

"Besides, it was the right thing to do. He'd read it somewhere: In any ethical situation, the thing you want least to do is probably the right action. Or something like that.

Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle
Lucifer's Hammer

"One meets them, of course. I've known hundreds. Give them a chance to do what they call their duty, let them see a hope of martyrdom—they'll fight their way onto the cross and bawl for the man with the hammer and nails."

—George McDonald Fraser
Flashman

Voyage through hell ended in Milwaukee

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THIS IS MIDLIFE CRISIS, published now and again by Paul G. Rauterberg, 4922 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53208. 414-778-0750.

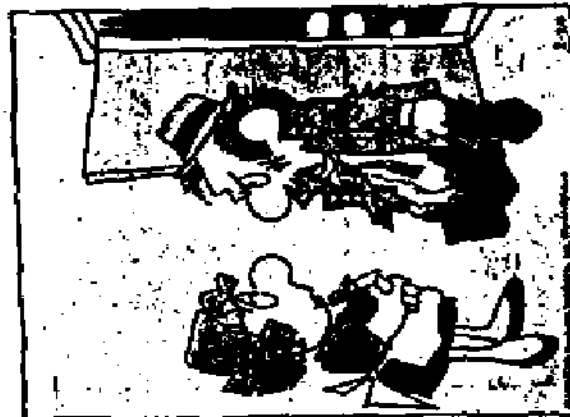
HEY! WHERE'S THE PRESS?

A legitimate question. For some time now, I have been having problems with my computer printer. The poor print quality was just the most obvious of those vexations. Well, it's not working at all right now, the day after the deadline. I can sit at home all day tomorrow and type all the press over again, which will involve a delay of the sine. Or I can just type up the game results now and get the press to you later. Rather than delay the sine, I'll delay the press—but it will see the light of day. Please be patient!

A QUICK LETTER FROM TY HARE: How went the St Pat's day party? I'm running a beer-tasting series this spring, tasting 5 beers from a particular region or country of the world each week. This Sunday will be Scandinavia, and the beers to be blind tested are: Carlsburg (Denmark) Tuborg (Denmark), Ringnes (Norway), Aass (Norway) and Nordik Wolf (Sweden).

((By any standards the party was another success; various estimates put the attendance anywhere between 75 and 125 persons. It was hard to keep track because of the amount of people walking in and out the front door (the beer was out on the front porch). Once again, nothing was broken or stolen, no one was arrested for urinating in the bushes, no one got sick inside the house, and no one got hurt. Cleanup only took a couple of hours. There was a pretty good male/female ratio, which is very hard to ensure when one is passing out the invitations. I wasn't quite as good a host this year—mushrooms and crowds don't mix (they generate claustrophobia and grouchiness!), but I wasn't a total bummer....

I've tried all the above beers, but the "Tuborg" we get in the Midwest is an American-made version of the Danish stuff. If you're able to get the real Danish brew, I'm jealous! All of the above-mentioned beers are passable, except the Nordik Wolf, which tastes like it is made with stale water. Schwaindreck. Which of the Aass beers are you trying? Aass Bock and Aass Julen are the richest tasting, by far.))



"IT'S NOT A MIDLIFE CRISIS —
I HIT A POT HOLE ON MY BIKE!"

Thanks to
Mike Gano!

My Hero! →

I'm Art Kambalek. In the words of our late president, Harry S. Truman, "The Bucks stop here." In case somebody doesn't remember, he was the one who won the Big One by dropping the Big One, or should I say Big Ones. Yes sir, forty years ago this coming August with World War II victory all but glued to his hip pocket, Truman decided to scare the babushkas off those Russians and maybe put the fear of the Lord, Harry be thine name, into them, so that those Reds would stay in their borders and not take over Europe when the Krauts called it quits. To scare those Russkies, Harry decided to incinerate a couple hundred thousand Japs by dropping H bombs on them. Old 'Give 'Em Hell Harry.' If he wanted to scare the Russians, all he had to do was send them a couple of photos of his wife and daughter, Bess and Margaret, wearing no makeup. But then again, some of those Russian women without makeup would be enough to stop a runaway freight train themselves, so what the hell, let's turn the Rising Sun into a cinder heap. Old 'Give 'Em Hell Harry, never gave hell like the hell he gave those Japs. Truman from the 'Show Me' state turned that island into the 'Glow Me' state. So what happens? Hey, those Russians are so scared they take over half of Europe anyway and get their own bombs. The Japs turn out to be the winners of WWII. We feel so guilty for smothering them, we rebuild their goddamn country for them. Now they wear suits instead of bat robes and produce things better quality than we do. Banzai. Attaboy - Harry - what a knob you were. If you wanted to bomb something, you should've sent a couple of those H-babys p.d.q. c.o.d. to Russia and creamed that Kremlin. We'd have a free Europe now, and we wouldn't be dickin' around at no table of the negotiations with Red Ivan because he'd have nothing to dick around with. On the other hand, if we'd then rebuilt Russia and those people got into that high technology instead of the Japs, right now we'd have pocket calculators the size of toasters and portable t.v.'s you'd need a truck and trailer to move. Those Russians don't scare me, though. I don't think they're too bright to tell you the truth. For one, they keep making guys leaders who then drop over dead like a red herring out of water, six months later. I hear they wear cardboard shoes. Boy, I bet those babies hold up in that 40 below, 10 feet of snow crap weather they got over there, hey? You know, those Russians might be good in math and high jumping, but did you ever read some of their books? Those Russian writers, you got to give them credit, at least they've discovered the cure for insomnia. Those books move slower than Ted Simmons stretching a routine double into a single. Some of their music's a.k.a. - that "War of 1812" is a pretty good tune, but their playwrights are nothing but a bunch of boring borscht-shitters.

But the main thing is those Russians can't make anything that works. Not like those Japs, no sir. Those yellow people make some great stuff that they produce - and they do, so don't give me this 'Buy American' crap. You go buy the best you can for your dollar which most people work plenty hard for; so if you buy something that Japs made 'cause it's better - tough shit. These people screaming 'Buy American' don't know their shit from shinola and I'll tell you, shinola probably ain't made here anymore either, but you can bet plenty of shit is and probably by those same idiotasicks who have 'Buy America' bumper stickers on their Detroit lemon. And if you don't think so, go to a junkyard and count for me how many Duges, Pintos and Chevys there are. Then count how many VWs, Datsuns and Volkswagens there are. So don't yell at Joe Blow who's just trying to get the best value of his buy. Instead, go into the offices where you work and yell at the corporate cocks in suits who go lunch in restaurants and make decisions half-bagged on white liquor, while you sit on a metal chair and eat a cold sandwich. Go yell at those politicians you put into office they build. Go down to this Plastronic Co. in Milwaukee and yell. They're moving out of Milwaukee to fucking Tijuana where they got live sex shows with donkeys and legal cock-fighting. What worker from here, unless he lives around National Avenue is going to want to relocate down there where the weather gets hotter than the pope's nose, and that Mexican food's so hot it'd melt Eskimo ear wax at twenty pesos. And on top of that, if this worker's got a family, his 12 yr. old daughter'll probably get her heart cut out by some Aztec making a sacrifice to the gods for cooler weather and better food. What the hell is a plastronic anyway? Tijuana, my aching butt. They're going to go down there and pay those poor people 2 1/2 cents a day, instead of the eight, nine bucks an hour up here. So you think you're then going to see a lower price the next time you buy a plastronic? Hell fucking me. Somebody's making money and it sure as hell ain't you or me.

I must be close to out of space this time, so I'll end on a holiday note. In March, we get the St. Patrick's Day. How do the Irish rate, anyway, with such a popular holiday. There's no holiday for the French people, or the Spanish people. What about Italians? There's a lot of Italian-Americans. They've made contributions to this country. What about starchy food? Italians. But what kind of holiday do they get? Columbus Day, where all that happens is that you don't get your mail. But St. Patrick's Day - the day we pay the tribute to the Irish by drinking green beer all night until we puke. You know, the Irish come to this country, and what we do we do? We make them priests and cops. This group known for selling their children for whiskey - we make them priests. This same group of people who blow each other up with bombs - we make them cops. If we wanted an ethnic group to be priests and cops, we could've gotten those Germans for the job. Then we'd have some law and order. And this Notre Dame, how does a school in the middle of Indiana get a French name, and then call themselves "The Fighting Irish"? If they're going to be "The Fighting Irish," they should be in Idaho, not Indiana. If you can't figure out why, I'll tell you next time, because I got to go.

INDIA, WAF, BEGIN TO FEEL THE HEAT

ARGENTINA (Pierre Touchette, 1 Rue Georges, Masson, Quebec CANADA JOX 2 HO);
A Uru h (dis, annih), A BA h, F SW Atl-Falk Sound (dis, ret to Falk Is,
 Porto, Drake, S. Ind, etc).

AUSTRALIA (Eric Ozog, 1526 N. Lawler, Chicago, IL 60651);
A Phil-Celeb, F Borneo-Java, F Timor-Java, F N. Terr-Araf, F Wes Aus-S-
F N. Terr-Araf, F Coral h, F Queens-S-F Coral.

BRAZIL (James Wall, 1605 University Ave, #5, Madison, WI 53705);
A Porto-Uru, A Lap-BA, A Cord-S-A Porto-Uru, F Cen Atl-S-PERU F Falk Sound-
SW ATL, F G of Mex to Cuba, F Carrib-S-F G of Mex-Cuba, F Berm Tri-Haiti (dis,
 ret. to G of Mex, M of Ama, etc).

CANADA (David Anderson, P.O. Box 3761, Pontiac, MI 48050);
F NW Atl-Berm Tri, F Dixie-S-F NW Atl-Berm Tri, A Mex-Cal, F NE Pac-S-
A Mex-Cal, A Ohio-Texas.

CHINA (Ed Wrobel, 3932 N. Forestdale Ave, Dale City, VA. 22193);
A Bangla-Burma, A Honan-Szech.

ECM (Mark Keller, 2 Seaside Ct, Sacramento, CA. 95831);
A Fra-Libya, F Tun-S-A Fra-Lib (dis, annih), F Neg-Green Sea, F NAO-Mid,
F Wes-C-A Fra-Lib, F Spa ec-S-F NAO-Mid.

INDIA (Richard Delzer, 2952 N. 124th St, Wauwatona, WI 53222);
A Tibet-Sinkiang, A Pakis-Iran, F Pers Gulf-Madras, F Iran-Pers Gulf,
F Sumatra-Thailand, F Eas Ind-Bay of Bengal, A Iraq, unorderd, dis, annih.

KINGDOM OF EGYPT: (Brad Wilson, Box 327, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest IL,
 60045); F G of Aden to Arabian Sea.

JAPAN (Jim Makuc, 2 Forest Park Ln, Rm 214 Ivy House, Cornell Univ, Ithaca NY
 14853); F Honahu-S-F Phil Sea-Eas China Sea, F Phil Sea-Eas China Sea,
F Arafura-Papua (dis, annih), F West Pac-Papua, A Ho2Ba100-Sakhalin.

PERU (Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St, Providence, RI 02908);
A Napo-Ecuador, F Inca-East Pac, F Ecu-G of Pan, F SC-Falk Sound,
F Fall: Sound-SW Atl, A Rio-BA, F Pan-Hond ec, F Cal-S-A Tex (dis, ret to
 G of Calif, etc), A Tex-S-F Calif.

U OF SA: (Don Swartz, 155 Vernon Ave, #2, Louisville, KY 40206);
F Kenya-Somalia, F W Ind-S-F Ken-Som, A Tanzania-Kenya, A Angola-Zaire,
A Zaire-Central African Rep, F SE Atl-G of Guinea, F Gabon-S-F SE Atl-G of Guin.

USA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL 60025);
A Brit Col-Oregon, F Cuba-S-CANADIAN F NE Atl-Berm Tri (dis, annih),
F Haiti-S-CANADIAN F NE Atl-Berm Tri.

USSR: (Marc Peters, 1814 Cameron Dr, Apt 3, Madison, WI, 53711);
F Fin-Balt, A Turkey-S-A Syr-Iraq, A Syr-Iraq, F Kamchat-Sea of Okhotsk,
F SK-Sea of Japan, F Eng Chim-S-F SK-Sea of Japan (dis, ret to Taiwan, Kyushu,
 yellow Sea, Philippines, SK), A Kashmir-Pradesh, A Sinkiang-Kashmir,
A Tainjui-Sinkiang, A Manchur-Mongol, A Szech-Annan.

WARSAW PAET (Mark Fruch, 4720 Morgan Ford, Apt G, St Louis, MO 63116);
F Yugo-Adr, A Saudi-S-RUSSIAN A Syr-Iraq, A Israel-S-A Saudi, A Gre-Egypt,
F Eas-C-A Gre-Egy, F Red Sea-S-A Gre-Egy, A Rum-Gre, A Poland holds.

WAF (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct., Deerfield, IL. 60015);
A Nigeria-S-A Niger-Cameroon, A Niger-Cameroon, A Libya-Tunisia,
A Algeria-S-A Lib-Tun, F Guin-G of Guinea, A Sudan-Zaire, F Horoc-S-A Alg,
F Sahara-S-F Morocco.

Please note Wrobel (China) COA. The deadline for Fall 2105 is Saturday,
 27 April, 1985.

1983 ART.

PORCELAIN GOD

Fall 1909

LORD RUSNAK GIVETH: LORD RUSNAK
TAKETH AWAYAUSTRIA (Carl Russell, 21 Morgan Rd, Binghamton NY 13903): A Bud-r-Vie.
A Boh-Mun, A Vie-S-ITAL, A Tri-Bud (Nao).

FRANCE (Bill Becker)

MMR. F Spa ac h (dis), A Par h (dis), F CoL h, F Cly h.

GERMANY (Russ Rusnak, 16 West 536 Honeysuckle Rose, Apt 105, Hinsdale, IL 60521);

A War-Sil, A Mun_h (dis, ret to Ruh, Ber, Kis, oth), A Bur-S-A Pic-Par,
A Pic-Par, A Gas-Spa, F Por-S-A Gas-Spa, F Eng-Bre, F Nwg-NAO, F Nth-Edi,
A Lpl-S-F Nth-Edi, F Nwy holds.ITALY (Jim Makuc, 2 Forest Park Ln, Rm 214 Ivy House, Cornell Univ,
Ithaca NY 14853);F Alb-Ion, F Nap-S-F Alb-Ion, F Tun-S-F Alb-Ion, A Tri-Ser, A Pic-Mar,
A Tyr-S-AUST A Boh-Mun.

TURKEY (Chuck Kaplan, 742 Grouse Ct., Deerfield IL 60015);

A Bud-S-A Ser, A Rum-S-A Bud, A Bul-S-F Gre, F Gre-S-F Eas-Ion, F Eas-Ion,
F Aeg-S-F Eas-Ion, F Ser-S-A Bud.The G/T draw was vetoed. Proposed for this season is a concession to Germany.
Votes, along with Winter 1909/Spring 1910 moves, are due Saturday, 27 April 1985.

1983 AIR

SUPPLY CHART

WINTER 1909

AUSTRIA: Has Vie, Edi, Mun. (2). Even.
 FRANCE: Has Mit, Fst, Lpl, Fst, Edi. (0). OUT!
 GERMANY: Has Mun, Ber, Kis, War, Hol, Bel, Den, Bre, Par, Swe, Lon, Nwy,
Edi, Por, Spa, Lpl. (15). May build 4; room for only 2.
 ITALY: Has Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun, Tri, Edi, Mar. (6). Even.
 TURKEY: Has Con, Ark, Smy, Bul, Rum, Gre, Mos, Sev, Ser, StP, Bud.
 (11). May build one.

1983 Y

MISSIONARY POSITION

Fall 1909

THE BIG, BAD G/R ROLLS AHEAD

AUSTRIA (Nelson Heintzman, 2255 Delaware Ave, #C-4, Buffalo, NY 14216);
A Arm H, A Ark-S-A Arm, F Con h.FRANCE (Konrad Baumelster, 11416 Parkview Ln, Hales Corners, WI 53130);
A Par-Bre (dis, ret to Gas, oth), F Por-Spa ac, A Spa-Mar.GERMANY (Dale Bakken, 1814 Cameron Drive, Apt 3, Madison, WI 53711);
F Mid-Wes, F Eng-S-RUSSIAN F NWO-Mid, A Pic-Par, A Bre-S-A Pic-Par,
A Bur-Mar, A Ruh-Bur, A Tyr-Ven, A Tri-S-A Tyr-Ven, A Ven-S-A Tri, A Sil H.ITALY (Russ Rusnak, 16 West 536 Honeysuckle Rose, Hinsdale, IL 60521);
A Pic-S-A Ven, A Ven-S-RUSSIAN A Bud-Tri (Nao), F Tun h, F Aeg-S-Aust F Con.RUSSIA (Nancy Irwin, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt 8, St. Louis, MO 63116);
F Naf-S-GERMAN F Mid-Wes, F NAO-Mid, F Nwy holds, A Lpl holds, A Lvn-War,
A Mos-S-A Lvn-War, A Sev-Arm, F Blk-S-A Sev-Arm, A Bul-S-A Gre, A Gre-S-A Bul,
A Ser-S-A Bud, A Bud-S-GERMAN A Tri.The R/G was vetoed and repropoed. Votes and moves are due for Winter 09/
Spring 1910 on Saturday 27 April, 1985.

1983 Y

SUPPLY CHART

WINTER 1909

AUSTRIA: Has Con, Smy, Ark. (3). Even.
 FRANCE: Has Fst, Mar, Spa, Por. (3). Even or build one depending on retreat.
 GERMANY: Has Mun, Ber, Kis, Den, Hol, Bel, Lon, Tri, Mit, Par, Bre, Vie.
 (11). May build one.
 ITALY: Has Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun. (4). Even.
 RUSSIA: Has StP, War, Sev, Mos, Rum, Nwy, Swe, Ser, Edi, Bud, Bul, Vie
Gre, Lpl. (13). Even, but one short so may build one.

1983 CQ

SACRED COW

Fall, 1906

RUSSIANS MAKE A MOVE
GERMANS TAKE A DIVE

AUSTRIA (John Crosby, 830 Hunterhill Tr. Roswell, GA. 30075);
F Smy-S-A Con, A Con-S-F Gre-Bul sc, F Gre-Bul sc, A Alb-Ser, F Ion-Nap,
A Tyr-S-A Bud-Vie, A Tri-S-A Bud-Vie, A Bud-Vie, F Aeg-S-F Gre-Bulsc.

ENGLAND (Konrad Baumelster, 11416 parkview Ln, Halsa Corners, WI 53130);
F Hol-Bel.

FRANCE (David Anderson, Box 3761, Pontiac, MI 48059);

GERMANY (Matt Fleming? 4200 Chateau De Ville, #C, St Louis, MO 63129);
NHR. F Lon II (dis, annih), F Kis, A Ruh, A Hum, A Boh all hold.

RUSSIA (Lu Henry, 8056 Waverly, Dearborn Heights, MI, 98127);
A Ukr-Rum, F Hwy-Nth, F Nth-Den, A Sve-S-F Nth-Den, F Wal-Lon,
F Yrk-S-F Wal-Lon, A Vie-Bud (dis, annih), A Gal-S-A Vie-Bud, A Ank-Con,
F Blk-S-A Ank-Con, A Rum-Bul.

TURKEY (Mark Frueh);
No units on the board.

The G/R draw was defeated. Proposed for next time are R/F, A/F, A/R, and a
concession to Austria. Will Bob Sweeney, 614 Custer, Ft. Leavenworth KS 66027
please standby for GERMANY. Thanks to Mark Frueh for playing out the Turkish
position. The deadline for Winter 1906/Spring 1907 is Saturday 27 April, 1985.

1983 CQ

SUPPLY CHART

WINTER 1906

AUSTRIA: Has Vie, Bud, Tri, Ser, Gre, Ven, Rom, Nap, Bul, Con, Smy.
(11). May build two; room for only one.

ENGLAND: Has Hol. (1). Even.

FRANCE: Has Par, Bre, Mar, Por, Spa, Tun, Lpl, Bel. (8). May build one.

GERMANY: Has Mun, Kis, Ber, EdA, EdB. (3). One annih, must remove one more.

RUSSIA: Has Sev, StP, Mos, War, Rum, Sve, Hwy, Edi, Lpl, Yrk, Ank, Den,
Lon, (11) Even.

TURKEY: Has EdA. (0). OUT!

1984 IA

RIGEL II

Winter 1901

SEASONS SEPARATED BY REQUEST

AUSTRIA (Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot Ave, Dalton, MA. 01226);
Builds A Vie, A Bud. Also has F Gre, A Ser, A Tri.

ENGLAND (Bob Sweeney, Jr. 614 Custer, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. 66027);
Builds F Lon. also has F Hwy, F Sca, A Yrk.

FRANCE (Nelson Heintzman, 2255 Delaware Ave, #C-4, Buffalo, NY. 14216);
Builds F Bro, A Par, A Mar. Also has A Bel, A Spa, F Por.

GERMANY (Steve Knight, 11905 Winterthur Ln, Apt 1C3, Reston, VA. 22091);
Builds A Ber. Also has F Den, A Kis, A Mun.

ITALY (Rich Reilly, Upham Hall #308, Moscow, ID. 83843);
Builds F Rom. Also has A Tun, A Ven, F Ion.

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

TURKEY (Dave Kleiman, 651 Fenster Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46234);
Even. Has A Dul, F Aeg, A Arm.

Thanks to Dave Pierce for the unneeded standby orders. The Spring 1902
deadline will be Saturday, 27 April, 1985.

1984 IU

INDECENT EXPOSURE

Fall 19C1

HAPSBURGS SPARED BY ONE: SPEARED BY ANOTHER
COSSACKS CHEAT THEMSELVES OUT OF A FIELD DAY

AUSTRIA: (J. Travis Lester, 125 Garden Ct., Winchester, VA 22601);
A Ser-S-F Alb-Gre, A Tri-Bud, F Alb-Gre.

ENGLAND (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL 60025);
A Edi-Nwy, F Nth-C-A Edi-Nwy, F Nwy-Sarents.

FRANCE (Bob Achenon, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin, NWT CANADA XOE 1H0);
F Mid-Por, A Cas-Spa, A Nur-Bel.

GERMANY (Scott Burrell, 2909 Gene Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007);
A Ruh-Bel, F Hol-S-A Ruh-Bel, A Kie-Den.

ITALY (Bob Sweeney, Jr. 614 Custer, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. 66027);
A Apu-Tun, F Ion-C-A Apu-Tun, A Tri Holda (no such unit), A Ven U.

RUSSIA (Brad Wilson, Box 327, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest IL 60045);
A Ukr-Rum, F Sev-S-A Ukr-Rum, A Gal-Vie, F StPac-Swe (no such unit)
F Gob U.

TURKEY (James Wall, 1803 University Ave, Apt 5, Madison, WI 53705);
A Bul-Gre, F Ank-Blk, A Con-Bul.

The deadline for Winter 19C1 only will be 27 April, 1985.

1984 IU

SUPPLY CHART

Winter 19C1

AUSTRIA: Has Yis, Bud, Tri, Ser, Gre. (4). May build one.
ENGLAND: Has Edi, Lpl, Lon, Nwy. (4). May build one.
FRANCE: Has Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (5). May build two.
GERMANY: Has Mun, Ber, Kie, Hol, Bel, Den. (6). May build three.
ITALY: Has Nap, Ven, Rom, Nap. (4). May build one.
RUSSIA: Has StP, Sev, Mos, War, Rum, Vie. (6). May build two.
TURKEY: Has Bul, Con, Ank, Smy. (4). May build one.

1984 HZ

SORDID BEHAVIOR

Winter 19C1

SEASONS SEPARATED BY REQUEST

AUSTRIA (Mark Frueh, 4729 Morgan Ford, Apt 6, St. Louis, MO 63116);
Builds A Vie, A Bud. Also has A Tri, F Gre, A Ser.

ENGLAND (John Crosby, 830 Hunterhill Tr, Roswell, GA. 30075);
Builds F Edi. Also has F Nwg, F Nth, A Nwy.

FRANCE (Brad Wilson, Box 327, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest IL 60045);
Builds F Mar, F Bre. Also has F Por, A Spa, A Pic.

GERMANY: (Uli Baumeister, Box 6038 Henle, Georgetown UNIV, Wash, DC 20057);
Builds A Ber. Also has A Ruh, A Hol, F Den.

ITALY (Bob Sweeney, Jr. 614 Custer, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027);
Builds F Rom, F Nap. Also has A Mun, A Ven, F Tun.

RUSSIA (Marc Peters, 1814 Cameron Dr, Apt 3, Madison, WI 53711);
Builds A StP, A Mos. Also has F Swe, A Fin, F Rum, A Sev.

TURKEY (Rich Delzer, 2952 N. 124th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53222);
Builds F Smy. Also has A Arm, A Bul, F Con.

The deadline for Spring 19C2 is Saturday 27 April, 1985.

BENZENE

more than just another season

mark d lew
1327 w 27th #404
anchorage, ak 99503
march 19, '85

I got cable television a few weeks ago and this morning my employer phoned me up and asked me to turn to the financial news station and find the prices of gold and silver. The numbers meant nothing to me, but apparently the prices made a big jump over night and she tells me this is the first part of a minor economic disaster which will be a hot item and will directly affect economic policy-making. Sounds interesting, but I have to get this in the mail tonight, so there's no time to investigate. This is benzene, a subzone edited by lew: mark d lew, 1327 w 27th #404, anchorage, alaska 99503 (907) 274-7330. In a typical display of sloth, I missed the mail last month so I have lots of material again including some responses I got to the 11-page issue. Fortunately most of this is already scribbled down somewhere so I needn't be creative now, but it can be a lot of work deciphering and compiling. I've taken temporary leave of my usual uneventful slow lifestyle while I'm playing in la benzene which is running, this week, so this issue is more rushed than I'm used to. That's my excuse for poor editing, lack of clever segues, and general disorganization. Maybe a rude truncation too, we'll see how far I get, but first, we have two seasons of the deviant:

~~#####~~ note to players:

you already have this turn, the new turn starts at the next ~~#####~~ mark.

quonset hut

as some of you are aware, I'm growing weary of running this game. I'm not going to quit on you, but I'm going to make it easier on myself and stop going out of my way to prevent wars. I was once told that if you're lax on your deadlines, the players will get lazy and the game will go to hell. I didn't believe, but I'm willing to try the other way now. Deadline is still defined as the time before which orders are guaranteed acceptance, rather than the time after which orders are guaranteed refusal. The difference is that now I intend to adjudicate promptly and if your orders aren't in I'll call you once and nag you if you aren't home. Maybe this will help me get back on schedule. I never particularly liked being chronically late; it just sort of happened.

autumn 1904:

italy: f ion r-trn russia: f sev r-otb

winter 1904:

aus: no build, will play one short
eng: build tf lvp, will play one short
fra: build a par, if bre, a war, will play two short
ger: build a ber, a mun
ita: bu ld f rom, f nap
rus: build a mon, a war
tur: no build

aus: (terry tallan, 7239 sand point way ne #308, seattle, wa 98119)
ta vic2-BUD2, f2 con-GON2, a bul-GON

eng: (dick martin, 26 orchardway n, rockville, md 20854) a lon2-gar2 (explodes),
f lon-LON2, tf nwg-NTH, a NYI-stp, af2 JWE-den, tf LVI-nao.

fra: (kevin tigre, 290 12th st., arcata, ca 95521) ta par2-GAS2, if BRE-aid, a war-GAS
if nao-GLY, f RDI a tf nao-cly, f MID-nao, a BEL h, a par-IAR2, a gas-IAR

ger: (conrad minshall, 3702 tarragona, austin, tx 78727) f nth-LON, a2(r) KUE2-lon2
(aborted), f BEL a af don, af DEN a rus f fin-swe, a kie2-DEN2, a ber2-KIE2,
a ber-IRU, a mun-SIL

ita: (mike ehli, hamilton box 60505, u of oregon, eugene, or 97403) a roms2-ROU2,
f rom-RON2, f trn-TUN, af apu-ION, f NAP s af apu-ION, a2 SII-gre, a alb-TSI

rus: (james wall, 1805 university ave #5, madison, wi 53705) a IGS-stp, a war-LON,
a2 vie-VIE2, a(n) stp2-EDI2, f FIN-swe, a stp-STP2

tur: (darwood bowen?, 164) graniteway lane, columbus, oh #3229) f lor h (r-trn, adr,
alb, otb), a2 GRS h, f AEG h, f EAS h, a SEI h, f BLA h, tf con2 h (r-bla2,ank2,
may2, bul2 either const (but not aq2) or otb)

I hope these addresses are right because that's where I'm mailing, these.
NOTES: six abstentions and one veto defeat the a-o draw, so the game goes on.
this month's major booby is a abbreviated rec. citation of the paratrooper

rule. It was abbreviated too much - I neglected to include two stipulations listed in the original proposal: toadfather armies may not parachute. the paratrooper's destination must be unoccupied. the german order a2(p) mun2-lon2 is legal under the rule as listed last turn, but it is illegal according to the original proposal. I have to break a rule no matter how I rule the order, so I've chosen to honor the original intent of the rule, and a mun2-lon2 fails. sorry about that Conrad, my fault. Germany may attempt another parachute this fall. note that double armies do have double strength parachuting. amphibians may parachute but only to land spaces.

derwood bowen has mysteriously disappeared. standing for turkey in polo chamber, 3121 e. park row #171a, arlington tx 76010. Pete, I'm not going to tell you the status of your bombs because I'd rather keep you eligible for another country if derwood returns. I will tell you if you insist though, or you may write conditional orders or you can call me near the deadline and I'll have a better idea of whether you're getting the position. derwood, if you're out there, let me know soon whether you intend to play. technological breakthroughs in deviant adjudication have introduced othello pieces. they sit black-side-up on parachuting units and white-side-up on units headed to the other board. I've been through half a dozen dip sets and my current set is composed of the two least thrashed boards, and the remains of a box containing: the roughly 30% of those sets' units which haven't been lost, ten othello pieces, \$1.05 in change, an 8-sided die, a 20-sided die, three normal dice, two black twist pieces (one of each type) and a book. the polyhedra dice are ancient relics from my ddd days (1977 - 1979) which were introduced for a perverted 2-player deviant I used to play a lot with frankie, and they are proving useful in this game too. I always thought the 4-sided ones were ridiculous, and the 10-sided one has been transferred to empire builder where it makes no sense for a player has moved so far. in the 2-player deviant, coins marked impassable spaces (that tradition continues except that now pennies are reserved for free lands) and rubber bands (now absent) were wrapped around immobilized units. I don't know where the others came from. some strict gms disallow support orders which incorrectly identify the supported unit. in a normal game, only carelessness would lead to misidentification, but here there is some question about the identity of a given unit. nevertheless, I do not require correct identification of units. as long as only one unit can occupy a space, I require no identification of units at all (though it's helpful). the english army which went to york2 blew up. if it is your bomb, I have a note for you. york2 is impassable until post-spring 07; nih2 is impassable until post-fall 06; ruh, aka, aog2, and bal are impassable until summer 06; for is impassable until post-spring 06; eng is impassable until post-fall 05; and tye is passable again.

votes:

A: +qu-u B:ttu-r F:tru-u G: tav-u I: twu-u R: twq-u T: tv-y

the lake-russian-dots was resoundingly rejected but some positive votes kept it from passing with -4 or less per rule 11. with +2 each, a, w, and a pass in that order.

14) the gm is required to include his address in the game report.

15) if tallman retains the title of hobby sex god, he is eliminated from the game. ((according to dad langley, it did retain the title so he's out. austrian units are plucked from the board, austrian centers become neutral, and draxs are illegal unless and until austria is resurrected.

16) multi-clause rules: (a) rules with obnoxious clauses and rules which rescind or otherwise go against rule 16 are disallowed. ((obnoxious clauses are "everybody who votes for this..." sort of things.)) (b) for each player joke-ordering a unit (in spring or fall), one randomly chosen deviant unit converts to a normal unit. orders may not be made conditional on units being joke'd back to normal. (c) anyone voting against or not voting for this rule (acirt) has one half of his units (rounded down) killed. ((oh my goodness, I wasn't expecting this. the following units are removed from the board: f lon2, a nvy, af2 sue; af lon, f nap, a2 ser; f fln, a nos, a dli2; a sev, f aog, turkish toadfleet which no longer has to retreat. note that austrian units are already gone.))

rules in effect:

1) bombs. 2) so-affecting rules delayed. 3) double units. 4) proposals are anonymous. 5) only three bombs and they're anonymous. 6) acirt got 10a. 7) amphibians. 8) bob olson. 9) board two. 10) bombs exploded summer 05. 11) negative votes. 12) draxs include austria. 13) paratroopers. 14) gm address. 15) tallman out. 16a) no obnoxious clauses. 16b) joke orders undeviate. 16c) acirt lose units.

rules proposed:

x) all rules become anti-rules and the opposite, as near as gm may determine, immediately occurs prior to summer 05 retreats. ((oh that sounds like fun. retroactive rule is disallowed, so rule goes into effect in post-fall 1905. i guess ought to let you know how i'd rule them: no more bombs; will be placed; non-offensive; rules no longer delayed; double units become normal; proposals no longer anonymous; unlimited bombs (irrelevant because of vi); G.I.R get TUs; amphibians become normal; elsen no longer player of the year; board 2 disappears with all units thereon; bombs which exploded in 04 are reset, don't go off until a unit enters the space; no more negative votes; draws cannot include austria; no more paratroops; gm doesn't have to include address; tallman is back with no units but he keeps which ever dots weren't taken of his; obnoxious clauses allowed; joke orders turn normal units to deviants; FIC lose half their units.))

y) camouflage: one unit per turn per player can be camouflaged. unit is invisible (not reported) until it has conflict ((i'll revise that a bit and say "has conflict" means has its order fail))

z) t-bone chili is offered as an entree at monterey jack's (formerly known as jack-in-the-box) ((ch, ck))

a) rescind rule 7 ((board 2 goes away with all units thereon))

b) amphibians become half strength

c) draws no longer have to include austria

d) rolled map: stp and mos have east coast on nao; mos, sov, arm, and syr have east coast on mid ((likewise on board 2. my map would have naf touch syr, but i'll do it your way.))

note that if x passes after some other rules, they'll be reversed as well. if x and a both pass (in either order) board 2 will disappear and come back without units. all this happens post-fall 05.

deadline is march 18 at 7 p.m. my time (one hour from pacific). i believe that is a monday, i have a show either wednesday or tuesday and i plan to adjudicate on the other day so you might sneak in orders on tuesday. better yet get them in by sunday so i can do it then. in any case, please note that this is a very short deadline. if you intend to negotiate, you need to get on it right away. i will delay the season a month if i get two requests, but you have no way of knowing whether anyone else will request so you'd better send something regardless. duu are spring moves, amphibian designations if you like (frc), bomb placement if you can and wish, vote on rules, propose a rule.

discontinued

quonset hut. march 19 1945.

well, i'm impressed. after months of 4+ week deadlines and multiple naru, i call a strict 2 week deadline, and lo, all the orders are in three days before the deadline. let it be known that empirical evidence has brought me to lakofka's side of the deadline debate. the problem with the short deadline is that it leaves me no time to inform you of going errors by postcard. this game has become sufficiently convoluted that i don't expect another turn to go by without at least one minor error. encouraged by my deadline experiment, i will make it my policy to further eschew ruth and not delay the game due to going error unless it is a cloaked error or one of catastrophic importance (by my standards). as non-neophytes know, a "cloaked" error is one which the players haven't sufficient data to recognize; for instance, if in spring 01 the italian player ordered f nap-ion and i inadvertently printed f nap-trn, the error would be cloaked to the other six players. if an error is brought to my attention by the next deadline, i'll notify you if i can, but the game will continue. in the game report, i'll note errors from the past turn which have been corrected, and then adjudicate the current season as if they had been right all along.

now, with just a little further ado (this is it here), we have last month's errors and other questionable rulings:

* rule proposal x, the one i lived so much and the one which would have reversed all deviant rules, is illegal according to rule 16a because it reverses rule 16. so the real proposal x should have been: the gm is required to include his address in the game report. (oops. make that no longer required) i notified as many of you as i could find, but votes for x are votes for x.

* 16a dictated removal of austria's units, rounded down. england had five units and i removed 3, perhaps i had forgotten about the one which blew up. in any case, af2 we did not disappear.

* i can't recall ever specifying which of the two post-season activities (effective rules, proposing rules) happens first, but i always list the new rules going into effect first in the game report, so without objection, i'll say they actually occur first as well. that being the case, rule proposals may be made conditional on rules passed, and tallman's rule proposal (z) shouldn't have been listed last turn.

* retreats come after rules go into effect, so turkish f ion could have retreated to naples also because the italian fleet there disappeared. note that the disappearance of italian f ion did not mean turkish f ion no longer had to retreat.

* yes, rule 16 does look contradictory, but only because of my paraphrase. the rule originally said that any further obnoxious clauses were illegal. so 16a doesn't violate 16a.

* rule a, which would have disposed of board 2, would have charges which spaces are non and therefore would not have taken effect until pre-fall 1906, according to rule #2.

* note to the person who asked, "hey, wasn't that my bomb in york2?": yes, it was yours. i distinctly remember writing you a note. it was on a separate paper, and it should have been in the envelope with the flyer.

* nope, there is nothing illegal about multi-clause rules.

* note that it now takes only a total of 3 or -3 votes to pass a rule per rule #11.

* note to mike chili: i don't know what your current phone number is. please provide it if you want to be notified of any hot deviant news which might arise.

summer 05:

U: f ion r-trn

fall 05:

o: (martin) U lvp-wab, af2(p)-Bw. U ETH-hol

f: (tigue) (f) bre-MID, f mid-WEG, f EDI-nth, a BEL-hol, a(p) GAI-lvp (int).

a par-bar (explodes), ta gas2-WAR2, a par2-BRE2, (f) GLY a a(b) gas-lvp (neo)

g: (marshall) a sil-EAR, a fRU a a sil-war, af den-SWE, f BEL-hol, a den2-SWE2

a kie2-HOL2, a2(p) mun2-LON2, f ION guides a stray back to reality

l: (chli) a ven2-TRI2, f rom2-WAR2, f TUN-trn, a tri(n)-WEG

r: (wall) a2 TUE h, a LIX-mos, a str2-ROG2

t: (gaughan) f TRE a f gas-ion, f gas-ION, f bla-CON, a2(p) pre-LOS

you all got the flyer and nobody complained about a wrong address, so i assume those addresses i gave last turn are correct. french army in burundy hit a bomb and exploded. if that was your bomb you have a postcard in the mail. note that it is legal to paratroop over a bombed-out space (i.e. count it as one of the 4 spaces away) however, it is not legal, as i laboriously pointed out last turn, to paratroop to a space which is occupied at the beginning of the turn. that is why the french paratroop is impossible. pete gaughan is now the turkish player. etc, i'll send you a note about your bombs. there is slight confusion about what amphibians can and cannot do. the basic rule is this: during any given season, they may act as either fleet or army, but may not be both in one season (e.g. convoy into a sea space). burundy is impassable until post-fall 07; york2 is impassable until post-spring 07; nth2 is impassable until post-fall 06; rub, aka, aer2, bal are impassable until summer 06; bar is impassable until post-spring 06, eng is now passable.

notes:

D: tay-d E: tea-a G: ted-b I: txe-y N: txc-a T: tac-d

(if your negative vote looks wrong, it's because you're the guy who voted against tallman's rule which turned out to not exist, so your vote went against your own rule instead; but it made no difference because rule c won handily.

17) draws do not have to include austria.

((well, how about that for a mandate for peace?))

rules to date: 1) bombs. 2) sea-affecting rules delayed. 3) double units. 4) proposals are anonymous. 5) only 3 bombs and they're anonymous. 6) not yet TUN 7) amphibians. 8) bob olsen. 9) board two. 10) bombs excluded summer 06. 11) negative votes. 12) draws include austria. 13) paratroopers. 14) gas address 15) tallman out. 16a) no obnoxious clauses. 16b) joke orders undo 16c) next loss units. 17) austria not in draw

i just now realized that the guides-a-stray-to-reality order is probably supposed to be a joke, so just a minute while i find my d&d dice. wouldn't you know this stupid rule is supposed to happen before the season. it's things like this that make me really hate running this stupid game.

(layers: see inserted page)

vice president george bush recently said that cuban presence in angola is obstructing the establishment of an independent namibia. americans are to believe that the south african army is obliged to protect namibia from the cubans who have shown their aggressive purpose by invading angola. even my pocket-sized reader's digest 1994 world almanac admits that namibia is south africa's puppet state. the south african army occupied the then-german colony during world war ii, but like the soviets in east germany, refused to leave, even though the treaties and the u.n. called for an independent east germany. angola was a portuguese colony until 1975 when the dictatorship in portugal fell apart. at the time, the u.s.a. took the most interest in the situation and american military support of one faction of a coalition government was one of the causes of the civil war which ensued in 1975. south africa saw an opportunity to gain influence in angola

and offered military aid to the u.s.-backed faction (the now-defunct FPLA). the FPLA was later joined by saire also, and the patriotic swindlers, not fond of south african and sairean aggressors, rallied behind the other main faction, the MPLA. south african forces had occupied the namibia-angola border since june and invaded on august 9. the MPLA was outnumbered and in september appealed to ussr for aid. for diplomatic reasons, the soviets preferred not to be directly involved and referred the MPLA to cuba. cuba began sending supplies (the first of which arrived october 4) and soon after, at the MPLA's request, landed a complete military force (nov. 5). south africa's interest in angola is the usual one: rebels from its local wars were being given sanctuary there and the south africans wouldn't tolerate it. in this case, the rebels were SWAPO. the south africans had never left namibia, and the nationalist movement SWAPO was formed to fight south african occupation; SWAPO gained enough legitimacy to be recognized by the u.s. as the authoritative representative of the namibian people. these are the "rebels" in pursuit of whom the south africans entered the angolan fray.

by 1976, the MPLA had won the civil war and has remained in control thenceforward, in spite of occasional attacks by the south africans and regular harassment by UNITA. the cubans remain in angola at the request of MPLA which is recognized as the legitimate government of angola by all 50 members (communist and capitalist alike) of the organization of african unity -- but not by the u.s. african governments of all political alignments further agree that south africa should vacate namibia before the cubans be required to leave angola.

it is quite reasonable to question the merit of angola's communist government, but to pretend that the cubans are invaders or that the MPLA is not the established government is either deceitful or naive.

hot topic on capitol hill recently was the farm credit crisis. maybe the details are complex, but i don't think it's difficult to see the basic problem: nobody wants to extend loans to farmers because they are a bad risk. they're a bad risk because there isn't enough market for their product. there isn't enough market because over the last few years farmers' productivity has increased at a higher rate than america's demand. guaranteeing loans is something which is done to encourage activity in a risky industry. what we don't need now is more farmers, unless we intend to lift some embargo or embark on some anti-inflation program. the demand for farm products will continue to decrease and the problem will get worse. i'd estimate that america's demand for farm products is being met by about 90% of the industry. that being the case, 10% of the farm industry is people not producing any worthwhile product. if i were to spend all day carrying large stones up and down the street, i might well be working very hard, but i shouldn't expect anyone to pay me for it. likewise, those farmers growing unnecessary excess crops shouldn't expect to be paid either. because there aren't a specific 10% who are the superfluous ones, all farmers should expect to be paid about 10% less -- and that's just what's happening. to get the farm industry back on its feet, about 10% of the farmers need to quit and find another line of work. there's no doubt that this is a major burden for those farmers -- it's not fun to realize you're no longer useful. through our government, we americans have demonstrated a willingness to help out; but as long as we're going to devote some money to this problem, i'd like to see that money accomplish something. we should cut programs which

guarantee credit to farmers. the going will get rough and some of them will rethink and decide to get out. the money we would have used on credit programs should be used instead to make it feasible for farmers to get started elsewhere. for instance, we could have programs to buy up their land and above-market value, or we could invest in an attempt to establish a non-agricultural economic base in mid-west communities. the point is that there are too many farmers and that's why it is so rough to be a farmer these days. the true problem for most farmers is that they're stuck and can't get out. instead of spending money to making farming easier, we should spend it to make it easier for farmers to do something else.

(i hope i've used words like demand, market, and credit correctly. financial nomenclature is not in my background. let me know, okay?)

i read that "protectionism is a sure-fire recipe for economic decline" i've heard that frequently and it seems to be true, but i'd sure like to see a cogent explanation of precisely how protecting an industry makes it degenerate. consider that an open question to students of economics...

the topic was cars and the democrats' '84 platform which supported "domestic content" which requires foreign automakers to make their cars in the u.s. which is a sly way of saying imported cars are banned.

it doesn't seem too unlikely to me that we'll see the domestic oil industry protected similarly. with opec dying, a lot of people think the sensible thing to do is put a tax on oil which would keep the falling prices constant from the consumer's point of view and give the difference to the government. the idea is that builders getting money to the government relatively easily, it occurs on people to remain oil-conscious and not fall back into the dependency on oil which started once in the first place. this sensible idea is often attacked by the dysrhetoric slogan, "kick opec while it's down." the slogan is not for some guy to say, "if it's opec we're after, why punish the other oil companies?" (i.e., *domestic content*). the oil companies will double this compromise isn't so bad, and they'll pour on the gas money to get it out of the oil companies. the slogan is not for some guy to say, "if it's opec we're after, why punish the other oil companies?" (i.e., *domestic content*). the oil companies will double this compromise isn't so bad, and they'll pour on the gas money to get it out of the oil companies.

barrelers will make an issue of it and maybe someone will mention middle-east oil dependency and the enthusiasts will abduct his statement from its context. with a bit of bad luck the tax is put on imports only, and voila we have a protected domestic oil industry.

and i understand that is bad, though i'm not sure why.

attention all benzene fans: i would dearly like a summary of news and politics in your locality (and yes i do appreciate you few who keep me posted). alaska newspapers are exceptionally locally-oriented though i confess alaska news doesn't hold my attention much. there has been lots of collusion and scandal about the north slope borough -- something to do with local politicians and oil money. also polluting the news lately is the Iditarod, alaska's 1000-mile dog-sled race. it was just won yesterday by some dark horse blonde woman, and the fans really went apeshit over that. the race takes about two weeks and common practice is to mush ("mush" is the verb meaning travel on dog-sled, i don't know why) to a town, sit around a few hours or overnight, then go on to the next town. storms are frequent so most of the contestants will collect in some town until it's safe to go out again when they all start about together again. this way a few wimpier ones are left behind each time until near the end when there are just a few left in front. this year there were more storms than usual and near the end this one chick was crazy enough to cross some bay in a blizzard. it ended up taking her 12 hours longer than the others to do that stretch, but she did it 20 hours earlier, kept her lead and won. oh boy.

by opinion of ted stevens has gone down another notch since i've found out he has a reputation in washington of being the #1 supporter of legislative pay raises. what a twit. a big criticism of al rep don young's last election was his poor attendance record, but i now see attendance record isn't necessarily tied to diligence. if some guy on the floor wants to stall for time or just feels like being an asshole he can say, mr chairman let's take a roll call for the record. nobody wants to have a bad attendance record, no even though the floor discussion may be unimportant and the absent congressman may be doing something valuable, they all have alarms which go off and they stop whatever they're doing. ~~ALL OF THEM FALL~~ and come running down to be counted present.

surely you've heard a story about your congressman. let me hear it.

OLD DIPLOMS FOR SALE

i have a box of old diplomas which i would love to sell to somebody for the price of postage. it is comprised mostly of ones from late 1933 and early 1944; also included are '31 and '52 issues of retaliation and europa express, a few diplomas from '32, a few tarachoniacles from '79 or '80, tabax special issue #23, and dr.33 (1977) box feels like about 10 lbs to me but i'm not good at judging weight. your choice of mailing class. first come first serve.

abridged essay review dept.: -----

playboy pays many times the normal rate for articles to any writer with a classy reputation, and accordingly many serious writers will periodically compromise their reputations to finance their next dozen works. with his essay, "sex is politics," gore vidal shows that he is one of the few writers who can write a serious work which is at the same time well suited to playboy and he loses no placidity when he splays up the rest a bit for the sake of his audience. (those who have studied the playboy mystique will realize that the topic is in the politics and not in the sex.) many ideas are tossed around, but the theme is that throughout history, sex has been used by societies (often via religion) to manipulate its members.

the essay was written five years ago, and since then many things have changed. the revolution has come and gone, but sex is even more confusing than before. the manipulation remains as ubiquitous as ever, but it no longer has a centralized purpose. while most concentrations of sexual-political power have been dismantled, the pre-occupation with sex has actually increased; and the tricksters know full well that it's an easy way to confuse someone. because you aren't immortal, sex is an essential part of your dna's master program; however, like hal 9000, your dna is not designed to easily lie to you. hence, when your own interest and the interest of sex come into conflict, you temporarily go crazy. if you were in control of a major operation, you would be dangerous; but if you're an ordinary guy, you're vulnerable to those more clever than you. arrive!

stupid ideas department:

some commission or another is having a book written about alaskan history. recently, the first draft was completed, and it was sent to some panel or another for approval.

sending it back for a second draft, one of the complaints made by the panel was that it didn't emphasize women enough. they said, "women in alaska's past should share equal billing with men." now that's just plain dumb. history books are written to tell things like they were. a person is featured in a history book for doing something significant, not for helping to fill some quota. now maybe it's true that women got gyped because social structures wouldn't let them be politicians or explorers or other historically significant people, but that's no excuse for lying about it and pretending that they were important.