

Solitudinum faciunt et pacem appellant ( They make a wilderness  
and they call it peace). —Traditional wisdom

# midlife crisis

VOLUME ONE

NUMBER 5

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTMARE

I UNDERSTAND THAT a number of last month's issues arrived after lengthy delays, and several arrived in your mailboxes resembling confetti! Perhaps if I enclose each issue in an envelope, such problems can be avoided in future months.

I am still Paul G. Rauterberg (note the "berg," Rusnak?) of 4922 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53208. Phone me at your own risk—I'm never sticking to precise schedules these days. The number is 414-778-0750. The last day that I have worked on a real job was 27 May. That was when I went on vacation, and had my little bicycle mishap. I was scheduled to go back to work August 1st, but now we're out on strike, so.... I'll be bartending at a German-styled beer bar every now and then, just to save on drinking costs and to keep my refrigerator stocked. Some undergo "summers of their discontent;" I am weathering "the summer of my alcoholic content." Prost!

"But...but...but..." ;  
You Stand Accused. How do you plead?

IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE, at any time, in any game. One or more angry letters will arrive in the morning mail, denouncing you for being a scheming fiend, or worse. They will accuse you of unwarranted hostility towards themselves or other players. They will announce that they are "well aware" of your dastardly schemes, and are banding together forthwith to deal with the threat you pose. They will tell you exactly with whom you are allied, and why. They may even blame other people's moves, however imprudent or clever they may seem, on you.

There is only one big problem with all of this; for once in your life, you're not guilty! Someone has done a masterful job of painting you in the guise of the "Great Satan." It may be a false representation of your true positions, or it may be an honest misreading of your motives and intents, but the bottom line is that people believe it to be the truth, and they are intent upon acting accordingly. Now it is up to the accused to diffuse this threat to his overall credibility, before the entire board descends upon him in a flurry of righteous wrath.

You have to carefully consider the tenor of your responses, as well as the degree of their factual content. The schemers in the bunch may base their final judgments on your credibility on the way in which you have worded your denials. They may wish to see you strike an indignant pose; the angrier you seem, the more they may believe you. Or, they may expect to see the ramblings of the bewildered innocent. Much of this depends on your particular "image"—Kathy Byrne might not buy the sweet and innocent approach from a Paul Rauterberg or a Sleaze Stafford! But she might be shocked to receive a condemnatory missive from the ferocious Daf, and would probably accuse Rauterberg of ghost-writing her letter.

After setting the tone of your response, you have to decide how best to disabuse your accusers of their false notions. Simple denials are rarely enough of themselves, especially in those cases where you are not commonly regarded as a simple person. Deviousness is expected of some, so it is not always harmful to present it as an asset to your overall negotiating strategy. You are Austria writing to Russia, denying the accusations passed on by Turkey and Italy. It seems to be a commonly held notion that you have masterminded a brilliant Austro-English alliance to sweep the board by 1906, and Russia is "damned if you're going to get away with it." Calmly, you explain to the panicked cossack that there is bloody little E/A can do in the early stages of the game, without

being induced by Austria to attack Russia and France, just who is being threatened by this alleged twosome?

Now you are ready to proceed from the "defensive" to the "offensive." You devise a clever, rational plan for a dynamic Austro-Russian alliance. You note that Italy and Turkey are intent upon Austria's demise, so they will be too busy to note Russian designs on Blk Sea and mainline Turkey. A Sultan intent upon Austrian spoils, and confident of Russian friendship, is most vulnerable to "Bulgarian gambits." You will also suggest that Russia—not you—enlist the aid of France vs. Italy, noting that Austrian credibility is too much in question at the present time to be of much use. If you go into a lot of detail on the tactical options and strategic implications of your A/R plans, the Russian will marvel: "hey, he might be serious about this, and it might work!"

If Russia responds positively to your overtures, you might have a new alliance in the works. Or, you might be on the road to really setting him up for something like an E/A/T alliance!

Of course, there is always the chance that your cries of foul will fall upon deaf ears. It may be more convenient for the other players to continue believing lies, or acting as if they do; they may just covet your centers, or they may decide to take advantage of the "gullible" partners, who really believe the lies about you. If a guy looks like a "dead duck" anyway, why not pile on the carcass?

Here enters the concept of the "self-fulfilling prophecy." You come to the realization that the lies about you are believed, and that two or more players are intent upon acting accordingly. "Well," you mutter, "if they have already judged and passed sentence upon my plans, I may as well be guilty in fact." You might proceed to promote an active E/A alliance, but don't stop there. Try to get Germany into the act as well. Tell them that they are guilty by association, and we innocent good guys have got to stick together. They may buy it. It might even work!

Self-fulfilling prophecies aren't always the products of rational responses to irrational provokations, lamentably. Sometimes two players will find themselves being attacked by the same common pool of allies, and will be forced to ally as a last resort. If you have three enemies already, why engender the enmity of a fourth? Misery, after all, loves company.

—There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.— W.Shakespeare, Hamlet.

—In commending or disallowing the actions of men, it is a course very requisite to consider the beginning, the proceeding and the end; so shall we see the reasons and causes of things and not their bare events only, which for the most part are governed by fortune.—

Sir Walter Raleigh, The Cabinet Council

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#### WWIIIb UPDATE

Thus far, the following players have signed up for the 15-player variant known as WWIIIb: Frueh, Wall, Swartz, Touchette, Kiersz, Makuc, Rusnak? As soon as we have the requisite number of players, we can get the game started. I'll be sending out copies of the rules to interested parties quite soon. Is there anyone out there who has access to duplication facilities capable of reproducing maps? Neil?

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#### DROPOUT FILE UPDATE

Many of you may recall that I have proposed a listing of all players who have NMRed out of games, without a word of explanation or apology to the players or GMs. I admit to a great amount of dalliance in the pursuance of this project, and I'm not all that sure that this feature would fit into this zine, as it is shaping up. I have thus agreed to pass the project on to Russ Rusnak and his new zine, Who Cares? I have every confidence in Russ' ability to do a fair and comprehensive job on this worthwhile hobby service.

AUSTRIA (Nelson Heintzman, #C-4, 2255 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216);  
A Bud-S-RUSSIAN A Rum, A Alb-Gre, A Tri H, F Gre-Aeg, A Ser-Bul.

ENGLAND (Pat Conlon, COA— Box 17014 LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893);  
F Lpl-Iri, F Lon-Eng, A Bel-S-GERMAN A Ruh-Bur, F Nwy-S-GERMAN A Den-Swe,  
(F Nwy dislodged, must retreat to Nwg, Bar, OTB), F Nth-Ska.

FRANCE (2LT David Schaubert, COA—501-88-2877, 43 AREFS, PSC 1,  
Box 3500, Fairchild AFB, WA. 99011);  
A Pic-S-ENGLISH A Bel, A Mar holds, F Por-Spain sc.

GERMANY: (Pat Frye, 6904 Scotch Dr., Laurel, MD. 20707);  
A Den H, A Mun-Bur, A Ruh-Bel, F Hol-Nth, A Kie-Hol.

ITALY: (Russ Rusnak, 8002 S. Nagle, Burbank, IL., 60459);  
A Pie-Tyr, A Ven-Tyr, F Tun-Wes, F Nap-Tyn.

RUSSIA (Nancy Irwin, COA—effective 15 August—4109 Magnolia Ave,  
1 North, St. Louis, MO. ((zip?)) );  
A StP-Nwy, F Swe-S-A StP-Nwy, F Sev-Blk, F Ank-S-F Sev-Blk, A Mos-Sev,  
A Ukr-S-A Mos-Sev, A Rum-S-AUSTRIAN A Ser-Bul.

TURKEY (Jim Burgess, 66 Hall St., Providence, RI. 02904);  
F Blk-Ank (dislodged, annihilated), A Bul-Con, A Arm-S-F Blk-Con (NSO)(imp).  
A Superman flies to Mos to prevent A Mos-Sev ( runs into a batch of  
kryptonite), F Cyp-Eas (NSU), F Cre-Ion (NSU), A Syr-S-A Arm (NSU),  
A Sny-Aeg (drowns in sorrow) (NSU).

Please note the COA's for France, England, and Russia.  
Fall 1902 moves, retreats, etc., are due SATURDAY 3 Sept., 1983.

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#### PRESS FOR 1983 Y

TURKEY: Is anybody out there? Nancy is the only one who ever writes  
to me, and she refuses to discuss the game. I wonder why?

FRANCE: The Air Force didn't forward the last issue of MC, which is  
why I NMR'd. I am now at my permanent assignment, so I hope to avoid  
NMRing in the future.

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#### ANONYMOUS GAME PRESS

UNK STAN TO UNK MO: I knew Gaughan was in here somewhere. I've been  
bad and haven't written to anyone either. This turn will be a different  
story. Can I request a separation of seasons in order to have more  
negotiating time? Let's get some press from the rest of you guys so  
I can try to figure out who you are.

UNK MO TO UNK STAN: One request for a separation of seasons is all it  
takes to get one. Michalski doesn't like this policy, but he doesn't  
run this zine, so I get to play the big boss!

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#### SLEAZE ONE PRESS

TURKEY (with a tip of the hat to The Cars):

A little trap for Mark I've laid  
I've my own slick lies  
I hope every move I've made  
Will take him by surprise.

Here we go again  
Will my attack have any effect?  
Here we go again  
I'll crush him like an insect!

CHORUS— He's Derwood's ally, he's Derwoods ally  
He used to be mine.

Derwood's got to open his eyes  
and dispell the dark  
Or the next scream that we'll hear  
Will be Bowen's reaction to Mark.

Here it comes again  
What makes Derwood think that he'll be safe?  
Mark'll stab him too, here it comes again  
Mark's knife will cut Bowen's faith  
Next week'll stab you (repeat chorus)

THE MADCON REPORT  
by Mark Frueh

It was a varied group of people who gathered here in Mad City on the 4th of July weekend. The partiers included Richard and Mary Delzer, Chuck Kaplan and his consort, Amy Rosen (she also served as his guardian against the beer-baptizing antics of Russ Rusnak), Dave Ditter, Steve Knight, Kevin Kozlowski, Eric Ozog, Paul Rauterberg, Michael Quirk, Tom Hurst, Marc and Debbie Peters, Brian Morency, Cathy Lapoint, Nancy and Mark Irwin ((?!)), and Dale ("Mr. Clean") Bakke

On Friday, Cathy came over early to design our Madcon emblem, a large banner beckoning to our long-awaited bar-hopping crowd. It was another neighborhood feature, however, which drew the roving eye of our late-arriving elf. Eric Ozog thought the "Batmobile" parked on our block was neat. To protect this disabled car from being towed away, the owners had attached a document proclaiming that "...fighting crime is expensive, but, if needed, Batman will be ready to battle the forces of evil." (Madison is a good town, but rather dull for 24-hour-per-day crimefighters!)

F1

The evening's principal dilemma revolved around the question of which bar to go to. Chuck craved a nice, friendly place to reflect his classy image, but Russ clamored for an ill-lit, sleazy dive, in which he could feel right at home. The issue was settled en route, as we stumbled upon a brightly lighted sort of dive. It is the kind of place Mad City dwellers can go into without hiding their faces. You see, in Wisconsin, we are not ashamed to be drunkards. Having a "Brewski" is an all-consuming passion, and one's surroundings aren't noticeable after the fifth beer. Before calling it a night, we breakfasted on Wall's favorite brand of "stomach bombs," —Gyros sandwiches. The night ended quietly with one short game of dip, which Rauterberg has no recollection of playing in.

Saturday! Most of us might have gotten in a few hours' sleep, but not with Russ up, stalking the streets of Madison at the crack of dawn, making his customary racket. Russ saw to it that I wouldn't miss any more movement from my Timex. At least I was able to enjoy the fantastical breakfast that Nancy cooked up for the hungry crew. Soon thereafter, we would return to our half-barrel of liquid nourishment, but at least she tried to treat us as if we were normal human beings. Even Eric Ozog succumbed to the lure of beer and hash-brownies; "I feel so strange!" he later exclaimed.

I played in only two games that day. In the first one, James and I kept our tradition alive—we dragged each other down like concrete slabs. I did manage to notice one game in which Nancy (as Germany) took Paris Fall 1901. Mike Quirk, the Frenchman, glared at me when I asked, very innocently, "whom she had learned that manouever from." It STILL is a mystery to me!

Saturday was the day for phone calls, if I remember correctly, from Eric Kane (my best ally in the whole world), James Woodson, and Jeff. I placed my own call to Scott and Frauke Hansen, to make sure they were. Two people who helped to make Madcon a success were not physically present. Gary Coughlan introduced me to Tom Hurst and Steve Knight, and Evans sent us \$10 for "Madcon necessities." Actually, it was more in the line of a big bribe to have Peters stab or kill everyone from Madison. Even so, we did make a toast in your honor, and then proceeded to laugh at the thought of stabbing you again. The money, incidently, went towards the purchase of a T-shirt for the eventual Madcon champion, Dale Bakken.

Sunday came, and most of the non-Madisonites left. Unfortunately the best game of the weekend occurred that night. Ditter and his two companions vs. the Madtown Mob! Results? The Mad City Mobsters scored. I miswrote one order, James NMR'd in a face to face game, and Peters was way to go! Some reputation we must have now....It was an experience

((My belated thanks to Mark for his hospitality, and for his belated article on this important event.))

1982 HQ

SLEAZE ONE

Fall 1904

Frueh- 15 August COA:1013 Milton St #304 Madison WI 53715

AUSTRIA (Mark Frueh, 301 n. Livingston, Apt. 1, Madison WI 53703);  
 A Rum-S-TURKISH A Arm-Sev (NSO), A Ser-S-A Rum, A Bul-S-A Rum,  
 A Gal-War, A Gre-S-A Bul, A Tyr-S-GERMAN A Mun, F Eas-S-FREN F Ion-Aeg.

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Ln, Burnsville, MN 55337);  
 F NAO-Lpl, F Eng-Lon, A Yor-S-F Eng-Lon, F Hol-Bel, F Nth-S-F Hol-Bel.

FRANCE (Derwood Bowen, 1643 Graniteway Ln, Columbus, OH 43229);  
 F Ion-Aeg, A Apu-H, A Ruh-Hol, A Bel-S-A Ruh-Hol (dis, ret. Pic, Bur,  
 Ruh, OTB), F Bre-Eng, F Mid-NAO, F Iri-S-A Lon-Wal, A Lon-Wal, F Spasc-Mid.

GERMANY (Randy Ellis, 8310 Grandview Ln, Overland Park, KS 66212);  
 A Munich holds.

RUSSIA (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview IL 60025);  
 F Kie-S-ENGLISH F Hol (OTM), A Den-S-F Kie, A Sil-Mun, A Ber-S-A Sil-Mun,  
 A War-Gal, A Mos-Ukr, A Sev-Rum.

TURKEY (Keith Sherwood, 4332 Sycamore, Los Alamos NM 87544 —this is  
 a COA!). (After Sept. 1st, COA again—8866 Cliffridge, La Jolla, CA 92037.)  
 F Con-Bul sc, F Aeg-S- F Con-Bul sc, F Blk-S-RUSSIAN A Sev-Rum, A Arm-Syr.

1982 HQ

SUPPLY CHART

WINTER 1904

AUSTRIA: Has Vie, Bud, Tri, Ser, Gre, Bul, Rum, Ven, (8) May build one.  
 ENGLAND: Has Edi, Lpl, Lon, Bel, Mol, Nwy. (5). Even.  
 FRANCE: Has Bre, Pzr, Mar, Spa, Por, Lon, Hol, Tun, Rom, Nap. (9). Even.  
 GERMANY: Has Mun, Ber. (1). Even (one annihilation).  
 RUSSIA: Has StP, Mos, War, Sev, Sve, Den, Kie, Ber. (8). May build one.  
 TURKEY: Has Ark, Say, Con, Bul. (3). Must remove one.

~~WINTER 1904 and SPRING 1905 moves are due SATURDAY 3 September, 1983.~~  
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## PRESS

RUSSIA TO ENGLAND: I hope you see reason soon. The F/R alliance  
 is unbreakable.

RUSSIA TO TURKEY: I hope you are with me, or Austria will roll over  
 both of us.

RUSSIA TO AUSTRIA: Rumania is a Russian supply center. You stole  
 it from me, remember?

TURKEY TO GM: On my wall in La Jolla I've rendered a 3'by 3' likeness  
 of the cover of "Electric Warrior" by T. Rex. It's AWESOME.

TURKEY TO AUSTRIA: You mean you'll stab the experienced now while  
 you can, and save the less experienced for dessert and 18 canters....

TURKEY TO ENGLAND: Sorry I didn't write. Quirk tells me Austria's  
 lackey France has you duped into siding with A/F against Russia.  
 Listen, as long as Frueh has Bowen memorized, you must join Russia  
 to counteract A/F or this game is handed to Frueh on a silver platter.  
 On the bright side, you don't have to worry about Frueh stabbing you,  
 but only because he cannot reach you.

FRANCE TO RUSSIA: Let's go ahead and take out England. I am sure  
 he will like it.

FRANCE TO RUSSIA: Of course I realize who my enemies are. I have  
 known all along. That's why I am working with the Puppy.

WOOD TO PUPPY: How did we do in the Balkans this time?

AUSTRIA: We believe in supporting everyone!

MARK TO MICHAEL: Ah, picking up the knife once again, screw him,  
 screw him, and screw him again.

(Press continued, page <sup>54</sup> ~~54~~)

AUSTRIA (Nelson Heintzman, #C-4, 2255 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216);  
A Bud-S-RUSSIAN A Rum, A Alb-Gre, A Tri H, F Gre-Aeg, A Ser-Bul.

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GERMANY: (Pat Frye, 6904 Scotch Dr., Laurel, MD. 20707);  
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ITALY: (Russ Rusnak, 8002 S. Nagle, Burbank, IL., 60459);  
A Pie-Tyr, A Ven-Tyr, F Tun-Wes, F Nap-Tyn.

RUSSIA (Nancy Irwin, COA—effective 15 August—4109 Magnolia Ave,  
1 North, St. Louis, MO. ((zip?)) );  
A StP-Nwy, F Swe-S-A StP-Nwy, F Sev-Blk, F Ank-S-F Sev-Blk, A Mos-Sev,  
A Ukr-S-A Mos-Sev, A Rum-S-AUSTRIAN A Ser-Bul.

TURKEY (Jim Burgess, 66 Hall St., Providence, RI. 02904);  
F Blk-Ank (dislodged, annihilated), A Bul-Con, A Arm-S-F Blk-Con (NSO)(imp).  
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UNK STAN TO UNK MO: I knew Gaughan was in here somewhere. I've been  
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I can try to figure out who you are.

UNK MO TO UNK STAN: One request for a separation of seasons is all it  
takes to get one. Michalski doesn't like this policy, but he doesn't  
run this zine, so I get to play the big boss!

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SLEAZE ONE PRESS

TURKEY (with a tip of the hat to The Cars):

A little trap for Mark I've laid  
I've my own slick lies  
I hope every move I've made  
Will take him by surprise.

Here we go again  
Will my attack have any effect?  
Here we go again  
I'll crush him like an insect!

CHORUS— He's Derwood's ally, he's Derwoods ally  
He used to be mine.

Derwood's got to open his eyes  
and dispell the dark  
Or the next scream that we'll hear  
Will be Bowen's reaction to Mark.

Here it comes again  
What makes Derwood think that he'll be safe?  
Mark'll stab him too, here it comes again  
Mark's knife will cut Bowen's faith  
Next Mark'll stab you. (repeat chorus)

SLEAZE ONE PRESS CONCLUDED

SLEAZE TO SHERWOOD: What's the real reason you decided to stay on the coast this summer? Find some snatch with a John Denver fetish?

SLEAZE TO BOARD: Oh, that Bowen, misordering units! He's a real chip off the old block. Anybody want a roommate? Maybe a cat? It even pisses in its litter box—when its handy, that is. Else its right on the floor, usually near the Dip table. By the way, I'm talking about the cat.

SLEAZE TO TURKEY: (with more apologies to the Pretenders), I'm afraid I was the "nasty" roommate this time. I just couldn't handle it, as she was usually getting more snatch than me!

1983 AI

PORNOGRAPHIC PRIESTESS

Winter 1901

AUSTRIA (John Kador, 20 Hilltop Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910); Builds A Vie, A Bud. Also has: A Tri, A Ser, F Gre.

ENGLAND (David Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337); Builds F Lon, F Lpl. Also has: F Nwy, A Bel, F Nth.

FRANCE (Michael Quirk, 3830 Chester, Glenview, IL 60025); Builds A Paris, A Mar. Also has: A Por, F Spain sc, A Pic.

GERMANY (James Woodson, PO Box 33032, Pensacola, FL 32508); Builds A Mun, A Holland ((sic)). Plays one short. Also has A Bur, A Hol, F Den.

ITALY (Don Swartz, 6703 Strawberry Lane, Louisville, KY 40214); Builds F Nap. Also has: F Tun, A Pie, A Ven.

RUSSIA (James Wall, COA 15 August—27 N. Mills Madison, Wis. 53715); Builds F Sev, A StP. Also has F Rum, A Ukr, A Gal, F Swe.

TURKEY (J. Tayloe Washburn, 4021 NE 56th St. Seattle WA 98105); Builds A Ark. Also has A Con, A Bul, F Blk.

SPRING 1902 moves are due SATURDAY, 3 September, 1983.

## PRESS FOR PORNO:

MARSEILLES TO PIEDMONT: If it wasn't for you, I could have built F Bre.

RUSSIA TO TURKEY: I'm ready now, let's get Austria.

GERMANY TO ENGLAND: That A Bel had better be headed southwest, or else!

SWITZERLAND: Rumor has it that a three way attack on Austria is imminent. Refugees from Austria are already fleeing over the Swiss Border.

ITALY TO RUSSIA: I hope you built something in St. Pete.

GERMANY TO GM: Why was Rusnak in our press? Does this mean we can abuse him in our press?

GM TO GERMANY: Anybody can write press for any game. Remember that this is a black press game, and press writers may not be who they claim to be.

1983 AR

PORCELAIN GOD

Winter 1901

AUSTRIA (David Blaylock, Rt. 1, Box 630, Canton NC 28716); Builds A Vie, A Bud. Also has: F Tri, A Rum, A Ser.

ENGLAND (Robert Acheson, c/o Echo Bay Mines, Lupin, NWT, CANADA XOE 1M0); EVEN. Has F Nwg, F Nth, A York.

FRANCE (Bill Becker, 810 Turwill, Kalamazoo MI, 49007); Builds F Bre. Also has A Pic, A Por, F Eng.

GERMANY ( Russ Rusnak, 8002 S. Nagle, Burbank IL 60459); Builds F Kie, A Ber, A Mun. Also has: A Den, A Bel, F Hol.

ITALY (Jim Makuc, Box 111, Monterey, MA 01245); Builds F Nap (what's new?). Also has A Ven, A Greece, F Ion.

RUSSIA ( Dale Bakken, 420 W. Wilson # 203, Madison, WI 53703); Builds A Moscow (surprise!). Also has F Sev, A War, A StP, F Swe.

TURKEY (Dan Stafford, 1643 Graniteway Lane, Columbus, OH 43229); Builds F Con. Also has: A Bul, F Ark, A Arm.

SPRING 1902 moves are due SATURDAY, 3 September, 1983.

## PORCELAIN PRESS

DA SLEAZE TO DA MINES: Why is it obvious to everyone on the board except you that it is an F/G/R alliance against you? You should have taken Nwy at all costs!

ANK TO GRE: Who invited your ass?

BAKKEN TO STAFFORD: Whatsa matter? Your fucking arm broke or what?

MOSCOW TO PARIS: No, I refuse to move on Germany. He might be the only ally I've got!

SEV-BUD: Are we at peace?

MADMAN TO UNK MO: How many guys stayed at Nancy's for MadCon? Six or seven, maybe? Hell, I hear that's not even close to her record. She's slept with more than that at one time. (Just kidding Nancy... Nancy? Ouch! Hey, you don't have to hit me! Wait a minute! What have you got in your hand there? (Opens her hand to reveal a BIC pen. Its got some foul smelling black stuff all over it, and its dripping MY blood.) Oh no!! Could it be? Have I just been stabbed by... MISS POISON PEN!!?

NAPLES TO THE SOUTHLAND: Only time will tell.

ROME TO WORLD: How about writing in English, huh? I didn't realize this was a cryptionic zine.

VENICE TO WORLD: There seems to be an F/G/R alliance in the works, as well as an E/A/T. Why am I always left out?

VIE-VEN: You dare to enter Austria's sphere of influence!

VIE-CON: So that's why you wear those gloves when you open Bakken's letters. AIDS....

LONDON-PARIS: After positions are stated, I don't see any need to negotiate. All your letters didn't get you Belgium in 01.

LONDON-MOSCOW: Oh how many fronts do you intend to fight?

## L\*E\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S

From Jim Makuc: MC is looking good. I'd prefer a little bigger letter column myself, but then you're the publisher. I'd like to hear more about Steve Burants trip to the Soviet Union, Motherland of Communism; Especially his feelings about the people towards their government.

((You're right—I'm the pubber, not the letter writer. I try to publish whatever people write for print, but this month there wasn't much. ~~Steve~~ Steve will be a regular columnist for MC, whenever he is inclined to write something))

From Jim Burgess: You pegged REM exactly. I saw them in concert a couple of weeks back and I think it was one of the smoothest performances I've ever heard, from a new band. A long seamless set left the crowd hungering for more, so they came back with a whole sequence of updated 60's covers. Check em out if they come to town. I hope the MOB had fun at Origins even if they didn't take home the trophy. See you at Pudgecon.

((We had a great time at Origins, but the rides there and back were the highlights of the weekend. Baumeister, Rusnak, Peters, Wall, Frueh, ~~Steve~~ Bakken, Knight and myself rode together in a rented Winnebago—a run down hulk which was something the worse for wear after we were through with it.... We drank a lot of beer en route, practicing up for the "Beer Bash," which was a big bust. The puppies sponsoring the event were sound asleep when we arrived at 3 am, and were stone dry sober. Disgusting—especially Luedi, who is a Midwesterner.

((Konrad Baumeister and I have checked out a number of "oldies" concerts this summer—Steppenwolf (only singer John Kay remained of the original lineup, but they were good; ~~GOB~~ ERIC CLAPTON, who stressed the Blues origins of his music, and actually played Layla; and we'll see The Animals with Eric Burdon this week. ))

## PLAYLIST

Mike Oldfield, Tubular Bells; Einstein's Riceboys, Civil Rice;  
New York Dolls, Too Much, Too Soon; David Bowie, Diamond Dogs;  
B-52's, Whammy!