeah, I was 15 when I read Sirens too. I haven't bothered to read it again, and there's no incentive to do so now. The names "Unk" and "Malachi Constant" are the only things that I remember about the book.

press cont. next page

RUSSIAN VICTORY MARCH CONTINUES

AUSTRIA (John Kador, 505 Second Ave, Melbourne Beach, FL. 32951);
 NMR. A Boh H (dis, ret. to Vie, Otb), A Tyr H, F Alb H, F Gre H (dis, annih).
 ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN. 55337);
F Ten-Tyn, F Wes-S-F Tun-Tyn, A Bel-Naf, F Eng-C-A Bel-Naf, F Mid-C-A Bel-Naf,
F Nwg-Nwy, F Nth-S-F Nwg-Nwy, F Hol-S-F Nth, A Bur-S-GER A Mun, A Gas-Mar.
 FRANCE (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025);
F Nap-Ion, A Pie-Ven, A Mar-Pie.
 GERMANY (Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Ln, Hales Corners, WI. 53130);
 A Munich wonders if anybody is interested in a support (H).
 ITALY (Don Swartz, 155 Vernon Ave, #2, Louisville, KY. 40206);
 A Ven-Rom, F Adr-Ven.
 RUSSIA (James Wall, 1805 University Ave, #5, Madison, WI. 53705);
A Fin-Nwy, A Lvu-Pru, A Kie-S-AUS A Boh-Mun (NSO), A Sil-Soh, A War-Sil,
A Gal-S-A Sil-Soh, A Bud-S-ITAL A Ven-Tri (NSO), A Smy-Gre, A Ser-S-A Smy-Gre,
F Aeg-C-A Smy-Gre, F Bulsc-S-A Smy-Gre, F Den-Nth, F Ber-S-A Kie, F Blk-Con.

Will David Anderson, Box 3761, Pontiac, MI. 48059 please standby for Austria?
 There is a proposal for a concession to Russia (surprise). Please vote along
 with your Winter 19C6/Spring 19C7 moves, due Saturday 1 December 1984.

1983 AI

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 19C6

AUSTRIA: Has Vie, Tri, Frd, Grd. (2). Must remove one, one annihilated.
 ENGLAND: Has Lon, Edi, Lpl, Nwy, Bei, Hol, Por, Spa, Bra, Tun. (10). Even.
 FRANCE: Has Par, Mar, Nap. (3). even.
 GERMANY: Has Mun. (1). Even.
 ITALY: Has Rom, Ven. (2). Even.
 RUSSIA: Has StP, Sav, Nos, War, Swe, Rus, Con, Ank, Bul, Den, Kie, Ber, Ser,
Smy, Gre, Bud. (18). May build two.

QUIRK TO JAMES WALLABY: I realize I am not a Dip superstar like you, but at
 least I have the guts to get into a game with my enemies. Why don't you get
 into a game with me, Tallman, and Ozog ((let's add The Sleaze)) and we will
 see how good you are, dingo face.

Fatted Press, concluded.

JIM-BOOB TO PUPPY: I'm glad you can't stab me. On second thought, you did a nice
 job with Quirko...sorry Michael...I have to break this horrible habit. It's all
 Wall's fault, everything is....Oh yes, back to puppy, who was gonna be the stabber
 and who the stabbees?

MUSICAL LLAMA TO GREAT GOD OF MUSIC: All right, now you're in for it. It's
 Golden Age you want, Golden age you'll get. Answer these three questions
 correctly or else: 1) When those bombastic, self-styled revolutionaries, the
 Clash, released their three record set, Sandinista, they blew the tubes with the
 critics who said three record, studio albums from rock sillystars were doomed to
 artistic and commercial failure. Actually, Sandinista was the last decent album
 the Clash made, but what monstrous, colossal 3-record failure nearly destroyed
 the careers of a pair of talented renegades? In fact, as far as I know, this is
 the only 3-record studio set in rock history before Sandinista. You'll get the
 other two questions next month. We'll see who has the right to impugn whom's
 musical taste.

GREAT GOD OF MUSIC SPEAKS: I don't think we're talking about the same album
 here, but I'll venture forth with George Harrison's All Things Must Pass. That
 was the ONLY decent solo album put forth by the former Beatle. Next question.

JIM-BOB TO ELFERIC: Sorry about that. I wouldn't want to disturb your coma.
 You're doing fine, so far. Oh, come on, Eric, we go back much too far to lie to
 each other now. We'll see....

CIUDAD JUAREZ: The Mexican mayor approached the leader of the jumping llamas.
 "Excuse me, sir, you stink; please leave town or else." Escalation led to a polo
 game, using the head that the llamas were returning to Texas as a ball (maybe that's
 where the hobby feud should be settled). ((Which one?)) Naturally, the jumping
 llamas killed the town's team and were soon hightailing it toward the bridge to
 El Paso with the fresh widows in hot pursuit.

BOOB TO CAPTAIN QUIRK: Excuse me, we seem to have lost your head, mabe we can
 find a puppy's head to replace it? That would be a much better pillow, though
 I don't see how you need one. ((That—a head or a pillow?))

HEADS BUTTED AS ALLIANCES SHIFT

AUSTRIA (John Crosby, 830 Hunterhill Tr, Roswell, GA. 30075);
F Ipn-Tun, F Tri-Alb, F Aeg-S-F Con, F Con-S-RUSSIAN A Arm-Say, A Bul-Ser,
A Bud-Ser, A Ven-Pie, A Rom-Ven, A Vie-Tri.

ENGLAND (Jim Keeney, 3124 N. St., Sacramento CA. 95816);
F Ska-Dan, F Hol-Kie.

FRANCE (David Anderson, PO Box 3761, Pontiac, MI. 48059);
A Bur-Ruh, A Mar-Pie, F Lpl-Wal, F Tun-Ion, A Bre-Pic.

GERMANY (Matt Fleming, 4290 Chateau de Ville, MC, St. Louis, MO. 63129);
A Mun-Bur, A Boh-S-RUSSIAN A Cal-Vie, F Nth-C-RUSSIAN A Nwy-Yrk, F Kie-Hol,
A Ruh-S-F Kie-Hol.

ITALY (Paul Gardner, COA--PO Box 50, Eugene, OR. 97440);
A Tyr-Vie.

RUSSIA (Lu Henry, 8056 Waverly, Dearborn Heights, MI. 48127);
F Edi-Cly, A Nwy-Yrk, F StPnc-Nwy, A Swe-Den, A Gal-Vie, A Rum-Bud,
F Sev-Blk, A Arm-Say.

TURKEY (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Lane, Columbus, OH. 43229);
A Smy-Con (dis, ret to Ank, Syr, Oth), F Blk-s-I Smy-Con.

Thanks to Konrad Baumeister for unneeded standby orders, and welcome back, Paul.
Please note Paul's COA. The deadline for Fall 1905 orders is SATURDAY 1 December.

SACRED PRESS

MOSCOW TO MUNICH: Frickski will not be amused if the promised supports are not present.

FRANCE TO GERMANY: Where's the fleets?

BERLIN TO MOSCOW: If things go right (and I hope they do) then all I can say is "This Bud's for you."

MOSCOW TO TRIESTE: We were not amused by your offer of 1/2 of what remains of Turkey in Fall 1905, in exchange for removing our self-defense force from the suburbs of Warsaw (that area you call Galicia) and removing our ballet company from Bumania in exchange for a visit from the Sevastopol Love Boat. If you supported me (as you have claimed a willingness to do) into Smy, we can begin to discuss a disengagement of our forces.

UNK MO TO AUSTRIA: That's gratitude....

FRANCE TO AUSTRIA: Do you want my army Piedmont? ((I guess not!)) May I go to Tyrolia?

FRANCE TO TURKEY: Have you heard of this word before? It's called T-O-A-D-Y-I-S-II.

MOSCOW TO TURKEY: It's difficult to keep one's mind on assisting you when you don't write.

MOSCOW TO PARIS: If you don't want to build off of Lpl, we'll be happy to take it off your hands.

MUNICH: There was a young man from Liverpool/ Who almost drowned in his own drool/
But when slipping into Holland instead/ The German was heard to have said/
"Hell, THAT'S dirty pool!"

STP TO ENG: Humm, don't you trust me anymore?

STP TO ITALY: Attaboy, Paul, stick in there and take your lumps like a man.

Bring Back the Draft

Over one thousand Illinois state troopers, mounted on motorcycles, rode last night to the town of Galesi, Illinois. They smashed street lights, smashed windows, and buried cars. They were joined by police and passing cars. The students were upset about a new town ordinance prohibiting the sale of beer kegs after 10 p.m.

Hail Democracy

An aide to Ronald Reagan neatly summed up the second presidential debate, in which a preplanned quiz conducted by the president's speechwriters all but obliterated Walter Mondale's chances for election. "Mondale won the debate on issues," he said, "but that's not what this debate was all about."

ANONYMOUS GAME

Fall 1908

FRENCH TRADE BENELUX FOR NORTH SEA
OIL RIGS
GERMANS TAKE THE CASH AND RUN

FRANCE (Casual Sutterby); A Bur-r-Gas, F Mid-Bre, F Wes-Mid, F Bel-Nth, F Eng-S-F Bel-Nth, F Tun-Tyn, F Nap-Tyn, A Gas-Mar, A Pie-Mar, A Yrk-Edi, A Lpl-Cly, F NAO-S-F Lpl-Cly.

GERMANY (Konrad v. Kriegen); A Bud-r-Vie, A Cly-Lpl (dis, amih.), F Den-Nth, F Edi-S-F Den-Nth, F Nwg-S-F Edi, A Bur-Bel, A Ruh-S-A Bur-Bel, F Hol-S-A Bur-Bel, A Tri-Ven, A Tyr-S-A Tri-Ven, A Gal-Bud, A Vie-S-A Gal-Bud, A Ukr-Rum, A Mos-Sev.

TURKEY (Rhusty Underwhere); A Arm-S-A Sev, A Sev-S-A Rum, A Ser-S-A Bud-Tri, A Bud-Tri, A Rum-S-A Ser, F Ven-S-A Bud-Tri (dis, ret to Apu, OTB), F Alb-S-A Bud-Tri, F Blk-S-A Rum, F Adr-S-A Bud-Tri.

The F/G/T draw was defeated and nothing new is proposed. The rock 'em, sock 'em, action will continue with Winter 1908, Spring 1909 due on Saturday, 1 December 84.

SUPPLY CHART

FRANCE: Has Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Lon, Lpl, Tun, Rom, Nap, Hol, Edi. (10).
MUST REMOVE TWO.

GERMANY: Has Mun, Kie, Ber, Bel, Hol, Swa, Den, Nwy, Zfl, Vie, Bud, War, Mos, Stp, Ven, Edi. (15). MAY BUILD THREE (one annihilated).

TURKEY: Has Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Sev, Gre, Ser, Rum, Yen, Tri. (9). EVEN.

ANONYMOUS PRESS

UNK STAN TO RHUSTY: Thank you, at least I get some respect. Are you still Mark Frucht? By the way, I'm shocked that no one has discerned my true identity.

CAZ TO RHUSTY: Yeah!! Go for it! You and Me, Underwhere Sweetie!

CAZ TO UNK MO: That was enthusiasm for a new alliance! It's nice to be appreciated. ((Does he still appreciate you, now that Venice is lost? Yeah, probably.))

KVK TO RHUSTY: I got a feeling I'm REALLY going to wish YOU were gone. ((Ah, now we have all the pleasant messages out of the way. On to the good stuff...))

KVK TO UNK STAN: "KVK's Arrogance"?? Ah, Stan, my boy, ye broke me heart wit yer unkind words! How could ye say such a thing about the lad who tried so hard ta be nice to ya? (Just where did the arrogance part come in? I'm just the poor innocent defender of a stab, remember? Have a heart—I'm an underdog, and underdogs can't afford the luxury of arrogance.) Typical ghost—pretty cocky just because you're gone now and no one can touch you!

UNK STAN TO KVK: Blow it up yer ass. If I'm not chopped liver who is? You can't be Lew, you write too much press. Maybe Caz is Lew if he isn't Keither. You must be from Binghampton.

UNK MO TO UNK STAN: You have just lain down the gauntlet, my friend. You have slapped KVK's face with a white glove....

BERLIN TO UNK STAN CORPSE: Why not? That wasn't such an unreasonable request.

UNK STAN TO HEAD CASES: Vote YES to the draw, already. This game is extremely boring, almost as boring as the press I write.

UNK STAN TO CORPORAL ADOLF: Keep an eye on Von Kriegen. He could prove very useful to the Reich. Bormann will keep you informed.

MUNICH TO PARIS: "French stalled but Turks Advance" read the last game headline. Think about it.

UNK MO TO MUNICH: Yeah, and Caz'll be thinking about all those builds Turkey didn't get, but somebody else DID get, too.

LITTLE GUYS KEEP FIGHTING (BACH OTHER)

AUSTRIA (Carl Russell, 21 Morgan Rd, Binghamton NY, 13903);
A Vis-S-A Tri-Bud, A Tri-Bud, A Ser-Rum (dis, ret to Alb, OTB).

ENGLAND (Bob Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin, NWT, CANADA X0E 1M0);
F Lon-Nth, F Edi-S-F Lon-Nth, F GOB-Swe, A StP-Nwy, F Iri-Mid.

FRANCE (Bill Becker, 81C Turwill, Kalamazoo MI. 49007);
A Mar-Gas, F Wal-Lpl, F Nat-S-F Wal-Lpl.

GERMANY (Russ Rusnak, 16 West 530 Honeysuckle Rose, Apt 105, Hinsdale, IL 60521);
F Den-Swe, F Bal-S-F Den-Swe, A War-Lvn, A Mun-Tyr, A Ruh-Bel, F Eng-Lon,
A Yrk-S-F Eng-Lon, F Nth-S-F Eng-Lon (dis, ret to Hol, Hel, Den, Ska, Wng, Eng, OTB),
A Gag-Bre.

ITALY (Jim Makuc, 2 Forest Park Lane, Rm 214 Ivy House, Cornell Univ,
Ithaca, NY. 14853); F Nap-Lon, F Ion-Tun, A Van-Tri, A Tyr-S-A Van-Tri.

TURKEY (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct., Deerfield, IL. 60015);
A Bud-Tri (dis, ret to Gal, Rum, OTB), A Rum-Ser, A Bul-S-A Rum-Ser, F Blk-S-Berlin,
A Mos-S-The Great German A War-Lvn, F Gre H, F Aeg-S-F Gre.

Thanks to Dave Pierce for the unneeded standby orders, and welcome back, Carl.
The deadline for Winter 1987/Spring 1988 is 1 December 1984.

1983 AR

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 1987

AUSTRIA: Has Txi, Bud, Ser, Nth, Vis. (2). Must remove one.
ENGLAND: Has Ldn, Nwy, Ska, Lpl, StP, Edi. (5). Must remove two.
FRANCE: Has Mar, Por, Lpl, Taa. (3). Even.
GERMANY: Has Mun, Kie, Ber, War, Hol, Bal, Den, Bre, Par, Swe, Lon. (11). Build 2.
ITALY: Has Van, Rom, Nap, Spe, Tun, Tri. (6). May build two.
TURKEY: Has Con, Ank, Sny, Rum, Gre, Mos, Sev, Bul, Ser. (9). May build two.

PORCELAIN PRESS

LONDON TO BERLIN: Put it down to a lesson learned.

GHOST OF WARSAW TO GM: Doesn't Puffo kind of piss you off? He begs to
standby and then NMR's.

BAKKO TO PAUL: By the way, we gave your camera and jacket to Lisa. If you can
beat her up, you can have your stuff back.

PAUL TO BAKKO: Geez, I don't look good with black eyes....

LONDON TO PARIS: You'd make anyone a worthy puppet.

MADTOWN TO BREWTOWN: Have you heard what they call those guys from St. Louis?
NO Lads!

1982 HQ

SLEAZE ONE

Spring 1980

RUSSIANS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

AUSTRIA (Mark Frush, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt. 6, St. Louis, MO. 63116);
A Vis-Boh, A Bud-Gal, A Van-Tyr, A Sil-Ber, A Mun-S-A Sil-Ber, A Gal-War,
A Mos-StP, A Ukr-S-A Gal-War, A Sev-Hes, A App-Sev, F Blk H, F Ion-Aeg,
F Gre-S-F Ion-Aeg.

FRANCE (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Lane, Columbus, OH. 43229);
F Tun H, A Par-Bur, F Mar-Spa so, F Rom H, F Mid-Eng, F Iri-S-F Mid-Eng,
A Bel-Yrk, F Nth-C-A Bel-Yrk, A Wny-Swe, A Ruh-Kie, F Hol-S-A Ruh-Kie,
A Bre-Pic, F Aeg-Lon (dis, ret to Bul, Con, Sny, Sas, Oth).

RUSSIA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL. 60025);
F Lpl-Iri, F Lon-Nth, A Den-S-A Kie, A Ser-Rum (dis, annih), A Kie-S-A Ber-Mun,
A War-Sil, A Pru-S-A War-Sil.

The A/F draw was defeated, and a A/R/F is proposed. Vote along with Fall 1980
orders, due 1 December, 1984.

MARK TO MICHAEL: Nothing would be finer than to prove you wrong about the 2-way.
In fact, to show you that, as always, you lose to Madrats on everything. Mondale
is still America's best presidential candidate. Vote for Mondale and get a 2-way.
MARK TO DERWOOD: Remember--F Aeg OTB--from here on in it's smooth sailing--fish
Mad Mike would remove those fleets in England. He makes the rain look like a
saint compared to Quirk's unnatural quirks.

The Wave washes into Camp Randall

The Wave washed into Camp Randall for the first time last Saturday.

It was wacky. It was wild. And it was wrong.

Excited, the fans at the University of Wisconsin were novices in the fine art of Waving. The alumni sections in the homecoming crowd were particularly inept and did a great job of impersonating a breakwater.

Still, considering how bad their football team looked in its loss to Minnesota, the proper way for the fans to have performed the Wave, in this case, would have been as follows:

Everyone stand. Raise your right arm, fingers extended, palm out. Then, rapidly and repeatedly, flop



the wrist in an up-and-down motion. As in by-by.

That's how Badger fans should have Waved Saturday at their disappointing team. Instead, they Waved like crowds all over the country in what has become a fad of absolutely tidal proportions.

For the uninitiated, or at least the answer, the Wave is a useless bit of nonsense that's a lot of fun and, unlike your favorite television anchorman, looks better in person than on TV.

Anyone can do it

It's easy to do — anyone can perform the Wave, so long as you can round up 50,000 or so friends and assemble them in a circle. It's relatively harmless, too, although the Wave does tend to annoy the hell out of both the hardcore fans who live and die with the final score, and the stuffy ones who are only at the game to be seen anyway.

All the more reason to Wave. If you ask me.

Your basic Wave goes something like this: In a large crowd of seated people, a portion of them stand, throw their arms above their heads, then sit back down. The people on one side of them repeat the move, standing just as the first group is sitting. Cutting loose with a big "Hey!" as one stands is optional.

It continues around the circle or stadium, creating an undulating, or wave, effect. Hence, the Wave. It's one of the more legal things a mob can do, and it's great for morale and group identification, which explains why the Wave is so popular at those creepy spiritual camps in the Northwest.

Stands alone

The Wave is not to be confused with an indoor soccer team that's been named the Milwaukee Wave. The

Wave previously has been performed on a regional basis, particularly by crowds in stadiums with too few restrooms. Alabama has had its Tide for years. And the Navy has always had Waves.

Only in the last several months, however, has the Wave become such a national unnatural phenomenon. Why, as a sideshow at games on network TV, it isn't quite as big yet as the Chicken, but it surely has replaced that goofy guy with the rainbow-colored hair.

During games of the recently completed World Series, for example, the Wave lasted longer than most of San Diego's starters. In fact, the way the Padres went through pitchers, they had something of a Wave going on in their bullpen bench.

What is surprising, though, is that it took so long to hit Camp Randall. Crowds at Wisconsin games have always been among the more innovative. Who was it that thought of the "Jaws" clap? Of having paper-cup fights and chanting the slogans from beer commercials? Of tossing dum-dums dressed as football referees or Bucky Badger out of the stadium?

Then again, maybe there's a good reason the Wave never caught on at Badger games before this. It does require some degree of coordination and timing, skills that disappear about a half-hour into your average tailgate party. Besides, eating and drinking and Waves do not mix. Remember what Mom always said about cramps.

Now that it has arrived, though, it should be a hit. This, after all, is the crowd that invented body passing. Combine that with the Wave and what do you have? You got it — body surfing.

Body surfing is not to be confused with a body Wave, in which fans on the right and fans on the left part down the middle.

Been around before

Actually, if the truth be known, Saturday was not the Wave's first appearance at a state sporting event. Several times in August and September it washed around County Stadium at Milwaukee Brewer games.

No one saw it, of course. Because of the poor attendance at Brewer games by then, it was called the Undertow.

By now you're probably wondering, where did the Wave come from? Some say it started off the coast of Oahu. Most experts, meanwhile, seem to think it began either at University of Michigan football games in Ann Arbor, Mich., or under the guidance of a fellow named Crazy George at Oakland A's baseball games.

I have a different theory, and it goes like this: We all know that President William Howard Taft began the tradition of a president throwing out the first ball when he attended a baseball game between the Washington Senators and the Philadelphia Athletics in 1910. Taft also is credited with inventing the seventh-inning stretch that same afternoon — when he got up to leave the ballpark a couple of innings early, fans also stood, out of respect, or just to catch a glimpse of him.

Well, I say the Wave started that day, too. Taft, remember, was a fat man, weighing over 300 pounds. So as he walked along the aisle to the nearest ramp, people watching the game had to stand to see around him. As Taft passed, they sat down, but the fans next to them had to stand. And so on and so on, until the big guy was gone.

And there it was, the Wave.



See, Willie, I guess this is what the army means by "individual initiative."

BENZENE

1981 thru 1987
current subject.

though it doesn't matter much anymore, i'm convinced that gary hart would have had a much better chance of defeating ronald reagan in the presidential election. political opinions aside (and they don't seem to count for much this year), mondale is just like reagan only less. perhaps fritz was impressed by the success reagan has enjoyed campaigning on the basis of character, for now he's attempting to beat the president at his own game. when i see a candidate running on his character, i interpret that to mean that he can't provide any valid reasons why anyone should vote for him, so he tries to trick us into thinking he's someone else. unfortunately for the democrats, trying to out-media reagan is a lost cause. in addition to the canny media strategists, reagan has a large head start in image development, more personal charisma, and more campaign funds.

this is "benzene", the hobby's oldest subzine, brought to you by ignatz jerome "mark" lew. i lost count of issue #s around 10 and no reader has been kind enough to calculate where i am, but i imagine it's around 32. midlife crisis will be benzene's fourth regular home now that mark luedl has sent me away from TMORR which looks like it might be headed in the direction of born to dip and irksome. all my typing except this is done on my 20-year-old manual typer which is easier to type on and doesn't come unplugged when i pull it closer to the bed nor hum impatiently while i stare out the window collecting thoughts. one drawback of the manual is the shift key which goes down more than 2 cm -- a particular nuisance when i shift with the same hand that types the letter (a habit i picked up typing on computer keyboards, not sure why). when i got lazy and stopped capitalizing letters in my correspondence, pubbers like brux linsey began printing my letters also in lower case, tacitly indicating that it was a form of artistry, in the style of e.e. cummings, rather than bona fide sloth. soon it became a gimmick, and now i do it on the electric typer, too, but i think i might quit because it's really quite silly.

quonset hut:
now that i have a new audience, i suppose this is as good a time as any to explain what's going on; quonset hut is my second game of deviant dip, one of many bizarre diplomacy variants of my own invention. with each spring or fall season, each player proposes a variant rule and also votes for one or two of the rules proposed last season. the rule(s) receiving the most votes is implemented. there's a bit more to it, but that is the essence.

- rules passed so far for this game are:
1. each player may place a bomb in any unoccupied non-sc space. any unit which moves into a bombed space sets off the bomb and is removed, and the space becomes impassable for two years. when a player's bomb explodes, he may place another.
 2. any deviant rule which affects which spaces are supply centers doesn't go into effect until the next fall.
 3. one of each player's units (chosen randomly) becomes a double unit, which unit is not revealed until the adjudications show it.
 4. gm no longer identifies the authors of the proposed rules.
 5. players are limited to 3 bombs, and gm does not reveal when a player places a bomb or who placed a bomb which explodes.
 6. austria and any other players voting for this rule (e.g., if it turned out) can build one "toadfather unit" each winter. TUs do not need centers to be maintained.
 7. each player may convert one of his units to an amphibian.
 8. bob olsen becomes the official benzene player of the year.

9. an empty, "parallel" board is added to the game connected at the seven nation capitals (e.g., lon1 is adjacent to lon2) all centers are unowned, parallel home centers may be used for builds once taken.

in the game reports AF means amphibian, F2 means double fleet, TA means toadfather army, etc.

Due date for deviant dippers -
26 November (+ Mark).

autumn 1903:

usa: a verb rom. ... r: f neg r-day

winter 1903:

austria: (terry william, 839 w armour, seattle wa 98119) remove af vie; build ta vie

ireland: (dick martin, 20 ormond way n, rockville md 20854) build a edi, tf lon

france: (kevin thome, coa: 200 12th st., arcata, ca 95521) build f bre, f nar (plays 2 short)

germany: (conrad winsall, 3702 taragona, austin tx 78727) build f kiel

italy: (mike shli, coa: hamilton box 60505, univ of oregon, eugene or 97403) build a rom ((1 think that's an "a"))

poland: (james wail, 1305 university ave #5, madison wi 53705) even

ukraine: (terwood town, 1243 transitway lane, columbus oh 43229) build of ank, f con

pre-spring 1904:

usa: converts a lon to af lon. ita: converts f apu to af apu

spring 1904: english flee from f/g attack; austrian armies survive as beleaguered garrisons.

aus: ta vie-tri, f2 aeg-BUL(sc), a GRE s f2 aeg-bul(sc)

bel: f lon-LON2, a EDI-nwy, f nth c a edi-nwy (d, r-yor, nwy, hel. eng is impassable, and ska will be before this game report is over), f nwy-BAR (boom), af2 swe-BOT, a yor-LON, tf nao-MWG

fra: f bel-NTH, tf bre-MID, f nar-SPA(sc), a bur-BEL, ta par-PAR2, ... a gas-BUR

ger: a par2-BUR2, a mun-BER, f KIE s af den, af DEN s fr f bel-nth, f HOL s fr f bel-nth, a ber-BER2

ita: a rom-ROM2, af AFU-gre, f ION c af apu-gre, a ALE s af apu-gre, a2 TRI-vie

rus: a2 BUD-vie, f SEV h, a STP h, f bot s a stp (d, r-lvn, fin. not hel, as you shall see), a MOS s a stp

tur: a2 SER s ta bul-gre, a RUM s a2 ser, ta bul-gre (killed), f EAS s f con-aeg, f SKY s f con-aeg, f con-ABJ, f BLA s a rum, tf ank-CON

england's northern fleet hits a bomb and is gone even though BAR is in caps. barents is impassable until post-spring 1906; eng is impassable until post-fall 1905; tyrolia is impassable until post-spring 1905. by the way, you may put bombs on board 2 (in fact, someone did, as you shall see). down by greece it's a bit confusing: double units lend only single support, so the turks and italians bounce in gre. the austrian army thus survives although its support is cut (by the italians) however, f2 aeg is a double unit and needs no support to dislodge the undefended ta bul which is killed. note that AFs may not convoy to a sea space. an af may act as either a or f in any particular season, but not both. also note that double units may not retreat onto a single unit as they can in rusnak's zeen.

post-spring 1904:

votes: a:c,h e:d,s f:e,f g:i,h i:c,e r:d,i t:c,d c,d,hn tie at three votes, so all pass. in the spirit of brux lineey i determined the order of implementation with one die roll. new rules are:

c: everybody ((all players, anyway)) must make one negative vote per season. any rule which is either plus or minus 1/2 the # of players rounded up passes. ((this rule annoys me because it messes up my simple and logical voting system. henceforth you make one negative and one or two positive votes to be counted as -1 and +1 respectively. a rule's score is the sum of these vote counts. any rule scoring +4 or more, or -4 or less goes into effect, as well as the rule(s) with the highest score, unless that score is 0 (per general deviant dip rules) if a player submits no negative vote, it goes to the rule he proposed (so if he doesn't vote at all, his + & - votes cancel each other) clear?) after carefully determining the order of these rules, i typed them up backward. d passes before e and then h, though in this case it doesn't matter.

d: all bombs currently on the board explode ((i guess that's effective immediately. there are explosions in these spaces: ruhr, skagerak, aeg2, baltic. that gives me lots of notifying to do, so somewhere on this teen, paul will stick a label telling which bomb was yours and how many bombs you have left. ruhr, ska, aeg2, and bal are impassable until summer 1906.

h: all draws include austria, regardless of his current # of centers ((surprise. draws not including austria are illegal.))

new rule proposals:

j: bob olsen is named plowboy of the year. ((oh, ok))

k: all orders, rules, votes, retreats, etc. of terry tallman's are not considered legal unless they are co-signed by bruce linsey. phoned orders must be confirmed by brux in a confirmation call. ga is not allowed to prompt brux.

l: no more IUs may be built. existing IUs can't retreat. countries failing to vote for this rule are barred from using the support order for 3 years. ((("failing to vote" means failing to vote positively.))

m: each player gets to create one phantom unit, which can do nothing except take unoccupied sea. any attack upon a phantom unit dispels it. ((i think "can do nothing except" is extraneous verbiage with no meaning intended, so i will ignore it. phantom units are units with zero attacking power which can't retreat and are not revealed except when they are killed. they may be built any winter in an empty, owned home center, and they don't require a center for maintenance.))

n: repropose rule g ((i think. see press)): each season 3 units chosen randomly by the gm will hold ((instead of doing what they are ordered to do. ga will not note identity of chosen units nor their original orders.))

o: now ((this would happen post-fall 1904)) and every year hereafter each player takes the position of the next country in alphabetical order ((i.e., tallman gets england, martin gets france, ..., bowen gets austria))

p: armies are also paratroop units. once every game year a player is allowed to drop one paratroop unit up to 4 land or sea provinces away from its original province. criteria for a safe landing is ((are, short)) that the space is land and is unoccupied. paratroopers can be supported into a province, but can't lend support. if they land on an occupied province they are annihilated. if paratroopers have a one-to-one ((or 2-to-2, etc.)) conflict for a province the p.units are eliminated while the other unit survives. ~~paratroopers can't fly.~~ ~~coops. i forgot: lead armies can't paratroop; leads can't fly.~~

press:

((press is mildly discouraged, but tolerated in small doses))

tighe to gm: shouldn't we be submitting some sort of deviant press to match the game? speaking of deviants (he says attempting a smooth transition) how are frank and doug doing? i knew i was in the wrong group when you guys said your favorite films were "close encounters," "star trek ii," and "star wars" while i said "it's a wonderful life." can't see playing titan with more than 3 players either, that's why i kept attacking, didn't want to get bored. actually enjoyed that all nighter, especially the buzz i got riding the bike through anchorage at 4 a.m., maybe it was the pepsi. never got a chance to say farewell since you had moved and didnt have a phone. so farewell, i may return some day. and (he says in closing) how do you like living alone?

gm to tighe: after about a month, my pants started to not stay up and i realized i eating only half as much. when food is sitting around i'll eat it, but if i have to walk across the street to buy it i'll more often do without. mother thought i'd be helpless having to take care of myself and i thought she'd have a crisis with all her babies gone, but we were both wrong. everybody likes to tell you how you'll be surprised by all the things you don't notice until they aren't there. humph, i was surprised by all the little things which were always around which i now see are a useless waste of money, like those foam things you stick in the dryer to stop the static. how stupid. what's wrong with just pulling the clothes apart? works for me.

italy to france: i just hope you're not mad at me for proposing the original bomb rule.

((i'm mad at the ~~gentleman~~ gentleman who proposed the anonymous proposals rule. for those who came in late, the deviant rules say that if a player fails to propose a rule, he proposes the same one he proposed last turn (or its rescission if it passed). the first draft deviant rules had anonymous rule proposals, but that was changed as soon as i realized i had to keep track of who proposed what. i'm a terrible bookkeeper but i figured i shouldn't have too much trouble finding last month's teen, so i made it public. since the players passed a rule making proposals anonymous again, i don't think a season has passed in which

10
... player has forgotten to propose a rule. usually, i'll phone them
out when they're unreachable i have to rummage for my notes from last
season. this month they were nowhere to be found (though i did find
#10 during the search), so i had to guess which rule he proposed.
that rule was n. so if you proposed n and also proposed another rule
this year, you can tell me i fucked up, but it'll be too late to do
anything about it.))

rome (ap): the citizens of rome were collectively stunned today by
a bizarre occurrence at the vatican. thousands were watching the swiss
guards parading in st. peter's square when a glowing gate appeared
below the pontiff's balcony. pope michael was quickly brought from
his bedroom, where he was personally giving a young lady some divine
illumination. the pope stood before the gate, and proudly proclaimed
that it was a divine gateway to heaven. he then stepped into the gate.
the swiss guards, fearful for the safety of their holy father, quickly
followed. unfortunately, the gate led not to heaven, but to...
stone to wall: promise not to make any plans with me and i'll promise
not to nmr. gad, if stone gets into this game i'm doomed.

who is this stone? i have no standbys for the deviant since i've moved
if you were sufficiently interested to read this far, you should sign up.
due next season are summer retreats (s,r), place bomb if you can and want,
create amphibian if you can and want (f,r,t), fall moves, votes, propos-
als (don't forget that). orders are delinquent (and subject to being
disallowed) after the deadline:

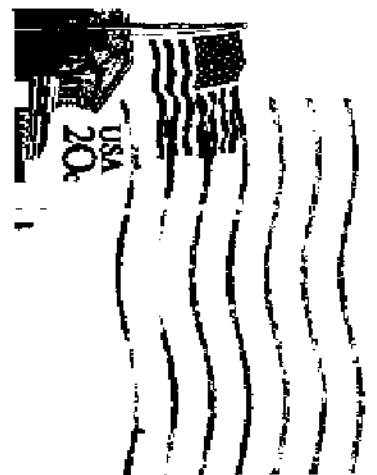
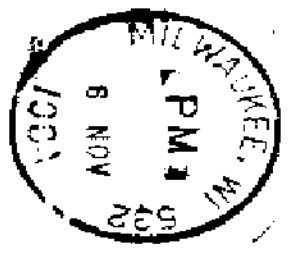
let the little children come to me and do not stop them, for it is to
such as these that the kingdom of god belongs. (or something like
that.) i typed a bz on halloween before once -- in 1982 i think.
crass boy that i was, i had nothing to give the kiddos, so i had to
pretend i wasn't home. the sensible thing was to hide in the bathroom,
but i was sufficiently spirited to type by candlelight. when i phoned
paul to find out how many pages i could have, i was relieved to hear
that i had a few extra days to get it done. rather than see the sacri-
lege of benzene production on schedule, i proceeded to fritter those
days away. all week long your upper spanard youth'll be fritterin.
fritterin away their daytime nighttime noontime suppartime charettes too.
nevermind getting houseplants watered, getting groceries bought or the
apartment cleaned. nevermind typing any benzene until you have to
express mail on a saturday morning.... (or something like that.)
brux says that ultimately cool was a fake. bumper. dick says it's
real. ha. generally, i agree with brux*, but maybe i'll call keith
and find out. keith is my brother-of-the-west-coast. we grew up
together. in the hobby, y'know?--along with hanson, del grande, barno,
dick says gary c is from our generation too, but i always think of him
along with the linsey-martin-masters-perlautter-arnett-mills crowd.
they're the prolific batch that made mark berch lose a bet, remember?
i see i'm boring the youngsters. the big news, they say, is that
voice of doom folded. someone out there will no doubt think it's an
elaborate hoax, but the signs were there. vd went just like brutus
bulletin did, if you consider BEs 100-109 to be one issue. i grieved
when bb folded, but not this time. you get to be an old fart and folds
just don't faze you -- even if it is your favorite zean, and it's been
around longer than you.

he speaks yet he says nothing, what of that? you knew i'd eventually
get around to discussing politics, didn't you? a few weeks ago i was
listening to some of my middle-aged liberal friends bemoaning the fact
that today's young impressionable voters are reagan fans. i'm half as
bad: i have democratic sympathies but am too apathetic to vote. last
issue i knew nothing about economics and decided to withhold any judgment
of reagan's economic plan. i'm still no economist but it looks like the
supply side theory is sound, though reagan's particular plan has some
conspicuous flaws. (e.g., if the reason for corporate tax cuts is to
encourage corporate investment which will promote national economy, it
seems advisable to discriminate in favor of those industries which
actually do promote the economy and against those which don't) non-
dale's economic ideas look ineffective though not disastrous as the
republicans would have you think. hearing that, douglas was surprised
that i am still voting democrat -- doug cares more about domestic
policy; i care more about foreign policy. the republican policy is
naive, dangerous, expensive, and not very nice. apparently they
believe that the soviets wish to conquer us (nonsense) and that the
nation is better served by being feared. the latter is the macho
issue which the democrats have greatly exaggerated. ethics aside (i
have none, some say) it's doesn't promote american interests to exhibit
willingness to use force, stubborn reluctance to compromise, and low
tolerance of ri - powers. however, i didn't start a fifth page just

to criticize party platforms, nor even to criticize the system which provides only two of them. like the candidates, i have less interest in political issues than i have in slogans and cliches. lately, in economic discussions i've caught myself saying "produce" a lot, and i thought i was developing marxist tendencies. then i found out i misunderstood what the word marxist means, and i now see that i'm quite anti-marxist. like capitalism, democracy has its advantages and disadvantages. anarchists who see the disadvantages and say the system is bad and right-wing zealots who say "oh yeah, well go live in russia" are equally ignorant. the sensible thing is to keep our system (which is suspect is the best around, though that's immaterial) and develop it so as to maintain the advantages and eliminate some disadvantages. the purpose of the democratic system is to choose the candidate who best represents the interests of the people. however, in a large democracy, candidates will find that it is far more expedient to entertain the perfunctory populace with cheap tricks, than to demonstrate their own qualifications. nowadays, to contend, a candidate has no choice but to engage in deceit. by deceit i mean image-building and campaign propoganda. the candidates channel enormous amounts of money into media campaigns, and i think this is both counter-productive (bad for the economy) and not likely to produce a good candidate. i've heard people talk about voting for someone on the basis of character. now that may work if you're voting for assemblyman, but not too many people in the nation know reagan or mondale personally. whatever you see of the candidate's character is part of a public appearance. if you are voting for someone on the basis of his character, you are in fact voting on the basis of his media campaign. in an article about reagan's young fans, i read a series of quotes which all went "though i disagree with reagan about x, i'm going to vote for him because y" where x is a political issue and y is a slogan. these people were really saying "reagan does not represent my interests, but i'm voting for him because i was bamboozled by his campaign" most of my political attention these days is spent being annoyed by the republicans -- simply because they have a more effective campaign. doug suggested that although the system is lamentable, reagan's ability to adapt to it and find success indicates that he is smarter. i replied that nixon was a smart politician too, but that was a cheap shot. the point is that the people have no reason to believe that reagan's talent for promoting himself will ever be used for their benefit. (i must stop to confess that i admire talent and occasionally stop to appreciate artistry displayed even in such a loathsome art as media campaigning. i was suitably impressed when the republicans deftly swiped the steadfast democratic slogan, "the party of the people" and returned to them the less complimentary "party of pessimism." but the bold follow-up really floored me. i refer to the tv ad which begins with reagan saying, "you know, i started out as a democrat..." the rest is denouement -- designed to let the initial statement sink in, without drawing attention to it.) occasionally the candidates get past vague accusations and good and bad jokes, but they do no better when they discuss popular topics ("issues" is threatening to become a catchphrase) for instance, mondale likes to accuse reagan of not really being in charge and not really being a leader. admittedly reagan oughtn't be using the "leadership that's working" slogan, but really who cares if he's not in charge? it seems to me that we're better off if the committees and advisors run the show. i don't mean that reagan is incompetent, but it is a big job for any one person, and reagan has to work parttime as a public figure. the issue that gets me most upset -- at both parties -- is taxes. there must be thousands of americans who would gleefully give their life for their country, but find me ten who gladly give up their tax money. everybody, and especially the reagan gang, likes to extol the virtues of living in america. most of the attention is given to the freedoms of speech and religion, etc. but just as important is the high standard of living. we are led to believe that these virtues emanate from voting republican and registering for the draft, but let's look carefully. who maintains the laws which guarantee the freedoms? who keeps the nation relatively free of civil strife? who mails your letters and inspects your food and paves your roads? who promotes the industries which make your needs and wants available in local stores? of course it's the government -- but wait! government is a bad word in republican circles. like anyone else, republicans like all the freedoms and benefits of being in america, but damned if they're willing to pay for them. personally, i wouldn't mind seeing another 10% income tax added to whatever it is now -- regardless of who is in office. the government wants money to spend on common interests, things which benefit you indirectly by benefiting the nation. when you pay taxes, you're sacrificing a little bit of personal interest for the sake of your country. isn't that what patriotism is all about?

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