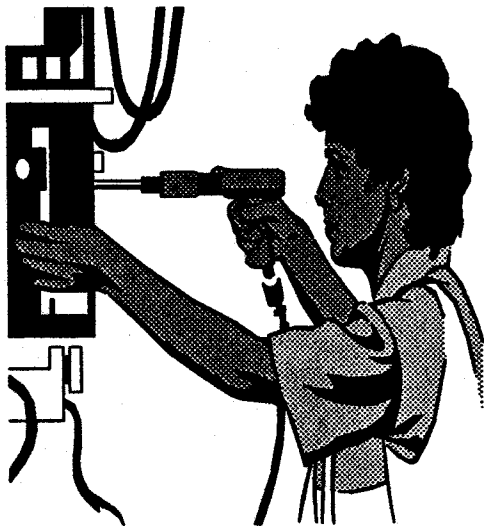


NORTHERN FLAME 38



We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused during our renovations.

The Management

Index

Bass Notes	3
The Mailman Cometh	4
Requiem For a Queen by Larry Peory	12
1885 a variant by Fred C Davis Jr	14
Notes From the Bunker by Mike Agnew	19
Slappy's Sports Section by Mike Hopcroft	21
The Baseball Predictions Contest	25
The Rob Lesco Papers	26
One Damned Addictive Puzzle	28
Facts In Five 1991FiF(C)	29
1990CF, 1990CG, 1990CJ & 1992Srb32	30-32



BASS NOTES

1- Boy, this'n'll take a fair while to write. Lots has happened in the last few weeks, not to mention lots to comment on.

2- Lorie and I had a GREAT time at DipCon in Kansas City. I enjoyed myself playing Dip and Lorie and Glenda Hartwig got to spend the weekend shopping, swimming and touring. As for the Con itself, well, I can't see how it could have been any better run. I would have liked to have seen more people there, but considering the relatively low hobby population in the Midwest, I think the turnout was fair. With one game per day, the mood was relaxed and there was plenty of time to socialize. There was a lot of casual gaming, but if you didn't like Titan or Acquire, you were pretty much reduced to spectator status. Didn't matter, there was lots of kibitzing done and I got to see people I hadn't seen in a while. I also got to meet a couple of people I had wanted to meet for a while. I'm talking about Rex Martin, former editor of The General for Avalon Hill and Allan Calhmer, inventor of Diplomacy. Both were very interesting to talk to, but I did get to spend a lot more time with Rex as we were in a game together (I like a guy who can talk to me while I'm eliminating him from the game...). Congratulations and thanks to Gary Behnen & Vince Lutterbie for an excellent Con.

3- The latest Zine Register is out and I must say that Garret has certainly improved the quality of the product. The sarcasm and acidity of ZR #19 is, on the whole, missing. The reviews are more informed and informative. Much of this stems from an increased number of reviewers, but Garret seems to have taken pains to learn more about the zines he reviews instead of just giving impressions.

Unfortunately, Garret seems to have decided to take all of his anger out on Brad Wilson and myself. I could make a lot out of this and fire back a few shots, but I don't think I'll bother - as far as I'm concerned, if Garret can get the venom out of his system by slandering me, then fine. If it keeps the reviews of the rest of the zines more neutral, I can live with it. Most of his comments just show that he didn't understand what I wrote in my editorial in Flame #35.

As for Brad, I'm sure he'll have his own reaction. As bad as the things that were said about me, none were as bad as what Garret said about Brad. The next Vertigo should be, well, interesting...

4- The results of the Runestone Poll were announced at DipCon and Northern Flame managed a third place finish. I can't help but be a little disappointed since Eric told me that there were few if any, European votes registered. Obviously, this is because I forgot to insert the ballot with NF#35 which didn't give my readers time enough to vote. Not to take anything away from Perelandra and Maniac's Paradise, but my support from overseas has been traditionally strong. Sigh.

A hearty congrats to Pete Gaughan for his win. Perelandra has long been an excellent zine and I'm glad that (if I couldn't win it) Pete did. What'll be interesting is that, several issues ago, Pete announced that he would be changing his format. Some people would go back on that after winning the Poll, but I'll bet Pete isn't one of them.

One thing that IS going to happen is some changes in NORTHERN FLAME. Now that I don't have to worry about being the "defending champion", I can do what I want without any pressure. For about the last seven or eight issues I've felt somewhat obligated to keep things the way they were as the two RP wins showed that the readership liked things the

way they were. This has resulted in my feeling a little stale and it showed in the zine (at least to me). What I've always done in the past to correct this is to change things to keep them interesting.

What am I getting at? Well, I want to open some more games for one thing. I haven't been happy cutting off game openings because I hate getting novice (or otherwise) enquiries and having to send them elsewhere. Unfortunately, the size of NF precluded a larger gameload. Therefore, I will probably be reducing some of the other features. Not all and not necessarily right away. The columnists will stay, certainly, and the baseball (sorry, Brits!). I may reduce the lettercol somewhat (but not necessarily). Basically, I haven't really decided what to cut and what to add, but the main change is that I am not going to feel obligated to do big issues anymore. After that, who knows? I hope you all stick around and find out. Things may get interesting...

5- The Hobby Awards were announced at DipCon. John Boardman won the Miller Award for service to the hobby; Gary Behnen won the Koning Award for Outstanding Play; Kathy Caruso won the Holley Award for Quantity Participation; and Garret Schenk won the Walker Award for Literary Excellence.

6- The DipCon Tournament results were as follows:

1- Marc Peters	73 pts	Best Country Awards
2- Allan Calhamer	61	
3- Steve Cooley	61	England: Vince Lutterbie
4- Bob Acheson	45	France: Marc Peters
5- Eric Newhouse	42	Germany: Pete Gaughan
6- Pete Gaughan	40	Italy: Cal White
7- Tom Johnston	35	Austria: Allan Calhamer
8- Mark Fruch	35	Russia: Mark Fruch
9- Cal White	35	Turkey: Steve Cooley

8- I'm printing the rules for my all-time favourite variant, 1885 by Fred Davis. I'll also be opening a section of the game, with the usual gamefees. The map's a little blurry, but I think it will suffice. I'm not going to do a computer version, so we'll make do. Perhaps one of the Variant Banks can provide a better one. Fred?

9- DipCon XXVI was awarded to the PacifiCon group (Pete Gaughan & Don del Grande) from San Francisco. The Frisco DipCon will be held over the Labour Day weekend in 1993. I'll give you details when they become available.

10- As of right now, the game opening situation in NORTHERN FLAME looks like this: I am opening two games of Regular Diplomacy. Seven players are needed in both. The Flintlock II game has 3 players (Eric Young, Phil Reynolds & Brad Wilson) with a couple of enquiries extant. 2 needed. I have a section of 1885 open with nobody signed up (9 needed). There is one more opening in Facts In Five. I have three people signed up (Paul Cauz, Sandi Hood & Conrad von Metzke). One more needed, as I find four the most manageable, presentation-wise. Rules for all variants, as well as Facts In Five, are available on request (although if you're reading this, why would you order 1885 rules?). Also, I need to hear from everyone who has volunteered to standby to make sure you're still interested.

11- This issue sees the debut of a new subzine in NF. It's as yet unnamed, but the perpetrator is Robert Lesco and Issue #1 contains Spring 1901 of the Garth Brooks game.

THE MAILMAN COMETH!

STEVE NICEWARNER

Chapel Hill, NC

My memories of DipCon two years ago were that Baltimore lost the vote because people were afraid that Robert *[[Sacks]]* would be in charge. Don't get me wrong, Robert is a hell of an organizer, and knows how to run a good event/con, but it takes some time to get past that loud personality. Personally, I don't play Dip at large conventions - there are too many other things to do instead of sacrificing the whole weekend on Dip, but that's just me. Even when DipCon is not at a big Con, we should make a concerted effort to introduce ourselves to the people that are there. Too often we end up drifting into our little cliques at cons, which does nothing to help new people at all.

I think we should cut David *[[Hood]]* a little break. After all, what if you, as a novice, subbed to, say, CANADIAN DIPLOMAT as your first zine, not knowing that it came out quarterly? Wouldn't you be slightly put off by the fact that your game was going to take five years of real time to finish. What I'm saying is that timeliness is a first impression, fannishness is not. If people don't stay in the hobby, they might never find the fannish zines at all.

((Check out my answer to Kevin Brown (pp 24-25) last issue. Timeliness and accuracy are important to fans as well, just not the be-all and end-all of the hobby. Sigh.))

Well, that's all from here. I just heard on the news that the 82nd Airborne was put on alert for a possible airdrop into the Sarajevo airport. It's comforting to know that it would take at least a little time, say 72 hours, to get me back in uniform. If I was still in Fort Bragg, I could have been in Bosnia before you read this.

((Here's hoping you get to stay out of that mess.))

JOHN MCLAURIN

Huntsville, Ont

I have to say that it was refreshing to read Mike Agnew's notes on fascism. I cannot remember ever having heard the term used in any other way than as an insult, usually thrown by some lefty protester who has no idea what the term means. Mike, on the other hand, has decided to actually study something before he talks about it. This is rare and commendable. I can't see fascism coming to power in the way he describes, but that is another matter.

CLAUDE GAUTRON

Winnipeg, Manitoba

In regards to John Leeder's letter in NF#36, I'm not at all surprised at the article he quotes when I see who the author is! Laurier La Pierre is well-known in Quebec for being on the looney fringe of intellectual and political life. He sees conspiracies everywhere - if he were living in Alberta, he would no doubt find some fiendish plot in the Reform Party of the Alberta Cattlemen's Association (if such an organization does exist) ((It does - they burn KD Lang records...)). He's a hopeless case dyed-in-the-wool "fédéraliste centralisateur" who, basically, doesn't know what he's talking about! I mean, an "indépendantiste" conspiracy involving up to 5000 people? Give me a break! As Marlin Fitzwater would say, La Pierre has obviously gone

looney tunes on us. He has no understanding, based on his article, of the major political issues being discussed in Quebec. "Le fédéralisme dominateur" is not a "indépendantiste" slogan, as he seems to imply, but an economic and political concept based on the separation of fiscal powers between the federal government and the provinces. Even Robert Bourassa uses the term "fédéralisme dominateur", and he's certainly no "indépendantiste"! The rest of La Pierre's article is similarly skewed, with a sweeping and quite unjustified condemnation of the Quebec media. Some Quebec newspapers may sometimes present a distorted view of English Canada, but that is nothing compared to some of the things I've read about Quebec in the English media (some articles even originated from the Calgary Herald!). Anyone who believes in Laurier La Pierre's paranoid and grandiose conspiracy theory, with separatists behind every rock, is sure to believe that Elvis is alive and living on another planet!!

((I don't pretend to understand Quebec politics, so I'll leave the next riposte to John. However, I didn't get the idea that the "conspiracy" theory meant closed doors and smoky rooms. It appeared to me to be more of a tacit agreement among those in power to strive for an independent Quebec. This would mean that there would be MORE and greater power to be had by the elite (Notables, if you will) in a sovereign nation as opposed to a mere province. I'm the first to admit that I don't know Quebec well enough to make any kind of judgment, but I do know human nature, and I'm afraid I don't find this terribly farfetched.))

JOHN MCLAURIN

Huntsville, Ontario

I notice that Iain Bowen used the term "regionalism" (p16, NF#37). If I understand him correctly, he is using it in the sense that the "region" of Europe is banding together (the EEC). I have heard the term used in Canada to refer to a "regionalism" which is a political view or force which represents a particular region of our country, ie the West or the Maritimes. Whereas Iain's usage implies a unifying force, the latter would be, more likely, a divisive force. The word does not appear in my dictionary, so now I wonder if there is a set definition, and is one of these usages wrong?

((According to the GAGE CANADIAN DICTIONARY, the applicable definitions for "regionalism" are as follows:

1. concern with and loyalty to one's own geographical region within a country, rather than the country as a whole; regional patriotism. 2. a linguistic feature or a custom, etc, that is characteristic of a particular geographical region. 3. the division of a country, etc, into partially autonomous administrative areas called regions.

On the face of this, I'd say that Iain's usage was incorrect, but this is a Canadian dictionary and likely to give the Canadian definition. My personal opinion is that both usages are correct. One might say that the respective definitions are, umm, "regional".))

I can't see how anyone can get really uptight about mistakes in zines. For instance, the deadline given on p21 is June 8th, only one day after the published date of this issue. It's obviously a mistake, but if anything, it only adds to the fun of this hobby.

((Ah, but it wasn't a mistake! This and many others each issue are surreptitiously hidden throughout the zine in an effort to keep NF readers alert, thereby honing their observational powers to a fine tune and increasing life skills. Ah, the sacrifices I make...))

BRENT MCKEE

Saskatoon, Fransaskatchewan

I don't want to write too much about Garret and THE ZINE REGISTER since I have a feeling there is going to be a lot written on the subject. Believe it or not, I think #20 is a better product than #19, for the most part. There are a greater number of reviewers, which is always good, and for the most part, there are fewer of the putdowns seen in Garret's premiere issue. Garret seems to have actually seen more of the zines that he is reviewing. But then there is his constant assault on you and Brad Wilson. I really don't think it is fair (I can help but wonder whether he and I saw the same editorial and response in NF 35 & 36). More importantly I don't think that Garret's commentary about you and Brad is a good thing for the reputation or whatever of THE ZINE REGISTER. Garret is an outspoken guy - Great, but is making THE ZINE REGISTER outspoken good for the hobby? If anything in the hobby seems to be above these sorts of rivalries, it has to be THE ZINE REGISTER. It looks like Garret will leave after next issue. Let's hope that the next editor will be someone who puts promotion of the hobby above personal antagonism. (NO, I don't want it!!!)

All of that being said, Garret should have gotten something from the PDORA for his promotion of THE ZINE REGISTER and the hobby. He was rather ambitious to ask for \$400 when he expected \$50.

Incidentally, to clear up something about BOAST - my comments weren't directed against Herb Barents or his zine, but rather at Garret's review of BOAST. Until a while ago, I had never seen an issue of it (I recently got a copy from the Zine Bank). My point was this: Nash felt that the number of adjudication problems was sufficient to make subscribing unadvisable, but Phil and Garret never mentioned adjudication problems in their reviews in #19 preferring to concentrate on Herb's longevity and speed. Both are admirable and I applaud Herb for them, but at the same time, if there are any problems with the adjudications, then you are not doing Herb or any possible players in his zine by not mentioning them.

((I think the question here is, did Phil or Garret play in any BOAST games? If not, then they are to commended for not commenting on something about which they knew nothing. From what I understand, any mistakes that Herb makes are corrected VERY promptly by flyer. A casual reviewer would not know this. As for not doing Herb any favours, I think that if you ragged on about his GMing problems in ZR, you would effectively be trying to drive Herb from the hobby. I have a real problem with this. We need to encourage people to play in zines and publishers to publish them, not try to have players avoid them. If there's a bad GMing problem, I say mention it, but balance it out. ie "Herb has never been known for accurate GMing, but he has had a very dedicated core of players in BOAST for over 20 years". What's so hard about that?))

I envy James Nelson the possibility of studying German in the Czech and Slovak Federated Republic. It is a beautiful country and a great opportunity to actually live in the language you are studying. One of the faults in studying a language in North America is that you use it in class and then for the rest of the day, most of us live in English. How can you retain something new that you've learned under those circumstances. They also brew excellent beer in Pizen.

Note to David Hood: Springsteen has a new song "Fifty Seven Channels and Nothing's On". From what I see, I am inclined to agree. How many Andy Griffith and Beverly Hillbilly's reruns do we really need? Worse, how many versions of Roseanne and Beverly Hills 90210 do we need? And yes, Cal, you are right about illiteracy. Why read (or play Diplomacy) when you can be entertained by TV or Nintendo?

Ron Newmaster's idea about pitching Diplomacy to Political Science types and similar forms of life has a certain amount of merit. If history students play games (it isn't really encouraged, at least not in the department I was in), they tend to be games that look at historical choices. Diplomacy is really a game of interpersonal relationships, so it seems ideally suited for people whose business is interpersonal relationships. Of course, it couldn't hurt to send copies of the game to Bill Clinton and Ross Perot either (it is much too late for George Bush!).

((When it comes to Diplomacy being a game of interpersonal relationships, it's also a game of psychology. Why not try to attract psychology students as well?))

The NHL promotes itself as well as John Gotti! They need a multi-level TV contract and commercials that talk about the game and the personalities. Gretzky can't do it all himself, and when was the last time you saw a hockey player on ANY US talk show? Look how many baseball, Football, Tennis and basketball players appear on the late night chat shows.

((I disagree with you about the talk show idea. Hockey players are basically considered as the worst interviews of all pro athletes. The reason for this is simple. A pro hockey player's life goes basically like this. He starts playing at about age 4 or 5 at the pee wee level. He gradually works his way up through the age group leagues until he is about 13 or 14. Then he enters the "draft" system where only the better players are selected for the "serious" leagues. Once he turns 16, he is eligible to be drafted by Junior "A" teams which will probably mean moving away from home (which in Ontario could mean as far as a 20 hour drive away from home). At age 18, he is eligible for the NHL draft. If selected, he will probably play two more years of Junior "A" before making the big team (or the minors, since after age 20, he is too old for Junior "A"). If he's good enough he has a fine NHL career (average length is about 4 years, I believe). Even if he's really good, he lasts until age 32 or 33 and then retires. Did you notice one thing I left out? Right, an education. Football players and basketball players can pretty much only make the pros after getting a university education. Many Baseball players do attend university, although not all. Hockey players, on the other hand, fit a high school education in around their hockey. If they graduate, fine, if not, fine. What you get are a bunch of cement heads (like Wendell Clark...) who have no education whatsoever and are totally unprepared for life after hockey. So keep 'em off of talk shows - you'd totally ruin the league's image.))

Speaking of Basketball, let's hear a hearty Bronx cheer for the US Olympic team. I always thought that the idea behind sport was competition, and the point in watching sports was that there was some chance of both teams winning. When the Americans were sending college seniors, there was always a certain possibility that they could lose, but they also could win. Seems to me that the Americans expected to win every game and, when they didn't, got all put out, so they created the Nightmare Team to make sure they won. Didn't de Coubertin say something about the joy of competing being more important than the actual winning, or am I being old-fashioned? All I know is that this is the year I am cheering for Lithuania!

((I don't see why everyone is down on the US Team. The idea is to field your best team and they certainly have. If the rest of the world is THAT far behind the Americans, it isn't the US' fault, is it? What I figure will happen is one of two things: a) the rest of the world will improve by the experience (the best way to get better is by competing against your superiors), or, and I hope this isn't the case, b) the rest of the world will give up and basketball will lose it's Olympic status. Anyone who thinks the US should send LESS than its best team is simply jealous. I mean, after all, weren't we trying to do the same thing when we sent the NHL All-Stars against the Russians in the 1972 Canada-Russia hockey series?))

Le Fransaskois, La Fransaskoise, Les Fransaskoises. (Try your spell checker on those. Mine think my name is spelled wrong!)

PETE GAUGHAN

Novato, California

Re: your comment on François. What is the difference between personal problems and burnout? Seems you'd have to define them very tightly to make any distinction. But having been in and then out and then in the hobby, maybe you're the guy to make those distinctions.

((It's not that fine a line actually. Someone who leaves the hobby due to personal problems could be doing so while maintaining a high level of interest in Diplomacy. Job change (or loss); domestic problems, time constraints, etc. All these can leave a person without the free time necessary to take part in the hobby. Burnout, on the other hand, is a distinct psychological problem. When I first left the hobby it was because I had become psychologically incapable of handling the self-imposed workload I had. I lost ALL semblance of motivation for hobby stuff and I got to a point where even the thought of opening mail (hobby and otherwise) caused me literal angst. Sounds a bit silly, I know, but take my word for it, it's real. Doug Kent, take note...))

I'm disappointed in the Nordrs for caving in to Lindros. Admitting that I know nothing of NHL draft rules, it seems to me that a draft is a legal and fair exercise, and Lindros was beating the league over the head with the idea that every player should be a complete free agent. Heck, even carpenter's unions have rules about who can work and where. (But I certainly don't fault the Nordriques for robbing the Rangers (or Flyers) blind, if indeed they felt they had to make a deal).

((They had to either deal him or lose him. Under current NHL draft rules, if the team that drafts a player doesn't sign him within a year of the draft, the player is again eligible to be drafted. Therefore, if the Nordrs hadn't dealt him, they would have lost him with nothing to show for him. Therefore, they waited until the time was almost up, (forcing him to sit out a full year) and then opened the floor for offers. As far as the draft, it's always been the opinion that the draft (for any sport) bordered on infringement of a person's constitutional rights of freedom to work where they wished. Admittedly, professional sports has a need for parity that makes the draft a necessity, but owners are always scared about a court challenge to same. Indeed, that was Lindros final ace-in-the-hole which, fortunately, he never played.))

My cousin, the Navy doctor, is doing a year in the Bay area and he's a big minor league baseball fan (my family is originally from Ohio and he's lived in Mansfield and Dayton - Toledo, Akron and Columbus all got his patronage). So I may wind up going to a couple of San Jose Giants' games, maybe the Stockton Ports'. Guess I better get used to it, with the SF Giants headed for Sacramento.

((Sacto, eh? I'm not sure what I figure the most likely relocation spot is. Why do you figure Sacramento? I know that Washington is interested, as is Buffalo, and a couple of others. Mind you, I predicted last year that Les Expos would be headed for DC in a year or two, but the Giants may beat them there.))

JAMES NELSON

Derby, England

Quite a bit has happened since I last wrote to you.

The course in Czechoslovakia was due to start on the 24th May, but I did not receive confirmation that I was accepted into the course until the 14th May! Having decided to

go, arranged things such as travelers cheques, etc, I then had a phone call from the work placement office at Brunel. Was I still interested in a work placement at Stoke Manderville Hospital (a very famous hospital in England) as they had expressed an interest in me?

So from the 6th July, I will be in Aylesbury for ten weeks. The placement is conducting some research in "quality and efficiency of service" for the Pharmacy Department. What has this to do with Business & Finance Law? Nothing! Most first year Law placements are not terribly good as the first year of study is a broad-based Social Science course, students [[get]] very little knowledge they can apply. Most placements, particularly those in the private sector, are clerical in nature, with placementees delegated such duties as photocopying and coffee making. I'm looking forward to my placement.

Unfortunately, it is only for ten weeks and it is unpaid. Because the placement is with a "good & charitable cause", I am entitled to an extra ten weeks grant from the County Council, so this is not such a problem. It is now even less of a problem as I have been informed that the hospital is only going to charge me £13 a week (self-catering). The placement runs through till 11th September and I start back at Brunel on the 5th October (the day after my 20th birthday).

So I am afraid there will be no travelogue. This is a shame as with the political situation in Czechoslovakia being delicately balanced at the moment, it would have been very interesting. I would have been in Slovakia. A friend of mine said that if he had been in my shoes, he would have turned the placement down and gone to Czechoslovakia "for the experience".

A zimmer frame is a metal frame which old people use to assist them in getting around. Old people are always moaning about three things: their zimmer frame, their pensions, and the youth of today.

((We call it simply a "walker". And as for the third thing, gee, I wonder why they would do that... heh heh.))

You asked how I know that the BioChemistry Department at Brunel will have to fail 25% of first year students. If you mean, do I know for certain that this is true, then the answer is that I don't. But a friend of mine who is reading BioChemistry was told by her course tutor that this was the situation. It is not always feasible to increase class size, particularly when lab work is concerned and there is a limit to numbers.

((Then the condition I outlined vis-a-vis reduced first year intake and subsequent reduced government subsidies for the University will happen, n'est-ce pas?))

Yes, the break was very bad. Don't believe a word Mark says about it as he doesn't know anything about it. Just because, after his finals, he badly sprained his ankle falling down some stairs having consumed the best part of a bottle of whiskey doesn't mean that such behaviour runs in the family. Drinking the whiskey, perhaps, but not the falling down bit...

((I could say that at least Markie had a valid reason for hurting HIS ankle (other than trying out for the creek-jump team, that is...))

The European Championship of the Sport of Kings (Football to you, Soccer to heathen Americans) [[Ed note. I thought the Sport of Kings was Horse Racing?]] has been played in Sweden this last fortnight. All which is wrong and right in the sport has been demonstrated in clear fashion throughout the tournament.

In the first round, which was two four-team leagues (each country playing each other), the matches were dull, defensive struggles as neither side wanted to lose the match. There were a couple of good games (Holland versus Germany was worthy of being a final), but most were not worth watching.

Once we reached the semi-finals, we had two fantastic games. Plenty of action, lovely skills, attacking football, a joy to behold. Why? Because neither side wanted to go to a penalty shootout which occurred if there were a draw after extra time. The final, Germany versus Denmark, looks like it'll be a cracker. I hope Germany wins simply because Denmark should not even be playing! When FIFA banned Yugoslavia from taking their place in the tournament, Denmark, which finished second in Yugoslavia's group, took their place.

England were crap and deserved to lose. They never played attacking football and they appear not to have the players required on the international scene. The manager's excuse for losing against Sweden, eliminating England from the tournament, was that "The Swedes are physically stronger than we are. They're big, strong lads, Swedes." He might as well have said that we lost because they were all blond with blue eyes!

((I sort of half-noticed that there was a tournament going on, but when I heard that the English fans were rioting (again), I lost all interest. And now you don't even mention it. I guess it's an accepted part of the "sport" now, eh?))

DOUG KENT

Rahway, New Jersey

Great issue. The Peery responses were hilarious and right on target. What exactly is going on with Brad's comments on page 14? Was that an error, or something you cut out for your own reasons?

((See Bass Notes for the explanation (or lack thereof) on this.))

I don't know why you and Jack argue over being Ghod Emperor of the Hobby. Jack and I already decided ... he's the Ghod Emperor, Larry Peery is the Grand Hobby poobah, and I'm Hobby Icon Numero and President of the International Surly Creep Organization .. and I'm not only the President, I'm also a member. Get your own title!

((Well, I really don't want to argue about it, even if Jack did steal the title from me. Leastwise, I started using it before him. But I'm easy. From now on, I'll settle for being the Resident Hobby Guru, a title that Doug Acheson abdicated.))

James Nelson is right about a hobby based solely on games having a shorter lifespan. As far as I can tell, most people get involved in the hobby solely for the games, and once they get settled, they start dabbling in getting to know the personalities. This hobby is filled with a great diversity of people, places, and opinions, and it's a shame that some people might completely miss that while staring at a game board.

((Or worrying about A Mun-Bur... I agree with you, and I've never denied that the principle initial attraction of this hobby is the games. And rightfully so. It's a great game. It's just not the be-all and end-all of this cornucopia we call Dipdom.))

MICHAEL LOWREY

Charlotte, North Carolina

Can Fred & McBruce expand the club [[of Diplomacy pubbers who were almost killed in auto accidents]] to include boat accidents? If so, I'm covered.

((You'd have to ask them, but the main entry requirement is to write about it. Drop me a line and Fred'll put you on the list!))

Hope you didn't hit the roof over the ZR!! Garret was way out of line with his comments on you (and Brad). Don't let it get you down.

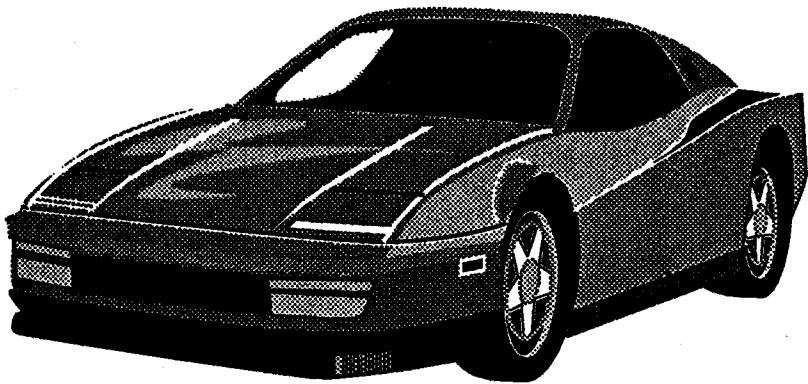
((I won't. See Bass Notes for my reaction, but I very much appreciate your encouragement. Thanks.))

MARK FIGGE

Winnipeg, Manitoba

I was quite shocked when I received your letter a couple of days ago saying that I had dropped out of the Jerry Jeff Walker game. I in fact did not! I believe I sent orders when I was still in Germany for Winter 1908, but it is quite possible that during the move from Germany to Canada, I only thought that I had sent it or that it was lost in the mail. Either way, I apologize to the other players and especially my ally, Claude Gautron, who probably got slightly burned from my lack of orders.

((Yours was one of those cases that makes a GM agonize. Until the two NMR's, you were an exemplary player and I knew that it was your impending move back home that messed up your orders. Unfortunately, it wouldn't have been fair to the players who did get their orders in to delay the game. You are most certainly welcome to join a future NF game and I hope you will once you are settled in.))



99 44/100 % Pure Space Filler

((In response to my dedication of a previous issue of NF to Freddie Mercury, the late lead singer for my all time favourite rock band, Queen, Larry Peery has kindly sent in the following article.))

REQUIEM FOR A QUEEN

BY LARRY PEERY

No, not me, dummy! The other one.

Not being a "rock" fan, I had no idea what or who Queen was. I had never heard of Freddie Mercury prior to the announcement of his death. And if I had heard of any of their music in the gay bars back in the early 1970s, I don't recall. So I had no preconceived notions or biases for or against Queen, and Mercury, when I read Cal's comments on Mercury's death some issues back.

But I was curious.

And so I decided to do some research.

I originally was going to get some tapes of Queen's recordings from Cal, but based on my past experiences with the Canadian Post Office, I decided to go a different route. I knew from the flurry of articles that appeared in the local press just after Mercury's death, that Hollywood was all a ga-ga over the fact that a division of Warner had paid what many felt was an outrageous sum for the rights to publish all of Queen's past recordings (sixteen or so, I think) and whatever new material remained in the vaults (enough for one to six new recordings depending on how much old material is recycled). Apparently, the fact that Mercury had AIDS was an open secret in the recording industry and nobody could comprehend why a record company would pay millions for his work. Bohemian Rhapsody was already on the charts because of some movie use *[[Ed Note. BR was part of the sound track for "Wayne's World"]]*, and the first reissues of Queen material in The Works and Classic Queen were doing well. After Mercury's death, Classic Queen went very high on the charts and sold exceedingly well. As will others yet to come, I'm sure. Warner will, no doubt, make a bundle off of it all.

The Classic Queen recording includes 17 of their best. I've listened to it perhaps 10 times and find it enjoyable. It's good background music for typing or word processing. The music is good in both composition and performance and the words make some sort of sense. That's more than I find with most rock music. It is a recording worth having.

The Works recording is the beginning of the rip-off. There are only 12 tracks, three of which are bonus tracks, two of which are extended versions of others on the disc, and a couple of which are on the Classic Queen disc. Obviously, Warner is going to milk it for all it can.

Some of the songs are open to different interpretations depending on whether the listener is straight, bisexual or gay. If you didn't know Mercury was gay, or you lived in Kansas, you might not detect it, but otherwise, it was pretty obvious. Based on what I can tell from the lyrics of his songs that I interpret from a gay perspective, Mercury had a relatively "normal" bisexual/gay life. And no, I'm not going to define that. Let's just say that he seems to have experienced the entire spectrum of human emotions, and the rest of it is just a matter of plumbing.

There were more articles in the papers as the Remembrance Concert approached, but not much new information. I don't know how it was handled elsewhere, but here there were two different versions of the concert broadcast. The first was a two hour edited version on the Fox network devoted mostly to Queen music as performed by a variety of artists. I taped it. The second four-hour version on MTV was the complete concert with all the non-Queen material by the various performers. Unfortunately, assuming that the second version would include the same material as the first, and more, I recorded the second concert over the first. That was a mistake. There were differences. And neither version included Elizabeth Taylor's encounter with a heckler, or even mentioned that she was there.

So I do have the four version of the concert and I've watched it several times, usually skipping all the heavy metal stuff. It was interesting to compare the live concert performances with the recordings, especially since I had, to that point, not seen any Queen videos. I had no idea what they looked like, other than what the fotos showed on the disc inserts (not much); or who played what instruments; or whether Mercury was the lead or sole vocalist; or how they acted as a group. Perhaps even more remarkable was the fact that I had never seen or even heard of most of the performers in the concert, except for Elton John and Liza Minelli (and I didn't think she belonged there). David Bowie is a case in point. I had never seen him, and never heard him, at least that I know of. He actually can sing. No surprise to you, I'm sure, but a shock to me.

There were a lot of good moments in the concerts and, on the whole, I enjoyed it. And if I enjoyed it, that's saying something.

On my third or fourth viewing of the concert tapes I came to the conclusion that what was being presented was, in fact if not in intent, a requiem for Mercury. The requiem is a subject of personal interest to me and it's not surprising that I would make the comparison. If you wanted to, I suppose, you could go so far as to compare the various parts of the concert and the music performed with parts of the requiem mass. Seeing David Bowie on his knees singing the Lord's Prayer (to the amazement of fellow performers and the audience) was nothing short of a divine revelation.

By now I wanted to see Queen live. Difficult since Mercury was dead. Still, through the miracle of video, he lives on. I found two videos, one a documentary on the group (enlightening) and the other a recording made of a live concert done in Budapest a few years back. I only had a chance to watch them twice, alas, since they were rental tapes, and I lacked a means to copy them. After having listened to the discs and watched the concert tape, I was familiar enough with the music to be able to concentrate on the visual performances of the group. Mercury was a consummate stage performer, whether he was on stage or not. But again, I can see where his performance would be interpreted one way by straights and another way by gays. Bisexuals were probably as confused as he was.

Still, it isn't the performer in Queen or Mercury that appealed to me. It was the music. The man was gifted with a remarkable voice, a product of a rare combination of talent and a specialized physical musical machine (eg his nose, Adam's apple, and larynx) that gave him the ability to do far more things far better than most singers, especially rock singers. I have the impression that had he wanted to he could have done just as well in sotto voce performances or in a different style of music. Who knows, perhaps they'll find a crossover album of opera hits, or Christmas Carols that he made twenty years ago.

Stranger things have happened, especially when there's money to be made.

Since I know nothing of the man's personal life or public behaviour, other than what I saw in those tapes and a few clips from the concert broadcast, I can't comment on that, and I certainly wouldn't judge it.

I said above that I didn't think Liza Minelli belonged at that concert. I still think that, musically speaking, but after reading in this morning's paper that Peter Allen just died of AIDS and that Liza was married to him for a while, perhaps I was wrong. Perhaps she cared.

So, the next time you think of Freddie Mercury, pull out a recording of Berlioz Requiem and listen to the Tuba Mirum — you may feel yourself in the presence of a Queen.

I- If an A/F is annihilated on the move, both units are removed.

J- If the loss of a supply centre requires the removal of a unit, the Gamesmaster may change the literal application of the standard 'fleets-before-armies' rule in the case of A/F's, since the literal application would result in the removal of both units. In such cases only, the army will be removed from the A/F first.

K- A disembarking army may not cut support for an attack on the fleet. In such cases, the A/F is treated as a single unit.

9. Direct Passage. Armies may move between Naples and Sicily without convoy. This does not prevent fleets from moving and supporting between Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas. All four provinces should be treated as coming together in a four way meet. Accordingly, attacks and supports may be made between any two of them by any appropriate unit(s), as between any other adjacent provinces.

10. Retreats are made by Just's Right Hand Rule IF a player fails to submit a retreat order. The rule works as follows: Starting from the northernmost point ('topmost') in the province from which the retreat is being made, the unit will be retreated to the first space to the right; if that is impossible, then to the first space to the left; if that is impossible, then to the second space on the right; then to the second space on the left; etc. For instance, an army retreating from Burgandy would retreat first to Belgium, then Picardy, then Ruhr, etc. A fleet retreating from Finland would retreat first to St Petersburg (it cannot retreat to Archangel, remember), then to Lapland, then Riga Sea, finally Gulf of Bothnia. Retreats take precedence over builds and removals; thus, if a retreat is required after a "Fall" move, players may write adjustment orders conditional on the direction of the retreats.

11. Players may NOT order units to retreat off the board. All dislodged units will be retreated if possible.

12. Removal of required units will be made by the Gamesmaster if a player fails to submit removal orders. There is no requirement that the Gamesmaster remove fleets before armies, or Away units before Home units, or anything else, in such cases where the Gamesmaster finds that such a procedure would result in the gift of a supply centre to another power, or would throw the board situation ridiculously out of kilter. In all such cases, the Gamesmaster may remove the unit(s) which, in his judgment, would have the least effect on the course of the game. However, in every instance where removals are required, the Gamesmaster will specify at the end of the "Fall" reports the unit(s) to be removed by this contingency process.

13. Macedonia is a Turkish home supply centre and Archangel is a Russian home supply centre. Neither power starts the game with a unit for or in these provinces. If Turkey still owns Macedonia and/or Russia still owns Archangel, at the end of February 1885, units may be built for (or in) these centres in March. Please note that Turkey and Russia need NOT physically occupy these centres to establish their initial ownership.

14. Abbreviations are in all cases the first three letters of the province names as shown on the map, except as listed below. Players are not required to follow these or any specific abbreviations, so long as what they do write is clear and unambiguous. Exceptions:

ALN = Albania	NAT = North Atlantic Ocean
ALS = Alboran Sea	NTH = North Sea
ARL = Archangel	NWY = Norway
ARO = Arctic Ocean	NRG = Norwegian Sea
BOT = Gulf of Bothnia	SAT = South Atlantic Ocean
LIO = Gulf of Lions	SME = South Mediterranean Sea
MAM = Mahmō	STP = St Petersburg
MAT = Malta	TYO = Tyrolia
	TYN = Tyrrhenian Sea

((Note: Rule 8K was added for clarity, although Rule 1 probably covers this eventuality.))

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

BY MIKE AGNEW

The following came in to Cal from Steve Nicewarner and Cal passed it on to me for response. Take it away, Steve:

Most of this letter is going to cover Mike Agnew's "interesting" article. Actually, I found it interesting, but I dispute a good bit of it. Anyway, let me jump into it.

As for America's position as a "land of equal opportunity and justice", using Rodney King to prove (or disprove) the point is hardly fair. (Incidentally, how many people know what the police officers were charged with?) The jury members who have talked to the press have said that they had no choice given their instructions from the judge. The verdict may have been wrong but can you say you are more qualified to judge by watching one minute of video than the jurors who spent three months examining the evidence. Furthermore, can you say that this in any way justified the looting, murder and mayhem in L.A. during the following days? Two wrongs have never made a right.

I think the whole discussion brings up a good point. The system is currently set up in a manner to perpetuate distinctions based on race. In America, job selection is influenced by race, gender, handicaps and religion. The only difference is that the "required number" has moved up. In my opinion, the key to eliminating discrimination is to eliminate the groups such as NAACP which exist only to watch over a segment of the population, and improving organizations such as EEOC ((???)), which exist for all.

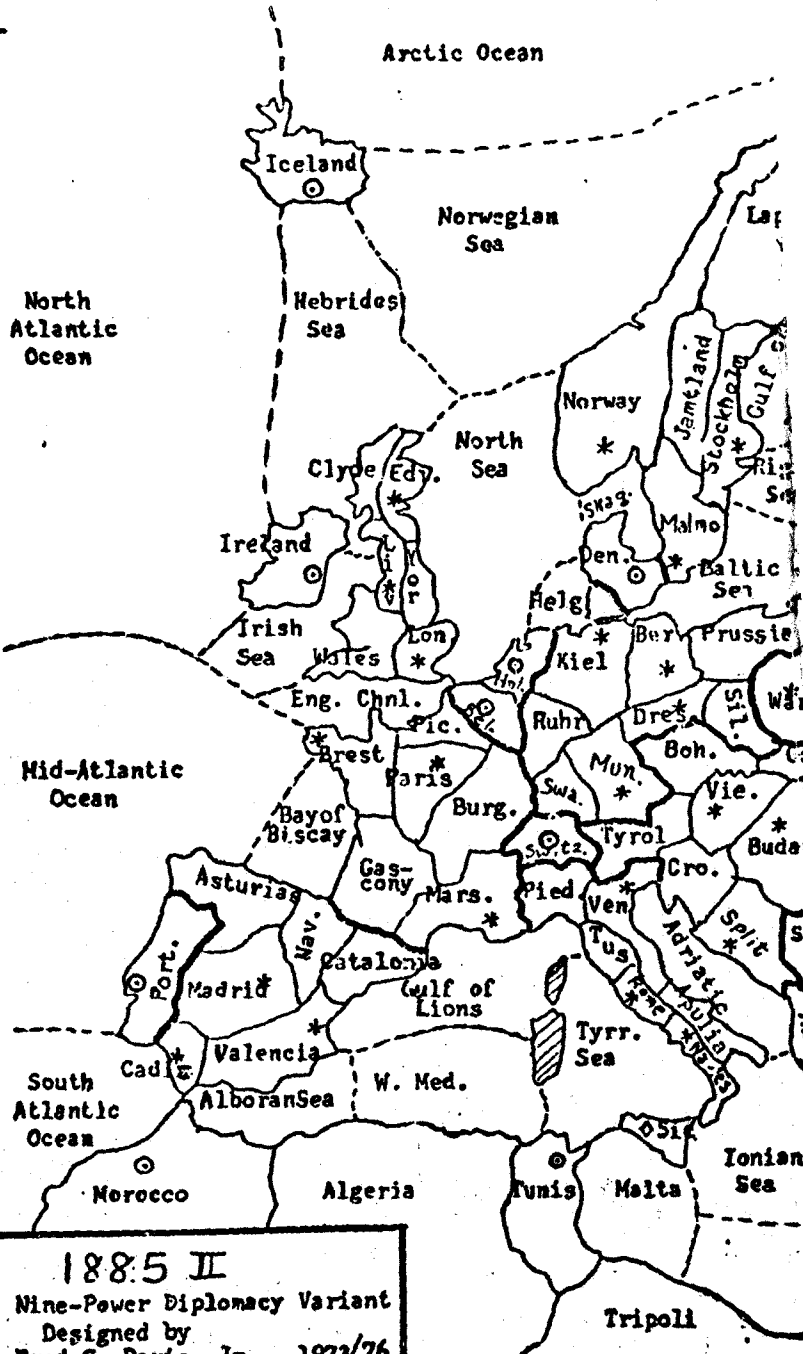
As for the U.S. as a "militaristic" culture — that can not be farther from the truth. If we were militaristic, we could have invaded Iraq just because it was in "the national interest" or to guarantee the "free flow of oil". Instead, the administration had to "demonize" Hussein, and even then had to convince Congress at the last minute. The America of 1850-1900 was much more militaristic - just ask the Mexicans and Indians.

America as a land of "family values"? Did you see the ridicule that still surrounds Vice-President Quayle because of that comment? It is hard to claim that the country supports "family values" when every network in the country has condemned Quayle for supporting them. Incidentally, I heard a tape of a speech made by Hubert Humphrey, the left of the left, in 1964 where he said the very same things that the VP is saying today, almost word for word. Family values didn't make a comeback then, I doubt it will happen now.

Finally, it is more important to note that American society has always swung from conservatism to liberalism and back again. For every "Roaring Twenties" or "Gay Nineties" period, there was a period of "Puritanism" of "McCarthyism". The nation has survived through them before, there's no reason to say she won't again.

To answer Steve Nicewarner's response to my last issue of the Bunker, allow me to address it point by point.

1) "...using Rodney King to prove (or disprove) the point is hardly fair..." I don't think that I was using the King case as a sole proof of point, more as an example of a random police/black confrontation that just happened to be captured on video. A woman I know who lived in L.A. for a few years has told me that such incidents are not isolated and indeed are common knowledge in the black and Hispanic communities. The (all) white jury was instructed by the judge to decide only if the officers had violated L.A. police procedure. Given



1885 II
 Nine-Power Diplomacy Variant
 Designed by
 Fred C. Davis, Jr. - 1973/76



KEY

- * = Home Supply Center
- ⊙ = Neutral S.C.
- ⊗ = Build Center

1 8 8 5

A DIPLOMACY VARIANT

BY FRED C DAVIS JR

1973 (Revised version 1977)

1. All standard rules of Diplomacy apply except as hereinafter modified.
2. There are 46 supply centres.
3. The Great Powers will begin the game with the following units, in addition to (or instead of) the units in the standard game:

AUSTRIA: A Cluj, F Split (there is no province Trieste).
ENGLAND: F Liverpool (instead of Army).
FRANCE: As in the regular game.
GERMANY: A Dresden
ITALY: At the option of the Italian player, the unit in Rome may be either a Fleet or an Army. The player need not reveal the type of unit before the first move.
RUSSIA: At the option of the Russian player, the units in St Petersburg and Sevastopol may be (in each case) a Fleet or an Army. The player need not reveal the type of units before the first move.
SPAIN: A Madrid, A Cadiz, F Valencia.
SWEDEN: A Malmö, F Stockholm, and a unit in Norway which may be either a Fleet or Army. The player need not reveal the type of unit before the first move.
TURKEY: F Sinope (there is no province Ankara).

4. The first move of the game is January 1885 and each subsequent move will take place during a single month. The Build/Removal seasons will be in March, June, September and December. For purposes of the present rules, "Spring" will mean Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct; references to "Fall" will mean Feb/May/Aug/Nov; references to "Winter" will mean Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec. Apart from these rules, all moves will be designated by month and year only.

5. *Victory requirements:*

- a) For a single player, ownership of at least 24 supply centres at the end of a "Fall" move.
- b) Any two players may obtain an 'alliance victory' if they have jointly at least 34 supply centres under their ownership at the end of a "Fall" move.
- c) Any three players may obtain an 'alliance victory' if they own together at least 38 centres after a "Fall" move.
- d) In any case, the game may end whenever all players agree to end it, and in whatever manner they so agree ((*subject to NORTHERN FLAME houserules*)).

6. A- Sicily is a 'build centre' for Italy ONLY, although it is not a supply centre. Beginning in March 1885, Italy may build a unit to which she is entitled in Sicily. If, at any time during the game, another player takes control of Sicily (by occupying it once, on any season), Italy must recapture it (by occupying it once, on any season) to use it again as a build centre.

B- Ireland, if owned by England, may be used as a build centre. Portugal, if owned by Spain, may be used as a build centre. In both cases, ownership of the build centre is determined by ownership of the supply centre (ie mere Spring occupation makes no difference).

7. Convoy by standard Diplomacy methods is allowed only if it covers the crossing of a single space. This convoy is called the "Fast Ferry", abbreviated in orders as "FF".

8. All convoys involving the crossing of more than one sea space may be undertaken only by the formation of an "Army/Fleet" (A/F) to carry the army by "piggyback".

A- On a given move, an army in a coastal province adjacent to a fleet in a sea space may be placed aboard the fleet, which becomes an A/F. The A/F may then move to another sea space, and may then also disembark the army in any land province which touches the second sea space. This entire process is a single move. Example: "A Marseilles to F Gulf of Lyons; A/F Gulf of Lyons to Western Mediterranean; A disembarks Algeria." An A/F can only consist of two units belonging to the same power. If a convoy is desired across more sea spaces than indicated in the example, the A/F must move through the sea spaces involved in sequential moves. For example: **FIRST MOVE:** "A Ireland to F Irish Sea; A/F Irish Sea to Mid Atlantic." **SECOND MOVE:** "A/F Mid Atlantic to South Atlantic." **THIRD MOVE:** "A/F South Atlantic to Alboran Sea; A disembarks Algeria".

B- An A/F can remain physically intact on the board for three consecutive moves, excluding "Winter" moves. If the Army is not successfully disembarked before the end of the third season following initial embarkation (in effect, a grand total of four seasons), it is considered to have exhausted its rations and is removed from play. Removal of the army in this manner will not affect the continued existence of the fleet. For example, an army which boards a fleet in October 1887 can stay with the fleet through Oct, Nov & Jan, remembering that the "Winter" move in Dec does not count, but must be disembarked by the end of Feb 1888.

C- An A/F has the same combat factor - one - as a single unit. It may attack, supported and be supported on that basis, but at no time will it take on anything resembling "double strength". It cannot convoy another army via Fast Ferry while it remains an A/F. An A/F can exist only in a sea space. It cannot be ordered into a land province as an entity, but it may support some other unit into a land province.

D- If an army is ordered to board a fleet, and the fleet is simultaneously required to defend itself against attack from another fleet (whether the attack be supported or not, successful or not), the army is considered to have failed to board and remains in its initial position. This rule does not affect the Fast Ferry procedure, which operates in accordance with standard Diplomacy rules.

E- If an army is ordered to board a fleet and the fleet is simultaneously ordered to support another unit, the army fails to board. If an army is ordered to board and the fleet is simultaneously ordered to attack a land (coastal) province, the army fails to board. If an army is ordered to board and the fleet is simultaneously ordered to operate a Fast Ferry, the army fails to board. Boarding WILL occur, however, if the fleet is ordered simultaneously to hold, or if it is ordered to move to an adjacent sea space but is prevented from doing so under the standard rules. In the latter instance, the A/F IS created and holds in place in the first sea space.

F- A fleet may disembark an army from an A/F either at the beginning of a move or at the end of it. An example of disembarkation at the end of a move can be seen in section "A" above (either instance). If the fleet discharges the army at the beginning of a move, however, it may then use its move for any other legitimate purpose: a move to another space, a support for another unit, a Fast Ferry, or whatever. Among other possibilities, a fleet may discharge an army at the beginning of a turn and use its move to support the disembarkation. Example: A/F in North Sea: "A disembarks Holland, F supports A North Sea to Holland". There is one exception: all boardings to create an A/F must be made at the beginning of a turn, and therefore a fleet may not disembark one army from an A/F and simultaneously pick up another to create a new A/F.

G- If an army's disembarkation into a land province fails, the A/F remains intact and any move or action ordered for the fleet on the same move (see F above) will not take place.

H- An army disembarked on one move may be picked up by the same fleet on the next turn, and the count of consecutive seasons under section B will begin anew.

the extremely broad discretion given officers re: violence by Chief Gates, the jury indeed had no choice other than to return a not guilty verdict. The narrowness of the criteria by which these officers were judged is due to clever lawyers and the "carte-blanche" urban politicians have given their police to deal with perceived problems. As far as the Kind case, justifying the looting and violence, of course it doesn't justify it, but it's easy to see how such a symbolic decision could trigger the rioting. It's interesting to note that a central target of the black rioters in L.A. were Korean immigrants, who the blacks perceive as Johnny-Come-Lately's and lower than themselves in the pecking order. Racism is a sickness that permeates all levels of American society.

2) "...the key to eliminating discrimination is to eliminate the distinctions between groups as much as possible. That means eliminating such groups as the NAACP..." Excuse me, Steve, but this attitude seems a tad naive. Yes, in a perfect world where all people were judged by their actions and not their race, creed, sexual orientation, etc, then, no, we wouldn't need such groups. These groups were founded in the first place because people were discriminated against in jobs, housing, and dozens of other ways, and still are. Quotas are a means of ensuring that disadvantaged groups get a fair shake. As an example, an equal rights group sent two candidates around on job interviews for jobs listed in the paper. The two had identical credentials, education, were the same age and in good health. The only difference was that one was white, the other black. The black person was repeatedly told "sorry, the job's been filled". while the white person, who showed up at these same places about thirty minutes after the black left, was often interviewed and, in a few cases, offered the job. When this type of thing stops, then, no, we won't need quotas.

3) "...if we were a militaristic culture, we could have invaded Iraq, just because it was in 'the national interest' or to guarantee the 'free flow of oil'..." Gee, I thought that's why America did invade Iraq. Did anyone take the 'Hussein is the new Hitler' posturing of Bush seriously? American foreign policy is guided by the contingencies of security. The CIA has destabilized foreign governments it didn't like (eg, Chile in 1973) and the US Armed Forces have violated borders under various national security pretenses (Panama, Grenada, Cambodia, Laos). If America is the objective 'ethical policeman' of the world, why does the White House continue to support a corrupt regime like Indonesia, who invaded the island of East Timor under the pretense of it being 'historic a part of Indonesia' - the same justification used by Hussein in Kuwait. The Indonesians have been systematically exterminating the native population in order to have free access to the natural resources - one hundred thousand estimated deaths so far. You don't see any mention of this in the North American media because Indonesia is a valued ally.

4) "...it is hard to claim the country supports 'family values' when every network in the country has condemned Quayle for supporting them..." A few things here. Firstly, the networks condemned Quayle not so much for the political content of his speech, but for the typically inane and ridiculous way that he presented his case. Even if some of the network commentators were critical of the content, the media in America is usually more liberal than the mainstream. Remember Nixon railing against the 'goddamn Commie press' in his tapes? As for the Hubert Humphrey speech, you have to put that into context. In 1964, the Republicans, under Barry Goldwater, took a sharp turn to the right and as they usually do, the Democrats followed at a distance to avoid seeming soft on issues of crime, drugs, comma, etc. Incidentally, does anyone else think that Bill Clinton is really deep-down a wannabe Republican and that the Democrats would gladly sell their communal souls just to get their candidate into the White House? Recent statistics show that over 70% of Democrat campaign funds come from corporations and, of the delegates at the recent Democratic convention in NYC, 30% make over \$100,000 a year and another 39% make over \$50,000 a year. Looks to me like the donkey is starting to grow a trunk.

SLAPPY'S SPORT SECTION

A SUBZINE BY MICHAEL HOPCROFT

420 SE Grand Avenue, #215
Portland, Oregon 97214

Greetings. Salutations. A dead fish. Lard. All of these I offer in a slightly dejected mood. Why? A pair of disappointments.

The obvious one is over the Blazers, who took a 15-point lead into the final quarter of Game 6 and blew it to lose the NBA finals to the Chicago Bulls. Portland's pretty quiet these days as a result. The whole city seems to be sulking. But I'm not. I know that life goes on, and that there is another season in a few months. Still, Game 6 was a bit tough to swallow. I attribute the collapse to fatigue. Rick Adelman, the Blazer coach, used only seven players in the entire game; his starters got a lot of game time and ended up running out of gas. Thus, some fans think it's Rick's fault; a few have even called for his head. I personally attribute the loss to having to play a damn good team in the Bulls, and that's Rick's mistake is a mistake a lot of other coaches would have made in the same circumstances.

The other disappointment was that, because of a miscommunication, I missed a planned trip to see the Mariners in Seattle. At least they'll still be in Seattle, as the major leagues finally approved the sale of the franchise to the Nintendo-backed Baseball Club of Seattle. So, if I'm lucky, I'll be able to catch a game in July. If I'm not, well...

The Basketball Tournament of the Americas started this week here in Portland. This basically means that twelve nations will send groups of amateur players against a team of thirteen all-stars and a college champion (Christian Laettner). I do not expect them to lose a game. They have already beaten Cuba by 79 points, and that in an "average" outing.

Perhaps that's why I don't like the idea of "the dream team". The Olympics are supposed to be competitive, but this year the basketball competition is rigged in favour of the US because they get to use the best players in the NBA. Do people really think it's going to be fun watching 120-65 blowouts night in and night out? It's about as much fun as watching Evander Holyfield beat up on PeeWee Herman. And I wonder what other nations think of the US fielding a super-team. If this is what it takes to win a gold medal, then maybe the gold medal isn't worth it.

Still, I am getting to watch some stuff on TV. Just before coming back to this article, I got to see a pretty good baseball game between the White Sox and the Yankees. I'm not sure which emotion is predominant when I look at the Yankees - hatred or pity. Over the last decade, the franchise has been run into the ground, and the main culprit may be back in charge by the end of the week. Last year, George Steinbrenner was thrown out of baseball for, among other things, trying to collect "blackmail" information to use against Dave Winfield in contract talks. However, Steinbrenner was not ordered to sell his stock in the Yankees. He is still majority stockholder, but he can take no role in running the franchise. This week, the Commissioner of Baseball, Faye Vincent, will decide whether to allow Steinbrenner back into daily operation of the Yankees. I personally think George should sell his stock, but that just isn't his way. So the man the whole baseball world loves to hate may be back. Pity the Yankees if that happens.

In my absence, some other events of interest have happened. Congratulations to the Pittsburgh Penguins, winners of two straight Stanley Cups, defeating the Chicago Black

Hawks in four straight. This raises an interesting question about the NHL playoff system. If I remember correctly, the Penguins finished fourth in their division before going on to take the title. Sports Illustrated once referred to this problem as "Canadian Bone Disease", as sports leagues all over the place expand their playoffs to let more teams in. In the NBA, 16 of 27 teams make the playoffs each year. In the NFL, 10 of 26 go on to post season. In the NHL, it's 16 of 22 teams. The last holdout is major league baseball. There, only the teams that win divisions make it to post season, so of the 26 major league teams, only four go to the playoffs. Thus, the entire playoffs only take three weeks, and a great deal of drama always seems to get packed into that time. By contrast, the NBA playoffs ran for over six weeks. That was exhausting.

By the way, I do hope the Vancouver Canucks do better in the playoffs next year. They won their division only to be eliminated in the second round.

On to some game notes before I finish off this time. The annual new cards flyer from Star-O-Matic came in last week. This is to pre-order the new cards for football, basketball and hockey. To the typical league player in those sports, this is a major event. Strat's games in these sports are considered among the best in the field. The hockey game is simply on top of its market, and if I join a new basketball league, I'll want to use Strat. As a matter of fact, one of the people I write for wants to do a local league in the Portland area using Strat, and that after only two complete games. Anyone who is interested in sport simulations at all should investigate the Strat-O-Matic line. (How much do I believe in that? Well, I own all four games and hope to get a chance to play them competitively more often) The address is:

STRAT-O-MATIC GAME COMPANY
46 Railroad Plaza
Glen Head, NY 11545 USA

Minden Games of Arizona continues to seize its share of the Commonwealth games public. They have reissued their MINDEN PLAYING CARD CRICKET game with a much better layout. Anyone who is interested in cicket (all five of us on this continent) will like this game, which lets one complete a five-day test match in just about five hours. In addition, they have re-released their soccer game, one of the least expensive sports simulations, covering World Cup soccer with simple ratings by team. The instructions are there to create national leagues as well. Soccer in the United States is, at the moment, a dead puppy, with the last professional league going belly-up last month. But the US hosts the World Cup in '94, so there may be new interest. Still, Americans seem to love playing soccer, but not watching it.

Minden has also released a new four-pack of games, including a trick taking game using basketball trading cards. An esoteric interest, but worth investigating if you want to do something different. The address:

MINDEN GAMES
10951 N.91st Avenue, #244
Peoria, AZ 85345 USA

I was distressed during my visit to ancouver that I couldn't find any made-in-Canada sports games of recent vintage. Well, Minden's Gary Graber has spent some time in Canada as a student. I am tempted to attempt an interview with him if I can mail him a suitable list of questions. Stay tuned.

I finished a review of Lance Haffner's computer game TKO Pro Boxing. This is basically a computer version of the Avalon Hill classis, Title Bout, from the same designers (Jim & Tom Trunzo). I should be getting an upgrade to Version 2.0 in the near future (ie whenever

I can spare ten bucks). One of the things I did was run a tournament. I am including the results in this subzine, reprinted from Major League magazine of London. The thing is that if I were to run the same tournament again, I doubt I would get the same results.

Haffner is completing a major upgrade to most of their games. There is a price increase to \$50 for most of their line, which includes games on baseball, basketball (pro or college - separate programs), and American football (pro AND college in one package), boxing, tennis, and track (Track? Yes, track. It wasn't my idea...). I would probably buy several of their games if I had the money floating around so I could do it. These games have a reputation of being good simulations with some bugs. Hopefully, the revision will stamp out most of the bugs leaving the simulation where it is. TKO is a must-buy if you like boxing and have a PC. With over 600 fighters in the basic set, it should be even better in its revised form.

The address for information (check with them on price before ordering) is:

LANCE HAFFNER GAMES
PO Box 100594
Nashville, TN 37224 USA

THE LEATHERNECK WINS IT ALL!

The All-Time Heavyweight Tournament with TKO BOXING
Results by Michael Hopcroft

After 607 fights, six weeks, and more late nights than this writer is willing to count, the All-Time Heavyweight tournament ground to a halt on my PC. Twenty-five Heavyweight Champions went through a double round-robin tournament before the top eight entered a single elimination box-off.

At the end of it all was the greatest surprise of the replay - Gene Tunney, champion from 1926 to 1928, walked away with the belt in a lopsided 15-round decision over Rocky Marciano.

Tunney's performance throughout the tournament was spectacular. He won 42 of his 48 fights in the round robin. His only losses were against Larry Holmes, Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, Joe Frazier and Jack Dempsey. He also secured a 12-round draw from Jack Johnson in their second fight. Tunney, a pure boxer with astonishing accuracy, secured only one single-punch knockout, but did secure a 59.9% knockout percentage, including his three decisions in the box-offs.

Muhammad Ali led the rankings for most of the tournament and ended up on top of the chart at the end with a record of 42-6. The TKO ratings system is based on performance rating awarded after each fight based mainly on points scored. Ali was devastating in the round robin. So was Jack Johnson, who finished second with a record of 40-7-1. Behind Tunney, Rocky Marciano finished fourth (36-11-1), followed closely by Joe Louis (36-11-1), Jack Dempsey (31-17) and Max Schmelling (32-14-2). Joe Frazier (24-24) took the final box-off spot ahead of several fighters with better won-loss records, based on his rating point performance.

Ezzard Charles had a masterful tournament with several astonishing upsets and was locked out of the box-offs despite an impressive record of 31-16-1.

The low end of the scale was held by Peter "Primo" Camera, champion from 1933 to 1934 who owed his title to secret Mafia intervention in boxing. Camera won only one

fight, a surprising knockout over Charles. He lost his other 47 fights, and most of them he lost badly.

The box-offs began with a pair of surprising upsets. Ali lost a 12-round decision to Frazier in the opening round. Tunney made the semis with a decision over Jack Dempsey, in a fight that should have been close but wasn't. Jack Johnson scored a seventh round TKO over an outmatched Max Schmelling. The other quarterfinal pitted Marciano against Louis, which Rocky secured with a knockout in the eighth round.

In the semis, Frazier fell victim to a vicious right from Marciano, who took a knockout in the fourth round. The highly anticipated semifinal between Johnson and Tunney was a real dandy, with Tunney coming out ahead in a close decision. This set up the final match between Marciano and Tunney. In the final Tunney landed 92 meaningful punches over fifteen rounds, and landed 76% of those he threw. The decision was not even close, and Gene Tunney walked away with the title belt.

FINAL TOURNAMENT STANDINGS

At the completion of the double round robin.

FIGHTER	RECORD		
	Won	Lost	Drew
Muhammad Ali	42	6	0
Jack Johnson	40	7	1
Gene Tunney	42	5	1
Rocky Marciano	36	11	1
Joe Louis	31	17	1
Jack Dempsey	32	14	2
Max Schmelling	24	24	0
Joe Frazier	31	16	1
Bernard Goode	30	17	1
Larry Holmes	28	20	0
Sonny Liston	23	23	2
Tommy Burns	25	21	2
Jim Corbett	26	22	0
James Jeffries	26	21	1
Bob Fitzsimmons	24	24	0
Jenny Joe Walcott	19	29	0
Jack Sharkey	17	30	1
Max Baer	17	29	1
Ingemar Johansson	10	37	1
Floyd Patterson	9	39	0
James Braddock	10	36	0
John L. Sullivan	6	41	1
Les Willard	6	42	0
Leon Spinks	1	47	0
Peter/Pedro/Camara	1	47	0

BOX OFFS

Quarter Finals:

Marciano over Louis (Knock Out in 8)
 Frazier over Ali (Unanimous Decision in 12)
 Johnson over Schmelling (Technical Knock Out in 7)
 Tunney over Dempsey (Unanimous Decision in 12)

Semi Finals:

Marciano over Frazier (Knock Out in 4)
 Tunney over Johnson (Unanimous Decision in 12)

Championships:

Tunney over Marciano (Unanimous Decision in 15)

THE FIFTH ANNUAL NORTHERN FLAME BASEBALL PREDICTIONS CONTEST

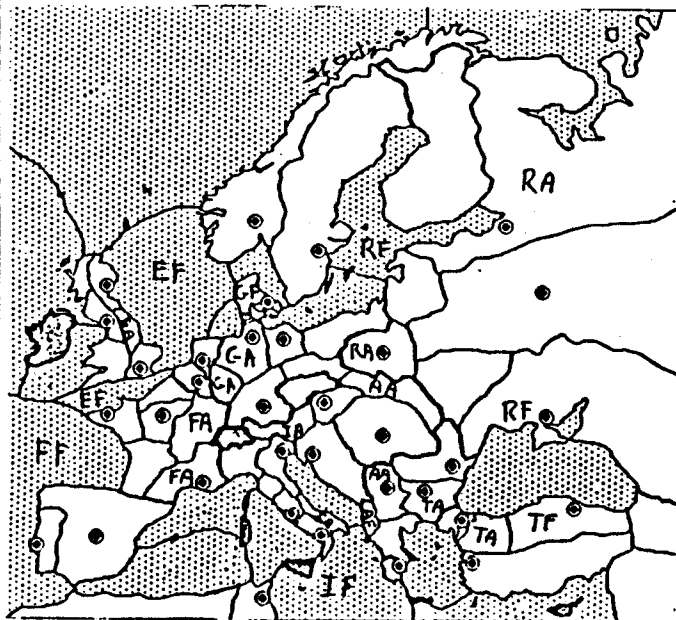
(Based on Major League Baseball Standings as of July 19, 1992)

Team	AL EAST			Pct.	GBL.	Team	NL EAST			Pct.	GBL.
	W	L	Pct.				W	L	Pct.		
TORONTO	63	31	.681	4	—	Pittsburgh	46	39	.541	—	—
Baltimore	49	36	.583	8	—	St. Louis	42	41	.506	3	—
Milwaukee	44	38	.537	8	—	Montreal	43	42	.508	3	—
New York	42	42	.500	11	—	Chicago	40	43	.482	5	—
Detroit	41	45	.477	13	—	New York	40	44	.476	5	—
Boston	39	43	.476	13	—	Philadelphia	36	49	.424	10	—
Cleveland	35	49	.417	18	—						
NL WEST											
Team	AL WEST			Pct.	GBL.	Team	NL WEST			Pct.	GBL.
	W	L	Pct.				W	L	Pct.		
Minnesota	50	34	.595	—	—	Philadelphia	51	32	.614	—	—
Oakland	48	36	.571	2	—	Atlanta	45	37	.549	5.5	—
Texas	45	41	.523	6	—	San Diego	44	42	.512	8.5	—
Chicago	43	40	.518	6.5	—	San Francisco	41	43	.488	10.5	—
Kansas City	34	49	.410	16.5	—	Houston	39	48	.464	12.5	—
Seattle	33	53	.384	18	—	Los Angeles	37	47	.440	14.5	—
California	32	52	.381	18	—						

NFBPC PLAYER STANDINGS

NAME	ALE	ALW	NLE	NLW	TOTAL
Mike Agnew	.929	.952	.886	.933	3.700
Ron Newmaster (717)	.935	.958	.838	.895	3.626
Gale Wetmore	.920	.914	.833	.933	3.600
Mike Goualves	.875	.976	.886	.857	3.594
Brad Wilson	.923	.935	.829	.905	3.592
Nevil Keogh	.899	.958	.886	.829	3.572
Brent McKee	.851	.917	.923	.876	3.567
Michael Lowrey	.929	.946	.743	.943	3.561
Jack McHugh	.854	.923	.914	.867	3.558
Mario Camz	.914	.851	.933	.857	3.555
Fred C Davis Jr	.899	.970	.886	.790	3.545
David Anderson	.946	.887	.905	.800	3.538
Melinda Holley	.845	.899	.857	.923	3.524
Steve Nicewaner	.935	.863	.848	.848	3.494
Phil Reynolds	.923	.845	.886	.838	3.492
Frank Camz	.839	.899	.933	.810	3.481
Ye Ode Editor (717)	.923	.857	.848	.848	3.476
Pete Ganghan	.798	.967	.867	.838	3.470
Andrew Hyman	.881	.923	.810	.800	3.414
Bob Anderson (Osh, hob)	.929	.780	.824	.876	3.409
Kevin Brown	.890	.762	.848	.895	3.395
John Ellman II	.905	.792	.829	.848	3.374

Italics indicates the lowest divisional score & **boldface** represents the highest. It's pretty easy to tell why the scores are so much lower this year. You can basically blame the Dodgers, Red Sox, White Sox and Mets, and, for that matter, Les Expos. Biggest rip-off of the year? Dave Winfield being left off the All-Star team!



THE
GARTH EGGS
GAME
199277

GM: Robert Lesco
49 Parkside Dr.
Brampton, Ont.
L6Y 2H1

Please note that my
deadlines will tend
to be earlier than
Cel's to allow me
time to get the
results to him for
inclusion in NP.



SPRING 1991: THE LAST MINUTE CLUB TRIES GM'S PATIENCE!!!NEXT TIME YOU GUYS
PAY FOR THE PHONE CALLS!!!RUSSIA ON AUTOMATIC PILOT AS WAR BREAKS OUT!!!

AUSTRIA(Fred Wiedmeyer): A bud-SER; A vie-GAL; F tri-ALB;

ENGLAND(Bill Lefosse): F lon-ENG; A lpl-YCB; F edi-NTH;

FRANCE(Don Gill): A par-EUR; F bre-MAC; A PAR S A par-EUR;

GERMANY(Fierre Touchette): A ber-MIE; F kie-DEK; A mun-RUH;

ITALY(Hob Scorfleet): A ven-TIC; A rom-ABU; F nap-ICH;

RUSSIA(see below): NEB! anonymous neutral orders A nos-ITP; A WAR H;
F stp-GCB; P SEV-11g;

TURKEY(Jeff Hubbard): I AFE-11g; A con-PUL; I spy-CCN;

As I was preparing this report, Paul Gauz phoned me to resign from the game
owing to the demands of his new job.

Would John McLaurin of RR#3 Huntsville, Ont. please fill in for Russia? Sorry,
John's postal code is RGA 1K0.

FREED: Vic-Mos/Cons: Haven't heard from either of you and given the fact that
both of you are from Toronto, myself and the rest of the board probably
would have to assure that you two prefer to deal with each other by
phone and are too lazy to write to anyone else on the board.

GM-Vie: Er, well...

Rx'ers get top ranks again in Gallup Poll

A new Gallup Poll confirmed that pharmacists are still riding high in terms of public opinion. The survey, which asked more than 1,000 respondents to rank various occupations in terms of honesty and ethical standards, found that for the third straight year pharmacists are again number one. Six out of 10 respondents said pharmacists rate either "high" or "very high" in these respects. The clergy placed second with 57 percent, while medical doctors and dentists followed with 54 percent and 50 percent, respectively. At the bottom of the list: U.S. Senators and Congressmen (19 percent each); labor union leaders (13 percent); "ad practitioners" (12 percent); and car salesmen (8 percent).

Continuing in that self-practical mode (and holding Cal to his promise of two sides of a page) I present:

THE TOP 10 REASONS A PHARMACIST MAKES A GOOD ALTY (a drug roll please, Arton)

10. Anyone that dull is sure to find you interesting.
9. He might introduce you to Ben Johnson.
8. No fee for consultations.
7. You wouldn't want an empty birth control package found in your pocket, would you?
6. The cough syrup tasting parties!
5. Gives questionable medical advice to enemies.
4. Since he double and triple-checks by nature, he won't screw up his orders.
3. He knows which women are on the pill.
2. You can be sure he will be able to read your writing.
1. Complimentary Valium with every stab!

HOBBY ITEMS:

An anti-Zine Register protest organized by Douglas Kent took place last week in Brooklyn. In spite of a mass mailing, Douglas was only able to attract an anarchist and three left-over hippies to a rally held outside Garret Schenck's apartment window. Things quickly went awry when the hippies deviated from the rehearsed chants and began yelling, "U.S. out of Viet Nam!" and "Hey, hey! Ho, ho! We won't die for Texaco!" at which point Garret, clad in sandals, bell-bottoms and love beads rushed out to join them. Douglas was last seen looking for a bus to throw himself under. Mr. Kent is 6 years old.

As a public service to all anti-LR whiners, I have been asked to print the following:

Dear Garret Schenck:

I believe in freedom of the press,
 freedom of speech and the right to hold an opinion but
 I don't like your Zine Register and I don't think any-
 one else should read it. Please don't print another one.
 Signed

ONE DAMNED ADDICTIVE PUZZLE!

I had a pretty good response to this puzzle from last time. Fortunately, while most of you admitted the addictiveness of this little teaser, nobody actually cursed me outright... Replies were sent in by Stuart Eves, John McLaurin, James Nelson, Ron Newmaster, Frank Cauz, Melinda Holley, Dave Anderson & Eric Young. Here are the proper answers:

- | | | |
|------------|--------|---|
| There are: | 12 | MONTHS in a YEAR |
| | 7 | WONDERS of the WORLD |
| | 1,001 | ARABIAN NIGHTS |
| | 12 | SIGNS of the ZODIAC |
| | 54 | CARDS in a DECK (with the JOKER's) |
| | 1 | WISH upon a STAR |
| | 88 | PIANO KEYS |
| | 32 | DEGREES FAHRENHEIT at which WATER FREEZES |
| | 18 | HOLES on a GOLF COURSE |
| | 90 | DEGREES in a RIGHT ANGLE |
| | 200 | DOLLARS to PASS GO in MONOPOLY |
| | 4 | HORSEMEN of the APOCALYPSE |
| | 3 | BLIND MICE (SEE HOW THEY RUN) |
| | 4 | QUARTS in a GALLON |
| | 24 | HOURS in a DAY |
| | 1 | WHEEL on a UNICYCLE |
| | 57 | HEINZ VARIETIES |
| | 12 | PLAYERS on a FOOTBALL TEAM |
| | 1,000 | WORDS that a PICTURE is WORTH |
| | 29 | DAYS in FEBRUARY in a LEAP YEAR |
| | 64 | SQUARES on a CHESS / CHECKER BOARD |
| | 20,000 | LEAGUES under the SEA |
| | 60 | SECONDS in a MINUTE |
| | 3 | COINS in a FOUNTAIN |
| | 360 | DEGREES in a CIRCLE |

Stuart got the most correct with 24, followed by Melinda with 22, Eric & John with 20 each, Frank & Ron with 19, James with 13 (although he and Crazy Markie worked out more than that together and Mark took the answer sheet with him - James was working from memory) and David with 13 (in only a half hours work).

Some of the wrong answers were better than others: Dave thought that there were 90 DRUGS in a ROBERT ACHESON ((too low)). John thought that there were 200 DAYS to PLAY GOLF in MIAMI & 3 CANADIANS in a FRENCHMAN.

Stuart also sent in a few of his own for us to try. I have to admit that I can only get one of them (50 W to LYL), but I suspect a British bias since Stuart commented that *"this test is tougher for a Brit, as nos. 11, 14, 18 are definitely biased toward the Canadian/US culture and nos. 6 & 24 are probably less common over here too."* Actually, #18 is slanted away from US culture because they've *eleven* players on a US football team (the CFL has 12). Here are Stuarts queries:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 9 P in the S S | 5 T on a F | DEADLINE |
| 24 S in a Q | 8 F in a M | FOR ANSWERS |
| 50 W to L Y L | 6 F U | IS: |
| 1 S S for a M | 12 P on a J | |
| 22 Y in a C | 6 S on a D | AUGUST 19, 1992 |

FACTS IN FIVE

1991FIF(C)TURN 4

	Weapons (Ancient)	Composers (classical)	Movies (war)	Electronics Terms	Stars
Eric Young (200 pts)	XXX Mace Lance Bow Trident	Vivaldi Mozart Liszt Beethoven Telemann	Victory at Sea M*A*S*H Longest Day Bridge Over the River Kwai Top Gun	Voits Magnets Load Back EMF Transistor	Vega Mizar XXX Betelgeuse XXX
Frank Cauz (171 pts)	XXX Mace Lance BatteringRam XXX	Vivaldi Mozart Liszt Beethoven Tchaikovsky	Von Ryans Express Midway Longest Day Battle/Bulge Tora X 3	Volt Microchip L.E.D Bias Tuner	Vega XXX XXX Betelgeuse XXX
Andy York (200 pts)	XXX Mural Hook Liquid Fire Blowgun Trireme	Verdi Mendelssohn Liszt Brahms Tchaikovsky	Victory in the Pacific M*A*S*H Lost Patrol Battle/Britain Trojan Horse	Voltage Meter Load Bulb Tester	Vega Mira Lyræ XXX XXX
Marlo Cauz 202 pts	XXX Mace Lance BatteringRam Tomahawk	Vivaldi Mahler Liszt Brahms Tchaikovsky	Von Ryans Express Midway Longest Day Bridge Too Far Tora X 3	Voltage Megahertz Loudspeaker XXX Tweeter	Vega Mizar XXX Betelgeuse Thuban

Turn 4 Notes & Commentary

Weapons: Answers disallowed: "Trojan Horse" (legend); "Volley of Arrows" (verb, not weapon). I had a little trouble with "tomahawk" & "blowgun" as "ancient" weapons, but decided to allow them.

Composers: Answers disallowed: none.

War Movies: Answers disallowed: although I thought I remembered "Von Ryan's Express" as simply "Ryan's Express" and I have never heard of Lost Patrol or The Trojan Horse. Also, I thought Midway & Victory at Sea were simply wargames. Ah, benefit of the doubt to all.

Electronic Terms: Answers disallowed: none. I'd like Andy to define what he means by "Bulb".

Stars: Answers disallowed: I wanted proper names here, so "Blue Giant" & T Tauri are out. Also, Leo & Taurus are constellations. BTW, names like "Tau" or "Beta" refer to relative brightness within a constellation and are not actual names of stars

SCORES AFTER TURN 4

Young	714 + 200 = 914
York	648 + 200 = 848
F Cauz	659 + 171 = 830
M Cauz	578 + 202 = 780

CATEGORIES FOR TURN 5

- 1) Office Equipment; 2) Rock & Roll Bands;
 - 3) Languages; 4) Occupations; 5) Star Trek characters. Letters: KWECF
- DEADLINE: AUGUST 19, 1992

1990CF THE STEVE EARLE GAME

The proposed Russian/Turkish draw was defeated 1 Yes, 1 No & 2 NVR. Onward ho!

Winter 1906

England retreated f swe-OTB.	France built A Par.
Russia built F Stpnc & A Sev.	Turkey built F Con.

Spring 1906 RUSSIA AND TURKEY CLASH AS ENGLAND AND FRANCE SOLIDIFY!

England (Fred Wiedemeyer) F NRG-bar; F NTH-den; A den-KIE, s by F HEL.

France (Andy York) A par-BUR, s by A MAR; F mid-NAP, s by F WES;
F LYO-tyn; A HOL & A RUH s English a den-kie.

Russia (Phil Reynolds) A BER & A MUN s A kie; A TYO s Turkish a pie [otm];
F rum-BLA; A SEV-rum; A war-GAL; F stpnc-NWY,
s by F BAR; F bot-BAL; F SWE-den, s by a kie [d,a];
A nwy-FIN.

Turkey (Steve Nicewamer) F CON-bal [imp]; A BUL-rum; A smy-ARM; A tun-TUS,
c by F TYN; F ion-TUN; F NAP s F tyn; F eas-ION,
s by F AEG; A PIE-mar; A ven-TRI

Sorry Steve, but you clearly wrote F Con-BAL. Oh, and I have enough trouble GMing this game without you wanting to designate F TYN, A VEN & A PIE as the "Italian Islamic Republic"... Cute idea though [chuckle].

There is a proposal for a F/R draw. Please vote with your Fall 1906 orders.

Someone was a little unclear on how my draw proposal system works. It's simple - if any proposed draw receives zero NO votes the first time it is proposed, but there are one or more NVRs, then it is automatically repropoed with any NVRs counting as Yes. Therefore, a draw could not pass on a NVR the first time round, but it could on the second. I figure, if someone wants to stop a draw badly enough, they won't miss TWO chances at a veto.

Tur-Eng/Fra: C'mon folks, vote for the draw.

Tur-Rus: Phil, when all this started, you were the only person who really wrote. Even now, England & France seem to have no interest in trying to break up the R/T. If the draw fails, I'd almost think you were sandbagging for the win you aren't, are you?

Barad-Turnberry: Not Phriendly Phill!?!

Mecca: The Guardian of the Holy Mosque today blessed the valiant warriors of Islam as they were victorious over the misguided forces of the infidel Pope. The Pope was seen fleeing into the hands of the French Army in Avignon, but we know that he will soon face the justice of Allah. Onward, Holy Warriors! Allah demands it!

THE DEADLINE FOR FALL 1906 IS: AUGUST 26, 1992.

1990CG THE RUSS BLINCO GAME

The German/Russian draw failed 3 Yes, 1 No, 2 NVR.

I received no less than FOUR requests for a separation of seasons, so we'll play Winter only this time.

Winter 1906

AUSTRIANS SLEEP AS RUSSIANS BUILD UP CREDIT!

Austria (Paul Cauz?)

NRR! GM removes F ALB. Has a's BUD & SER.

England (Don Gill)

Even. Has F POR.

France (David Charleston)

Removes F TYN. Has A's PAR, SPA, F LYO.

Germany (Gerry Paulson)

Builds A KIE & A MUN. Has A'S BER, BOH, VIE, KIE, TYO, MUN, F'S BRE, PIC, ENG.

Italy (David Anderson)

Builds F ROM. Has A'S PIE, VEN, TRI, F'S ROM, TUN.

Russia (Rob Lesco)

Builds F SEV, declines 2nd & 3rd build. Has A'S EDI, WAR, MOS, GAL, ANK, F'S SEV, NAT, NWY, CON.

Turkey (Dave Elliott)

Even. Has A BUL, F'S GRE, SMY.

I have orders on file for everyone except Austria.

Italy-G/R: I voted for the draw.

Germany-All: The German Kaiser can now be reached via CompuServe 70530,2601.

THE DEADLINE FOR SPRING 1907 IS: AUGUST 26, 1992

Since I have space, I'll run a proposal by Don Gill for a new tournament scoring system. Comments welcome.

"I believe a new point system should be introduced, stressing longevity and small forces. Seriously, how is this for a CanCon scoring system?"

Total Points = Integer (100 / # in draw) + (Supply Centres X # of countries NOT in draw)
or, in table form:

# In Draw	Basic Points	+	# of SCs	X	Countries NOT in draw	= Total Points
7	14		x	X	0	
6	17		x	X	1	
5	20		x	X	2	
4	25		x	X	3	
3	33		x	X	4	
2	50		x	X	5	
1	100		x	X	6	

A complete win would be worth 208. A two-way with 17 centres each is worth 135. I'll work some more on it.

((You'll have to. I can think of one thing that I immediately do not like about it. Two two-way draws are worth more than a Win. I don't think you'll find a single supporter for that concept. Maybe if you introduced some kind of bonus for winning outright. It would have to be at least 65 points to make a win worth more than a couple of two-ways.))

1990CJ THE MERLE HAGGARD GAME

Winter 1905 Austria: NRR. A mun retreated OTB. England: GM removed F NTH.
 France: Builds F BRE & F MAR. Russia: Builds A WAR & F STPNC
 Turkey: Retreats F tun-NAF.

Spring 1906 HELPFUL GERMANS PREVENT MASSIVE FRENCH
 TRAFFIC JAMI TUNISIAN STANDOFF!

Austria (Bill Lafosse)	NMRI A TYO h.
England (CD)	A WAL h.
France (Gale Wetmore)	F lon-NTH, s by F EDI; F mar-SPASC; F lyo-WES; F bre-MID; A pic-BEL; A bel-HOL; A bur-MUN; A mun-SIL.
Germany (Bob Sorfleet)	A hol-RUH; A KIE s a ber; A BER s French a mun-sil.
Italy (Stuart Eves)	F tyn-NAP; <u>F TUN-ion</u> , s by F APU; <u>A VEN s Austrian a tyo-tri (nso).</u>
Russia (Randolph Smyth)	A BUD s Turkish a ser-tri; <u>A LPL s English f nth-edi (nso);</u> F swe-DEN, s by F BAL; A nwy-SWE; A war-PRU, s by a sil (dislodged, retreat to BOH, GAL, OTB); F RUM h, F stpnc-NWY.
Turkey (Graham Wilson)	<u>F ION-tun</u> , s by F NAF; <u>F ABG-ion</u> ; F tri-ADR; A ser-TRI, s by A ALB; A gre-SER.

A couple of game notes: I listed the Supply Centre Chart last season as being for 1906. It was in fact for 1905. Also, I forgot to list France as owning Edinburgh on the same SC Chart. He does own it (in fact he has a unit sitting in it!). At least I got the count right - he IS at nine centres.

Germany to France: Welcome to Holland!

Germany to Austria: I dunno.

Austria to Germany: Its other leg is both the same.

THE DEADLINE FOR FALL 1906 IS: AUGUST 26, 1992

1992SRB32 THE ROBERT JOHNSON GAME

Spring 1901 ENGLISHMAN ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH AS RUSSIAN IN A PAIR (TRIO?)
 OF CONFLICTS ALREADY! GERMANS INVENT A NEW OPENING AS
 TURKS SEEM TO HAVE PICKED A DIRECTION! ITALIANS HEAD NORTH!

Austria	(Green Lantern)	F tri-ALB; A bud-SER; <u>A VIE-gal.</u>
England	(Superman)	F lon-NTH; F edi-NRG; A lpl-YOR.
France	(The Flash)	A mar-SPA; A par-BUR; F bre-MID.
Germany	(Aquaman)	A mun-RUH; A ber-KIE; F ber-BAL.
Italy	(Wonder Woman)	F nap-ION; a ven-TYO; a rom-VEN.
Russia	(Metamorpho)	F stpsc-BOT; <u>A WAR-gal</u> ; A mos-UKR; <u>F SEV-bla.</u>
Turkey	(Batman)	<u>F ANK-bla</u> ; A amy-ARM; A con-BUL.

I've seen Eric Young give nicknames to the players in his GunBoat games and I kinda like the idea. I've assigned you all names of superheroes from DC Comix. If any of you prefer a different name, let me know. I don't mind changing names, but let's keep the theme. A couple of you sent in press, but this is a no press game. Sorry.

THE DEADLINE FOR FALL 1902 IS: AUGUST 26, 1992.