

# NORTHERN FLAME

Northern Flame is a zine of postal Diplomacy, a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by Avalon Hill in the US and Waddington-Saunders in Canada. Northern Flame is edited and written by Cal White, he of the multi-typewriters, who resides at 26 Emerson Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6H 3S8. Anything relating to NF (except \$\$) goes to me.

The publisher/treasurer of NF is Frank Easton 2-73 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario M6P 2J8. Subscription fees are 1¢ per page + postage. Send Frank a lump sum cheque/money order (at least \$5, please) and we will keep track of your sub balance.

Gamefees in NF are \$5. We run regular Diplomacy games. Variants are rare, but may be available if enough people request a particular model. The odds of this are better if you cajole Frank into it. I prefer my sex kinky and my Dip regular. Not the other way around...

GAMES CURRENTLY OPEN\*\*\*

## Regular Diplomacy

David Allan Coe game: Wiedemeyer, B Acheson, Grigsby, Blanpied. Four. Three needed. C'mon people. Let's get this one going!!!

Jerry Jeff Walker game: Nobody. This game is now an International game. Players are being solicited in Northern Flame AND Mark Nelson's Yorkshire Gallant. If you sign up for this game, you not only get to meet some overseas players, but you will receive BOTH zines for the duration of the game. Some deal, eh?

Nuclear Diplomacy V/Winter 2000: Also an International game being run under the same terms as above regarding NF & TYG. Currently signed up are: Anderson, Peters & Lowes, but I'd like a reconfirmation from each of you, please.

This issue: **Scruples III !!!**  
Baseball Predictions  
Contest '89 !!!  
All the details on  
CanCon II !!!

AND MORE !!!

# No: 12



FLUD  
FREE  
ZINE  
FEUD  
FREE  
ZONE



SCRUPLES III P12!

# Bass Notes

- 1) This issue may seem a bit rushed to the regulars in the crowd. If so, it's because I am not going to have my usual full weekend after the deadline to put it together. In fact, the whole thing sans games will have to be done by Friday night and the games added later on. This is because Frank is going to have to do all the photocopying Friday afternoon due to his impending hernia operation the following Monday. I'll do the games pages at work myself and add it into the rest of the zine. I'm sure all of our readers will join me in wishing Frank a speedy recovery and will add their reassurances that almost NCBCDY ever dies from this sort of surgery...
- 2) On a happier note, and in keeping with the NF policy of putting the proper perspective on life and the hobby, let me be among the first to congratulate Anza and Randy Grigsby on the birth of their daughter Ninette, February 19/89. Mother and daughter are doing fine and papa has been strutting around putting peacocks to shame. Pity you didn't wait four days though, Anza. Ninette and I could have shared birthdays. Ah well, babies do come at their own speed, don't they?
- 3) On a sad "hobby" note, I regret to report the fold (again) of Conrad von Metzke's excellent zine Costaguana. Financial problems, time constraints, and a gradual lack of interest were the culprits this time, as they have been so often in this hobby. I do hope that nobody out there will hold this against Conrad. There's a real world out there too, y'know. The best part of the situation is that we all know that a couple of years down the road Conrad will be back, refreshed and ready to go. Well, buddy, you know where to find me.
- 4) Leave it to me to pull a stunt like I did last issue. After mentioning Randy Grigsby's CDC questionnaire AND Tom Swider's Xyns People Read Poll, I completely forgot to include them with the zine! Suffice it to say, I most profoundly apologise to both individuals, doubly so since there will not be enough room in this issue to include them either. If anyone wants a copy of either of these ballots, please write to me and I will send you a copy. Hopefully, most of you will have seen them from other sources. If not, as I said, write to me and ask!
- 5) I've had a reasonable response to my request for individual Bar Guides to your town, and I hope to print them next issue when I'm not so pressed for time or space. If I don't have your response, please send me a list of your favourite alcoholically enhanced hangouts and the reasons why you like them. Hopefully, we'll accomplish two things: 1) create a sort of Michelin guide to assist travelling Dipsters who may be a) in your area and b) thirsty; 2) Find the definitive answer to the eternal question "What makes a good bar?" (If we succeed, I may just open one up). Mark all responses "The Great Mark Nelson Pub Hunt", after our slightly sotty inspirationalist. (By the way, wait until you get a load of Douglas "Wimp" Acheson's list of places to fall down in! Hint: does the phrase "Golden Arches" mean anything to anyone?)
- 6) An aside to Brad Wilson, re: the Ken Wregget trade to the Flyers. You are getting a classic case of the hot and cold running goaltender. His saving grace is that he is a fantastic money goalie. Give him a playoff game and he's magic. In return the Maple Laffs get two first round draft choices (Phillies and Calgary's), both certain to be **late** first rounders in a remarkably poor draft year. So far, I'd say, edge to Philly in this one.

- 7) I intend to get a bit snide for a couple of items later on so let's warm up with:

The Northern Flame Retort of the Month

"He couldn't make it tonight, he's out searching for Salman Rushdie."

Heartland group leader, Jo Gravelle, to a fan requesting a song by 70s pop singer turned born again Muslim, Cat Stevens...

- 8) Can I ask somebody a question? Particularly Bruce Linsey and Ron Brown. Is there a reason I'm left off the list of "An Open Letter to the Canadian Hobby." letters that circulate every so often? As far as I know, I am in this hobby; I am Canadian; I think that NF is reasonably mainstream; so howcum I don't get these letters? At first, I figured that they were going to Frank as publisher, but he tells me that nobody ever sends him anything! Hey Frank, ol' buddy. I guess this makes us the black sheep of Canadian Dippy! And here I thought François had that sewn up!

- 9) Does Larry Peery ever read his mail? I don't get Diplomacy World, partly because of the bad things I'd heard about it as regards his ignorance (accent on the second syllable) of Canada, and partly because of a sample that Bob Hartwig lent me which I was NOT impressed with. I've read with interest and amusement his muddling up of Canadian affairs, and I'd assumed that he had been corrected by now (I ~~mean~~, I've been reading this for two years now!). But now, or rather last week I get a promo kit in the mail (at least somebody sends me open letters...) in which he announces that BOB Acheson has just been elected Co-ordinator of the CDO. I wonder if DOUG Acheson was as surprised by this as I was? Sigh. Anyway, for Larry's benefit, here's the correct list of the CDO Executive Committee:  
 Co-ordinator Doug Acheson 95 Dundonald St, Barrie, Ont L4M 3T4  
 Committeemen Randy Grigsby 93 St Vincent St, RR#3, Barrie, Ont L4M 4S5  
 Cal White 26 Emerson Av, Toronto, Ontario M6H 3S8  
 Now, I realize that the CDO is hardly an important factor in your life (nor, necessarily, should it be), but if you're gonna print it, get it right.

- 10) While I'm at it, I'm also curious why CanCon wasn't mentioned in your list of Cons for the year? Did (as I suspect) you just not have the info? If so please see the CDO news later this issue. Some publicity in DW would be appreciated.

- 11) Also in the package that Larry sent me was the announcement that three Hobby Awards are again open for nomination. To quote from the flyer:

"[The] Don Miller Memorial Award for hobby service during the year 1988. This is the hobby's most prestigious award and past recipients have included some of the hobby's most distinguished members. Anyone who has made a major contribution to the improvement of the hobby in the past year is eligible."

"[The] Rod Walker Award for literary excellence is given to an individual or individuals who have written about the game or hobby with exceptional achievement in the past year. A copy of the item for which the individual is being nominated should be included with the nomination."

"[The] John Konig Memorial Award for outstanding play of Diplomacy in any form (e.g. PBM, PBEM, Computer, Tournament/Convention, etc) during 1988. The reason for the nomination should be included with it."

"Nominations will be screened by a committee (for which members are needed). Each nominee will be listed on the official ballot which will be distributed this Spring in DW and elsewhere. Recipients will be announced at DIPCON XXII and presented with a personal plaque, and their name(s) engraved on the various perpetual plaques. Donations to cover expenses are requested and checks [sic] should be enclosed with your nomination. Make checks payable to Fred Davis Jr."

"Nominations should be sent to Larry Peery [Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102 USA] by APRIL 1st. Nominations for the Walker Award may also be sent to Alan Stewart, #702, 25 St Mary St, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 1R2. Committee volunteers should contact me directly."

"Your participation and cooperation is requested."

12) And yet more from Larry Peery: a 29 page DipCon XXII Press Kit! I've got to hand it to Larry, nobody can say he doesn't put any effort into the hobby! DipCon XXII is being held in San Diego on the weekend of July 28, 29 & 30, although I don't see a site mentioned anywhere. Games offered on the weekend include Kremlin as well as various types of Diplomacy. There will be Gunboat, Variant, Computer and Novice games, as well as Tournament and Recreational (?) Dip. Anybody interested should contact Larry Peery PO Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102 USA.

I'm definitely not certain, but there's an outside chance that I may actually get down to this Con. I'm not certain enough to pre-register, but Lorie and I are definitely going down to visit the Grand Canyon sometime in July (stopping in to see Bob Hartwig on the way!), and if time and \$\$ permit, we just might drive the extra bit. I've already met Rod Walker and Conrad von Metzke (who won't be there, unfortunately), but maybe I could explain to Larry Peery that there is a Canajun hobby, eh?

ITHINKJACQUESBELANGERCOMMENTEDONLINEAR-SEPARATORSINPASSCHENDAELEIWONDERIFHEORFRANCOISKNCWTHATTHECONCEPTWASSTARTEDBYJOHNLEEDERINRUNESTONEINTHEEARLY70S?

The Notebook will not be appearing this issue because of space considerations (as well as the fact that I didn't write anything, but Melinda (Miss Mellie) Holley was kind enough to send in a few of her own:

It pays to be obvious; especially if you have a reputation for subtlety.  
The best I can hope for is not to kill anybody today.  
Beauty remains when the passionate act is over.  
When in doubt, change the subject!  
Anything's possible, but nothing's easy.  
Whatever hits the fan will not be distributed evenly.  
Always know where the exits and bathrooms are. The rest is unimportant.

((Miss Mellie, Lazarus woulda been proud!))

# can★con

DIPLOMACY

NORTHERN FLAME #12  
March 12, 1989  
PAGE 5

"An IDTR Sanctioned  
Tournament"

Toronto

UPDATE: March

## CAN-CON '89 PREREGISTRATION FORM

U of T Scarborough Campus  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
August 4-6, 1989

Here it is! After much negotiations and table pounding, your executive of the CDO (specifically me) has secured 5 townhouses accommodating 30 people and splendid facilities for your gaming pleasure at the just discovered University of Toronto Scarberia Campus. Here they have air-conditioning in the conference room being booked plus air-conditioned lounge and negotiation areas. To keep with the policy of seeking a relaxing, rustic area for this vacation, we have again found a ravine setting with tennis courts, squash courts, saunas and ready access to Toronto Transit to get to that Jays/Yankee game on Saturday.

Now, I've got to get some feed back from you pretty quickly as the campus residence officer wants some definitive numbers to charge me by. Right Penny? Anyways, on with this form.

=====

### PREREGISTER ME:

Name:  
Address:  
City, Province/State:  
Postal Code/Zip, (Country):

Please pre-register ( ) person(s) for CAN-CON '89 at \$20.00/person.  
Save one of those rooms for me for Friday & Saturday nights at . . .  
. . . \$27.00/night/person

Now for some questions.

- I am coming with my spouse . . . . . ( )
- I am bringing our kids . . . . . ( )
- I/we would like to have breakfast . . . . . ( )
  - lunch . . . . . ( )
  - dinner . . . . . ( )
- (I would seriously recommend taking advantage of the breakfast at \$3.75+PST)
- I/we would like to go to the Jays/Yankee game . . . . . ( )
- I would take advantage of a bridge tournament . . . . . ( )
- I/we would like to go out for dinner Saturday night . . . . . ( )

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\* Please make cheques out to Douglas Acheson and mail to the address at bottom of this sheet.

Some further thoughts. There will be four scheduled gaming sessions: Fri. afternoon, Sat. morning & evening/afternoon and Sun. morning. Each session will cost \$8/per for those who don't pre-register.

THE MAILMAN COMETH (ALL OVER DR RUTH!)

From Mark Nelson (Oxley Hall, Weetwood Lane, Leeds LS16 8HL England)

"Thanks for the letter/tape- I've enjoyed both!!" "..."

"I have only listened to the tape once so far, and I really enjoyed it! The more bluesy numbers were great and I liked most of the C&W numbers. Over the Easter vacation, I will be preparing a detailed review for The Yorkshire Callant. Please send me any tapes you do, perhaps I'll become a Heartland groupie!"

((Hmm, what did you say your measurements were...?))

"The UK International Subscription Exchange end is Doug Rowling (of Prisoners of War fame) for US/Canuck."

"I notice that you've dropped the Nuclear Diplomacy list, but... how about you reopen the list and I open the list in TYG? If I can get a couple of Brits to play then we can have an International game running to 6 week deadlines. Although it won't be essential for my subs to sub to Flame to play in the game, not for Flame subs to sub to TYG to play, I think the likely outcome is that they probably would! So we get a game running and a few more international contacts are made."

((Sounds okay to me. I know that Rob Lowes, Dave Anderson and Marc Peters were interested. Potter and Russell never subbed, and you were the 6th. If Rob, Marc and Dave would re-confirm, and you let me know your intentions, we can open it to 3 Brits. I'd be willing to send NF to anybody from your side of the pond who was interested. In fact, why don't we go one further and open up an international game of RegDip, whereby players only need sub to either NF or TYG to receive both. I'll volunteer the as yet vacant Jerry Jeff Walker game for this status. Anybody out there interested? Here's a great chance to make overseas friends (or enemies!) and also receive Mark's excellent zine The Yorkshire Callant gratis for the duration of the game.))

"The question on discrimination is interesting, although perhaps we should be debating the first topic (nationality) rather than sexuality. I'm not suggesting discrimination on racial grounds- I'm against that- but the question of immigration and integration is interesting. Consider the recent fuss over "The Satanic Verses". If fundamentalism is so great, why don't the Muslims go back to Iran?"

((Awfully damned racist of you, ol' chap! That's like saying, "If the blacks don't like it over here, why don't they go back to Africa?" Well, the reasons are as varied as the question is foolish! Some are here because of political persecution, not religious reasons; some are here for financial reasons, which may be why they don't/can't return; some may just like it better here (that isn't a crime, you know); and after all, some Muslims were BORN here and, while wanting to keep their religion, see no need to move to a foreign country. The way I see the whole Rushdie affair, the question is not one of "freedom of speech" or "artistic expression", or even the perpetuation of "hate literature" (as it has been called over here), but rather the shocking lack of "faith" in the Muslim religion shown by their leading Churchmen, including the Ayatollah himself! Is the Muslim religion on such shaky ground that the leaders need fear for it's survival because of a mere book?!? Otherwise, what the hell is all the noise about! Seems to me, that if I had to pick a religion, I'd want to pick one that could stand up to a little persecution or even ridicule without collapsing!))

"I feel your second question is a rehash of something we've discussed previously."

"I reject John's claim that I am a right-winger; I consider myself to be nothing of the kind. ((Personally, I'm a first baseman myself...)) I resent your implication that I consider Canada and Australia to be second class countries, sir! Indeed, nothing could be further from the truth. As member states of our glorious Commonwealth, and before that the Empire, it is only natural that the great English civilisation should have rubbed off on you. You should consider yourself lucky that generations of English gentlemen helped form your respective countries into the civilized areas they are now, surrounded (as they are) by so many less fortunate countries which are simply quite barbaric!

((Generations of English gentlemen??? I thought that that nonsense ended with the first sell-out ~~soccer~~ football game in England. Civilised, hah!))

"BNC-UK games were reported in Everything up to 1978, since then, they haven't been. Post 1978 games have been reported in The New Statesman until 1980 and since then in The Finishing Touch (issues c. 33-55). The only person with an up-to-date rating system is Richard Sharp, although I am currently working on a Calhamer Point Count System. UK games use BA-BZ, DA-DZ, EA-EZ, GA-GZ, & JA-JZ. I have on disk all UK games to 1974, but Randolph should already have these. It may be possible to get a complete print-out of all UK finishes from Richard Sharp, but the postage would be rather expensive. We're talking 2000 games! Rather hard for me to comment as I don't have NF #10, which contains, I suspect, the basis for discussion on UK games."

((I'll be enclosing an extra copy of #10 for you. Randolph Smyth replies to your question on game winners in #9.))

"Damn, I quite liked ELP ((Emesson, Lake & Palmer))-- makes a change for the band to consist of musicians with a wide knowledge of music. Hey, I'm going to send you a pile of \$\$ for tapes. I've only got one Lynyrd Skynyrd LP on tape and it's great stuff! I've been looking for years to find more, but I've never seen any. I heard Free Bird, a classic track, although it's not on my tape."

"I can see that we could have a great time on a tape zine playing music!"

((Definitely. But I'd love to include Brad Wilson on something like that. Of all the North Am publishers, Brad has to have the most eclectic tastes of anyone I know. Actually, ~~scrap~~ the pubber part. He has the most eclectic tastes of anyone I know! And as far as \$\$ for tapes, why don't we just get a couple of good 90 minutes tapes and just keep remailing them. That'd be easier and cheaper, too. Anybody else out there interested in a tape exchange? This has the making of a whole new hobby!))

"Surely, oh for the good ol' days when women didn't drive."

((Amen, fellow chauvinist!))

From Paul Kenny (75A Maple Ave, Collingswood, NJ 08108) \*Hello. Just wanted to respond to Doug Rowling's statement/question about RF shielding. I am no expert on this myself, but from what I understand, the problems are not really the RF signal, but other signals interfering with it."

"Televisions are the most complicated piece of electronic equipment that most people will ever come in contact with. The problem is that there is more

than one type of signal rolling around and, while these signals are all different enough not to interfere with each other, they will sometimes superimpose on themselves once they reach their destination and do what they have to do."

"The worst violator of noise is just plain electromagnetic radiation. Of the biggest sources, one is from a part called the high voltage power supply, which has a large transformer and powers the CRT ((?)). The CRT is the biggest source of EMF."

"As far as the signal-in goes, the problem is most likely going to be right at the antenna itself. Other signals are being propagated, and there is no way for the antenna to stop them. That is the job of the tuner. It has filters built in to only let in the signal you select. The tuner then adds another frequency to help it go through the TV."

"The reason RF cables are shielded is to try and prevent the cable from acting like an antenna. I believe the reason the TV itself is shielded is to prevent its EMF from interfering with outside devices, like AM radios, computers, and all. I don't know of any plastics that can work as a shield, let alone transparent ones. That doesn't mean they don't exist, just that I haven't heard of them. Hey, this is worse with computers when line noise can change your data and, instead of putting info from your disk into your computer, you are putting in garbage. The rule here, as in RF cables - MAKE THE CABLE AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE."

"Trying to enclose a device to shield the outside from EMF has its problems, one was mentioned, that of venting. The device will need air to keep cool, but the vent holes, even wire mesh, are large enough for wave lengths of very short distances, to "float" through."

"Well, I hope that didn't add to the confusion too much. Keep up the good work!"

((Thanks. And believe me, Paul, you didn't add to MY confusion. That simply wasn't possible! You know, after all that's been said, I'm still not 100% sure, if those detector vans actually CAN detect operating TV's from out in the street or not! Which probably means, I suppose, that I'm either not smart enough, or educated enough, to ever know. Sigh. If I ever move to the UK, I'm just going to buy the damn license!)) x

From Doug Acheson (95 Dundonald St, Barrie, Ontario L4M 4S4) ((And yes, this is a new typewriter!)) Dear (sweet) Cal: I've decided that airing our dirty laundry in your zine was not good for my upright and exemplary character, so, whenceforth, I'll only air it in my own zine- that way your readers will have to sub to it to get the latest in ketchup and lipstick stain gossip.

What's going on here? I've lost complete control of the CDO to two yahoos who only got where they are with my help. Don't forget who's pulling the strings in this production. I don't remember you asking me to sign an official release allowing you to publish CDO News? And where does Grigsby get off creating and initiating a Canadian Census and questionnaire? Darn good thing I'm so busy writing this drivel that I'm going to let you two carry on, but don't forget who's to get ALL the credit. My mother - and you thought I was going to say ME now, didn't you ((Yup)) Without her I wouldn't be here now and ain't I too much? ((Yup))

((More of this on the next page: don't say I didn't warn you...))



Now on to music?! Patsy Cline!? Is she still alive ((No)) Meatloaf!? Dwight Yoakum!? Who the heck are the people that read NF? Meatloaf is standard Friday night dinner fare. Dwight is a place up in God's country between Dorset and Huntsville on the Lake of Bays and I do believe that the locals are called yokals. Now if you've got to listen to something, the hum of wheels on the road and the wind through the pines is just fine music. Sure beats the sound of kids fightin' over the noise of some radio/CD/tape player. The sound of an old cash register is music to my ears as well. Who the heck is Lynyrd Skynyrd?

((You ol' deadhead, you've gotten old before your time - or maybe not - how old are you anyways? In my band we have a saying: if it's too God damn loud, you're too God damn old! Who is Lynyrd Skynyrd? Ghad man, where is thy youth. Tom Swider may call me a music snob for this, but Skynyrd is only the best Southern rock band ever! That's it! Trish, send the kids down stairs to build a fire. I'm bringing my tape player and tapes up next time I come. We're gonna shake the walls tonight!))

16 NORTH/THE TORONTO STAR, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1989

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Heartland at Lancelot's Castle

By Phil Johnson

Jo Gravelle started composing songs and singing them with neighborhood bands when he was 14. After he turned pro, he sang them in coffee houses in Aurora and Metro.

Today, at 32, the singer-composer-guitarist has penned more than 300 honky-tonk and country rock **Pub crawl** tunes. One of them, *Meanwhile*, a fast-paced, country-rock dance number, could wind up a hit for the Bradford-area musician. It's a featured song on the album Gravelle and his band, Heartland, are putting together in a studio and hoping to release in April.

Friday and Saturday, they're appearing at Lancelot's Castle (formerly The Sportway), on Highway 48, just south of Sutton.

The group started out as Tomahawk Rock in 1982, but renamed itself Heartland four years ago. Jeff Barnes plays fiddle and guitar; Mike Parker, lead guitar; George Morellato, drums; and Cal White bass.

### HEARTLAND SCHEDULE

- March 12 We're taping our first album in Newmarket, Ontario.
- Mar 15-18 JJ's, Lakeshore & 4th St, New Toronto
- Mar 23-25 The Black Bull, Queen & University, Toronto
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Wee Dee's, Hwy 10 & Voddan St Brampton, Ontario
- April;13 Sneaky Dee's, Bloor & Bathurst St's, Toronto. Cover charge.
- April 14 Lancelot's Castle, Hwy 48, 3 miles south of Sutton.
- April 15 Our fearless leader (Jo Gravelle) is getting married (the fool) and the reception is at Lancelot's Castle. Actually, Trish and Jo have been married for a year but they liked the ceremony so much, they're doing it again!
- Apr 20-22 PJ's Roadhouse, Memorial Av Hwy 12, Orillia, Ontario. See you there again, Doug?

Prediction:

AL MVP- Fred McGriff, Toronto

NL MVP- John Shelby, LA

NORTHERN FLAME #12, March 12, 1989 PAGE 10

ANNOUNCING THE SECOND ANNUAL NORTHERN FLAME BASEBALL PREDICTIONS CONTEST!!!

Yes, it's that time of year again, when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of squeeze plays, hit & runs, booming homers and stabbed line drives! Baseball is (almost) back in town! And once again, the staff at Northern Flame are pleased to, once again, offer our readers a chance to show off their baseball knowledge and acumen by predicting the exact finish of the four Major League divisions.

The contest works like this: you send me your predictions as to the finish of each team in both the American and National leagues. For each team that finishes exactly where you said it would, you receive ONE point. Simply enough, the winner is the person with the most points!

For example, here's a sample finish for the American League West: 1st- Oakland; 2nd-Minnesota; 3rd-Texas; 4th-Chisox; 5th-Seattle; 6th-California; 7th-Kansas City. Now if you had predicted Oakland, Texas, Minnesota, California, Seattle, Kansas City & Chisox, you would receive TWO points (for Oakland and Seattle). Simple, eh?

Now get out those pens and put on your baseball thinking caps and send me your predictions. The winner will receive a copy of Borderless Country, the soon-to-be-released Heartland album as well as a years subscription to Northern Flame. (Traders may substitute a free gamefee, if desired).

And now, here are MY fearless predictions for 1989! Take these seriously now- last year only Rob Lowes prevented me from being hailed as THE TRUE BASEBALL GENIUS that I am. Read 'em and weep, mortals...

AL EAST

- 1- Toronto
- 2- Milwaukee
- 3- Boston
- 4- New York
- 5- Cleveland
- 6- Detroit
- 7- Baltimore

AL WEST

- 1- Oakland
- 2- Minnesota
- 3- Texas
- 4- Kansas City
- 5- Seattle
- 6- Chicago
- 7- California

NL EAST

- 1- New York
- 2- Pittsburgh
- 3- St Louis
- 4- Montreal
- 5- Chicago
- 6- Philadelphia

NL WEST

- 1- San Francisco
- 2- San Diego
- 3- Cincinnati
- 4- Los Angeles
- 5- Houston
- 6- Atlanta

This will finally be the year that Toronto gets their act together and wins it all. The only competition will be from the Brewers, although Boston & New York will start fast and fade. For once Detroit will be nowhere to be seen. Cleveland will go as far as their bats can take them and Baltimore will be better than anybody expects (which isn't saying much).

In the AL West, Oakland is too strong to finish anywhere but first, although the playoff let down will make it close for Minnesota. Watch Texas!

As with Oakland, the Mets are too strong to blow the NL East, but Pittsburgh has the talent to make it close. Also, St Louis could bear watching because of their habit of being good every second year.

NL West is a toss up, but this is Frisco's year. May the Dodgers rot in hell

"I'm an adult now."

Moe Berg

A short (?) year ago, this column (and Northern Flame in general) was the scene of much wringing of hands and teeth gnashing about the trauma of turning thirty. Well, Cal's already 31 and I follow next month, and we haven't said two words to each other about it; seems once you're over the threshold, the water ain't so bad after all! I do admit to a general sense of seriousness seeping into my consciousness over the last year, and detect something similar in Cal when we get together. Adulthood doesn't jump up and hit you in the face so much as creep up and piss on your pant leg when you aren't looking. In the mental inventory I recently conducted (see last ish), I devised a check list for myself as a litmus test of impending adulthood. I must admit to checking "yes" to all of these, but being a personal idea of adulthood, anywhere from some, to all of them might not apply to you, gentle reader. So, with that in mind, here is my version of "The 10 Warning Signs of Adulthood."

- 1) when you go out for a night on the town, your consuming passion is NOT to: a) party until unconscious; b) party till you puke; c) wake up with someone you don't remember meeting; d) all of the above.
- 2) when looking for a new place to live, you rate "how close is the nearest beer store?" lower on the desirability scale than "how close is the nearest laundromat?"
- 3) you stop buying records by new bands/artists and tell everyone who asks you about it how shitty all those new acts are and how music isn't as good/vital/interesting/etc. as when you were younger.
- 4) you are still willing to put up with dumb, cute, young things to get into their pants, but at least have the decency to feel silly about it.
- 5) you accept baseball as the perfect simile for life on this planet, with all of it's grace, intelligence and power - and realize that football is about armoured airheads on steroids trying to rip each others limbs off.
- 6) you no longer wait until you have absolutely no clean clothes left until you do laundry.
- 7) you stop (or at least cut down) doing things that are unhealthy/dangerous because you realize, at last, that you are not invulnerable.
- 8) you prefer an evening of good food, drink and conversation to an evening of hunting around for a chance to get laid (though an evening of good food, drink, conversation AND getting laid is unbeatable, of course).
- 9) you are no longer bothered when younger people call you "sir".
- 10) you can no longer party on a week-night until 2:00 or 3:00 AM and then get up for work at 7:00 AM without feeling like a bag of shit all day.

((The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the editorial staff of NF who, while admitting to a 9 out of 10 score on the above, reject point #6 with all youthful exuberance! Mike Agnew can be reached c/o The Bunker 702 Ossington Av, Toronto, Ontario M6G 3T7. No calls after 8:30 PM, please. Show some respect...))

And now, what you've all been waiting for! SCRUPLES III

For those of you who haven't been with NF for very long, one of the most popular features I've run so far has been excerpts from "A Question of Scruples", a game published by High Game Enterprises, Box 3184, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4E7. "Scruples is a game based on moral dilemmas, the kind that everybody has, but rarely bring up in casual conversation." As a party game/mixer, it's unbeatable.

The rules for NF's Scruples quiz are easy. No prizes, no incentives, just what the real game gives you: a chance to air your views and also read those of other people whom you may only know by name. Here are a few more Questions for Scruples III. Please send me your response, yes/no, as well as a few words explaining your views. Without further doodoo, here we go:

- 1) As a lawyer, do you defend someone whom you know is guilty of a vicious rape?
- 2) You don't have seatbelts for all the toddlers you are driving to a puppet show. Do you leave your own children without belts?
- 3) You are shaken up in an auto accident. A lawyer says he can get a large settlement if you exaggerate the extent of your injuries. Do you co-operate?
- 4) You see a man preparing to jump to his death in front of a subway train. Do you try to stop him?
- 5) Your fiancé/e discovers that s/he has a terminal illness that can drag on indefinitely. Do you break the engagement?
- 6) The country has been attacked by an aggressive foreign power. Do you volunteer to fight?
- 7) A friend has a severe case of bad breath. Do you mention it?

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\$+++++.....

Miss Mellie's Puzzle Page FEATURING SuperQuiz

Science

- 1- What is a googolplex?
- 2- Complete this series: point, line, square, cube, \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- Who wrote the Principia?
- 4- What was the fifth "mystic" Pythagorean solid?
- 5- True or False: Gamma rays are shorter than X-Rays.
- 6- Bonus question: Blue Event Horizon and Schwarzschild radius are terms relating to what phenomenon?

Answers to last issue's quiz

- 1- The Canadian actor who was the voice of the HAL 9000 computer in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" was Douglas Rain.
- 2- The O'Hara Plantation in Gone With the Wind was called Tara.
- 3- My Mother the Car was a 1928 Porter.
- 4- The Star Trek episode "The City on the Edge of Forever" was written by Harlan Ellison, a noted sf writer.
- 5- Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe and Montgomery Clift all appeared in "The Misfits" which (for a bonus point) was written by Monroe's at-the-time hubby, ARTHUR MILLER, STARDUST, AS WELL AS TYPEWRITER #3, NEXT PAGE. ARRGH!

Four responses to Superquiz, part 5: Melinda Holley, Mario Cauz, Mark Nelson and Doug Acheson. Both Melinda and Mario got all five correct and both got the bonus point. Mark got #4 correct (the only one he answered). And we won't discuss Doug's answers... Mark Weidmark also submitted answers and scored about as well as Doug... Standings to date: Mario Cauz- 14, Melinda Holley-10, Frank Cauz-7, Claude Gautron-4, Mike Agnew-2, Mark Nelson-1, Bob and Doug ~~McKee~~ Acheson-0, Mark Weidmark-0.

Deadline for part 6 (last chance!) is APRIL 21, 1989

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The Waylon Jennings game 1988B NEW GERMAN PLAYER CARRIES ON TRADITION OF TENACITY! AUSTRIA SWELLING LIKE TUMOUR! IS ANYBODY NOTICING?

- Austria (Doug Acheson) a VIE h; a tri-TYO; a gal-SIL; a RUM s f gre-bulec a SER s f gre-bulec; f gre-BULEC.
- England (Melinda Holley) a FIN s f stpnc; f NTH s f nrg-edi; f STPNC h; f nwy-SWE; f nrg-EDI.
- France (Rob Lowes) a pic-BEL; a BUR s a tyo-mun; a RUH s a tyo-mun; a tyo-mun/d-retreat to boh, pie, otb/; f ENG s ~~...~~ a pic-bel.
- Germany (David Anderson) a KIE s a mun; a HOL-ruh; a bel-bur/d,a/; f DEN-nth; a MUN s a hol-ruh; f EDI h. ((Had retreated a tyo-mun & f nth-edi)); a bavaria-switzerland.
- Italy (Randolph Smyth) a syr-SMY; a VEN s Austrian a tri-tyo; f AEG-son; f EAS s a syr-smy.
- Russia (Claude Gautron) a MOS-war; a LVN-war; a SEV salutes the departure of the Turkish army for that great harem in the sky! (holds).
- Turkey (Frank Easton) a sev retreats OTB. a CON s f bulec; f bulec s Russian a sev-rum/nso, d, retreat to bla, otb/

Supply Centre Chart after '03

A: home, gre, rum, ser, BUL.	(7)	+1
E: lon, lpl, nwy, stp, <del>edz</del> , SWE.	(5)	Even
F: home, spa, por, BEL.	(6)	+1/+2 DOR
G: home, hol, den, EDI, <del>del</del> , 1A.	(6)	+1
I: home, tun, SMY.	(5)	+1
R: mos, war, SEV, <del>del</del> .	(3)	Even
T: con, ank, <del>del</del> , <del>del</del> , <del>del</del> . 1 short, 1A, 1 otb.	(2)	Even or +1, DOR
	(34)	

DEADLINE FOR WINTER 1903/SPRING 1904 IS APRIL 21/89. I'll probably be quite lenient as regards a separate Winter season...

Germany to Emerson Avenue: Give Austria a chance to attack Switzerland, too. I did, because I am not getting any CARE packages from France.  
 Emerson Avenue: If he can figure a way, he's welcome to attack the Swiss. I'm just not going to make it easy for him and tell him how!  
 Austria to Emerson Avenue: You mean to tell me that Switzerland is undefended!  
 Ven-Tri (BP): One of us is going to make a move.  
 Lon-Rom (BP): What will it be, a CanCon voyeur or let's get physical and waltz?  
 Austria to France: Let the Sultan hang and as for you, "This particular one!"

Press for 88B continued...

Austria to GM: This has been one of the toughest Austria's that I've ever played.

GM-Austria: Yeah, I'm as surprised as you that you're still around...

France to Germany: Your predecessor got you embroiled in a little tiff with our fair forces. I hope you don't take it personally.

Emerson Avenue: "Tiff" he calls it...

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The HANK WILLIAMS JR GAME PAUSE FOR REARMAMENT 1988CE  
 WINTER 1902 only, because of 3 requests for a separation!

Austria (Rob Lowes) Even. Would David Anderson  
 England (Dave Elliott) Build a edi. pls standby for GER?  
 France (Bob Hartwig) Build f mar. PO Box 6092, Pontiac,  
 Germany (Brad Wilson?) NRR! f den retreat OTB. Even. MI 48059.  
 Italy (Bob Acheson) Build f nap, a ven. Addresses enclosed,  
 Russia (Charles Orcena) Even. Dave.  
 Turkey (Melinda Holley) f con retreat -ank. Remove f ank. ((Tricky))

Smy-Mun: No wonder the Flyers are in bad shape - you're rooting for them! Give the boys a break and root for the Caps!

DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1903 is APRIL 21/89. Orders on file for A/I/R/T.

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1988HS The Ray Wiley Hubbard game. WESTERN EUROPE SLEEPS AS EASTERN  
 FALL 1901 ALLIANCES FALL INTO PLACE!

Austria (Fred Wiedemeyer) f alb-GRE; a TRI h; a SER s Russian f sev-rum.  
 England (Brian Wilson?) Anonymous neutrals: f NTH-bel; f nrg-NWY; a YOR h.  
 France (Brad Wilson?) Anonymous neutrals: f mid-POR; a PIC-bel; a SPA h.  
 Germany (Charles Orcena) f HOL s English a yor-bel/nso/; a kie-DEN;  
 a BUR drinks champagne.

Italy (Bill Lafosse) f TYN c a nap-tun; a VEN h; a nap-TUN.  
 Russia (Trish Acheson) f sev-RUM; f bot-SWE; a mos-SEV; a UKR s f sev-rum.  
 Turkey (Martin McLellan) f BLA-rum; a BUL s f bla-rum; a smy-ARM.

SC Chart after '01

A: home, SER, GRE.	(5) Build 2.	Standbys:
E: home, IWY.	(4) Build 1.	For England- Mark Nelson
F: home, SPA, POR.	(5) Build 2.	Oxley Hall, Weetwood Lane,
G: home, HOL, DEN.	(5) Build 2.	Leeds, West Riding, LS16 8HL
I: home, TUN.	(4) Build 1.	England.
R: home, SWE, RUM.	(6) Build 2.	For France- Melinda Holley
T: home, BUL.	(4) Build 1.	Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727
		Other addresses in #10.

Constantinople to all: Hello! Anybody out there?

Rome to all: Ever sat in high idle?

Emerson Avenue: who is the "all" guy. I hope he's paying for this zine!

I hate to end an issue on a sour note, but here goes: It's now Saturday evening, the 11th. This morning when I went out to my truck to go and visit my sister in Bramalea, I found that it had been broken into and I had lost all three of my bass guitars and an amplifier. I'm quite sure that the guys who did it, did it for the same reason I had my apartment broken into last August. To get \$\$ to buy drugs. I have been convinced for some time now that our society is sick and heading for collapse. I hate to sound like a bleeding heart, but I see the same signs in North American society today that presaged the fall of at least a couple of other societies in history. I sense a serious article to come for a