

Among the Trees

by Pete Gaughan

Ya-Ta-Hey, friends. (Navajo greeting)
Andy Lischett Corner (bumper sticker seen recently):
"Picard/Riker '92"

Well, it's been a strange month. Sunday night Cathy and I sat down to watch Branagh's *Henry V* and it was pretty much the longest period at a stretch that we'd been able to spend doing nothing together (good movie, by the way). We did go out driving along the coast one Saturday, but most other weekends she had rehearsals with both her chorus and her quartet.

I've put over 1400 business miles on my car—for those of you who commute this may seem normal but it's twice my recent average. For the first time in a year and a half I will actually be out making sales calls more than 1/3 of the days this month. Commissions I get paid tend to lag 45 to 60 days behind the actual orders, so although business has been excellent, money is tighter than ever. I had to scramble to find money for postage, for the Dipcon and Zine Register mailings and even for this issue, plus I have to come up with a couple hundred dollars for miscellaneous expenses for two of us this weekend in Reno, as I'll be going up there to watch Cathy compete.

And now they say there might be snow on the ground this weekend in the Sierra. Y'know, I was hoping not to have to buy tire chains on top of everything else that's going on.

Thursday Cathy drives up to Reno with the other members of the quartet, while I try to get this sucker copied and in the mail. Friday they have pictures taken and warm up while I drive up—they'll be at the concert hall early. I'll get to the hall about 6, and the quartet competition (I think it's about 20 quartets from Northern California this year) runs a couple of hours.

Now, there are a dozen or more choruses, but only three or four are 'big' ones (90+ members) competing for the right to go on to International Competition. The rest, such as Marin Chorus (29 members) are competing for the Small Chorus Award, or for improving their score over last year. The chorus competition starts 1:30 Saturday. At the outset the hall has just the family and friends who have come to watch, but throughout the performance, as each chorus finishes, those singers get to come out and sit in the hall to watch the following groups; so by the time the last chorus comes on, the place is packed with women in theatrical makeup and costumes!

After hearing the scores, everyone splits up as each chorus has its own banquet. The everyone comes back together for a concert of the winners (which many did not get a chance to hear—if your chorus is eighth on the program, then you're having picture taken and warming up and standing around backstage while seven other groups are performing!). Then Sunday morning the chapter bigwigs (such as President Cathy) all brunch together.

I have a feeling I'll be pretty worn out Monday. And I'm just a spectator!

Go In Beauty,

Pete

The Roar of the Greasepaint (the letter column)

[[First order of business is to thank the legions of you who sent comments such as these:]]

Bob Theriault

I was very sorry to hear of Cathy's mother's death. Even though I have never met you or Cathy, I feel that you have let us into your life through your zine.

[[and...]]

Richard Weiss

I was sorry to hear about your mother-in-law. Your comment were quite evocative to me. I'm glad you used the life experiences to look inside yourself, to feel and to think—and delayed *Perelandra*. I trust Cathy is coping, and while this has been a difficult time for y'all that you have used it to be even more supportive of each other.

[[I can't bring myself to go on with the pages it would take to thank you all. Bob, it doesn't matter whether you've met us or not. Daf Langley and I go back ten years; most of the Texans like Greg Ellis and Lance Anderson met me in 1984; but Howard Hugh hasn't met me in the few months he's been getting Pere and Stan Johnson hasn't even talked to me on the phone—and every one of these folks was sympathetic and gracious, and insisted that I take the time off that I needed.

[[Right now I really want to turn to the letter column, which will soon resemble compost at the rate it's aging... Please be forgiving where I've pieced together letters and topics from a three-month span.]]

[[Russ Rusnak sent along a question for our British readers: what's the situation now surrounding the two ten-year-olds charged with murder? How is public sentiment running (any more demonstrations?)? What kind of punishment is possible? Expected?]]

Mark Weseman

How are things going in the great state of California? You know, I probably get more news about California than any other state in the country. The *Korea Times* publishes an eight page insert from the *Los Angeles Times* every Saturday, and one page of the insert is devoted to California. This past Saturday's California feature was an interview with Diane Feinstein. It was pretty interesting.

Actually, my response to Roger Cox looked even worse once I saw it printed in *Pere*. From now on, I am going to make sure that any response I send to you don't turn out to make me look like an idiot, as this one did.

As for your 9th Amendment argument, I'm afraid that the U.S. Supreme Court would disagree with you. In the history of Constitutional jurisprudence, the 9th Amendment has never been cited by a majority of the Supreme Court as being the basis for a right retained by the people. The justices have held that only rights enumerated in the Constitution or rights that are connected in

Perelandra, a monthly amateur magazine of postal games, literature and leftish sensibilities. Your editor is:

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Subscriptions cost US\$1.00 per issue (US\$1.50 for overseas air mail). This zine is copied on recycled paper.

some way to enumerated rights are retained by the people. Now that may not be the way you or I read the document, but our view would most likely fall in court.

From where did you get your zines from other worlds?

[[Since California is, after all, the most important part of the U.S., your media report doesn't surprise me. But the legal advice is very surprising—I cannot conceive of a semantic interpretation that would produce the ruling you describe.

[[Every few months, the San Francisco Chronicle remembers that the world of amateur publishing is fun, and writes an article full of breathless liberal wonder at the avant-gardenness of it all. Between those articles and other zines I've found in local alternative bookstores (I shop Haight-Ashbury, remember), I can always come up with a dozen weird zines. For more information on zines of all types, get the revived Factsheet Five, which is a Zine Register for all hobbies—music, sf, comics, politics, everything. Fair warning: I still have not heard from the new editor, who is Seth Friedman (1800 Market St, San Francisco CA 94102).]]

Mike Stewart

Interesting results from your poll. It was also entertaining. Do you know what the response to Deep Space Nine has been so far? I like it as it has introduced some good characters. I particularly like Odo and Quark. The episode explaining the Dax character was also quite good.

Steven McKinnon

So what does everyone think of the new Star Trek spin-off? I'm surprised not to have seen mention of it in any of the 'zines I read. As far as my opinion: it's exactly what the title suggests, i.e., Star Trek as you've always known it but just in a different setting.

Now this is not to say I wouldn't watch it were there none, but I'm glad to see them staff the station with a couple o' babes. I could do without the Commander's kid. At least he's not Wesley "I solve every dilemma" Crusher, who should have been axed much earlier. My opinion's pretty meaningless, though, since I'll watch any crap that's called Star Trek (example: the odd-numbered movies).

[[Word out of Paramount is that DS9 is getting better ratings than they had even hoped. General response has been muted and mixed (I see where Andy York's subzine in Orphan Son is going to talk about the show). I've only seen four episodes, but I think they're having the same problems every TV series has in its first season, even M*A*S*H: some overacting, some plot weakness, and some soap-opera writing. I wish Kira wouldn't shout all of her lines, but I like Sisko's style (his conversation with Odo when Odo was going to resign—"I like you. I always know where I stand with you."—was good writing and good acting coming together).

[[Look at Babylon 5—admittedly space opera, but the only good performances were turned in by the music composer and the commander's visiting love interest (which is probably a recurring, not regular, role). DS9 has good music and special effects, so when the actors settle down and the writers get the confidence to go out on a limb, we should have a winner.]]

Chris Hassler

Do you read science fiction? If so, I recommend the works of David Brin. Aside from being excellently-written stories, they frequently have a strong environmental message which I'm sure you'd find appealing. This is especially true of his latest book, *Earth*.

[[I love sf but, after ten years of reading it, I find myself more and more returning to my roots in older stuff and

'straight' fiction. Latest readlist: three mystery novels by Tony Hillerman; Master's Spoon River Anthology; Army Maupin's Tales of the City (finally! Bowen thought I'd never get around to buying that one).

[[Some sf remains on the waitlist (have bought but haven't figured out when I'm going to read 'em yet): the rest of Cherryh's Merchant series (3/27: finished now); the Belgariad; Sir Richard Francis Burton's diary; Günter Grass' The Flounder.

[[Among my Christmas presents were several great books, but the funniest was What Bird Did That?, a field guide to wind-shield guano!]]

Paul Gardner

[[speaking about Perelandra Poll]] #1 is tough because I've liked baseball a lot for almost as long as I could walk, but in college I met hockey and fell in love. It even made a sportswriter out of me for a year. I know the old joke about, "hey, I went to a fight and a hockey game broke out." In college that doesn't apply. I remember one punch being thrown in the 100 or so games I've seen. The sucker was immediately ejected and suspended for another game. Pro hockey is great, but they need to get rid of the fights.

[[Richard will crucify me but the article I'm writing about the Sharks game is only ¼ done. I just didn't have the time or inclination to finish it this month.]]

Brad Wilson

With your Poll you had some funny choices. I like corn, peas, and potatoes. Perhaps your choices should have been corn, cauliflower, turnips and green beans—all different kinds of veggies. Then again I have never met a vegetable that I dislike, really. I even like rutabagas, although they are a bitch to prepare. And wax beans—oh, baby, I love wax beans but just try to get them.

You'd be surprised to know how many people like liver. I can't stand it but at least three times in the last year people I have eaten with have ordered it. Then there was my grandpa (RIP) who'd make tongue, liver, onion and horseradish sandwiches. Ech!

[[I feel about green or wax beans as you do about liver.]]

James Bailey

I'm really disappointed I missed Novacon. Last minute schedule conflicts made it impossible to attend. I'll make Dipcon, though, if I have to crawl!

First let me introduce my politics. I consider myself a radical-moderate: I think extremists should be shot.

Orson Scott Card reviewing Computer Civilization in *Fantasy and Science Fiction Magazine*: "It was in order to play this game that computers were invented. All the other uses of a computer are just to provide you with a public excuse for all the money you spent to buy the machine." He's probably right. My desire to try this game is the only compelling reason I now have to buy a real computer. I'm already addicted to Sid Meier's Railroad Tycoon. Unfortunately I don't have the \$\$\$.

Martin Johnson

Thanks for the good time at Novacon! It was better than my one-day visits to Pacificon, if only because the games started when we wanted to start them. I'm afraid Cathy has made another Survive addict. Fortunately, as my friend Mark was describing the game to his thirteen-year-old son, Erin interrupts and says, "I've played that game, the Borbys have it" (the Borbys being their neighbor who often joins us for Civ, Shogun and Blackbeard). So I might not have to wait a year for another game.

I am sorry I missed the chance to play Mark Lew's *Buy That Guy*. It sure sounded far more entertaining than our brutally-slow

Civies game. No matter how late you stay up you just can't play everything you planned on. At least now there will be two "game days" on my calendar—hopefully three with DipCon on the way!

Rick Kohman

Once again, thanks for the excellent hospitality of Nova-Con. You always draw a crowd of good "gamers"—everyone always seems reasonably competent and humorously good-natured. I've never caught anyone taking a silly game too seriously.

It's unfortunate that we didn't get into any of the same games... and no SnowFight this year? What happened? (or did I simply miss it?) *[[Yipe! We forgot! I think Buy That Guy grabbed our attention just about when we were going to play Snowball Fighting.]]*

Well, at least Cathy and I got to play "Go Get Sandwiches" together, with Mark L. and Martin. Hey, it was a new game in which I neither "lost" nor even "came in second"! I won! (We all did...)

Both of the "rail" games I tried were interesting and not too complicated. I enjoyed all the games I was in, and the company. Hell, I even enjoyed the Dip game, and I hate fff Dip...or used to. Maybe my attitudes toward Dip are still evolving.

[[Thanks for the map! Topographic trail maps score triple brownie points! (For those who joined us late, I collect maps, the stranger the better—I used to give out free issues for them, but now I just give out pats on the back.)

[[Novacon was fun, even minus some of our local favorites: Chuck Mercer was constructing a garage (and he has a bedroom and a bath yet to go); Melanie and Randy, well...

Randy Davis

You're probably all wonderin' why we didn't come to Novacon, well, I ain't got no good excuses. we wanted to come but got caught up in real life, and well, we forgot, and once Cathy called Saturday night, we didn't or couldn't come up with a babysitter. Life with young children is about over (Jesse, the youngest of the 3, is ten), so it becomes increasingly easier to actually go out. I wish we made it, but I guess we'll wait 'till next year. I suppose the next real good chance of seeing you guys will be at Dipcon, although Labor Day weekend might not be the best. We'll see...

[[Be there, guy. Or else while you're out hunting Bambi, I come hunting you!]]

David Polley

I started a new job at work on February 8 that was a promotion, though only a temporary one to last through May or June. I was all excited, and then BOOM. On my second day of the two-week training session, I got dumped by my girlfriend. We'd only been going out a couple of months, but I had really thought I was falling in love—for the first time in more years than I care to remember. If only I had the way with women that the "Golden Irishman" has (at least according to John Schultz's press in Druufon)! If you have any secrets, I'd love to know them, Pete!

[[I have to start by saying that I always take a big risk printing letters like this. I hope I haven't offended, David; your tone was such that I felt it would be okay.

[[Hey, I've got no love secrets. It's all romance. I was such a hopeless nerd that any time a woman liked me, I was immediately infatuated and treated her like a marble statue. Poems, cards, and compliments are the only way I know to treat women—which means it's a good thing Cathy latched on to me when she did, saving me from certainly being mistreated by the next, and more ruthless, woman to come along!

[[In earnest, though, I sympathize, having (gulp) been on

both sides of the breaking-off thing myself. Peace.]]

Mark Nelson

My views on immigration match those of Stan Johnson! I don't think it's fair to compare 1850 and 1993; in 1850 there was a demand for immigration. We now know that mass immigration increases social problems, and in a recession should we be importing cheap labor? Continuing mass immigration is a recipe for social disaster in the near future.

[[Take a global view, Mark. Keeping immigrants in their poor, jobless countries is a recipe for disaster too! Either build 'em up where they are, or let them in—after all, our natives are not at all willing to be cheap labor themselves, and it's not likely anyone's going to start paying \$10/hr in fast food places due to a shortage of applicants!]]

Douglas Kent

It seems obvious, but I like your ideas on tobacco subsidies and on Medicare not covering self-destructive injuries. It's about time we asked people to be (at least partially) responsible for their own actions.

I throw quotes around "the poor" and "the rich" because they are liquid terms, classifications with no true meaning that are shaped to fit whatever side of whatever issue you want to be on. I have a tendency to use quotes on any phrase or identifier used commonly by the popular media. See? I had to fight off the urge to put quotes on "popular." Arrg, there I go!

[[Exceedingly hasty retreat: I will hedge my comment last time about not insuring illnesses caused by helmetless riding, or by smoking (etc)—I want real proof of a connection. The items I listed are all proven to my satisfaction to have a cause/effect relation, whereas (for instance) homosexuality does not cause AIDS, despite the efforts of some to depict it so.]]

Adrian Appleyard

[[Extremely mouldy letter—sorry for not pubbing this sooner, Adrian.]] Who is this Cox person? I don't understand his attitude at all, apart from his incoherent arguments. Firstly he says his money is his, so leave it alone, then he's saying he'd accept aid to live in another country. He's shot himself down in flames in the first paragraph! Even so, I pressed on through his further "arguments."

People have the right to be bigoted, etc? Again, Roger shoots his own argument down in flames. It's all right for him to hurt, slander and degrade others, but no way is anyone going to tell him what to do! He's full of garbage. But still, without people like Roger, who would I have to hassle?

[[Without people like Roger, our government might run roughshod over our civil liberties. But thank goodness he's in the opposition and not in the government itself!]]

Hal Dace

I've only read one issue of your lettercol, but I thought I'd throw in my \$0.02 anyway. I'd like to join the chorus criticizing the Conservative/Libertarian brigade. To protest taxation because you'd rather not spend your money on environmental or social programs is quite ridiculous—if people wanted to spend their money on the betterment of others, they would, and that portion of tax would not be levied. Social programs like Public Health Care and Unemployment Insurance are there because people do not have complete control over their own circumstances—free enterprise is not a social & economic cure-all, and society has to step in to protect its members, whether some privileged members feel like it or not.

On the subject of US involvement in international affairs, I'd like to comment as an outside observer. I am very unhappy with the role that the USA has cast itself in—I certainly support the idea that wealthier parts of the world should support poorer parts of the world in terms of resources and, perhaps, protection from the aggression of third parties. But, it seems that the US has become a kind of 'guardian of global morality,' and the economic survival of third world countries now depends to a large extent on whether American standards of conduct are met. The other thing which bugs me is the double standards which have been practiced in US foreign affairs—a threat to Kuwait, an oil-supplier to the US, was dealt and strongly, while attempted genocide in the Baltics has been met with half-hearted sanctions, and blatant human-rights abuses in Israel have been ignored. — I think that pretty much sums up my gripes against the US. I still think it's a great place and I wouldn't mind living there. I also sincerely hope that it will fare better under Clinton than under the Republicans of years past.

Finally, I'd like to pummel Stan Johnson for his comments in his last letter, and agree with Pete's reply. As a resident of Southern Africa and of the last country in Africa never to have had a democratic election, I really and truly think that the standard of living, and state of freedom of many Africans has improved since the ending of colonial rule, just think in terms of education and health care for instance. There is a lot wrong with Africa and many African governments, but I'd rather see it the way it is than under colonial dictatorship. Further, there are really encouraging and pleasing trends in African politics at the moment - towards democracy and free political expression. To talk about 'problems the natives can't deal with' is phenomenally arrogant. I'm sure I could mention countless problems which the white government of America has proved it can't deal with.

[[I am trying to get the politics to shift from criticism to problem-solving, but I just had to run this letter as it came from a better authority on Africa than !! Hal, thanks for responding, and we should now be trading but where have you been?]]

David McCrumb

Stan: If you want to live near peace and quiet with a chance to get away from it all, move. I could more than double my salary by moving to a more urban environment, but having woods out my back door and wilderness less than 20 minutes away more than makes up for the increased money.

Daf Langley

We need to steer the letter column out of the great taxes debate. Yes, they suck, but we have to pay them. There is a saying that the only two things you have to do are pay taxes and die. So quit whining.

I think sterilization should be mandatory starting at puberty. Once you're past a certain age you can have the process reversed and be able to have kids. That way you can fool around all you want and not get pregnant. Of course, I formulated this plan before AIDS became prevalent. Now pregnancy doesn't seem as bad when compared to the alternative.

[[...understanding, of course, that it's not an alternative when you could wind up with both...]]

[[Sorry, my love, if I could 'steer' this lettercol it would've been on the side roads of winemaking and Zen and hot dogs long ago. Just be prepared to skip a section and smile and mutter, "That Pete, he just never has learned to edit, has he?"]]

[[However, Stan sent a long letter which I, in my unfeeling and dictatorial way, am editing. There is also a long letter from Mike Magnuson which may or may not fit into the lettercol—if it's in here, you know I felt the zine was going to be huge

anyway, gave up, and threw it in. And any month when I get three pages from Brad Wilson I feel compelled to run most of it—I never know if it might be the last I hear from him!]]

Stan Johnson

When people plan to have babies, either at a particular time or in general, and take steps to provide for the child it's "having a baby." When people reproduce due to laziness or indifference to birth control and zero thought to providing for the child, in effect with the same amount of thought involved as a dog or cat, it is "breeding."

[[Thanks, Stan, that's a great explanation which I support. Lastish you seemed to link that thoughtlessness exclusively with immigrants, and I don't go along with that.]]

You seem to imply that immigrants get only poor jobs that Americans don't want. That may be the case in Cal., but in NJ many have good jobs that I'm sure many Americans would be happy to have, especially in the Post Office and other government positions. The factory where I worked employed 50-80% immigrants; now they have cut back production and eliminated 50-60% of the jobs. I'd be happy to be back there working.

I agree that we need better land-use planning. I believe long commutes are very wasteful; one reason I worked where I did was that I could walk there in 15 minutes.

I am not in favor of renewing colonialism, or saying Africans are better or worse than Europeans. My point was that replacing a benevolent colonial government with a despotic local government simply because one is white and the other is black is a blatant form of racism.

I disagree with Mark Lew about Mozambique. I read a *National Geographic* article about it, while it was under Portugal and it seemed very nice; today from what I understand most people are starving and the countryside has been devastated. For people who don't know, *National Geographic* is a pretty political-ly-astute magazine. A couple years back it had several insightful stories on Yugoslavia that told of the potential for the country's breakup and current trouble.

[[There were no benevolent colonial governments. And the governments were not replaced because they were white or black, they were replaced because one was colonial and one was local—just as in 1776 on this continent.]]

[[And as much as I appreciate your opinion, Stan, I believe Hal and Mark both have better sources of information.]]

Richard Weiss

I've only recently imagined a consumption tax—and I like it. I favor high taxes on items which create *[[governmental]]* costs:

Medical: each cigarette should be taxed 10-15¢ for that's its medical cost; add alcohol, cars, guns, bikes, candy, regular milk, swimming pools, parachutes, etc.

Drugs: money to go to education.

Conservation (recycling/dumps/waste/ecology): 6-pack rings, styrofoam, poison sprays, pesticides, paint cans, refrigerators, diapers, gasoline, etc. These items have end-use expenses which should be factored into the purchase cost.

I prefer no business taxes. I prefer an income tax on any and all income, in a fixed, progressive percentage, no deductible (none for kids, none for interest or houses, none for sick mothers, none!). Something along the lines of 0\$-10%-16%-25%.

I would tax income as a means of redistributing wealth. those who make a lot are lucky—maybe talented, maybe hard-working, maybe genetically established, maybe lots of stuff—but lucky. They (me) can afford to put some back, to actually subsidize not be subsidized.

When production can be by robots and unemployment is 50%, do the few who own the company deserve to be a feudal class in society and everyone else a huddling mass? No, society needs to own the production. All benefit; those who create/work deserve some more, but are lucky to be in that class.

And yes, subsidies. The rich get much more money from the taxes than the poor—even if we exclude interest on the debt.

Speaking of the debt—the USA plans to spend 47% more this year than it will take in. Now, if the USA were a 23-year-old in graduate school, that might be a wise decision. We the country are not in graduate school. Payment of interest on the debt equals 1/2 of this overspending, or 23% of total revenue. Let's go slash and burn that budget.

[[Ouch. I remember myself making these statements at USC (a rich kid's school where I was in the vocal liberal minority) but I wouldn't go as far as Richard's rhetoric takes him.]]

Brad Wilson

The problem with sin taxes is I refuse to consider what Big Brother and the Gaughan Company call sinning to be the real thing. For example: I am having a dinner party tomorrow night. Six people. I am buying a liter of white wine, some to cook with and the rest to drink. Everyone will probably have a glass of wine just as they'd have a glass of water or juice. Sorry, Pete, I don't find that sinning. No health problems, no drunk driving. All six taxes are levies upon behavior that Nervous Nellies like you and Fred Davis (Konrad Baumeister calls you guys "Safety Nazis") dislike.

[[Whoa. "Sin tax" is just a shorthand. I don't think drinking is a sin (I no longer believe in sin, although I do believe in evil). I do think the cost of behavior—whether it is behavior widely accepted by society or not—needs to be explicit.]]

This could be turned around, too. I think we should be cutting down on petroleum usage, so let's slap a 30% excise tax on all petrol products including film, and cameras too, as they encourage film use. *[[I would absolutely go along with such a tax, although 5% is more in line with the actual impact of photo processes. And the toxic-waste fees charged to photo processors are about half of what they should be.]]* Or as James Wall has noted, diapers take up space in landfills and are a drain on resources, so why not a diaper tax? Or, if we're trying to save wear and tear on our valuable parkland, how about hefty user fees? After all the hikers are 'sinning' by placing a strain on the ecosystems, n'est ce pas? *[[Again, I'm all for it.]]* Sorry, Pete, but all 'sin' taxes are very crude behavior-modifiers that classify millions of people as sinners because the elite disapproves of their behavior.

[[Wrong. Some taxes are used for this purpose and that's wrong. But what I'm supporting is unrelated to whether you think an activity is good or bad (I happen to like taking pictures) and entirely based on its social impact.]]

And 'sin taxes' are nastily backward. Increase beer prices by \$1 a case and a working stiff might not be able to enjoy a cold beer after a long day, but it won't stop Mr. Fat Cat from taking his scotch and soda after a day at the office. Of course, by your elitist standards, if the do-gooder sin tax keeps the poor working slob from a beer it's accomplished its mission!

[[Quit painting me with that 'elitist' brush, stupid. 'Tain't true. (You are, in this hobby, second only to Garret Schenck in the belief that class war determines all. And yet your own 'elitist' bias will turn up in a ¶ or so when you for some reason elevate newspapers above all other forms of entertainment!)] And I promise to stop interrupting, but you push that button (!) again and I'll go back on my promise.]]

I can't believe we agree on a political issue: immigration. I

think it's great. I'd put a big 'WELCOME' sign up for all those Haitians to start. Like David, though, I support totally free trade.

What I would like to do, though, is get rid of some of the people we have already, like those who don't read newspapers, those who never have the check or money order ready at the grocery store, those who cut in front of me on the highway and then go 25 mph, those who take up three seats on a crowded train with their bags and most of all those who make noise at orchestra concerts! Off to, uh, wherever with them all!

What have 'we' (if we means Americans) done to Africa that they won't listen to us, pray tell, other than send billions of dollars of aid, food and medicine for Africa's hungry and sick? Your liberal guilt is showing.

Lew's probably right about Botswana—it's been a stable democracy since independence—and Gabon and Ivory Coast. I'd add Senegal, maybe Egypt and perhaps Morocco to his list but of course the last two are ... not part of the sub-Sahara bloc that most people mean when they say 'Africa.' As for Mozambique, the Portuguese were 'uninvolved' perhaps but they were perhaps the most progressive colonial power on racial matters (no color bar) and in 1955 John Gunther called the high school in Lourenco Marques, Mozambique's capital, the best he saw in Africa. Of course, the Portuguese also had forced labor and torture. The contradictions of imperialism...

[[These are getting a little long, so if your eyes are already glazing from political discussion feel free to come back and read this next one later.]]

Mike Magnuson

Here in Colorado, we have a sales tax on everything. Even food. If it's sold retail, the state takes a little extra and so does the city. Here in Pueblo, city and state taxes are 7.6%. Food purchased in a grocery store (not a 7-11 and the like but Safeway, etc) is taxed at a lower rate, I think it's 4%. We also have a heavy gas tax compared to neighboring states. I noticed when travelling that gas went down by 15¢/gallon when I entered Kansas and 27¢ in Oklahoma. The thing about these taxes is they are relatively invisible to the people on a day-to-day basis. Sales taxes are almost the sole income of the cities, and for years I have wondered why there was no federal sales tax. I was very surprised to find that lots of states don't have a sales tax and believe that with a 5% sales tax, the federal budget would start to edge toward the black (as long as spending stays near current levels).

Also, welfare makes me sick! In Pueblo, 18% of the population has welfare as its sole source of income, and 60% receive some form of aid. One of my friend's sister is one of the 14,000 people here who is 100% dependent on welfare. Here is a breakdown of what she gets and has to pay each month (she has one child):

income: AFDC *[[Aid to Families with Dependent Children]]* \$362 cash; food stamps \$200; housing assistance \$400 (may only be used for rent); LEAP (low-income energy assistance program) \$80 toward utilities; Medicare 100\$ coverage. She also receives bulk food like surplus cheese, powdered milk, peanut butter, flour, sugar, butter, etc in large enough quantities that she, her mother, her aunt and her brother together don't use all of it.

outflow: rent \$400; phone bill \$45-60; electric bill \$40; food \$200, cable \$19. Her apartment is all-utilities-paid except electricity. As you can see, this gives her a discretionary income of \$320-\$340 per month. And now she is trying to get pregnant again so her AFDC will go up to \$483 and she can get on another program for infants *[[presumably WIC Support: Women with Infants and Children]]*, and her housing would go up to \$550 and she can move to a nicer place. The apartment she is in now is

1300+ sq. ft., has a basement and a fenced yard. It is in the nicest part of town and has off-street parking.

She has no interest in finding a job, and I don't blame her. If she could find work (she has no skills), she would lose all her benefits, and have to pay taxes, the electric bill and medical expenses. I almost forgot day care. And any argument about 'self esteem' is trash. She is proud of her 'easy life' and even derides a few of her friends who either work or have taken jobs and gone back on welfare. Her friend Lori actually quit a job after 21/2 weeks to keep the welfare. She was pulling \$7/hour and when she added it up was only \$15/month better off. (A \$7/hr job is very rare in Pueblo. Most jobs here are passed out to so-and-so's brother-in-law or something, almost never advertised.)

So there it is. How surprising is it that many people who are on welfare never leave. Who expects people to work when they are paid (and paid well) not to? I personally think that if you received a welfare check more than six times in the last year you should not be able to vote. Then the sacred cow of welfare programs could be cut.

If you're wondering... my rent is \$290. I have a small apt in the seedy part of town. I have skills in construction but cannot find good work and work for \$4.25 at a fast food joint. With the cold spell last month, I had to sell one of my guns and go to the plasma center to make ends meet. As I am a single male I am not eligible for any aid save \$40/mo food stamps, but the applications are only accepted from 7am to 10 am (when I have to work) and I am white and our system is not color blind. All the workers at Social Services are Hispanic, and I have been down twice to get my application in three times and seen Hispanics who arrived after I did get served, while I "wasn't gotten to before 10."

Enough bitching! Money will be o.k. next month. I got a house to paint one weekend, so my rent is paid. And with spring coming I can go back to Glen Haven and get some real work.

Usually I can make it through the whole winter on the four months that I paint in Glen Haven, but this year I couldn't find any gigs to make things stretch, and tuition went up by \$450/semester (\$830 to \$1280) without warning.

[[I feel for you, but you made one large mistake in my eyes. Sure welfare needs to be reformed; I would support requiring everyone who receives a welfare check to work four hours per day for the community—filling potholes, sitting for other people's kids (under supervision), taking tolls, whatever. If it's boring or difficult let 'em use the other four hours to find a job they enjoy more. BUT... I would not say "I don't blame her." I do blame your acquaintance, and if her lazy attitude doesn't change then she's going to be shocked when those of us who are footing the bill finally get riled up enough to take it all away from her.

[[By the way, that sacred cow is already being butchered. California's governor is doing everything politically possible to reduce the size of public-assistance checks; they're down 20% this year.]]

Rich Irving

I mentioned I was in a game on Compuserve when I signed up. I am glad this game *[[Belt 17]]* has started as I am getting knocked out of that one. I was Germany and France stabbed me in Spring 1903, right when England was on the ropes. England and Italy (showing no sense of balance of power) joined in the fall. So I am down to 3 supply centers and fading fast. It hasn't been a great game. Russia and Turkey have NMR'd and were replaced. And the GM resigned before the Fall 1903 moves (he got a new job out of town). The biggest advantage is speed (usually 2-week turns and instantaneous mailing times). The biggest disadvantage is cost (I

spent usually 30-60 minutes/week at \$12.80/hour connect time. That adds up fast—and I wrote all messages offline.)

[[...confirming my suspicion that e-mail is for folks who are logged on for other purposes anyway, or for students with free accounts—NOT to join if my sole purpose in doing so is Dip.]]

Jamie McQuinn

FIAWOL vs. FJAGDH: Great interview in *DW!* I am active in fandom but come down strongly on the side of FJAGDH. Perhaps we could describe this controversy as THIAWOL vs. THIJAGDH.

[[I did the interview out of self-defense—I didn't want to turn Phil down!—and tried not to be too self-aggrandizing. However, at least some part of my analysis of the TurboPhreak controversy is caused by the fact that nobody else has phrased it the way I have—I love being unique!]]

[[As I said to David Hood, I have stumbled across that issue of Dip World several times while preparing for Zine Register, and every time I hear a song playing off in the distance: "On the Cover of Rolling Stone!"]]

[[Some of you may recall a comment about letter columns being as much button-pushing as thoughtfulness...]]

Jim-Bob Burgess

Have you ever considered that the editor sets the tone for his or her own letter column? *[[No, Jim, it's never occurred to me...]]* I'd assert that judging your theory based on your letter column is a classic case of selection bias (the choice of the sample biases the result). *[[Actually I was making my generalizations based on lettercols I've seen throughout the hobby.]]* Whenever I write to your letter column, I feel like I should fall into a "button-pushing mode" to please you. There's nothing wrong with this, but other letter columns with other editors may fall under different rules. Ever talk to Mark Lew about strategies for getting letter printed in *The Economist*, etc? I write completely differently to Mark, myself, usually, than I do to almost anyone else.

Al Tabor showed me the electronic bulletin board net in a Berkeley coffee house when I was visiting last summer. I couldn't believe it on one level... but it makes sense on another. Unfortunately, the "exercise" factor of walking from place to place looking for people and "action" is lost. I think part of the fun and health of barhopping as I used to practice it was the walking from place to place...

[[Then I'm glad we wandered a block or two uphill looking for a sandwich shop when you were here—even if we did eventually wind up driving four miles to get greasy burgers, thereby throwing away any fitness advantage!]]

The Red Sox will be surprisingly competitive this year, but will win less than 90 games, so it won't matter. You'll find out why the Red Sox ditched Jody Reed and the Dodgers will be bad.

[[Okay, finally some baseball. My predictions follow, but let me summarize my beloved Dodgers: they're old and they stink. I firmly believe that Tommy will never quit on a bad season—maybe on a losing record, but if they finish dead last in 93 then he's back to manage in 94, and so on. So this off-season should be seen as Fred Claire's attempt to insure that Tommy will return next year, since he has guaranteed last place! Even expansion and the best efforts of the accountants in San Diego couldn't keep the Bums from being the worst team in the NL West! So I will go the 'Stick and root for Karros to be MVP and for Darryl and Eric to get off the DL, but my attention this season will really be on the expansion teams and on the Braves (if they don't win the Series this year, they'll be marked with the badge of "chokers" faster than the Blow Jays ever were!).]]

Anyway... my predicted number of wins for each club (for

you foreigners, it's a 162-game season):

Atlanta.....100	Montreal.....93
Cincinnati.....87	St. Louis.....91
Houston.....86	Pittsburgh.....88
San Francisco.....85	New York.....82
San Diego.....79	Philadelphia.....75
Colorado.....70	Chicago.....72
Los Angeles.....61	Florida.....65

[[Atlanta sweeps Montreal in playoffs but goes to seven games to beat Toronto in the Series ... Colorado could well win more than San Diego, but after I saw the trades they made beyond draft day, I got more pessimistic about their front office talent ... Maybe I'm bucking the conventional wisdom about Montreal (too young to succeed) but who else wins the East?]]

Kansas City.....90	Toronto.....90
Minnesota.....89	New York.....89
Texas.....88	Boston.....85
Oakland.....87	Milwaukee.....80
Chicago.....84	Cleveland.....79
Seattle.....70	Baltimore.....76
California.....59	Detroit.....68

[[I had initially picked Texas, not out of sentiment (as in past years, ahem), but because in this four-way race the closers will decide first place, and the Eck will lose his edge with age. But with Kevin Brown out the Rangers' starting pitching looks as mediocre as ever ... Too bad for a good Chicago team (I'll take Ozzie Guillen for \$1000, Alex!) that they didn't realign the divisions this year ... All the Brotisserie Leaguers are hopped up on Ken Griffey, Jr., but he can't bat in nine spots for the Martners ... At least the Dodgers won't be the worst team in L.A. ... I was pessimistic about the Yankees at first (I hate George Steinbrenner) but the more I saw of spring training, the better I liked the determination the players showed ... Milwaukee is the one team I am unsure about—they could disrupt my predictions and knock Toronto out of first if the youngsters are farther along than I think ... Before the death of two of their pitchers I might've picked Cleveland for 89 wins, not 79 ... I am perennially bad at picking the East Divisions, so you betting types may want to get your money on the Cardinals, Pirates, Yankees and Red Sox now! Any East Coast komments besides Jim-Boob's (thanks, Jim!) and Brad's (up next)?]]

Brad Wilson

Baseball! Baseball! Ah, baseball! It's almost here—spring training has opened which means another Phillies season is start...urrrp. Euuuhhh... anyone got any Pepto?

I can see why suicides go up in April—among Phillie fans, anyway.

Selfishly I am saving my baseball stuff for Vertigo but I too long for baseball. Its rhythms, its relaxed pace, its earthiness, its spectacular unpredictability.

Why do you think the new ball yards won't be as good as Chicago's or Baltimore's? I have been to both and would have to admit that both are very impressive. Cleveland's will probably be fine, but Texas? I don't like teams named after states, for one. Texas is football land, anyway. But why should the stadium suck?

[[I haven't seen any blueprints, but... I hear Texas is going to have a promenade, but then enclose the back of the stands, a la Detroit, so you don't get late-day sunshine through pillars—I

dislike that, as the effect is very close to playing indoors (I like Busch Stadium's little quirk: you can see silhouettes of fans standing at the top of each aisle!). One good thing from the Texas design: they're going to turn home plate to a normal north-east facing orientation; Arlington Stadium had batter facing due east and in midsummer they wound up with sunlight coming over their left shoulders! I hear Cleveland will be building a substantial bleacher section, and I feel that bleachers should be small, pavillon-like—exclusive! (My Dodger bias, plus I hate that ring of 10,000 bleacher seats at Arlington Stadium.))

My surprise team of the year is ... Cleveland. Young, optimistic, and (for once) with some fans, as Clevelanders are apparently scarfing up tax in this last year for Municipal Stadium. The Indians have some good young pitchers [[written 2/18]], some exciting young stars and a superb catcher. That plus decline in Detroit and Milwaukee and Boston adds up to 91-62 in Cleveland, 10 games behind the almighty Blue Jays and tied with Baltimore, two games ahead of New Yakk.

I have been to Cleveland a couple of times, and while it's not Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, or Milwaukee, true, I think it's a very attractive area, certainly moreso than Detroit, St. Louis, Columbus and (yes) Washington D.C. I think it's gotten a bum rap over the years—culturally I've found it stimulating; its newspaper is excellent; there are pleasant ethnic neighborhoods; the local cuisine is dandy; it has (sort of) baseball and an open-air football stadium and it's elected Republican mayors from time to time. [[yeah, all the honest ones have been Republicans!]]

As for a new punching-bag city I submit Birmingham, Alabama; Hartford, Connecticut; or Durham, North Carolina. All make Cleveland look and feel like the center of the civilized world.

More words! Specifically, more words about the SF Symphony! Recordings, new programs, who's succeeding Blomstedt—too bad he's leaving, I say, is that the local reaction as well?

[[I think this town appreciates Herbie, but they won't really believe he's leaving until he's gone. If Seiji Ozawa takes over look for SFS to go downhill; Kent Nagano apparently doesn't want the job (too bad); and a couple of eastern Europeans who are in the running are reported to be excellent dark-horse candidates—the kind of quality unknowns who just need a break into the U.S. that Blomstedt was when he came here.

[[Herb Caen reports that the SFS tour of Frankfurt and Vienna was a smash. He quotes a review in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (admittedly from a distinct conservative musical tradition) as saying, "There is at this time possibly no better orchestra."]] *



Zine Register editor attempts to clear desk...

The Broom Closet

sweeping out the corners of the hobby

All prices are per issue in North America. 65 British p = \$1 US.

The Broom Closet is drastically out of date this month, as I simply couldn't catch up with the pile of zines that awaited me when I returned from Atlanta. However, I have culled a few timely notes:

Effective April 1, Fred Davis has taken over distribution of the novice packet *Supernova* from Bruce Reiff.

Doug Kent announces that the **People's Diplomacy Organization Relief Auction** (to raise money for things like the Orphan Games service and the Boardman Number records) is ready to gear up again. If you have an item you can **donate** to go up for auction, please notify Doug: 54 West Cherry St. #211, Rahway NJ 07065.

Bill Wordelmann's *Standard Gauge* has openings in the new Mayfair "Empire Builder"-style games, North American Rails and Nippon Rails. Bill also announces that his high-school sweetheart has agreed to his **proposal of marriage**—Bill got his priorities straight, starting his zine and *then* getting married. *Standard Gauge*, 50¢, Bill Wordelmann, 541 Canyon Trail, Carol Stream IL 60188-1364.

Tom Johnston says he will soon be running games (I assume Dip and variants but Mr. 4-Train could be offering rails as well). He apparently will be converting his subzine *Blusterdom* into its own zine-entity! Good luck, Tommy (his address is in the roster).

Sidewalk 14 provided me with my first glimpse of the U.K. Zine Poll results (see Y Ddraig Goch note in next paragraph).

Dolchstoß wins for the second year in a row—it previously won in 1978 and finished second twice, in 1985-6. YDG winds up for the third straight time as #2, with *Nertz*, *Spring Offensive* and *Take That You Fiend* right behind. *Sidewalk*, £1, Mike Clark, Auchtydore, Longside, Peterhead, Grampian AB42 7YL, Scotland.

Y Ddraig Goch 69 announces that financial tightness requires a shift to warehouse production and cutting of most trades. Disappointing to fans of Arnold Xerxes Lobster, but understandable. Editor Iain Bowen didn't even publish the Zine Poll results (he's the pollster)! Iain will apparently be writing a column in *C'est Magnifique* to satisfy his "*caecothese scribendi*," a column which in its first appearance is two pages of British electoral statistics—ick. *C'est Magnifique*, 45p, Peter Sullivan, 55 Brunton St, Darlington, County Durham DL1 4EN, United Kingdom.

Got a flyer from David Wang announcing his change of address and a shift in the style of his zine, *Metamorphosis*. Because David's computer didn't make the trip (wot, yer computer can divorce you now??), David says he will be handwriting the next few issues. **Shades of Terry Tallman!** (And a shade is about all that's left of Terry.) Then, a couple weeks later, comes a phone call from David that he's moving again, for better job prospects. Very temporary address is David Wang, P.O. Box 724, Norwood MA 02062. He expects to put out a thin Feb/Mar issue at no charge to subbers, and then an Apr/May when he's completely settled.

Another news-flyer is from John Galt, who will be restarting his remaining games in a resurrected *The Assassin's Blade*—address in my player roster.

The Unzine Voice 9, a subzine by Brent McKee to *The Candian Diplomat* 40, is an excellent and entertaining column on writer's block. Wonder whether Brent will have time for this now that he's publishing his own zine? Does anyone believe he can meet **Bob Acheson's incredible deadline pressure?** Hyork. *The Canadian Diplomat*, \$1, Bob Acheson, 15715 - 92 Avenue,

Edmonton, Alberta T5R 5C5, Canada.

Variant fen should write to Stephen Glasgow for a copy of his *War Fair*, which is running several variants and has openings in Landbridge III and Balkan Wars VI. Subzine *I Still Live!*, by Keith Sesler, is picking up orphans and needs **standbys for Final Conflict**. The game report layout in *WF* is one of the clearest and most complete I've ever seen (but takes too much space to adopt in *Perelandra*). *War Fair*, 60¢, Stephen Glasgow, 32009 Pendley, Willowick OH 44095

GEN CON is getting geared up, and will be held August 19-22 at Mecca Convention Hall in Madison, WI. Jon Pickens sent me a flyer which specifies lots of Diplomacy, a long list of other games, and a desire to have a "freebie table" with samples of several Dipzines. Write Jon c/o GEN CON, Box 756, Lake Geneva WI 53147, or call 414-248-3625, or fax 414-248-0389.

The most complete **listing of conventions** I've ever seen is in *Rambling WAY* 28—51 cons between March 20 and Labor Day! *Rambling WAY*, \$1 (\$1.25 in Canada, more elsewhere), Andy York, Box 2307, Universal City TX 78148-1307.

Cheesecake "Ooo, Gross" (that's issue 144) reports that Mark Fassio will, in May or June, be made Major—congratulations, Faz! Andy Lischett, 2402 Ridgeland Ave, Berwyn IL 60402.

A great quote from Fred Davis, Jr. in *Diplomag*, 100 (newsletter of the Mensa Diplomacy Special Interest Group): while describing his plans to explain and promote Dip at this year's Mensa Annual Gathering, Fred says, "Help me to explain to others that **we're not crazy**; all we want to do is conquer Europe." \$5/year for Mensans, Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City MD 21043.

Hoodwink 30 is a 'gala' issue, quite large by Stven's standards. He announces he'll be running a No-Press Gunboat game but the real feature is, a form of Bourse will be run alongside; the "Bourse" will be an **ongoing betting pool**, a la Win Place and Show, where betters use a race 'book' to guess who will be eliminated first! \$1, Stven Carlberg, 3024 Whispering Hills Drive, Chamblee GA 30341.

The Laughing Roundhead 8 survives a disk crash, illness and (gasp! of all the rotten luck!) finding a job, to arrive as a **digest** zine (cost-cutting, you know). *Revenge of the Killer Condoms from Hell* makes its final appearance; highly entertaining GM write-ups in games of Awful Green Things From Outer Space and Russian Roulette—ghod I love zines that run silly games. 60p, Duncan Adams, 5 Hedge End, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN3 2PQ, United Kingdom.

The lockdown continues but **John Schultz** gets out another issue of *Well, Martha*. John **has been moved** from his cell into a dorm, with a minor address change and a major shift in lifestyle (yes, that's possible in prison)—his cat had to find a new home and he is selling off many of his games, books and music. Downer, but Martha plugs along providing the joy she can. donations, John Schultz, Box 41-19390, F-W43, Michigan City IN 46360.

Chris Hassler has converted his subzine "Hounds of Hell" into a zine called *S.O.B.* He still runs *Merchant of Venus*, *Machiavelli* and others, in a 'dog' theme now common to SoCal. 75¢, 285 N. Holliston Avenue #2, Pasadena CA 91106.

Randy Cox has finally launched his long-promised **new zine, Cogniscent!**. This looks like an ambitious project, as Randy spread out a great deal of detail on all the many games he'll run and the mechanics of pbm gaming, and then sent it bulk rate to 850 people! He will be running many reader-participation type games where fees are zero and press-potential is high, such as word games, *Swashbuckler*, *Scotlant Yard*, and *Bumper Cars* (Daf, what do you think about **postal Circus Maximus or Strip Poker?**). Box 1144, Clemson SC 29633-1144. *

Conservation or Conservative?

The Response

James Bailey, Paul Gardner, Chris Hassler, Stan Johnson, Douglas Kent, Hugh Magen, David McCrumb, Steve McKinnon, John McLaurin, Brad Wilson.

HM: People against Conservation must not get out of their houses often. Have they ever returned to a favorite fishing hole, and found the fish dead or gone? Have they ever returned to a favorite campsite, and found another mall? Have they ever breathed the air in N.Y., Los Angeles, Denver, or most of the other major cities? Have they seen the grey snow in these cities? *[[Well, in N.Y. and Denver anyway...]]* Have they ever considered what it would be like when their favorite shady spot isn't there? When you cannot swim at the beach because of pollution? When there are no more animals to hunt? Rivers to ride?

If you do not think we need conservation, breathe near a highway in L.A. in afternoon rush hour. It is not pleasant.

CH: I am in definite agreement with the views you expressed in your "Conservation or Conservative?" article. The short-sightedness of American business is the primary reason we're losing out so badly to Japan and Europe. Hopefully, the new administration will reverse the trend, but I'm innately distrustful of any career politician.

DK: I'd respond to your Conservation column, but I don't want to cause the death of any more innocent trees.

Trees

JB: I'd be perfectly willing to debate owls vs. jobs, but as you said, the jobs are disappearing with or without the owls. Why? Well, I pulled out my old *Life* Natural History book on The Forest, dated 1961, and lo and behold, it explained that the most efficient method of harvesting trees, as learned by the lumber industry through the hard lessons of experience. Selective cutting of mature trees in an area, while leaving the rest alone as much as possible, was the desired method of insuring that a company could harvest X amount of wood over Y number of years.

There was also an example of a Utah town that reforested the upstream watershed of the river running through town. They had to do this because clear-cutting there had increased the run-off so much that they experienced devastating yearly flooding. Thirty years later, after buying the land and replanting the trees, the flooding stopped. This project was started in around 1900.

The point being, if a lumber company representative comes out and says that they must clear-cut to survive, and that there is little or no impact on the environment, they're lying. They've known for years the proper way to do business, but with the LBOs of the eighties saddling these companies with huge debt burdens, the accountants made the decision instead of the foresters. Clear-cutting is the cheapest way to get wood, not the most efficient.

On a drive through Oregon to visit relatives in Portland, the clear-cuts came right up to the highways, making Oregon one of the ugliest states to visit I've ever seen. (At least the California lumber companies have the sense to keep their cuts away from the sight of casual drivers through the mountains. I couldn't imagine the outcry if what I saw in Oregon was visible to the million of people driving up I-80 or US-50.)

Just because environmentalists made the dubious decision to make the spotted owl their *cause célèbre* doesn't mean that the whole environment is at stake in this debate. You can't do much more than three generations of clear cutting because most of the nutrients needed for growing trees are *in the trees*—take that away, plus the denuded soil washed away by rain and soon you can't have a forest even if you want one.

JM: As anyone who works with wood, I like to see the price low, but it does not encourage me to waste carelessly. I don't remember the exact reference, but in a blurb that I read concerning type of wood used for masts, the writer expressed concern that the stands of Sitka Spruce are being cut down unnecessarily because many builders have become convinced that since it is considered by some as the *best*, it is the *only* species to use for that purpose. Plenty of other, more easily-renewed trees can be used. The reason more imported and distant-growing lumber is used is that it has become available relatively cheaply. Suitable local lumber has always been available, and should be considered.

I was frankly disgusted to hear Brazil saying they have a right to lay waste to the rainforests for development because other countries have done the same to their natural resources in the past. What ever happened to learning from other peoples mistakes? If our western conifer rainforest is all cut down, it will be a lost resource, besides a lost vital organ of the earth. What is the critical percentage which must remain to keep the natural habitat from reverting to a relatively barren and unproductive area?

SJ: I agree that the government should not lose money through logging on public lands. Right now I think we get back 80¢ for every dollar invested *[[I wish!]]*. I think it obscene that land can be bought by mining companies for \$2.50/acre. I read 48 million dollars worth of land was sold for \$4,500. I agree about the disgrace of the destruction of the salmon-fishing industry. Old-growth forests must be preserved! I agree that the horrors you listed must be ended.

The feeling that I'm helpless to do anything about this bullshit is one reason I'd like to go live abroad. What bugs me the most is not the government, I expect them to be stupid; but comments like the one by Roger Cox about the trees in Oregon.

BW: I sympathize with Roger Cox but I rather doubt that one job is worth all the trees in Oregon. Maybe 10 jobs, but...

Toxic Waste

DM: On Superfund, the reason business fights EPA so much is that they have so much waste. At one site I am working on, they hired a firm in Colorado to catalog all of the waste that was sent to a TSDF for \$120,000. There were so many errors that our PRP group had to hire somebody else to redo it. The accuracy was much better, and we only paid \$50,000. And EPA admitted that our data was much better. But guess who will still have to pay the \$120,000? Or at least most of it. While there are a lot of inefficient programs in the Federal Govt., Superfund ranks right up there. That is why business is fighting the new cost recovery proposal. It would leave almost no recourse to cost recovery by EPA, regardless of how mismanaged things were.

Miscellany and Summing Up

JM: As far as wasted resources go, I think the example of the American Bison is enough to demonstrate the error of believing that there is any short term gain which may outweigh long term loss. Even the 'hunters' who brought in hundreds of skins could not all become rich. The final result of the great hunt was the elimination of whole cultures, as their livelihood was completely dependent on the herds. They could have been a huge resource to this day if they had been allowed to stay. Of course, they could not coexist with farmland on the same prairies, but that just ruins my theory, so I won't mention it.

HM: Conservationists generally enjoy the products that are a result of logging, pollution and all of the non-conservation activities, just as much as the non-conservationists. But we council caution; to use these resources wisely and to replenish where possible, so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy some of what we did.

[[continues on next page]]

PG: Liked your bit about Conservation vs. Conservatives. Right on the money and something I've felt for a while now. A Vermont comedian whose schtick is that he's been "running for governor" since the '40s had a good line about James Watt back in 1983: that Watt was "too liberal for Vermont" because he wanted to "spend, spend, spend her natural resources."

Pete: Stan's comment about helplessness is pretty typical, and disheartening to activists like me. Many voters don't realize that they can actually stop all this. Look, a big corporation can afford to fly a lobbyist into Washington to personally meet with a Congressman (or join a trade association which will do so). We can't go personally. But we have the advantage of weight—a thousand voters do pull more weight than one big business, even if it's only by mail and phone. But it's very seldom that a thousand voters actually contact their representatives! (And it's usually the Sierra Club behind it the rare times they do.)

In late-breaking news, apparently Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt is considering Mike McCloskey (Sierra Club president) for the job of Director of the National Park Service. This would be an ace appointment—not only is McCloskey an acknowledged national expert on public lands, I think it would be the first time in twenty years that the NPS Director was someone who had never worked for a lumber lobby or manufacturing concern.

And finally, here's a lengthy response from someone who starts out sounding like Pat Buchanan and ends up sounding like Robert Redford... I could only wish that every indifferent conservative acted out their political views as Steven does.

SM: I am at the same time both indicative and different from the 'common masses.' Firstly I am Conservative, in the British political sense, and therefore what is in the States a Republican. I do, however, differ with my peers on such questions as abortion: it should be fully available with counselling of all choices; freedom of speech: you can say any damn thing you want, sing anything you want, film, pain, act, etc. anything you want. This is mostly to give you an idea of my views as you read on.

Where I am a perfect example of the masses is in my almost total apathy as far as conservation and the environment go. I'm fully aware of the putative danger inherent in our societies' practices vis-a-vis the environment. However, I just don't care. I know that Earth will not boil off into space during my tenure here, and so I'm unconcerned.

Environmental concern might carry more weight with me were it not for the apparent rabidity of its fanatical proponents. Throwing paint on a coat made of a couple dozen foxes is most likely to require the death of another dozen when the owner replaces it. Badgering me in my own home for a donation to a cause fighting local incinerators will not endear me to your cause.

Such reasonable, intelligent arguments forthrightly presented as yours, Pete, are so far from the norm that even I am surprised. I was recently 'accosted' by a young liberal canvasser over the incinerator question. I told her an incinerator was fine by me. It rids us of certain wastes and generates \$ for jobs and the community through industrial, commercial, payroll and transit taxes. "Oh," she said, "but the air pollution!" Nice try, dear, but I'm a Chemical Engineering major. You solve that problem by a) limiting the types of waste incinerated and b) allowing construction and operation only on condition that an effective effluent gas/liquid scrubber system is added. This may double the cost of construction, but that merely slows profit. The company will still build it if profit comes eventually.

I also have a degree of faith and understanding in the temperament of the U.S. America is the world's greatest leave-it-till-the-

last-moment nation. No one in the U.S. cares about anything until it either directly affects them or it is just plain drilled into their heads. No one cared about AIDS until their favorite performer died. No one cared that Reaganomics was running up a debt until they suffered from recession. Just as in the past no one cared about Europe's economic woes and the Versailles Treaty until the Great Depression and Hitler's War hit Pearl Harbor.

I'm convinced that if, and it is still a big IF, the U.S. sets its mind to solving environmental problems they can be solved. I don't say they WILL be solved.

Some major points I'm not yet even convinced of. I read a recent article (I can't remember where) where a group of scientists disagreed with global warming. The example given was the manipulation of statistics. ... Even those environmentalists who claim to be thinking of the long run are guilty of drawing the lines where they wish. Even were we to nuke ourselves into oblivion there is the probability that the Earth has plenty of time to heal herself and forget all about us.

I concede that that viewpoint sounds a little coarse, but like most people I find arguments from either side more of a sermon to me than a reasonable effort to convince me of a point.

Often the argument is put forward that it's going to be too late; sooner or later we won't be able to reverse the trend toward our own little Terran Entropy. Here, too, I am unconvinced. I feel that we will either catch ourselves just in time, or, after the point of no return, we'll find out how to go back and correct ourselves.

For instance, if genetic science progresses far enough we might 'resurrect' an extinct species through DNA manipulation and/or cloning. Then again, I hear Garret saying, "But these genetically-engineered owls just aren't the SAME!" Calm yourself, have a Big Mac!

In more philosophical moments I've even rationalized environmental rape. If one accepts the tenet of Determinism, i.e. the history of the Universe is determined to play out a certain way based on a cosmic function: $U(a,b,c, \dots)$, with initial conditions those before the Big Bang, then what happens is simply what happens, you're stuck with it.

If one accepts free will, then we have simply *chosen* to do what we have thus done, and are free to choose now and in the future. It simply remains to be seen if we can correct ourselves.

"What about your children?" someone might ask. Would I want them to suffer on a planet which I have helped destroy? Well, firstly, I haven't helped destroy it. I recycle my newspapers, cans, bottles, and plastics. I eat dolphin-safe tuna; I don't buy products manufactured by Dow Chemical; I buy greeting cards made of recycled paper products; I turn off lights when I'm not in the room; I wear a sweater at home and leave the heat down; I donate to wildlife on my NY state tax return; I throw garbage in a bin, not out the car window; I ride the bus, not a car when there's reasonable walking involved; I don't run the air conditioner; I chose Chemical Engineering as a major over Petroleum Engineering; I take showers, not baths; I turn off the tap while I'm brushing my teeth; I support 'alternative' power systems (solar, geothermal, wind-power (hygronomy?) and yes, nuclear) over fossil fuels and the like. What else do you want? Oh, and I buy 'long-life' light bulbs (and take them with me when I move!).

I do these things out of common sense, mostly, not because I'm a crusader for environmentalism. I believe that many 'Conservationists' exaggerate their side, however, that's probably necessary, most people might not pay you any attention otherwise. But most of all I'm not that worried. After all, some of the Manhattan Project scientists thought that Trinity would ignite the Earth's atmosphere, and they knew as much about atomic science as anyone at the time. We're still here, right? *

CHUCK YOU, FARLEY / Snowball Fighting ASF19

Turn Nine: Flinger Victory Dance Cancelled by Stiff

WARRIOR (PLAYER)	loc	segment one	segment two	up	hp
Friendwood Flinger/FF (Greg Ellis)	K7	collect Di	Di at IM (55,95)	12	4
Ice Man/IM (Andy York)	N8	CS at T12 (75,47;70,41)	RR at FF (95,13)	15	7
Mr. Snow Blues/SB (Brad Wilson)	V6	-S9	collect 2 Sb	10	7
Seattle Slew/SE (Daf Langley)	P10	collect 2 Sb	RR at IM (95,79)	10	9
Slushee Slammer/SL (Chuck Mercer)	kit	sit	sit	10	0
El Zorro de Plata/ZP (Rick Kohman)	T12	collect Di	Di at IM (40,78)	7	1

Weather roll = 10 = Heavy Snow!! All hit probabilities reduced by 10%.

Deadline for Endgame Statements is April 27.

Segment One: While Slushee Slammer sits helplessly in the kitchen, the warriors outdoors scramble to collect weapons to stop the leaders. Ice Man whips his Rattlesnake sidearm and hits the tree El Zorro is under, picking up two points with one 'ball!

Segment Two: Mr. Snow Blues stops to pack 'balls he'll never get the chance to use. Seattle Slew does her part, pasting IM with a Rattler. El Zorro de Plata tries to retaliate on Icey but his Dirigible gets hung up in the branches of the tree. Friendwood Flinger has visions of victory dancing in his head and he lifts his Dirigible up and slams it down—into the snow at Ice Man's feet! Finally, the only Warrior left is Ice Man, who glares at the now-abashed Flinger, winds up, and delivers—the winning blow!

Slush to Slew: I see you left your Barbie doll in here by the massage tables. If you promise to play nicer with Slushee, I won't harm a hair on her head.

SnowMaster to Slush: The time for threats is long past! She'll be inside to defend that doll pretty quick now.

Mr. Snow Blues to Teetotalling Carrie Nation-ish SM: There better not be O'Doul's in this kitchen! Yuck! Yuengling Porter all the way!

SnowMaster to Blues Brother: Cold beer after a SnowFight? Not a chance—we're drinking hot mead, thank you very much. (I've never been a teetotaller.) Besides, around our place (viz: Novacon), you're expected to bring your own. Remnants from this year's party are a 12-pack of Henry Weinhard's, a bottle of Sterling estate-bottled 1982 chardonnay (gift of Martin Johnson—thank you much) and one pint of San Rafael Ale (Chuff and I drank the other). (I think there was a bottle of wine from Richard (who also brought flowers) but it must've been drunk already.)

Zorro to SM: To hell with this ineffective bird-shot bull-crap. Let's see if I can hit the broad side of a shed door with the Heavy Artillery.

SnowMaster to Zorro: Your HA went AWOL!

Slew to Ice: Of course, I don't have chains in the basement. They're under the bed. For you, though, I think silk scarves should be enough.

IM to Slew: Well, my thighs are available—for the right price. Are you willing to pay it?

Slush to Blues: Congratulations—you have succeeded where others have failed. You have planted a dirge on my white snow suit. No hard feelings, I needed a break.

Mr. Snow Blues to Frosty Frolickers: I prefer a good, old-fashioned butt. Nothing fancy. Slew, are you available as I do the Bolero (Olé!) this turn?

Zorro to Slew: How about a little goddess-blessing on this Bomb as it passes under you nose en route to Icey? At least SNEEZE on it.

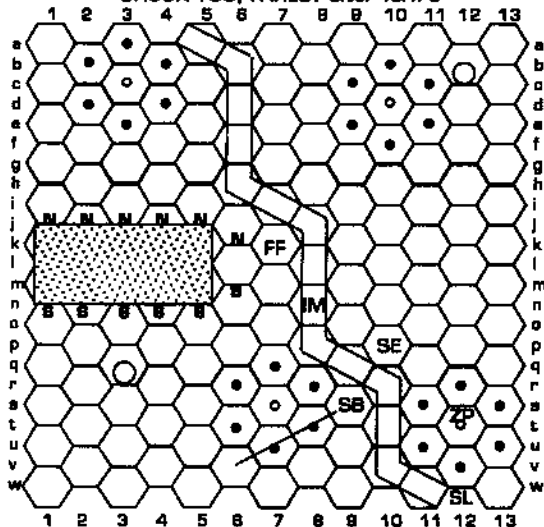
GMS to Rikko: How did you know Snowy was spankable?

SnowMaster to GMS: A lucky guess, for crying out loud.

GMS to Snowy: And you told me I was the only one.

SnowMaster to GMS: Did I say that? Number One, that's what I

CHUCK YOU, FARLEY after Turn 9



meant... Oh geez, I'm starting to sound like Don! Arrrrrgggghh!

Highlights from J.R.'s Cooking Show: ORANGE YOU SWEET (aka JACK-OFF LANTERNS): half doz. navel oranges, 8 oz. plain (vanilla) yogurt, 8 oz. rum (or vodka or everclear), several cans colored icing, and assorted gum drops, mini-marshmallows, candy corn, jelly beans, etc.

Cut a thin slice off the bottom of each orange so they won't roll, and cut the top third off of each orange. Scoop out the fruit of the orange with a grapefruit spoon or whatever you have handy.

Zap the orange guts, rum, and yogurt in your blender. Refill the orange peels with this mixture. That top third you cut off before? Cut a small hole in each one, insert a short straw, and re-cap each orange.

Decorate each orange like a jack-o-lantern using frosting, or use frosting or toothpicks as glue to hold candy in place.

Slew to Slammer: I prefer whipped cream.

Slush to SM: Geez, is there any kind of reward for most attempted attacks on a single target?

SnowMaster to Slushee: There should be—maybe a donkey's tail for being so stubborn?

Free Issues Available

A free issue (for each name) to the first person who can tell me where these planet/game names came from (I've lost my notes on these): Marna, Nordeen, Rathillien, Quwhon, Lakkdarol. If you give me the hint that leads to an answer you'll get credit.

VULCAN / Deviant Dip 92JFrc04

Rules now in effect:

- 0. Master Rule
 - 2. More Deviant (all rules with 3+ 'yes' votes pass; certain types of proposals banned)
 - 3. Veto Power (one 'no' vote kills)
 - 10. Secret Ballot (voting kept secret)
- No new rules passed this turn.

Summer 1902: Russia retreats a gal-boh.

Fall 1902: Teeth of the Comb

Austria (Dennis Young): f alb-ven /imp/, a gal-rum (a ser s), a bud s a gal-bud /imp/, f bul/sc-con.

England (Greg Ellis): a yor-lon, f nwg-nwy (f nts s).

France (Tim Goodwin): a bur s german a mun /otm/, a bel s german a hol (f eng s), f wes-tyn, a spa-tus ? (f lyo c).

Germany (Lance Anderson): f hol h, a den h, f bal-ber, a mun h.

Italy (Mark Lew): a vie ms a tri, a ven-tus, f tun-wes.

Russia (Jason Bergmann): f swe-nwy /dislodged to ska, bot, fin, otb/ (f stp/nc s), a boh-mun (a sil s), f rum s turkish a con-bul (a ukr s).

Turkey (Steve Nicewarner): f smy-eas, f aeg-ion, a con-bul.

Deadline for Winter 1902/Spring 1903 votes, builds, moves and proposals is April 27.

Proposal 28: **Topsy Turvy**. All votes are reversed—all previously cast yes votes become no, and no votes become yes. Rules passed are adjusted according to new votes.

Proposal 29: **It's Deviant, Stupid**. At least one Deviant proposal must pass each turn; if no rule passes, the GM enacts one.

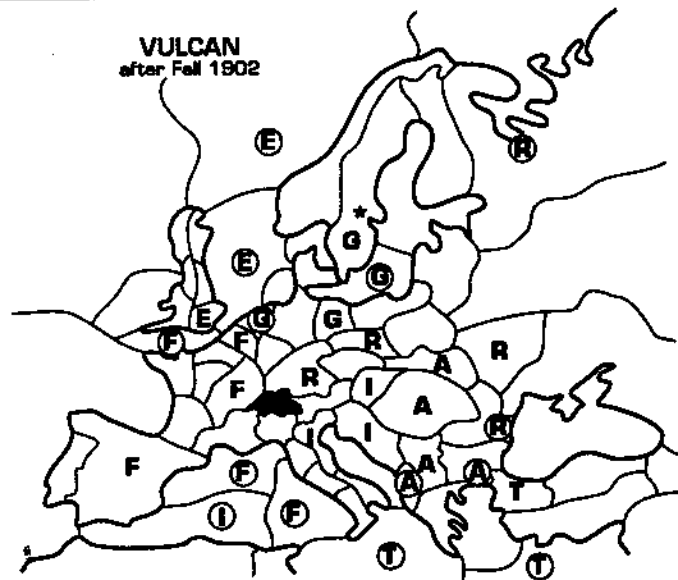
Proposal 30: **Marines**. A unit on a coastal space may act as a fleet or an army. *[[Interp: Inland fleets wind up immobile.]]*

Proposal 31: **Repeal 1**. Veto Power is cancelled and all rules that would have passed were it not for the veto rule are automatically resubmitted.

Proposal 32: **Chinese Checkers**. Veto Power is cancelled and all rules that would have passed were it not for the veto rule are automatically resubmitted. Units may jump over other units into a distant province. The destination area of a "Chinese Checker" move may not be adjacent to the starting province, thus f spa/nc-wes is not legal. Chinese Checkers may be supported and count as 1/2 unit when moving. *[[Interp: Units may only 'skip' one space and that space must be occupied by a unit at the start of movement.]]*

Proposal 33: **Russian Revolution**. I. A Russian revolution has begun. Russia is divided into three factions: Monarchists, Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. The Monarchists will be played by Jason Bergmann, Bolsheviks by Jim-Boob Burgess, and Mensheviks by Andy Bate.

II. Bolsheviks—The Bolsheviks immediately receive a home supply center in Livonia, which is renamed "Baltic States." Bolsheviks immediately receive a unit (of their choice, army or fleet) in Baltic States, destroying any unit currently there. The Bolsheviks may propose rule changes and receive one vote for each supply center as normal. Half of all current Russian supply



centers (rounded up) are randomly awarded to Bolsheviks as home supply centers. Half of all current Russian units (rounded down) are also randomly awarded to Bolsheviks.

III. Mensheviks—The Mensheviks immediately receive a home supply center in Ukraine, which is renamed "Kiev," and an army in Kiev, destroying any unit currently there. Mensheviks may propose rule changes and receive one vote for each supply center as normal. All Russian supply centers and units not awarded to Bolsheviks awarded to Mensheviks as home SCs.

IV. Moscow counts as two supply centers for Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, and Monarchists.

V. Monarchists—The Monarchists are the Russian gov't in exile. Capitalist support for the Russian gov't in exile grants the Monarchists the ability to propose twice as many rules per turn as the median number of rules allowed to other players. They receive five free votes per turn plus one vote per unit-worth of supply center. The Monarchists receive an impassable, off-board home supply center named Exile, adjacent to Bar, StP, Mos, Sev, Arm, and Syr. The supply-center is a double center which may support two single units or one double unit. Double units function as those in Downfall. The Monarchists may build units here and move into adjacent provinces; no unit may move into Exile. Any supply center owned by the Monarchists is a home center for them.

VI. The victory criterion is changed. To win, a player must own a majority of the unit-worth of supply centers.

VII. This rule may be added to, but not changed except by repeal of the entire rule—e.g., a rule allowing Bolsheviks two votes per center would have no effect unless this entire rule is first repealed.

VII. Repeal of this rule eliminates Bolsheviks and Mensheviks and gives control of their units and centers to Monarchists, who revert to Russians. Excess units and added centers are not adjusted until the next Winter turn. *[[Vulcan continues on page 14]]*

VULCAN / SUPPLY CENTERS held as of Winter 1902

Austria	vie	tri	bud	ser	gre	BUL	.	.	.	5/4	must remove one
England	lvp	edi	lon	.	.	.	.	.	.	3/3	even
France	par	bre	mar	spa	por	bel	.	.	.	6/6	even
Germany	man	kie	ber	hol	SWE	.	.	.	.	4/4	even
Italy	rom	nap	ven	tun	VIE	TRI	.	.	.	4/6	may build two
Russia	stp	mos	war	sev	owe	rum	MUN	.	.	6/6	even, or build one if retreats o-t-b
Turkey	con	ank	smy	bul	.	.	.	.	.	4/3	even

still neutral: den, nwy

NICRON / Merchant of Venus

Turn Seven

Ishmael 2.0—Garret Schenck, Qossuth

Dice are 246. Holds at MGS. Trade: sells one Volk Silk [[Cup giveth Demand for Immortal Grease at 7b/Eeepseep]]; barter ship and \$90 for Clipper; buys one Primitive Art (collects commission); buys one Rock Video.

Accounting: \$217 + \$220 - \$90 - \$60 + \$30 - \$120 = \$197.

X—Ed Wrobel, Human

Dice are 156. Move: -R-Y-R-NC1-A-NC1-R-Y-R-Grandport/o-Grandport/s Trade: none. Accounting: \$10.

Robocop—Andrew York, Eeepseep

Dice are 466. Move: -R-Rumble Port-B-B-Rainfall/o-Rainfall/s. Discovers 6 culture (Yxklyx), picks up IOU for \$100. Trade: Barter IOU for one Immortal Grease. Accounting: \$0.

Voogd's Venusian Voyager—Eric Voogd, Nik

Dice are 136. Move: -Ice Station/o-A-B-Y-B-R-B-R-Y. Trade: none. Accounting: \$30.

Interstellar Master Traders—John Galt, Dell

Dice are 245. Move: (uses Jump Start) -TeleGate 2-R/w-Y-B-R-Y-A-? [[Open Port]], discovers 9a culture (Cholos), picks up IOU for \$90.

Trade: sells one Chicle Liquor [[Cup giveth one Psychotic Sculpture]], barter IOU plus \$30 for two Designer Genes.

Accounting: \$180 + \$90 - \$30 = \$240.

StewBall IV—Howard Hugh, Whynom

Dice are 3446. Holds at Interstellar Biosphere.

Trade: sells one Finest Dust [[Cup giveth Demand for Space Spice at 4b/Humans]]; buys one Melf Pelts.

Accounting: \$247 + \$50 - \$50 = \$247.

Turn Eight

Ishmael 2.0—Garret Schenck, Qossuth

Dice are 1555. Move: -NC1-R-Y-R-Grandport/o-B-Great-home/o-B-Goliath/o-R-B-Y-B10-R10/s-B-Y.

Trade: none. Accounting: \$197.

X—Ed Wrobel, Human

Dice are 566. Holds at Grandport/s. Trade: sells one Psychotic Sculpture [[Cup giveth Fare to Base from 10/Qossuth]] and one Impossible Furniture [[Cup giveth Demand for Bionic Perfume at 3/Niks]]; buys two Volk Silk.

Accounting: \$10 + \$250 + \$180 - \$140 - \$140 = \$160.

Robocop—Andrew York, Eeepseep

Dice are 256. Move: -Rainfall/o-B-R-Y-B-R-B-Y-B-R-Desolation Landing. Trade: none. Accounting: \$0.

Voogd's Venusian Voyager—Eric Voogd, Nik

Dice are 126. Move: -Aerie-Y-R20-Y20-A-A-Y20-Gateloock, stop and pick up relic.

Trade: none. Accounting: \$30.

Interstellar Master Traders—John Galt, Dell

Dice are 155. Move: -B-R-B-Y10-R10-B10-Y-B-R-Goliath-B/s. Trade: none.

Accounting: \$240 - \$30 penalties = \$210.

StewBall IV—Howard Hugh, Whynom

Dice are 1255. Move: -B/w-R-B-R-Y-Galactic Base-NC1-R20-Space Station and stop.

Trade: sells one Melf Pelts [[Cup giveth one Rock Videos]], buys deed to Shuttlestop.

Accounting: \$247 - \$20 penalty + \$110 - \$160 = \$177.

Deadline for Turns Nine and Ten is April 27.

Order of play and dice for Turns 9/10:

1. StewBall	1336/2456	4. Robocop	156/245
2. Ishmael	3356/1126	5. VVV	144/356
3. X	236/226	6. IMT	445/234

VVV to GM: I assume you can now roll me a measly 10.

X to Ishschenck: What a revoltin' development. I was hoping for a 3 or 4. Now it looks like I'm one turn and one Space Currency unit behind you. Again. Come to think of it, I am.

StewBall IV to Merchants of Space: Looks to be a "I.B." to "Space" to "Giant" to "Multi" road. And maybe a "Water" to pool down with.

VVV to X: It shouldn't take too many decimals to find my current placing!

Stewball IV to GM: Nice TeleGate positioning.

VVV to IMT: Enjoy the IOUs. They're all yours.

X to IMT: Relic City, Man! Is Vash your co-pilot? Take care to avoid illegal transactions. If P.J. doesn't catch you, Ishy will.

GM to X: It doesn't look as though I'm any good at keeping track of what's right and wrong in this game!

GM to Garret: Has there been a Question Box ruling on whether the Air Foil would allow one to move from City to City without stopping at either one? Ex.: Terror Station/o-Terror Station/s-Titan's Tower/s-Titan's Tower/o? 3 movement points (as opposed to 2 orbiting in space), but avoiding a penalty. Just curious.

TUPILE / POSTAL MONOPOLY Round Twentyfour

Order of play is: Deals; Bank Windfalls (underlined); Bank Debts (underlined); Player Debts; Player Windfalls; Purchases, Development; then I report the next turn's movement. * = player holds Comm. Chest Get Out of Jail Free card; † = Chance card.

player	dice	ending position	windfalls	debts	portfolio
Ed Wrobel	11/5	Baltic	200, 750	75, 320	\$1119, Ver, StC ⁿ , Sta ⁿ , Vir ⁿ , NY, Ill, WW
Roger Cox *	7/8	Pacific	320, 320		\$95, Med ⁿ , Bal ⁿ , Ten, Ken, atl, Ven, mg, pac, nca, b&o
Melinda Holley	6•9/8•6	Connecticut		320	\$845, Con, EC, Rea, PRR, ShL
Jason Bergmann	10/7	Tennessee		750	\$31, ori, stj, ind, penau, Park ⁿ , Boa ⁿ

Deals: Okay, JB mortgages B&O for \$100, and RC mortgages Tennessee and Kentucky (\$200); JB then trades B&O and Atl to RC for \$235, one free stop on the Dark Blues, and forgiveness of JB's \$90 debt (RC can't trade him \$325 cash, which is what this amounts to, because he hasn't yet collected the rent! Follow?). RC pays \$46 in mortgage fees on the transaction and has to mortgage Marvin Gardens to pay that. (I think that's going to surprise him, but it shouldn't—any time mortgaged property changes hands, the 10% fee has to be paid, even in face-to-face games.)

Player Debts: JB sells back one house from Park Place and Boardwalk (\$200) in order to pay EW.

Development: EW unmortgages Vermont, New York, and Illinois (\$297).

Movement: EW moves to Luxury Tax, then passes GO to Baltic. RC hits Indiana and Pacific. MH lands on Atlantic, Short Line, Baltic and Connecticut, only Baltic has any effect. JB moves into the St. Charles Hotel but is thrown out and shuffles along to Tennessee.

Cash Shortages: JB will have to sell all houses and mortgage one of his two properties. Buildings remaining in Bank: 20 houses, 9 hotels.

Deadline for Round Twentyfive is April 27.

RAMA / Spectrum Titan

Round Thirty

BLACK LEGIONS (Vince Lutterbie) die roll 5: Eye holds in Marsh M131; Hand Brush B38—Plains P1; Arrowhead holds in Hills H23; Skull Woods W11—Brush B106; Rose holds in Tundra 2000.

BLUE LEGIONS (John Galt) die roll 6: Trident Desert D35 (E33).

GOLD LEGIONS (Marc Peters) die roll 6: Sun holds in Marsh M36; Talons Hills H18—Marsh M112 (see note); Bearclaw Brush B109 (E30); Fireball Plains P110 (E32).

RED LEGIONS (Art Shulman) die roll 5: Torch holds in Jungle J135; Spiral Jungle J125—Brush B120; Double Eagle holds in Plains P6; Hourglass Mountains 1000—Jungle J5; Sword Plains P110 (E32); Jester Desert D35 (E33); Scimitar Desert D35—Plains P34; Star holds in Brush B3; Bleeding Heart Swamp S111 (E30); Shield holds in Plains P20.

Gold ordered "Sun and Talons both hold" but then none of his other legions made it back to the Masterboard. Something must attempt to move, so a legion was chosen at random, considering that this was not an nmr situation.

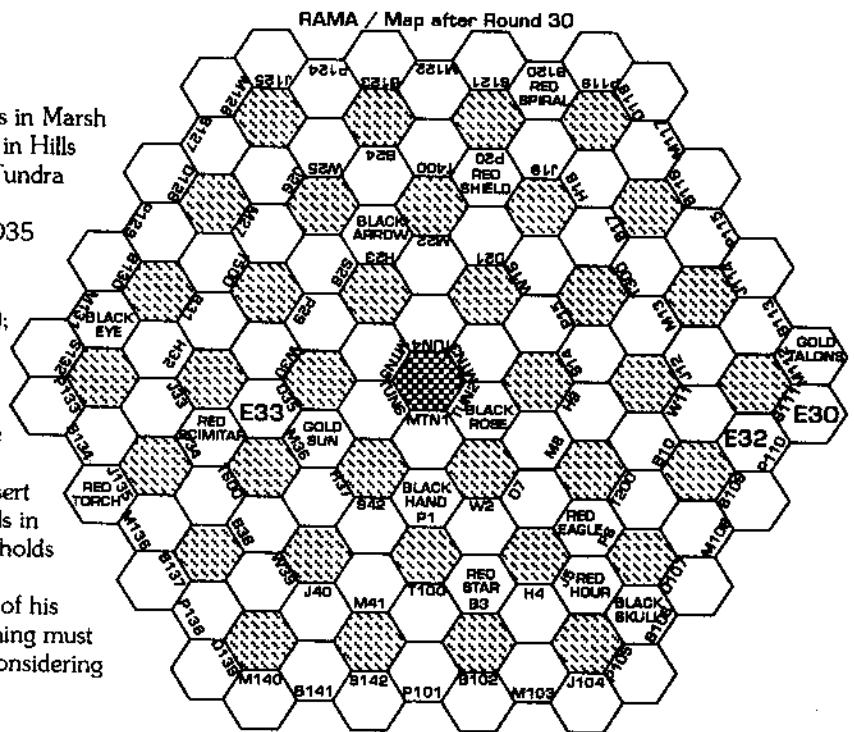
Engagements

Engagement 30: Gold Bearclaw attacks Red Bleeding Heart in S111. (at deadline, waiting for Attacker Turn 2)

Engagement 32: Gold Fireball attacks Red Sword in P110. (at deadline, waiting for Attacker Turn 1)

Engagement 33: Blue Trident attacks Red Jester in D35. (at deadline, waiting for Defender Turn 2)

Engagement 34: Gold Lamp and Black Gravestone in P115—Mutual annihilation: 4 Unicorns, 3 Gorgons, 2 Centaurs, 2 Serpents, Angel die.



Point Count: Gold 768, Red 673, Black 39, Blue 36.

Musters, Round 30: NONE.

Die rolls available for Round Thirtyone: all.

Markers Owned: Red holds the Green and Brown markers.

Deadline for Round Thirtyone is April 27.

AURORA / Railway Rivals 1025CN

OOPS ALREADY. I didn't add the \$12 from rivals to S&RVL; he actually has \$37.

Rules Note: I do not allow conditional orders (I did in previous games and didn't like it—check your houserules). For cities where players earn 3 (either for a shared key number or for reaching the city in a tie) I'll print them in SMALL CAPS—my program doesn't have an easy way to do dotted underlines.

Round Two: The Silver King

Dice were 2-5-5.

ICE-D (Imported Chinamen Everywhere Dying—Richard Weiss, red): 2a. (Stockton)—B47;

2b. (B47)—OAKLAND-Z7-Y7-Y6—San Francisco;

2c. (Y7)—San Jose-T9 [7 to RENO].

Buys ferries SF-Sausalito and SF-Oakland (total cost \$12).

RENO Line (Pat Conlon, black):

2a. (Stockton)—B47;

2b. (B47)—OAKLAND-Z7-Y7—San Jose-V8;

2c. (H52)—I53—I54—Reno.

SMOG (Southern Metro Over Gauge—Chuck Mercer, brown):

2a. (Los Angeles)—I21;

2b. (I21)—San Bernardino; (Santa Barbara)—L14; (F20)—E20;

2c. (L14)—M14—M13; (E20)—D21.

S&RVL (Sleet & Rain Vacation Line—Bob Theriault, green):

2a. (K14)—K12;

2b. (L19)—O21;

2c. (O21)—P21—TRONA; (N20)—N22—Barstow.

WINC (Wordelmann's Inroad to Nevada and California—Bill

Wordelmann, yellow): 2a. (Sacramento)—C50;

2b. (C50)—Merced-X12 [4 to ICE-D];

2c. (X12)—Hanford-S15 [4 to ICE-D].

COLTS (Crass Outlandishly Late Train Service—Andy Bate, blue):

2a. (K53)—M54;

2b. (M54)—M55—I57;

2c. (I57)—G58—F57—E58; (M65)—N55.

Bob, I had to fiddle hex numbers to make your orders come out where you wanted them. Chuck, you built too much in 2c and I had to reduce the build to fit.

Dice for Round Three are 6-4-6.

Deadline for Round Three is April 27.

	begin	cities	to rivals	fm rivals	builds	end
S&RVL	.....\$37	.....+ 9	.....-	.....+	.....-	.....46
ICE-D	.....\$38	.....+ 9	.....- 7	.....+	.....- 8	.....12.....36
COLTS	.....\$25	.....+	.....-	.....+	.....-	.....25
RENO	.....\$16	.....+15	.....-	.....+	.....- 7	.....24
SMOG	.....\$14	.....+ 6	.....-	.....+	.....-	.....22
WINC	.....\$25	.....+	.....- 8	.....+	.....-	.....17

GM to Aurora: The notes on the reverse of the map are the notes Conrad von Metzke sent along with my copy. nB: I don't believe Fishhook exists except as an element in a long punch line.

Pat C: Let's have a contest. Who can create the funniest explanation for the acronym "RENO." It's worth two free issues.

GM: Interesting. If this isn't some hoax (where he's giving away my money), then let's see what you wizards can come up with!

DRUUFON / Snowball Fighting ASF18

Turn Ten: You Gonna Let Him Do That?

WARRIOR (PLAYER)	loc	segment 1	segment 2	segment 3	new loc	up	hp	sb	di
Arsenic O'Reilly (Mike Stewart)	I5	-J4-L4-N4-P4	RR at CC (oops!)	collect 2 Sb	P4	12	1	2	0
The Blizzard (Lance Anderson)	A9	-B8-A7-C7	collect Di	Di at CA (45,84)	C7	7	8	0	0
Box o'Rocks (John Schultz)	Q7	De at BS, dodge (65,99)	collect 2 Sb	RR at CL* (80,28)	Q7	10	6	1	0
Brandy Snifter (Tom Hurst)	U9	RR at SC (50,42)	collect Di	Di at SC* (55,38)	U9	17	2	0	0
Calvin (David Wang)	I9	collect Sb, -K9-M9	collect Di	Di at TG* (80,70)	M9	15	6	0	0
Cassius Clark (Clark Millikan)	S7	runs inside	sit	sit	kit	18	0	0	0
Clarence (David McCrumb)	kit	sit	sit	-V8-T8-S9, +Sb	S9	15	9	3	0
GMS (Daf Langley)	kit	flirt with Snowy	flirt with Snowy	flirt with Snowy	kit	10	10	2	0
Half-Baked Alaska (Rick Kohman)	R12	RR at SC (90,84)	collect Di	Di at CL (45,53)	R12	12	5	0	0
Orel Hershiser (John Galt)	H4	RR at AO (80,19)	-I5-J6-K7-M7	Mendham Maniac†	M7	4	4	0	0
Scih (Richard Weiss)	U7	Di at BS (65,50)	collect Di	Di at CL* (40,51)	U7	12	0	0	0
Terry Gross (Paul Gardner)	L10	CS at Q7 (90,15;70,85)	RR at CA (95,76)	collect Di	L10	14	6	0	1

Weather roll = 72. This game is being played to 20 vp. GMS may leave the kitchen any time now; CC may re-emerge on Segment Two next time; Scih gets inside on Segment One and sits there for the next three Segments. There is a Di sitting in the Fort.

† Mendham Maniac: BR 25,56; CA 50,29. Calvin takes 1 hp but OH does not score for this attack.

Deadline for Turn Eleven is April 27.

Segment One: Clarence "enthusiastically welcomes GMS inside," but is, presumably, less enthusiastic about Cassius Clark, who arrives right behind her. The GMS immediately sets about wooing the host. The Blizzard moves south, and Calvin and Arsenic O'Reilly move to stay ahead of it. Orel Hershiser is tracking AO and nails him with a Rattler. Terry Gross sees BR still standing under the tree and lets fly with a Conifer Storm, but his shot isn't enough to bring down the white shower.

Under that very tree, Box o'Rocks is preparing a Demon attack on Brandy Snifter—he hurls, but misses, and then shuffles back and forth in case he's being targetted (which he isn't). Scih also shoots at BS, this time a Dirigible which does score; BS returns the disrespect with a Ravenscroft Rattlesnake in Scih's nose. Half-Baked Alaska has the leisure to loft his RR over BS and also into Scih's wet and weary visage.

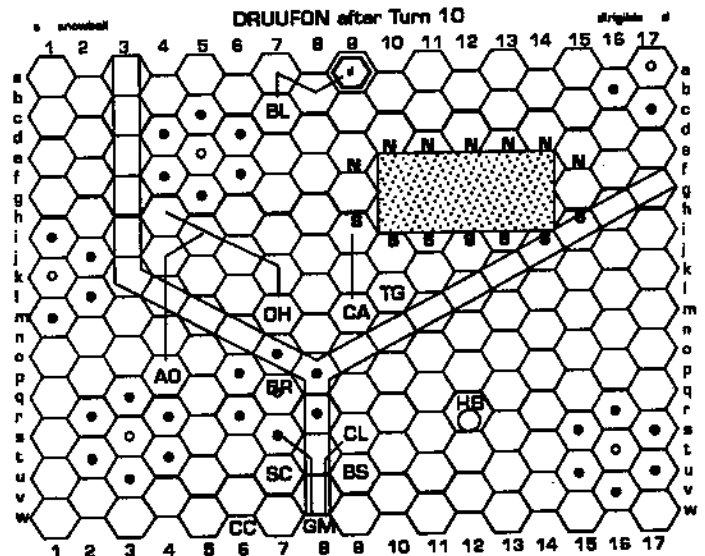
Segment Two: Clarence "shares his cocoa with GMS as he prepares to go back out;" GMS "tells Clarence she loves his wife's writing." Mushy stuff—eeeyuuuwww! Cassius has to stand by and roll his eyes at this. Everyone outdoors is packing weapons, except for Orel (running into the midst of the action), Arsenic (trying to heave an attack at the now-hiding CC), and Terry (who slams Calvin with a direct message).

Segment Three: Terry Gross and Arsenic are packing snow as GMS returns to the more appropriate and enjoyable sport of flirting. Cassius Clark will have to get his own hot chocolate...

Clarence comes sprinting out of the kitchen to a chorus of boos and a hail of snow—yet he's barely scratched! Half-Baked and Scih blow their Dirigible shots, and Rocky's only ammo is a snowball for one point. Brandby Snifter sees Clarence flash past but he's busy taking advantage of Scih's distraction—BS hits Scih with a Di and Scih starts sobbing for Mommy. Da Bliz tries to launch a Di at Calvin but the distance is just too much for him; Orel starts wildly flinging snow about and catches Calvin's eye—that is, he heaves a point's worth of snow in Calvin's eye!

Calvin to Clarence: Thanks! *Calvin and Hobbes* is my favorite strip (naturally!) and I especially like the "snow sequence." By the way, I'm the one who said I enjoy Snowball Fighting more than Dip in the press a few issues ago. It may also be true for Richard (although he has yet to run an SF game in *Zero Sum*), but it is definitely true for me!

Box o'Rocks to Clarence: I'm with you, guy. SF is what playing games was meant to be. Just for fun. I've never seen anyone get mad for getting splattered.



SCIH to Calvin: Yes, those were great cartoon strips. Thanks for including most of us in them. Next time, please get my initials in the frame. Think about joining a Dip game next. They'd provide a lot of grist for your strip.

Calvinto Scih: umm... what was the plan again?

Rikko to Richard: That shot was in lieu of me whining about your solo Dip-win at Nova-Con. Waddaya mean, "cross-gaming"? I just had to get it out of my system, is all. Now we both feel better, don't we?

Rocky to Goddess: I'll be looking forward to that Toady Manual.

Silver Toady to Daf: Your memoirs are extremely more important.

Let prospective Toadys learn the same way I had to... the HARD way! (or maybe I haven't completely learned my lessons yet and I NEED the damned Handbook?) Looking forward to whatever you decided to pen next... another tongue-lashing, I suspect... (please?)

SnowMaster to BR: Sssh, right now she's concerned with someone else's writing.

GMS to Clarence: I just finished *Bimbos of the Death Sun* and *Zombies of the Gene Pool*. Wow—great stuff. You must be proud.

BS to CL & GMS: Since you were having such a nice time together, I thought it might be nice if you went to the kitchen together, too.

[[Druufon press continues on page 18]]

LITERARY QUIZ

You may win free issues of Perelandra by sending in Literary Quiz answers... or by sending in Literary trivia questions. If I publish your question, you get one free issue; if at least three people respond to the quiz and none of them gets it right, you get another. (You must include the correct answer!)

Melanie Winters says, "I have no answer for the literary quiz this time. Although I'm a major bookworm, I'm not up on the classics or the bestseller lists. But I am THE Shakespeare fan! So of course I have to snivel that you left me out of getting credit for answering correctly—I did, but over the phone to Cathy, so maybe that's why. I don't care about the issues but I'd hate anyone to think I don't know my Shakespeare! Snivel, snivel. And I'm one to say "More Shakespeare" and more quizzes of all kinds. In fact I have a good one for you, but I can't remember where I saw it. One of Harmony's crossword puzzle books, I think." Well, Mel, I'm willing to give you credit for lastish's quiz IF you send me this super duper quiz you mention! Let's see it.

Stan Johnson: "I like Shakespeare questions. I saw a show that put forth the theory that the plays attributed to Willy were actually written by some earl, whose name escapes me at the moment." I've heard that too, but I've never heard what evidence could support such a view.

Stan again: "I was glad to learn my failure to complete *Pride and Prejudice* didn't cost me the answer. Do you know if the guy got the girl in the end?" Stan, they had 'irreconcilable differences'! No, actually they did marry—and I read recently that some woman is working on a 'sequel' (yucch!).

Mark Nelson: "My bridge partner claims that Jane Austen appeals more to women than men, that she is an especially feminine writer. This may be true, I'm not a fan of Austen; I think if she were writing today she would be writing Mills and Boon romance. Urgh! ... On the other hand I've just finished George Eliot's *Middlemarch* and really enjoyed that. Does this mean Eliot is a less feminine author?"

PG: I don't know of any objective studies which have pinpointed traits of writing that are feminine or masculine. If you want to believe that sensitivity or peacefulness or compassion are feminine qualities in real life, then you can attribute them to literature—but that would, of course, make James Joyce feminine and George

Sand masculine, and you'll draw debate! I think depressives tend to be Austen fans, but I don't know many personally.

JB4: For two free issues, who placed man "on this isthmus of a middle state"?

Michael Alterio got this one—Alexander Pope, from "An Essay on Man." Jamie McQuinn also got it, and guessed correctly at the hint, which would've been the next line: "a being darkly wise, and rudely great." Michael is worried that I might not be keeping track of his free issues; rest assured, those of you who have trades or game-long subscriptions, I do have a note on how many freebies you're owed (Michael is now up to 9.5).

BW1: In Updike's *Rabbit* series, "Rabbit" (Harry Angstrom) seeks the advice of ministers from two faiths. Which faiths? This one is worth two issues as a double-tough.

Episcopalian and Lutheran. Jim-Bob guessed Episcopal and Unitarian; Stan said, "I know the minister he played golf with was Protestant but I'm guessing you want the sect. I'll guess Unitarian and Catholic." Jamie guessed Episcopal and Jewish.

Shelf5: For one-half issue, from what novel does the following description come?

"Along 66 the hamburger stands—Al & Susy's Place—Carl's Lunch—Joe & Minnie—Will's Eats. Board-and-bat shacks. Two gasoline pumps in front, a screen door, a long bar, stools, and a foot rail. Near the door three slot machines, showing through glass the wealth in nickels three bars will bring. And beside them, the nickel phonograph with records piled up like pies, ready to swing out to the turntable and play..."

John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Stan guessed Kerouac's *On the Road*.

For Next Issue

40116: Who, in a letter to the secretary of the Price Regent, wrote, "I could not seriously sit down to write a serious romance under any other motive than to save my life."? (one half issue)

40383: Of what author did Charles Dickens say, "I don't go upstairs to bed two nights out of seven ... without taking [??] under my arm."? Hint: his deathbed words were "When will this end?" (two free issues)

[[the conclusion of Druufon's press...]]

SnowMaster to BS: Don't bother them, they're deep in, erm, conversation.

GMS to Snowy: Of course, if his wife isn't Sharyn McCrumb the press will mean nothing. But Bob Olsen told us she is, so if she isn't, blame him.

SnowMaster to GMS: Oh, that's the one all right.

BR to SM: Whine! I can hug bark if I want to!

CL to SM: That was close! At least I still have a chance.

SCIH to SM: I have a spiral-bound dictionary, if that's what you mean by a "twisted dictionary."

GMS to SCIH: Methinks you should re-read your dictionary. And next time you call me a broad I'll stick a snowball down your shorts—personally. It will give new meaning to "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

HB to Cal: There are only two rules to Calvinball: 1. Hit Calvin early; and 2. Hit Calvin often.

SnowMaster to Half-Beaned: This game was invented in London, where one would presume they are more civilized than that kind of cheap vulgarity. But one would be wrong.

Calvin to Yard: Great! Then we're playing Calvinball next!

SnowMaster to Calvin: It's late in the fourth quarter and you want to change the rules??

GMS to Calvin: You'll understand when you get older.

BR to Calvin: If you need anymore dating advice just holler.

BS to BoR(e): To you, even an open sewer would smell like a bed of roses. You're the only person in the world that bathes in a septic tank. Maybe it gives you an advantage when we can't see to hit you because our eyes water from the stench.

Calvin to SnowMaster: I like the new format. May I adopt it for my game?

SM to Calvin: For a tiny royalty, sure.

CL to TG: Whoops! Looks like you might be the leader. I hope you feel their wrath like I did.

SM to CL: Did you feel something? I'm surprised.

Box o' Rocks to Yard: I hope everyone blasts CC when he re-enters the yard next turn. Maybe we can send him back indoors before he picks up his two points. Hey, anything is possible.

Rikko to Weiss: Sending that "iced speedball" lastish forces me to "cross-zine." Did you know Hoyt Axton wrote a song about a heroin-addicted buddy called "Snow-Blind Friend"?

SM to Rikko: We'll have no "cross-words" in this rag, mister!

LAMETH / 1992AJ

Spring 1902

Austria (John McLaurin): a ser ms a bud /a ser dislodged to tri, gre, otb/, f alb s italian f nap-ion.

England (Stan Johnson): f lon-nts, f nwy-swe, a yor h, f nts-hel.

France (Martin Johnson): a par-pic, f mid-wes, a mar h, a por-spa.

Germany (Randy Havens): f hol-bel, a den h, a kie-ruh, a ber-kie, a mun-bur.

Italy (Dennis Young): f nap-ion, a pie-mar, a ven-tyo, f tun-wes.

Russia (James Bailey): a stp-nwy, a war-sil, a mos-lvn, f swe-bal, a rum-ser, f bla c turkish a con-rum, a vie-bud.

Turkey (Tim Goodwin): f smy-eas, f aeg-ion, a bul s russian a rum-ser, a con-rum.

Deadline for Fall 1902 is April 27.

GM to Lamethans: I am quite happy to be receiving reports on negotiations and plots and plans from one player—if anyone else cares to let me in on their thoughts each turn I'd get a kick out of reading them. Also tell me whether I have your okay to print such reports at the end of the game.

Tsar Jim to Kaiser Randy: You talk of attacking England and then build armies. I hope they're good swimmers because I'm going to push them into the North Sea for you.

Germany to England: Gee, Stan, does this mean I won't be receiving any more of your cheap hand-written postcards? The hobby deserves better. Speaking of cheap, did you pay your fee in Belt 17? I'm curious to see how well you do in the middle of the board. Your article in DW on attacking Austria was very interesting.

Germany to GM: That should hook him.

England: Lord High Admiral Sir Foghorn Slipknot has ordered the fleet to a high state of readiness, declaring that due to the large amount of BS that was being launched, the fleet must be prepared to move in almost any direction. "If only we had four fleets, we could move in all directions at once," he mused.

The Moscow Monthly Dispatch reports that the Tsar was reluctant to become involved in the general war now gripping Europe. "I was so hoping to just grab a few neutral countries, annex a couple of smaller powers, then get back to the real task of oppressing peasants, but events have escaped my control. Now I'm being forced to commit troops everywhere along my borders. Who do I have left to shoot rioters and those silly Bolsheviks?"

Trieste: Excerpts from the book *Flooding the Sellars*, by Wilhelm Grocz, appear as promised in the *Vienna Seasonal Dispatcher*. We have decided to edit out the filthy portions, as our high class readers have no interest in the bedrooms and pantries of our high public figures.

Briefly from the introduction: Few countries have been blessed with great leaders as this one has, with the exception of the current one. Our previous leader was a man of inconceivable talents, who was deposed through a series of strange events which one might only call a severe twist of fate.

Continuing in chapter one: Who can forget the first scandal that the Archduke first had to contend with? Few remember, or even know the full truth about the mysterious Melodia Finella. I will now recount the story briefly as it was recounted in the *Budapest Mentioner*: "14 April, 1900: On his first official visit to America, the Archduke of the Empire was seen touring many historical buildings in New York, in addition to the usual meetings attended with the President. Of special note is his visit to a small bookshop in a secluded part of town. 15 April: The Emperor's schedule continued today normally, travelling to the peaceful Central Park for a leisurely stroll with the mayor. Later

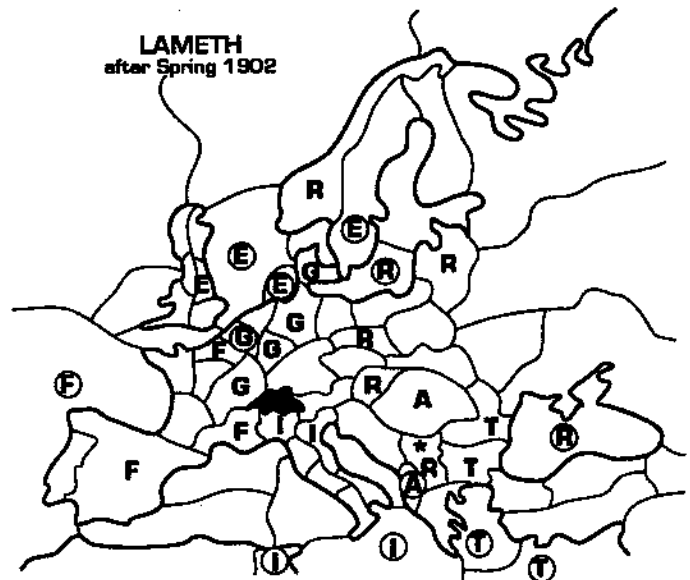
in the day, he visited the same bookshop that I reported about yesterday. I will try to find out more about this little shop. 16 April: I visited the bookshop, called The Fuzzy End of the Tale, which was full of books, and the proprietor, one Melodia Finella. It turns out that the Emperor visited earlier today, and purchased a book entitled *Skinning Cats: A Guide to Life*. She would not tell me in detail what the book was about."

These first-hand reports were the seed for speculation about the relations between our leader and the bookseller. As I had remained in court at the time they were out of the country, I was more or less unaware of how agitated the American press had become. Most of the activity was in the gossip columns, which I do not read as a rule, as I try to retain a deniability of certain facts. Advisors to the Government must be able to say, "I was not aware of that at the time," when later asked about embarrassing decisions or mistakes.

Italian Press International (Milan): There was an explosion today at the base of the Tower of Pisa, causing the structure to mysteriously shift completely upright. A previously unknown terrorist group calling itself the Florentine Resistance Organization for the Guarantee of Mutual Assured Non-aggression took credit for this action. Their spokesman, Renault Lambourghini, stated the goals of the group as the removal of all military forces from the northern borders of Italy. He claims to have written guarantees from both France and Austria that they would vacate their side of the border as well. As to the nature of their heinous act, Lambourghini would only say that, "if these Italian revolutionaries were even half as skilled as their French counterparts, the explosives would have been placed as instructed and the Tower would be crumbled on the ground!"

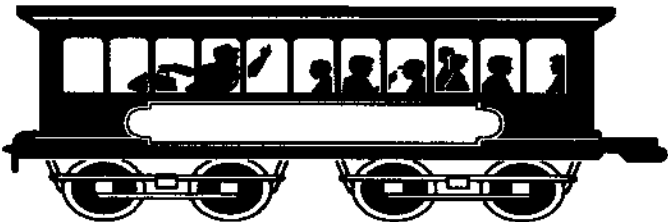
Trieste: The Vienna Daily Bellow (printing from their mobile unit, which is ready to be evacuated again on as little as a day's notice) reports that upon hearing that able-bodied men aged 16 to 48 are being called up in Russia their Vienna counterparts were envious and turned out in droves to sign up for service with the Tsar. The Hungarian Emperor offered no comment, but was seen sulking in the back rooms of his summer palace.

Mrs. Renoir to Mr. Young: Again you see that I patiently waste my army in the defense of Marseilles while you refuse to consider a course of action other than the annihilation of France! So long as we have no border conflicts with our other neighbors, be assured that we will continue to build our defenses in the Mediterranean. *



GRAMARYE / British Rails BR8901

Rounds Seventytwo and Seventytwo

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Railroad: Wrobel's Wrrailway</i> <i>Owner: Paul Gardner</i></p> <p>71: Move 5mp into Birmingham, drop one lead, pick up steel; move 7mp N. 72: Move 12mp N.</p> <p>card 45: bristol/oil/£10; carlisle/textiles/£10; york/jute/£25. card 60: glasgow/steel/£17; gloucester/tourists/£13; lincoln/pottery/£12. card 85: newcastle/lead/£28; penzance/pigs/£40; dover/tourists/£6.</p> <p>Superfreight carrying steel and two lead.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">color: purple</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Opening Bal: £ 44</td> <td style="width: 40%; border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">order this time: 1/5 next: 2/4 GOs? yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income: +</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses: -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance: £ 44</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Opening Bal: £ 44	order this time: 1/5 next: 2/4 GOs? yes	Income: +		Expenses: -		Balance: £ 44		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Railroad: Puppytail Rail</i> <i>Owner: David McCrumb</i></p> <p>71: Move 10mp into Dolgellau; drop pigs, pick up lead; move 2mp E. <i>[[Lead is available just in time!]]</i> 72: Move 12mp N.</p> <p>card 11: barrow/lead/£20; brighton/cotton/£24; exeter/conmat/£27. card 82: glasgow/oats/£7; dover/cattle/£11; hereford/machinery/£3. card 113: ipswich/coal/£16; london/sugar/£13; newcastle/textiles/£9.</p> <p>Fast Freight carrying lead and jute.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">color: green</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Opening Bal: £ 93</td> <td style="width: 40%; border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">order this time: 2/4 next: 3/3 GOs? yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income: + 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses: -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance: £ 97</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Opening Bal: £ 93	order this time: 2/4 next: 3/3 GOs? yes	Income: + 4		Expenses: -		Balance: £ 97	
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Railroad: Silkworth's Sober Steamers</i> <i>Owner: David Hood</i></p> <p>71/72: No moves received.</p> <p>card 13: lincoln/conmat/£9; penzance/tobacco/£18; swansea/cotton/£22. card 17: berwick/sugar/£20; barnstaple/textiles/£22; pembroke/hops/£14. card 98: london/beer/£3; hereford/pottery/£8; hull/tourists/£16.</p> <p>Superfreight carrying oats and coal.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">color: brown</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Opening Bal: £ 79</td> <td style="width: 40%; border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">order this time: 3/3 next: 4/2 GOs? no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income: +</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses: -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance: £ 79</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Opening Bal: £ 79	order this time: 3/3 next: 4/2 GOs? no	Income: +		Expenses: -		Balance: £ 79		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Railroad: Bergmann's Boxcars</i> <i>Owner: Jason Bergmann</i></p> <p>71: Move 6mp to Lancaster (pay PR), pick up two pigs, move 6mp back S. 72: Move 12mp S and W.</p> <p>card 16: hull/jute/£35; colchester/lead/£29; stranraer/fish/£32. card 22: norwich/oil/£17; gloucester/beer/£8; holyhead/tourists/£13. card 117: london/pigs/£18; aberystwyth/tobacco/£13; dundee/coal/£6.</p> <p>Fast Freight carrying two pigs.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">color: black</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Opening Bal: £ 17</td> <td style="width: 40%; border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">order this time: 4/2 next: 5/1 GOs? yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income: +</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses: - 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance: £ 13</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Opening Bal: £ 17	order this time: 4/2 next: 5/1 GOs? yes	Income: +		Expenses: - 4		Balance: £ 13	
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<p style="text-align: center;">Deadline for Rounds 73/74 is April 27.</p> <p>We have another proposal to concede to Eric. Please vote.</p> <p>The card deck has just been reshuffled.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Railroad: Birmingham & Hereford Rail Road</i> <i>Owner: Eric Brosius</i></p> <p>71: Move 12mp SW. 72: Move 5mp into Coventry, sell coal for £8M (card 103), pick up cars; move 7mp W. Draws card #67.</p> <p>card 7: holyhead/hops/£19; edinburgh/tobacco/£45; plymouth/tourists/£26. card 18: pembroke/oil/£25; penzance/sugar/£38; brighton/machinery/£10. card 67: liverpool/beer/£11; dover/coal/£27; nottingham/coal/£7.</p> <p>Superfreight carrying coal, cars and oil.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">color: red</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Opening Bal: £164</td> <td style="width: 40%; border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">order this time: 5/1 next: 1/5 GOs? yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income: + 8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses: -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance: £172</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Opening Bal: £164	order this time: 5/1 next: 1/5 GOs? yes	Income: + 8		Expenses: -		Balance: £172									
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ALTHAR / Postal Monopoly Round Twentyfour

player dice ending position windfalls debts port/alt

Mark Lew 9/7 Atlantic 200 \$42, Med, bal, Ori, Ver, Con, StC, Sta, vir, StJ², Ten², NY², Ken², Ind², Ill², at, ven, mg, Park², Boa², 2 Utils, 4 RRs

Claire Brosius 8/5 Jail-0 200 \$63, Pac², NCa², PenAv²

Movement: ML uses his card to Get Out of Jail, moving to New York and Atlantic. CB tags B&O and then gets Sent to Jail.

Cash Shortages: none, but I dare say that Mark's next move decides the length of the game. If he lands on a green this time,

Claire is alive a little while longer. Buildings remaining in Bank: 8 houses, 12 hotels.

Deadline for Round Twentyfive is April 27.

GRAMARYE STUFF after Round Seventytwo

One slash for each line built into a city; ~~strikeout~~ type indicates a locked-out city.

aberystwyth |
~~eyr~~
 barnstaple
 barrow |
 berwick |
 brighton
 BRISTOL

~~cambridge~~
 CARDIFF
 cardigan |
 CARLISLE |
 colchester
 COVENTRY |
 delgellau

~~dover~~
~~dumfries~~
 DUNDEE ||
 EDINBURGH ||
 exeter
~~gloucester~~
 hereford |

holyhead
~~hull~~
 ipswich
 lancaster |
 LEEDS
~~lincoln~~
 LIVERPOOL

MIDDLESBROUGH ||
~~northampton~~
 NORWICH ||
 NOTTINGHAM ||
~~pembroke~~
 penzance
 perth |

~~portsmouth~~
 reading
 SHEFFIELD
 southampton |
 STOKE ||
~~streanreer~~
 swansea | **YORK**

Mercantile report (filled buttons indicate loads on board trains at the end of the turn):

Barley	○○○	Coal	●○○○○○	Imports	○○○	Pigs	●●●	Textiles	○○○○○
Beer	○○○○○	Con. Mat.	○○○	Jute	●○○	Pottery	○○○	Tobacco	○○○○
Cars	●○○	Cotton	○○○	Lead	●●●	Rubber	○○○	Tourists	○○○
Cattle	○○○○	Fish	○○○○	Machinery	○○○	Sheep	○○○		
Chemicals	○○○	Fruit	○○○○	Oats	●○○○	Steel	●○○○		
Clay	○○	Hops	○○○	Oil	●○○	Sugar	○○○		

<u>Order of play:</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>85</u>
Wrobel's Railway	1	5	2	4	3	3	4	2	5	1	2	4	3	3	4
Puppytail Rail	2	4	3	3	4	2	5	1	2	4	3	3	4	2	5
Silkworth's Sober Steamers	3	3	4	2	5	1	2	4	3	3	4	2	5	1	1
Bergmann's Boxcars	4	2	5	1	1	5	3	3	4	2	5	1	1	5	2
Birmingham & Hereford	5	1	1	5	2	4	3	3	4	2	5	1	1	5	2

Card Stock Status: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34
 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69
 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103
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 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 (~~strikeout~~ in discard pile, *italic* in hands, **bold** in stock).

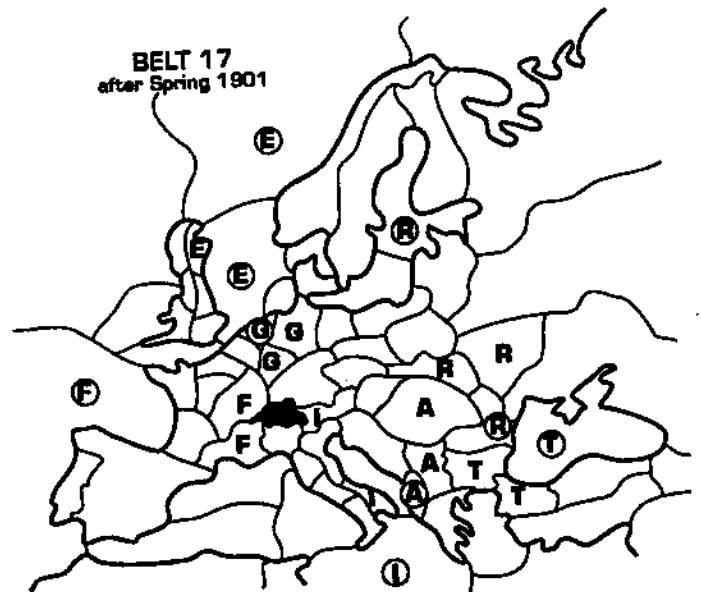
BELT 17 / 1993F

Spring 1901

- Austria (Rich Irving): a vie-bud, a bud-ser, f tri-alb.
 - England (Les Casey): f lon-nts, a lyp-edi, f edi-nwg.
 - France (Randy Havens): f bre-mid, a par-bur (a mar s).
 - Germany (Stan Johnson): f kie-hol, a ber-kie, a mun-ruh.
 - Italy (Victor Thomas): a rom-apu, a ven-tyo, f nap-ion.
 - Russia (Tom Johnston): f stp/sc-bot, a war-gal, f sev-rum, a mos-ukr.
 - Turkey (Bob Arnett): f ank-bla, a smy-con, a con-bul.
- Many thanks to Eric Voogd for unneeded standby orders!

Deadline for Fall 1901 is April 27.

Ankara 1901: Turks look for lost ally. Please communicate.
 GM to Ankara: I keep telling you, you should alway put a collar on your pets in case they run away!
 Germany: Germany desires just a piece of its neighbors—I meant a just peace with its neighbors; yeah, that's the ticket!
 (AP—Vienna): The Archduke's appointee to the foreign minister's job, Johann Gambolputty de von Austferm-schplenden-schitter-crassrenbonen-fried-digger-dingle-dangle-dongle-dungle-burstein-von-knocker-thrasher-apple-banger-horowitz-ticolensic-grander-knotty-speltinkle-grandlich-grumblemayer-spelterwasser-kurstlich-himbleeisen-bahnwagen-gutenabend-bitte-ein-nurnburger-bratwustle-gersputen-mitz-weimache-luber-hundsfut-gumberaber-shonendanker-kalbfeisch-mittle-aucher fon Haukopf of Innsbruck (not to be confused with the finest composer of German baroque music, but whose name is never remembered with the greats of classic music) withdrew his name from consideration after it was revealed he had used an illegal Serbian immi-



grant couple as a nanny and gardnere and had not paid Social Security on them. When queried at a press conference, Herr Gambolputty angrily said, "PAY Social Security?!!?? When all the workers were peasants they had all the social security they could want! So they always milked cows and herded sheep—they never had to worry about a job." The Archduke's office said it was looking everywhere, even under rocks, for a replacement. This has been a damaging first week for the newly-crowned Archduke.
 GM to Archduke: Shouldn't that be "Herr Gambolputty etc.?" Or even "Herr Gambolputty de von Austferm-schplenden-schitter-cra

ZYRA / Dip Battleship

Round Two: Elric Given Something to Really Mope About; Two Fleets Evade Attack

Board 1 (Emperor Muad'Dib), 18 salvoes against: C1, C5, C7, C9, C11, **D2, D4, D6**, D8, D10, D12, F7, **G6**, G8, H7, **H9**, I8, I10.

Board 2 (Elric of Melniboné), 42 salvoes against: A1, A2, **A4**, A5, A6, A8, A10, B3, B6, B8, C1, C4, C8, C11, D4, D9, **D10**, D12, E2, F6, **F10**, G3, H1, H2, H4, H6, H8, **H10**, H11, H12, I1, I3, I5, I7, I9, I11, J2, **J4**, J6, **J8, J10, J12**.

Board 3 (Admiral Ishmael), 17 salvoes against: C2, **C3, C5, C7**, D6, E6, **E10**, F9, **F11**, G2, G4, G10, H3, J10, **K9**, K11, L10.

Board 4 (Apassionata von Climax), zero salvoes against.

Board 5 (Dirk Struan Tai-Pan), 28 salvoes against: A1, A2, A9, A11, A12, **B2**, B12, C9, C11, D12, E11, F12, **G1**, G3, G11, H2, H4, H6, H8, H12, I11, J1, J12, K2, K11, L3, L6, L12.

Board 6 (Yossarian), zero salvoes against.

(Hits in bold type.)

Board 1 (Emperor Muad'Dib), salvoes remaining: 12.

Board 2 (Elric of Melniboné), salvoes remaining: 17.

Board 3 (Admiral Ishmael), salvoes remaining: 13.

Board 4 (Apassionata von Climax), salvoes remaining: 22.

Board 5 (Dirk Struan Tai-Pan), salvoes remaining: 22.

Board 6 (Yossarian), salvoes remaining: 15.

Deadline for Round Three is April 27.

Tai-Pan to Captain Gaughan: Last round's hit percentage was just a shade under 16%. My guess is that we should see more accurate shooting every round due to less guessing and some visible targets.

GM to Tai-Pan: I think the success rate improvement will be offset by the increased duplication of shots—as we proceed, there are fewer spaces to shoot at and it's more obvious where the ships (and who the leaders) are.

Anonymous to the late Emperor: Poor emperor, no more submarines.

Muad'Dib to GM: Sure. It might have been a bad pun, but what does that say about you. You caught it!

Tai-Pan to Elric: I would have named all of my ships too, but I didn't want any of the China clippers to go under. I need them for profits. These ugly navy ships-of-the-line are only good for making sure that we maximize profit.

Yossarian: I'll join in the naming gaming; but only the Captains of the nine ships: Orr, Dunbar, Nurse Duckett, Clevinger, Nately's Whore, Milo, Kid Sampson, Aarfy and Snowden.

GM to Yossarian: No comment on your fate?

Snowden to Yossarian: (whimpering) "Help me. Please help me. I'm cold. I'm cold."

Von Climax to Yossarian: Lawsy, son, you really took a beatin'. You must have been bad in some previous life.

GM to Von C: Maybe he was good in the life before that—he got a break this turn.

Tai-Pan to Von Climax: And what, lassie, would I do when Mai-Mai finds out?

Orr to Yossarian: Go to Sweden. Swim to Sweden.

Tai-Pan to Muad'Dib: Are you flying a Fremen or a Caladan banner?

Emperor Muad'Dib to Tai-Pan: If it be trade you seek, speak to my sister the Minister. Of course I offer you this personal gift from my private stores in lieu of future gratuities. Wheels within wheels, as the Bené might say.

Elric to Climax: Sir, I don't whine, and you should remember that the black sword cannot be sheathed until it takes a soul.

Anonymous: Death to all who rely on a runesword to protect them.

Muad'Dib to the Player Who Masqueraded as Taipan: You need to re-read the history of my glorious reign. 'Til then, I've cut off your fleet's spice allotment. Count yourself lucky it isn't your head!

Von Climax to Impersonator: It's probably a good idea we don't know who you are—you'd be shot out of the water within two rounds.

Admiral Ishmael: Last turn, four out of the six players had someone writing black press for them. As one of the two unaffected players, let me assure you that I disdain black press and have never used it in any game.

Von Climax to Muad'Dib: Look into the future, Paulie—who wins this contest?

Emperor Muad'Dib to World: I can forgive the affront of being ignored by most of you in the press last issue... only if your fire concentrates on the leaders. Remember who controls the melange.

DAGOBAH / Metropolis

Yes, JGC's house on 70 does get a dollar for being on the park. Trade (before purchases): BBL trades lot 31 to JGC for lot 27.

You may trade before or after purchases, but the timing specified by both parties must match. (If one specifies and the other doesn't, then it goes as specified; default is before purchases.)

Round Eighteen

HICK (David Hood—Hickory Indus. Const. Kingpins) buys lot 22.

JGC (John Galt—John Galt Company) buys lot 22.

BBL (Chuff Afflerbach—Bailey Building and Loan) buys lot 22;
builds house on lot 16.

SSI (Andrew York—Southern Slum Industries) buys lot 43.

HICK: store 53-54 \$ 5
office 51/55-57 22
department store 81-83/86-88 30
empty lots 23, 24, 28. Total \$57

JGC: house 50 \$ 2
house 64 5
house 70 1
store 61-62 9
apartment 60/65-66 18
empty lots 21, 25, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 38. Total \$35

BBL: school 10-12 \$14
apartment 13-14/19 18
house 15 5
house 16 5
store 17-18 9
house 63 5
school 67-69 14
empty lot 27. Total \$70

SSI: house 26 \$ 1
house 40 2
hospital 41-42/45-46 28
factory 71-72/76-77 18
factory 73-74/78-79 18
empty lots 43, 49. Total \$67

Commercial real estate: \$113
All others (house, apt, school, store): 116
Total value: \$229

Deadline for Round Nineteen is April 27.

WUNDERLAND / International Snowball Fighting ASF23

Turn Two: Whole Lotta Attackin' Goin' On!

WARRIOR (PLAYER)	loc	segment 1	segment 2	segment 3	new loc	hp	sb-di
Baldrick/B (John McLaurin)	P8	collect 2 Sb	RR at N (85,45)	RR at T (no ammo)	P8	2	10-0-0
The Bay Bomber/BB (Randy Davits)	B12	C11-D10-E9-G9	collect Di	Di at N (65,69)	G9	2	5-1-0
Baron Frog/BF (Andy Bate)	A11	De at BB† (50,13)	collect Di	Di at BB (55,48)	A11	6	8-0-0
Chilly Slayer/CS (Duncan Adams)	H4	RR at N (80,75)	RR at N (95,62)	collect Di	H4	2	10-0-1
Daf's Daydream, DD (David McCrumb)	V14	Di at IP (60,15)	BB at IP (50,63) & T (45,14)	collect Di	V14	4	8-0-1
Flingin' Deadly R'snakes/FDR (Paul Gardner)	O3	RR at PP (90,67)	RR at PP (90,65)	collect 2 Sb	O3	2	10-2-0
Ice Pike/IP (John Schultz)	R12	collect 2 Sb	RR at T (95,43)	RR at T* (70,23)	R12	4	2-0-0
Nanook, N (Chris Hassler)	H6	G6-D6-B6	collect 2 Sb	collect 2 Sb	B6	1	6-4-0
Phightin' Phule, PP (Tom Hurst)	V6	RR at I (90,98)	RR at I (80,99)	collect Di	V6	0	8-4-1
Tantor/T (Mike Magnuson)	S11	De at IP† (80,73)	De at IP, -Q11 (70,38)	De at IP*† (60,50)	Q11	4	6-0-0

Weather roll = 24. † = dodge. * marks conditional orders.

Deadline for Turn Three is April 27.

Rules queries: Can you throw a Hise Hammer if you have ammunition? From the wording of the rule I'd have to say no, HH is only for unarmed warriors. (On the other hand, Mendham Maniac is specifically allowed while carrying ammo, but the ammo is destroyed in the process.) There's only one kitchen, at the south end of the path; however, both ends of the shed have doors. Your alternatives on Demon attacks are limited to moving one hex, or dodging in place. Yes, under 'current' rules ("March 1992") the Snow Fort takes three Segments to complete.

Segment One: Baldrick makes Big Error #1—he attempts to collect snowballs while standing on the shovel-cleared path! Ice Pike is more successful at packing weapons; but Daf's Daydream takes advantage of Pike's busy work to smear him with a Dirigible, and Tantor gets Pike from the other side with a Demon. The Bay Bomber runs southward around a corner of the shed, but not enough to avoid a Demon attack from Baron Frog. Phightin' Phule takes a shot at Tantor's back but misses; and in the mean time, Flingin' Deadly Rattlesnakes hits Phule's back! Nanook runs home er, north, and aiming at him all the way is the Chilly Slayer, who scores a very palpable hit.

Segment Two: While the Bomber, the Frog and the Eskimo all pack weaponry, the others are spending theirs. Baldrick uses his one remaining 'ball to splatter Nanook at long range. Chilly Slayer also goes after Nanook again, looking pretty good for someone who sat out the first turn. FDR hurls at Phule again, good for another point. Phule is just as consistent as these others, picking the same target (Tantor) with the same result (miss!). Ice Pike comes to life, smashing next-door neighbor Tantor with a Rattler, which Tantor returns in kind. DD tries to get both of his neighbors with a Bolero, but only half of his effort succeeds.

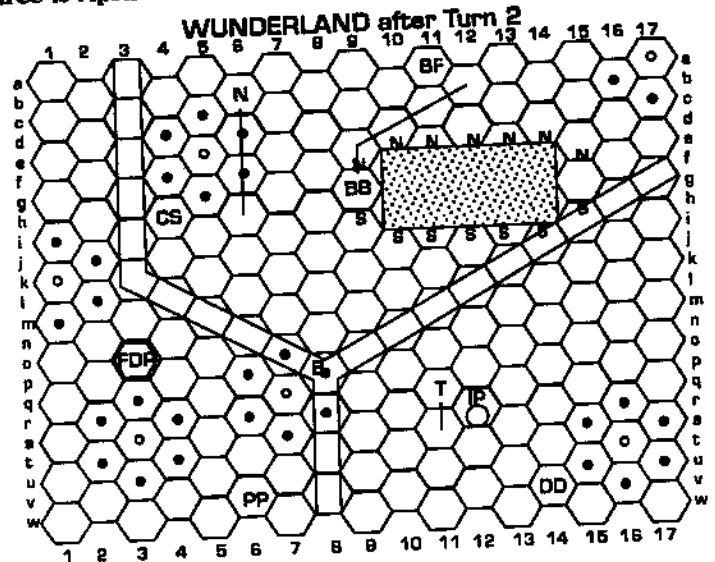
Segment Three: With every attack succeeding (except Phightin' Phule's!), the warriors reload eagerly, although Baldrick doesn't yet realize he's out of snow. Those who still have some force left use it: Baron Frog resumes his assault on Bay Bomber, this time with a three-point try—it's good! (Bomber is trying to nail Nanook but BB's just slightly frostbit.) Ice Pike and Tantor still have each other to beat on and they do.

Ice Pike to SM: Who are these guys? I got exactly six words of press directed at me last time. Even you forgot about me.

SnowMaster to Pike: I didn't forget, I was pressed for time...

Phulish to SM: Sorry for no press last time, but tax time pays me more per hour than writing press. Where did you think my sub and game fees come from?

SnowMaster to Phule: I fully understand—but beware. Your risk factors for Acquired Excitement Deficiency Syndrome are very high. I prescribe healthy doses of childish chatter.



Mike to John: Post Awful is right. Didn't eat my Yeti orders, just spit them back at me. Seems the card that I've been using without problems for months is oversize and requires 29¢, not 19¢. Took six days for them to figure it out, it seems.

Nanook to Missing Person: Don't go anywhere. I'll be right back.

Phierey to Nanook: Why, do you think we're picking on you?

T to nobody in particular: Wow. Two Brits in the same yard. Hmm...

Chilly Slayer to Baron Frog: It's ye and me against the rest. Let's show these war-crazed Yanks some English fire!

Ice Pike to Bomber: Wow!!! Whadashot!!! Now, I hope you've got all that fancy stuff out of your system.

DD to BB: Talk about luck!!!

BB to DD: Thought I'd hide behind the shed instead of joining you guys, but I ran into my frog friend instead.

BB to BF: Seems we're on the same wavelength, so why don't we leave each other be?

Phiesty to DD: With all the Daf Toadys areound here, you ain't long for the world.

DD to IP: Actually, I expected a lot more attention for my affrontery. I guess Daf's toadys are in a minority in this game. Too bad. I was looking forward to having some fun ragging on her defenders.

Ice Pike to DD: The least you can do if you're going to drop a bomb is sweet-talk me first, thank you. Sort of like kissin' before you... well, you know.

Daf to Daf's Daydream: Being one of my daydreams is a tall order. Do you think you're up to it? Better be sure.

SnowMaster to Wunderländer: Press continues on page 25.

EDDORE / Gunboat Snowball Fighting ASF22

Turn Five: Luck-y Dog! Luck-y Dog!

WARRIOR	loc	segment 1	segment 2	segment 3	new loc..up	hp	sb-di
Abominated Snowmonster	B12	-A13-C13-B12!	collect Di	Di at GP (40,39)	B12	8	0-0
Chiller Cowalski	L6	Di at SH (60,76)	RR at FN (90,38)	collect 2 Sb	L6	7	4-2-0
Felis Negris	S9	RR at IS (70,81)	RR at IS (55,13)	run for cover	kit	10	0-0-0
Georgie Porgie	A11	Di at AS (45,05)	-B10-D10, collect Sb	RR at AS* (85,35)	D10	8	2-0-0
Ice Slinger	F12	RR at FN (70,42)	-G11-F10, collect Sb	RR at SH* (95,29)	F10	6	6-0-0
Ricky Skitless	E7	HH at SH (80,80)	collect Di	Di at SH* (55,90)	E7	7	1-0-0
Shagmaster	G7	Di at RS (80,78)	-H8-G9, collect Sb	RR at AS* (75,73)	G9	11	2-1-0

Weather roll = 48. FN sits inside all next Turn; AS gets in on Segment Three and sits there all of Turn Seven! Whew!
Deadline for Turn Six is April 27.

Please see Wunderland for a couple of rules notes.

Segment One: Snowmonster runs in circles to try to confuse Georgie Porgie, but on returning to the snowman GP "slams another Di at Abominated Snowmonster, all the while snivelling and whining, 'ugly ol' monster... bad ol' monster... dirty ol' monster... stop doin' that to my snowman!'" Ricky Skitless and Shagmaster are still at each other's throats, but they just barely manage to harm each other (RS uses the Hise Hammer while SH scores big with his Dirigible). Chiller Cowalski is getting a little tired of the tango twosome and tries to hit Shaggy in the back, but his aim is atrocious. And at long range, Felis Negris and Ice Slinger slander each other with Rattlers—IS's is good while Felis' isn't.

Segment Two: The Snowmonster packs a Dirigible, while Georgie "hollers 'Nah nanny nah nah, you can't get me!' and dashes off—while safely hidden under the conifer he grabs a snowball." Slinger and the Shag likewise shuffle away from their enemies and pack weapons and Ricky decides maybe this Dirigible idea isn't so bad after all. Felis has finally gotten the scent of IS and lands his Rattlesnake this time, but Chiller turns and heaves a Rattler at Felis, removing the last spot of dry fur on the Cat!

Segment Three: While Blacky ducks inside and Chiller reloads, AS pounds Georgie into submission (in spite of the tree!). The rest of the squad is picking on Shaggy and the Abomination. GP and Shabby each score a point off the Snowmonster, while Icey and Ricky attack SH; IS hits, but SH is able to evade Ricky's Dirigible, just barely staying alive in the yard!

Ricky Skitless to All: Pay no attention to ol' Shaggy. The guy wore bell-bottoms all through the '80s!

SH to RS: Alright, I'll take a truce! (after I even the score... Biff!)

Now I'm gonna make some more enemies, I hope you'll do the same.

Ricky Skitless to Shagmaster: Answer this: Have you or have you not hit me twice? Just because I can see the future doesn't mean I have to wait for events to ACTUALLY occur, now does it?

AS to SM: I was a bit lost in the first segment of this turn, but now I've found my bearings!

Shagmaster to Slinger: I'm gonna help you rid the yard of these two unsociable corner-clingers. One won't join our press war, and the other fell asleep in the middle of the action!

Gurney Halleck warns Ricky Skitless: Mood's a thing for cattle and loveplay... If you'd fought one wit below your abilities I'd have given you a good scar to remind ya!

AS to IS: Back off, Jack, this is private unless you slam Georgie!

Black Cat to Icey: Hisssansiss!

Ricky Skitless' Dog, Spot: SNAUSAGES, DAMMIT!!

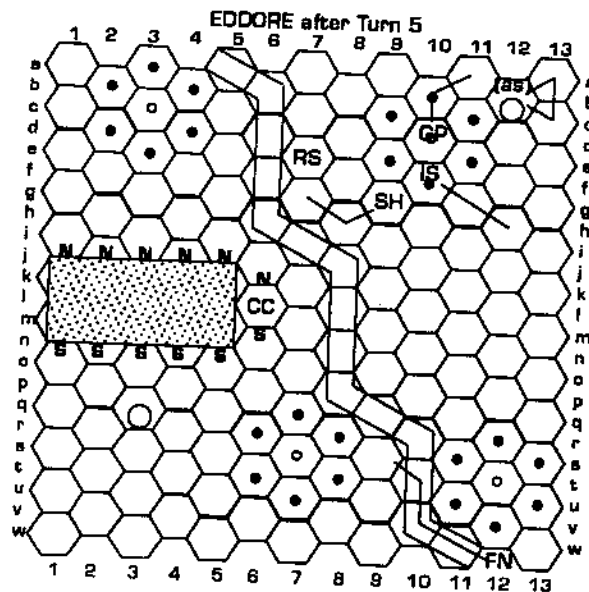
Chiller to Ricky: And take your dog to the kitchen with you.

Slinger to El Blacko: Take this, you fur-bearin' varmint! Git' in the kitchen where you belong!

SH to All but Felis: I hope somebody is planning to stay around to show the cat the kitchen door.

RS to SH: Well, Ricky Skitless, ok?!

Furious Feline to Slinger: Didn't you forget to finish something?



Ricky to Chiller: Hey! What was that for!? I'll get you for that!

When I run screamin' to the kitchen I'll hide your comics.

Chiller to Slinger: And where oh where are you going? I need some help with this black devil.

Slinger to Chilly: Let's make sure that fleabeearer doesn't bug us any more. All the garbage cans behind the shed are tipped over!

RS to SM: Hey! You're being mean to me! Meanie, meanie! I'm gonna complain to, to, to... "Mommy!!"

Shag to Chiller: Thanks for being the cavalry! Now you finish him off while I go slush someone else.

Ricky Skitless to GM: In the absence of little girls in the yard you're not gonna let Georgie kiss the boyz, are you?

GP to AS: You're so strong, when you lifted your arm to throw that 'ball, I could smell it coming!

Abominated Snowmonster to Georgie Porgie: Eeeaaah!

Skitless to Slinger: Hey! No Floyd here unless it's me quoting it!

Meek and obedient you follow the leader down well-swept garden pathways in the valley of Ricky's accurate snowballs!

Slinger to Yard: Hey, everybody! There's a whole bunch of people over at the Druufons'! And I can recognize some of their faces!

Why don't we all go over there?! They won't know who we are! Just don't tell the SM that we're going...

SM to Sling: Sorry, Druufon has a Spell of Knowing cast upon it.

Chiller to the Black One: How about a truce so that we can deal with the siamese twins?

El Gato to Gang: If you're not nice to me, I'll cross your path!

Spot: Segment One: approach Shaggy. Segment Two: raise left-rear hindquarter [he has a front hindquarter??]. Segment Three: (use imagination here).

Duncan Idaho: When unsure of your footing, bare feet are best.

SM to Duncan: Not around Spot, they're not.

ZIRN / Snowball Fighting ASF20

Turn Seven: There's No Such Thing as Bad Publicity

WARRIOR (PLAYER)	loc.	segment 1	segment 2	segment 3	new loc.	up.	hp	sb-di
Digitous Rex/DR (Mike Magnuson)	kit	sit	sit	sit	kit	10	10	2-0
Hobbes/H (David Wang)	D10	collect Sb, -C11-B12 / RR at M* (80,48) / CS at S7* (45,39;70,66)			B12	14	7	0-0
Katspaw/K (Tom Hurst)	S9	BB at M (60,08) & S (50,67) / BB at M (70,46) & S (50,21) / collect 2 Sb			S9	9	7	2-0
Maelstrom Melli/M (Melanie Winters)	M9	Di at K (70,31)	collect 2 Sb	RR at H (70,27)	M9	10	2	1-0
Snowpaw/S (John Schultz)	S7	collect 2 Sb	collect 2 Sb	RR at H* (50,79)	S7	7	0	0-0
Thin Ice/TI (Clark Millikan)	kit	sit	sit	sit	W11-U11-S11	S11	4	10

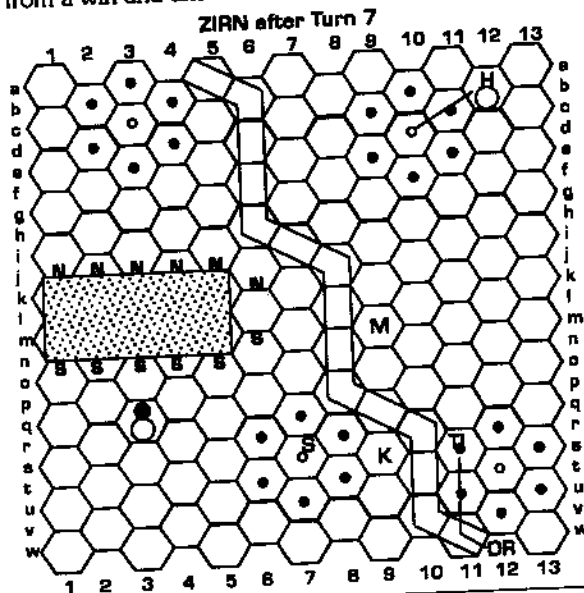
Weather roll = 21. Rex may re-emerge on Segment One next Turn, while Snowpaw heads inside.
Need I point out that Hobbes is one point from a win and unarmed?

Deadline for Turn Eight is April 27.

Segment One: While Digitous Rex and Thin Ice warm up and dry off, the felines are conniving. Hobbes picks up a Snowball and backs away a bit, behind the Snowman. Katspaw picks out two targets to hit with that huge collection of ammo—he hits Maelstrom Melli, but misses Snowpaw (Snowpaw may be closer, and collecting weapons, but he's behind the tree trunk!). Melli stands and takes the punishment because she's dishing it out, too; she hits K with a Dirigible!

Segment Two: M and S each pack 'balls and Katspaw repeats his Bolero, but this time he gets 'em both! Hobbes looks around and realizes nobody's following him, so he picks the closest target and hits her (well, close is a relative term).

Segment Three: Thin Ice is back, sliding under the conifer unnoticed. M & S put those new snowballs to use, shooting in revenge at Katspaw, who is now replacing his weapons; Melli hits but Snowpaw seems a little unsure of himself. And that might be because, from very long range, Hobbes has stormed Snowpaw's tree! A huge blanket of white crashes down, soaking Snowpaw and bringing Hobbes to the brink of victory.



Melli to Snowpaw: It's starting to get a little too quiet out here.

What'd'ya say we pounce on that tiger to liven things up a bit?

Kitty to Melli: Please get out of there. Don't give the furball an easy shot.

Hobbes to Snowpaw: Want to trade Conifer Storms?

Digitous to Snowpaw: Yeah, *Johnny Got His Gun* is a very powerful book and should be required reading everywhere. It was required at my high school, but they changed the curriculum.

Melli to Thin Ice: Snag some cookies for us on your way out, man!

Snowpaw to MM: Right, sure, okay. Like you're ever home, you party animal you.

K to H: No press? Keeping your head down so we might forget you? It won't work, so you might as well "kill a tree," as our SM says.

Hobbes to Maelstrom Melli: Sure, I'm willing to oblige! Now just step under that tree...

Mellis to Hobbes: I was only kidding about repeating the feat! You leave that poor old man alone! He's got grandkids that can kick your striped little butt.

Melli to SnowMaster: Why do I get this feeling that a snowball is gonna smack into the back of my head at any moment?

Melli to Katspaw: Welcome back! Got something for ya...

Katspaw to Hobbes: Felines should stick together.

Digitous to Hobbes: Tunafish? Hmm. Well, actually, yes! There is some tunafish here in the kitchen. I'll bring you some out next turn.

Snowpaw to Digidude: Yeah, sure... I'll get down on my knees just as quick as I can. Ha-ha-haw-ha-hee. Oh stop... please. I can't stand it.

Melli to KingDude: We're not bowing, we're just rolling on the ground laughing our asses off.

Here's the rest of the Wonderland press:

DD to DR: I love a challenge. Give me a turn or two and I fully intend to storm your fort.

DD to IP: Would you like to join me in storming FDR?

Nanook to FDR: Of course the days are numbered, just look at any calendar. Baron Frog was five thousand miles from home and he was feeling miserable; not a plane in sight. (Sure, he'd got on one of those funny new-fangled things to get here, but he'd not been allowed to fly the damn thing. Mind you, when he'd been taken up to the cockpit he wasn't sure that he could have done anyway.) A trip to sunny California had seemed like the ideal way to get some R&R, but there wasn't any sun, just snow. He wasn't just miserable, he was cold and wet too. There was melted snow in place melted snow just wasn't supposed to be able to get. And it was all the Bay Bomber's fault. He'd have to teach him a lesson. He'd been watching some Football, and he greatly admired the linebackers. So, next time The Bomber's arm went back, he knew just what to do...

SACK THE 'BACK!

Chilly Slayer to Nanook: So you'd attack me when I wasn't ready, eh? Well, come closer my boy, and meet your maker.

Phinagle to SM: In Wisconsin, chasing the big bucks can mean more than one thing.

Daf to Ice Pike: Thanks for the support, Sweetie. I think a dirigible upside the head of that boy will keep him humble.

BB to N: Being an eskimo, you don't mind ice chunks overhead, do you?

DD to B: I told you to stay north. Now you will just have to give up your miserable turnips.

Ice Pike to Tantor: You too, fella. Run them jibs while you're slinging them rattlers. Or mom's gonna think we're up to something.

Tantor to Pike: Smash! Smash! Unk!

Nanook to Tantor: Let's see... you watch Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood and you frequently end your sentences with "unk." Tell me, how long have you had a lobotomy?

Phillbuster to SmearMaster: Wimp!?! You better watch what you say, or I'll throw my plastic pocket protector at you!

SM to Phil: As Jay Leno would say, "Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow! Oh, sure!" *

VEXVELT / 1992R

AFT draw: G yes, AEIRT no, F nvr.

AFRT draw: GR yes, AEIT no, F nvr.

Spring 1904: Cablecar Contra

Austria (Michael Alterio): a mun-ruh, a boh-sil, a sil-pru (a ber s), a vie-gal, f adr-ven, a ven-rom, a tri-tyo, a mos-stp.

England (Lance Anderson): f edi-nwg, a yor-edi, f nts s french f bel-hol /nso/ (f lon s).

France (Mike Magnuson): f mar-lyo, a pie-tus, f bel-eng, f mid h, a pic-bel, a bur-mun.

Germany (Richard Weiss): f hel-kie (f hol s).

Italy (Steve Nicewarner): a nap h (f tyn s), f tun-ion.

Russia (Russ Rusnak): f bar-stp/nc, a den-swe, f bal-den, a war-gal.

Turkey (Steve McKinnon): a smy-gre (f aeg c), f ion-nap (a apu s), f gre-alb, a rum-ukr.

Deadline for Fall 1904 is April 27.

Austria-Hungary to France: I will not vote in favor of your proposals. Perhaps if you would condescend to answer my letter, something might be negotiated. As it stands, you have given me no reason to vote for an A/T/F. Convince me!

GM to France: Could be tough, the ATF is gaining a bad reputation lately.

France to Germany: Remove a kie?? If you're trying to commit suicide, can I have Hol?

Turkey to France & GM: Babes next door? Hey, send 'em my address and phone number. Why not start a new column? Perelandra Personals.

Italy to Turkey: One more time—you will get nothing from Italy. In fact, I'll even convoy the Austrians into Tunis first. Austria's 9 plus Italy's 3 plus Russia's 4 = 16... only two away! STAB NOW!

GM to Turkey: He's an advertising maven, I tell you! "Only 298 stabbing days left to Christmas!" Mike Mazzer would be proud (and that's twice in one issue that I've worked in Mazzerman!).

Turkey's Babes o' the Moment: Sherilyn Fenn, Lara Flynn Boyle, Brooke Adams. Unfortunate news: Mary Stuart Masterson's latest effort is the straight-to-video "Mad at the Moon." Might as well have been straight-to-the-s***-can. My, what a stinker! Even with Babe o' the Universe Masterson in it, I wished for only two things from this film: 1) that she get nekkid or 2) that it be over.

1) never happened; 2) almost never happened. If I end up in purgatory or limbo, they'll make me watch this film! FOREVER!!

GM to Turk: The sins of moviegoers are visited upon them tenfold. Turkey Sings: "When I was a child I was well-fed. / I was smothered in affection. / Then I stuck my head out and I immediately knew / THIS WAS NOT FOR ME!"

England to Turkey: Some food for thought...

If you should rise up from Nowhere to Somewhere,

From being No one up to being Someone,

Be sure to keep repeating to yourself

You owe it to an arbitrary god

Whose mercy to you rather than to others

Won't bear too critical examination.

Stay unassuming. If for lack of license

To wear the uniform of who you are,

You should be tempted to make up for it

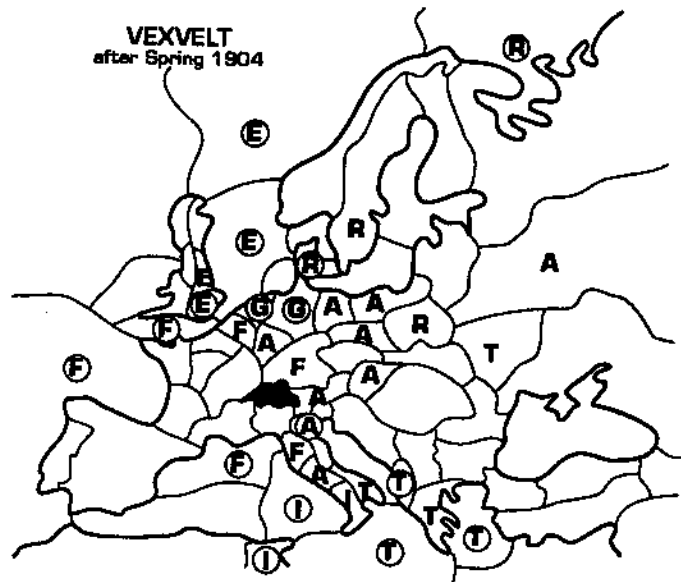
In a subordinating look or tone,

Beware of coming too much to the surface

And using for apparel what was meant

To be the curtain of the inmost soul.

GM to England: I like it. Yours?



Turkey to Lit-critic: Hey! You get what you pay for. Anyway, who says I wrote that crap anyway? ANYWAY!

Turkey writes: You have no name for me to call

But that which I ascribe.

You have no moods to swing by
Save the ones that I decide would
Suit you perfectly.

This far away, this far apart
You cannot turn me down.

You do not turn away from me
So much as turn around
To show me silently

The variance of you, a view
I haven't seen before.

And what I make of what I see
Is all and nothing more
Of all the things I seek.

So if I muse potentially
Betray me nothing new.

Surprise me only for the best
That everything you do
Should show you at your peak.

Again the Frog croaks: You better make your face up in
Your favorite disguise.

With your button-down lips and / Rollerblind eyes
With your empty smile / And your hungry heart
Feel the bile arising from your guilty past

With your nerves in tatters
When the cocked shell shatters

And the hammers batter / Down your door / You better run

You better run all day / And run all night
Keep your dirty feelings / Deep inside. And if you're
Taking your girlfriend / Out tonight
You better park the car / Well out of sight.

'Cause if they catch you in the back seat
Trying to pick her locks

They're gonna take you back to mother
In a cardboard box. / You better run.

(Lyrics from Pink Floyd, "Run Like Hell," off *The Wall*.)

GM to Vexveltians: To save space, I'm going to have to insist that any future poem/song press be original. I'm running out of room for long quotes like this.

PLAYER ROSTER

bold = new address; * = no nmr insurance (if I have your phone # and you accept collect calls, then you have nmr insurance)

- Duncan Adams, 5 Hedge End, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN3 2PQ U.K.
 Chuff Afflerbach, 5632 Oakgrove Avenue, Oakland CA 94618
 Michael Alterio, 338 Crescent Avenue #19, Buffalo NY 14214
 Lance Anderson, 696 Fox Avenue #100, Lewisville TX 75067
 Bob Arnett, 1500 Waterway Circle, Chesapeake VA 23320
 James Bailey, 8337 La Riviera Drive, Sacramento CA 95826
 J.R. Baker, 2709 Colonial Drive, Dickinson TX 77539
 Andy Bate, 4, Channel Road, Clevedon, Bristol BS21 7DR U.K.
 Jason Bergmann, * 10000 N. Lamar #2041, Austin TX 78753
 Kenneth Burke, 6 Meadowbrook Road, West Hartford CT 06107
 Eric/Claire Brosius, 41 Hayward Street, Milford MA 01757-3554
 Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St, Providence RI 02908-5731
 Ron Cameron, * 14790 Amorose, Lake Elsinore CA 92530
 Kathy Caruso, 636 Astor Street, Norristown PA 19401
 Les Casey, 10 Wrenwood Crescent, Nepean Ontario K2G 5V3, Canada
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 Roger Cox, 57 Coastline Drive, Inman SC 29349
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 Garret Schenk, * **394 - 5th Street, Brooklyn NY 11215**
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 Victor Thomas, 22722 Via Santa Rosa, Mission Viejo CA 92691
 Eric Voogd, 22620 Byron Street, Hayward CA 94541
 David Wang, * **Box 724, Norwood MA 02062**
 Richard Weiss, 554 Liberty St, San Francisco CA 94114
 Brad Wilson, Box 126, Wayne PA 19087
 Melanie Winters, 3019 Bertram Court, Concord CA 94520

GAME OPENINGS / ZINE BUSINESS / HOBBY STUFF

circulation of this issue, not counting free samples: 84*
 You may use your subscription balance to pay gamefees or to purchase copies of *Zine Register*.
 (*15 people are getting this issue with no further sub balance)

IX/Regular Diplomacy (\$5 gamefee): Kenneth Burke (pd) is signed up—can take six more. Yeah, yeah, I said I wouldn't open another game for a while—but I received a huge response to my ad in *The General* looking for players! Priority will go to people not already playing in *Perelandra*.

TRALFAMADORE/Youngstown Diplomacy (\$8 gamefee will include rules and maps): I have copies of rules for all versions from I to XIII, with XV on the way. If you want to play, please give me your 1-2-3 preferences among the versions I will choose from:
 IV (ten players, uses off-board boxes for movement)
 XIIIb (fourteen players, no OBBs)
 XV (21 players, this would be a playtest).

Enough people have asked that I expect this will fill quickly, whichever version we run. Kenneth Burke is tentatively on the list; Michael Alterio is already signed up, provided he provides the TIFF or EPS map he told me he has!

BROTISSERIE BASEBALL (free): Andy York, Tim Goodwin, Barbara Goodwin, Victor Thomas, Richard Weiss, Chuff Afflerbach, and David McCrumb got teams in; Eric Voogd, John Caruso, Andy Bate (! Can a Brit defeat the home team??), Brad Wilson signed up but haven't sent rosters yet (they need to be postmarked by April 5). A mid-month flyer will announce the first-turn rosters.

Accepting requests for one more game opening. I have requests for Final Conflict (Johnston; nuclear/worldwide—would you play Youngstown, Tom?), Winter 1898 (Davis; no change except starting position), Colonia VII (Johnson; semi-historical), Merchant of Venus (Wordelmann, Afflerbach), and Monopoly (Wordelmann; I'd rather not) and Brad Wilson has suggested Balkan Wars or Ancient Empires, but I'm not sure he was signing up to play, just sending suggestions. Other ideas?

Poets' Corner (Standby Calls): none, thank you very much!

The Poets are for Diplomacy: Baker, KCaruso, Cox, Davis, Hurst, SJohnson, Magnuson, McKinnon, McLaurin, Mercer, Shulman, Stewart, Voogd, York.
 For Dip variants: Baker, Bate, Davis, Hurst, McCrumb, McKinnon, Stewart, York.
 For others: Anderson (Titan), Cox (Monopoly), Gardner, Langley (SF), McCrumb, Millikan (MoV).
 A free issue to each standby when he picks up a game and when he plays it out (subber currently in fewest games will be chosen first.).

International Subscription Exchange

I am the North American representative. If you want to sub to a U.K. or Australian zine, send US or Cdn money to me and I'll arrange it, avoiding currency exchange fees. Canadian cash accepted at 1-to-1 with U.S.; Canadian checks will get about 75¢US on the Cdn dollar. Canadians can buy postal money orders in US funds much more easily than vice versa, check out the rates.

- Bill Wordelmann, 541 Canyon Trail, Carol Stream IL 60188-1364
 Ed Wrobel, 6204 Bardu Avenue, Springfield VA 22152
 Andrew York, Box 2307, Universal City TX 78148
 Dennis Young, 22420 Fuller Avenue, Hayward CA 94541

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...and not much else!



Helga Gardner of the Brattleboro Gardiners

Perelandra

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