



Northern Flame

Issue #39

A Magazine of Postal Diplomacy

\$2.00

Ye Olde Editor
Cal White
1 Turnberry Av
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA
M6N 1P6
(416) 654 1722

SUBSCRIPTIONS
\$2.00 inside North
America; \$2.50 over-
seas. Most curren-
cies accepted at par.

GAME OPENINGS

Regular Diplomacy:
Wiedemeyer (PD)
Stewart (PD)
Five needed.

GunBoat Dip:
Three.
Four needed.

Flintlock II:
Young Reynolds
B Wilson
Stuart (PD)
Two needed.

1885:
Anderson (PD)
Stuart (PD)

Facts In Five:
No one.
Four needed.
This game will not
start until one of the
current games ends.

All Dip games are \$5
+ sub. Facts In Five
is free with sub.

Standby List
McLaurin, An-
derson, Holley, M
Nelson, B Wilson,
Reynolds, Kent, B
Acheson, Breakwell,
M Cauz, F Cauz, Elli-
ott, Eves, Gautron,
Lafosse, McHugh,
McKee, Nicewarner,
Wetmore, Wiede-
meyer, York.

AVALON HILL, THE HOBBY, AND YOU!

AN EDITORIAL

There have been a number of hints dropped lately regarding Avalon Hill, the new edition of Diplomacy, the gamebox flyer and a few other things. I think it's time to detail exactly what is going on with Avalon Hill and the hobby.

At Kansas City back in July, Rex Martin attended Dip-Con and had a number of interesting proposals. He told us that Avalon Hill was definitely going to be doing a new edition of Diplomacy and that they wanted some input from us as to how they (AH) could help us promote the hobby and thereby, the game. Rex has been a big fan of Dip from way back and has even played a few postal games, so he wanted us to know he was on "our side", as it were.

Basically, Avalon Hill was planning to repackage the entire game as a sort of 35th anniversary edition. We would see a return to the wooden blocks of old and no more little plastic armies and fleets. The board was going to be redone by the AH graphic artist staff. No more purple Russia! (As an aside, I would have liked to have seen the old Rand-McNally topographical map back, but I don't think AH has the rights to that).

Two other features were of particular interest to the postal hobby and Rex wanted our direct participation.

First, Rex wanted a new postal Diplomacy flyer to go in the gamebox. The old one was outdated and AH wanted one that would be good for a number of years. It will either be an insert or, if Rex gets his way, the flyer will actually comprise the back page of the Rulebook.

Second, AH wanted to do a brand new Gamers Guide to Diplomacy to replace the Rod Walker version of a few years ago. This will be available separately from AH, although I have heard that it may eventually be included with the game.

In short, David Hood, Gary Behnen and myself were appointed to look after these two things. As of this writing, we have made a fair bit of progress. More on this later.

After Rex spoke in KC, the point was raised that the postal hobby needed a new way of handling novices if we were to get a wave of new blood from the flyer. Edi Birsan came up with an excellent idea that we have since put in place.

Edi's idea was to have a group of "Mentors" who would receive all inquiries from the flyer and who would be able to answer all questions and refer novices to game openings throughout the hobby. Each "Mentor" (or "Contact" as we've changed the name to) would have on hand a stock of material which would be useful in assisting the beginner. The basic material which each novice will receive will be a list of game openings, a novice package such as Supemova or Masters of Deceit and a personal note welcoming them to the hobby. Other material may include a list of relevant hobby services and a coupon sheet good for discounts on game openings, zines and other things (ZR, DW, etc).

The following people have been chosen as Contacts:

NorthEast:	John Caruso	(Norristown, PA)
SouthEast:	David Hood	(Hickory, NC)
Central:	Gary Behnen	(Olathe, KS)
Western:	Don Del Grande	(Greenbrae, CA)
Canada:	Cal White	(Toronto, ONT)

These people have been chosen as being the most stable in terms of hobby commitment and being most likely to have a stable address for the long term future, as well as being well informed about the postal Diplomacy hobby.

The task of writing up the gamebox flyer was given to yours truly and it has already been completed and approved by Avalon Hill. A brief description of the hobby was given as well as the addresses of the five Contact Persons. Rex expects the first copies of the new game to be rolling off the presses (hopefully) in time for Christmas.

As an aside, those of you who worry about Rulebook revisions need not do so. Virtually nothing was changed. While a couple of suggestions were made by myself and others, contractually, Allan Calhamer has the final say and he didn't see the need for any changes beyond the correction of a couple of typos.

As for the Gamers Guide, some progress has been made. I drew up a proposed Table of Contents and sent it to David, Gary and Rex for comment. It was more or less approved as is. What we are going to do is try to find articles that have already been written to fit as many of the categories in my Table of Contents as possible. Once we've done that, we will try to write articles to fit whatever is left and, if that doesn't cover every topic, we'll commission whatever needs to be done. One article already slated for inclusion is Jim Meinel's fine article on the History of Postal Diplomacy which his Encyclopaedia of Diplomacy Zines. I phoned him (at \$2 a minute! Ouch.) and got his permission.

Here's a quick capsule of what will probably be in the Guide:

The History of Postal Diplomacy; Diplomacy Fandom (guess who's writing THAT one?); a country by country analysis; articles on a 1901 opening for every country; complimentary pairs; midgame play; the psychology of alliance; stalemate lines; hold-fast lines; stabbing and stab prevention; postal houserules; a demo game; dirty tricks (I suspect Gary will write this...); variants (with possibly a sample game); etc. ((CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE))

**The
AVALON HILL
Game Company**

4517 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21214
301-254-9200
FAX 301-254-0991



A MONARCH AVALON, INC. COMPANY

25 November 1992

Mr. Cal White
1 Turnberry Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M6N 1P6

Dear Cal:

Enclosed find a printed copy of the new rule booklet which will go into *Deluxe DIPLOMACY* (which should start shipping a couple weeks). Take a few moments and glance through it; I'd love to hear your impressions. I did manage to shoe-horn everything in that was required (even the Q/A and Replacement Parts boxes), but it was a tight fit. However, it is the best organized and most lavish rulebook (short of *ASL*) we have produced to date, in my humble opinion.

Of especial interest to you, no doubt, is the back cover. I elected to place the PBM blurb here, as it is one of the most visible pages in any soft-back publication. Hope you approve of the layout and presentation. Once the first wave of games are out the door, I hope to get a separate printing of this page as a flyer (with an advert for DIP or other multi-player games on the other side). These will be available here for our staff to send out to those who mention DIP, to be handed out at conventions, to be passed on to store owners, etc. And, of course, this same page will appear somewhere in the new "Gamer's Guide" (although release for that has now been put back to the summer). With the widest distribution possible, I'd hope that you five fellows are inundated with requests for more information. Such an influx of novices into play-by-mail might even see me do better now and then.

As soon as the new game is complete, I'll try to get each of you fellows (along with Calhamer) sent a copy. I fully expect that the first drop-shipment will be sold mostly to long-time players who are already aware of PBM. However, inevitably some copies will go to gamers who have not yet experienced the game postally. The second-wave shipments will, if true to projections, be sold in the main to those unfamiliar with the game. So, at that point, you'll likely get more requests. Let me know how things go (especially the number of requests you personally get from this; I'd be curious to see how it breaks down regionally).

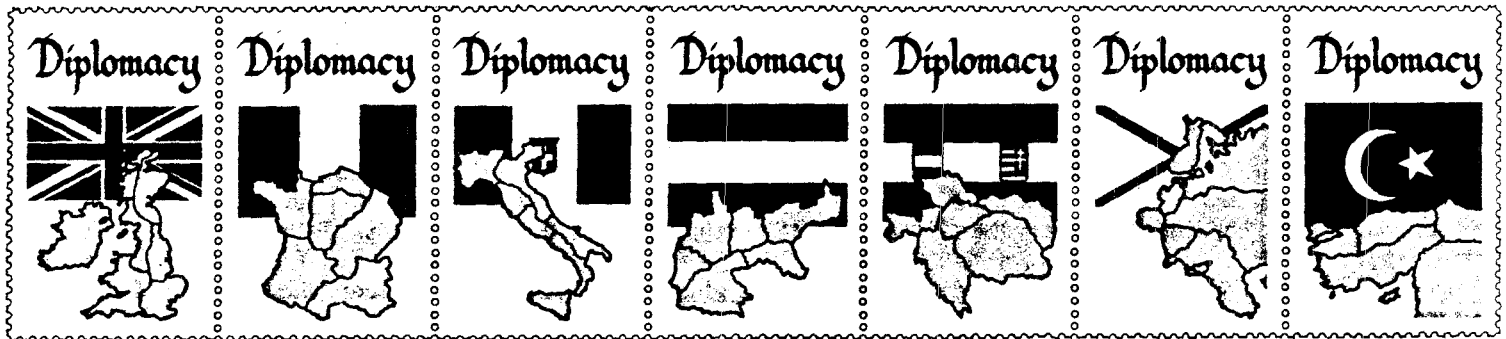
My only concern is that this doesn't stir up a lot of controversy among the occasionally volatile and vocal old guard of DIP players. If a lot of flak comes your way from some elements of the hobby on this approach, or who may be involved, or whatever hobby-horse they are trying to ride, just refer them to me. I'll be glad to respond. I'd truly hate to see something this good for the DIP hobby overall soured by the loud cries of a few malcontents.

As always, I remain . . .

Cordially,

Rex A. Martin
Editor/*ASL* Annual

PLAY DIPLOMACY BY MAIL!



One of the most intriguing and exciting ways to play **DIPLOMACY** is by mail. Through this medium, the game takes on new dimensions and aspects. For three decades thousands of gamers, who would otherwise not have had the chance, have enjoyed the challenge of **DIPLOMACY** through by-mail play.

Play-by-mail requires the services of a "Gamemaster", as noted in VII.5 of the rulebook. He or she assigns countries to the seven players, adjudicates the moves mailed by the players, reports the results to them, and sets deadlines for the next turn. The time allowed between reporting the result of one set of moves and receipt of the next set of orders by the Gamemaster is usually from four to six weeks. This allows the players time to negotiate with each other by mail. In addition to the orders and adjudications, the Gamemaster may also pass on news of the game, or public "Press Releases" from the players, and may even print other material related (or not) to the game of **DIPLOMACY**. Generally, a nominal fee is charged for his services to cover the costs of postage, printing and materials. This fee tends to range from \$2.00 to \$10.00. Many Gamemasters also require that their players maintain a subscription to an amateur **DIPLOMACY** magazine, or "zine", wherein the results are published; the cost of such a subscription can range from free to around \$2.00 an issue.

Joining a postal game is easy. Most people who publish amateur 'zines trade their publications with each other, forming an international network with news of game openings, game fees and other pertinent information on the postal hobby. Various representatives from the wide-spread postal **DIPLOMACY** hobby have volunteered to serve as "Contact Persons" to help you find postal matches. Their sole purpose is to help others discover and enjoy the game which has occupied them for so many years. Their names and addresses appear below.

If you are interested in playing **DIPLOMACY** by mail, write to the Contact Person in your region. You will be provided with information designed to familiarize you with the postal hobby and help you become involved in a game in short order. Please include a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE with your inquiry.

Once you have joined a game, please bear in mind that six other players must still sign up for the same game before it can begin. This may take a few weeks. However, once your game is underway, you will find the suspense and keen competition of a postal game unrivaled. Postal play is sure to add new excitement to your enjoyment of **DIPLOMACY**!

NORTHEAST:

John Caruso
636 Astor Street
Norristown, Pennsylvania
USA 19401

SOUTHEAST:

David Hood
P.O. Box 218
Hickory, North Carolina
USA 28603

MIDWEST:

Gary Behnen
13101 South Trenton
Olathe, Kansas
USA 66062

WEST:

Don del Grande
142 Eliseo Drive
Greenbrae, California
USA 94904

CANADA:

Cal White
1 Turnberry Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M6N 1P6

NOTE: The Avalon Hill Game Company does not itself conduct **DIPLOMACY** games by mail, and has no control over the amateur publishers who do so. Financial arrangements for the conduct of such games must be between the parties concerned. The Avalon Hill Game Company assumes no responsibility in this, or any other aspect, of the postal play of the game. Should you have a problem with any postal Gamemaster, you should write to your regional Contact Person for guidance.



©1992

The Avalon Hill Game Company

4517 Harford Road • Baltimore, MD 21214

Printed in USA • All Rights Reserved

B
A
N
D
S
R
E
A
N
D
S

1- Well, as you can see, my computer is back up and running albeit rather slowly. I've got a new colour monitor which is bugging things up speed-wise. I guess a 286 isn't as fast as it used to be. Fortunately, by the time you read this, I MAY have a couple of new doodads installed. I've got my eyes on a new 220Mb hard drive as well as a 486 motherboard. No, I didn't discover a gold mine. I'm just lucky in having a couple of connections: to whit, wholesale hardware and a friend who can install this stuff in return for a case of beer. Now to see if it'll come together.

2- For those of you taking notes, this issue represents the fifth anniversary for this rag. Yay! For the record, I DO see another five years for NF, but not in this present format (yah, what else is new, eh?).

3- Good news on the Canadian zine scene. Brent McKee has come out with the first issue of his new zine MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE. Since I want to be the first to christen Brent's zine with a nickname, I hereby dub thee MALOC. Anyway, Issue #0 of MALOC contains a statement of aims, four pages of house rules, a lettercolumn (!) with input from Brent, Rob Lesco and Brent's brother Greg Borisko and the usual technical stuff. All in all, a very promising first issue. (The only thing I didn't like was the fuzziness of printing Brent got from his dot-matrix printer, but Brent does explain that he is still feeling around for a format) Given Brent's record as a very reliable player, voluminous letter writer, as well as a subzine editor in The Canadian Diplomat, MALOC may be the most promising zine to come along in years. I have no qualms about giving this zine my highest recommendation. Brent is currently offering one game of RegDip, but the colophon says that MALOC is "dedicated to the play of Diplomacy and other multi-player games" so I'm sure you can expect other games to open. Gamefees are \$4 and the games are going to be six-weekly. Subscriptions are 4c a page plus postage. Since the Canadian hobby is in desperate need of new pubbing blood, I want everybody to stop reading this right now and send Brent a cheque.

901 Avenue T North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 3B9

4- I received an advance copy of the new 1992 Diplomacy Rulebook from Rex Martin. It is a work of art and contains a lot of reading material about the play of the game. The articles are not as simplistic as one might expect and contain much that would be of interest to even the veteran player (Obviously Rex didn't write them... chuckle). Of interest to the postal hobby is the back page, which contains the new postal Dip flyer. I'm reproducing that page as well as Rex's accompanying letter over the next couple of pages. Comments are welcome.

5- I know that variants take a while to fill, but I'm getting a little tired of waiting for the Flintlock and 1885 games to fill. I've only had 1885 open for a couple of issues now (with only two signed up), but Flintlock has been stuck on four (our of six) players for quite a while now. If it doesn't fill up in the next two issues, I'm going to abandon it and refund the gamefees of the four players. Anybody care to sign up and make me change my mind? Rules available on request.

6- Buz Eddy has started up a rating service for any FTF games played. The American Diplomacy Register (which is also the name of the flyer Buz publishes for the ADT) exists to collect game results from FTF games and put out ratings thereof as well as list upcoming events from "official" cons to simple house games. While I would hardly call this an "essential" service, if Buz is willing to do the work, I think we may as well support his efforts. For more info write to Buz at 7500 212th St SW, #205, Edmonds, Washington 98026.

7- Pete Gaughan reports in PERELANDRA that Brad Wilson has lost his job and changed residence. I'm sorry to hear that, but it does explain the prolonged interval since the last VERTIGO. Good luck, Brad. I hope things improve soon.

8- Not that I'm gloating or anything, but:

OKAY BLUE JAYS!!!

Heh, heh, heh, cackle, drool, spit.....

All keyed up!

BLUE JAYS 4 at BRAVES 3 Game Six

Toronto	ab	r	h	bl	bb	so	avg	
White cf	5	2	0	0	1	231		
RAlomar 2b	6	1	3	0	0	208		
Carler 1b	5	0	2	1	0	273		
Winfield rf	5	0	1	2	1	0 227		
Maldonado lf	6	1	2	1	0	0 158		
Gruber 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0 105		
Borders c	4	0	2	0	1	0 450		
Lee ss	4	0	1	0	0	1 195		
Tabler ph	1	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Griffins ss	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Cone p	2	0	0	0	1	0 500		
Stattemyre p	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Wells p	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
c-DBell ph	1	0	0	0	0	0 000		
DWard p	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Henke p	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Key p	1	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Timlin p	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Totals	44	4	14	4	2			
Atlanta	ab	r	h	bl	bb	so	avg	
Nixon cf	6	0	1	0	0	0 296		
DSanders lf	3	1	2	0	0	0 533		
Gant ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	0 125		
Pendleton 3b	4	0	0	1	0	2 240		
Justice rf	4	0	0	0	1	1 158		
Eream 1b	3	0	0	0	2	0 200		
Blauser ss	5	2	3	0	0	1 250		
Berryhill c	4	0	0	0	0	1 091		
I-Smolitz pr	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Lemke 2b	2	0	0	0	1	1 211		
LSmith ph	0	0	0	0	1	0 167		
Bellard 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Avery p	1	0	0	0	0	1 000		
PSmith p	1	0	0	0	0	1 000		
Treadway ph	1	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Stanton p	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Wahlers p	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Cabrera ph	1	0	0	0	0	0 000		
Leibrondt p	0	0	0	0	0	0 000		
9-Hunter ph	1	0	0	0	0	0 200		
E-Griffin (1), Justice (1), LOB-Toronto 13, Atlanta 10 2B-Carler 2 (2), Winfield (1), Borders (3), DSanders (2), HR-Maldonado (1) off Avery, RBIs-Carler (3), Winfield 2 (2), Maldonado (2), Nixon (1), Pendleton (2), Hunter (2), SE-White (1), RAlomar (3), DSanders 2 (5), CS-Nixon (1), S-Gruber, Berryhill, Bellard, SF-Carler, Pendleton, GDP-Cone.								
Toronto	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Cone	6	4	1	3	6	103	3 48	
Stattemyre	2	1	0	0	1	11	0 00	
Wells	1	0	0	0	0	4	0 00	
DWard	1	0	0	0	1	16	0 00	
Henke	1	1	2	1	1	0 33	2 70	
Key W, 2-0	1	1	1	0	0	14	1 00	
Timlin S, 1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0 00	
Atlanta	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	np	era
Avery	4	6	2	2	2	60	3 75	
PSmith	3	3	6	0	0	39	0 00	
Stanton	1	2	0	0	1	0 15	0 00	
Wahlers	0	0	0	0	0	5	0 00	
Leibrondt L 0-1	2	3	2	2	0	35	9 00	

NORTHERN FLAME MAILING LIST

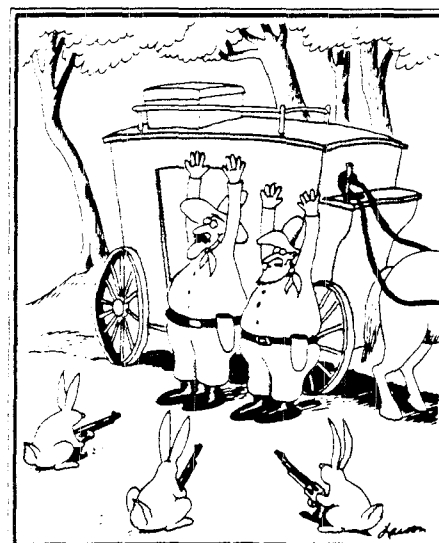
Bob Acheson 15715-92 Av, Edmonton, Alberta T5R 5C5
 Doug Acheson Unit 5, Suite 330, 320 Yonge St, Barrie, Ont L4N 4C8
 Mike Agnew 2316 Queen St E, Toronto, Ont M4E 1G7
 Dave Anderson 18 B St, Pontiac, MI 48340
 Gary Behnen 13101 S Trenton, Olathe, KS 66062
 Edi Birsan 950 Alla Av, Concord, California 94518
 Iain Bowen 5 Wigginton Terrace, York YO3 7JD England
 John Breakwell 62 Shackleton Way, Woodley, Reading, RG1 8AZ England
 Eric Brosius 41 Hayward St, Milford, MA 01757
 Kevin Brown 6703 St Augustine Rd, #209, Jacksonville, FL 32217
 Allan Calhamer 501 N Stone, LaGrange, Illinois 60525
 Frank & Mario Cauz 209 Silverthorn Av, Toronto, Ont M6N 3K2
 David Charleton 2216 Concord Circle, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110
 Vance Copeland 52 Steeles Av E, Hornby, Ontario L0P 1E0
 Grant Current 2135 Lynhaven rd, Peterborough, Ontario K9K 1Y6
 Fred Davis Jr 3210K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043
 Frank Easton 1100 Wildrose Cr, Pickering, Ont, L1X 2R3
 Dave Elliott 51 Findlay Blvd, Downsview, Ont M3H 3L8
 John Ellman II 321 Marganza South, Laurel, MD 20724
 John Etheridge 91 Melinda Cr, Barrie, Ont L4N 5T7
 Stuart Eves 24 Birch Rd, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berks RG7 3LT England
 Mark Figue 1035 Buchanan Blvd, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2Y 1N7
 Thomas Franke Haarenufer 12, D-2900, Oldenburg, Germany
 Pete Gaughan 1521 S Novato, #46, Novato, CA 94947
 Claude Gautron 620 rue Ste Jean-Baptiste, Winnipeg, Man R2H 2Y1
 Don Gill 40 Goldpine Av, Courtice, Ont L1E 1P2
 Andreas Gomolka Vordere Bleiweissstr. 22, W-8500 Nürnberg 40, Germany
 Michael Gonsalves 530 Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA 15801
 Chris Greaves 33 Poplar Av, Toronto, Ont M9B 3R5
 Bob Hartwig 6612 W 113th Av, Westminster, CO 80020
 Nelson Heintzman Box 603, E Amherst, NY 14051 USA
 Melinda Holley Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25725
 David Hood 2905 20th St NE, Hickory, NC 28601
 Mike Hopcroft 420 SE Grand Av, #215, Portland, OR 97214
 Andrew Hymas 250 Glen Manor Dr, Toronto, Ont M4E 2Y1
 Doug Kent 54 W Cherry St #211, Rahway, NJ 07065
 Nevil Keogh 164 Crawford St, Toronto, Ont M6J 2V4
 Bill Lafosse 65 Barbara St, Trenton, Ont K8V 1Z6
 John Leeder 224 20th Av NW, Calgary, Alta T2M 1C2
 Robert Lesco 49 Parkside Dr, Brampton, Ont L6Y 2H1
 Andy Lischett 2402 Ridgeland Dr, Berwyn, IL 60402
 Michael Lowrey 3005 Kenninghall Ct, Charlotte, NC 28269
 Rex Martin c/o The Avalon Hill Game Co, 4517 Harford Rd, Baltimore, MD 21214
 Jack McHugh 280 Sanford Rd, Upper Darby, PA 19082
 Bruce McIntyre 6636 Dow Av, #203, Burnaby, BC V5H 3C9
 Brent McKee 901 Av T North, Saskatoon, Sask S7L 3B9
 John McLaurin RR#3, Huntsville, Ont P0A 1K0
 James Nelson 112 Huntley Av, Spondon, Derby, DE2 7DU England
 Mark Nelson 21 Cecil Mount, Armley, Leeds LS12 2AP England
 Ron Newmaster 37 George Circle, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
 Steve Nicewarner 1310-11 Ephesus Church Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 Nicholas Parish Monkmoor, 10 Beechwood Av, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9TE England
 Gerry Paulsen 80 McLeod Pl, Edmonton, Alta T5A 3A8
 Larry Peery Box 620399, San Diego, CA 92162
 Martin Phillips 31 Feam Cr, Ajax, Ontario L1S 5L4
 Roy Rempel Box 1953, Steinbach, Man R0A 2A0
 Phil Reynolds USF #4270, 4202 Fowler Av, Tampa, FL 33620
 Garret Schenk 40 Third Pl, Bsmt, Brooklyn, NY 11231
 David Senzig 7046 Christmas Lane, Grand Rapids, MI 49548
 Randolph Smyth #1221, 555 St Mary Av, Winnipeg, Man R3C 3X4
 Bob Sorfleet 3420 Albion Rd, Ottawa, Ont K1V 8W3
 Alan Stewart #705-25 St Mary St, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1R2
 Rick Stuart 33 Sutton Pl, Cincinnati
 Pierre Touchette 74½ Falardeau, Hull, PQ J8X 3E2
 Conrad von Metzke 4374 Donald Av, San Diego CA 92117
 Per Westling Rydsv. 246 c:16, S-582 51, Linköping, Sweden
 Gale Wetmore 2235 Halifax Cr, NW, Calgary, Alta T2M 4E1
 William Whyte 10 Salamanca, Roebuck Rd, Dublin 14, Ireland
 Fred Wiedemeyer 7632 92nd Av, Edmonton, Alta T6C 1R4
 Brad Wilson PO Box 126, Wayne, PA 19087
 Graham Wilson 22 Magwood Ct, Toronto, Ont M6S 2M5
 Andrew York Box 2307, Universal City, TX 78148
 Eric Young 4784 Stepney Rd, RR#2, Armstrong, BC V0E 1B0

ACRONYM CONTEST

I received a few entries in this contest, but unfortunately, they were in a folder that got trashed as garbage. There were no survivors. Rather than keep you all in suspense, I'll print the answers and, as per my trusting nature, let me know how many you got (those of you who remember submitting orders that is). The winner will still qualify for the two free issues.

AFL-CIO = American Federation of Labour /
Congress of Industrial Organizations
A & P = Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company
BMW = Bavarian Motor Works
LED = Light Emitting Diode
OPEC = Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SCUBA = Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
VHF = Very High Frequency
4H = Head, Heart, Hands and Health
PT = Patrol Boat (ya, I know, but...)
SCTV = Second City Television
RADAR = Radio Detection and Ranging
VSOP = Very Superior Old Pale
QUANTAS = Queensland & Northern Territory Aerial Service
BASF = Baden Aniline and Soda Factory
JVC = Japan Victor Company
M & M = Mars & Murray
STP = Scientifically Treated Petroleum
3M = Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing
AM/FM = Amplitude Modulation / Frequency Modulation
ATM = Automatic Teller Machine
LCD = Liquid Crystal Display
MASH = Mobile Army Surgical Hospital
ROTC = Reserve Officer Training Corps
SWAT = Special Weapons & Tactics
ESPN = Entertainment and Sports Programming Network
LASER = Light Amplification by Stimulated
Emission of Radiation
SAM = Surface to Air Missile
SEAL = Sea, Air and Land Capability
RAM = Random Access Memory
BB = Ball Bearing
AWACS = Airborne Warning and Control Systems
BVD = Bradley, Voorhees and Day
MiG = Mikoyan and Gurevich
RKO = Radio-Keith-Orpheum
TNT = Trinitrotoluene
VHS = Video Home System

My personal score was a measly 16 / 36.



"This ain't gonna look good on our report, Leroy."

From Andy Lisabeth

Mike,

First, I apologize for sending my previous letter to Cal rather than to you. I did so because I did not know your policy on printing letters. I explained that to Cal, and hope he explained it to you.

Anyway, I was disappointed by the treatment my previous letter received from you and from Cal. I had thought your column about fascism in America was meant to be provocative - to stimulate discussion. But when I disagreed and responded point by point to you calling the U.S. fascist, television-doped, unjust and repressed, you sidestepped any discussion of my points by calling them a diatribe and then changing the subject.

I quoted you when stating my opinions and then you said I spent half of my letter putting words into your mouth, giving as your only example the line where I facetiously "agreed" that JFK and FDR were bad presidents, which was obviously a joke. Maybe not a good joke, but a joke.

I made fun of you for citing a comedian as an expert in political science, and then you (and Cal) twisted my statement into an attack on Lily Tomlin, liberals, women and lesbians (Lily Tomlin has brown hair. Why wasn't I called anti-brunette?). It seems to me that you were less interested in defending your views than you were in defending Lily Tomlin against a non-existent attack.

Anyway, I will try to answer some of the stuff from your response to my letter, knowing as I do so that the editor usually gets the last word.

You asked if I have something against Lily Tomlin because she is, "a) a liberal? b) a woman voicing an opinion? c) a lesbian? d) all of the above?" Since you so kindly asked, the answer is e) I have *nothing* against Lily Tomlin, and nothing against liberals (just some of their ideas), and nothing against women voicing opinions (I admire Margaret Thatcher, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Barbra Jordan and lots of others), and nothing against lesbians (I also admire Martina Navratolova. And I did not - and do not - know that Lily Tomlin is a lesbian. Who cares?). Once more, I was not ridiculing Lily Tomlin... I was ridiculing *YOU*, and I suspect that you knew that.

Also joining *The Great Lily Tomlin Debate* was Cal, who said that I was ignorant in what I said about Lily Tomlin, and that, "There is no doubt in my mind that ((Andy's)) remarks would not have been made had Mike quoted a male, even a male comedian." Well, there should be doubt, Cal, because you are wrong. I said *nothing* about Lily Tomlin... I said something about *Mike*. And I would have made fun of Mike for quoting Jerry Lewis, Bob Hope, Jay Leno or Steve Martin on politics, just as I might ridicule someone quoting Winston Churchill as an expert on comedy.

You, Cal, also have no doubt that my comments on the Rodney King incident were violently racist. My comments were, "... After 3 months of considering the evidence, the jury decided not to imprison men who they felt had not been proven guilty (and they made that decision knowing it would be unpopular and might precipitate riots). After 30 seconds of considering television, Mike decided the cops were guilty. 'Guilty until proven innocent,' Mike might say, and *then*, 'Still guilty, 'cause I saw it on TV.'" I see nothing racist or violent in saying that I trust the jury's decision more than I trust Mike's. In Northern Flame #38, someone (Pete Gaughan? Ron Cameron? A Californian, I think) said the same thing, and I don't recall his remarks being called violently racist. You also said, Cal, that I defended the cops who were on trial. No I did not. I defended the jury, which is a whole lot different.

Anyway, Mike, which half of my letter put words into your mouth? I said that you incorrectly compared 25% of the U.S. population voting for the winner of a presidential election with the percentage of Europeans voting for winners *and* losers, and that is just what you did. I said that you inaccurately stated that less than 50% of registered voters in the U.S. vote, and that's exactly what you said. I said that you said that having senators spend \$8000 a



day to stay in office proves that spending \$8000 is *necessary* to stay in office, and you did say that it costs a U.S. senator \$8000 a day to stay in office. I said that *you* said that the adage about any boy being able to run for president is not true because one must be rich or have rich sponsors, and that *is* what you said. I will again admit to "agreeing" jokingly that FDR and JFK were bad presidents, but I imagine few people thought I was serious in accusing you of disliking two liberal icons.

I said that you called the U.S. television-doped, used the Rodney King videotape and trial as an example of injustice, and decided the cops were guilty after viewing the videotape, and all three of those are exactly what you said. ("When the gentlemen farmers who drafted the Constitution got together, they never envisioned a ... television-doped populace..." "One only has to look at the recent Rodney King videotape and trial to realize that (('America is a land of equal opportunity and justice')) is a real crock.") I reported you as saying the rioters in Los Angeles were filled with rage, and that's what you said. I asked you to name some policies for helping urban poor that have been systematically gutted during the Reagan/Bush years, because you made that claim. I said that you cited moral repression and emphasis on "family values" in the U.S. as common threads with Nazi Germany and evidence of fascism in America, and you *did*. You said that "family values" is a codeword, and that's exactly what I said you said.

So again, please, what words did I put in your mouth?

You are correct in saying that your original column never mentioned, by name, any president prior to Reagan when you said only rich men can become president. You said, "The old American adage 'Any boy could grow up to be President' hasn't been true in this century." Oops! I just *assumed* that included Truman, Eisenhower, Nixon, Roosevelt, Coolidge, etc., etc. Silly me.

I will shut up now. Don't worry about me trying to continue this discussion or submitting any future violently racist, right-wing diatribes. It won't happen again.



THE FIFTH ANNUAL NORTHERN FLAME BASEBALL PREDICTIONS CONTEST!

Yes, once again it is time to announce the winner of the Annual Northern Flame Baseball Predictions Contest, time to bestow the mantle of the One True Baseball Genius. This year is extra special because not only did the Baseball Ghods align the cosmos to crown our Genius, but World Series was won by none other than those beloved hometown boys, the

Toronto Blue Jays!

But, back to semi-reality. This year's NFBPC was won by the slimmest of margins, .001 of a point! Perennial top-ten finisher Mike Agnew was edged out by none other than (drum roll, please):

DAVID ANDERSON

Yes, David has attained the mantle of the True Baseball Genius and, for his trouble, he will receive a one-years free sub to NORTHERN FLAME! Congratulations, David!

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL FINAL 1992 STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

TORONTO	96	66	.593	--
Milwaukee	92	70	.568	4
Baltimore	89	73	.549	7
Cleveland	76	86	.469	20
New York	76	86	.469	20
Detroit	75	87	.463	21
Boston	73	89	.451	23

AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST

OAKLAND	96	66	.593	--
Minnesota	90	72	.556	6
Chicago	86	76	.531	10
Texas	77	85	.475	19
California	72	90	.444	24
Kansas City	72	90	.444	24
Seattle	64	98	.395	32

BOB ACHESON

TOR	CHI	NY	ATL
MIL	CAL	CHI	LA
BOS	TEX	PIT	CIN
DET	OAK	STL	SF
BAL	KC	MON	SD
NY	SEA	PHI	HOU
CLE	MIN		

FRED DAVIS JR

TOR	OAK	PIT	LA
BOS	CHI	NY	ATL
DET	MIN	CHI	SF
MIL	TEX	STL	SD
BAL	KC	PHI	CIN
NY	SEA	MON	HOU
CLE	CAL		

JACK McHUGH

BOS	CHI	PIT	ATL
DET	TEX	STL	LA
TOR	OAK	NY	SD
MIL	MIN	PHI	CIN
NY	SEA	CHI	SF
BAL	CAL	MON	HOU
CLE	KC		

GALE WETMORE

TOR	CHI	NY	ATL
BOS	MIN	PIT	CIN
BAL	SEA	STL	LA
MIL	OAK	PHI	SD
DET	TEX	MON	SF
CLE	KC	CHI	HOU
NY	CAL		

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

PITTSBURGH	96	66	.593	--
Montreal	87	75	.537	9
St. Louis	83	79	.512	13
Chicago	78	84	.481	18
New York	72	90	.444	24
Philadelphia	70	92	.432	26

NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST

ATLANTA	98	64	.605	--
Cincinnati	90	72	.556	8
San Diego	82	80	.506	16
Houston	81	81	.500	17
San Francisco	72	90	.444	26
Los Angeles	63	99	.389	35

BRENT MCKEE

TOR	CHI	CHI	ATL
BOS	MIN	PIT	LA
DET	TEX	STL	CIN
MIL	SEA	NY	SF
CLE	OAK	MON	SD
NY	CAL	PHI	HOU
BAL	KC		

BRAD WILSON

TOR	CHI	CHI	CIN
BOS	TEX	NY	LA
BAL	OAK	PIT	ATL
DET	MIN	STL	SD
MIL	SEA	PHI	SF
NY	KC	MON	HOU
CLE	CAL		

MARIO CAUZ

TOR	CHI	PIT	LA
BOS	OAK	NY	CIN
BAL	KC	STL	ATL
DET	SEA	CHI	SD
NY	MIN	MON	SF
MIL	CAL	PHI	HOU
CLE	TEX		

KEVIN BROWN

BOS	CHI	NY	CIN
TOR	CAL	PIT	LA
NY	OAK	CHI	ATL
MIL	SEA	STL	SD
DET	KC	PHI	HOU
BAL	MIN	MON	SF
CLE	TEX		



JOHN ELLMAN II

TOR	CAL	PIT	LA
BOS	CHI	NY	CIN
BAL	MIN	PHI	SD
DET	KC	CHI	ATL
MIL	OAK	STL	SF
CLE	SEA	MON	HOU
NY	TEX		

MIKE GONSALVES

BOS	MIN	STL	LA
TOR	TEX	NY	CIN
DET	CHI	PIT	ATL
BAL	OAK	CHI	SD
MIL	SEA	PHI	SF
NY	KC	MON	HOU
CLE	CAL		

RON NEWMASER

TOR	TEX	PIT	ATL
MIL	MIN	PHI	SD
DET	OAK	NY	LA
BOS	CHI	STL	CIN
BAL	CAL	CHI	SF
NY	SEA	MON	HOU
CLE	KC		

PETE GAUGHAN

BOS	OAK	NY	LA
TOR	TEX	PIT	ATL
DET	MIN	STL	CIN
NY	KC	CHI	SF
CLE	CHI	PHI	SD
MIL	SEA	MON	HOU
BAL	CAL		

MIKE AGNEW

TOR	CHI	PIT	CIN
BOS	MIN	NY	ATL
MIL	TEX	STL	LA
BAL	OAK	PHI	SF
DET	SEA	CHI	SD
NY	KC	MON	HOU
CLE	CAL		

NEVIL KEOGH

TOR	CHI	PIT	LA
BOS	MIN	NY	ATL
DET	OAK	STL	SD
MIL	TEX	PHI	CIN
BAL	SEA	CHI	SF
NY	KC	MON	HOU
CLE	CAL		

ANDREW HYMAS

TOR	CHI	NY	LA
BOS	OAK	PIT	ATL
DET	TEX	CHI	SD
NY	KC	PHI	SF
MIL	MIN	STL	CIN
BAL	SEA	MON	HOU
CLE	CAL		

FRANK CAUZ

TOR	CHI	PIT	LA
BOS	MIN	STL	ATL
CLE	SEA	NY	CIN
BAL	TEX	CHI	HOU
DET	OAK	PHI	SF
MIL	CAL	MON	SD
NY	KC		

PHIL REYNOLDS

TOR	CHI	PIT	LA
BOS	OAK	NY	ATL
BAL	SEA	CHI	CIN
DET	TEX	STL	SF
MIL	CAL	PHI	SD
NY	MIN	MON	HOU
CLE	KC		

MICHAEL LOWREY

TOR	CHI	PHI	CIN
BOS	OAK	NYM	ATL
MIL	MIN	STL	LA
BAL	KC	PIT	SD
DET	TEX	CHI	SF
NY	SEA	MON	HOU
CLE	CAL		

YE OLDE EDITOR

TOR	CHI	NY	LA
BOS	OAK	PIT	ATL
BAL	TEX	STL	CIN
DET	SEA	PHI	SF
MIL	MIN	CHI	SD
NY	KC	MON	HOU
CLE	CAL		

MELINDA HOLLEY

TOR	TEX	MON	SF
NY	CHI	CHI	ATL
DET	OAK	PIT	CIN
CLE	SEA	NY	SD
BOS	MIN	PHI	LA
MIL	KC	STL	HOU
BAL	CAL		

STEVE NICEWARNER

TOR	SEA	NYM	LA
BOS	OAK	PIT	ATL
BAL	TEX	STL	SD
MIL	CHI	PHI	SF
DET	MIN	CHI	CIN
NY	CAL	MON	HOU
CLE	KC		

DAVID ANDERSON

BAL	CHI	PIT	LA
TOR	OAK	STL	ATL
NY	MIN	PHI	SD
CLE	SEA	NYM	SF
MIL	CAL	CHI	CIN
DET	KC	MON	HOU
BOS	TEX		

1992 NORTHERN FLAME BASEBALL PREDICTIONS CONTEST FINAL RESULTS

	AL EAST	AL WEST	NL EAST	NLWEST	TOTAL
DAVID ANDERSON	.946	.929	.900	.810	3.585
Mike Agnew	.887	.935	.857	.905	3.584
Ron Newmaster	.905	.952	.819	.900	3.576
Gale Wetmore	.887	.899	.939	.933	3.557
Brent McKee	.833	.905	.940	.876	3.554
Michael Lowrey	.887	.923	.785	.923	3.518
Melinda Holley	.839	.872	.905	.886	3.502
Frank Cauz	.857	.887	.923	.829	3.496
Nevil Keogh	.845	.952	.857	.838	3.492
Ye Olde Editor (sigh...)	.857	.952	.852	.829	3.490
Phil Reynolds	.857	.887	.900	.829	3.473
Brad Wilson	.857	.929	.810	.876	3.472
Mario Cauz	.839	.875	.914	.838	3.466
Jack McHugh	.768	.935	.876	.886	3.465
Bob Acheson	.899	.851	.838	.876	3.464
Fred C Davis Jr	.813	.976	.867	.790	3.446
Pet Gaughan	.762	.946	.899	.829	3.436
Kevin Brown	.810	.845	.893	.886	3.434
Steve Nicewarner	.881	.851	.838	.848	3.418
John Ellman II	.863	.857	.819	.838	3.377
Andrew Hymas	.830	.926	.800	.810	3.366
Mike Gonsalves	.804	.857	.838	.838	3.337

High scores in each division in boldface.

This was a strange baseball year, at least in terms of the NFBPC. A few teams who were expected to do well absolutely went into the toilet. The New York Mets, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Boston Red Sox were all expected to challenge for their divisions and all finished last or next-to-last. This had a pretty heavy effect on the Prediction scores this year. In fact, a good case could be made that the reason David Anderson won this year was his foresight in picking the Dead Sox for dead last! (I picked them second, but, if you'll remember, I did predict that they were due for a total collapse any year now. Overall, this wasn't the worst year for Predictions: while the winning score was well enough above last year's all time low winning score, the low scores were much better than 1991. Last year, Ron Newmaster had a score in the 3.0's. This year's last place finisher, Mike Gonsalves was in the 3.3's. I will try to do a Historical Abstract for next issue. One thing I would like to point out is Steve Nicewarner's AL East picks. If he had only picked Toronto for last and reversed Milwaukee and Baltimore, he could have the unusual distinction of picking the exact order of finish (in reverse order...).

The Mailman Cometh!

PETE GAUGHAN
NOVATO, CALIFORNIA

I WILL try to prove you wrong on the ZR work load. Organizing DipCon will be a lot less work than KC. Since the Con and tournament are already in place, all I need to do is publicity. Warning taken though, and thanks.

((I was thinking more of the load of pubbing ZR and Pere as being prime burnout factors. Good luck, but we'll see...))

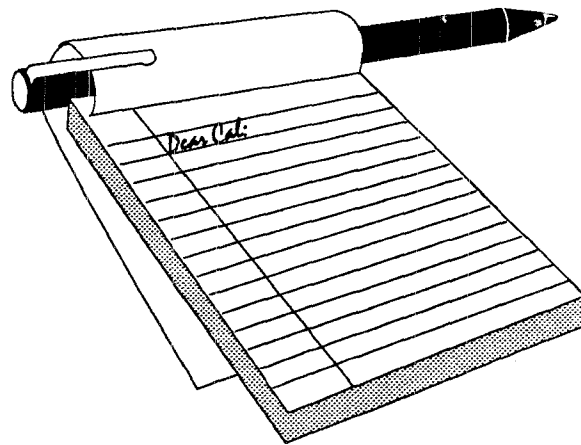
JOHN LEEDER
CALGARY, ALBERTA

Sorry I can't write as often as I was getting used to; I'm once again editor of the *CANADIAN FOLK MUSIC JOURNAL*, at least until the end of the year, and it takes up a finite amount of time and energy. I'm enclosing an issue you might be interested in due to the country music tie-in; if you like it, tell your friends! (If you don't, just keep quiet about it...) It's available as a back issue for \$3.00 plus \$1.50 shipping. And there are lots of copies in my basement.

((I enjoyed it very much, especially the poetry sections (I'm not normally much on poetry). If anybody has the slightest interest in folk music, I recommend the CMFB.))

It seems that as soon I open my mouth about an issue, along comes a newspaper article which says what I was groping for, only a lot more clearly. Not long after I pontificated on the population of Canadian cities (NF#37, P.11), an interview with the Mayor of Calgary made it clear that the "unicity" route was deliberately chosen by the city as the way to go. To grossly oversimplify, Canada's large cities follow three different models of government: the "patchwork quilt" (eg: Edmonton); the "two-tier" system (eg: Metropolitan Toronto); or the unicity (eg: Calgary). The disadvantage of the patchwork quilt is that the areas with the expanding tax base are not usually the areas with the growing problems, so the suburbs get rich and the older areas decay. The two-tier system has the means to correct this problem, but they are hard to apply politically, and this makes for antagonisms between the constituent boroughs over where the tax moneys that go to the umbrella government are going to be spent. Whereas, in the unicity the taxes go directly to the city government and are applied where that government sees fit. Any political problems occur directly at the voter level. I'm paraphrasing the mayor of a unicity, of course, but the fact that Calgary has no slums in spite of hard economic hard times tends to support the theory.

((There are other problems associated with the two-tier system. Right now, Metro Toronto has rammed through a new tax bill called "Market Value Assessment". What this is supposed to do is re-assess all taxable property in Metro and eliminate some special privileges that the city proper has enjoyed. Unfortunately, what will actually happen



is that, while the outlying boroughs will see drastic reductions in their property tax bills, the city will face tax bills averaging TRIPLE what past bills were. While this may be "fairer" the real effect will be to drive a large number of downtown businesses under, thus crippling the city. The reaction to this has been a vote by Toronto City Council (which passed by a good majority) to WITHDRAW from Metropolitan Toronto. It will be interesting to see what happens.))

On to other matters. Re: Claude Gauthron's letter (NF#38, P4): It's no surprise that Laurier Lapierre is considered an outsider in Quebec intellectual circles. If he's right, of course he's going to be ostracized! To be as charitable as possible, Claude's argument is totally irrelevant. But the fact that Claude chooses an ad hominem argument rather than dealing with the merits of what Lapierre is saying is significant. Why can't he find a response to the substance of what we're talking about? Maybe there is no rebuttal?

Of course the upcoming ((letter dated October 13)) referendum is going to cast a whole new light on this question. By the time this gets into print, the vote will be over; but my prediction is that, however the vote goes, the separatists will view it as a rejection of Quebec by the rest of Canada. As I said before, their minds are made up, don't confuse them with facts. The important point (as far as the future of Canada as a united country is concerned) will be how the results (whatever it is) will be viewed by the Quebecers who haven't yet chosen a position.

I myself haven't yet decided how to vote. On the one hand, the current system is lousy, and any new system has a chance to be better. On the other hand, I hate change for change's sake, and I hate the thought of yet another level of elected politicians over us. As well as the added expense of more elections and more people running for office, there's that much more chance for the politicians to screw up the country. (My God, Cal, I'm starting to sound like a Libertarian...)

((There's worse things to sound like. I've voted Libertarian for years but, with the emergence of Presto! Manning, I will be voting Reform next election. BTW, if you don't mind telling, I'd be interested to hear how you ended up voting in the referendum. I suspect you did as I did and voted NO.))

Re Brad Wilson's comments (NF#37, P15), I don't think Brian Mulroney is a "complete moron, a loser". He's a very intelligent and capable man who happens to be the wrong man in the wrong place at the wrong time. The problem: (a) Mulroney is incredibly ambitious and self-aggrandizing; (b) Mulroney's background is as a labour negotiator, and his talent lies in the area of achieving agreements. He's very good at it. Who else could have got all ten Provincial Premiers, plus Native leaders, plus federal government representatives, to come up with a consensus on the future of Canada? Trudeau couldn't, despite his vaunted intellectual capacity.



The problem is that Mulroney wants an agreement for its own sake, so that he can take the credit and bask in the public acclaim. He couldn't care less about what the agreement actually says. The fact of agreement is what matters, not whether what the people have agreed on is right or not. In this aspect he is totally amoral. In a sense he's saying "let democracy take its course"; but he's devoid of leadership in shaping that course. The captain is taking votes from the crew, without looking where's going, or even caring. I'm afraid we're going to be living in "interesting times" as the old Chinese curse goes.

Re Eric Brosius' comments on the Runestone Poll (NF#37, P16): I did not mean to say that no one should play around statistically with the poll results. In fact, I enjoy that sort of thing myself (although my college stats courses are far behind me). But it shouldn't be expected, and it shouldn't be seen as official. The poll results are the raw data; what people do with them for interest's sake should be just that: interesting, but not important. You can get as complicated as you want: just don't pretend it matters (or, rather, hope that other people don't think it matters). These comments, in fact, could be extrapolated to the entire hobby. It should be fun.

Re Brent McKee on Franco-Saskatchewanians (or, better, French-speaking stubble-jumpers) (NF#38, P7): Mea culpa! I messed up a gender somewhere, I think.

Re the Olympics (John Breakwell's letter, NF#39, P14): My understanding is that the founders of the Olympics intended the games to be restricted to "gentlemen". Only people who had enough inherited wealth to be able to devote their time to getting good at their sport, without the necessity of making a living, need apply. Nowadays the category is widened to include people who happen to come from a country which puts a lot of government money into subsidizing people who devote their time to their sport. I say that people who have found a way to make a living by devoting themselves to their sport should not be excluded. Let the best compete, regardless of whether somebody somewhere considers them "amateurs" or "professionals". Or "gentlemen" or "social inferiors", for that matter.

And, yes, re John's other comment (P13): I guess the British TV coverage was especially skillful in hiding from their viewers the fact that the games were taking place in a city bigger than most in Britain. (I know, we're back to relative population again...)

**JOHN BREAKWELL
WOODLE, ENGLAND...**
((I prefer Woodle too, Sue...))

Hmm, nobody on the Runestone list has ever recaptured a title. Bodes badly, no?

((Last of my worries...))

I read Slappy's bit as it had a piece on the Olympics. I would think you have to really enjoy and believe in your sport no matter how much money is involved. If you prefer the water to the pitch, then you're aiming at a certain range of sports. If you are an individual, you can race or dive (or even - yeuch - synchronize). If team play is your preference then go for water polo. It doesn't matter how many colleges have water polo as there are a hell of a large number of all-year-round swimming pools around, but the bottom line is most people do sport because they want to, supposedly the ethic of the Olympics.

If Americans are unaware of so many similar sports, then I am very sorry for them.

There are a lot of track and field people outside college. They pick up a love for it at college and then join local clubs



to keep it up. Sure, a lot drop it when they get a job, but enthusiasts are out there. Who goes to track meets? Anybody - I'd go if I wasn't so lazy.

Sponsoring the games is unfortunately a necessity to keep it going. The supposed amateur sport-for-sport's-sake ethic is unreal and never really applied. The original Olympics definitely weren't amateur - the amateurism of the 19th/20th century is a new invention. I try to ignore the sponsorship, thinking it really a childish fight between competitors like Pepsi and Coca-Cola.

In the TripleCast, how could you watch all of it? Surely several events were going on at any one time, so you'd always miss something.

((Beats me? I'm not sure if it was three separate channels or a three-way split screen with/without (?) audio commentary or what...))

It took me until paragraph 5 of the 2nd column to work out St Petersburg play baseball and not American football. Would mind mentioning subject matter as the structure terminology was very similar between the two sports.

((I think I usually do a good job of that, as I DO make a concerted effort to not assume that everyone knows what is being discussed. If I lapsed for a bit, I apologize and I'll try harder...))

I haven't been to a UK American football game for a few years as they are dead slow. They do make for a nice summer's day in the sun, but I've missed this year's season. Maybe in '93.

What does "hot-dogging" mean? Sounds pervy. I have been informed that it is showing off - where did the expression come from?

((I'm not sure, but I think it may have originated with free style skiers who called their sport "hot-dogging". Anybody have a better idea?))

In Europe, the UK started the trend of violent fans, but we are no way near the worst now. Other countries copy and exceed us, like blowing up railway stations where visiting fans are congregating. Jesus, they're crazy. Now, every country has an organized network of hooligans who fight when their teams travel - anywhere, local or abroad - and it is like going to war. They have tactical briefings with army-style ranks and structures, for example. They don't care about their team's performance, just the fights before, during and after the game. Did the Swedes do it? But there is a problem laying blame. ALL of Western Europe has a reasonable grasp of English, but few from the UK can speak anything else. When you have a soccer riot, the Swedes, for example, could talk in English, so witnesses will blame the visitors. Sneaky, eh?

In the end, it is an established part of European football, sad though this may be. Note that it is much worse in South America. They have real wars over football!

((Here's an idea: ban spectators from the stadiums and only televise the games on a Pay Per View basis. Thoughts?))

From the lettercol, *((NF#39))* I would mention that Olympic soccer teams are amateur. The European nations send the professionals to the World Cup and not the Olympics. The teams are definitely NOT the best we can offer, unlike what has happened in basketball. That is probably why he said competing, not winning, is more important. Sure, a medal is fantastic, but we know it is all supposed to be amateur and therefore no shame should be felt by losing.

In the swimming example, if I was the "winner", I would traded medals as the result was bogus. Everybody would have known I hadn't won on my ability - how could I live with it?

OK, I'll open a list of Standard Diplomacy by fax. The number is (UK code) 734 270 366. Anybody who sends me a faxed request

to play will get Gingwatzim, which will consist of house rules and the current waiting list(s), plus the players already signed up. Deadlines I expect to be fortnightly. First game will be called Hayes. How about that?

((Sounds good. Too bad I don't have a fax or I'd play. Coincidentally, I've had several people ask me lately about opening a fax game. Well, I'M not going to, but here's your chance.))

**GARRET SCHENK
BROOKLYN, NY**

In one of your snippets in reply to John Breakwell in The Mailman Cometh, ((NF#39)) you mentioned that Foolhardy says that "Popular Cutlery has a fax game open. I don't know the address or even who publishes it as you can't get that info in Zine Register anymore. Pity..."

Um, Cal, if you're still trying to find that address of Popular Cutlery, I would suggest that you recheck Zine Register. Yes, there it is on page 72. Another point which you may not be aware of is that the two issues of ZR that I've published listed 13 and 20 "foreign" zines, respectively. Indeed, the 20 zines listed in issue #20 matches the best of Tom Nash's "foreign coverage". Tom covered 20 overseas zines in #15, 19 in #16, and 20 in #18 (#17 was the fake).

Granted, this coverage of foreign zines is primarily due to Pete Gaughan (with help from a few others). And in no ways were the writeups by Pete (and others) as extensive as those of Tom Nash's (though note that my comments on the two foreign zines that I do receive were roughly equivalent to those for NA zines). Another point - Ken Peel's issues #13 and #14 listed but 7 and 8 "overseas" zines, respectively (those are the issues I have available).

Personally, I think the space devoted to "overseas" listings was just about right. You don't. Fine, send in some thoughts on foreign (and domestic) zines for issue #21. They'll get published, along with every other word I receive.

I guess I'm responding because I wanted to set the record straight. I don't really bear any antipathy to overseas zines or overseas publishers. It's just that trying to fulfill ZR's mandate of service to the North American hobby is already an overwhelming job. There are literally hundreds of overseas zines, Cal! There is just no way I can review them all, or even print listings of them all! Thanks to the efforts of Pete (and others), I haven't had to worry about foreign coverage, and I've been able to focus on "Job One" - service to North American zine publishers and gamers.

Unfortunately, you are not the only one who is mistaken on the matter of "overseas service". A certain other publisher has accused me of "cutting trades" with overseas zines, and of refusing to sell Zine Register to overseas purchasers! (Since my advertisement for ZR has appeared in numerous hobby publications, each one announcing a purchase price of \$4.00 for "overseas" publishers, I'd only be creating a huge mess for myself if I suddenly refused to sell overseas.) For the record, I have sold Zine Register to overseas purchasers and will continue to do so. Overt feud hostility is the only possible rationale for spreading these sorts of lies about my service.

((Ta for clearing that up. Re: your last sentence. While you may quite probably be right, I would find it easier (were I in your position) to at least consider the possibility of it simply being a misunderstanding. Phrasing your feelings the way you do makes you seem paranoid. The time comes when it's easier (all around!) to ignore detractors and lighten up. It works for me.))

On another matter, it's interesting that you've gone the "redesign route". Interestingly, two issues ago I gave UPSTART a new type treatment (Lithos and Centennial for display copy, but keeping the Times for body text - you can pack a lot in with good old Times!), and have also gone to a three column format. I've kept the digest format though. Pete Gaughan has also done

a little redesign work on his zine, but it seems like it's not much more than a new logo. I guess your use of an "asymmetrical" three column grid stamps your zine with perhaps the most "radical" design that I've seen in the hobby. Good luck with it.

((Thanks. "Radical" is pretty well what I was looking for with the asymmetrical columns. I also wanted the challenge of trying something new and making it work. As for typeface, I prefer Palatino. It's just about the same as Times, but I find it a bit more compact/modern. As for sidebars and other elements, I haven't exactly settled on what I want. But then again, that's half the publishing fun for me - experimenting.))

**FRED C DAVIS
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

We've just returned from Chicago, my home town, where we've been visiting old friends and doing some sightseeing. Inge had not been in Chicago for about 12 years. I'd been there alone for a few days at a time 3 times in the last 7 years, but never long enough. This time, we gave ourselves 8 days, but even that wasn't long enough, so we hope to back again in 2 years. It's a very exciting city. I'd forgotten how heavy the traffic was! Lots of good restaurants and museums. Saw the last two games of the World Series on the motel's TV. I was rooting for Toronto and very glad the Jays won.

((A man of discriminating baseball taste, I see...))

**MICHAEL LOWREY
CHAPEL HILL, NC**

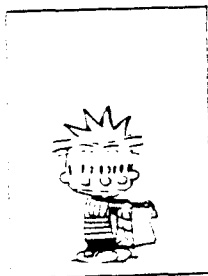
So, how's Toronto? I saw an article in the paper where it's rained every weekend for the last few months and hasn't reached 30°C (86°F) only once this year (in case you were wondering, 86° is below average temperature here). *((Grrr...))*

I want to correct something Brent McKee and James Nelson have implied: there is no longer a large German or German-speaking population in what was Czechoslovakia. The Germans of the region either fled in terror before the Red Army in 1945 or were forced out shortly thereafter. My 1989 World Almanac lists Czechoslovakia population of 15.66 million as being 64% Czech, 31% Slovak, with the rest Hungarian, German, Ukrainian and Polish. Before WWII, Germans were a substantial part of the population - 23%. I'd suspect that even recently, under the Communists, the German minority was suppressed; the teaching and use of the German language was highly restricted.

The boat wreck happened in 1985 over the Easter weekend. Five of the guys from my dorm and I were in a boat at night on a local lake. We were going to dinner. It was fairly dark, the lake was low and we were going about 20-25 mph when we hit a pontoon boat backing up with no lights on (that we could see). We jumped through the other boat before landing on the water again. Somehow, our boat didn't capsize. As the wall of water and debris hit me, I had the distinct feeling I was going to die (actually, I thought we had hit a bridge, as that's what Preston, the guy driving the boat, had mentioned when he stopped to look two minutes previous to this). I was about to panic when I heard Preston yell, "Is everybody all right?". The response was, "My Daddy!". Pressy was about to dive in when we realized that the girl screaming (she was 12; the oldest person on the boat was 13!) was talking about her father. Both boats made it to shore and, amazingly, no one was hurt, though Preston was very nearly assaulted by the girl's father, who happened to head the NC Air National Board.

((That sounds as if it will qualify you for Fred Davis' club of Dip pubbers living on borrowed time. Fred?))

FOR 'SHOW AND TELL' TODAY. I HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL ASTOUND AND AMAZE YOU! THIS LITTLE GUY CAN...



HAVE YOU ALL HAD YOUR SHOTS?



BRENT MCKEE
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

It was not I who was staring at the strippers at the New Bloor; must have been McIntyre. As you will recall, someone who supposedly knew Toronto like the back of his hand forgot that the exit that Greg and I needed to take to get to the New Bloor has a different name when you are eastbound. By the time I got there, all there was was the band. (If you think I'm ever going to let you live that one down, you're crazy!) Of course, if I had been there and stared, it would have been cultural rather than lascivious. That sort of entertainment is not allowed in Saskatchewan. At the Buffalo Days exhibition in Regina, an aerobics demonstration was staged in the beer garden. The Liquor Commission ordered it halted because it was a lewd activity in a place where liquor was being sold. The instructors were wearing Spandex workout suits. (Horrorrrs!)

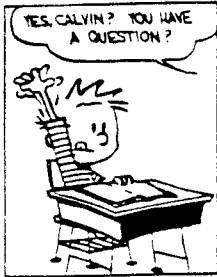
((How the hell do they reproduce in Saskatchewan with Big Brother watching like that?))

I meant exactly what I said about the Olympic Basketball. The teams who were beaten by the American collegians between 1936 and 1976 didn't feel patronized. The NBA players wouldn't have been playing if the USA didn't feel it was their divine right to win Gold in Basketball. The athletes from other countries play for the love of their sport. The NBA pros play for the love of money as is plainly shown in that display at the closing ceremony where half the Americans covered the logo on their warm up suits because they endorse another brand.

((I never argued with you about your third sentence and I'll bet that, while the teams other teams may not have felt patronized (BTW, how do you KNOW?), they knew that they hadn't played the best. As for the logos, covering them up was merely being loyal to what are essentially their employers (not that this disputes your main point, I just think it's a poor example.))

As for the rest of the world improving to the NBA level, I doubt it will happen. First, the NBA draws players from hundreds of universities (maybe 100 at the top rank). Some of these kids go to University just so they can go into the NBA after four years or less of showing their stuff in the NBA's farm league. Most countries don't have such a resource to draw on. Secondly, the NBA itself is a powerful factor. Kids will keep on playing basketball because of the possibility of getting into the NBA for the big money. In the rest of the world, where there is no professional league and little possibility of getting into the NBA, there's not much incentive for them to stay in basketball. There are small leagues, paying smaller amounts of money, but a lot of Americans are playing in those leagues as well. Why do you think the Canadian National Team is made up of guys who are pushing 30? If they can't make it to the NBA, the National Team was the only chance they had to keep playing. In the late and lamented World Basketball League, there were five Canadian teams and maybe four Canadian players.

((Why couldn't the rest of the world catch up? It happened in hockey, which is a much less popular sport, at least on a world level. And, since we are talking about some time down the road (20 years?), why are you using today's National Team as an example? Mark my words, in 20 years, Canada will give the US a run for it's money and there will be a lot more Canadians playing pro ball. Why? Simple. When I was a kid, all we played was street hockey (CAR!!!) spring, summer, fall and winter. The kids today (in T.O. anyway, population 3.5 million) are into basketball. For every Maple Leaf sweater or jacket, there are ten Chicago Bulls jerseys and jackets. The trick to a country excelling in any sport is in appealing to the young. The more youngsters playing a sport, the better the talent base becomes. Watch and see.))



YEAH, I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD STOP THE LESSON HERE AND ADJOURN TO THE PLAYGROUND FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.



Have you heard the Barcelona album that came out before the Olympics, which featured duets between Freddie Mercury and the Spanish opera singer Montserrat Caballé? It got a great deal of play during the Olympics. The blend of vocal instruments was astonishing.

((Haven't heard it.))

I have to take issue with Andy Lischett for faulty research if for nothing else. Both of the Roosevelts as well as Kennedy were rich. Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Truman, Johnson and even Nixon rose to national prominence on the backs of political machines. There may have been three political figures who rose to prominence without big money, machine support, but on their own reputation. They are Hoover, Eisenhower and Carter (Reagan was small rich). All three of them were able to draw on sources of money for their campaigns either because they were perceived as the front runner after the primaries or, in the case of Hoover, because he was considered the only possible successor.

You asked why flying was out and wondered whether I was afraid of flying. No, I'm afraid of crashing (just kidding). Flying isn't a problem for me, although given ample time, money and access, I would much rather travel by train. It is a far more relaxed and civilized way of travel even if you have to pay for meals.

((I haven't been on a train since childhood, but I enjoyed it. Did you hear that the government is forcing CN (Canadian National Railways for you furriners) to put more trains on the 'cross-Rockies routes. They had cut back the number of trains and were selling tickets only to foreigners (Japanese businessmen, etc). As an aside, I was in Kapuskasing the day the old Canadian left on the last regularly-scheduled regular-passenger cross-Canada run.))

JOHN MCLAURIN
HUNTSVILLE, ONTARIO

I have some comments about your new format. I like it. I've always preferred the full page format over the digest. If you are saving 5-6 hours by using this format, per your comments on P13, that alone is reason enough to switch. Although it was used to good effect on P16, that skinny third on the left only results in wasted space on pp13-14. I would prefer the sidebar quotations stuck in with the other text, in a box as you used to do. Then you might be able to use a slightly bigger font in the two enlarged columns, thus pleasing those of us who have inferior eyesight.

((I use the font size I do because it's what I used when I was digest and I didn't want a bigger font-size taking up more space. Admittedly, that doesn't excuse wasting the extra space on the blank column, does it? Well, I don't think I'll change for now as that "skinny third column" is useful on more pages than not. One thing I have done for this issue is make that column even skinnier (by 1/4"). I will keep your comments in mind though.))

You commented that the new AH version of Diplomacy is to have wooden blocks. Does this mean the old one doesn't? I have an old House of Games version, which has wooden blocks. I prefer the larger map in this edition to the truncated one in the AH version (which I have never seen out of a box, actually). Is the AH version the only one now available in Canada?

((To the best of my knowledge, yes, as all the old distributors went over to AH when Waddington's discontinued their line of games (to become strictly "jigsaw puzzle manufacturers" fer chrissakes!). You're lucky that you've never seen the AH version of Dip units. Ugly little chunks of plastic in the alleged form of Stars (armies) and Anchors (fleets). We're lucky that, in Canada, Waddington's always had the wooden blocks (imported from Germany.))

I have a few comments regarding Mike Agnew's latest editions of Notes From the Bunker.

((CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.))

**THE STEVE EARLE GAME
1990CFFALL 1908**

SO YOU THINK GMING IS EASY, EH? GET A LOAD OF THIS, THE HARDEST TURN I'VE EVER ADJUDICATED!

ENGLAND (FRED WIEDEMAYER)

F nrg-NTH, s by F Eng & F HEL; F bar-NRG; A kie s French a bur-mun (dislodged, retreat to hol, otb).
Has: lon?, edi?, lpl, [den], [kie], hol?

(2, 3 or 4) -3, -2 or -1.

FRANCE (ANDY YORK)

F wes-TUN, s by F NAF; F lyo-tyu (dislodged, retreat to spasc, wes, otb); A MAR-pie; A BUR-mun; A RUH s English a kie; A hol-BEL.

Has: home, spa, por, bel, hol?, TUN.

(7, 8) Even, +1 or +2.

RUSSIA (PHIL REYNOLDS)

A mun-KIE, s by A BER & F BAL; A sil-MUN, s by A TYO; F swe-DEN, s by F SKA; F nth-hel (dislodged, retreat to edi, yor, lon, hol, otb); A NWY h, s by A STP; F RUM h.

Has: home, rum, bud, nwy, vic, mun, ber, swe,

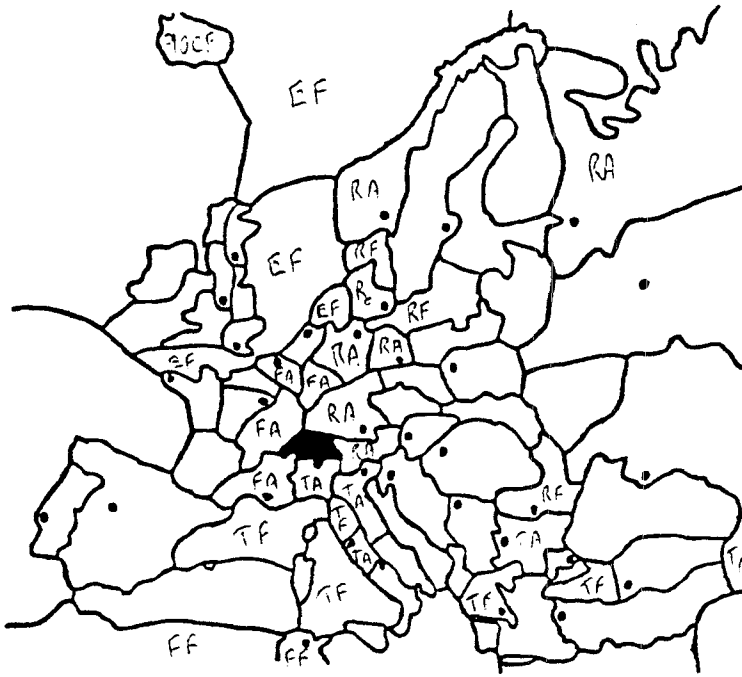
KIE, DEN, lon?, edi?. (13 or 14) +3.

TURKEY (STEVE NICEWARNER)

F tyn-LYO, s by F TUS; F ion-TYN, s by F rum (dislodged, retreat to ion, otb); A smy-ARM; A con-BUL, s by F GRE; F aeg-CON; A PIE h, s by A VEN; A ROM h.

Has: home, gre, bul, ser, tri, ven, rom, nap, [tun].

(10) -1 or Even.



Russia-England: Are you a football fan? If so, then you will know what I mean when I say that you fell for my draw play. I was hoping your flanking fleets would go deep and your central units would blitz, allowing me to sneak through the line into the unprotected middle of the field. And it worked! How's that for a well-designed play? Now it's time to run out the clock and put another mark in the win column!
Russia-Turkey: Uh, I mean the DRAW column, of course...
Barad-Turnberry: Maybe I should turn this from a Feud Free Zine to a Gloating Free Zine...

BTW, the E/F/R/T draw failed 3 Yes & 1 No. There is a new proposal for a R/T draw. Please vote with your Winter builds, which we will play separately, I think, given all the retreats, etc. Deadline will be on the back page.

**THE RUSS BLINCO GAME
1990CG SPRING 1908**

COALITION CRUMBLING!

AUSTRIA (PAUL CAUZ)

A BUD s a ser; A SER s a bud.

ENGLAND (DON GILL)

F POR s Italian f mid.

FRANCE (DAVID CHARLESTON)

F SPASC s Italian f mid; A MAR h.

GERMANY (GERRY PAULSON)

Builds A BER & A KIE. F bre-ENG; F gas-BRE, s by A PIC; A par-GAS, s by A BUR; A mun-TYO, s by A VIE; A BOH s a vie; A BER h; A kie-RUH.

ITALY (DAVID ANDERSON)

a lvo-vie (dislodged, retreat to pie, otb), s by a tri; A VEN-tyo; F MID h; F LYO s French a mar.

RUSSIA (ROBERT LESCO)

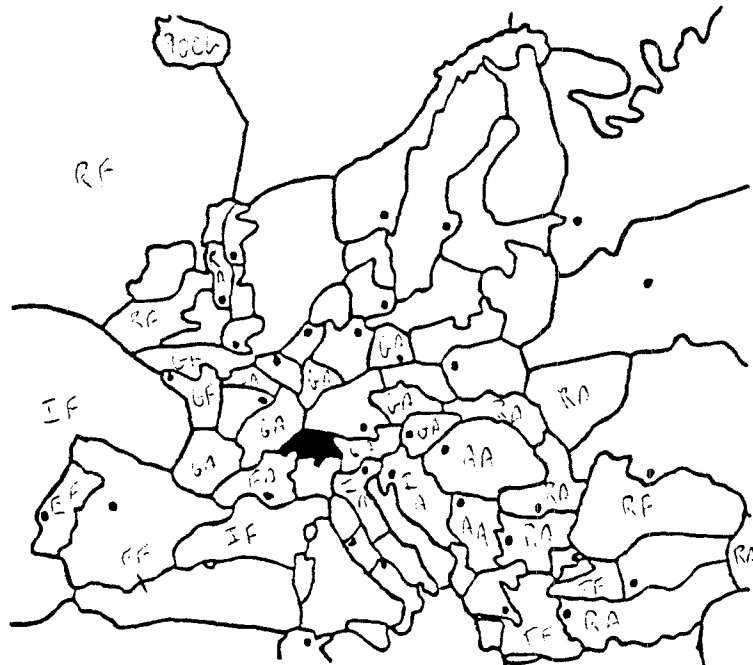
A sev-BUL, c by F BLA & s by A RUM; f con-aeg (dislodged, retreat to ank, otb); A GAL s a rum; A ank-SMY, s by A ARM; F cly-NAT; F nat-IRI; A mos-UKR; A LPL orders another round.

TURKEY (DAVE ELLIOTT)

F smy-CON, s by F AEG & a bul (dis, retreat to gre, otb).

Turkey-Russia: What is the German word for "gap"?

Russia-Turkey: If I didn't carry out my threats, who would believe my promises?



The deadline for Fall 1908 is on the back page.

THE MERLE HAGGARD GAME

1990CJ SPRING 1907

R/T STEAMROLLER ROLLS ON!

AUSTRIA (CIVIL DISORDER)

A TYO h.

FRANCE (GALE WETMORE)

F bre-ENG; F EDI s f nth; A HOL-vor, s by A LON & c by f nth (dislodged, retreat to yor, nrh, ska, hel, bel, otb); F mid-NAT; F naf-TUN; A mar-PIE; F wes-TYN; A mun-SIL, s by A WAR.

GERMANY (BOB SORFLEET)

A KIE s a ber; A BER s a kie.

ITALY (STUART EVES)

A ROM s f apu; F NAP s f apu; F APU hopes for French and Russian assistance...

RUSSIA (RANDOLPH SMYTH)

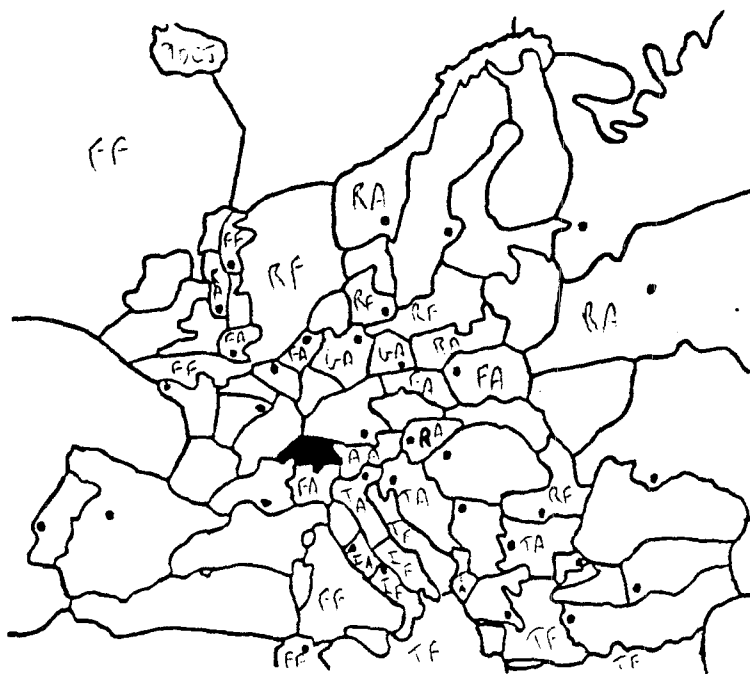
A MOS-war; A bud-VIE; A LPL-edi; A swe-NWY; A PRU-bel, s by F BAL; F nwy-NTH, s by F DEN; F RUM h.

TURKEY (GRAHAM WILSON)

A con-BUL; F smy-EAS; A ALB-nap, c by F ION; F AEG s f ion; A VEN-apu, s by F ADR; A TRI-ven.

Turkey-Italy: Sorry, but you didn't say "Pretty Please"...

The deadline for Fall 1907 is on the back page.



THE ROBERT JOHNSON GAME

1992SRB32

Thanks to the Sandman for unneeded standby orders, but Superman isn't dead after all. Mind you, that's more than you can say for the GM's brain when he credits Wonder Woman with an extra build. Fortunately, she caught it and only F NAP is allowed (it being the first build listed on the order sheet).

I COUNT FOUR SEPARATE WARS:

E/R, T/R, I/A, F/G.

AUSTRIA (GREEN LANTERN)

F tri-ADR; F GRE-ion; A bud-TRI, s by A SER & A VIE.

ENGLAND (SUPERMAN)

F edi-NTH; A NWY-stp, s by F BAR; F nth-SKA.

FRANCE (THE FLASH)

A spa-GAS; A mar-BUR, s by a mun (dislodged, retreat to boh, sil, otb); A par-PIC; F por-MID.

GERMANY (AQUAMAN)

F DEN-kie; A HOL-kie; A ber-MUN, s by a RUH.

ITALY (WONDER WOMAN)

A TYO h, s by A VEN; F nap-APU; F TUN-ion.

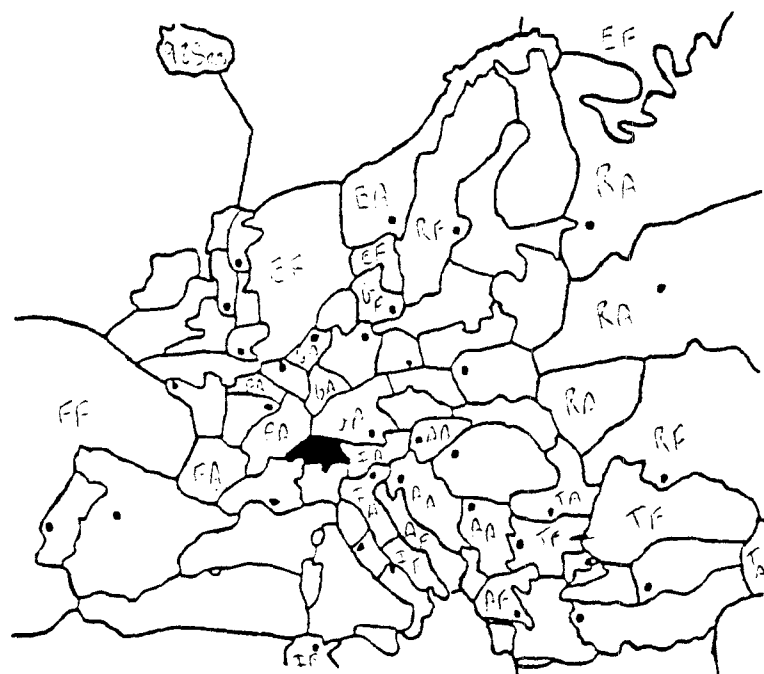
RUSSIA (METAMORPHO)

A STP-nwy, s by F SWE; A MOS-sev; F SEV-num, s by A UKR.

TURKEY (BATMAN)

A RUM-sev, s by A ARM; F ank-BLA; F con-BULec.

The deadline for Fall 1902 is on the back page.



A player asked me if "press orders" were allowed eg: "A CON offers peace to the English". The answer to this is no, as I don't want to type up a three page adjudication, as well as the fact that it really violates the spirit of the no-press rule. However, I could point out that there is nothing against using a unit which would otherwise be holding.

**THE DOLLY PARTON GAME
1992AS SPRING 1901**

Note that we have our Boardman Number. Thanks, Gary!

**EVERYTHING SUCCEEDS, BUT I REALLY THINK
WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A LIVE ONE, FOLKS!**

AUSTRIA (VANCE COPELAND)
F tri-ALB; A bud-SER; A vie-BUD.

ENGLAND (BOB SORFLEET)
F lon-NTH; F edi-NRG; A lpl-EDI.

FRANCE (FRED WIEDEMEYER)
F bre-MID; A par-BUR, s by A MAR.

GERMANY (MARTIN PHILLIPS)
A mun-RUH; F kie-HOL; A ber-KIE.

ITALY (NELSON HEINTZMAN)
A ven-TRI; A rom-APU; F nap-ION.

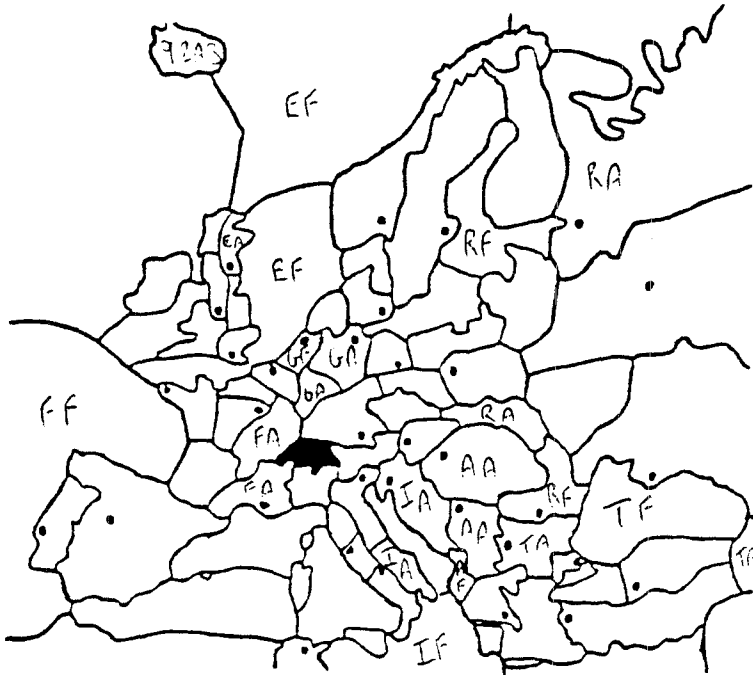
RUSSIA (GRANT CURRENT)
F stpsc-BOT; F sev-RUM; A war-GAL; A mos-STP.

TURKEY (BOB ACHESON)
Fank-BLA; A con-BUL; A smy-ARM.

To the person who asked me if I have a fax machine in my office, the answer is no. It's a "home" office insofar as it does nothing but produce this rag you're holding. If you want fax Dip, write to John Breakwell (see the mail column...).

No press.

The deadline for Fall 1901 is on the back page. Betcha there's some letters flying after this season!



**THE
MAILMAN
COMETH**

**JOHN
MCLAURIN'S
LETTER
CONTINUED
FROM PAGE
13.**

In the original piece which started all this, Mike makes reference to "family values" as a characteristic of Fascism. I understand there is limited space in the Bunker to write, but I would like to know the definition used for the purpose of the essay Mike wrote. Indeed, I don't think that we will ever find out whether the concept that he describes is the same that is spoken of with the code word used by all those US politicians.

In Andy Lischett's letter, he claims that the term "code-word" is used by the Left. Is he accusing Mike of being on the political Left? All this time, he (Mike) has been accusing and negatively criticizing the US for moving to the left towards Fascism!

Regarding Lily Tomlin, I don't think there is any way we're going to get an explanation of why she feels that America is going to Fascism.

((From personal comments and correspondence, I think that Mike and Andy have both decided that they want to drop this whole matter before it gets any further out of hand, but maybe Mike will decide to reply to your points himself.))

Who is the one who can't spell "Buchanan"? ((Moi.)) It isn't that hard to remember, as all you have to remember is the famous name of the manufacturer of so many engines installed in beautiful classic mahogany launches built here in Muskoka, Ontario.

((Oh, of course, I should have remembered that... BTW, ever been to Bala? My parents are from that area and I spent all my childhood summers there.))

What are the determining characteristics of a "Born Again"? This is another term that I see tossed around as a derogatory euphemism (code word?), but have never seen a decent definition of. It gets used in the same way that people used to say "Anarchist" to label a political enemy, real or fabricated. Nowadays, we hear Brian Mulroney talk about the "enemies of Canada", trying to discredit those who oppose the constitutional deal. This sort of strategy appeals to the emotions of the masses and ducks the real issues. When these same masses do a little research, they usually find that the truth is very different from what the person using the euphemism would have you believe.

((Anyone want to outline the "characteristics" of a "Born Again"? I have pretty definite opinions, but I'll wait until the rest of you have a shot before I decide to offend anybody.))

Is there really someone out there who thinks that "The Handmaid's Tale" could actually happen here? I haven't read the book, but if it's anything like the film, it's ludicrous. Shipping women around like cattle? A lot of people are going to have to be killed, including you and me, before we let anything like that happen.

((So, like, people haven't been killed before? I would say that, given the standards and values of Western civilization, it's VERY unlikely, but, speaking as someone who tends to think of what's happening now as transient (like all great civilizations), I wouldn't ever say something was impossible. There's a novella by Robert Heinlein (Damn! I can't remember the name of it, but it was part of his work The Past Through Tomorrow) in which the US was turned into a tyrannical theocracy run by the "Prophet" Nehemiah Scudder. I, personally, see this as being the most likely of all possible futures for North America in the next two or three HUNDRED years. Nehemiah Falwell? Way to go, Sinnead.))

16

1992fA
TURN 1

FACTS IN FIVE

	DISNEY CHAR.	2 PLAYER GAMES	STRIPED THINGS	MILITARY RANK	SHAKESPEARE CHAR.
Sandi Hood 232 Points	Donald Duck Wendy Robin Hood Captain Hook Peter Pan	Dominoes Wrasslin' Rook Chess Panzer Leader	Dress Wrapping Paper Ribbons Candy Canes Prison Uniform	Dress Sergeant XXX Rifleman 1st Class Colonel Private	Desmerelda The Witches Romeo Crassus Polonius
Mike Carrick 172 Points	Donald Duck Wendy Roger Rabbit Cricket Pinocchio	Duel War Racquet Ball Chess Pool	Divider Lines XXX Raccoon Candy Cane Prison Uniform	XXX XXX XXX Corporal Private	Desdemona XXX Romeo Cleopatra Paris
Paul Cauz 160 Points	Dumbo Wilbur XXX Cinderella Pinocchio	Double Solitaire War XXX Checkers Pinochle	Danish Wrapping Paper Raccoon Cat Pyjamas	XXX Warrant Officer Rear Admiral Corporal Private	Desdemona XXX Romeo XXX XXX
Conrad von Metzke 158 Points	Donald Duck Wendy Roger Rabbit Chip Pluto	Dominoes Waterloo Rummy Cathedral Pinochle	XXX XXX Roads Cats XXX	XXX Warrant Officer XXX Colonel Private	Duncan XXX Rosenkrantz Cleopatra Polonius

Turn 1 Notes and Commentary

Disney Characters: Answers disallowed: none. I wasn't sure if Roger Rabbit was a Disney production, but since two of you came up with this answer, I'll assume it was. Also, I assume that Wilbur is from Mr Ed? Is that Disney?

2 Player Games: Answers disallowed: none. I assume that Wrasslin' is the Avalon Hill game.

Things which are striped: Answers disallowed: Ducks, Walls, Penguins, Woodchucks, Obviously, anything with a flat surface can be striped, if someone can paint it, but I was looking for things which I tend to think of as striped more often than not.

Military Ranks: Answers disallowed: Recruit (not a rank), War Chief (more a tribal title than a rank).

Shakespearean Characters: Answers disallowed: Sandi, is Desmerelda actually a character or were you thinking of Desdemona?

A NOTE FROM CONRAD VON METZKE, FACT-MASTER FOR 92fB & 92fC:

"I'LL TRY TO DO A DECENT JOB, BUT YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BEAR WITH ME IF I SEEM A LITTLE FUMBLING IN PICKING CATEGORIES. I TRY TO BALANCE INTERESTING (TO ME, OF COURSE) IDEAS WITH AREAS IN WHICH YOU HAVE A REASONABLE CHANCE OF KNOWING SOMETHING. I WILL NOT USE THE LETTERS Q, X OR Z, AND PROBABLY NOT A COUPLE OF OTHERS EITHER. AND IN 92fB, I'LL TAKE PAINS TO FRAME THE CATEGORIES SO THAT THEY ARE NOT TOO NATIONALISTIC. FAIR?"

SCORES AFTER TURN ONE

Sandi Hood	232 points
Mike Carrick	172
Paul Cauz	160
Conrad von Metzke	158

CATEGORIES FOR TURN TWO

Computer Terms	S
Fruit	A
Chemical Elements	H
Geometry Terms	R
Kitchen Items	P

LETTERS

1992fB

I've received the first categories for these games from Conrad. The deadline for Turn 1 is December 30, 1992.

Players: James Nelson Mario Cauz
 Andy York Doug Kent

CATEGORIES FOR TURN ONE

Roofing Terms	L
Name of an Opera	B
Colo(u)r(s)	N
Wood used in Furniture	D
Current monetary unit (any country)	R

LETTERS

1992fC

Players: Brent McKee Andy York
 David Anderson Cal White

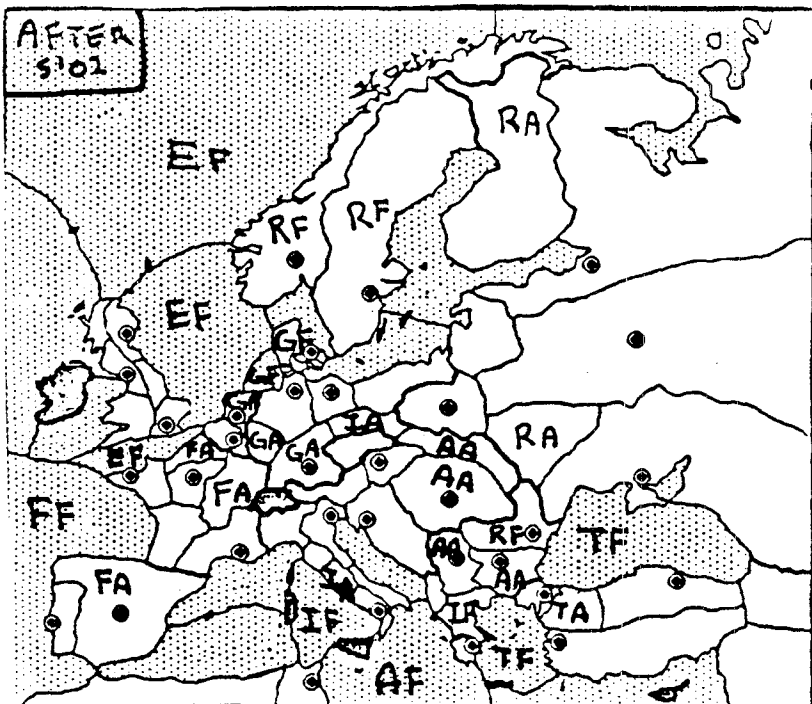
The deadline for Turn 1 is december 30, 1992.

CATEGORIES FOR TURN ONE

Heating/Air Conditioning Term	R
US Vice-Presidents (yeah, right...)	F
1992 MLB Catchers	W
Cigarette Brands	M
Adjective describing a feeling or emotion	T

LETTERS

FactMaster for 92fB & 92fC is Conrad von Metzke 4374 Donald Avenue, San Diego, California USA 92117



THE GARTH BROOKS GAME 1992??

No Boardman Number yet.

Speaking of no-shows, I've been waiting longer for Mark Berch to send "Once Upon A Deadline"

F'02 Deadline: The Friday before Cal's games are due (printed elsewhere in these pages)

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

Nostradamus was unable to predict that he was going to get his girlfriend, Andriete de Loubejac, pregnant and would have to marry her. (Source: Canadian author Walter Stewart)

OPPOSITE-CORNER ANNIHILATIONS!!!LOTS A PRESS!!!FLANK AND BE FLANKED!!!

AUSTRIA(Fred Wiedemeyer 7632 92nd Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T6C 1R4)
A Vie-GAL; A BUD-Rum; A Rum-BUL; A SER S A Rum-Bul: F Alb-ION;

ENGLAND(Bill Lafosse 65 Barbara St., Trenton, Ontario K8V 1Z6)
F Edi-NWG; F NTH-Hel; A Nwy-Swe(dislodged/annihilated); F ENG-Bel;

FRANCE(Don Gill 40 Goldpine Ave., Courtice, Ontario L1E 1P2)
F Bre-MAO; A SPA H; A Par-PIC; A BUR S A Par-Pic;

GERMANY(Pierre Touchette 400 Rue Nadon, Buckingham, Quebec J8L 3X5)
F Kie-HEL; A Ber-MUN; F DEN S F Kie-Hel; A Mun-RUH; A HCL-Bel;

ITALY(Bob Sorfleet 3420 Albion Rd., Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8W3)
F GRE S Aus A Rum-Bul; F Nap-TYN; A Boh-SIL; A Apu-ROM;

RUSSIA(John McLaurin RR#3 Huntsville, Ontario POA 1K0)
F Sev-RUM; A UKR S F Sev-Rum; F StP(nc)-NWy; F SWE + A FIN S F Stp(nc)
-Nwy;

TURKEY(Jeff Hubbell 5 Cambrai Dr., Toronto, Ontario M4C 2P7)
F Ank-BLA; A Bul S Rus F Sev-Rum(dislodged/annihilated); A CON S A Bul;
F Smy-AEG;

PRESS: London-Neutral Move/Build Person: Nail
England
Unending
Totally
Ruin
Anglo
Lands

God forbid you ever become biased against England.

Lon-Mos/Ber: First time I've been dragged into wars because of "neutral" moves and builds.

Ita-Ger: No hostile intentions-just passing through on a visit East.

Garth Brooks Press (continued)

Germany: Sorry boys for the NBR but I moved in Buckingham to a brand new house. Since Feb'90 I was living in Hull near Ottawa. At that time a fire destroyed the old house and we lost everything. It is a good feeling to be home again.

GM-Ger: It is good to have you back with us.

Moscow: The Great Tsar has been in poor mental health lately, and has been unable to speak intelligibly as a result. The foreign offices and diplomatic corps has been thrown into a state of confusion which has likewise paralysed their activity. It is a sad statement on the preparedness of the central government that it caves in at the least difficulty, unable to carry on without its leader. Somehow, however, the armed forces have managed to carry on in their bloody activities. The generals of the army of the Ukraine were unable to comment, as they were busying themselves fighting at the front.

Our latest intelligence from correspondents in Stockholm report that the Baltic Fleet is at anchor, and some of the cruisers in the squadron are being refitted and repaired. We conclude from this that the fleet will not be sailing into action for at least six months. The Black Sea Fleet however, was scraped and painted in its entirety over the winter. Will these intrepid sailors see action this season? The Admiral in command (Volnovakha) only said, "That is up to the Austrians and the Turks."

GM: Bill has a valid point which points out one drawback of the "neutral orders in '01" school of thought. Interestingly, when Paul phoned me to resign his position, I read him the orders I had and he said that they were OK but if he was going to remain in the game he would have done something aggressive.

Scanning the literature, within a few days of each other I came across a similar item in the Globe & Mail, Classic CD and the Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal (so it MUST be true). The Daiichi company of Japan is marketing a hair regrowth kit which includes the usual tonic, shampoo and conditioner-and a CD of Mozart's Concerto for Flute & Harp, Horn Concerto #3, and Piano Concerto #21. They claim that Mozart is "friendly to your hair"

Merry Christmas, all.
Melathew



"Simpson's" creator Matt Groening on Frank Zappa: "Frank is my Elvis" & "As soon as Bart Simpson is able to shave he'll have a little moustache and goatee just like Zappa's" (By the way, I'll bet not many of you know that the only Zappa LP Cal owns is WEASELS RIPPED MY FLESH.)

"If you don't mind me saying so, telling me that an old man with a beard is gonna come creeping in here tonight is not the best way to get me to fall asleep."

For those of you who wonder if this ever happens, there was a report in the journals of an intra-nasal cocaine-user suffering a chronic non-productive cough. Upon investigation it was discovered that he had aspirated his nasal septum. (oh yeah? Well, I've often wondered if it has happened)



Slappy's Sports Section

A subzine for *Northern Flame* by Michael Hopcroft
420 SE Grand Ave. #215
Portland, OR 97214 USA

Greetings again.

Cal, I imagine you are really happy. The Blue Jays not only made the World Series for the first time, they won it. So Canada has its first series win. The Blue Jays will be around for the '93 season, albeit with many changes. But will Canada? The Oregon press reported the failure of the initiative as though Canada will break up immediately.

Another question: will *baseball* be there? The same newspaper printed an article after the series saying it was almost certain there would be a season-long major league lockout in 1993. The reasons include the collective bargaining agreement (and a rumored desire of some owners to destroy the players' union), disputes over whether and how to re-define the office of the commissioner, and general worries about the financial health of several franchises. There is also concern about where future TV revenue is going to come from; CBS is very unhappy about their ratings for baseball during the season (although the World Series were pretty successful for them), and ESPN is not going to renew their contract after 1993 (at least not at the current rate of \$155 million for '94 and more for '95) That baseball needs the revenue from national broadcast and cable TV is undisputed. The question is what will happen if that revenue goes away. Thus some believe that there will be a management-labor showdown severe enough to cancel the entire season.

A lot of people will be very displeased with that. The most disappointed probably would be the fans in Miami and Denver, where the Marlins and Rockies are slated to play their first seasons in 1993. Toronto fans (enough to sell 4 million tickets a year) will want to watch their team try and repeat. Atlanta fans will hope that '93 is the year the Braves finally hit the next level and gain a world championship.

And baseball will be facing these questions without a leader, at least for a while. There has been little agreement on a permanent replacement for Faye Vincent, and there isn't even agreement on what sort of power the commissioner of baseball should have. Whoever gets the job will probably lose his "best interests of the game" powers, so he wouldn't be able to enforce re-alignment (a serious problem for the National League) and might have less freedom to investigate things like gambling scandals and owner misconduct. He would probably have to get approval of most of his actions from a committee of owners. That committee might even become the commissioner's office.

Still, I do not yet believe the season is doomed. Baseball people have shown remarkable brinkmanship in the past, and I think owners and players recognize the damage that would be done to the game from totally skipping a season. It is possible, but I don't think it's inevitable.

Here in Portland, all eyes are set firmly on the return of basketball. This NBA season brings several changes to the Portland TrailBlazers of various degrees.

There have been a lot of roster changes. Last year's rookie flash Robert Pack is going to be coming off the bench in Denver rather than Portland. Alaa Abdelnaby is going to continue his big-man education in Milwaukee. Danny Ainge joins Charles Barkley on a

that I have to be careful when discussing these things simply because nobody understands what I'm talking about. But there is something undefinable about watching an entire season flash before your eyes.

PTP has the full rosters for all of the 1991 major league teams and the full 1991 schedule for both leagues. So you can go to a schedule and select a game or set of games to be played. Once you are in the game, you can make managerial decisions for one or both teams, or leave everything to the computer. On a 386 everything blasts by. You can speed it further by switching off the full display and showing only the linescore. You could easily do an entire season, for both leagues, in the space of two or three days. Even just having it run an entire league schedule, from beginning to end, can take as little as five hours! And the results I've gotten have been very accurate. The computer automatically keeps track of the pitching rotation, fatigue, and injuries, and the computer manager has a profile for each team that can (with effort) be modified and customized. It is also possible to create players from real statistics, and form draft leagues from any pool of players that is on the hard drive. I really enjoyed playing around with this one.

I've been having trouble getting my copy of *Big League Football* to copy onto my new hard drive. What I saw of this new release looked pretty good. I just hope it really does support Hercules.

The basketball games are still what they were two years ago. Like the baseball game they feature the statistics and ratings of the players from the most recent basketball season, and like the baseball game these will compile stats for everybody. But their autoplay is a bit cruder; the player enters the schedule fifteen games at a time. The football game can have a full NFL season on its schedule (that's 224 games) and the baseball game can handle schedules of up to 2,268 games (for both leagues). For the replay enthusiast a larger autoplay would help. So would the equivalent of the baseball game's player tracking system, which would let them add injuries to the mix and give the guy starting Larry Bird every night something to think about. The current software has no problem with giving a player twice to three times more starts than they actually got (if the player had been injured during the season). Ideally, the player would still get injured a reasonable amount of time, but *when* should be utterly unpredictable. You know Bird's back will give way sometime, but if you're lucky you'll be able to keep him off Injured Reserve through that crucial road swing in March.... Despite these realism problems, these are still entertaining simulations of basketball at the pro and collegiate level.

That's four computer games from PTP that all work rather well. This might be a good time to ask for their price list, as the latter part of winter is utter chaos for any firm putting together a baseball boardgame with player cards going out to thousands of prior owners.

Here is the address:

Pursue the Pennant Inc.
P.O. Box 19703
Greensboro, NC 27419
Info phone: 1-800-765-4PTP

And that should about do it. Fatigue and business say so.

overwhelming fear of people who are HIV-positive. As for someone who actually *has* the full disease, the general public seems willing to leave them to their fate. Celebrity AIDS deaths are starting to become routine, but the usual reaction is that someone generally admired had "fallen from grace" from allowing himself to contract the HIV virus.

The thing that disturbs me most is that at least one of the players objecting to magic's return was a teammate on the Olympic squad. Why did he find it less objectionable before the Olympics than after? Didn't these guys learn *anything* from their experience in Barcelona?

The next few months are going to be busy sports ones for me, and busy in several other ways as well. Winter is usually by heaviest sports-watching month, mainly basketball, hockey, and football and whatever oddities come around. Thus I found myself watching highlights of a rugby Grand Final from Australia this afternoon on cable. It's interesting what will catch my attention and what won't. Drag racing is clearly not my thing. Why I would I want to watch a sport in which I could miss an entire race just by blinking?

There are a few more moments of history in various sports upcoming. I have no idea why anyone would call a race the "Hooter 500". Yet this year it is getting all kinds of attention because it will be Richard Petty's last race as a stock-car legend. Apparently a lot of people think this is a meaningful event, including a few game designers I know.

I am also amazed at how frequently the American networks will besiege us with golf and bowling. Golf looks like a challenging game to play, but I also find it challenging to watch. There are also such huge numbers of announcers for a tournament. It must keep a lot of people employed at ABC.

Still, I'm going to have a hard time choosing channels (I suspect the NBA and hockey will be opposite each other a lot), figuring out what I want to tape, and trying to make sense of it all.

My prediction for the NBA: Chicago over Phoenix in the finals 4-1 after the Suns beat Portland in the conference finals. let me know how I did in eight months.

The game corner has quite a bit going on. I've gotten a look at a lot of the computer stuff from Pursue the Pennant recently. I have also changed my computer to a 386 with a Hercules card. (Yes, I know a 386 without VGA graphics seems incongruous, but this is a *work* machine.) So what stuff I can convince to run is running pretty darn fast.

PTP currently offers computer simulations of baseball, football, and pro and college basketball. The baseball game is probably the best known (to people who know this hobby, that is; the typical sports-bar fan would look at you funny and ask "huh?" if asked about games), and it went through a substantial revision. Version 4.0 offers a huge variety of features to the manager who wishes to use them, and is especially useful for replays. In fact, this game is probably the king of all replay simulations for baseball.

A replay is, to a sports gamer, something utterly unexplainable. Most people will watch a sporting event to see how it turns out. In a replay, an individual plays an entire season of a league or college conference to see how it comes out. He can then compare the records and statistics his replay generated to those obtained in the real season and learn some interesting things that way. Now the replay fan is a sort of select market. I find

much different Phoenix Suns team. Former San Antonio player Rod Strickland becomes the first guard off the bench. The starting lineup doesn't change, though. I don't know if the Blazers even tried to shop around Kevin Duckworth, whose trade value is very low even though he has started on two conference champions.

I know that Halsey, the Statis-Pro team I coach for a friend, can't get rid of him. His '92 ratings card has solid defense (somewhat more solid than he deserves, but centers and power forwards usually get better defense ratings than guards from Avalon Hill) but is otherwise pretty bad. He doesn't rebound or score, and he certainly doesn't pass. So nobody in our league wants him, including ourselves. We may just end up cutting him and just hoping his '93 card doesn't burn us later on. We are going to be taking Dikembe Mutombo with our first pick (the first pick in the draft after a dismal 6-22 season, worst record in the league, and last place in the division). Yes, things get weird in SP leagues. One team is so stocked that they have an Olympian (Chris Mullin) they never use. I've always found that a bit galling, and it's a reason that there are have teams and have-not teams in this league and the twain never seem to meet. I find that frustrating, but I will have to live with it for at least another year. Even with Mutombo, the Blazers are probably more to be pitied than feared.

Anyway, back to Portland. There are some other changes on the horizon. One that will have an immediate impact on fans is that Bill Schonely will give up radio play-by-play to announce the Blazers' TV package, Schonely described more than 2,000 games in Portland since the franchise's first season in 1970. I do not even remember the name of his replacement. I just have a lot of memories of listening to Schonely and the phrases he frequently used, and he was a subconscious model I used in high school as a basketball announcer. I just somehow got the idea that this was what a basketball announcer did.

The most famous of Schonely's catch-phrases, of course, is "Rip City!", a by-word in this town used to describe a particularly attractive score, at least three restaurants, and a popular gourmet coffee. There are also things like "Lickety-brindle up the middle", "Crossing the cyclops at midcourt", "NBC - Nothing But Cord", and the unheeded warning of "You've got to make your free throws." (Free throws have been a weakness of the Portland team over the last few years.) In Portland the man is a legend, and somehow in my mind he defines the Portland attitude towards their team. The poor guy with those shoes to fill is going to have a rough few months. Especially if this team continues its habit of converting blowouts into close contests - he can become a convenient scapegoat that way, blaming the messenger as it were.

Another basketball note is much less cheerful. Early in October the Lakers convinced Magic Johnson to return to pro basketball after a very impressive showing in the Olympics. But then a lot of private murmuring circulated throughout the league, and a week before the start of the season Magic had to retire again. It wasn't his health - it was a fear expressed by many players that Magic would somehow infect them with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, on the court.

If you have been following this zine (HA!) then you know my opinion on this subject. Fear born out of ignorance has destroyed many careers over the years in many fields, including sports. It's always ugly and usually needless. Fear of HIV appears to be becoming an integral part of our culture, and frequently extends to a hatred and an

P.O. Box 19703
Greensboro, NC 27419
Info phone: 1-800-765-4PTP

And that should about do it. Fatigue and business say so.

While I won't say this ToC is set in stone, it is mostly final, assuming we can find/write/commission articles to match all these topics. While I also won't say that we won't accept ideas, if anyone has a suggestion they care to make, we'll really only listen if they can point to or write an article on that topic.

Maybe now is the time to point out that these articles will be PAID submissions (at AH rates, of course - don't plan on quitting your day job...).

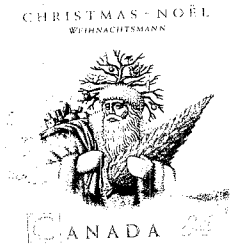
One last point I'd like to make. This may sound as if a lot of "back room" dealing went on amongst a "select" few hobbyists. You know, closed doors, smoky rooms, etc. Well, if you think that, you're absolutely right. This was intentionally kept among a small group of people - Gary, David and myself at first, John Caruso later. If there is any blame to be laid for this by people who like these things to be shared by the hobby at large, then blame me. I talked Gary and David into doing it my way for the first few months so that we would have time to lay the framework. I've seen what happens when the "hobby at large" tries to get something done. Rex Martin gave us definite deadlines in KC. AH is a business and operates as such. If they want a flyer by Oct 31, they won't accept that the hobby wants to discuss the contents. If they want the final text of the Gamers Guide by March 31, they won't accept endless debate on what should or shouldn't be included. I think small groups get more done and much quicker than large ones, so that's why it was kept that way.

Judge us by our work, ca va?

Cal White

NORTHERN FLAME #41

**CAL WHITE
1 TURNBERRY AVENUE
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA
M6N 1P6**



*Your freedom is on the
way home!*

*Loren Jensen
Box 600344
San Diego, CA
92162*

SUB CREDIT TO ISSUE #

TRADE

COMPLIMENTARY

SEE PAGE

STANDBY REQUEST, PAGE #

(24)

