

DipCon XXV
July 3-5

FOR THE ROAD
THE FAIR LADY #37



The Wizard King and
The Fair Lady
Hit the Road to Kansas City

BASS NOTES

1- As you read this, it's almost certain that Lorie and I WILL be able to attend DipCon in Kansas City. It started to look as if we wouldn't be able to go when I found out that the old van was going to need a new engine. A quarter million kilometers of driving courier will do that to a vehicle. Anyway, it was decided to trade in the old truck on a 1988 Honda Civic DX. As of this writing (ten days after bringing the new car home), I have nothing but praise for it - gas costs are WAY down and the driving is pretty much worry-free. I'll have no hesitation about making the drive to DipCon (knock wood). You know, at one point, I had even phoned Nelson Heintzman and asked him to look into the cost of rental cars in Buffalo!

2- Speaking of cars, I hear that Fred Davis and Bruce McIntyre are forming a club for "Diplomacy Publishers who were nearly killed in car accidents". Any of you who get McBruce's fine zine Excelsior read his chilling account of the crash he was involved in a couple of years ago, and Fred was recently involved in a bad wreck which has left him with impaired vision.

I'd like to submit my name for that list. Back around 1979 or 80, I was heading up north to visit my parents. My then-girlfriend was in the front seat with me. Now, I've always been a fast driver, very much so in my younger days. I had just bought my first car, a 1975 Chevy Bel Air. This was a BIG car, longer than most vans, heavy, and with a powerful engine. On this trip, some guy in a muscle car passed me doing over a hundred miles an hour. Being the kid I was, I took off after him. I figure we reached speeds of 130 MPH+ (my speedometer only went to 120 and I buried the needle). After about twenty minutes of this, the guy in front of me swerved to the right. All of a sudden I had a very big deer in front of me - someone else had hit it and killed it, but it was lying there on its side, with it's feet pointing away from me. I think that if I had tried to swerve, I would have hit it on one side or the other and flipped the car. At that speed, Sue and I would have certainly been killed. Fortunately, I had the presence of mind to hit it straight on. The size of the car was enough to save us - I hit the deer and sheared it in half - LENGTHWISE! The transmission linkage was bent and the car was thrown into low gear. We went from 130 MPH to 70MPH instantly, and the engine screamed until I dropped down to about 15 MPH. We did the next two hours of the trip at that speed.

Well, Fred and Bruce: do I qualify?

3- I forgot to include the Runestone ballots with NF#36. They WILL be in with this issue: if you haven't voted, PLEASE get your ballots into Eric.

4- Once again, Ron Brown has gotten the Hobby Awards ballot to me much too late to be of any use. Should you wish to PHONE your votes in, here are the candidates:

The Don Miller Award for Service to the Hobby:

John Boardman: publishing 600 issues of GRAUSTARK, Oldest active zine

Eric Brosius: Runestone Poll Coordinator

Vince Lutterbie: past Orphan Games Coordinator and BNC assistance

Eric Ozog: Orphan Games Coordinator

Cal White: CDO Coordinator, publishing NORTHERN FLAME

The John Koning Award for Outstanding Play of Diplomacy:

Gary Behnen: DipCon '91 Winner, PBM wins as all 7 powers

Melinda Holley: All round play

Bruce Reiff: Dip Champ at AvalonCon

Mark Stegeman: 1st 2-time DixieCon winner

Eric Young: Superb standby play in DIPADEEDOODAH's "European Legacy:

The Melinda Ann Holley Award for quantity participation in the hobby:
 Jason Bergman: multitude of games, both PBM & FTF
 Kathy Caruso: Consistent & excellent standby play
 Melody Lutterbie: Excellent press writing
 Phil Reynolds: Multitude of games played
 John Schultz: Multitude of games played

If you haven't seen the list of nominees for the Rod Walker Award for Literary Excellence, there isn't time to do so: for the record, the nominees are Alan Levine, Buz Eddy, Garret Schenk, Conrad von Metzke/Jim Burgess, Eric Voogd.

My votes go to Gary Behnen, Phil Reynolds & Eric Voogd. Obviously, I abstain on the Miller Award, but my money's on Eric Brosius. One note: I think it's a joke that Garret Schenk's name isn't up for the Holley Award. Think what you will of Garret, he works harder than anyone else in the hobby, between UPSTART and ZR.

5- Speaking of Garret, I was asked why I played down the Schenk vs Kent, uh, "debate" over the PDORA funding of the ZINE REGISTER. Actually, I didn't - when NF #36 went to press, I had received Garret's tirade in the ZR flyer, but not Doug's "mass mailing", so I wasn't in a position to comment. For those of you who aren't in on what's happening, basically Garret is ticked off that he was passed over for funding by the PDORA committee (PDORA = People's Diplomacy Organization Relief Auction, which solicits items for bid by the hobby populace and uses the funds to subsidize various hobby services). He requested \$400, hoping to receive \$50, and was turned down completely. He was especially annoyed that the PDORA claimed to support the ZR in its advertising. Doug Kent's circular tries to explain the rationale of the selection committee (although, he apparently was not privy to the process).

I don't want to make any real comment on this situation since I do not know WHY Garret's request was turned down. Bob Acheson has said that he will be going public with his reasoning soon, so I'd like to see that first. Personally, I think that Garret definitely SHOULD have been given something, even if the committee deemed the original request "piggish". When I hear more, I'll start to discuss this issue (maybe).

6- Arrangements for CanCon are proceeding normally. All the facilities have been booked and are ready to roll. If you wish to attend Canada's national convention, drop me a line: rooms are \$30 a night and are available from July 29 to August 6. Tournament registration is \$20. GunBoat and Facts In Five will be run along with Regular Diplomacy.

7- If you can't wait for CanCon, we are still holding our monthly Dip session at Chris Greaves place (33 Poplar Av, Toronto, minutes from the Kipling subway station). If you want to attend, it starts at noon on the first Sunday of each month (except August, when we'll be at CanCon). Chris number is 233-7272.

8- Not bad for a baseball fan who hates hockey - I've finished second in the Crimson Sky Hockey Predictions for the second year in a row. If you're looking for a good game, write to Mike Gonsalves 530 Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA 15801 USA for a sample.

9- New Blood:

John McLaurin RR#3, Huntsville, Ont P0A 1K0
 Tore Godager, Oksehovedveien 40, 1300 Sandvika NORWAY
 Jeff Hubbell 5 Cambrai Av, Toronto, Ont M4C 2P7
 Jon Rosenthal 35 Mayer Dr, Suffern, NY 10901 USA

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

BY MIKE AGNEW

History is a funny thing. We study it, comb it for patterns, dissect it for examination. Yet when things happen, people seem to be always stunned or surprised by it. Take, for example, the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In the early 80s, you saw a country that had been spending 15% of its somewhat limited GNP every year on military might for some 30 years. In a world where countries were joining economically to form larger and more powerful trading blocs, the Soviets couldn't remain isolated; especially in view of their badly run economy. You also saw the world's largest country, composed of dozens of different ethnic and cultural groups, trying to survive in a world where political fragmentation is resulting in a breakup of artificial nation states into their constituent diverse parts. Of course the Soviet Union disintegrated - yet so many so-called experts, including the Russian think-tank in the CIA, failed to anticipate it. What other developments in today's world are we missing?

If one looks at America today, in light of recent developments and the upcoming elections, you can spot some very disturbing trends. In my opinion, America is sliding towards becoming a full blown fascist state somewhere in the next decade or two. Now, some of you American readers might be in a state of apoplexy now, but hear me out.

First, let's examine a few myths about America:

1) *"America is the world's greatest democracy"*: It depends on what you mean by great, of course. If you mean most powerful MILITARILY, you'd be right. However, if you look at the situation in America very closely, America is barely a democracy. When the gentlemen farmers who drafted the Constitution got together, they never envisioned a world of lobby groups, television-doped apolitical populace, or "America as world-policeman". In the last several elections, less than half of the registered voters actually went out and voted. That's not less than half of the whole population of voting age, that's just registered voters. Most presidential candidates, even "landslide" winners like Nixon and Reagan win with less than 60% of these votes. That means that about 20-25% of the people in America are deciding who runs things, compared to turnouts in several countries in Europe, that is an astonishingly low number. Also, once a politician is in office s/he becomes subject to pressure from various special-interest groups and lobbies. For example, it costs a US Senator \$8,000 a day to stay in office (for staff, re-election costs, chest, etc). Where do you think most of these guys get the money? Not from the average constituent, that's for sure. Corporate donations and donations from rich private individuals make up a lot of it. Of course, these groups expect something back for their investment; only a fool would think otherwise. It costs so much to run a successful political campaign, even running for Congress, that those who do run must either be rich or have wealthy sponsors. The old American adage *"Any boy could grow up to be President"* hasn't been true in this century, and it is especially ridiculous now. Of course, what this boils down to, is a government by the wealthy, for the wealthy. The Reagan-Bush era has reinforced this, it will only get worse.

2) *"America is a land of equal opportunity and justice"*: One only has to look at the recent Rodney King videotape and trial to realize that this is a real crock. The explosion of rage that followed in American inner cities was a natural result of this blatant example of sanctioned racism. The Republicans of the Reagan-Bush years have systematically gutted and reduced social policies for helping urban-poor (usually black), while simultaneously cutting taxes for corporations and high income earners. The result is the riots in LA and other cities. The response of the government to this is more police, more jails. George Bush's so-called "war on

drugs" was interpreted in many circles as an unofficial war on blacks in America. It is a fact that 80% of the drugs used in America are consumed by whites, but 80% of the drug related prosecutions are of blacks. This is the same George Bush, by the way, who ran the CIA when they were sponsoring shipments of drugs from South and Central America into America.

So, granted, this isn't ideal, but where's the fascism you might ask? In a University course on comparative political philosophy, I did an essay on the tenets of fascism. Fascism is characterized by the following: a strong militaristic attitude; an emphasis on "family values"; an intolerance of those considered racially or morally inferior; an intense patriotic attitude and a morally repressive climate; and a government whose power is concentrated in the hands of a few (the rich, the military, the police).

If you look at America today, you can see all of these elements present. The famous American political figure, Huey Long, once said that if fascism ever came to America, it would come under the banner of "Americanism". A recent attitude test conducted among people from several dozen countries found that many national stereotypes are true, and the most patriotic people are Americans. This should come as no surprise to either Americans or people who have traveled there.

As for racial intolerance, I don't think that anyone will argue that racism is a problem in America. The government's attitude is typical: recently George Bush blamed the rioting in LA on "welfare mothers" (I kid you not) who are morally lax, and raise their children without proper moral guidance, etc. Of course, "welfare mothers" really means BLACK mothers. This comment is stupid enough to be worthy of Dan Quayle, but carries a hidden racist message within it. The middle class white suburb dweller in America understands this, but rather than address the problem through social programs, will assent to more police, more jails (there is a plan in the US to open 10 now empty military bases and use them as prisons for 1st time drug offenders - can you say concentration camp?)

The militaristic attitude was plain for all to see during the Gulf War. I'm not saying that Saddam Hussein was a hard-done-by guy, or that there wasn't some grounds for taking action against Iraq, but the outpouring of vitriol in America against the Arab enemy (non-white at that) was kind of shocking. Of course, during the 80s, the Reagan/Bush regime was involved in a couple of foreign interventions (Grenada, Panama) that aren't significantly different from stunts Germany pulled leading up to WWII.

The morally repressed atmosphere and emphasis on "*family values*" are another common thread. The militant "*Born Agains*", through the Republicans, have pushed an agenda to return America to some pure past that it never really had. (The Nazis had a similar plan to return to solid "German" values) The term "*family values*" is one of those media code words that means much more than it seems on the surface. What it means is reinforcement of Bible Belt morality, re-emphasis on patriarchal values, a rejection of the women's movement.

I'm not optimistic about America; the political choice seems to be narrowing all the time. The Democrats come across more as wannabee Republicans every year (Comedienne Lily Tomlin has said that, by the year 2000, there will be two choices in American politics - Fascism and Fascism Lite) I'm not saying that America will definitely be a religious based fascist state within the near future, but I don't plan on being surprised like all of those Russia watchers were either.

((The opinions expressed in the Bunker are not necessarily those of the management and staff of NORTHERN FLAME, even if the rationales expressed seem to make a hell of a lot of sense...))

A RESPONSE TO LARRY PEERY

Brad Wilson
Wayne, Penn

First, thank you Cal, for defending me against this inaccurate and oddly timed assault. I appreciate your kind words and you did a very nice job of pointing out Larry's factual fumbles and mistaken misstatements.

What I find most hysterical about this latest barrage of Peeriblah is what it's based on. Larry admits that he's only seen ONE issue of VERTIGO and has only spoken to me once or twice in Chapel Hill. But somehow he knows what I think about everything, because he thinks I'm an expert on everything. Well, I'm not, any more than Larry (who certainly acts like he is as well) is, or Cal, or Robert Sacks, or anyone. I could live with Larry attacking me - Lord knows, I've attacked him, but always with a basis in fact - if his position was based on facts, on things I've written or said, not on fantasy. As much as I disagree with Garret Schenk, he at least responds to what I actually said or wrote, not what I said "as it was reported in the hobby press and given to (Peery) by various hobbyists". Gee, Larry, before attacking me, how about finding out what I actually said or wrote?

However, I shouldn't be surprised by Larry's inaccurate assault, because it's not the first time his scattershot pen has smeared ink on me for no reason. While Larry was still in charge of Diplomacy World, he - to his great credit - went after the Bad Boys to expose them for the mean spirited brats they were. Great, I thought, until Larry said I was one of the Bad Boys, one of these evil, vicious, small-minded creeps publishing screeds of hatred about some of my favourite hobby people (Linda Courtemanche and Fred Davis come to mind)! No evidence, no reason given, and, of course, if Larry had bothered anything I wrote about the Bad Boys in VERTIGO (unless he took a satire concerning the Bad Boys I wrote seriously, but he as far as I know and as he admits, he never read or reads VERTIGO) about them, he would have known better. But I forgot, Larry knows everything about the hobby there is to be known, even without reading the material in question. Needless to say, I did not appreciate being lumped in with the Bad Boys. Who knows what damage Larry's completely uninformed, almost malicious comments did to my reputation in the hobby or to my zine. Larry did apologize for his error verbally in Chapel Hill, but I don't know if he ever did in print.

So now, once again, the Peeriblah Express has run me over. Why? I suspect that since Robert Sacks virtual withdrawal from the postal hobby, all the stuffing has gone out of Peery's strawman (Sacks) that he and others used to beat with such regularity, and he needs a replacement strawman. Well, I'm available and a pretty good target: I'm opinionated, I'm not in favour with the prevailing hobby poobahs (Hood, Schenk), I disagree with some of Larry's most closely held hobby views, especially on DIPCON (Jack McHugh's interesting conjecture that Peery's attack is the first shot in the campaign to keep the 1994 DIPCON away from our group is a fascinating thought), I am a known and admitted associate of - *gasp* - Sacks, and (so Larry thinks) I live in New York, anti-Big Appleism always being a handy if hackneyed stick to use to rally support in the provinces.

Anyone who has read any of the pages and pages I have written on DIPCON in the last six years (which, by his own admission, must not include Larry) knows that Larry's assertion of my alleged "New York" obsession is ridiculous. I have NEVER said I want a DIPCON in New York City and, indeed, I don't want one there; it would be far too expensive in NYC. I don't even like to visit New York City, much less live there! I have specifically plumped for Baltimore or suburban Philadelphia, neither of which is between the East and Hudson Rivers unless the geography books in California than in Pennsylvania. Also, Larry has set up a nice straw man in saying that I think that "New York" should get a DIPCON just because it's "New York" and the entire hobby owes it to New York to back its bid regardless of

how good or bad it is. Nice rhetoric, but even substituting "The Northeast" for "New York" in Larry's original statement is a wildly inaccurate assessment of my views. My position has been constant in VERTIGO and elsewhere: far from thinking "The Northeast" should get a DIPCON "just because it's the Northeast", I have argued that: A) Since the Northeast has the largest concentration of hobbyists in one compact area in the country, it should have a DIPCON fairly regularly. The new site rotation by region, which I supported at Chapel Hill while Larry did not, will assure this; B) The Northeast has not hosted a DIPCON since 1982 in Baltimore (even if you include Virginia in the Northeast, which it's not, the Northeast has been blanked since 1984). It's our turn, an argument I noticed Larry agreed with when Doug Acheson and Cal used it in Chapel Hill on behalf of Toronto in 1990. C) Also, we should have DIPCON with a "large" game con (ORIGINS, GENCON, ATLANTICON, etc) every so often to help advertise the hobby and attract new blood. D) Finally, since the New York Game Board has been running successful multi-player tourneys at East Coast cons for years (in the last five years our GMs have included Sacks, me, Tom Swider, Fred Davis, Jack McHugh, Don Del Grande, Dan Mathias and Tom Mainardi, all veteran hobbyists, running games from Dip, Balkan Wars, Northern Ireland, Skinny Dip, KingMaker, Junta, Pax Britannica, Parliament, Kremlin, Machiavelli, Dune, Republic of Rome, etc) we would make skilled, experienced and enthusiastic hosts for an enjoyable DIPCON.

I think even those I've disagreed with on this issue - notably David Hood - would concede the constant thrust of my argument. I'd add that I doubt any zine in the hobby has printed as much debate about DIPCON as VERTIGO has over the years - both my pieces and those in response, from all kinds of hobbyists (Hood, White, Del Grande, McHugh, Lew, Gaughan to name a few) - and few letter writers have written more about it, or read more about it, than I have. Also my views are hardly those of an isolated crackpot: many of my DIPCON views are shared by people as widely varied as Jim Burgess, Garret Schenk, Tom Swider, Pete Gaughan and Don Del Grande.

So much for Larry's DIPCON fantasies.

Now, moving on, we have this elitist attitude that because Larry doesn't get my zine - I suppose any zine Larry doesn't get has no right to comment on the hobby - and that I can't afford to globetrot to DIPCON every year to meet Larry (I have been at DIPCON in 1982, 1983, and 1990, plus ATLANTICON every year since 1984, ORIGINS in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1988 (in Milwaukee), and 1991, and numerous housecons from MADCON 1989-1991, BYRNECONS throughout the early 1980s, CLONECON's in Maryland in 1987, 1988 & 1989, and I only saw Larry once in all that time) that my views are A) ignorant; B) unwelcome; and C) offensive.

I really have to restrain myself here. Who the *&\$@!#? is Larry Peery to tell me I know nothing about the hobby and have no right to comment because my comments offend Larry (or my comments as reported by others, anyway, since Larry didn't bother, by his own admission, to actually read what I said)? Tell me, Larry, how many games do you play in? How many GMs do you standby for? How many zine's contests, puzzles, lettercols, or participation games do you take part in? How many games do you GM? How many new variants have you designed? How many Cons, since 1985, have you GMed at? How many cons have you conducted a "Diplomacy For Novices" seminar at? Answer that and let everyone else decide who has the right to comment about the hobby and who "is more certain of his views...the less he knows".

I have published VERTIGO for almost 10 years. I have been an active participant in many, many zines since joining the hobby in 1979. Have I been around as long as Larry?

No, of course, and I don't comment about things that happened in the 1960s or 1970s in the hobby. Does not having been around as long as Larry preclude me from discussing the hobby? As Cal put it, "As if anybody in this hobby ever needed credentials for THAT!"

I challenge Larry to put aside the strawman he so nicely built in NORTHERN FLAME #36 and answer me this: What did I say about DIPCON that was ignorant, wrong, and shows I know nothing about it? What did I say about the last few DIP WORLDS at all, anywhere? (I have a letter in CCC's May issue that gives my opinion, stated as such, that DW is dull and dry and may have said so earlier to other hobbyists. If that's what Larry is talking about, well, read the last few DW's and see if you don't agree). In short, instead of scurrilous and ill-informed personal attacks and veiled threats, how about a healthy debate that something positive may come out of? It could be in NF, or it could be in my zine, where I have always provided even those I violently (Linsey) or less violently (Hood, Davis, Schenk) disagree with ample space.

I don't have a feud with Larry - although I sure as hell will if he tries to "read me out of the hobby" as he brags he did about the New York hobby establishment", François Cuerrier, and the Bad Boys and rest assured I will take it seriously - but I just wish he'd stop talking about he knows nothing about - like me, my zine, the location of my residence, my views on DIPCON, my views on DW, my views on the hobby, and my right to comment on the hobby I have known and loved for over 13 years. However, as soon as Larry becomes informed about those things, I'd welcome the kind of useful discussion that can help the hobby. I don't expect one anytime soon, though.

Bob Acheson
Edmonton, Alta

I want to comment on Larry Peery's letter. I just didn't realize that Larry ran the hobby. Let's see - he drove the New York contingent to exile. I always wondered why the Caruso's moved to Pennsylvania. No doubt to escape the Peery exile...

I see that he's found it in himself to give his blessings to Robert Sacks. Robert must feel redeemed, Now he can go to heaven.

Singlehandedly, ((Larry)) drove Geryk and Clark from the hobby. He went à la Chuck Norris and beat them until they left. Not that they were bored and ran out of material to slander people with. Thank God for Larry Peery, defender of the common man.

He has also cleared the air regarding the fold and disappearance of François Cuerrier. Larry made him do it. I was totally unaware that his reach spanned countries (it's enough to keep ME in line).

Now he has jumped on Mark Nelson and Brad Wilson. He doesn't like Mark because he writes too much. He states that he sometimes doesn't get his facts straight (by his own admission) and overstates his case.

Yeah, well, I guess that we don't want someone's opinion (except for Larry's facts, of course) to be expressed in our zines. I think that in order to prevent this, all letters should be sent to Larry for his personal approval before we print them.

VERTIGO has been around for years, yet Larry has seen only one issue and he finds that Brad wants to start a feud. I've been trading with Brad for three years (about 6 issues of TCD) ((Five - I've been counting...)) and enjoy reading his zine. He is very opinionated and doesn't hesitate to speak his mind (often as a perceived minority in the hobby). I don't always

agree with him and tend to stay away from "where DIPCON's should be" debates (CanCon or bust), but I imagine that Brad didn't realize that he was annoying you, Larry.

I'm sure that he'll stop before you drive him out of the hobby. I'll even be sure to tell him to stop doing anything that might annoy you, Larry.

You know, I'll even get my loyal toadies (Watson, McHugh and Mad Dog Patrick) to go out and spread the Diplomacy word according to Larry Peery.

((Hallelujah...))

Jack McHugh
Up Darby, PA

Re: Larry Peery. As usual, I found Larry's rantings highly amusing. It was his funniest moment since his interview with Berch/Sacks/Hood in DW. Also, par for the course, Larry was unintentionally funny.

Yo, Larry. Why stop with saving the hobby - weren't you responsible for the fall of communism in Russia and Eastern Europe as well? C'mon, you drove Geryk, François and Boardman from the hobby? Get a clue, Larry. John Boardman is still in the hobby, Geryk got bored and François burned out. ((Ed note: François left for personal problems, not burn out.)) I doubt you had anything - as in zero - to do with these people leaving the hobby.

Second, as for Brad Wilson, either your memory is failing, you're simply lying, or (and more's the pity since I believe this is the truth) you simply remember DIPCON in Chapel Hill this way. We were putting in a bid for BALTIMORE for Origins AND DipCon. I don't know where you get this New York stuff - we've never ever suggested a Con in NYC. It is simply too expensive. Before you criticize Brad for popping of about subjects he knows nothing about, you'd do well to take your advice.

Third, since we have run events at Cons - including Diplomacy - I think Brad, myself and Tom Swider, or Robert Sacks all have the right to comment on Cons. I resent people like yourself, who've never even had the courtesy to come to one of Cons dictating to us or critiquing our Cons. How many ATLANTICONS have you been to, Larry? None! I know, I go every year. So why don't you keep your uninformed opinions to yourself?

Fourth, I'm getting sick hearing you critique people's writing, both here and around the hobby, since your writing isn't very good. The problem, Larry, is you don't edit well and go on way too long. Basically, to quote Omar Bradley in PATTON - "You're a pain in the neck...and you don't know when to shut up!"

Finally, Larry, I get the impression you've gotten Brad's comments second-hand. If that is the case, you are VERY FAR out of line and you owe Brad an apology. If you want to criticize someone's writing or opinions, fine, but you owe it to them to read them first hand and not depend on what you've been told. For someone who claims to know the hobby as well as you, your article was full of so many inaccuracies that if you were a hobby journalist, you'd be fired for poor reporting. It would make you more credible, Larry, if you simply didn't get so many facts wrong while setting yourself up as King (Larry I) of the hobby.

James Nelson
Derby, UK

There actually isn't that much work being UKVB so I shall still be able to contribute to NORTHERN FLAME...

...which will no doubt annoy Larry Peery. I offer an apology to FLAME

readers for my contributions in recent issues. These contributions have been on subjects I have no knowledge of, so Larry was right to say I was shooting my mouth off at something I know nothing about. From now on, I shall not discuss racial discrimination in the country that I live in (FLAME 31), the WLAF (FLAME 31, 32), my summer vacation (FLAME 32), "soccer" (FLAME 32, 34), and my university life (FLAME 34).

In fact, the only hobby stuff I've discussed has been on eligibility of zines for the Runestone Poll (surely, I can't have annoyed Larry by my comments: I only suggested that zines be included on the basis of "fannishness") and World DipCon. Oh-oh, I know why Larry is upset now: I've criticized (politely) his knowledge of suitable sites and what I consider Larry's attempt at bureaucratization. I say again, there is no need for a standard scoring system and rules and regulations about the running of individual conventions which, from what I've read in WORLD DIPLOMACY is what Larry is in favour of. Larry is still maintaining that Essen is a suitable site for a Diplomacy convention despite the fact that it is primarily a trade fair. There were no games of Diplomacy played this year and but a single game played last year.

I have come to the conclusion that Larry is over-sensitive. When Larry was editor of DIPLOMACY WORLD, anyone who criticized him was slagged off through the pages for a whole number of reasons. François Cuerrier comes to mind. I am "mouthing off" when all I do is point out that Larry is mistaken.

For the record, NORTHERN FLAME is the only North American zine I regularly contribute to. I write letters to Bob Acheson about every second issue of THE CANADIAN DIPLOMAT and I very occasionally write to Paul Kenny and Tom Swider (in the latter case about games and in the former about the terrorist campaign in Northern Ireland).

Thanks for the vote of confidence, Cal. I shall ignore Larry and continue to contribute to FLAME safe in the knowledge that I am appreciated.

((Thank you. You are.))

NORTHERN ENQUIRER, BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

- # Trucker Talks to Dead Buddies on CB!
- # Spaghetti Bath Cures Arthritis!
- # Murdered Man Comes Back as Parrot and Names Killer!
- # Haunted Cash Register Plays Elvis Love Song!
- # Man's Brain Kept Alive by Flashlight Battery!
- # Pickup Truck Found Floating in Space!
- # 325 Woman Squashes Would-Be Rapist!
- # Desperate Dieter Eats Her Husbands Prized Race Horse!
- # UFO Aliens Build Disneyland on Mars!
- # Gay Chimp Falls in Love with Circus Dwarf!
- # Shipwrecked Couple Saved by 300 Year Old Pirate!
- # I Went to Hell and Saw Elvis!
- # Missing Baby Found Alive Inside Watermelon!
- # Girl Bursts Into Flames While Sun Bathing!
- # Trapped Miner Eats Rock!
- # Dog Lands Plane After Pilot Croaks!

((Don't ya just love these things? I do! If you have one that you've read, or if you made one up you think is particularly hilarious, send it to me and I'll print it.))

THE MAILMAN COMETH!

John Leeder
Calgary, Alta

Just after my last letter hit print (for which much thanks), along comes the 1991 Canadian Census to clarify and, in some cases improve on what I said about Calgary's population vis-à-vis other Canadian cities (NF#36, p21). In 1991, Calgary was the second most populous "municipality" and the sixth most populous "metropolitan area" in Canada. Nowhere in the newspaper story does it say how "municipality" and "metropolitan area" are defined, though, or what individual "municipalities" are included in a given "metropolitan area". Presumably, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, the Communauté urbaine de Montréal and the Federal Capital District were used for Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa-Hull respectively. But it's more problematical where there's no umbrella municipality. For example, the city of Edmonton has numerous satellite cities and towns such as Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan and Saint Albert, which are all independent entities, but are presumably included in the Edmonton "municipal area". By contrast, Calgary absorbed or annexed its neighbouring towns, so that formerly separate political entities such as Bowness now exist only as neighbourhoods of the City of Calgary. The Calgary "metropolitan area" is practically the same as the Calgary "municipality" - the Poll shows only 43,000 difference. But it's interesting to see that the City of Calgary is larger than the City of Toronto!

((It's all a matter of how the growth of the city goes historically. In Toronto's case, the City proper merged with the "boroughs" of Scarborough, York, North York, East York and Etobicoke to become "Metropolitan Toronto", a concept new to North America at the time. Most cities usually just annex the surrounding municipalities when growth dictates. In fact, this is true for many of what are today just "neighbourhoods" in Toronto. Forest Hill, Carleton Village, Don Mills were all at one time separate municipal entities that were absorbed by the City of Toronto (as an aside, did you know that before the Village of Forest Hill (a rather ritzy neighbourhood by any standards) would agree to be absorbed into the City of Toronto, Toronto City Council had to guarantee the Villagers their unalienable right to have garbage picked up at the side of their houses, so as to avoid having to walk to the curb? True story!). Anyway, while the City of Calgary may have a larger population than the City of Toronto, and that the former "boroughs" surrounding Toronto today have their own City Councils, there is really no separating one from the other. We effectively have four million people. I didn't study the Census, so I have no idea what Calgary has. Half a million?))

I'm not sure what you mean by "My spell-checker loves you" (p23), but I want to point out that the spelling "Québec" with two accents was not mine! I expect (but I'm not at work, so I can't check my files) that I used Quebec with no accents, except when I quoted from the LaPierre article. As a rule, when I'm writing in English and there's an accepted English form for a place name, I'll use it. So I'd use "Quebec" and "Montreal" when writing in English, rather than "Québec" and "Montréal", the same as I'd use "Florence" rather than "Firenze", "Leghorn" rather than "Livorno", "Prague" rather than "Praha", and so on. But I notice I didn't use "Montreal Urban Community" above. You were expecting maybe consistency?

((As a blanket rule, any mistakes in accenting foreign language (er, foreign to me, that is) are totally my fault. I try to stay faithful to language and spelling forms, at least in French, the language my pitiful language skills handle the best (least worst?), but I'm not very good at it. As for my spellchecker loving you, it's for using words like "Livorno", "Praha" etc, although I was referring to "fransaskoise"))

In the same area, after 13½ years of making my living as an editor, spelling/grammar/punctuation are in my synapses and I can't help nit-picking (*then, boy, are you getting the wrong zine!*). No matter how well-written a book may be, it bothers me if the author puts the commas in the wrong places, for example. But what irritated me about NF#36 was not commas, but quote marks. For starters, I see no reason to put letters in quotes. Your own comments go

in italics and double parentheses, so it should be perfectly obvious what are the words of the letter writer. Secondly, if you must use quotes, I know of no system which uses close quotes at the end of every paragraph. The normal practice is to open the quotes at the beginning of each paragraph, and to close the quotes only at the end of the entire quotation. Throughout your letter column, at the end of every paragraph, I was thinking the quotation was over and starting the next paragraph as if it were your words. Very confusing - and even more confusing where you accidentally left out quote marks! Forgive me if I seem pedantic, but it would make the easier reading if you just didn't bother with quote marks except for quotations within letters.

((Can I quote you on that? Hmmm, I don't suppose you'd accept that I see each issue as an open, in-person forum between the readership and that spoken words should have quote marks? I didn't think so. Okay, no problem. I'm still learning layout and I don't have your 13½ years of experience, so I'll bow to higher authority. End quote...))

Lastly, you ask if I was an SF fan or a gamer (p24). I was neither. I read lots of SF in my younger days (and still read a bit), but never got involved in "fandom". I played lots of games socially, but nothing akin to "wargames" except, perhaps, Risk. So I did not come from either of the two groups who descendants seem to be polarizing the hobby at present.

What happened was that, in the small town where I used to live, my then-wife and I used to get together with other couples for games evenings. We'd play Risk, Monopoly, Stock Ticker, to name a few I remember. I'd read about Diplomacy and expressed interest and my wife bought me a game for Christmas. It didn't click with our friends as a game for a social evening, but I had some rules questions, wrote to an address provided (John McCallum, as it turned out), discovered the postal hobby, and the rest is history (or mythology, or scandal-mongering, or whatever). I think the "personal" side of the hobby appealed to me because at that time I was still getting my feet under me as a social person, and also dabbling in the art of exposing myself through putting words on paper, and the postal Diplomacy hobby provided a framework for growth in those two areas. I haven't yet evolved into a total success at either, but the hobby brought me a long way.

If the "personal" side of the hobby is in decline (and all I know is what I read in your editorials), I wouldn't be surprised if it's connected with the decline in written communications generally. Fewer people write letters any more (of course, the decline in reliability of the postal system plays a big role here too). In my last years as a player (and we're talking 10-15 years ago), I noticed more people using long-distance telephone rather than letters for negotiations. More recently, as president of a national arts organization, I found I could send letters to 20 members of the executive across the country and be lucky to get five answers in writing. People would phone (if they responded at all) but because of the cost and time factor, the communications would be more terse and impersonal. I also assume that a lot of Diplomacy players today (as it used to be) are students and professional people who are used to writing only in the course of reports or assignments, where the style and content expectations are controlled and the writing itself is a chore. Too few people today communicate in writing for enjoyment! And I guess the hobby reflects that.

I don't know what to do about it. I could see running some "special games" where only written communications were permitted. There'd be no way of enforcing this, but perhaps only people who like to write would join that sort of game in the first place, and the honour system would suffice for the "letters only" rule. Perhaps, this sort of game would generate entertaining press as well, as having a number of writers in the same game would provide opportunity to play off and stimulate each other. (I'm a reactive writer myself - I tend not to write except as a response to someone or something else.)

Of course, the postal system would be a stumbling block here. But hang on - many people have access to faxes now. Maybe a game in which only written communications sent by mail or fax were allowed? This could cut the time factor considerably. I haven't thought this idea through - it just came to me on the spot. And I couldn't make the time commitment to actually play. But maybe some others would be interested.

((Would you be interested in GMing it? I don't have a fax machine to receive orders, but I suppose you could fax the game report to my office. There wouldn't be a problem if I got one piece of fax mail every six weeks. How about it? Any press writers out there? Or maybe people who just hate using the phone? Randolph? Ron? Anyone else?))

**Brad Wilson
Wayne, Penn**

Wowza, another great issue of NORTHERN FLAME. What can I say? A lot actually, most of which follows...

I won't miss the maps. I don't know who started this plague of maps in zines (Dick Martin, maybe?), but I never liked it. Andy Lischett's (I think) theory is that maps are just another place for a GM to make a mistake. I agree and, really, is it that hard to set up the Dip board? The latest issue of UPSTART had colour maps, mind you! Who needs it? Perhaps variant games present more of a case for maps, but the granddaddy of the variant hobby, Fred Davis' much-missed BUSHWACKER, never had them and it didn't hurt him much. I don't violently object to maps, of course, but they seem a unnecessary luxury. I'd rather have the space they take up go to letters, articles, etc.

((I like having maps in the games I play in and I consider them more of a convenience than a luxury. However, I don't insist on them and in my case the quality I wanted for maps in NF took up too much time. Ergo, they go.))

I loved the currency list, as I'd never known before what moniker Tanzania's or Barbados' unit of money used. The best name of the bunch is, undoubtedly, the Malaysian ringgit. "Can I borrow a ringgit, please?" Love it.

David Senzig's note on TurboPhreakism is exactly the kind of thing I'm worried about as well. The David Senzig's are the backbone of our hobby - without them, who do we publish for? - and chasing them away will result in total disaster. That would be the answer to Conrad's letter: sure, I'm still having fun, else I wouldn't be here, but it is a trend that worries me for our future. That's why I took such a strong stance. As Conrad should be aware, "the rest of us" will only be able to "go about our own business" for a short period of time if the Phreaks make sure novices can't find us, the fannish ones, and turn a fannish hobby into a quasi-military one. I maintain my point that old-style "feuding" (IDA, Great Feud, etc) did not normally affect the average person playing in an average zine; but as David Senzig's letter points out, Phreakism does, and most negatively.

Your point about big-zine burn-out in your response to Eric Brosius is extremely well-taken. I adored THE SCRIBBLERIST, but saw something of the same thing you did. (Did you ever meet Mark, by the way? *((No, unfortunately not.))* I had a delightful dinner with him in Charlottesville on my way back from the NCAAs in Nashville in 1989.) Certainly, DIPLOMACY DOWNS fits in the same category and EYEWITNESS NEWS, which put out a great two/three issues and then expired, is as well. Your reasons about why pubbers go nuts over games are, I think 100% accurate. If you start up a zine and announce just one or two game starts, people don't get all that excited. Yet it's been proven time and time again that the ones who survive are the pubbers who take what they do in moderation: Lischett, Heinowski, Caruso, Swider, me, Gaughan, Del Grande, Fred Davis, etc. Still, from an ego point of view,

what looks like a better model for your first issue of your proud new baby zine: DIPLOMACY DOWNS or TER-RAN? Yeah, I thought so. If memory serves me correctly, Bruce Linsey pubbed that pubbers' guidebook you're talking about, and if Linsey had anything to do with it, it probably wouldn't discourage the kind of burn-out you discuss. Bruce, of course, pubbed one of the all-time huge and remarkably on-time zines in VOICE OF DOOM, and that may be reflected in the handbook. I had no use for Bruce at all, re: hobby politics and such, but it's hard not to admire what he did with VOD. Very, very few publishers can do that, either. Coughlan did, Dick Martin did for a fairly long period of time; WHITESTONIA (KK before Kathy took over) did; precious few others have.

((I suspect that the new pubber burn-out syndrome (NPBOS) will be with us as long as there is a hobby. The all consuming reason behind wanting to publish is for the thrill of the egoboo and the more work you put into a zine, the more egoboo you (usually) get out of it. Unfortunately, once those first few kudos come in, the impulse is to do even more. Some can take it, most can't.))

Again, Cal, my point about the vicious-press types is that they are so often found in TPP zines, and since that's where all novices are being steered to, they're much more likely to run across the Stan Johnson's of the hobby, much to our loss. Also, the vicious sorts tend to be the kind of players who insist on 24 hour turnaround, maps, etc.

My response to Lowrey's point about Hood's TPPism is in VERTIGO #109 in detail, but my general point is that it's David's tone, more than anything else, that favours Phreakism. Also, David's zine recommendations and plugs in his CCC column are almost always of Phreakish zines. In another way, the relentless emphasis in DW about the play of the game itself - and certainly Stan's article - is Phreakish, and results in Phreaks, not fans. Also, in this general vein, I recall Drew Pearson's comment after he wrote a column accusing a Tennessee senator (McKellar) in the 1940s of corruption. Said senator called Pearson a "polecat", "skunk", etc ad nauseum. Pearson's retort? "A hit dog always howls."

((I think you're making David Hood out to be more of a villain than he is. I'm assuming you also still claim that David is funneling novices exclusively to TPP zines. Knowing him, I don't believe this. Actually, I believe that while David is most likely to RECOMMEND a games-oriented zine (which doesn't necessarily make it a Phreak zine, remember), he is fair minded enough to at least point out that there are chat zines around as well, especially now that he's been made well aware that we resent being ignored. As for his reviews in CCC, well, he has the right to recommend zines he likes, doesn't he? And, as for DW, while I'd like to see more fannish type stuff in there, I feel that the emphasis SHOULD be on play of game material. It IS the game that attracts the novices. I just like to feel that it's the fen who make them stay. I honestly think you're being unfair to Dave and you should lay off a bit - as far as I'm concerned David Hood is NOT a TurboPhreak.))

I can't get up liquor or the anti-boo billion stuff at this point, but I distinctly remember it happening. I wouldn't want to go in that direction either, because I don't want to clutter anyone. I'll remember both those happening there at the board too, and both don't take things up.

((I had no trouble believing that that sort of stuff happened because when I burnt out as BNC, it happened to me. The Alan Rowlands of the world are alive and well.))

Bravo for Brent McKeel I could have written that letter and I wish I had. My only point of difference is about sending reviews to Garret. I think it's useless, as I think Garret would simply discredit opposing reviewers in his inimitable style: "Despite the biased, oddball views of Brad Wilson, I think such-and-such a zine wouldn't appeal..." Garret has asked me to submit reviews, but I won't have him using me as a way to legitimize his negativism, sarcasm and

abuse. If he changes his ways, I'll submit reviews. Also, I find it amusing that Garret, in ZR#19, praises VERTIGO for its independent viewpoint, but as soon as I disagree with Garret, V or I is/am (UPSTART #52) "a feud oriented Republican slime-bucket" who (by implication) is dishonest and unconscientious. No better example of TPPism exists.

((Well, you know how I feel about name calling. That sort of thing has no place in the hobby. As far as submitting opposing reviews, you may be right in how Garret would react to them, but we'll not get anywhere by totally boycotting the idea of sending in opposing reviews. However Garret handled them, as long as he printed them it would at least be a different point of view. I thought that Brent McKee's reviews in ZR#19 lent a certain counterpoint to Phil and Garret. You would be a good reviewer as your view of the hobby and Garret's view are 180° apart. I hope you'll reconsider.))

I have enjoyed the Quebec-Canada discussion in NF between you, John Leeder, Claude Gautron, Agent Orange, etc. The view we get down here tends to be of the militant French Canadians run amok (language police, that sort of thing) with a cowardly federal government that bends to their every whim. I doubt the truth of that, but when we get Canadian news that's the impression it gives. Other US impressions: Mulroney is a complete moron, loser, totally unpopular, going to be crushed in elections; that the Free Trade pact is universally hated in Canada; and that the NDP in Ontario are unpopular, but doing the right thing. Correct or not?

((Total gospel until your last point. The NDP in Ontario are unremittingly insane. They are trying to spend the provincial economy into irrecoverable debt. I could go on about the scandals, hypocrisy and "politically correct" McCarthyism of the Bob Rae government, but I don't want to have to charge the postage increase that comes after I hit 80 pages...))

Switching to hockey, your points on how to stop the violence would be most effective. The catch is that the league isn't interested in doing anything about it, because the perception is that to eliminate fighting would be to chase away fans in most American cities. I think the league is wrong, at least in places like Detroit, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, etc. I don't like fighting and have editorialized against it in our local high school leagues in the paper. By the way, anti-fighting penalties there are pretty strict, but fights still occur moderately and can be quite violent. I'd add that most of those fights are caused by incompetent officials and I think that, if the NHL cleaned up its act, the kids wouldn't fight either. At the same time, I snooze through games like Sweden-Finland in the Olympics. I don't want hockey to be soccer on ice. I like contact, hitting and lots of it. My Flyers are going towards that wide open speed game and I'm skeptical that we'll be any good at it. Sure, Pittsburgh is, but they have Mario - we don't. These days, my favourite NHL player is Mark Messier and he's not afraid of contact and hitting (I'd add that I can't stand the Rangers). I like skating, but I'd rather have a hard hitting, sharp goal-tended 3-2 game ("Flyer hockey", we used to call it) than a 10-8 shootout. I'd stop fighting with suspensions: 10-game, 20-game, 40-game, season. Stick fouls? 10-minute misconducts. Hooking and holding I can live with; they happen, and if they allow a weaker team to keep the game a little more competitive against the powerhouses, OK. Charging and boarding, plus mouthing off probably cause more fights.

((Then I suppose you wouldn't mind some clutch and grab in the National Basketball Association? That would slow down players like Michael and make the game a bit more even. No? My point is that hockey, when it's a speed game is as exciting as roundball. I'd sooner have a 6-4 game with end to end play. THAT'S exciting to me.))

The Flyers are trying to get Lindros (but who isn't?), but we have nothing much to offer unless the Nords want an overrated, injury prone goalie (Hextall), a worthless "defense"man who's supposed to score but doesn't and certainly doesn't hinder the other team

from scoring (Duchesne), or one of our middling forwards. I predict he'll wind up in one of three places: Detroit (instant Stanley Cup), New Jersey (instant Cup finalist), or Montreal. Wait and see.

((Haven't followed the situation enough to predict where he'll end up, but I wouldn't rule out LA and McNall's millions. Can you imagine Lindros AND Gretzky?))

Iain Bowen
York, England

Enjoyed NF as usual especially as I'm currently commuting to Newcastle every day (95 miles, 50 minutes by train!) for this last week and next week. Gave me something to read other than the newspaper or my Business French homework.

Talking of which, I always thought that bilingualism was one of Canada's strong points as a nation. I have elderly aunts in Quebec and British Columbia, one married to a Quebecker, one to a Ukrainian and both have always said what a good thing it is. The result seems to be children like my second cousin Khole *((sp?))* who speaks perfect English, French and Ukrainian. So what, people think. Well, I work for Nestlé Europe and my job is to design multi-lingual computer systems for that company. I came out of school with good English, good Latin and schoolboy French. As more of my time is spent talking to people in Belgium, Germany and Switzerland, I wish that I'd spent more time on those subjects at school. Also, I really enjoy the differences in culture between the nations of Europe, but I like the way that we are, despite the opposition of the UK government, starting to form a European identity. It's shaky, but it's there.

I think it would be a tragedy if Canada lost Quebec; it would remove some of the richness and ability from your nation and it would be bad for Quebec as well. As the political climate changes throughout the world, I suspect that regionalism, as apropos, nationalism will become stronger and that more cooperation and confederation will give unity with diversity.

((I think we'd all lose if that happened. My personal opinion is that if isn't going to work and all we have to look forward to is whining (on both sides), bickering and distrust, let's split it up. It says here that we'd be back together within 50 years.))

Anyway, I will do my bit - there is a European Diplomacy championship in Paris in August and I'm going. Should be fun; just wait until they hear my accent!

Side note to John Breakwell: was it only four years, John? Christ, you seemed like a permanent fixture! But they were damn good years, weren't they?

What is baseball? It seems like rounders which is a game played by young children in this country. Be like the rest of the Commonwealth, play cricket.

((Good luck. I know of one (count 'em, one) cricket pitch in southern Ontario, but I can walk to roughly 15 baseball diamonds within half an hour. Anyway, it's too late, I'm hooked.))

Eric Brosius
Milford, Mass

I agree wholeheartedly with John Leeder's comments on the Runestone Poll in NF36. "A quick 'snapshot' of how the hobby [thinks] of itself" - just the way I see it. The Poll is not "a precise instrument of measurement" - I have never claimed it is, because I know it isn't. Some observers have accused the Poll of claiming precision, but I don't know what evidence they can present to support such an accusation.

I view the Poll, in a way, as a giant PBM game - people send in "orders" and I "adjudicate" them and print out the results. The difference is that the goal of the Poll is not for voters to "win" - at least I hope it isn't - but for us all to see what the hobby thinks.

The one place I may disagree with John is where he speaks of "complication". I think it is here the problem lies for many. I will admit that I go to outrageous lengths in my statistical manipulations and data summaries. Why? Because I enjoy playing around with statistics! I believe most people take it as an axiom:

Axiom 1: If you use a lot of statistics in a project, you must be deadly serious because you certainly aren't doing it for fun.

These people look at all the silly little charts I publish in the Poll publication and deduce that I take the Poll too seriously. well, it just isn't true! I have always enjoyed playing with data; before I ran the Poll, I devised a system to determine how many runs a baseball player is really responsible for, and I tested it on the 1988 Red Sox (if anyone's interested, I'll write an article about it).

The logical fallacy is to assume that if something is no fun for me, it's no fun for others either ("I'm glad I don't like broccoli, because if I did, I'd eat tons of it, and I detest the stuff!"). Every Diplomacy player has faced criticism from friends or relatives - anyone who plays a game like that must be a closet Hitler, because no one would play it for fun!

I know I'm not the only person who enjoys statistics. Mike Lowrey has written about the topic in NF, while Paul Milewski and I have been discussing it in the pages of Doug Kent's MANIAC'S PARADISE (lucky Doug, eh?). I recently wrote Paul a letter to make sure he felt, as I do, that it was all in fun, and I received one of the nicest letters I have gotten in all my time in the hobby.

So remember - even if you hate statistics yourself, please try to tolerate the few of us who are a bit "different".

((I'll assume that the last bit was addressed to John and not to me, because you KNOW I must like stats to follow baseball (or, for that matter, to even run the NF Baseball Predictions Contests. I've never had a problem with Modified Means, Preference Scores, etc.))

Jack McHugh
Up. Sanford, PA

First off, Doug ((Kent))'s latest zine - PAINFUL RECTAL ITCH - has nothing to do with me. Although Doug is my toady and worships me as the Ghod-Emperor of the hobby - and I did encourage him to do PRI - it has nothing to do with me. All of the credit/blame belongs to Doug and Doug alone.

((Hey, knock off this Ghod-Emperor stuff. I thought up that title for myself - you're the Consummate Pig of the Pig Board or something like that.))

Very good letter column. How do you do the boxed quotes? Are you still using CorelDraw!? I saw a cheaper copy of it for about \$60 by a company called "Key Software" that specializes in low-budget - but quite good - software.

((A pirate by any other name... Yes, I'm still using CorelDraw!. Did you think that I drew my covers? My handdrawn artwork is strictly stick figure level. As for the boxed quotes, and I don't want to get too technical here, I simply insert the text off the PageMaker pasteboard on the screen, clear

a space for in the text ON the page (using the provided "window blinds" to do wraparounds) and then draw boxes around the quotes.))

Re: gaming vs fannishness. While it is true I am more on the gamer side - I too was (and still am) a war(hex)gamer - I still enjoy zines with personality and lots of writing. In fact, I used to get more of them til the YZOZ trades came in. Now it is 50-50, game zines vs fan zines.

James Nelson
Derby, UK

I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that I would be dropping out of, or restricting myself to a couple of zines in, the North American hobby if I was a member. Whilst I still enjoy playing games (albeit not as many as in my youth! Only a handful nowadays compared to the twenty or thirty I was playing in four years ago!), it is the people and personalities in the hobby which make it so enjoyable. The lack of fannishness in the NA hobby is certainly your loss, but who's gain can it be? My belief is that a hobby which primarily is interested in games is going to have a shorter life than one where people are more important. Game playing becomes boring after a while, people never (well, almost never...) become boring.

Cal, Cal, Cal. You are showing your age when it comes to University life. You'll be talking about your zimmer frame ((???) and pension next! University is about life, not about merely learning. You make friends which you will remain in contact with for many years. You have the chance to start new activities and broaden your horizons both socially and academically. University is about leaving home and entering the big wide world from a sheltered environment.

It is still important to use your time at University to learn. I am not advocating that University should be one big dropout before entering a career. Merely that University is more than just academia.

((I'm not so sure I'm showing my age as much as my anger at myself for not attending University. When I decided to skip Uni and get my education in the bars and ghettos of the city, it was because I wasn't ready for that kind of disciplined life. Looking back, I still think it was the right decision based on the person I was at the time, but I still wonder how life would have turned out if I'd been the kind of person who could have applied himself fully to "academia" as you call it. Maybe I'm just a bit jealous that I didn't give myself the chance and don't want to see you waste it. Hmmm. Or maybe it IS age showing; I bet I sound like your father...))

You picked up on some of my arguments, but ignored others. yes, social life and university sport will be ruined by the new system. My major beef is that students will be financially screwed; landlords will be able to screw students in the middle two years because students will have no protection under the rent act. Landlords are unscrupulous bastards as it is - give them an inch and they'll take a mile. Rents will rocket and landlords will ask for increased retainers on accommodation knowing that students have no choice but to accept. A ten week grant is not enough for ten weeks: extending the term length (whilst extending the grant) will only make this worse. For example, if a student, after a ten week term is £50 in debt, after 15 weeks, he will be £75 in debt.

Of course, the work placement scheme is good. On of the reasons I went to Brunel was because of it. It gives you three opportunities to experience the kind of work you can do when you graduate, and you get paid to boot! But under the new system, it will screw people in the second and third year. The semester system does not add any extra time to the period of work placements, just a shift of when they are done. Two 30 week placements instead of three 20 week placements. The middle two years will be hell.

Luckily, I am not going to be affected by this. The university decided to introduce the scheme for next years intake, but also decided that it would not affect those students already here.

The University's first priority should be to those students it already has. I am not entirely blaming the University for what it has done. I understand the motives behind it, but do not agree with them. The problem is with central government - the only way to expand numbers as is required without additional funding is to screw the students.

As to bitching about lack of resources at the University, don't worry, I already have. But the target was the government due to its real cut in funding to Universities. Brunel attracts money from industry due to its close connections, but without satisfactory support from governments, the University will screw students. It has to. For instance, the Biochemistry Department doubled the size of its first year intake this year, but has only the teaching staff to teach three quarters of this number in subsequent years. The Department gets more money per student taken on, and the costs of the first year course is quite cheap in comparison to future years because of the simplicity of the course (first year courses generally are "A" level standard: they are designed to bring everyone to the same level). They therefore can cross-subsidize other years. But this is morally wrong because they know that they will have to fail about a quarter of the course or face a teaching crisis in the second year. For those who fail, it will be a wasted year, and a waste of a years funding. Is this morally right?

((I'm not sure about your chain of logic here. How do you know they'll have to fail 25% of the first year students? Wouldn't that give them a choice between the sort of teaching crisis you're talking about among NEXT years intake or having to reduce that same intake (and consequent funding) to avoid that? I think the more logical course of action would be to increase class size in subsequent years - still screwing the students, but not (necessarily) so morally reprehensible.))

Bitching over. Well, I'm going to bitch about the UK economy now as it has detrimentally interfered with my course... I had end of year exams at the end of March. Between April and October, I am supposed to do a twenty week work placement, as you know. Neither I, nor the work placement office has been able to find one, though the search continues (until the end of May at least). The options (in order of preference) are to find a job, go on a ten week basic German language course (actually held at the University of West Bohemia, Plzen, Czechoslovakia - why? Because the cost of living is lower in Czechoslovakia than in Germany, and Plzen is in the German speaking part of Czechoslovakia) and, thirdly, do a ten week library project at the University. For the latter two, I can get a grant extension. I am very keen to go to Plzen. What with 1992 and internationalization of everything, I feel that some basic language skills would be beneficial. It will be an experience in itself (but does "Cal the Aged" approve of such sentiments?), and it will not cost very much. The average wage in Czechoslovakia is £20 - after the cost of the course, accommodation and transport is taken from the money I will receive from the local authority and my parents, I will still have almost £40 left! This just puts into perspective how backward their economy is - I receive about 30% of the average wage in the UK yet can go to Czechoslovakia and have as disposable income double their average wage!

My job prospects are not helped by my broken ankle. Yes, the saga continues! The plaster came off in January. I had an operation to remove a screw in February and I have been partially weight bearing on it since the end of Feb. When I was at the University, I was attending physio twice a week for about half an hour each time. Since I have arrived back in Derby, I have been going Monday to Friday for three hours a day! I have been told that it will take four to eight weeks of intensive physio on my ankle before I can walk without a stick.

Continued on Page 22...

THE FIFTH ANNUAL NORTHERN FLAME BASEBALL PREDICTIONS CONTEST

(BASED ON MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STANDINGS AS OF JUNE 3, 1992)

AL EAST TEAM	W	L	Pct.	GBL	NL EAST TEAM	W	L	Pct.	GBL
TORONTO	33	19	.635	-	PITTSBURGH	27	23	.540	-
BALTIMORE	31	19	.620	1	ST LOUIS	27	23	.540	-
NEW YORK	27	23	.540	5	NEW YORK	27	24	.529	½
BOSTON	24	23	.511	6 ½	MONTREAL	22	26	.458	4
MILWAUKEE	25	24	.510	6 ½	PHILADELPHIA	22	27	.449	4 ½
DETROIT	21	30	.412	11 ½	CHICAGO	22	28	.440	5
CLEVELAND	20	31	.392	12 ½					
AL WEST					NL WEST				
OAKLAND	29	22	.569	-	CINCINNATI	27	21	.563	-
TEXAS	30	24	.556	½	SAN FRANCISCO	27	23	.540	1
MINNESOTA	27	22	.551	1	SAN DIEGO	28	24	.538	1
CHICAGO	24	24	.500	3 ½	LOS ANGELES	23	24	.489	3 ½
CALIFORNIA	21	29	.420	7 ½	ATLANTA	25	27	.481	4
SEATTLE	21	29	.420	7 ½	HOUSTON	22	29	.431	6 ½
KANSAS CITY	18	32	.360	10 ½					

NFBPC PLAYER STANDINGS

NAME	AL EAST	AL WEST	NL EAST	NL WEST	TOTAL
Mike Agnew	.935	.923	.962	.914	3.734
Ye Olde Editor	.946	.929	.943	.857	3.675
Mike Gonsalves	.905	.940	.933	.886	3.664
Gale Wetmore	.929	.875	.962	.867	3.633
Mario Cauz	.958	.821	.962	.886	3.627
Nevil Keogh	.905	.929	.962	.829	3.625
Brad Wilson	.946	.946	.819	.914	3.625
Ron Newmaster	.893	.982	.919	.829	3.623
Phil Reynolds	.946	.905	.914	.857	3.622
Fred Davis Jr	.905	.952	.914	.829	3.600
Pete Gaughan	.851	.958	.933	.857	3.599
Jack McHugh	.851	.952	.971	.819	3.593
John Ellman II	.926	.792	.895	.905	3.518
Andrew Hymas	.911	.917	.867	.819	3.514
Frank Cauz	.872	.881	.962	.790	3.505
Melinda Holley	.863	.935	<i>.781</i>	.923	3.502
Bob Acheson	.905	.857	.857	.881	3.500
Kevin Brown	.917	.810	.895	.876	3.498
Brent McKee	<i>.845</i>	.905	.857	.824	3.431

Boldface indicates highest divisional score.
Italics indicates lowest divisional score.

WARNING!

THE FOLLOWING IS HIGHLY ADDICTIVE!

Do not read the following unless you have no important plans for the next few hours!

This test certainly does NOT measure your mathematical ability and it is NOT an IQ test. It will, however, give you some gauge of your mental flexibility and creativity. Since this test was developed, few people were able to solve more than half of the questions on the first try. Many, however, reported getting answers long after the test had been set aside - particularly at unexpected moments when their minds are relaxed; and some reported solving the questions over a period of several days.

HAVE FUN!

An example: 26 = L of the A

Answer: 26 = Letters of the Alphabet

12	=	M in a Y
7	=	W of the W
1,001	=	A N
12	=	S of the Z
54	=	C in a D (with the J's)
1	=	W upon a S
88	=	P K
32	=	D F at which W F
18	=	H on a G C
90	=	D in a R A
200	=	D to P G in M
4	=	H of the A
3	=	B M (S H T R)
4	=	Q in a G
24	=	H in a D
1	=	W on a U
57	=	H V
12	=	P on a F T
1,000	=	W that a P is W
29	=	D in F in a L Y
64	=	S on a C B
20,000	=	L under the S
60	=	S in a M
3	=	C in a F
360	=	D in a C

If anyone is interested, I got 15 of these in the first ten minutes, and Mario Cauz and I got 22 out of the 25 in one evening. Anybody beat that? Send me your answers and I'll print the correct solutions next issue. Careful, this test IS addictive and you WILL find yourself thinking about it for days. Also, if anyone cares to make up one of these contests (and if I get good response to this one), maybe I'll run yours as well.. Deadline for this will be June 8, 1992.

Obviously, my job prospects at the moment are looking pretty grim because my main priority is my ankle - if I was offered a job starting tomorrow, I would turn it down...

Is it all doom and gloom? Well, it does have its advantages: plenty of time to read, play Bridge and work on a new UKVB catalogue.

((Sounds as if the break was even worse than you first described. Hope you get back on (both) your feet ASAP. Why would I disapprove of your traveling to Plzen. I think travel is more educational than school. My trip abroad came when I was 14 and went on a school expedition to Athens. I hope to get back some day. If you do end up there, I'll expect a travelogue for NF, Heh, heh!))

Ron Newmaster
Mech'burg, Penn

On the issue of where to find new blood:

You cite Dip's explosive growth periods as resulting from crossovers from the science fiction/creative writing community and also from the wargaming/board gaming community. I would like to suggest that the next wave of new recruits could come from the many political science majors at North American colleges and Universities and the horde of graduate students now enrolled in MBA programs.

Perhaps the CDO and its US counterpart could take on a project targeted towards this group. Select two dozen or so institutions, build a Introduction to Diplomacy packet consisting of:

- a cover letter citing why CDO is interested in Dip;
- a summary of the Dip postal and tournament hobby;
- a Zine Register packet;
- an offer to conduct a local game at the University on a Sat/Sun.

I remember hearing that John F Kennedy and "the family" played Diplomacy in the early 60s. Apocryphal? Who know & who cares? Henry Kissinger has stated in interviews that Diplomacy is his favourite game. Build on those references to hook the interest of polysci majors. I am a middle-level manager within the US Federal Government and quite frankly, one of the reasons I play Diplomacy is to sharpen my skills at getting other people to do what I want them to do rather than doing what they would prefer to do. Any MBA student who is not interested in improving upon that school will not last long within American industry.

Viewed from a sufficiently abstract distance, Diplomacy is only a set of boundary conditions and rules which are used to adjudge the winner of a power struggle among seven people. No cards, no dice, no chance happenings. Each season provides each player the option of developing one or more of the 64 possible relationships available to him. The gamesmaster simply records how successful each player was in managing those relationships. The heart of Diplomacy is the ability to influence people. Each season simply documents who is gaining in power and who is losing power. Diplomacy is nothing more than war by other means.

Note the 64 relationships are as follows:

1	way to relate to	0	other players (no press Gunbat)
6	ways " " "	1	other player (the norm)
15	" " " "	2	other players (transient triples)
20	" " " "	3	other players
15	" " " "	4	other players (stop-the-leader alliances)
6	" " " "	5	other players
1	" " " "	6	other players (S'01 DIAS proposal)
64	total		

((Certainly an interesting observation: Dip reduced to it's component statistics parts.

Comments from any of the stats boys? Michael? Eric? McBruce?

The polysci idea sounds like an interesting approach. In the past, when I've thought of targeting Universities, it's usually the history departments and gaming clubs I wanted to contact. Polysci wouldn't necessarily be an overlapping field and would broaden the possibilities. Unfortunately I no longer have time to do stuff like that - maybe one day after NF is dead and buried, but not now. Thanks for the suggestion.))

David Hood
Hickory, NC

John Breakwell's letter brings up an interesting point about British TV - only 4 channels! In the evil, commercialized US, we have the audacity to offer 30-something cable channels to most TV viewers. I think that's pretty neat, and probably a more important gain for pure entertainment than

arguing about who makes the best high-brow shows for the top 1% of the population. Here, Joe Sixpack can turn on ESPN or Sportschannel, Morgan Gurley can turn on his "War & Predation" Discovery channel, Sandi Hood can turn on her weather channel or Home Shopping Club, Michael Lowrey can watch 18 damn hours of base closing hearings on C-SPAN (!), etc. Competition is a wonderful way to run a TV system, don't you think, fellow Libertarian buddy-o-mine?

((From the point of view of offering the variety you describe - but I wonder if that much "pure entertainment" isn't a leading factor in the massive (and rising) illiteracy rate in North America?))

David Senzig
Grand Rapids, MI

USA generalizations don't usually fit because of the diversity we have here. But I was responding to Mark Nelson's generalities about the USA. So the net result is communication. I hope we get more responses.

There were a couple of comments about BOAST and Herb Barents. I have been playing in BOAST for about two years and, yes, there are mistakes made; however, Herb will call players or send errata corrections or players will communicate about problems. Also, he has 3 week deadlines and has published 334 ISSUES on time for the past twenty years. I was reading some other comments about zines folding after fewer issues - I for one plan to keep receiving this zine. Herb's address is 17187 Wildemere, Detroit, MI 48221 USA.

((Believe me, David, the vast majority of zines fold WELL before twenty years and 300+ issues.))

GrandCon, Grand Rapids: small turnout - 121 players, with about half D&D role playing gamers and half wargamers, miniatures, etc. There were no games of Diplomacy

and Battle Tech seemed to be very popular. The Con lasted from 8:AM to 10:PM with food & drink provided on site (wet bar too!). A good time was had by all.

You had asked the question of how we started playing Diplomacy.

#1: the ability for me and my schedule and family to work out the time I spend playing games.

#2: the aspect of Diplomacy as a classic game à la Chess, Go, etc... but with a human aspect - the press! I had big hopes for the press in the game itself, however I found these aspects in the rest of the zine, under the "chat" section!!

#3: ((*Desire to be a*)) lean mean dot grabbing machine.

#4: Finding out what made this game different. What makes it tick; how to move; how players respond; what is a real threat, pseudo threat, or domination; how diplomatic efforts create game results and how much luck is involved; how much cooperation is necessary; how much lying is necessary?

((Quite interesting. Anybody else?))

Kevin Brown
Jax, Florida

I guess I agree that Toronto has the best talent in the AL, but I wouldn't if the Red Sox had pulled off the trade they were trying to do with the Pirates (Brunansky & Rivera for Jay Bell). I still think the Sox have the superior staff as long as Darwin is healthy and Hesketh is on his game. I just wish they'd bury Curt Young somewhere.

((I'll assume you mean Matt Young and I agree with that. Actually, I hope they hang on to him because it makes the Jays chances even better. If you want to talk "almost trades", how about the Kelly Gruber for HoJo trade that never happened. I was praying THAT would happen. Now that Manny Lee is hitting (a bit), Gruber is the Jay I dislike most.))

How would we remove Garret as ZR editor? We could ask him to step down. If that doesn't work, boycott it. Start a competing ZR (and make sure you mail it about a week before Garret mails his, so everyone sees how redundant it all is). Kind of a "Zine Register Under the Covenant" or something. If that doesn't work, then get someone else to come up with an idea. Maybe we could burn down all of Brooklyn. No big loss...

((I think I've seen this movie already...))

Given your definitions, I can't think of a less-Turbo Phreakish person than Bruce Geryk. The Bad Boys I saw were more than happy to repeatedly bash people who thought that accuracy and timeliness were important to the "real world". In fact, when I was considering moving Pilot Light to a three week schedule, back in 1989, it was Geryk and Steve Clark who complained LOUDLY that 3-weeks was too short because they had real lives. On the other hand, they wouldn't have thought the hobby important enough to engage in the fannish concept either.

((From what I understand of them, they wouldn't have been very good at it either. I'd like to (again!) clear something up here and it's a point that has caused a lot of confusion. In fact, I think it's the main reason why Michael Lowrey and David Hood (and others) seem to be defending the TPP side: EVEN TO A FAN, GMING ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS ARE IMPORTANT AND WANTING THESE QUALITIES IN A ZINE DOES NOT MAKE YOU A TURBOPHREAK! It's putting these qualities above everything else, and by that I mean, family, job, possible illness, kids, etc that makes a person a Turbo Phreak. As it stands now, and, of course, this is an educated guess, I'd say that

the North American hobby is composed of 35% fen (people like myself, Conrad von Metzke and Brad Wilson who are here for the people and the games are merely a moderately important element of the fun), 64% gamers (people like Andy Lischett, David Anderson and David Hood who enjoy the gaming aspects more than the fannish parts of the hobby). There is some crossover between the two - people like Jack McHugh and Brent McKee who can switch between both sides of the schism with relative ease. But it's the final 1% (actually, it's probably a fraction of a per cent, but we'll round it off for convenience) who are bona fide members of the TurboPhreak Phringe. Gamers, I'm happy to live with - they're as important to the hobby as the fen. It's the TurboPhreaks I want nothing to do with. But, anyway, let's keep it in mind that they are still the vast minority - let's not go smearing people with the label when they may simply be interested in a good game of Dip, or Titan, or Railway Rivals, or whatever, okay?))

((By the way, Kevin, that "blast" wasn't directed at you specifically. I just noticed that you associated TPers with "people who thought that accuracy and timeliness were important to the 'real world'" in the same sentence.))

Pete Gaughan
Novato, CA

John Leeder's letter was great - the kind of foreign insight I look for in non-US zines. My brother has been to Calgary (his drum and bugle corps played at a Stampede) so I had a (minimal) base of knowledge to begin with, and John's notes made me feel damn familiar!

Baseball - amazing. Only 2 people put anyone other than Toronto / Boston in 1/2. Only 6 (of 38) possible NLE 1/2 positions are anyone other than Pittsburgh or New York Mets. Similar with 1-2-3 in NLW and Chicago in ALW. Is it possible to do a cross prediction comparison to see how closely people predicted (compared to, say, previous contests, if you still have the raw data).

((I suppose the roughest way to do it would be to find the average placing each team received (say, a team was predicted for first by three people and second by one person, it's average placing would be 1.25), and then add up the number of places AWAY each person's predictions for that were (in the example, the total would $.25 + .25 + .25 + .75 = 1.25$). Divided by 4 would give you an average of .3125). Add this up for every team and divide by 26. Since this is off the top of my head, and I'm not a statistician, I'm sure McBruce will send me a better system. Better yet, he'll send it to you and YOU'LL do the work, because I won't.))

You didn't mention the most important part of the Giants: rookies up the middle! MacNamara (C), Patterson (2B - great attitude), Clayton (SS) and Lewis (CF - last year's "Willie Mays-like" call-up), all looking like the Dodgers "The Infield" of the 70s.

((I didn't mention the Giants at all - Mike Agnew did the National League...))

John Breakwell
Reading, UK

I agree that Freddie Mercury will be missed. An ugly brute at the best of times, but a fine singer all the same. The five albums you mentioned, I remember enjoying a lot at University in the 80s when I used to go on theme binges. I don't think I went any further than these five as I didn't appreciate the general change in musical style. This could also be that my musical tastes were changing too, but I still got the Greatest Hits II for Christmas. I had been waiting for this album for some years as the number of hits was clocking up since their first compilation and, with hindsight, think that it's obvious that its timing had a lot to do with Freddie's continually deteriorating health, as did the choice of singles at the end of his time. It must be really sad for the members of Queen to organize the folding up of the band due to a death even though the person dying is still around.

((Did you get to see the remembrance concert from Wembley? I forgot all about it and never even saw a single clip. If anybody taped it, I will pay the cost of the tape and shipping if I can get a copy. I have a VHS tape player and North America uses the NTSC broadcast system (I'm appealing to North Americans here. As much as I want to see the concert, I DON'T want to have to pay conversion costs from the UK PAL system.))

"How Loud Is That Sound?" A very informative piece - I had never known what the decibel number meant in real terms. 10 to the power of the decibel power times the lowest audible sound - must remember that. Please keep up the little spacefillers as they make a welcome change from baseball.

Pete Caughan
Novato, CA

All the hullabaloo over the RP misses a major fact - it's NOT a Poll as Gallup or CBS would run one. It's a popularity contest, very much like Homecoming Queen. It's not a 100-yard dash, where you can put an objective rating down. It's not even figure skating, where at least the elements of victory are well-stated. It's more like picking a band by applause meter!

So stop worrying about the winner and more complications for the Poll. Relax and applaud the winner. (Hey, my senior year the H-Queen was a mousy-faced girl who everybody liked - good looks aren't required! I love an analogy that works!)

What is "Bizarre"?

((An old (1980?), off-the-wall (or "OTT" for you Brits) comedy show starring John Byner. It remains one of my all-time favourite shows because of the off-beat, off-colour and ground-breaking humour.))

Bob Acheson
Edmonton Alta

Great letter column - I won't comment on Fannish vs warehouse zine. I'll be responding to Garret Schenk later as to why I gave him the buzzer re: PDORA funding. (Feel bad about it? Not me, and judging from his reaction, I feel great!)

You're wrong about Clark - he has stuck up to Probert & Ewen (Montreal enforcer), had a classic fight with Rick Tocchet. He's the pride of Saskatoon (and of rednecks everywhere!).

((He'd make a great Roller Derby player...))

Brent McKee
Saskatoon, Sask

My favourite TV shows currently in production:

- 1) Northern Exposure
- 2) Heat of the Night
- 3) Law & Order
- 4) Reasonable Doubt
- 5) This Old House (PBS)
- 6) LA Law
- 7) Star Trek: TNG
- 8) The Commish

Shows, old & new, I would move Heaven and Earth to see:

- 1) Dr Who
- 2) WKRP In Cincinnati
- 3) This Old House
- 4) Soap (early Billy Crystal plus Richard Mulligan's timing)
- 5) Jack Benny (master of timing)
- 6) Red Skelton
- 7) Hill Street Blues
- 8) St Elsewhere

A couple of brief points. John Breakwell seems to be under the impression that I said that APAs rather than zines are the proper place for comment, etc. I was, however, quoting Garret Schenk on that point.

As to John Leeder's point on the location of CBC stations, a bit of explanation is in order. The policy of putting the main Corporation owned broadcast outlet for each province in that province's capital dates back to around 1970 when they started up their stations in Saskatoon and Regina. Prior to that time, service in those cities was provided through privately owned affiliates. As I recall, CBC Calgary opened after the stations in Saskatchewan (I am not certain about CBC Edmonton) which is why it was affected by the policy. As to Vancouver and Montreal, those outlets are both major production facilities established long before the policy was adopted. Furthermore, since Quebec City cannot support an English language newspaper, it would be fairly absurd to put the primary English CBC outlet for Quebec there. Still, speaking from the largest city in Saskatchewan, I do sympathize with his feelings.

Speaking of television, yes, it is true that the French language networks use American shows. I always enjoyed listening to some Montrealer try to sound vaguely Texan when doing Larry Hagman's voice on DALLAS. Still, my point was not that the French networks don't buy US shows, but that they aren't as dependent on those shows for the majority of their programming. They do their own soap operas, talk shows, sit-coms and all the rest. Of course, they have an advantage over the rest of Canada, because they broadcast in a different language from their neighbours. Radio-Canada at least doesn't bring in a lot of programming from France, and I am under the impression that the private broadcasters don't either. English Canada's situation is different from that of Quebec. We speak the same language as the elephant to our south which means that, especially with cable, there is no need for a middleman (ie dubbing) to come between Canadian viewers and US programs. It is not a good situation for Canadian producers. The recent ratings indicate that Canadians are not watching most Canadian programs, preferring to watch American programs. One expert likened it to preparing a banquet made up of food people don't want to eat.

One other note on television, on both sides of the border. It seems to be run by people who think that the public taste parallels their own. NBC canceled IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT and MATLOCK primarily because the audience they attracted was perceived as being "too old". CBC has canceled the weekly TOMMY HUNTER SHOW for the same reason. Everyone seems to be in a chase for the "correct" demographic mix, the 20 to 40 year olds who are perceived as spending BIG money. Another trend seems to be towards selling the time slot. That explains why we are seeing all of the big events in May. The May rating sweeps set the advertising rate for the rest of the year and the network execs want to inflate the numbers by presenting things people are "sure" to watch. This strikes me as selling not the steak or the sizzle, but the stove that the steak is cooked on! It is the programming which usually makes the

time slot popular, not vice versa. For further details on how the business of Television works, I recommend REFLECTIONS IN A BLOOD SHOT EYE. It's an older book, but a fascinating one.

Technically, the Toronto Terminators don't exist yet. They enter the WBL in 1993. They did the same thing in Hamilton last year, granting the franchise a year in advance. If you can get CHCH, they will be carrying WBL games, including some from Saskatoon. Watch for me: I'm a volunteer usher, but I won't be at the first game.

Good points on hockey. What keeps the NHL from getting a big US TV contract is the perception that the game is roller derby on ice. Fighting and the stick fouls are the major point. Crack down on them and hooking and holding will be lesser problems. Another thing they should, but won't, consider is going to the larger international ice surface and eliminating the centre red line to make the game faster.

((What they really need to do is hire the PR firm that handles the NBA and have John Ziegler shot.))

A while back, I sent you a quote about Isaac Asimov. Since no one guessed who I was quoting (no one even tried - sulk) and since the good doctor has shuffled off this mortal coil (to quote Shakespeare which was one of the subjects he wrote about), I suppose I should give the answer. The man who wrote "one of the unfortunate consequences of the era of pulp fiction between 1920 and 1950 is that it raised a generation of Asimovs who learned to write without thought, in the pursuit of quantity only" was...ISAAC ASIMOV! In a short Black Widowers mystery story for ELLERY QUEEN MYSTERY MAGAZINE called THE PHOENICIAN BAUBLE, Asimov puts those words into the mouth of his alter-ego, Emmanuel Rubin. Presumably, it and a number of other comments of similar ilk which he puts into the mouths of characters in this series is his way of giving the literary establishment the finger.

Benny Hill also died recently. No matter what the Nelsons might say, I liked him. His humour was based on farce, in the style of turn-of-the-century burlesque. It was low brow and it is a style that is dying out, but it was funny and it worked. I don't care what any high-brows or comedy "experts" say, I would rather have Benny Hill's type of comedy, than much of what masquerades as humour on television or in the clubs. He made me laugh.

((I liked him too - I'd certainly rather listen to him than, say, Andrew Dice Clay...))

Lumping me in with the Nelson brothers? Gee, thanks. I don't know whether to blush or dust off a place on the trophy shelf for a Rusty Bolts Award!

((Keep writing - we'll get you one yet!))

Thomas Franke
Oldenburg
Germany

Just a word on giving World DipCon in 1996 to Austria: as German Boardman Number Custodian, I think Ferdinand de Cassan and his WIN should not be eligible to hold WDC because they only play a VARIANT of Diplomacy. I have now had a long dispute with him as he doesn't accept me as BNC for the whole Germanic speaking Europe. He doesn't use ANY house rules. Also, he uses a computer program (and a bad one which doesn't cover all situations, especially the more complicated ones) which issues orders for an NMRing position, thereby acting as a standby!

When reminding him to use the original rules from AH authorized by Allan Calhamer, which explicitly state that ONLY a PERSON can act as a standby, he told me that those were only face-to-face rules, not eligible for WIN. They don't even have House Rules as

he never sent me a copy upon request. So they only play a VARIANT of Dippy, not the original game and, therefore, all of their games are irregular - they won't get any Boardman Numbers due to this fact!

So, in my opinion, WDC should ONLY be held in Austria if the Viennese promise to use Calhamer's rules and not their own!!! This won't be good for the World DipCon. We play regular Diplomacy and not a variant of the game!

As soon as I have some more time, I will discuss this "case" within the German hobby and inform the North American BNC, the British & French BNCs, Per Westling (Scandinavia), Mark Nelson, David Hood (Diplomacy World) and some other personalities, like Shaun Derrick, who are interested in WDC.

But something has to be done here, don't you think so?

((No, I don't. In fact, I think you're letting some personal anger get in the way here. First, is one zine the entire Austrian hobby? Second, unless the rules have changed since I was the North American BNC, any games played in WIN (and I do agree that they are variants, but only because of the computer standby - I don't think you can claim that he has no house rules just because he didn't send you any) SHOULD receive numbers. They would also be reported in the German equivalent of EVERYTHING, and listed as "irregular". Third, getting back to their eligibility to hold WDC, you mention that Cassan claims that Calhamer's rules are for FTF play. Well, WDC IS FTF, no? Therefore, the rules we all use would apply. I honestly don't see your problem (although I admit that this Cassan guy sounds like a bit of a jerk.)))

The Most Frequently Performed Operations

Biopsy - the removal and examination of body tissue for diagnostic purposes - was the most frequently performed surgery in the United States in 1987. The Top Ten procedures, as reported by the American College of Surgeons, are listed here.

Surgery (1987)	Number*	Rate+
1- Biopsy	1,378	5.7
2- Cesarean Section	953	3.9
3- Repair of current obstetric laceration	660	2.7
4- Hysterectomy	655	2.7
5- Operations on spinal cord and spinal canal structures	588	2.4
6- Removal of lesion of skin or tissue	568	2.4
7- Plastic surgery of joints	556	2.3
8- Removal of Gall Bladder	536	2.2
9- Removal of one or both ovaries or of a uterine tube and ovary	490	2.0
10- Surgical setting of a bone	481	2.0

* in thousands; + per 1,000 persons

The Major Organs Ranked by Weight

Though there's no such thing as an unimportant organ, the ones we tend to think of as being the largest or most important are frequently smaller and lighter than we realize. Conversely, one organ that we rarely think of proves largest of all.

Organ	Weight
Skin	6 lb.
Liver	3 lb.
Brain	3 lb.
Lungs	1 lb each
Heart	10 oz.
Kidneys	4.5 oz each

>>>>>>>>> The rarest blood group in the ABO system, one of 14 systems is AB. The rarest blood type of all is Bombay blood (subtype h-h) found only in a Czechoslovakian nurse in 1961 and in a brother and sister living in Massachusetts in 1968.

STRATEGIC DIPLOMACY

BY HARRY DREWS

(From PAROXYSM #11, July 13, 1975)

Part VIII: Russia

The best has been saved for last, so let us start off by noting how well the potential and vastness of Diplomacy Russia simulates the actual country in the twentieth century. Russia is blessed with the greatest intrinsic strength of any country on the board and, in conjunction with a fragmented opposition, the Russian bear should be able to waltz to a comparatively easy victory in a disproportionate amount of time. To illustrate the potential of Russia, one has merely to count the shortest distance between any supply centre on the board and the appropriate Russian army or fleet in Winter 1900. The furthest one would have to go to reach the most distant supply centre is five provinces. ((*Ed note. Funny, I coulda swore that Warsaw to Portugal is SIX provinces*)) There is no area of the board which is not readily accessible to our conquering forces. A further feature of the wide latitude available to Russia is the presence of four home centres which make it possible to build units over a great range of the board. The enormous flexibility and versatility endowed to this country makes Russia extremely potent and not readily susceptible to stalemate.

Postal Diplomacy circles are giving increasing attention to the Russian position and this may cause some difficulties in games where experienced gamers are present. The obvious strategy of the Russian player will be to work hard to break up potential alliances against Mother Russia before they have a chance to set and to quietly increase the supply centre total to ten or so. At this point, only a capable, united opposition will be able to stop us from grinding our way to a win.

The two fundamental points of our initial strategy should be to divide both the Austro-Turkish and Anglo-Germanic alliances, and to concentrate our first efforts in the south. Time is in our favour if there is no blocking alliance present on the board. This time will allow us to pick up some badly needed supply centres. Either Turkey or Austria should be victims of our first assault because the potential quick rewards are so much greater here than, say, in Scandinavia or Germany. Moreover, no neutral stance can be maintained here in the south, while it is frequently possible to neutralize Scandinavia.

To formulate the optimum game plan, we need to know how the other players perceive Russia. Do they see us as an immediate threat, a future deadly threat, or as a good potential ally? Realistically, Russia is not much of a threat to anyone at the start of the game and this should be all the ammunition our propaganda machine requires. Turkey should be interested in a long term alliance on the basis that the eastern edge of the board can be secured and then a sweep made across the board. Our friend Austria will be desperate for a sign of friendship from anyone just to increase his chances of survival. A capable Italian player will, doubtless, recognize in Russia his best potential ally. Cooperation with France may be secured if his recollections of history are refreshed with a description of how effective the Franco-Russo alliance has been through the years. This pairing can be just as worthwhile on the Diplomacy board. England has good reason to mistrust, but necessity may disperse caution to the extent that a non-aggression pact may be formulated to enable her to strike at either France or Germany. Germany will likely be just as anxious as Austria to come to terms because France and England are unknown quantities. In short, there is a suitable angle for use with each of the other six powers and with such fertile grounds for negotiation, it will have to be a very poor Russian player indeed who is blitzed early in the game.

The two fundamental axioms of warfare, the concentration of force and an attack on only a manageable portion of your opposition, must always be foremost in the mind of the Russian. We will be working from within an arc of 180° with an interior line of communications. As long as we engage the enemy on only a limited portion of our long front, our problems should not be insurmountable. To visualize the better of our possible series of attacks, let us arbitrarily divide the front into the following sectors: Finnoscandia, Germany, the Balkans and the Black Sea. These are the areas of immediate concern, although eventually our forces may permeate either the British Isles or Italy. The order in which we attack each one of these sectors will be determined by their vulnerability and worth. The worth encompasses both their economic value and their significance in our alliance structures. It should be our firm policy to have only one active sector at any one time, unless we are at a 12 or so centre standing. Again, it is my firm belief that to be successful on the Diplomacy board, you must have one strong, long-term ally, a host of nice friends who you will do in in turn, and one immediate till death do us part enemy.

The Turkish sector contains only three centres, but they are rather important. If we control all three then our defenses are much simpler to maintain. Also, we have a clear route to the Mediterranean. The Balkan or Austrian area is by far the richest on the board - seven supply centres. Of course, I am including Greece, Bulgaria & Rumania. The Russian can achieve an absolute victory without any of these centres, but if we can take them, it is so much easier to win. Finnoscandia (3), the British Isles (3) and Italy (4) are obvious, separate sectors. Germany (5), includes Holland and Belgium. Let us now go on to interpret our optimum strategy in terms of these sectors and our possible allies.

A high degree of trust is required if we are to make Turkey our long term ally. Sevastopol is too exposed and we forfeit half of the Austrian knot of centres. It should be noted, though, that the remaining sectors do give us 18 centres. An alliance with the Turk may often make for the speedy downfall of Austria and the chance to intervene in the west before a strong power emerges. I would be inclined to attack England rather than Germany. Our entrenchment in Scandinavia and England will give us an effective stranglehold on Germany and we can then flood the Hun with our power. The presence of a strong naval contingent in the Atlantic will ensure the pacification of the centres as far away as Belgium. Many players regard a military marriage with the Turk as a powerful union, but I feel that the close positioning of opposite home centres makes for a trying time. Demilitarization is just not feasible and as a consequence as many as four or five units may be needed to garrison the area. Too little is left for other sectors. If Turkey must be stabbed (due to stalemate on other fronts), a tough task confronts us. Turkey has the advantage regarding the Black Sea and a march through Austria becomes a weary grind. Unless Turkey offers advantages better than others on the board, better forego this pairing.

Austria makes a wonderful temporary partner. There is less likelihood of an antagonistic Italy (a very real danger if we align ourselves with Turkey) and we can take possession of the Turkish centres. In the long run, Austria will compete with us for too many of the centres we require and she may even become a liability if Italy cannot be subdued. Defense against Austria is difficult and our underbelly is dangerously exposed if we reach into the Atlantic. Austria is a useful early friend and a subsequent nuisance. Best get rid of her in the middle game.

England offers us little in the way of attractive alliance options. We will be shut out of most of Germany/Scandinavia and sooner or later we will be stabbed. If we befriend England, then how can we ever build the fleets necessary to capture some of her holdings? Most likely our potential help in Paris or Berlin will be disarmed and in irons. Italy could give us some naval support from the southwest, but the Mid Atlantic must be first breached. England, thus, never can be our long term ally - only a short term instrument of balance.

Germany makes a good ally, largely because we can dominate the Fatherland and yet pick up many centres to the north and in the south. A clean stab is always a tantalizing possibility. In the same breath we should include Italy. Italy and Russia together compliment each other so well that this must surely rank as the most perfect alliance on the board. Together, these two powers can control each sector of the board in turn. The alliance can be camouflaged in the early stages of the game and Turkey or Austria can be used to reduce the other opposition in the south to a single country which then itself is eliminated. The alliance can also assemble centres very rapidly - usually in time to turn on the west with overwhelming force. Because Russia has a bit of an edge in positioning, she can take 18 centres before the Italians can. Alternatively, Italy can be stabbed in the later stages of the game.

France has been neglected so far for one reason. France is too distant from Russia to make an effective number one ally. Yes, France can be useful as a distracting or balancing force, but her inability to intervene alongside Russia in the early going makes it a Russian necessity to find a better ally. Some other power is needed early to give the vital, local, overwhelming concentration of force. After this early hurdle, Russia becomes practically invulnerable to single power opposition.

To summarize, we can safely state that either Germany or Italy makes the best long term ally. England is a damper on our expansion hopes, Turkey is a constant threat, and Austria is too much in the way. If we do not attack in the south first, then two of the three southern powers are bound to ally and then they will overpower us in time. The north does not offer the early, fast, critical gains that we so badly need. A stealthy inch to ten or twelve centres will provide the material for an all out dash to the remaining centres. If you draw Russia, smile, for you will have more fun than anyone else.

((That ends the series on Strategic Diplomacy as written by Harry Drews back in 1975. Did everyone enjoy them? If so, I'll try to find some other strategy-type articles from my "archives" to print. Let me know.))

1990CF PRESS CONTINUED...

have reacted as I did had I sacked one of your centres on the grounds of preserving parity. However, I will give you credit for not being as hostile as I'm sure you could be. Also, I'm not waiting for an apology. I think this is simply a case of you making a boneheaded move and you lashed out because things haven't gone as you planned or hoped. I'm sorry this turn of events has happened because it has tarnished this game to a degree. Mike - we met at DipCon in 1990, we shook hands, we chatted, we laughed. I certainly didn't expect to be getting into a heated war of words with you after that. (And if you *really* think my press was abuse in disguise, you should work on improving your sense of humour and lightening up a bit. You might have found it funny if it hadn't been directed toward you). Maybe we'll meet at DixieCon or Dip-Con and bury the hatchet (somewhere other than in one of our backs). I hope so. I'm not interested in feuding. I just want to have fun - really. In the meantime, I hope to put you out of your misery this turn (no offense).

Brer Phil to Nice War Nerd: You've been a great ally. Thanks.

Russia-England: You may have won a single battle, but you won't win the war.

Russia-France: Nice standby work, but it's too little, too late, I think.

Russia-Italy: You can keep Mike company in the box (the closest thing to Diplomacy hell).

Germany-Russia: Congrats on your win-to-be. Bye now.

FACTS IN FIVE**1991FIF(C) TURN 3**

	Golf Terms	Pitchers	Hobbies	Birds	Dipzines
Frank Cauz (216 pts)	Birdie Ace Water XXX Round	Boddicker Aguilera Welch D Jackson Ryan	Baseball-Card Collecting Archery Wargaming Jigsaw Puzzles Reading	Blackbird Albatross Woodpecker Jay Robin	Boob Report Armchair Diplomat XXX Janus Runestone
Mario Cauz (146 pts)	Bogey Ace Water XXX Round	Bosio Abbott Welch R Johnson Reardon	XXX Astronomy XXX XXX XXX	Bald Eagle Albatross Wren Junco Robin	Bushwacker XXX XXX Janus Runestone
Eric C Young (232 pts)	Birdie Albatross Wedge Jack (a putt) Rough	Brantley Avery Ward Jackson Righetti	Birding Art-Collecting Weaving Juggling Riding	Bluebird Archeopteryx Warbler Jay Raven	BT, DT Against The Odds Well, Martha... XXX Rebel
Andy York (216 pts)	Birdie Amateur Wood XXX Range	Bones Abbott Williamson Jones Ryan	Barnstorming Ant Farming Windsurfing Jazzercise Racquetball	Bluebird Albatross Wren Jackdaw Robin	Batyville Gazette Appalachian General Well, Martha... XXX Rambling Way

Turn 3 Notes & Commentary

Golf Terms: Answers disallowed - none. Interesting how Mario's choice of a term for "B" reflects his own golf game...

Baseball Pitchers (active): Answers disallowed - none.

Hobbies: Answers disallowed - none, although I must admit, I was pretty liberal here.

Birds: Answers disallowed - none.

Dipzines: Answers disallowed - "White House Mania" (not a dipzine).

SCORES AFTER TURN 3

Young	482 + 232 = 714
F Cauz	443 + 216 = 659
York	432 + 216 = 648
M Cauz	432 + 146 = 578

CATEGORIES FOR TURN 4

1) Weapons (ancient); 2) Composers (Classical)
3) War Movies; 4) Electronics Terms; 5) Stars
Letters: V M L B T
DEADLINE: JUNE 8, 1992

Zines By The Pound!

North American Zine Bank (NAZB)
Garret Schenk,
40 3rd Place, Bsmt. Apt.
Brooklyn, New York 11231-3302

Looking for a new zine to subscribe to? Thinking about signing up for another game? You *could* dig up some publishers' names and addresses out of a zine you're currently getting, send a buck or stamps for a sample, and wait until they get around to sending you their latest. But instead, why not write to the North American Zine Bank (NAZB), the service I run as a compliment to *Zine Register (ZR)*.

You see, most PBM publishers trade their zines for *ZR*. This keeps me current on the state of the hobby (and each individual zine), allowing me to write up-to-date reviews for *ZR*. In return, publishers get *ZR* when it comes out, approximately twice a year, *and* (through the auspices of the NAZB) I also distribute the zines they send me. This means their trades do double duty, and help bring in additional subscribers, almost always a "good thing" for any publishing venture. (And since this zine recycling is environmentally "friendly", what more could you want?)

If you send me the modest fee of **\$3.00** (which covers 4th class postage rates), I'll bundle up as many zines as I can into a large manilla envelope (at least two pounds of zines, and as much as four pounds, depending on how close you live to New York and the stock of zines on hand). This usually works out to anywhere from 20 to 40 samples, a real zine bonanza!

I have a pretty organized collection of back issues. This means you can request particular individual zines, certain classes of zines (i.e., all the rail or "choo-choo" zines, or only Diplomacy zines, that sort of thing), or you can tell me which zines you've already seen and don't need samples of. Personal service is more than just a marketing ploy at this bank!

Finally, for a limited time, you can get the NAZB/*ZR* super-duper combo package deal. Yup, for just **\$5.00**, I'll send you a NAZB packet, with a set of zines personally selected just for you, along with the Fall 1991 issue of *Zine Register* (#19). This shaves fifty cents of the combined price of NAZB/*ZR*. Or, if you just want *ZR*, you can get that for **\$2.50**.



PARANOMASIAMANIA

It seems that during WWII, an admiral was given command of a new aircraft carrier, one outfitted with a new compass designed by the famous Tait Compass Works.

Lost in a fog, the admiral was forced to rely on the instrument, but couldn't steer and read the compass at the same time.

He walked from wheel to compass and, zigging when he should have zagged, eventually ran the ship up on a sandbar.

The hapless admiral became known as the man who grounds the warship he walks on.

But the manufacturer of the compass didn't escape blame for the accident either.

Matter of fact, they used to say, "He who has a Tait's is lost!"

1990CG THE RUSS BLINCO GAME

Fall 1906 Again

Seems the Canadian Postal Disservice was at it's best (worst) with the last issue of Northern Flame. David Charleston's issue was lost in the mail and, when he phoned me asking about the results, I mailed him a new copy of the results, they lost THAT one too. Anyway, we'll delay the game in order that David can catch up. Here's a reprint:

The G/R draw failed 2Y, 1N, 4 NVR and is repropesed.

Fall 1906

RUSSIA AT 11 AS AUSTRIA IS THE BIG LOSER!

Austria (Paul Cauz) Retreats a tri-ser & a vie-bud. a bul-rum (dislodged, annihilated); a BUD h, s by a SER; f adr-ALB.

England (Don Gill) f mid-POR

France (David Charleston) a bre-PAR; a SPA s English f mid-por; f LYO-mar; f wes-TYN.

Germany (Gerry Paulson) a pru-BER; a sil-BOH; a VIE-bud; a TYO s Italian a tri; f eng-BRE, s by a PIC; f nth-ENG.

Italy (David Anderson) a PIE-mar; a apu-VEN; a TRI h; f ion-TUN; f por s English f mid-spasc (dislodged, annihilated).

Russia (Rob Lesco) a lpl-EDI; f nrg-NAT; f NWY h; a WAR h, s by a MOS; a GAL-rum; f bla-CON, s by a ANK.

Turkey (Dave Elliott) a con-BUL, s by f GRE; f aeg-SMY.

Centres after 1906

A: [tri] <u>BUD</u> , [vie] <u>SER</u> , [bul], [gre], 3A	(2) -1
E: [edi], <u>POR</u>	(1) Even
F: par, spa, mar, [bre]	(3) -1
G: home, hol, bel, den, lon, <u>BRE</u> , <u>VIE</u>	(9) +2
I: home, tun, [por], <u>TRI</u> , 1A	(5) +1
R: home, swe, nwy, rum, lpl, <u>edi</u> , <u>con</u> , <u>ank</u>	(11) +3!
T: [con], [ank], smy, <u>BUL</u> , <u>GRE</u>	(3) Even

The deadline for Winter 1906 & Spring 1907 is: **July 15, 1992.**

I will separate seasons if I get THREE requests.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED G/R DRAW!

Addresses:

Paul Cauz 209 Silverthorn Av, Toronto, Ont M6N 3K2
 Don Gill 40 Goldpine Av, Courtice, Ont L1E 1P2
 David Charleston 2216 Concord Circle, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9202
 Gerry Paulson 80 McLeod Pl, Edmonton, Alta T5A 3A8
 David Anderson 18 B St, Pontiac, MI 48340
 Robert Lesco 49 Parkside Dr, Brampton, Ont L6Y 2H1
 Dave Elliott 51 Findlay Blvd, Downsview, Ont M3H 3L8

Cal White 1 Tumberry Av, Toronto, Ont M6N 1P6

1990CJ THE MERLE HAGGARD GAME

Fall 1905 FRANCE JILTS TWO SUITORS AS HE AND RUSSIA GAIN BIG!

Austria (Bill Lafosse) a mun h (Dislodged, retreat to boh, ruh, otn); a vie-TYO;
a bud-tri (dislodged, annihilated).

England (CD) f NTH h; a WAL h.

France (Gale Wetmore) f EDI h; f eng-LON; a bre-PIC; a ruh-BEL; a tyo-MUN, s by a BUR;
f LYO-wes.

Germany (Bob Sorfleet) a KIE-den; a HOL-kie; a sil-BER.

Italy (Stuart Eves) a VEN s French a tyo-tri (nso); f APU-ion; f ion-TUN, s by f TYN.

Russia (Randolph Smyth) a LPL h; f BAL-den; f bot-SWE, s by a NWY; a gal-BUD; a war-SIL;
f RUM h.

Turkey (Graham Wilson) f tun-wes (dislodged, retreat to naf, oth); f eas-ION, s by f AEG;
a SER s Russian a gal-bud; f TRI s French a tyo-ven (nso); a ALB s f tri;
a GRE h.

Centres after 1906

A: [bud], vie, [mun]	(1) -1/E
E: [lon], den	(1) -1
F: home, spa, por, bel, [lp!], <u>lon</u> , <u>mun</u> , 1 short	(9) +2
G: ber, kie, hol	(3) E
I: home, tun	(4) E
R: home, rum, swe, nwy, <u>lp!</u> , <u>bud</u>	(9) +2
T: home, bul, gre, tri, ser	(7) E

Graham: please sign your orders - a stricter GM could NMR you for not doing so.

Randolph has a change of address, sort of: He's still at the same building, but has moved up two floors to apartment #1221. Here's a current address list:

Bill Lafosse 65 Barbara St, Trenton, Ont K8V 1Z6
Gale Wetmore 2235 Halifax Cr, NW, Calgary, Alberta T2M 4E1
Bob Sorfleet 3420 Albion Rd, Ottawa, Ont K1V 8W3
Stuart Eves 24 Birch Rd, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berks RG7 3LT
Randolph Smyth #1221, 555 St Mary Av, Winnipeg, Man R3C 3X4
Graham Wilson 22 Magwood Ct, Toronto, Ont M6S 2M5

Austria-Germany: What's the difference between a duck?

The deadline for Winter 1905 adjustments and Spring 1906 orders is: **JULY 15, 1992**
There's an extra week thrown in here because of our trip to DipCon.

1992SRB32 THE ROBERT JOHNSON GAME

(GunBoat Diplomacy)

I'm missing two sets of orders for this game and I think I'd like to delay it and see if I can't get them in. It's possible that the two players simply missed the gamestart notice and I'd like to give them the benefit of the doubt. Anyway, the new deadline for this game (named after Robert Johnson, who, while he may not have invented Delta Blues, certainly set the musical standards for the genre) is: **July 15, 1992**

1990CF THE STEVE EARLE GAME

Fall 1906

THE JUGGERNAUT ROLLS ON! I/T BITE THE DUST!

England (Fred Wiedemeyer) f edi-NRG; a lon-DEN, c by f NTH & s by f HEL; f swe-nwy (dislodged, retreat to fin, ska, otb).

France (Andy York) a spa-MAR; f mid-WES, s by f LYO; f eng-MID; a ruh-HOL; a bur-RUH.

Germany (Michael Gonsalves) f BAL-kie.

Italy (David Senzig) f tun-ion.

Russia (Phil Reynolds) Retreats f swe-bot. f nwy-SWE, s by f BOT; a stp-NWY, s by f BAR; a mos-WAR; a BER s a kie; a sil-MUN, s by a KIE & a TYO; f RUM uno (h).

Turkey (Steve Nicewarner) a tus-TUN, c by f TYN & s by f ION; f NAP s f TYN; f's AEG, EAS, a's PIE, VEN, SMY & BUL all hold.

Centres after 1906

E: home, den, [hol]	(4) -1/E
F: home, spa, por, bel, <u>hol</u>	(7) +1
G: [kie]	(0) OUTI
I: [tun]	(0) OUTI
R: home, rum, bud, nwy, vie, mun, ber, swe, <u>kie</u>	(12) +2
T: home, gre, bul, ser, tri, ven, rum, nap, <u>tun</u>	(11) +1

There has been a proposal for a Russian/Turkish draw. Please vote with your Winter/Spring orders. Thanks to David Senzig and Michael Gonsalves for finishing out their positions.

Addresses

Fred Wiedemeyer 7632 92nd Av, Edmonton, Alta T6C 1R4
 Andrew York Box 2307, Universal City, TX 78148
 Phil Reynolds USF #4270, 4202 Fowler Av, Tampa, FL 33620
 Steve Nicewarner #1310, 11 Ephesus Church Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

The deadline for Winter 1906 & Spring 1907 (and draw vote) is: **July 15, 1992**

Tunis-Baltic: Look at the sky turning hellfire red. Somebody's house is burning down. Exit otb. So long - meet you in the Azores for a beer.

Tunis-Rome: Don't trip ovr the abandoned cannons and other Italian equipment. The Pope has his world tour all planned.

GM-Tunis: Can I have the T Shirt concession?

Dave-Phil: See ya; sorry I didn't put up the fight you would have. I'm working on growing up, but it don't come easy.

Tunis-France: Luigi Galivini really wanted to experimetrn with frog legs, however he never reached the potential.

Tunis-London: Sneeze on the late, wa; Hasta so longa.

Brer Phil to Calvin: May 13 as deadline?! Is this a typo? I have to mail my orders ASAP - good thing I don't need to negotiate with other players. Say, are you becoming a TurboPhreak?

Cal-Phil: Sure, maybe it's time for an image change - can you see NF as a FFZ? (Feud FULL Zine?) And, yes, May 13 WAS a typo.

Phil-Mike: I'm going to be very honesy and frank with you, Mike. I've been completely surprised by your sore loser attitude, which disappoints me. I haven't come across such poor sportsmanship since I wrote a nasty personal letter to a hobbyist who stabbed me in my first postal Dip game. Note, though, that is was a personal letter - not public press - my first Dip game, I would have done the same thing in his position. I later apologised to him, he graciously accepted, and we became friends. Now, Mike, I know you're no novice, and I know you would

1991CC THE ERNEST TUBB "GAME"

I received the following letter from Thomas Franke:

"I have just received the results of the Ernest Tubb game (1991CC) and I must say that I'm very disappointed about it. I don't like your solution that the players, who have started the game, will play it out to the bitter end, no matter if John Etheridge sends in orders or not. In fact, he hasn't played at all in this game as he had never send in any orders. In Germany, a game would only get started if all seven players have send in their orders.

"Now the game is like a variant with one player dropping out of the game from the very beginning, which confuses the diplomatic and strategic situation on the board. That's not my flavour of the month and the player of A/R/T, who doesn't get an ally and stands alone, because Italy isn't playing will face an early end.

"Also, there is hardly *any* correspondence in this game - I have written to all players but received only three (!) replies, which was one phone call from Germany, a letter and a postcard from Russia. Nothing from Austria or the other players - what's that for a game? Is it really a Diplomacy game?

"Also, your policy with the deadline is sometimes a bit confusing. For example, I didn't know exactly when the last deadline was fixed after you extended it. But that was only partly your fault because Andreas Gomolka hadn't received the adjudications, which I copied for him.

"To make it short: I do resign from this disgusting game as it is no fun to play with only six players, who don't care to write from the very beginning! Sorry Cal, I think I have to do this..."

((I honestly can't say as I blame you. In my defense, I DID make it clear that this was a British rules game with no standbys, but, in all honesty (not to mention hindsight), I should not have allowed the game to start without an Italian player. As for the players not writing, there isn't much I can do about that, but I wonder the same thing as Thomas: why join a game if you don't intend to write?))

To top things off, I only received three sets of orders for this turn. Obviously not too many of you are interested in this game, there I am declaring this game to be abandoned and will report it to the BNC as such. Any of you who sent me gamefees (some paid and some hadn't gotten round to it yet), please notify me and I'll add it to your sub balance.))

PARANOMASIAMANIA

A guy meets a pal who's standing in front of a house.

"What are you doing?" he asks.

"Watch!" sez the pal. "Just watch!"

He points to a window.

Sure enough, half a minute later, a sock comes sailing out the window and lands in a pile at the bottom.

"Don't go!" says the sock-watcher. "That's not the best part! There'll be another out the window in 60 seconds!"

They time it. Sure enough: three, two, one, out the window comes another sock.

"I don't believe it!"

They wait another 60 seconds, it happens again. One guy says to the other:

"Didn't I tell ya? There's a sock airborne every minute!"

MAILING LIST

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NORTHERN FLAME is a magazine of Postal Diplomacy and its variants, fantasy, science fiction, baseball and whatever else strikes the fancy of Ye Olde Editor.

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GAME OPENINGS! Opening singular, that is. The only game open in NF right now (and for the foreseeable future) is one section of Filntlock II. I have Eric Young, Brad Wilson & Phil Reynolds confirmed and David Anderson as a possible. 3 or 4 signed up, I need 2 or 3.

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