

"Some men and women seem to be steam locomotives chug-chugging steadily on their tracks, slowing down uphill but working steadily and running freely downhill. Others are like internal combustion automobiles that take different roads but now and then run out of gas and have to be refueled."

Phillip Jose Farmer
Gods of Riverworld

The above may be the best definition I have yet seen for "Midlife Crisis." —PGR

As worm turns, so does Midlife Crisis

NUMBER NINETEEN

JANUARY 1985

THIS IS MIDLIFE CRISIS, a supposedly-monthly publication dealing with the play of Postal Diplomacy and its variants. Subs are 10 for \$5.00, although that price may go down if I elect to go totally warehouse. I still reside at 4922 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53209, and can still be phoned at 414-778-0750 between the hours of 4 and 10 Mon, Tues, and Wednesday nights. Other times, you're taking chances.

THIS ISSUE IS LATE, and for a change my work schedule can't really be blamed for it. The truth is that I have suffered a severe attack of Diplomacy-Hobby Burnout. I am sick and disgusted with all the feeding going on, and the worst offenders are NOT Kathy Byrne or Bruce Linsey. Rather, it is their self-appointed defenders and apologists who are fanning the flames of disputes which would otherwise die out in due time. Two issues ago, I attempted to write an even-handed editorial, asking people to take unsubstantiated charges with a grain of salt. Bob Olsen, in a letter to a sick publication called Feudess, wasn't satisfied; he said that I was "encouraging" Bruce Linsey if I wasn't out-and-out attacking him. What—calling Linsey "slime crawling under rocks" doesn't "encourage" Linsey's attackers? Calling Linsey a child molester, as Steve Langley has done in print, is preferable? Okay. I'm just going to ask you guys to grow up, and from now on you'll hear nothing more from me on hobby matters.

I'll try not to let this "burnout" further delay my publishing schedules. Even if I have to resort to a few totally "warehouse" issues, the ensuing issues will be far more timely. I promise.

NEWS BLURBS

"UNDERGROUND DEFECT ACTION LEVELS" established by the U.S. Food and Drug Admin., every 100 grams of canned mushrooms are allowed to contain an average of 20 maggots.
—The Progressive

YUPPIES SHOW DRUGS, according to Rob Lewis, a 28 year-old associate with Denver's largest law firm. Lewis says of his Yuppie friends: "They don't have their minds altered by any substance that might lead them to question what they're doing."
—Newsweek

EVANGELIST JAMES ROBINSON, a Reagan confidant who delivered the invocation at the opening session of the 1984 Republican National Convention, proclaims: "Jesus said that there would be wars and rumors of wars until the end. Any preaching of peace prior to His return is heresy. It's against the word of God. It's Antichrist!"
—The Progressive

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

FROM MATT FLEMING: I saw where Brad Wilson couldn't find a conservative history faculty in the nation. I'll find a few hundred for you if you wish. I suspect that the general point about Universities being liberal-oriented is true.

((It seems to me that there are a lot of conservative profs out there, although, given the perspective of history, they find it difficult to justify their beliefs.))

FROM JOAN EXTROM:

Scanned by fleming 1/24 11:14 AM '87



Thought you might enjoy this cartoon. Speaking of mushroom poisoning, several students from Oregon State University recently were treated for it, having mistaken poisonous mushrooms for hallucinogenic ones. One benefit (or so some people claim...) of living in the damp Pacific Northwest is the proliferation of many mushroom species. We used to have a housemate who would collect magic mushrooms and he was always using my cookie sheets to dry them on, much to my dismay.

Please publicize the upcoming Leprecon, March 15-17. Gary Coughlan is definitely coming, so he can represent the Madlads (as an honorary member) but we'd like to have some Madlads in the flesh. Attendees should bring snacks and their own beverage. We'll provide the food. Can you beat that for a good deal?

((Sigh. I'd love to show up, but 1) I don't get any time off of work 'til May and 2) I'll be having my second annual St. Pat's Day party on that same weekend. Last year's was a big success--57 people drank up 3 quarter barrels of beer, two additional cases of beer, three bottles of wine, and a bottle of Jack Daniels. All in a little over 6 hours. Our steak tacos can't be beat, although you have to have a cast iron stomach to handle the hot sauce.

Some advice for those who are going to your party--you northwesterners have a very good source of imported beer out there--Merchant Du Vin, which I believe is centered in Seattle. They carry the very excellent Samuel Smith's beers--Pale ale, Nut Brown Ale, and Teddy Porter being the best of a great lot. The prices are steep, but you'll know you're tasting the real stuff.))

FROM BEN SCHILLING: I thought I'd pass along a couple of definitions from the Diplomacy rulebook which should help confused people and novices. According to the rulebook, a Supply Center is a "province" marked with a black dot. (rule V). According to rule VI, "provinces" are sections of the Great Powers and the smaller countries. The Seas (including the NAO by default) are divided into "bodies of water." How anyone who read the rules carefully could possibly think the NAO is a supply center is beyond me.

((Yup. That should settle that.))

1983 AR PORCELAIN GOD FALL 1985

RUSNAK FEEDS HIS TOADY

AUSTRIA (Carl Russell, 21 Morgan Road, Binghamton, NY 13903):
A Vie-S-A Bud, A Bud-S-ITALIAN A Boh-Gal.

ENGLAND (Rob Acheson, c/o Echo Bau Mines, Lupin, NW1 CANADA
JUE 1M0): NO MOVES RECEIVED. F Mid-r-oto. A May h (dis.
retreats won't matter). F Nth h (dis. ditto).

FRANCE (Bill Becker, 818 Tunwell, Kalamazoo, MI, 49007):
F Mid-Por, F Cly-Edi, A Gas-Bre.

GERMANY (Russ Rusnak, 536 West, 536 Honeysuckle Rose, Apt.
105, Hinsdale, IL, 60521):
A Sil-Boh, A Mun-S-A Sil-Boh, A Lvn-War, F Sve-Nuu, F
Den-Nth, F Lon-S-F Den-Nth, A Bel-Ho, F Hel-Hol, A
Yrk-S-FRENCH F Cly-Edi, F Eng-Mid, A Bre-Par.

ITALY (Jim Makuc, 2 Forest Park Lane, Rm. 214 Ivy House,
Cornell University, Ithaca NY, 14853):
F Nap-Ion, F Iun-S-F Nap-Ion, F Alb-Gre, A Is-S-AUS A Bud,
A Ven-Tur, A Boh-S-A Ven-Tur (dis. annihilated).

TURKEY (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct., Deerfield, IL 60015):
F Blk "does nothing", A Gal-Bud, A Rum-S-A Gal-Bud, A Ser-S-
A Gal-Bud, A Bul-S-A Ser, A S+P-S-GERMAN F Sve-Nuu, F Eas-
Ion, F Gre-S-F Eas-Ion, F Aeg-S-F Eas-Ion.

A G/T draw is proposed. Votes, along with Winter 1985/
Spring 1989 orders, are due Saturday 23 February, 1985.

1983 AR SUPPLY CHART WINTER 1985

- AUSTRIA: Has Bud, Vie, (2), Even.
- ENGLAND: Has ~~Nap~~, ~~Edi~~, (0), OUT.
- FRANCE: Has Mar, Por, Lol, Bre, Edi, (5), May build one,
but room for only one.
- GERMANY: Has Mun, Kie, Ber, War, Hol, Bel, Den, ~~Ale~~, Par,
Sve, Lon, Nuu, (11), Even.
- ITALY: Has Ven, Rom, Nap, Iun, Tri, Spa, (6), Even, our
may build one due to annihilation.
- TURKEY: Has Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Rum, Gre, Nos, Sev, Ser,
S+P, (10), May build one.

PORCELAIN PRESS

- VIENNA TO ANKARA: Give up? You don't know me very well, do
you?
- BESEIGED BUDAPEST TO EDINBURGH: Both of us know that the
cavalry isn't coming. Eh?
- VIENNA TO GERMANY: You never considered a G/T, huh? (you're
red, Russ, red)u.
- BUDAPEST TO EXILED FRENCHMAN: You're the lowest form of
life imaginable: a Rusnak puppet!

WRIGHT THE FATTED CALF Fall 2109

PAX SOVIETUM IN ASIA

ARGENTINA (Pierre Touchette, 1 Rue Georges, Masson, Quebec, CANADA J0X 2H0):

A Buenos-La Pampa, A Cord-S-A BA-LaP (dis. ret to Univ. etc), F SW Atl-Fall Sound.

AUSTRALIA (Eric Ozog, 1526 N. Lawler, Chicago, IL 60651):

F Java-Borneo, A Phil-S-F Java-Borneo, F Timor-Java Sea, F West Australia-Northern Territory, F Queensland Terr., F Coral-Arafura Sea.

BRAZIL (James Wall, 1805 University Avenue, #5, Madison, WI, 53705):

A Bol-La Pampa, A Para-Condoba, A Porto-S-A Para-Indo, F Leo Atl-SW Atl, F M of Ama-Berm Tri, F Carib-S-M of Ama-Berm Tri, F G of Mex-S-F M of Ama-Berm Tri.

CANADA (Ron Brown/Dale Bakken, see below):

F NE Atl-Dixie, F NW Atl-S-F NE Atl-Dixie, A Ohio Val-S-F NE Atl-Dixie, A Calif-holds (dis. ret to Mex. Ore. etc), F NW Pac-holds, F NE Pac-S-F NW Pac.

CHINA (Ed Wrabel, PO Box 3463, Arlington, VA, 22204):

A Man-r-Honan, A Szechn-Assam, A Honan-S-USSR A Man-Szech, A Assam-Bangladesh.

ECM (Mark Keller, 2 Seaside Court, Sacramento, CA 95811):

F Greenland Sea-Nwd, F Nat-Mid, F Ald-Tun, F Spa-sc, F Mor-Spa sc, A Moroc-S-F Por-Spa sc (dis. Abolished).

INDIA (Neil Kiersz, 108 Humphrey, Great Valley, NY 14741):

A Szech-S-USSR A Man-Honan (dis. ret to Inner Mon. Bangd. etc), A Tibet-S-A Szech, A Kash-Pakis, F Pakis-Persian Gulf, F Iran holds, A Iran-Saudi, F Sumatra-Borneo, F India or Siam, F E Ind-Timor Sea.

JAPAN (Jim Makuc, 2 Forest Park Lane, Rm 214 Ivy House,

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 14853):
F Papua-Arafura, F Honshu-W Pac, A Sakn-Hokkaido, F E China Sea-Philippine Sea, F Arafura-Java, F W Pac-Papua.

KINGDOM OF EGYPT (Brad Wilson, Box 327, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest IL, 60045):

F W Ind-r-Gulf of Aden, A Sudan-r-Ethiopia, F Somal-Kenya, A Ethiopia-S-F Somal-Kenya, F Gulf of Aden-S-A Ethiopia.

PERU (Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St., Providence, RI, 02908):

F SC-S-F S Pac-Falk Sound, F S Pac-Falk Sound, A Pier, BRAZIL A Bolivia-La Pampa, F Panama-S-BRAZILIAN F Carib, F Gulf of Calif-Calif, A Texas-S-F G of Calif-Cal.

U OF SA (Don Swartz, 195 Vernon Ave, #2, Louisville, KY, 40205):

F SE Atl-Gabon, F Ken-Somal, F W Indian-S-F Ken-Somal, A Tan-Kenya, A Zaire-S-A Tan-Kenya, F S Ind-SE Atl.

USA (Michael Quirk, 3930 Chester, Glenview, IL 60025):

A Texas-Ore, A One-Pitt Col, F Berm Tri-Mid (dis. auth. etc), F Cuba-S-F Haiti, F Haiti-S-F Cuba.

USSR (Eric Peters, 1814 Cameron Dr, #3, Madison, WI, 53711):

F Balt-Fin, A Georgia-Turkey, A Syr-S-A Geo-Tur, A Sink-Rash, A Tsing-Libet, A Man-Szech, A Hon-Sink, A Sib-Man, F Sea of Japan-E China Sea, F South Korea-S-F Sou-E China Sea.

WARSAW PACT (Mark Frueh, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt. 6, St. Louis, MO, 63116)

A Equ-Saudi, A Israel-S-A Equ-Saudi, F Red Sea-S-A Gre-Equ, F EAS-C-A Gre-Equ, A Gre-Egy, A Hun-Rum, A Poland 10/05

WAF (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct, Deerfield, IL, 60015)
A Mali-Alderia, F Guinea H, A Nip-S-A Mali-Ald, A 11th Egypt
A Sudan-S-A Lib-Equ, F Mid-Morocco, F Sahara-S-F Mid-Morocco

Due to problems with mail delivery, Ron Brown has elected to resign his position as Canada. Will Dave Anderson, P.O. Box 3761, Pontiac, MI, 48059, please assume the Canadian position?

Winter 2104 builds only are due 23 February, 1982.

WW 1115 SUPPLY CHART Winter 2104

- ARGENTINA: Has ~~BA~~, BA, Uru, Falk. (3) Even (1) annhil.
- AUSTRALIA: Has W Aus, NW Terr, NS Wales, N Zee, Java, Borneo, Philippines. (7) May build one.
- BAZIL: Has Mato, Selem, Bahia, Surinam, Venez, Bol, CAR. (7) Even.
- CANADA: Has Alaska, ~~Alta~~ ~~GB~~, Que, Ont, Green, ~~13th~~, 0151E (5) Remove one.
- CHINA: Has ~~Szech~~, Honan, (2) Even, Bangladesh
- ECM: Has Spa, UK, Fra, Nwy, Ice, ~~Moroc~~ Tun. (6) Remove one due to annihilation.
- INDIA: Has Prod, Madras, Rajas, ~~Kandla~~, Pakis, Iran, ~~11th~~, ~~Szech~~, Thailand. (7) Remove two.
- JAPAN: Has Hokk, Sakh, Kuushu, ~~Phil~~, Papua, Honan. (5) Must remove one.
- KINGDOM OF EGYPT: Has Somal, Tunisia, Sudan. (1) Remove two.
- PERU: Has Ecu, Inca, Nepo, Col, Pan, Hon, SC, Tan, 11th. (5) May build three.
- U OF SA: Has Moz, Trans, Mala, Angola, Zambia, Kenya, Ganon. (7) May build one.
- USA: Has ~~Dixie~~, ~~Tex~~, Cuba, Haiti, Brit Col. (3) Even, one to annihilation.
- USSR: Has Russia, Georgia, Kazak, Sib, Kamchat, Mongolia, Swe, S Korea, Isind, Suris, Szechuan. (11) May build one.
- WARSAW PACT: Has Yugo, Hungary, Poland, Greece, Austria, Rum, Egypt, Saudi. (8) May build one.
- WAF: Has Guinea, Mali, Niger, ~~Sahel~~, Cameroon, Haunt, Libya, Sudan, Morocco. (8) May build one.

THE FATTED PRESS

MONGOLIA-HONAN- What a great offer! Too good to be true! We'll see.

MARC-JAMES: I feel the Walls closing in on me, and you're not even involved!

MARC-NEIL: Whoa, there, good buddy. Getting a bit skidren, aren't you? I wasn't sure how far I could trust you, since you panicked and moved at me. Everything still OK?

MARK TO PAUL: Who would believe the power of China. His retreat spells life or death to one of the 'super' powers. So long as I side with the winner, not the loser.

MARK TO MARC: My decision is based on the game situation and friendship.

SUMALIA TO WARSAW PACT: Hey, I'm sorry that my minor slip offended your high priest of geographical trivia. At this rate, the only Egypt I'll have left is under Egypt. As for why my country is doing so well, I think the vultures were gathering long before I took over.

EGYPT (Upper, Lower, Whatever) TO UNK MO: What's a Top Division? A dishwasher detergent company?

UNK MO: Sigh. Oh, the ignorant few....

PERU TO CANADA: When USA went north I just couldn't believe. The Japanese threat has fizzled badly.

LLAMA TO MOSCOW: See? If Maliese women were the goal, you would get no muffs. It takes TWO to eat muffs.

PERU TO ARGENTINA: A Valliant fight. But it's REALLY over now. I'm sorry, but you can't have any home centers back to build in.

PERU TO US: You have been straight with me. I respect that. I don't quite see why you don't get along with Nadlads. You seem to be as wrong about them as they are about you.

LLAMALAND TO USSR: Was that us? We're not useless cowards. We would never attack you anonymously. How can we help it if you refuse to believe that we're all against you.

MUSICAL LLAMA TO GREAT GOD OF MUSIC: Number two was a giveaway, but ask it in a couple of years and you'll generate loads of blank stares. ((Nah--it somebody knows who was in the Yardbirds NOW, they'll still know your lineup in a couple more years.)) Now for the rubber question. Get this one and you retain your title. Miss it and we'll throw you out on the B track junk heap. Simple. Here's the fastest selling album of all time (doesn't matter how you define it, this one wins in a landslide.

GREAT GOD OF MUSIC SPEAKS: It might be Michael Jackson's "Thriller", which has sold upward of 40 million copies in two years.

1983 v MISSIONARY POSITIONS -----

THE DAY THE NORTH STOOD STILL

AUSTRIA (Nelson Heintzman, 2255 Delaware Ave. #0-4, Burrailo, N.Y. 14716)1

F Lon-Blk. A Arm-S-RUSSIAN F Blk-Sex (no), A Ant-HA Arm.

ENGLAND (Jim Mekuc, 2 Forest Park Lane, Rm. 214 Juv House, Cornell University, Ithaca, Nr. 14853)1

F City-S-FRENCH F Nat-Edi (no, and Edi doesn't border Nat).

FRANCE (Konrad Baumwister, 11416 Parkview Lane, Hales Corners, WI. 53130)1

F Hud-r-OTB. F Mid-r-Port. F Port-Mid. A Spa-MAN.
A Kren-S-A Pic. A Pic-S-A Bre.

GERMANY (Dale Bakken, 1814 Cameron Drive, #3, Madison, MI. 48211)1

A Buc-Par. A Bel-Pic. F Eng-S-A Bel-Pic. F Inl-Mid.
A Sit-War. A Tur-Ven. A Tri-S-A Tur-Ven. A Rom-Bul.

ITALY (Russ Rusnak, 16 West, 536 Honeysuckle Rose, Apt 145, Hinsdale, IL. 60521)1

A Tur-r-Pic. A Pic-S-A Ven. A Ven-S-RUSSIAN A Bro-Int (no)
F Pul-Holds (ols. ret to Aeg. OTB). F Aeg-Ion. F Rom-War.

RUSSIA (Nancy Irwin, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt. 6, St. Louis, MO. 63116)1

F Nth, A SEP, and F Nwg all hold having been given conditional orders not including the French netger OTB: A Lol H. A Bud-Ser, A Vie-S-GER A Tri. A Rom-Bul F Blk-S-A Rom-Bul. A Gre-S-A Rom-Bu). A Sev holds, F Mid-NAT.

Winter 1988 and Spring 1989 orders are due Saturday, 23 February, 1989.

AUSTRIA: Has Con, Ank, Smu. (3) Even.
 ENGLAND: Has ~~Con~~. (8). OUT!
 FRANCE: Has Bre, ~~Par~~, Mar, Spa, Por. (4). Even, due to
 annihilation.
 GERMANY: Has Mun, Ber, Kie, Bel, Hol, Den, Lon, ~~Tri~~, ~~Wag~~,
 Par. (10). May build two.
 ITALY: Has Ven, Rom, Nap, Tur, ~~APR~~. (4). Must build.
 RUSSIA: Has StP, Sev, Mos, ~~Mar~~, Rur, Nny, Smu, ~~Sec~~, ~~Yrk~~.
 Bud, Bul, Vie, Gr, Lpl. (13) May build two if allowed.

MISSIONARY PRESS

G-F: Won't vote for the R/G draw, eh? Well, maybe we can
 take that vote away from you. Besides, Nancy and I are
 doing for the 2 way draw no matter how long it takes.

BAKKO TO ROADWORM: Hey! Love your new nickname! And I
 loved those old Milwaukee seasons! Hate shovelling snow.

MUNICH TO MOSCOW: You don't know how close I came to
 stabbing you this turn! Luckily for you, the alcohol is
 starting to take effect.

GERMANY TO AHI: Aw, c'mon Nelson. Give up the ghost!

GHOST TO NELSON: Way to go! I knew you could do it. Don't
 give in. They hate it when you give in. Ah, the chess...

MADMAN TO Roadworm: Thanks for the party! Had a great
 time.

GHOSTLY MUSINGS: I'm glad that MY head can't be crushed.

1983 CO

SACRED COM

WIN 65 SER 66

SEASONS SEPARATED BY REQUEST

AUSTRIA (John Crosby, 830 Hunterhill Tr., Roseville, Ca.
 95675):
 Has A Nap, F Ion, F Alb, F Aeg, F Smu, A Bul, A Tri, A Bud,
 A Ven.

ENGLAND (Jim Keeney, 3124 N. St., Sacramento, CA. 95815):
 NO MOVES RECEIVED. GM removes F Ska. Has F Hol.

FRANCE (David Anderson, P.O. Box 3761, Pontiac, MI. 48059):
 Builds F Bre, F Mar. Also has F Tur, F Wal, A Bel, A Por, A
 Gas.

GERMANY (Matt Fleming, 4290 Chateau de Ville, #C, St. Louis,
 MO. 63129):
 Has A Ruh, F Kie, A Mun, A Boh, F Lon.

RUSSIA (Ly Henry, 6856 Waverly, Dearborn Heights, MI.
 98127):
 A Smu--Ank. Builds A War, A Mos, F StP nc.
 Also has F Lpl, F Nny, A War, A Mos, A Vie, A Rum, F Sec
 nc, A Yrk, A Sue, F Sev, A Ank.

TURKEY (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Lane, Columbus, Oh.
 43229): NO MOVES RECEIVED. GM removes F Bk. Has A Con.

Will Konrad Baumeister, 11416 Parkview Ln, Hales Corners, WI
 53130 please submit standby orders for England and 6001
 Mark Frueh, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt. 6, St. Louis, MO. 63116
 please standby for Turkey!

A/F, A/R, GRF, concession to Austria all proposed. Please

vote along with your Spring 1966 orders, due 23 February 1966

SACRED PRESS

FRENCH NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS: Not to lie to Paul Haurand or Matt Fleming. (Oops, I already broke that one in other games; besides, that would be too hard. How about to win one dip game, that includes a draw as I share in the win.

UNK MO TO FRANCE: I vastly prefer your first, already violated, resolution.

TRI-MUN: How much longer?

AUS-FRA: Time for commitment. My guess is Russia corner you, too.

AUS-FRA: Don't be such a turkey. Help me stop Russia. Unproductiveness should go only so far.

FRANCE TO RUSSIA: We received your compass, but we will have to send it back as it is written in Russian. We have no translators!

MOSCOW TO BERLIN: Sad to say, it looks as if the Bonn hole is returning to Vienna. A minor setback.

MOSCOW TO PARIS: We offer our mediation services over your dispute with Germany.

HICKY TO WILLEY: It may be a while, but I will drink goat wine.

MOSCOW TO TRIESTE: This war will continue absent a new agreement on the rate of Turkey.

PARIS: President Anderson announced April 1, 1966 that he voted 'no' to the proposed RAG draw and proposed a 60% draw.

IRELAND: God must be a Russian.

MOSCOW TO WORLD: A seven way draw is like being kissed by a road; a six way draw is like being kissed by a dog; a five way draw is like being kissed by one's mother; a four way draw is like being kissed by one's sister; a three way draw is like being kissed by one's wife; a two way draw is like being kissed by one's mistress; a win is like being kissed by (insert your favorite fantasy romantic interest in this space). A Win in this game is unattainable as the name you insert in this blank space. By the same token, I cannot pay a gameteer for the same feeling I can get any night of the week (barring headache, time of the month, cold, and other misc. excuses). I'm afraid a two way it must be.

PARIS TO MOSCOW: GO FOR IT! GO FOR IT!

FEB 16-17
FTF Action - Andy Lischett's
2402 Ridgeland Ave
Berwyn, IL 60402

CLASHES IN THE CORNERS

AUSTRIA (Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot Avenue, Apt. 3, Dalton, MA, 01226):
F Tri-Alb, A Bud-Ser, A Vis-Tri.

ENGLAND (Bob Sweeney, Jr., 614 Custer, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, 66027):
F Lon-Nth, F Eds-Nwd, A Lpl-Yrk.

FRANCE (Nelson Heintzman, 2255 Delaware Ave, #C-4, Buffalo, NY, 14216):
F Bra-Mid, A Par-Bur, A Mar-S-A Par-Bur.

GERMANY (Steve Knight, 11905 Winterthur Lane, Apt. 10, Reston, VA, 22091):
A Ber-His, F Kis-Den, A Mun-Bur.

ITALY (Rich Reilly, Upham Hall #308, Roscon, ID, 83843):
A Ven holds, A Rom-Apu, F Nap-Ion.

RUSSIA (Ty Hare, 1001 N. Weber, #204, Colorado Springs, CO, 80903):
A Mos holds, A War-Ukr, F StP ac-G of Both, F Sev-Blt.

TURKEY (Dave Kleiman, 651 Fenster Ct, Indianapolis, IN, 46234):
F Ank-Con, A Smy-Ara, A Con-Bul.

Fall 1981 orders are due 25 February, 1985.

RIGEL PRESS

GERMANY: Press wars? Press wars? Did I hear someone mention...? Well, maybe.

LIMBO TO KING OF ENGLAND, (Pt. 2): Again! Not even Spring 1981 and already embroiled in controversy...P.S. Are you still there?

AUSTRIA TO GM: So, did we get this game named Rigel 11 yet? Not damn! If nothing else works for me, I've at least succeeded in this one diplomatic endeavor!

UNK NO TO BRUCE: You sure are easy to please, aren't you, Linsey?

LONDON TO WORLD: (Just heard from a few distant folks.) (Wrote just about everyone.) (A shit load of trouble.)

AUSTRIA TO ITALY: For a man who has no time to write, you sure do a heck of a lot of it. I'd love to experience your diplomatic prowess when you're MIT too busy with school!

GERMANY TO ENGLAND: Hey, no fair, pleading for sympathy by requesting (and getting) the same country you had last game!

GERMANY TO RUSSIA, ITALY, AND TURKEY: Come on, guys, do to Linsey what got done to me in S W1 last game! I want to see if he can luck out half as well as I did.

TY TO RICH: Nice endgame statement.

AUSTRIA TO RUSSIA: Thanks for the clarification you sent. It will be an honor to shake your vagina again someday.

AUSTRIA TO WORLD: Don't ask...

THE LONDON TIMES: Prime Minister Sweeney today held a press conference concerning the increased state of tension among world leaders.

With the mobilization by all countries in Europe, of the machine guns of war and, with the molestation of the rights of neutral countries--it is my sad duty to make the following declaration:

1) Martial Law is in effect. All foreign nationals who are not registered by 190) will be arrested.

2) The English navy will immediately sail to defensive positions about the Isle.

3) The neutral country of Belgium will be offered our royal protection. It is hoped that France and Germany will respect this country's request.

My fellow countrymen, it is hoped that the times of war will be mercifully short but at least longer than 1945....

LONDON TO GM: How the hell did I get England again?

GM TO LONDON: I didn't pay attention to the previous countries that you guys played when I assigned countries, I DID follow preference lists, and you might have listed England too high....

LONDON TO GM: Oh! That's how.

AUSTRIA TO JOAN: Hey, honey, are you reading this?

UNK HO TO AUSTRIA: Send me her address and I'll send her a sample.

AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION: Von Heintzman's two closest previous allies wanted to be as far away as possible from him in this game. Coincidence?

ANONYMOUS GAME Spring 1968

GERMANS FRAYED AT THE EDGES
TURKEY GOBBLES UP BUDAPEST

FRANCE (Casual Sutterby): F Nat-Nug, F Nth-S-F Nat-Nug, A Clu-Edi, A Yrk-S-A Clu-Edi, F Bre-Pic, F Eng-S-F Bre-Pic, A Gas-Bur, A Pie-Iur (dis. ret. to Tus, Mar. 67), F Jun-Tur, F Nep-Rom.

GERMANY (Konrad v. Kriegen): F Edi-Nug (dis. annih), F Nug-Nug, F Den-Ska, F Kie-Den, F Hol-Nth, A Kei-Pic, A Mun-Bur, A Ruh-S-A Mun-Bur, A Ber-Sil, A Hgs-Ber, A ~~W~~-Rom, A Bud holds (dis. annihilated), A Ven-Pic, A ~~W~~-Ven-Pic, A Vie-Tri.

TURKEY (Rusty Underwhere): A Ann-Sev, A Sev-Rom, A Rom-Sil

A Ber-Ska (r)-Bud, A Tri-Bud, F App-Ven, F App-Tri, F Bit-S-A Sev-Rom, F Adr-S-F App-Ven.

A F/G/I draw is proposed. Please vote along with your Fall 1968 orders, which are due 23 February, 1969.

ANONYMOUS PRESS

UNK STAN TO RHUSTY: I voted for all three draws, so you can't blame me if they fail.

PARIS TO MOSCOW: You know that Olsen is rapidly jealous of you. Says you write a letter every two months and still win. Of course, Bob doesn't do so well. Wonder what

MARK TO BOB: I'm sorry to hear about your death in the family. Please write when you can.

MARK TO MARC: Galicia would be less than happiness if you take it.

MARK TO RICH: So, guy--after our volumes of letter exchanges--did you lie to me by taking Bulgaria?

PARIS TO UNK MO: you know, with a mild name like "Sordid Behavior", you'll never cross out DeJzer's wife. How about "Rectal Inflammation" or "Russ Rusnak." They might work better.

UNK MO TO PARIS: Rusnak has never worked a day in his life. SEV TO ANK: Your letter was the single worst example of

diplomacizing I've ever seen. We can still work things out, but you'll have to do better than chide me for a stupid error in a past game. You might as well have announced you were opening to the Black.

UNK MO TO SEV: AH, but then he would have been blind, and wouldn't that have been worse?

NORTH POLE TO EUROPE: Russia doesn't keep his promises.

NORTH POLE TO NORTH POLE: Is that because he is a "Mad Lad?"

NORTH POLE ANSWER: yes! yes! yes!

PARIS (FRENCH UNITED CONTROLLED (PRESS) INRA (SWEN): The main post office here has been overwhelmed with correspondence. "Open 2 months and just a letter and a card," said one worker in between belts of Calvedos. Other European capitols were silent. As usual.

1982 HQ: SLEAZE ONE WIN: 10, Sev 141

..... FRENCH CAUGHT NAPPING

AUSTRIA (Mark Frueh, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt. 6, St. Louis, Mo. 63116):

Buils A Vie, A Bud, F Tri, A StP-Fin, A Mos-9th, A Sev-Mos, A War-Pru, A 91)-S-A Mun, A Gal-Roh, A Tur-Pie, A Ben-S-A War-Pru, A Mun-S-A Ber, A Ukralal, F Connead, F Aeo-Ion, F Gre-S-F Aeo-Ion, A Vie-Int, A Bud-Alp Comp, F Tri-Adn.

FRANCE (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Lane, Columbus, OH, 43224): NO MOVES RECEIVED. F Lon, F Rom, A Rom, A Rom, A Nie, F Hol, A Swe, F Nth, F Lon, A Col, F Int, F did, all hold.

RUSSIA (Michael Olink, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL 60025): Retreats F Lp) pfb, F Lon 6th. Removes A Pol. A Uncon AUSTRIAN A Ber-Kiel (nsol).

Will Dave Anderson, P.O. Box 3761, Pontiac, MI 48059 please submit standby orders for France? An A/F move is proposed. Votes, along with Fall 1981 moves, are due on Saturday, 23 February, 1982.

..... SLEAZY PRESS

MARK TO DERWOOD: It's been a long time since I've heard from you. I'm fine--how are you? I'm voting for the two-man draw.

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WALL WINS ANOTHER ONE

AUSTRIA (David Anderson, P.O. Box 3761, Pontiac, MI, 48059):
A Vie-r-Ion, A Tyr-Vie, A Tri-s-A Tyr-Vie (die, ann10).

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN, 55337):
A Nnu Holds, F Nnu-S-A Nnu, F Nth-S-F Hol, F Hol-S-
F Eng-Bel, A Bur-Par, F Eng-Bel, A Nat-Ion, F Iun-Ned,
F Wes-Iyn, F Mid-Wes.

FRANCE (Michael Quirk, 3838 Chester, Glenview, IL, 60025):
F E Med-Smyrna, A Pie-Ven, A Mar-Pie.

GERMANY (Konrad Baumeister, 11415 Parkview Lane, Hales
Corners, WI, 53130):
A Munich relaxes (imp, dislocated but who cares).

ITALY (Don Swartz, 155 Vernon Ave, #2, Louisville, KY, 40206):
F Adr-Ven, A Rom-S-F Adr-Ven.

RUSSIA (James Wall, 1805 University Avenue, #5, Madison, WI, 53705):
F StP-nc-Nnu, F Den-S-A Fin-Sue, F kie-S-A Ruh-Hol,
F Gre-Ion, F Aeo-S-F Gre-Ion, F Smu laughs at Quirk's loss,
A Fin-Sue, A Ruh-Hol, A Ber-S-A Sil-Mun, A Sil-Mun.

A Roh-S-A Sil-Mun, A Gal-S-A Vie, A Vie-S-A Bud-Tri, A Rod-Tri,
A Ser-S-A Bud-Tri, A Alb-S-A Bud-Tri.

CONGRATULATIONS to James, on a well-played game. Endgame statements are welcomed from all concerned. They will be printed, along with the summary chart, on 23 February, 1985.

1983 A1 FINAL SUPPLY CHART Winter 1983

AUSTRIA:	Has W , Y , Z (8), OUT!
ENGLAND:	Has Lon, Ed, Lpl, Nnu, Bel, Hol, Por, Spa, Gre, Iun, Nad, Par. (12).
FRANCE:	Has W , Mar, Y (11).
GERMANY:	Has W (8), OUT!
ITALY:	Has Rom, Ven. (2).
RUSSIA:	Has StP, Sev, Mos, War, Sue, Rum, Con, Ann, Bul, Den, kie, Ber, Ser, Bay, Gre, Bud, <u>lpl</u> , <u>Vie</u> , <u>Mun</u> . (17) WINNER!

PORNOGRAPHIC PRESS

AUSTRIA TO RUSSIA: Congrats on the win. (unless I was the one in bush. Should we meet again, maybe we can be allies. Eh? Besides, I always like going down in blazes or night).

MUNICH: Not me, okay?

LINK MO TO MUNICH: So why should he spare YOU has weath?

BOARDMAN NUMBER FOR
Indecent Exposure
1984 IU
New Deadline - 23 Feb 1985

how does all this concern the statesman? in this way. gambling, or the attempt to get money without earning it, is a vice which is economically (that is, fundamentally) ruinous.

BENZENE *more than just another subzene*

to be true to form, i should put some denunciation of advertising here, but i'll get right to the deviant instead. this is "benzene"; a subzene produced by Ignatz Jerome ("Mark") Lew at 1327 w 27th #104, anchor-age, alaska 99502, 907-274-7320. i don't know which number this is. xeroxes of any benzenes not in TMOER or ME are coveted.

deviant dip: quonset hutton today, hutton yesterday and bliacy if it aint hutton tomorrah.

summer 1904: rus: f bot r-fin eng: f nth r-york

fall 1904:

A: (tallman) ta vie-VIE2, f2 bul(sc)-CON, a gre-BUL

E: (martin) f lon2-NTH2 (explodes), a lon-LON2, a edi-NWY, tf MWG

c a edi-nwy, af2 bot-SWE, f yor-LON

F: (tighe) ta PAR2 h, f spa(sc)-MID, tf mid-NAO, f nth-EDI, a bur-GAS, a BEL h

G: (ainshall) a2 bur2-MUN2, a ber2-KIE2, a ber-BER2, f kie-HEL, f hol-NTH, af DEN s f hol-nth

I: (ahli) a ROM2 h, af APU-gre, f lon c af apu-gre(x-tun, trn,adr,nap,otb) a2 tri-SER, a ALB s a2 tri-ser

R: (wall) a2 bud-VIE, f ust-rum(x-arm,otb), a stp-STP2, f FIN-sue, a nos-STP

T: (bowen) tf con-CON2, f BLA s a rum-sev, a rum-SEV, f sny-AEG, f aeg-ION, f EAS s f aeg-ion, a2 ser-GRE

this gets more difficult every month. i've set up my british board so it hangs over the stp $\frac{1}{2}$ of the normal board so i don't waste too much table space, but i like to indicate orders on the board by putting part of the piece (pieces for amphibians and double units) into the destinations, but that doesn't work for transboard moves. and this turn i discover that normal armies won't balance on toadfather (british set) fleets for conveying.

notes: mislabeled units are interpreted to mean whatever unit is in the space (if it's your unit, that is), so don't bother trying any intentional mislabels here. last month i left off the "2" on the german double unit, now in mun2. the only places where board 1 and board 2 are adjacent are vie, lon, par, ber, rom, stp, and con. you may place only one bomb at a time. you may place a bomb in an impassable space. the english fleet which moved to nth2 exploded. if that bomb was yours, you should have a post card by now. nth2 is impassable until post-fall 1906. ruh, aka, aeg2, and bal are impassable until summer 06. ber is impassable until post-spring 06. eng is imp until post-fall 05. tyo is imp until post-spring 05.

votes: a:+JP-K, s:+LP-L, f:+EK-J, g:+KL-M i:+KL-J r:+KL-O t:+PL-L the last letter is the negative vote.

for the benefit of spectators who wonder about voting for and against the same rules: rule L was the one which banned TUs but had a rider favoring those who vote for it. capisci?

rule p is the new rule: Players are allowed one paratroop move per

year. a paratroop move allows an army to move to a land space up to four spaces away (e.g., a(p) naf-nwy, a(p) syr-sm2). paratroop moves may be supported but paratroopers can't support. if a paratroop move fails, the paratrooping army is eliminated. if a normal move was stood off only by a paratrooper and the paratroop move fails, the normal move does succeed.

other rules in effect: 1) bombs. 2) sc-affecting rules delayed. 3) double units. 4) proposals are anonymous. 5) only three bombs and they're anonymous. 6) left get TUs. 7) amphibians. 8) bob olsen. 9) board two. 10) bombs explode summer 04. 11) negative votes. 12) draws must include austria. 13) paratroopers

mark d'lew
1327 w 27th, #104
anchorage, ak 99503

15

new rules to vote on:

- Q: the gm is required to include his address in the anchorage book ((i can take a hint))
- R: rescind rule 11 (negative votes) ((why not 4 while you're at it?))
- S: ((very long multi-clause rule which i've been given liberty to paraphrase:)) for each player submitting a joke order in a spring or fall season, one deviant unit is converted to a normal unit immediately prior to the season ((deviant unit is any unit which is not "a" or "f" converts chosen randomly among all deviant units. becomes "a" or "f" whichever is legal and random if on a coast)) ((note the word "prior" as science fiction writers like to demonstrate, when time travel is introduced, all hell breaks loose. gm therefore ruthlessly bans orders conditional on units converting and any paradox which still manages to occur will be ignored. e.g., if your deviant unit joke orders and this kills himself that's too damn bad. none of that reappearing because he wasn't there to make himself disappear stuff...)) joke orders are not considered such unless the unit holds. that is: if a unit is ordered to convoy, move or support, it is NOT joke ordered, no matter how silly the syntax. furthermore ((this is still rule S)) any player voting against or not voting for rule S has $\frac{1}{2}$ (rounded down) of his units killed (which units chosen randomly). moreover, all rules which subvert the intent of this rule AND all rules which contain an "obnoxious clause" may not be proposed. an "obnoxious clause" is one which attempts to get votes by punishing non-voters or rewarding voters or some other sly thing, as judged by the gm. ((note that his cannot lead to two rules disallowing each other because this rule quashes rivals upon their proposal. likewise the rule doesn't disallow itself. note that if two rules do disallow each other, the later rule prevails.))
- T: camouflage: each fall or spring, each player may camouflage one unit. the unit remains hidden until it comes in conflict with another unit (if blown up, nationality is not revealed) each player may have more than one unit camouflaged at a time. (another good bookkeeping rule for you, or gm) ((but who will run this game when i go nuts? camouflaged units are listed if and only if their order fails (including nso, iap, etc.) gm will NOT send out little notes each month so you have to keep track of you own units or else phone))
- U: everyone voting for rule U gets one of Wall's dots each game year ((in winter. dots chosen random and recipients too if he runs out))
- V: all amphibians become $\frac{1}{2}$ -strength units ((general rules for fractional units; any unit cuts ALL support of a unit it attacks. an attack must be a full point stronger than defender to dislodge (e.g., normal unit cannot dislodge $\frac{1}{2}$ unit; normally supported $\frac{1}{2}$ unit may dislodge another $\frac{1}{2}$ unit, but not a normal unit; etc.))

W: if tallan retains the title of hobby god (whether he does will be announced at daf con over new years) he gets eliminated from the game. all units disappear and all centers become neutral ((but bombs remain and draws become illegal per rule 12. "retains the title" is ambiguous so i'll consider it done if i hear from a reliable source that an announcement at dafcon was made))

dots 1904:

a: del , del , BUL, CON, VIE2	3	+1 +TU (no room)
e: lon, lvp, del , nwy, swe, LOM2	5	+1 +TU (room for 1)
f: mar, bra, por, spa, par, bel, EDI, PAR2	8	+4 +TU (room for 3)
g: ber, kis, hol, mun, den, del , BER2, MUN2, KIE2	8	+2
i: rom, ven, nap, tun, tri, SER, ROM2	7	+2
r: mos, mar, del , bud, stp, VIE, STP2	6	+1 (+2 if r-otb)
t: del , ank, say, del , rum, del , BRE	6	even +TU
n: del , bud2, tri2, del , lvp2, edi2, mar2, bra2, del , del , del , del , ven2, nap2, mos2, del , var2, sev2, del , ank2, say2, nwy2, swe2, den2, bel2, hol2, spa2, por2, tun2, ser2, bul2, rum2, gre2	25	(v.c. is 35)

deadline is some time near the end of december. call and remind me. due are: retreat(R), builds, place bomb if want and can(FRT), spring moves, vote on rules, propose new rule, vote on draw. oh, did i mention? someone got cute and proposed an A-E draw. now is a good time to remind you, i DO publicize draw votes, when i began doing this was almost as common as not printing them, but it's quite rare now, so i thought i ought to warn you. i think it's the sensible way. if some jackass is thwarting peace, they deserve to know who to eliminate. finally done. i spend 3+ hours on this bastard.

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press, which will segue into political bullshit.
the wall to dick: if you won't go away, i will. so there.
italy to all: eh! for hobby sex ghod. wall has already voted for me,
how about the rest of you? it's not just a vote, it's a moral obligation.
((god damn college kids))
italy to gm: I'M the "gentleman" you're talking about ((yeh i know, glad
to see you're not offended. it occurred to me only afterward that you
might be.)) are you sure you can't find a way to better organize your-
self? ((depends on what "find" means. i know lots of ways but to imple-
ment one would, um, require a change in lifestyle and by goah i just
gotta be me))
rockville: actually, titan with six players can be fine if you have
six fast players and play semi-simultaneously. it still gets slow if
you have a lot of battles, though, and you should try to negotiate them
whenever possible. ((that makes sense.))
also rockville: you political stuff was interesting. though i'd never
thought about it exactly like that, i agree with your comments on cam-
paigning. taxes, though, i must disagree with. i suppose that living
near to washington dc and having several friends working for the federal
government gives me an advantage, but i can see tremendous amounts of
money wasted by the federal government. if i thought i was getting my
money's worth on the taxes i pay now, i wouldn't mind paying a bit more.
but with all the waste...no way. they ought to spend what i give them
wisely, rather than demand more to waste.
((you exemplify the trend of the readership which was to nod continuously
and say "yeah. uh huh" until we get to the taxes where you reject. gov-
ernment waste is certainly a problem that ought to be addressed, but
it's clearly separate from the pay-your-taxes issue and your objections
are no more sensible than Kevin's (see below)

((back to dick)) like i said, ultimately cool was indeed a fake, but by
the keith himself. since then he's come out with a real issue of, what
is it, the inner light. ultimately cool was a better name, but what can
you expect. and did you know that you're not old enough to pub benzen?
((false)) you should ask keith about that one.

vod folded, and there was much rejoicing, now he's going to see -- birds
of a feather...

((from kevin tighs:))

regarding your talk on economics: i tend to agree with what you wrote,
except for the taxes. i don't mind paying state and local taxes since
they do go to roads and sewers and lights and all that good stuff.
but -but about half of our federal taxes goes to the military. and i'm
not too happy with the way our military acts overseas. if i ever
earn enough money to pay an income tax i probably wouldn't pay all of'
it as a protest of our foreign policy. ((and a silly protest it would
be indeed. tell me, kevin, if uncle sam finds himself with a bit less
revenue, is he going to cut the military budget? in nessun modo!
the bite would come from all-that-good-stuff, so you'll have accom-
plished nothing at all. likewise, dick's missing taxes will have no
effect on the amount of waste. incidentally, i approve of the tax
simplification plan. with any luck, it'll put all tax accountants
right out of business and make them earn an honest living (here's
the reference to the lead-in) they may as well be on welfare for
the good they do the economy. rebuttals coveted))

((back to kevin:))the way we're handling central america is criminal.
how can we openly train guerilla soldiers and bomb harbors without
being in a state of war; and then claim to be morally superior to USSR?
but as long as we see every socialist party as a front for communists,
and continue to support oppressive dictatorships merely because they
aren't communists we'll keep finding ourselves acting like "bad guys"
in foreign countries for years to come. it's all rather sickening.
((i think you exaggerate the communist-label-over-nature-of-the-regime
issue. policymakers seem to have wised up a little bit since castro
and ho chi minh. you know i don't believe in ethics/morals/etc. and
i've noticed it doesn't get along well with logic in arguments. to con-
vince someone, choose logic or emotion but not both. (a good rule of
thumb: use logic to back up the truth; use emotion to back up lies)
even without ethics, the central america policy is a bit silly and hor-
ribly counter-productive. as it appears, in any given 3rd world coun-
try with a civil war, the soviets pick one team to give aid to and we
suddenly feel obligated to aid the other, and as often as not we end up
with the rotten egg. presumably, we don't want the soviet-backed
faction in control because it'll feel indebted for the aid and thus
turn toady to the commies. i think that if we don't provide them with
a reason to hate us by backing the enemy, they are more likely to grow
in power and become a major factor, than they are likely to lose the civil

war if we make one. so minding our own business is far less expensive and more efficacious to boot. if those odds aren't good enough for you, there's still no problem. instead of betting on the soviet team's enemy, we match soviet aid, dollar for dollar, (or more, if you like) with education, industrialization, agriculture and other productive types of aid, to the same faction the sovists support. after the doubly aided faction overthrows the unaided opposition and stabilizes, the government is just as much in debt to us as it is to the sovists for its prosperity. for an equal price, we're in the same position vs the sovists and we get the satisfaction that we were nice about it. if benevolence doesn't interest you, remember, we don't waste as many marines, we improve the world economy, and we discourage illegal immigration by making the rest of the world not such a bad place to be. in this usa-usar talks everyone is planning for, i'd much rather see some cooperative 3rd world policy than some boring nuclear disarmament treaties.

and how about that star wars plan? talk about a dumb idea... whether the sovists are actually interested in nuking us is moot, but it's clear they wish to maintain the ability to do it. ergo, when we take that power away by neutralizing their missiles' potential with our nifty spacelaser system, they'll be compelled to regain the nuking potential in some way or another. as long as the war stays cold, it's an economic battle: see who can maintain ability to nuk for the least amount of money. in this battle, the star wars plan is a very sorry strategy indeed. okay, say we put our trillion-dollar beam-satellites into orbit. now tell me, how much would it cost to launch a few tons of gravel into counter-orbit? --i mean same altitude and path, but opposite direction. with collision speed of twice the orbital velocity, i don't care if it's solid, it's going to put those fancy mirrors right out of commission. trillions of dollars down the drain, for a soviet cost of a few hundred billion. not too clever.

before we get jim-bob in here, i'll take some time out for those of you sick of politics. how about some physics? situation one: you've all heard the story about the twins...one twin takes off in a ship and zooms away at near light speed. somewhere in here they would think each other's time is acting funny (if they had instant telepathy which is of course preposterous). then the guy in the ship does a u-turn and comes zipping back. supposedly one of the guys will turn ancient (the guy on earth, i think) and the other will be youthful. i always understood that a fundament of relativity is that there is no such thing as absolute motion through the ether, and only relative motion is relevant. accordingly, it makes just as much sense to say that the ship stayed still and the earth flew away. the way i see it, when the two moved away from each other, both would view the other's time - going slowly (and a third observer would see some sort of combination of that, depending on where he is and where he's going); but after the u-turn, they'd consider each other's time to be going faster, so they'd look identical in time for their reunion. it turns out i'm in disagreement with all the science fiction writers, but i'm not sure why. situation two: let us suppose the sun suddenly vanishes. question: does the earth (and others) instantly take off at a tangent to it's orbit, or does it wait eight minutes and then take off? of course the sun can't vanish, and the fact that gravity doesn't change abruptly might be significant (space-time curvature is continuous, i believe that translates to). the key to this question is something called a "graviton": some physicists insist that there's a stream of these tiny messenger particles emanating from the sun and everything else, which travel at the speed of light to the earth and tell it to stay in orbit. so you'd have eight minutes of post-catastrophe gravity, just as you'd have eight minutes of post-catastrophe light. i say there's no reason whatsoever to believe these fellows exist. light doesn't need some messenger to tell it to reflect at the angle it came in. protons don't need little messengers to tell them they're attracted to electrons (though i can imagine that postulated as well) do gravitons need messengers to tell them to go in a straight line? situation three: let us suppose the universe is curved and finite. many of you have already supposed this before, but if you haven't, it's rather difficult. maybe next time i'll try to elucidate the notion, but for now, realize that it's a 3-dimensional equivalent of the plane-like surface of the earth actually being curved and finite now then let us imagine a two-dimensional world (did you read flatland?) which is neither a plane nor the surface of a sphere, but a klein bottle. (a klein bottle is the same as two mobius strips sewn together at the edges (oops, i mean edge). it will pass through itself, but that's just because of the

because of the 3-dimensional representation. now let's pretend a 2-dimensional creature goes on a journey around this universe and he comes back to where he came from. you'll imagine him on the other side of the glass from where he began, but we have only two dimensions, so the glass has no thickness at all. he is in fact occupying the same exact space he occupied before but remarque la difference! he thinks he is completely normal, but from the point of view of the fellows on the side where he started, he is completely reversed! not just left-handed, but every molecule and indeed the most finely distinguished bit of him is inside out. now i can't imagine a 3-dimensional equivalent of a klein bottle, but you can see that it's conceivable that our universe has such a topology that a long journey returns one inside out from his original point of view. listen, you've heard of mirror-image molecules. how about anti-matter? some physicists say that it is mirror-image of normal matter, reversed at the infinitesimal level. hm. to ask when our traveler transforms into an anti-person is as absurd as to ask when the ant crosses to the other side of the mobius strip. universally, anti-matter and matter are the same; but locally, there are two parities of matter. neither is the normal one, but they are different from each other, and that is what ~~is~~ is important. stuck in our 3 dimensions we naturally consider ourselves to be the normal matter, but looking at a mobius strip we can see (locally) two different sides. imagine anti-matter from its point of view and from ours, and you'll have an idea of the two perspectives from which our 4-dimensional friends can view our guts.

(not to be confused with our GUTs.)

next up is jim burgess (excerpts):

"the political stuff was really interesting. it was no secret that mondale didn't have a chance to beat reagan, but everyone forgot that over the general campaign excitement and geraldine ferraro. did anybody bother to visit alaska? ferraro came to rhode island twice, once just down the street, and i went. just your average boring political rally. there were lots of hyped up upper crusty brown university women types who wandered around, speaking in low somber tones about how important this election is. i always have to laugh when i hear those old bats talk about anything. you just can't take them seriously.

"neither can you take the 'character issue' seriously. elections are always based on perceived charisma. it reminds me of those grade school elections when the teachers would admonish us not to make it a popularity contest, but to vote for the most qualified candidate. of course, we always ignored them and voted for the most popular people. i always voted for the girls i had crushes on and i still do...sort of anyway. there will always be a small minority who vote based on the issues, but for the majority the time cost of voting alone is just barely surmountable (sometimes) and we still have majority rule. people usually forget that our country was founded on the basis of voting landowners. we, the people, were the 'rich' or relatively rich and those people should have voted on the issues, right? wrong! washington was an incompetent president, for all his other accomplishments. so, how can we possibly restrict voting to those who vote on the issues? we can't! that's why many of 'us' support single terms and/or random selection of representatives. just think, we could run it like the lottery."

((barbara bush came to alaska and you should have seen the crowds... those old bats led me to predict mondale would take rhode island, but i also thought the vikings would beat the point spread against san francisco. greg ellis said in the latest feuilletonist's forum that picking ferraro for a running mate was a good political move and mondale lost in spite of it; perhaps he's trying to make reagan's win look like more of an accomplishment? i expected mondale to appease all the important groups by interviewing all the token minority members and making a big deal about how grand these unwasps are, and then pick the sensible candidate anyway; but he surprised us. sure, all sorts of people really got excited about the choice and applauded it and all that, but these were the people who were going to vote for mondale anyway. a person of the sort who would vote for reagan and also of the sort to be impressed by the ferraro pick is a rare person indeed. perhaps even scarcer than the knee-jerk democrat sufficiently piggish to be turned off by the choice. picking us ferraro did little or nothing to change mondale's chances, thus he squandered his vp pick when he could have gained by choosing a moderate with as much color as ferraro (such as inouye) or by choosing hart, which is not silly like some people like to say.

surely you don't really support random selection of representatives. do you mind elaborating on why washington was an incompetent president. (or ignorant collector-squanders like myself?)

"ultimately cool was a fake that neither did himself. newsday? well, there will be no seen, par se, but keith is responsible. faking himself. pretty neat trick, eh? keith and i go back quite a ways too and it was obvious to me that he did it."

((i've since gotten two issues of the real seen, the inner light -- late because of the wrong address. i thought uc was real. i hadn't heard from keith in a few years and i assumed college had osmosed some of its decadence to him.))

"now to your economics. you're exactly right in your relative assessment of mondia's and reagan's economic plans and i liked your thoughts on the 'radicals' on both sides. in short, we seem to agree most of the way down the line. however, i would like to comment on the small amount of naivete, perhaps intentional, perhaps not, in

your last few sentences. i agree about the sacrifices, but the big problem is that people don't trust the people they're giving the money to. remember the old saying, 'fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me'? who decides how the money is spent? we must work on ways to make the spending process more efficient and increase public trust. i'm not completely sure how to do that though. i suppose patriots are always a little bit idealistic. the trick is to retain the idealism when you're being practical."

((passion tempered with reason, huh? i wasn't so much making an economic statement as i was attacking the republican rhetoric which has labelled the government bad. the naivete was supposed to be poetry: i couldn't resist sacrificing concise logic for pretty words, with lines like "isn't that what patriotism is all about?" i've heard people mention the idea of having a list of expenditure choices listed with your taxes and you can check off what you want to pay for, but that's just plain silly because you'd have no idea what the others have spent on so you don't know what's needed. even on the congressional level i think it defeats the purpose of government, which is to do things which are impractical to do individually.))

many of you have heard the stories about all the letters i write but never get around to mailing. i recently dug up a many-month-old one addressed to eric kane's now defunct anduin. though i wouldn't word it quite the same way now, i found this excerpt interesting:

"one of the rules of débate is that it is a game to be won and the way to win is not to be right but to convince the onlookers that you are right. another rule is that a player's idea to defend is assigned to him and is not subject to change.

"the lessons taught to the debaters are these: you start out already having the correct opinion (truth) so there's no point in going out looking for it. the most important thing is to impress others, even if that means (as it often does) bullshitting rather than being sensible. anyone not assigned the same idea is an opponent. making an opponent appear foolish is just as effective as appearing wise oneself. differences of opinions are opportunities to obtain a victory.

"bravo for the high school debate programs which help to sharpen the wits of america's youth and prepare them for the real world."

i believe there's a sort of social rot in america which is kept alive by lots of little things which encourage bad thinking. this rot is the cause of all sorts of evils like education, bad economy, and crime.

child molesting has run its course as a popular news issue, but it's still all around us. far more interesting and just as ubiquitous are the new social problems born of the media's coverage of child molesting. now we have fewer traumatized victims, but more normal people feeling anxiety about wholesome feelings, angry wives and students threatening or making false accusations; and many of the 50%+ of children whom statisticians tell us will not run into any problems are needlessly worrying, shunning strangers and relatives, and wondering who to trust.

meanwhile, on sesame street (the finest television program of all time) people are beginning to believe in mr. snuffleupagus. frequent viewers of sesame street will recall that mr snuffleupagus is the furry elephant who is a friend of big bird. big bird tells the adults about mr s, but circumstances consistently arrange to have mr s absent when the adults are around; consequently they assume he is a figment of big bird's imagination. last week i was home with the flu and had an opportunity to watch the show and i saw that now snuffleupagus still hasn't been seen and many of the adults still don't believe in him, but others agree with maria who thinks big bird would have no

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maria who thinks big bird would have no reason to invent such a silly story if it weren't true. presumably, the writers of sesame street have realized that the children will identify with big bird and be severely disappointed by his story's lack of credence. thenceforth, big bird had only been ridiculed for his story and the lesson to the children is that if one of them has an unlikely and evidence-less story to share, he has nothing to gain and much to lose by telling his parents. now it seems that the sesame street people are hastening to repair the damage caused by their mistake. refreshing to see a show which cares about its viewers' minds, no?

a favorite argument of anti-television crusaders is that tv stunts the imagination. i don't believe it does -- certainly not enough to be dangerous. the real problem is the imaginary ideas it does provide. if programming weren't filled with such bad ideas, i don't think tv would be dangerous at all. as it is, i think any damage to a child is prevented and even reversed simply by having an intelligent adult (if you can find one!) watching with him (any programs) and providing some discussion. if the hero does something nasty, you can say "what an asshole!"; if some over-enthusiastic co-star gets himself into a dangerous situation, you can say, "that guy's an idiot, he's gonna get himself killed!" your kid will know who to believe.

madison avenue has struck two major blows for evil in the fast food arena. the first is wendy's' processed chicken ad. when i first saw it i thought it was too silly to have much effect, but i've since heard people mindlessly quoting the ad more than a few times. the message isn't particularly evil except that it's so convincingly said and it's wrong. some people just don't like the taste of chicken McNuggets and that's fine. but this ad seems to leave people with a general feeling that there's something inherently terrible about McNuggets without providing any logical reasons. people are very irrational when it comes to food and it's this sort of thing which keeps it going.

even worse is burger king's latest ad. they continue to badmouth the practice of frying one's hamburgers and extol their own practice of flame broiling. at long last the obvious question is asked: "what's wrong with frying?" the ad features four girls who look about 13 years old. the girl who asks the question is met with unexplained squeals of derision. naturally, she laughs and pretends that she was joking. burger king hopes that the scenario will be re-enacted so to discourage sensible people who would point out the ridiculousness of burger king's campaign.

Like budweiser, burger king knows that what people crave is acceptance by their peers. budweiser is just as clever but less offensive. the setting is football training camp: the coach wants to teach his linemen how to stop the opponent's running back, zorinsky, and newcomer murphy is selected to play zorinsky. after we watch murphy get knocked down many times, the invigorating music starts and he manages to get past them all. later, murphy approaches a group of them in a bar saying "zorinsky has some moves, huh?" there is a moment of anticipation which is delightful during which the audience wonders if the guys will be indignant at his chutzpah or if they'll accept him as one of the boys. then they smile and hand him a budweiser, strongly establishing the connection of budweiser and appreciation. ((that's not a widow, dammit!))

annual favorite ad picks: best companies' ads: 1) church of Jesus christ of latter-day saints (hands down), 2) hallmark, 3) taster's choice. there was a fourth but i've forgotten it. best individual ad is the diet pepsi ad which goes something like: "so i finally get to meet him, you've been keeping him a secret. i'll probably steal him from you. diet pepsi has nutra sweet. hey! are those my shoes? that's his. hi daddy. hi" that's the sort of ad which makes me wish i had a VCR. (tall me, am i the only person in the world who gets gas from nutra sweet? tasting it, i can hardly tell the dif-

ference, but a little while later i sure do. milk (lactose) does the same thing, but that's normal.) worst ad is the honda one which features two punk-looking people (a british man and a black woman with mohawk) cooing over a 3-wheeler or car or something and saying it's sexy. dishonorable mentions go to the chevy ad which starts with an asshole-looking guy cheering in the stands while the announcer says "you look like you enjoy winning." the guy responds "you bet!" with such abhorrent zeal that i wonder if he thought the announcer said, "you look like you enjoy raping nine-year-olds."; and to the kodak ad with the jingle, "i'm gonna get you with the kodak disk." something about the presentation makes me think it should be an ad for a saturday-night special.

taken is part of my heritage; like the american indians, the chinese ion't like photography. we believe that having one's picture taken takes away from a person. it's devaluation -- works just like currency.

star trek iii: search for spock came back to town and i went to see it again. it wasn't as good as the first two times, but still not bad. now frankie and i exchange ideas about star trek iv: kirk and crew can't expect a happy reception from the federation, and another who can't go home is salts, the klingon whom kirk never got around to killing, who has accompanied them to vulcan. i speculate that salts is persuaded to join the others, and they zoom off into space seeking their fortune as good-doing galactic pirates. meanwhile harcourt "harry" mudd has at last mended his ways and thus escaped from his robot planet -- still an adroit operator but now incorrigibly righteous as well. mudd hears the news about kirk and offers to represent the federation as a bounty hunter / social worker.

no?

the election has come and gone. perhaps i'm naive but i assumed that the local newspaper would have some coverage of the national house and senate elections. i expected at least some small-print list of the new house and senate, mais non! once again, i'd appreciate along with your letters a quick note about what's happening in your state politically -- what the candidates are like and who won and who wasn't running this year and that sort of thing. also, does anyone know who's chairman of the senate armed forces committee now? alaska's own senator stevens was caught up in the majority leader race so we got to hear about most of the other committees.

here in alaska, stevens was re-elected easily. alaskans aren't very partisan, and even before the election, demos were saying they'd rather keep stevens but vote for the other guy just to remind stevens to use his clout more for the state's benefit. our only house representative, republican don young, is sort of a joke in washington with his #1 expense account and his #430-or-so attendance record. begich, the demo, made it a close race by emphasizing young's shortcomings and succeeded in bringing up don's attendance some. the reporters were attributing young's win to the reagan "coattails effect" but i wonder about that. i've heard it said that don young has a low percentage of agreeing with his party but it was a vaguely written statistic and probably reflects his infrequency of voting. i do know that begich is a fiscal conservative and she's big on things like tax reform and promoting industry. our other senator is republican frank murkowski who just took over chairmanship of select veterans affairs from the wyoming guy who went on to some party post. the democratic governor sheffield is proving unpopular, and incompetent some would say, and i've heard more than one liberal talk about supporting a moderate republican. many of the state congress races got pretty dirty but i didn't follow them. we have lots of liberal republicans and conservative democrats, and there are plenty of independents in both the races and the constituency. the clearest dichotomy i saw was incumbents against new faces: there were lots of complaints about last year's session which featured lots of scandal, lawsuits, and general bullshit. now they've formed some sort of bi-partisan coalition which seems to be the norm. incumbent mayor of anchorage tony knowles beat his republican challenger by 200 votes or so (out of 66,000) which is a wider margin than he got in his last election. i'm referring to the run-off election; tony lost in the first one but the libertarian candidate got 10% or so and that was good for a run-off. there seems to be a lot of libertarians up here but they only have one seat in the state house. they're not regional enough i suppose. that reminds me, i keep hearing about the 53-47 majority in the us senate, but i could have sworn there was an independent from virginia, did he lose or something?

the other request which garnered no response in thirty miles: many years ago, before i'd even heard of diplomacy, i discovered metagaming's classic game, stellar conquest. i appreciated it as a fine work but didn't seem to play it very often. a few years later, doug bought one of the new editions which came in a box. our games tend to be passed around regardless of who actually owns them, so i paid little attention when my bedroom devoured my own thrashed edition. gradually, stellar conquest was forgotten (about the time diplomacy came along) until this summer when i remembered it and wanted to teach the game to frankie who had missed it when it came through before. so i called doug to ask to borrow the game, but he thought i had it. when i went to buy a copy, i discovered that metagaming is out of business and stellar conquest is out of print. surely somebody out there has the game. i'd certainly appreciate xeroxes of the rules, map, and cards. i can piece together the rest from that. i'll pay you the few bucks for xeroxing, mailing, and

As long as I'm making a request, I can make an offer. I find myself with an extra deck of Kingmaker crown cards. If you're missing a card, let me know which one you need and I can send it along. Or if anyone wants the whole deck, that's fine too, though I'm not sure it's complete.

Last week my closet leaked some water from some place I've yet to discover and thus reminded me of the old zeens which had been sitting in grocery bags in there. The closet was not the sort of place one wants to frequent often so it was a few days before I noticed. Only one (paschendale #27, one of the few with any value) suffered major damage though there are others which are no a bit blurry and maybe smell funny. I'm tempted to throw them all away, but I suppose I'd better provide a valuable hobby service by sending them off to someone else. Included are various zeens from late 83 and early 84 as well as some old retaliations, europa expresses, and maybe other old ones -- I didn't look that carefully. If you are particular, I suppose I might grudgingly dig through, but I'd rather mail the whole damn box which is no trouble now that there's a post office in the mall across the street. (also with the zeens were seven of the big manilla envelopes Mike chili sent me. they were positioned with their flaps toward the wall, so while the main part of the envelopes are unscathed, they are all quite firmly glued together at the flaps.)

be the first to take advantage of this valuable bargain. offer good while supplies last. great christmas present for enthusiastic new hobby members. available for the amazing low price of whatever the postage cost is, which might be quite a bit, depending on what rate you want it mailed. feels like about twelve pounds to me, though I'm lousy at judging weight.

I've been told that the editors of the washington post acknowledge "that" as the only relative pronoun and use it instead of "which" and "who." I've heard many editors advocate the use of "that" for restrictive clauses and "which" for unrestrictive clauses (or was it the other way around?) this idea is, to the best of my knowledge, entirely the invention of Dr Bernstein, and it strikes me as a tad artificial. I think that "that" is too busy a word to be convincing as a relative pronoun and I use "who" for a person and "which" otherwise. I don't mind others using "that" where I would use "which" but replacing "who" with "that" is, to my mind, cacophonous (cacographous?) I'm telling you this because I'd like someone who sees the post to confirm or contradict this.

I continue to use "he" to mean "he or she." frequent use of "he or she" or "he/she" is distracting and some other concoctions are worse. "he" has the advantage of having been correct usage for many years, but it has recently been under attack by those who maintain that it is sexist (even though it can just as easily offend one sex as the other). William Safire has said that he'll accept "they" to mean "he or she" if it continues to enjoy widespread usage. If "they" means "he or she" it should take a singular verb, and so far it hasn't. until that time it is a plural used incorrectly and won't be accepted by me.

at this point, I'd discuss some of the stuff I've been reading in other zeens recently, but I haven't seen any. all of the old zeens have been folding and I never can bring myself to ask for samples, so I don't see many new ones. as a result I don't sub to more than 3 or 4 any more.

I've been going on for some time now but I think there's plenty of room so I'll throw in a pair of deviants which have been sitting in the file for a long time now.

scavenger hunt dips: all rules are the same as in regular dip except for the victory conditions. dots still bring builds, which is handy, but 18 of them no longer constitutes a win (though it might well lead to one). instead, each player has a checklist of the 41 non-dot spaces on the board. whenever one of his units ends up in one of those spaces (during any season), he can check it off from his list. the player who first checks off all of the spaces wins the game.

the next one has no name yet:

this is another variant which attempts to incorporate the idea of many players struggling for control of each great power. number of players and other numbers are flexible, but let's say 7 players. the game takes place on the normal board and also on seven sub-boards. there is one sub-board to represent each country. sub-boards should have about 9 dots on them and about 20 spaces, which are all land spaces. the sub-boards represent the control of the countries only symbolically so they needn't be geographically accurate nor very exciting for tactics. (in fact, there's no reason why they can't all be identical.) but aspiring cartographers will enjoy making maps which conform to the countries' geographies and that would lend a bit of color. players are not assigned countries, but rather they are assigned shares of countries.

gets nine randomly selected starting units. If you'd like more or less players, that's fine as long as everyone starts with the same number of starting units and some can be left neutral at the beginning. as an example, a player might end up with four dots on the germany sub-board, and two on the italy sub-board, and one each on the e, r, and t sub-boards. play on sub-boards works like normal but you only have armies and you can build in any owned center. each turn, players submit orders for each of their sub-board units and also regular orders for the units of any country with a sub-board on which they have units. e.g., the fellow in the example would submit orders for the german, italian, english, russian and turkish units. units on the main board obey orders only if they are ordered by a group of players which control a majority of the sub-board. think of it this way: each player with partial control of a country has one vote for each sub-board dot he owns. the players vote on what the main board units do. if there is a majority (5-vote) consensus, the unit follows that order, otherwise it is unordered. a main-board power cannot win or participate in a draw until its sub-board is in control (5 dots or more) of one player. that player is the player who thus wins or draws. as you can see, players will have to balance their ambitions of taking control of a country with the maintenance of a consistent policy on the main board. i prefer fall adjustments on the sub-boards to start affecting main-board votes the following spring, but you could enliven the game by making them count for that same fall.

any deviant enthusiasts are encouraged to draw up more specific rules, provide a name, and take partial credit.

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