

CATHY TURNS 30!



Noted businesswoman and chorister Cathy Gaughan with her husband of seven years, Pete, atop Petroglyph Point.

"Still Sexy After All These Years" Drools Love-Slave

End of World Feared But Not In Sight

(SAN FRANCISCO, Earth, Reuters): The Thirtieth of April marks the Thirtieth anniversary of the birth of Cathy M. Gaughan

Born Cathy Marie Sexton in Melbourne, Florida, Mrs. Gaughan was raised in Texas by Yankee parents. She was noted early in youth for her musical and communication skills, and continues to win high praise for them today.

Since her marriage on 25 May 1987 to well-known love-toady Peter James Gaughan, she has become an accomplished counsellor and officer of several society groups, including a term as President of the Marin Sweet Adelines Chorus.

Mrs. Gaughan recently launched a "Better Nutrition" campaign and has lost over 50 pounds in less than four months.

"I always knew she was a multi-talented woman," said husband Pete, "but since she has slimmed down to this supermodel figure I've decided that nothing she does will ever surprise me again. She's wonderful!"

Perelandra's Society Editor, Deanna Troi, details the festivities (and the people who make news attending them!) in our Lifestyle section.

Riots, Boycotts Mar Vulcan Elections

Federation Invokes "Peace Time" to Sooth Tensions

(VULCAN, UPI): In a stunning development, the citizens of planet Vulcan have responded with violence to the current government's plan for voting on amendments to the Charter and the Vulcan Code.

Repeated threats to boycott the elections, which were begun as scheduled on April 13, prompted the Federation Council to extend voting until calm could be restored.

Votes will now be accepted for an indefinite period, and will be tabulated at an unannounced place and time to avoid terrorist interference.

Citizens have been outraged by the inability of the government to inform all voters of their choices and rights. Phone threats have been received at the Planetary Palace, and at least one riot broke out when boycotters discovered other citizens sneaking into polling places to vote.

The government, for its part, apologized last week, saying that although sample ballots were mailed late and several voters have reported not receiving theirs, the ballots nonetheless were mailed and that follow-up mailings should have completed the informational process required by the Charter.

At press time, officials claimed that voting was 89% complete and would be finished within a week.

"Plateau" Becomes 2000th Fed Member

Planet Honored by Milestone

(PLATEAU, AP): The Federation added its 2000th member yesterday with the acceptance of Plateau to full membership. The vote in Council was 1927-64, with the Angosians leading seven other worlds into the "Abstain" lobby.

The newest Fed member was colonized by fans of Larry Niven's *Tales of Known Space*. The Plateaunian Prime Minister was quoted as saying, "We are deeply honored at being accepted, more so at the landmark of the 2000th joined planet."

The population of Plateau is small, consisting of only the following:

- Austria (Matthew Lahtinen): a vie, a bud, f tri.
- England (Tim Goodwin): f lon, f edi, a lvp.
- France (Don Williams): a par, a mar, f bre.
- Germany (James Battle): a mun, f kie, a ber.
- Italy (Victor Thomas): f nap, a ven, a rom.
- Russia (Jeff August): f stp/nc, a war, a mos, f sev.
- Turkey (Dave Golias): a con, a smy, f ank.

The government-controlled press announced that each citizen had been assigned a country by random draw. Victor Thomas is the only citizen who has not yet paid the \$5 Federation poll tax.

A copy of the houserules and a 'codename' has been issued to each Plateaunian, for use in communicating with the Federation's Central Services Section. Welcome and good luck to our new comrades!

Deadline for Spring 1901 is about June 10.

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Among the Trees

by Pete Gaughan

This month, a 'succotash' column: all the odds and ends thrown into one pot. (Those residing in the north may wish to consider it a 'stew' column.)

Ψ Joke of the Month: President Clinton is miffed that John Kruk's surgeon got to throw out the first ball of the season. (If you don't get that you simply have to pay more attention to the sports section.)

Ψ July 11 will be the 2000th day before the arrival of the year 2000.

Ψ Highly Recommended: Christopher Stone's *The Gnat is Older Than Man: Global Environment and Human Agenda*. Stone is a moderate environmentalist whose research has led him to the belief that we're NOT going to hell in a climate-changing handbasket. Take him with a tablespoon of salt but he makes many excellent middle-ground positions.

Pete, I suppose this was one of yours?

Hope you're proud of yourself....Chuff

Fifth-graders learn ghastly life lesson

■ In front of youngsters, hawk devours chick raised by students

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LOMPOC — Horrified youngsters watched helplessly during recess as a hawk swooped down and grabbed a chick named Peep Jr., which was nurtured by a fifth-grade class at Los Berros school.

"A red-tailed hawk swooped down and took him away from the kids," said student teacher Lori Stitch. The hawk took the chick to the top of a telephone pole and "ate it" while students looked on Friday morning.

Stitch said there was no time to shield the children. The youngsters "learned about the food chain" — a big bird swallowing a little bird — "but they also learned how fragile life is," the student teacher said.

Peep Jr. hatched Feb. 4 and was the only survivor in a



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Peep Jr. sits on the shoulder of Wray Stitch, whose daughter Lori brought the chick home on weekends from school.

dozen fertile eggs fifth-grade students had nurtured in an incubator.

Peep Jr., who was named by the class, "never knew another chicken," Stitch mourned.

Ψ Also Highly Recommended: Jon Carroll's *Near-Life Experiences*. Columnist for the *SF Chronicle* masquerades as quirky thinker; let me give you an example:

"The very fine and famous New York Times reported this week that 'something' unknown and unexplained is exerting a tremendous pull on every celestial body in the Milky Way and in several surrounding galaxies. ... [description of enlightening home accident]... It was at that moment that I realized what the vast mysterious thingie in the center of the universe must be made of: stupidity.

"What better explanation?

"We are all very smart and useful people and yet on a regular basis we throw the car keys down the garbage disposal, or drive to the supermarket with the parking brake on, or dial our grandmothers in Cleveland when we are trying to order Chinese take-out.

"Friends, it is not our fault! We are irresistibly drawn to the stupidity at the center of the universe."

See how good he is? Read him. (And I point out, I never call my grandmother in Cleveland since my grandmother in Cleveland has been dead for more than a decade.)

Ψ Check It Out: We got new bank checks this month, at long last deciding not to pay the extortionate prices our bank charges and ordering checks by mail. We have three designs, all birds (black-capped chickadees, Eastern bluebirds, and ruby-throated hummingbirds). So this week what do I get? Subscription checks from David McCrumb (mallards) and Randy Havens (sandhill cranes). Sandhill cranes!? I wish I had that option! Does anyone have a more rare species on a check?!

Ψ To go with the killer-hawk item Chuff Afflerbach sent in (reprinted at the left), this is from the *SF Chronicle*. Wildlife experts in Detroit are amazed by the two-timing behavior of a peregrine falcon they have been monitoring. "Pop" has been commuting daily between the nests of his two girlfriends, Judy and Sunrise, wooing each of them with tasty treats such as dead pigeons and other birds he has killed. Judy Jerke, coordinator of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources program that introduced the predatory birds into urban areas, thinks this is highly unusual behavior for a falcon, which are believed to be faithful to one mate at a time. It could be that this kind of mating has just gone unnoticed in the wild, or is perhaps "just a normal city thing," speculates Jerke.

(A similar Peregrine report has been received from Cleveland, Ohio, but in that instance the two females fought, with the 'other woman' winning round one, the 'scorned wife' winning the second and apparently final round. Also, Chuff Afflerbach reports that the male PEFA atop the Met Life building in San Francisco is apparently a loner, with no mate nor nest, so the company will not be breaking any laws by taking down the sign-letters where he normally roosts!)

Ψ The Texas Rangers decided not to name their new Ballpark after Nolan Ryan; they didn't even retire his number (at least not right away). Instead they retired *the whole damn jersey design!* But I am disappointed they completely abandoned their blue color scheme, and am still disappointed in the choice of name for the new stadium. The park itself looks nice; I spent Sunday evening watching the Rangers/Orioles game trying to figure out just what is located in that 'office building' in center field. (ESPN showed us the art gallery, and I assume there's a restaurant in there overlooking the field, but what else?)

Perelandra's Top Ten Candies

10. gummy worms
9. wintergreen lozenges
8. Kit-Kat
7. SweeTarts
6. Tropical Skittles
5. non-pareils
4. U-NO
3. Milky Way Dark
2. 3 Musketeers
1. Mint U-NO

Ψ This 'category' changes from time to time, but... Film character I see myself most like: Norman L. Thayer, Jr. (Henry Fonda's part in *On Golden Pond*).

Ψ Deadline news: I am going to try to creep the deadline back each month so that eventually we return to publishing on the first of the month. But if the next issue gets held up we may wind up 'skipping' a month via five-week deadlines. NMRs are killing me—get your orders in! ♣

I am nothing if not an optimist. After the Blow Jays became the first team to lose a League Championship Series after winning three games (in 1985) I predicted that the first World Series game to take place in Canada would take place in Vancouver. I had to be an optimist to predict a franchise for Vancouver at that time (although in my defense I must point out that schemes to have the Mariners play some home games here have been seriously considered, and there was even some wild speculation—after it became apparent that Vancouver was lower than Vladivostok on the expansion team depth chart—that the Giants might move here in 1986), but I was beginning to believe that no Canadian team could ever get to, much less win, a World Series. Although I've been since proven wrong on that score, I still wear my Expos jacket with pride, and my response to anyone who asks if I'm a fan is "best value for money in the major leagues," which nicely pre-answers the next question: why don't you root for the Blue Jays? (People do ask it anyhow—the Blue Jay bandwagon is equipped with death-grip seatbelts—and I explain that to get about a half-dozen fewer wins last year, the Expos spent about one-third what "Canada's team" spent on salaries.)

But I digress. What this article is about is not baseball, but hoops. You see, I have good reason to believe, as I write this early in 1994, that the first NBA regular season game to be played in Canada will be played in Vancouver, in the fall of 1995. I believe this despite that Toronto already has been granted a conditional NBA expansion franchise. And I don't mean that Vancouver will also get one and will just happen to play their home opener first, I mean that the ONLY Canadian team in the NBA will be in Vancouver. And I am not an optimist this time. It really might happen.

The events that have taken place to bring this about follow: Earlier this year, the NBA granted a conditional franchise to one of five groups of dueling businessmen from Toronto, Canada's largest metropolis (like most big cities, Toronto itself is quite small, but has suburbanized for miles in every direction possible). Earlier it had become open knowledge that the league was interested in Toronto, and, being the financial capital of the country, Toronto immediately set about screwing up this wonderful windfall by forming five separate bids that fought amongst themselves so fiercely many are surprised that the NBA didn't look instead to more peaceful places, such as Sarajevo or Mogadishu. At the same time, a group of non-dueling Vancouver businessmen, led by the hockey team president, put in a bid in case the NBA was interested in a second Canadian team. The Vancouver bid had the disadvantage of being uninvited and perhaps not as deep in the wallet, but had the advantage of being co-operative and non-combative, and had a fine trump card. The Toronto bids all proposed a new arena to be built for the team, but the Vancouver bid proposed to play in an impressive arena ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION (funded entirely without government funds, mostly as a result of the government screwing them for years on their current arena lease) for the hockey team. So the NBA chose one of the Toronto bids, granted it a conditional franchise, and extended a cordial invite to Vancouver, excited about everything but the lack of an obvious Mr. Deep Pockets. Then the crucial condition (applicable to Toronto and Vancouver) became public knowledge: no legalized betting on NBA games, or we'll expand elsewhere.

Canada's lotteries are run regionally: there are separate lottery corporations for B.C. (Vancouver's province: British Columbia), Ontario (Toronto's province), Quebec, plus one that covers the Atlantic provinces, and one that covers the Prairies and the North. All five have their own sports betting games, which include the NBA. I think that the games are basically the same

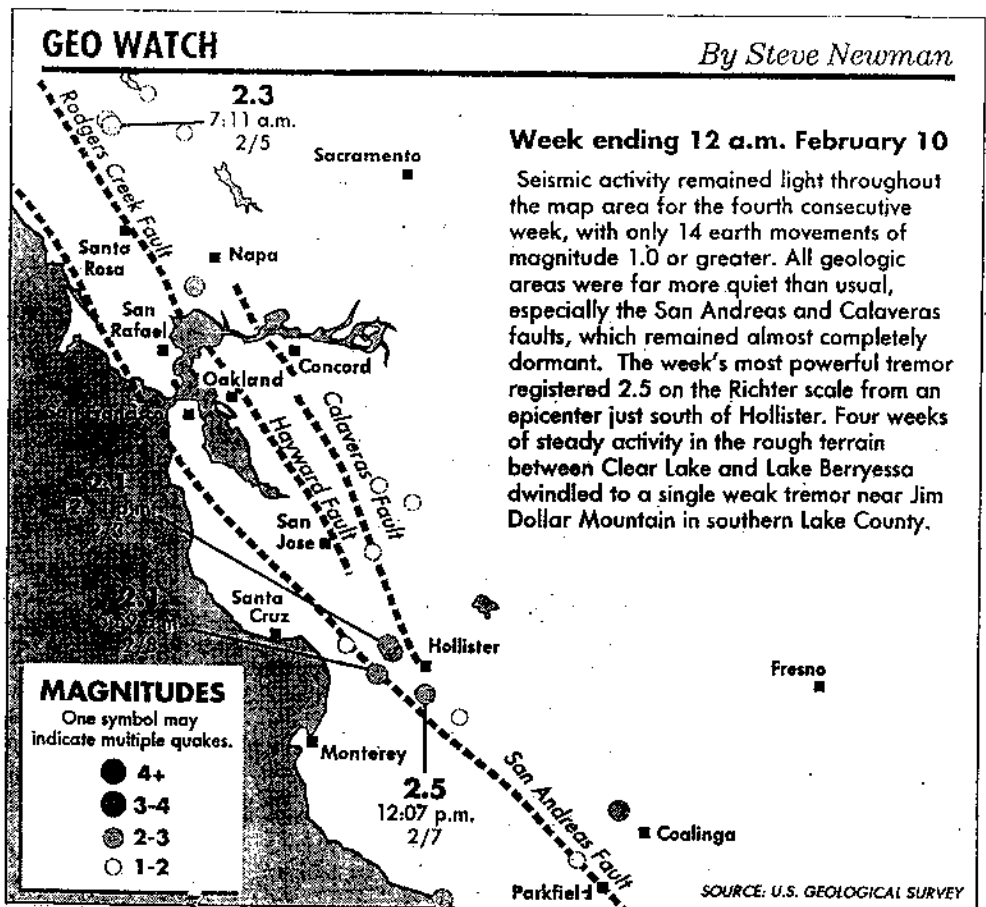
across Canada: once a week, about 70 events are listed with three numbers for each. You might see the following:

1 SEA at ING (Basketball) V: 1.65 T: 3.75 H: 3.05 O/U: 201.5

This line means that Seattle is playing on the road against Inglewood (this means the LA Lakers; since they are in legal jeopardy if they use a team nickname, or even a part of it such as LAL/LAC, this is necessary) and the V-T-H odds are pretty straightforward (in sports that always decide a winner, close games are designated as ties for the purpose of the game: one-run games in baseball are ties, 3 or less points in football, 5 or less in basketball); the O/U is an over/under line. The catch for the set-odds game is that you must bet on at least three games (maximum six) and get them all correct to win anything. The over/under catch is that the payoff structure is ludicrous, three correct (the minimum, and you lose if you get even one out of twelve wrong) pays only 5-1, a 25% house take. As you might expect, the bookies are not losing much business to the lottery corporation with rules like that. But there are people who play it, people who will spend the minimum \$2 to get a six-underdog ticket that will pay \$5000 the day after hell freezes over. There are even serious sports fans who feel that they can win money. But the limit is \$100 and the payoff limit is \$5000, no matter what the bet amount is, so unless you make a lot of trips to the lottery store (and the rules of the game say that the lottery company can zap any game at any time, in case there's a typo and a few million tickets on the obvious get sold) you can't make a whole lot you couldn't make with a bookie. This game has run for about five years here, and there have been no serious problems yet (although once I faced a customer who wanted to know what the hell was going on when the baseball all star game was listed as West vs East: I guess I should have asked him why the hell he'd want to bet on a mean-nothing game anyhow!). The money raised from all lottery money in Canada goes into the coffers of the provincial government, and emerges as hospitals, social programs and amateur sport funding.

And at this point, Ontario won't give this money up, but B.C. just might!

In the last five years the provinces of Ontario, B.C. and Saskatchewan have elected NDP governments. NDP stands for New Democratic Party, and you may draw the obvious conclusions from any political party which



deems it necessary to assure voters in its very name that it purports to be democratic; but socialist would be a far more accurate description. In Saskatchewan, birthplace of the NDP, this has created waves. In B.C., people recall the previous NDP reign (fiasco might be a better and more accurate word here) in the mid-seventies and cross their fingers.

But in Ontario, the arrival of new premier Bob Rae and his band of outspoken, politically correct at all costs socialists created a conflict of mega-magnitude: Toronto, city of bankers and businessmen and Conservative party hacks who used to be one of the previously mentioned, is the provincial capital, yet power, for the first time ever, has fallen into the hands of the enemy party. Imagine how the bankers and businessmen viewed the spectacle of one of their own getting an NBA franchise (estimated value to Toronto's economy: \$100 million per annum) only to have The Enemy smite the prize, favouring instead to keep the basketball lottery money (estimated value: \$2 million per annum currently, perhaps as much as \$20 million if there someday appears a Toronto team to bet on) flowing to the sick and the poor. The fact that it makes little financial sense is easily shot down by political correctness, since it must be politically incorrect to take money earmarked for the poor and sick for any reason, even if doing so boosts the economy at least ten times as much as the money lost. Ask any comrade if you don't understand this.

It must be stated that the government of Ontario has a reasonable defence to the above allegations of financial stupidity. They claim that banning basketball from the lotto tickets may have serious repercussions. If the Toronto Skywalkers (or whatever they want to call them) do not have to suffer the indignity of lotto grannies rooting for the visitors because that was the box on the selection slip they marked, other Toronto teams (the Jays, the hockey Maple Leafs, perhaps even the Toronto Argonauts of the CFL) will want the same treatment, and the other leagues may see an opening and try to get the sports lottery shut down altogether. This would mean not \$2 million out of the coffers, but more like \$50 million per year. This is still only half of the estimated value of the Skywalkers to Toronto's economy, but you can be sure that the \$100 million figure cooked up by the bankers and businessmen is looked upon quite dubiously by the socialists. The fact that the two figures are now in the same arena make it almost reasonable to come down either way.

But this is quickly seen as raving paranoia on the government's part. The other Toronto teams all feel that the sports lotteries benefit their games. Despite the harsh words from the NHL which led to the "Inglewood rule" (which, applied to the NHL gives us the "Long Island" Islanders, luckily the new L.A. team is officially the Mighty Ducks of ANAHEIM), NHL teams advertise these lotto diversions at their games and display the game logos on their boards advertising. The CFL has come out in favour of legal sports games, and baseball hasn't got a commissioner now and didn't give a damn when it did. A court case to remove hockey or baseball from the sports game menu would be expensive and embarrassing for the leagues, and might actually be to their detri-

ment. The strength of the NBA's position is that it is demanding basketball be scrapped before an NBA basketball game is played in Ontario or B.C.

Another thing making it difficult for the NBA to back down is the millions of dollars spent already by the hoops league in a full courtroom press against sports betting by any American lottery company in an area where an NBA team exists. They've won cases in Oregon and a handful of other states keeping betting on NBA games illegal. Having spent the dough, they are unlikely to write it off and back down. Hoop fans in Toronto have been quoted as mentioning "the sovereignty issue," but the answer to "What right has the NBA to dictate the laws of the land to Canadians?" is "None, but the NBA has no obligation to come to Canada in the first place, so effectively they can force us to decide."

The difference in B.C. is that our Premier, Mike Harcourt, has gone on record (basketball in hand) to say that the BC Lottery Corporation will do what it can to comply with the NBA's demands if a franchise is granted. Obviously they understand that the other sports are not going to sue, and the math here is different: an NBA team would be economically huge for the city, and the money lost to basketball betting (despite the increased interest in NBA action due to the success of the nearby Sonics) is quite small. What's more, the Griffiths family, which owns the hockey team, is putting together an impressive board of directors. Arthur Griffiths, son of owner Frank Griffiths, was put in charge of the hockey-club wing of the Griffiths empire in the mid-80's when the Canucks were winning about one in four. There were a lot of cries of nepotism then, especially when things did not improve right away. But Arthur made a shrewd move in hiring Pat Quinn to run the hockey club, and since then the team has risen to the top third of the league, as Quinn is left to run the team and Arthur doesn't interfere. The prospective arena will be perfect for almost anything: expensive seats can be removed and added, and the level of the floor can be raised and lowered to place the front row of seats right on the sidelines of basketball, hockey, Olympic-size rink hockey, or even curling. The combination of hockey and basketball in an arena owned by the Griffiths is going to offset the \$100 million franchise fee, and the NBA is getting the idea that the arena is going up whether they arrive or not, and if they do, they won't need a Mr. Deep Pockets, they'll be creating one.

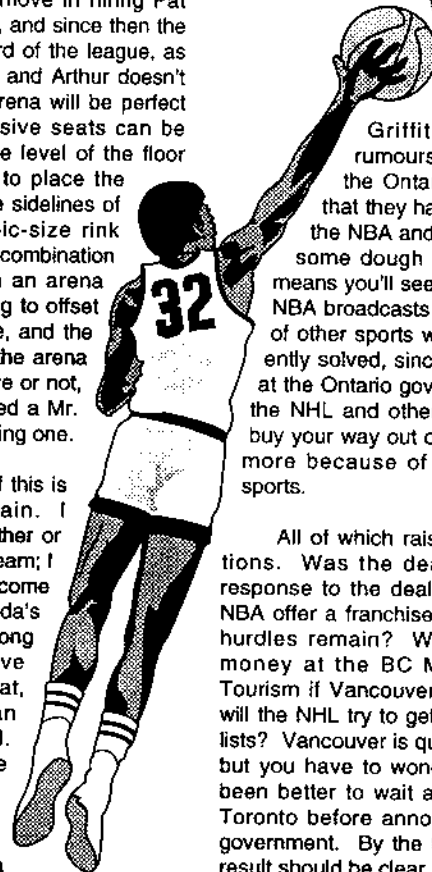
The biggest joke in all of this is Toronto losing out yet again. I couldn't care less about whether or not Vancouver gets an NBA team; I haven't enough disposable income to buy a single ticket. Canada's largest and richest city has a long list of status symbols they've tried like hell for and failed at, where other large Canadian cities have succeeded. Montreal got major league baseball before Toronto did. The SkyDome (which Torontonians call simply "SkyDome" as though it is a separate and revered place; they say

"we're going to see the Jays at SkyDome" in the same rhythm as "we're going to attend the service at church") was built in great haste when Toronto discovered that Vancouver and Montreal had built covered stadiums. Montreal and Calgary have hosted Olympic Games; Toronto keeps putting in extravagant and dubious bids. Montreal and Vancouver have hosted World's Fairs, Toronto keeps putting bids in. Toronto is very concerned about its image, when the only thing really wrong with Toronto, a clean, large city that looks good, has fine character, a good tolerance for immigrants, and just plain WORKS, is that it tries so hard to be somehow special, or big-league, or world-class, whatever this may mean. Whether it succeeds at this is irrelevant: it's the magnitude of the effort that is ridiculous.

The 90% of Canadians who do not live in Toronto will certainly have a great laugh if Toronto manages to shoot itself in the foot and close the door on an NBA franchise. The only thing I'm crying about is the lame nickname for the Vancouver team. Joining the Miami Heat, Orlando Magic, and Charlotte Hornets will be a team with a nickname that, for pizzazz, ranks right down there with the Minnesota Timberwolves and for originality has no rank at all: they've resurrected from Triple-A ball in the 50s and 60s (Jim Bouton's book Ball Four includes a segment of the 1969 season spent playing here) the name Vancouver Mounties. How the hell they hope to sell merchandise on that, I must admit I have no idea.

AFTERWORD I wrote the above in mid-January; it now being mid-February, an update is in order. The NBA all-star game is this weekend, and yesterday Harcourt and Griffiths signed a deal getting rid of basketball betting in BC once the franchise begins play. In return, the team will kick in funds towards health care and a hospice being bankrolled by the Griffiths. Today, before the rumours died down, the NBA and the Ontario government announced that they had reached a deal based on the NBA and the Toronto team throwing some dough to the government, which means you'll see Ontario tourism plugged in NBA broadcasts in two years. The problem of other sports wanting out of this is apparently solved, since the NBA throwing money at the Ontario government is supposed to tell the NHL and other leagues that you too can buy your way out of this, but it'll cost you a bit more because of the extra action of your sports.

All of which raises some interesting questions. Was the deal reached in Ontario in response to the deal reached in BC? Will the NBA offer a franchise to Vancouver now that no hurdles remain? Will the NBA throw similar money at the BC Ministries of Health and Tourism if Vancouver gets a franchise? If not, will the NHL try to get itself off the Sports Action lists? Vancouver is quietly confident at this point, but you have to wonder if they might not have been better to wait and see what happened in Toronto before announcing their deal with the government. By the time this all sees print, the result should be clear. ♣



It's Me Again!

by Cathy Gaughan

Hi everyone! Sorry it's been so long since you've heard from me. But sometimes life really sucks and writing this article isn't as fun for me when I'm in a down mood. But so many of you have written little notes asking about me I figured you wanted to hear something.

Well, at the end of February I was laid off from Homecare Medical Specialist. As jobs go, it was the worst job I've ever had to endure, but it brought home a paycheck. A paycheck that was to help in buying a house. So now Pete's and my life are on hold waiting for me to find another job.

Looking for work sucks, too. How many rejections do you have to go through before someone finally offers you a job? I start doubting my value and worth as a person. I know, I know you're not supposed to, but how do you detach yourself from feeling that way?

I went to the doctor in mid-January and she told me I was clinically depressed, so I'm on the controversial drug Prozac. I can't imagine what I might be feeling like if I weren't on an antidepressant. It is not the "happy" drug for me like it is for some people. I do think that I don't panic at situations like I had been. I'm not quite as desperate.

One thing that I'm very proud of is that through all of this turmoil in my life I haven't gone back to overeating. I have now lost 49 lbs. I keep praying that I won't suddenly gain it all back. Thanks to all of you for your words of encouragement in that area, too.

One advantage of not working is getting to go with Pete on his business trips. We went to Crescent City and Eureka. It was nice to get away and not feel pressured about job hunting. We got to see some elk and big trees. I got to shop a mall for about four hours or more while Pete was making a call on a store. So Pete didn't quite break even since he brought me along, but he had lots more fun!

This weekend, April 8, 9, and 10, is my Sweet Adelines Regional Competition. My chorus will perform 6th out of about 20 choruses on Saturday. I hope we do well because I feel the life of the chorus could depend on it.

Well, wish me luck on my job search and I hope I haven't been too depressing. I wish you all the best of luck in whatever you may be doing!

Later,

Be like the bird
who halting in his flight
on limb too slight
feels it give away
beneath him yet sings
knowing he has wings.

Victor Hugo

The Roar of the Greasepaint

(the letter column)

Mark Weseman

Thank you for issue #117 of *Pere*. The reading material keeps getting better. Keep up the good work. Is ZR going to end up like *Froggy*?

[[OUCH. No, ZR is in fact sitting on my desk, awaiting a couple of bits of artwork and then the copier. It should be on its way within a week of whenever I mail this issue of Pere.

[[As for the reading material progressing, credit the addition of Bruce McInyre!]]

Victor Thomas

Sorry the moves are at the last minute but my wife just delivered our first daughter, Taylor (my son is three).

[[Congratulations and much love to each of you!]]

David McCrumb

Land/house prices in your area have astounded us ever since an author friend of Sharyn's bid \$100,000 for a lot (and a small one at that) and failed to get it. We keep asking her if she would like to buy a cup of dirt for \$10. Should we send you one?

[[We'll buy any dirt that comes with a guaranteed entitlement to a place to put it!]]

What is the law Rick mentioned where parents are criminals if they discipline their children? I've heard of such laws in Sweden (?) (or was that Norway?). And parents should be held accountable for the actions of their children. They used to be.

[[I think Rick was talking about sightened child-abuse laws out here, but I'll let him answer.]]

I am happy Spielberg finally get his Oscar. *Schindler's List* was an excellent movie. However, I do not want to ever see it again. It was overpowering. Now he can get back to his adventure movies.

[[It's on my list, if only for 'historic' value, but I have to admit some trepidation at the length of the film and the emotion people are saying it draws out.]]

Steven Carlberg

Thanks for sending #117 my way! It's good to see *Perelandra* marching ever onward. You've got a hopping lettercol! Politics... Reagan and Bush got away with murder—I'm speaking literally—and Bill and Hillary may be trying to get away with cheating on their taxes. There's a difference of degree here, though you'd never know it to hear some people talk. But obviously the politicians we criticize are the ones whose politics we disagree with. If Whitewater is the worst thing that can be pinned on the Clintons, then Whitewater is what the Republicans will try to use to slime them—the better to get back to the business of stealing from the middle class and giving to the rich, leaving the poor to think about violence and revolution.

Anyway, I'm not really writing to talk about politics. I presume you sent me this issue so I could see the postgame commentary on "Arrakis," a game I started as Germany. I was delighted to learn that John Schultz had taken Germany to part of a four-way draw in this game! John is excellent in positions in which a lesser mortal might simply fold up the tents and slip away, and his three-center Germany in a tie with three double-digit powers certainly helps to prove it.

As for the discussion provoked by my having written a letter to my replacement explaining what seemed to me to be going on in the game, I can't believe that anyone seriously thinks this could be against the rules. This is Diplomacy, after all. I can say anything I want to anybody I want. (Except that I mustn't lie to the GM, of course.) Raising a fuss about this as a ploy to gain sympathy may be a valid piece of diplomacy, but that doesn't make my writing any letter an infraction of the rules.

Incidentally, it overstates the case to say that I "charted the course" for John's Germany or in any way told him what to do. My letter told him what HAD BEEN going on in the game and what the current situation was from my point of view. If I HAD "told him what to do," doing so wouldn't have been a rules infraction, but as a matter of fact, I didn't. I did have "some fairly specific thoughts" about the board situation, but I don't recall "urging" any particular course of action. I knew that the new Germany, whoever he was, would do what HE wanted to do; I just wanted to leave him with a clue about what he was up against.

I don't think anyone would object if a similar situation arose in a face-to-face game. Suppose one player had to leave the game for some reason, and everyone agreed to permit a replacement player to take over. It would be perfectly normal for the departing player to take his replacement aside for a minute or two and explain what was going on in the game.

You can complain about my motives all you like, but so what? "I can say anything I want" is still the way Diplomacy works, and "My motives can be whatever I like" is part of the deal, too. You can't stop observers from talking about the game, and you can't stop ex-players, either. Frankly, I suspect John of using your consternation against you, and encouraging you to think it was worse than it was just because it seemed to get your goat!

Thanks to everybody for a good game—what I saw of it—and thanks to John Schultz, at least, for approving and appreciating the methods I used when leaving it.

Thanks again, Pete, for sending the zine my way. Maybe someday when I surpass "dilettante" status, I'll get into *Perelandra* on a regular basis again.

Seen "In The Name of the Father" yet? It's a good one! Made by Gabriel Byrne, the Irish director who also made that movie about the horse, "Into The West", I mentioned to you.

[[Nope, ain't seen a movie in a while. I've got Schindler's List on my list but have to find someone to go with; Cathy]]

John Schultz

I beg to differ in regards to Don's early letters to me (*[[in Arrakis]]*). He was extremely rude, and personal. But I always recognized it for what it was. He was baiting me. My 'mellow-heat' statement was in a letter in which I told him I wasn't going to bite. I'm not sure if I've been baited better, but most certainly as good. I'm sure Don has made dip enemies. I'm not one of them. I found his early rantings quite humorous and missed them when they ended.

I still believe Steven's departure was 'stylish.' So many times a standby enters the game with no idea what's going on. He never 'told' me what to do, but did suggest what his plans had been. In the end I followed my own path of fence-riding. Had I not, whatever decision I made would have been mine and mine alone. Should someone have suggested, and really meant it, that I was not capable or willing to make these decisions on my own, I would rightly, I believe, feel insulted.

Don Scheifler

My letter to John in Arrakis regarding a resigning player sending a letter to his successor was as much a ploy as sincere argument, just as you suggested. My aim was to shake John out of his apparent commitment to following the instructions or "fairly specific thoughts" in Steven's letter. Friendly negotiations had failed to make him reconsider, so I took a longshot. I had few options.

My real opinion is that if a departing player wants to play Hari Seldon (*Asimov's Foundation*), that's his business. The player assuming the position may follow the suggestions, or ignore them as he likes. I personally would not write such a letter, and would not automatically follow such instructions when received, but I have no real objection to others doing so.

I enjoy the negotiating more than the tactics. Sometimes an unusual ingredient in the stew makes a meal even more delicious. Steven's letter just added a little spice to the negotiations, and was really not the irritant my letter to John may suggest.

Tim Goodwin

I worked with Jim [Cote] for a while at Informix Systems. He was an avid gamer in college and in general likes all games. We talked a lot about bridge and he started playing duplicate with me. I fixed him up with a young bridge player who had just moved to the area, Jeff McKee. The night after I taught Jim how to play Dip, Jeff overheard us talking about it and introduced us to pbm. Jim was, perhaps, more excited about starting Arrakis than I was.

The fact that we drew E and T did not dispel the fears of the other players. Both Eric and Don admitted to me that the fact that Jim and I saw each other regularly influenced their early strategies. Quite the opposite from having an inclination to ally, we saw the game as a challenge to see which of us would do better in our first attempt at pbm. Had we drawn neighboring powers we probably would have been fighting from the start. (I am sure you would not have let that happen.) Although it was not a significant factor in my early exit, I would not enter a game with an outside-of-Dip friend again, and wish that you had warned us against it.

I'm sorry that Don was so turned off by the copied letter of introduction. I know now how important first contact is. In fact, I heard from Steven first. He sent a rather detailed plan for an attack on France. By the time I heard from Don I had already decided to go along with Steven. Don's first letter to me was virtually as lacking in substance as mine to him. It is too bad we took a season to really get going, because I also enjoyed our correspondence and regretted early that I had been so taken by Steven's plan. Despite our early aggression and the ease with which France could occupy England at the time, I thought that there was a good chance that Don would go along with his offer to let me survive if I fought R/G. Alas, it was not to be. Is it odd to cheer for the power that took you out? That's what I did. I followed the game and was pulling for France.

[[Thanks very much for all your comments, and especially for telling me you would have preferred a warning. I agonized a bit over whether or not to say something, and in the future I will do so—it seemed like GM interference to me at the time.]]

Hey, are you involved with any real Rotisserie leagues? Draftday is coming right up. My two teams finished first and second last year. They are sort of depleted of bargains because of the pennant race last year. Any good tips on future American League stars?

[[No, I'm not a Roti-head... and I'm not much good on the AL either, being a Dodger fan first. But whoever got Geronimo Berroa (A's) in your league is probably gloating a Cheshire grin about now; I like the Brewers' entire bullpen, and I wish the Yankees would find a way to get Russ Davis into the big.]]

Andy Marshall

Bummer about Cathy getting laid off, and about losing the opportunity to buy a place. Hope she gets something else soon enough for y'all to buy... I found I really liked owning my own home (I still own it, I just don't live there any more).

Andy York

You should try *A Little Original Sin*. Vick puts out a really nice zine, and I enjoy it quite a bit. I do agree *Spring Offensive* is an excellent zine; and I'll have to try out *Dolchstoss*, *U-Bend*, *Smadnoc* and *Cut & Thrust*. As for your top ten zines, I agree all of them are excellent (though I don't get *Intercepted* nor *U-Bend*).

Let me know how you enjoyed Origins. I don't

know how well attended it will be due to the poor publicity; but, without Atlanticon happening, some East Coasters may head in the direction (or just wait for AvalonCon).

I enjoyed the poems you wrote. 'dialects' was the best, in my opinion.

You mention that Cathy lost her job. I'm sorry to hear that. Is she looking again; or is she going to lead a life of leisure for a bit?

[[Welllll... she's now (as of this typing) had six weeks of leisure. I figured she'd look for something, so we can jump back into the house market. More detail amidst Brent McKee's letter...]]

David Hood

I agree with your comment to Brad—the cancellation of Atlanticon for 1994 is a terrible move. People will just go to AvalonCon instead, get hooked, and will be less likely to go to the 1995 event (particularly people like me who can only go to one or the other per year). I'm also pissed because I wanted to go to Atlanticon this year.

The effect on the DipCon bid may also be bad, though it's too early to tell.

[[Of course we have Origins here, giving me very little motivation to travel for my one game-con fix this year.

[[I was planning to skip an East Coast trip in 1994, but now my parents have arranged a big family celebration of my grandparents' 60th anniversary. They live in Rochester (NY) but we'll hold it as my aunt's place in Thomaston, Maine (they run the Port Clyde-Monhegan ferry). Because we're in income-flux right now, my folks are going to pick up the airfare.

[[Also, now that my dad and I are divvying this territory two ways instead of three, I have more ground to cover—I have to get up to Yosemite on business (yay!) soon.

[[The upshot is that between mid-May (when I hope to go to Leprecon) and late July, I may only be home one or two weekends. As Jim Burgess said this weekend, "Every minute is filled up with something, and I have only myself to blame."]]

Brad Wilson

I, too, write stories that get rejection slips. Good luck and Godspeed to Jim Bailey! The only way to succeed at fiction is to keep trying.

I agree that Atlanticon skipping 1994 is a mistake, too, for all kinds of reasons, but I expect Origins to be a big hit. I'll miss Atlanticon in '94 because I always had a good time there and if I stay in Chicago it's one less reason to go to the East Coast.

Re: Don Williams' comment on wanting the quake magnitude increased. In mid-season 1951, Bill Veeck bought the St. Louis Browns and quickly agreed with all the fans that the Browns were the worst team in baseball. He noted that a) it was probably true, so why insult Brownie fans, and b) as he said, "There's a certain satisfaction to being the very worst. After all, if your town is wiped out by a hurricane, it might as well be the worst hurricane on record." I'd concur.

You are correct that I am betting on Kushner's "Perestroika." I don't find his work all that compelling (the best playwrights don't always seem to be shouting at you the way Kushner is) but the New York crowd is agog over him and that may be enough. Limbaugh for a Nobel? My, my. It'd be amusing if nothing else. Robert Waller better not win the ABA.

Stan Johnson

I hate to admit I agree with Brad Wilson but I hate predictive retreats too. I also must thank Brad for elaborating on my victimless-crime comments.

David, I have no problem with the rich who earn their money; I resent those that get by merely parlaying their connections into high-paying jobs; I hate the rich who make their money by robbing the middle class.

CEOs who vote themselves outrageous bonuses at the expense of common shareholders and workers; millionaires whose fortunes rest on subsidized water, sugar, logging, grazing rights, etc.

In response to Mr. McKinnon, I like celebrity skin! or any other kind!

Brent McKee

In the spirit of continuing the "Find Pete and Cathy a house" effort, I'd like to tell you about Saskatoon. First of all, bear in mind that your \$80,000 US would be about \$105,000 Canadian. For about \$70,000 you can get a 3 bedroom/1 bath in a fairly good neighborhood. \$105,000 buys a home in some of the better neighborhoods, and if you can add another \$20,000 you are in all but the ritziest parts of town. \$250,000 or so gets you a home with indoor pool and a view of the river in the very best part of the city, or 40-60 acres just outside of town.

[[Okay, here's the real deal. IF Cathy finds work again, we are assured by a mortgage broker that we can get a 3 to 6% down FHA loan for just about any home up to \$120,000. That figure buys nothing in the cities immediately surrounding San Francisco and San Pablo Bays (get out your maps). So we're looking east, specifically toward an unincorporated area called Bay Point. It's on the Sacramento River, between Concord and Pittsburg.

[[That \$120,000 should buy us a three bedroom/two bath ranch-style with a small yard (maybe 200 square feet each front and back). Until Cathy gets working though, nothing happens—I'm likely to have a 50% increase in income this year over '92 and '93, but the banks don't rely on anything but past performance (quite rightly). SO, we are strongly considering moving to another apartment closer to the Concord-Walnut Creek area, to do two things. First, we cut our rent from its current \$845 for 800 square feet to something less than \$600. Second, it's then easier for Cathy to job-hunt in our target area (and accept temp work there in the interim) since we're currently 50 miles from Concord.

[[It may mean putting off a house for several months, if we are forced to go with a three- or six-month lease, but if it saves us \$250/month it'll serve part of the house-hunting purpose as well.]]

I find myself in the unusual (for me anyway) position of agreeing with Brad Wilson, about legalization of gambling and prostitution. When those sorts of activities come out from undercover, where they are forced to exist by the laws against them, it is possible to regulate them. In the case of gambling, not only could you tax the millions of dollars that are won, you could tax the billions of dollars lost each year. The situation in Britain shows that legalized gambling doesn't automatically mean that sports events will be fixed. On the contrary, I would suggest you are less likely to see events being fixed if the bookmakers aren't criminals but businessmen. In terms of prostitution, legalization would allow the government to define where it could take place, under what conditions, and even who could take part. Legalization permits regulation. My only fear is that if things like gambling and prostitution are legalized and governed by strict regulations someone will come along and try to deregulate those industries. As we've seen in the past (the S&Ls come to mind), deregulation can be an unmitigated disaster.

[[Hmm, an interesting mental exercise. If prostitution were legal and heavily regulated, would politicians be called for deregulation (less government interference), or would that be seen as immoral (we are, after all, talking about a taboo for many people)?

[[I think these things should be legalized, and we should try to develop society to the points where they are healthy entertainment rather than vices (and make no mistake, right now these are vices—addictions in some cases, but bad for people at any rate). Prostitution is what some

folks use as a solution to very serious problems. If we lift the stigma of prostitution without solving the problems, we'll just have more addicts, victims, and abusers.]]

Kim Head

Your cost of living is amazing. I own (well, it is mortgaged) a three-bedroom terraced house, with a fifty foot garden, which I would struggle to get over £30,000 for. It is on a 'bad' housing estate, but as you may know Devon is thought to be a great place to live, generally, between the sea and the moorlands.

Likewise the comparison with dental treatment. The Conservative government has been busy dismantling our cherished National Health Service for many years now and dental care has been one of the areas to suffer most. Like you, I have just recently needed to avail myself of the services of a dentist rather more than ever before and I thought it was costing me an arm and a leg. Last session was a crown and a filling for £79.

Still, I suppose it is all relative to earnings, isn't it?

[[Hm, yes, I just realized I'm not familiar with typical incomes in Britain. I made \$17,000 net last year on \$24,000 commissions. Cathy made about the same (\$17,000), all this before taxes of any kind. Does that give you a sense of scale? Not all things are relative, though; we both could probably make the same incomes elsewhere in the U.S. and have a lower cost of living, but then we wouldn't be living in the best habitat in North America. (Saskatoon, indeed...) Without digging into privacy, want to give us an idea of what a typical office clerk makes? (Cathy's not typical but where are you going to find anyone as great as her over there?)]

Rich Irving

A few weeks ago at an SPCA Used Booksale, I found a couple of interesting items: a copy of *Perelandra* for 50 cents (and you see this rag for twice that!); and a 3M edition of *Acquire* for only \$3. (It was hiding under a group of jigsaw puzzles they had.) It has all of the (wood) tiles and cards and looks like it was never played. The money wasn't even wrinkled! Unbelievable!

I don't know how the other players or you feel about it, but if Trafalmore doesn't attract any more players soon, will the people already signed up be willing to play the 14 or 15-player version? (It's been sooo loooooongggg, that I can't remember the different Youngstown variants that were originally offered.) If it would require extensive changes to the map or rules, I could see where you might veto the idea. I really want to play 21 players, but this game has been open for about a year and I'd like to get something started.

[[I agree. But Chris has been recruiting among emailers and has come up with four or five new prospects, and I'm going to give them a month to get checks in to me. IF Tral doesn't come off, I would be glad to run a smaller Youngstown with the remaining interested parties.]]

I know you are probably against the three-division setup, but I kind of like it. (I know this will provoke an argument. But, hey, I think the NL should probably stop being the last league to not have a DH, but that's another story.)

Before the leagues split into divisions in 1969, these pennant chases really meant something: the winner was in the World Series. Last year's Braves-Giants pennant race was a lot of fun (though the Giants lost it), but it meant NOTHING since both teams missed the World Series. I believe the chase also gave the Phillies the advantage in that they had a chance to set their rotation and rest their pitchers, while Atlanta & SF couldn't.

Second, there really are very few close races. It always seems as if a team entering the last week of the season with a 2-3 game deficit loses a couple of games and drops back to 4-5, thus ending the race. In the last 10 years (40 division races), there were only (I believe) three that were decided on the last weekend: '87

Tigers-Jays, '91 Braves-Dodgers, and '93 Braves-Giants. Only one will be remembered as a classic ('93) and only one of these teams made the World Series ('91 Braves).

Third, why were the Giants and Braves even in the same division? Simple, the Cubs and Cardinals had in the '60s (and still have) powerful owners and they vetoed any attempt to place them in the Western division among less prestigious teams. (And forced Commissioner Fay Vincent out two years ago when he tried to impose the change.) In addition, the "balanced" schedule adopted by both leagues really makes the divisional setup even more artificial. How can the Giants-Dodgers be a great rivalry when they each play the Phillies or Expos the same number of times? (Well, really 13 games to 12 games per season.)

I feel postseason play is enhanced when the best teams play for their league's championship. The old divisional setup with its finish-first-among-this-arbitrary-group-of-teams-that-you-don't-even-play-more-games-against situation didn't provide this. I'd also gladly trade exciting postseason matchups every year over a once-a-decade (maybe) great pennant race. All that remains to be seen is how exciting the new playoff series will be. If only they dump the balanced schedule with something like this: 10 games with each team outside your division and 18 or 20 (depending on whether it is a 4- or 5-team division) with each team in it (two extra games may have to be added with a four-team division to get 162 games).

BTW, here are my 1994 baseball picks:

NLW: San Francisco—pretty weak division. Rotation should be better with Portugal. Still a strong lineup and defense.

NLC: Chicago Cubs—best of five mediocre teams

NLE: Atlanta—best starting pitching in baseball. After last year's playoff loss, they still should be hungry. wild card: Los Angeles—should be in a close race with the Phillies. Will challenge the Giants.

ALW: Seattle—worst division in baseball. Texas just doesn't have pitching although they have the best power lineup in the league.

ALC: Chicago White Sox—best pitching in AL. Michael Jordan won't be in the lineup, but Frank Thomas will be.

ALE: Toronto—Alomar, Olerud, Molitor & Carter form a solid lineup. Pitching is a question mark. wild card: New York Yankees—but Cleveland, Baltimore, or maybe even Texas could surprise.

[[Well, you've launched several discussions under one heading. I wonder if you realize you're confusing the issue.

[[Value of winning: well, this is argument against more divisions, not for it. I can believe that with 12 or 14 teams in a league, the League Championship Series was necessary to keep more cities interested in the final month; but that compromises some prestige from the World Series, in my view (it's just a compromise that I'm willing to make). I'm not willing to compromise any further by adding another tier.

[[Pennant races: I don't care whether the leading teams are tied in the final weekend. I don't follow a 162-game season hoping there will be a dead heat! After a long baseball season we should know who the best teams are.

and a team that's ten games up has proven it's the one (and deserves the added bonus of setting its rotation!). What happens with divisions is that a ten-game-leader, or 100-game winner, might not be the best team; three divisions just makes this even more likely.

[[I love this game, in part, because you have to perform well over the long haul to be rewarded. If you want a game where someone can be mediocre in the 'regular' season but can win it all in the playoffs, watch hockey or basketball. If you want a game where the last two weeks are the most important, watch football. Leave my sport alone.

[[Realignment: I've been for it for years. Although I grew up on the rivalry between the Big Red Machine and Walter Alton's Dodgers, I would've supported moving Chicago and St. Louis into the West; once the Rockies joined the NL, NOT realigning was plain stupid. Realignment is a positive byproduct of three divisions, but I wish we could've gotten it by itself.

[[Rivalries: again, unrelated to two vs. three divisions, or number of games. Rivalries are created by the quality of the teams and, most important, their geography. If the Dodgers finish in the basement the next couple of years, there will still be some semblance of LA-SF rivalry just because the folks in Northern California hate LA so much, but it will be lessened. If interleague play is created, the Cubs and White Sox will be the hottest rivalry ever in baseball, despite the Cubs fate never to win.

[[On the other hand, if Colorado gets good there will be an SF-Colorado 'rivalry' even though the cities of SF and Denver have probably never spared each other a second thought. No, divisions don't really matter. Whichever teams are the best, those will be the best rivalries. If we never have a fan rooting against a team, that's just fine with me, so long as they get out and root for their own team.

[[Even that much is complicated by player movement; I was already a bit of a Texas fan but now, of course, I wish them complete success because they've picked up Will Clark, whose attitude toward the game is among the top five. It's gotta be terribly hard to be a Padre fan these days, with only one real Padre left!]]

[[Balanced schedule: you said it, "IF ONLY." Again, this is an issue apart from the three-division problem. IF we must have three divisions, then 10 games vs. outsiders and 16 or 18 against those inside your division gives a 154-game regular season, which provides a week to conduct the wild-card playoff.

[[Given all of that, the final statement is that none of it will happen unless it saves the teams money. So, eight playoff teams (and second-place teams in the playoffs) are here to stay. Working within that constraint, I would wish that a second-place team never gets a home playoff game. I would wish for a return to the shorter regular season so the World Series could be completed before Halloween. And I would wish for year-long, daytime, weekend national TV games, so kids learning the game could fall in love with the game itself and not the hype of the "Playoffs."

[[DH: I don't mind having the leagues differ. It makes for a refreshing change in these days when the previous differences (size of strike zone, style of pitching, stolen-base rate) are being smoothed out.

[[And I thank all the non-baseball fans for hanging in there while we got this out of our systems! ♣]]

DOODLEBURY Garry Trudeau



Trip Report: Klamath Basin Nat'l Wildlife Refuges

Pete, Cathy, and Betty Gaughan

(also posted to BIRDCHAT, the National Birding Cooperative Hodline)

Our family team is as follows: mom Betty drives and videotapes; son Pete handles i.d. and notetaking; Pete's wife Cathy spots and shoots still photos.

On 4 March we left the San Francisco area at 7:45am, headed north, eventually reaching US 97 beginning our trip list with BLACK-BILLED MAGPIES and ever-present RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS along the road. We arrived at Lower Klamath NWR, on the Oregon/California border, at 3pm. Turning east on CA 161 we birded Indian Tom, Miller, and Sheepy Lakes, finding several of the waterfowl that we would see throughout the Klamath Basin: many NORTHERN PINTAILS, AMERICAN COOTS, MALLARDS, RUDDY DUCKS, LESSER SCAUP, COMMON GOLD-ENEYE, REDHEADS and BUFFLEHEADS, CANADA and SNOW GEESE, TUN-DRA SWANS; at the other end of the scarcity scale, we had a brief glimpse of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS.

We hurried along 161 and south on Hill Road to the Refuge headquarters before they closed, where we were told that the Whooper Swan which had been seen over the past two weeks had not been spotted in four days (we didn't see it either). Bald Eagles were the main reason for our trip, and the rangers indicated that after having about 800 eagles last winter, it was believed that only 200 or so were spending the 93-94 winter, of which 100 were left this weekend. On the way back west on 161, however, we found the first of many BALD EAGLES we were to see, of all ages and plumages, as well as a RED-TAILED HAWK and a WESTERN MOCKINGBIRD. In Klamath Falls, OR, for the night we had an AMERICAN ROBIN.

We rose before dawn on 5 March and headed south on US 97. About 6am we arrived in Worden, OR, and turned west on the dirt road that leads toward Bear Valley NWR, where eagles roost and are reported to 'flyout' en masse around sunrise. It was overcast and about 28 deg. F, and our first bird was a GREAT HORNED OWL which we heard but did not see (and almost immediately heard the scream of a mammal, tentatively identified as a jackrabbit). We saw individual Balds flying from Hamaker Mtn in the refuge, eastward toward the flatland marshes of the Basin. Over the period of half an hour either side of sunrise, we saw 25 Bald Eagles and two Golden Eagles, as well as five Pronghorn Antelope in the hayfields below us and a shoulder-to-shoulder pair of Red-tails atop a power pole. The EUROPEAN STARLINGS on the lines, within two feet of a perched Eagle, seemed unafraid.

Much of our time and attention was spent on aging Eagles by plumage, and observing and recording flight behavior. However, we didn't miss the NORTHERN HARRIER hunting the hayfield, the first of many for the weekend, nor the SONG SPARROWS along the road.

After breakfast in Dorris, CA, we returned to Hwy 161 and looked for Bald Eagles, in groups of 3 to 6 on the levees (some of which allowed us to approach quite close and obtain cross-your-fingers-great photos). A GREAT BLUE HERON flew serenely overhead, followed by an immature Golden Eagle. Harriers played the grasslands between ponds.

We drove the Auto Tour Route on Lower Klamath NWR, seeing many of the same species plus a few GREEN-WINGED TEAL and AMERICAN WIDGEON, and finally came upon a bird (perched on a 'No Pheasant Hunting' sign) first identified as a White-Belly II Bald Eagle. On closer look, though, feathered legs and smaller overall size helped us conclude this was an immature ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.

Further east on 161, crossing Sheepy Ridge, we came upon a kettle of Eagles and Red-tails. Stopping, we found a village of Ground Squirrels which probably had the raptors' attention; one Eagle perched and screamed at us several times, and when it took off again it was bombed twice by a passing Harrier.



Pete cranes his neck to see (what else?) Sandhill Cranes.

We again turned south on Hill Road, this time working slowly, and were rewarded with a NORTHERN FLICKER. Less rewarding but noted were SONG SPARROWS, HOUSE FINCHES and HOUSE SPARROWS, and RING-BILLED GULLS (of which there were large colonies in Tulalake NWR proper, but no California Gulls).

At the end of the Tulalake Auto Tour Route we turned east (saving Lava Beds Nat'l Monument for another trip, we thought). Heading for Newell (and a late lunch), we drove 'through' a detached section of LBNM called Petroglyph Point. This turned out to be one of the highlights of the trip. The Point is a 100-foot high butte,



sheer on three sides, which is fenced to protect the Indian carvings on its walls. However, the sides of the bluff are riddled with crevices where birds have roosted and nested.

A large stick platform was alternately occupied by two Red-tailed Hawks. However, after half an hour of observation, one of the hawks (pictured above, believe it or not) came under attack by three mobbing AMERICAN KESTRELS. A PRAIRIE FALCON zoomed by, and high overhead we watched five SANDHILL CRANES make their looping, leisurely way northwest.

An acquaintance, driving up in a van with a group from the California Academy of Sciences, recommended we hike to the top of the butte (via the sloped southern face). This not only gave us good views of Marmots scurrying about the southwestern face, the twenty-minute hike brought us out atop a raptor playground. Red-tails, Rough-legs and Eagles appeared to be using the east wind, deflected off the butte as an updraft, for all sorts of acrobatics, including swooping undulating flight and talon-grappling by the Red-tails.

Returning to the foot of the cliffs, another birder had found a BARN OWL asleep and clearly visible in a crevice, while the Prairie Falcon perched above us for detailed examination. A mixed flock of sparrows and DARK-EYED JUNCOS (*J. h. oregonus*) had occupied some old swallow nests on the north face, and below them we had hints of a Rock Wren but could not get a good look.

The morning of 6 March we were again at the flyout, again cold (but this time the sky was perfectly clear), arriving a few minutes later than the previous day and only seeing 12 Eagles in an hour (although this included an immature Golden talon-grappling with an adult Bald!). We then left the Klamath Basin for a stop-and-go trip home. South on US 97 we turned off at Macdoel to the Butte Valley Wildlife Area and Meiss Lake, where several miles of levee provided a female BELTED KINGFISHER, MARSH WRENS, KILLDEER, and about 100 TREE SWALLOWS. We observed many of the same raptor and waterfowl species we had seen the previous day, plus a large flock of GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, a female COMMON MERGANSER, and five immature Great Blue Herons on a small tuft island in the lake. Several Beavers were swimming in the canal west of the lake proper, and the farm roads were full of Blackbirds, Magpies, AMERICAN CROWS and COMMON RAVENS.

On reaching I-5, of course, we began to see TURKEY VULTURES, which were not observed above 2000 feet; and at Red Bluff a MERLIN passed us travelling north over the southbound lanes. We made two stops in the Sacramento Valley. First, we drove east on South Avenue below Corning to Woodson Bridge Rec. Area, where the campground was extremely productive: ACORN, DOWNY and NUTTALL'S WOODPECKERS, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, WARBLING VIREO, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, BUSHTIT (a pair finishing a large pendant nest directly over the road), Juncos, SCRUB JAYS, WHITE-CROWNED and CHIPPING SPARROWS. Time prevented a more extensive search of this compact area.

At the Princeton turnoff we stopped to drive the Auto Tour Route at the Sacramento NWR. A bold Killdeer greeted us at the driveway, and the Marsh Wrens near the HQ (closed on weekends in winter) were numerous and loud; a PIED-BILLED GREBE was diving in the Display Pond (several more associated with Coots along the Tour Route). A LONG-BILLED CURLEW and several Pheasants (as well as more jackrabbits) could be seen in an uncultivated field near the freeway. A single CINNAMON TEAL and many NORTHERN SHOVELERS were visible among the flocks of Mallard and Widgeon.

A VESPER SPARROW was among Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows. We frightened a DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT and a GREAT EGRET out of a ditch, while it appeared that a HERRING GULL followed our car for some ways. At the end of the drive an immature Kestrel and one of the thousands of Red-Winged Blackbirds sat together in a tree for excellent picture-taking.

Disappointments: missed Blue-Winged Teal; no Red-Shouldered Hawk, California Gull, Pelican, or Wood Duck. Trip count: 64 species, of which the Magpies, Barn Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Bushits, Vesper Sparrow and Ruby-Crowned Kinglet were life birds (Rock Wren would have been)—clearly we haven't been birding very long! More time would certainly have increased the number of passerine and shorebird species but the focus of the trip was Eagles and other raptors; we made extensive notes on behavior and thoroughly enjoyed our time in the field. ♣

ARKON/Gunboat Snowball Fighting

Turn One: Packing Material

WARRIOR	init	loc	segment 1	segment 2	segment 3	new loc	vp	hp	sb-di
Frost Queen	FQ	N2	RR at YS (60,19)	RR at YS (65,68)	collect 2 Sb	N2	1	10	2-0
George Costanza	GC	U9	-T8-R8-P8-O7-M7	RR at OMW (85,13)	collect 2 Sb	M7	1	10	0-0
Icedance	ID	H6	RR at TDM* (95,17)	collect Di	Di at OMW* (70,96)	H6	1	9	1-0
Mr. Freeze	MF	Q15	-P14-Q13-R12	RR at TT (95,52)	SH at TT* (70,20)	R12	4	5	1-0
Old Man Winter	OMW	B8	RR at ID (95,24)	RR at ID (95,32)	collect Di	B8	2	9	0-1
Ramtop Chuckers	RC	K15	RR at MF (65,01)	RR at MF (80,03)	collect 2 Sb	K15	2	10	2-0
Splat to the Head	SH	B14	BB at OMW (45,04) & RC (25,81)	-C15-E15-F16	collect Di	B14	1	10	0-1
Tatter D. Mallion	TDM	L10	BB at GC (45,82) & MF (30,91)	-N10-P10-R10	collect Di	R10	1	9	0-1
Tigger of the Tundra	TT	V14	De at MF (35,02), -U13	-T12-R12; collect sb	RR at MF (95,32)	T12	2	5	1-0
Yosemite Sam	YS	S5	lollygag & ramble to Q7, +Sb	RR at TT (85,95)	RR at TT (95,51)	Q7	1	9	1-0

Weather roll = 16. † = dodge. * marks conditional orders and "RR at nearest."

Deadline for Turn Two is May 14.

Segment One: Things get rolling right out of the gate, as every player either runs or shoots. Yosemite Sam ducks under a conifer tree to pick up another Snowball, and Frost Queen takes advantage of that to nail him on the move. George Costanza slides up the path, cautiously, past Sam toward the centerpoint of the yard. Mr. Freeze takes the most popular opening strategy: run behind the Snowman. But Ramtop Chuckers, Tigger of the Tundra, and Tatter D. Mallion all take aim and pound MF on his route to sanctuary. (TDM also fires half a Bolero at George while he runs, but that shot goes way overhead.) Splat to the Head gets his scoring started by flinging a Bolero—he hits Old Man Winter with half of it but the other half misses RC. Icedance has two nearby targets to choose from. Now, playing Eney Meezey Minic Moc always comes up with Tigger, so instead ID flips a coin and hits Mallion, while the other choice—Old Man Winter—hits him on the neck.

Segment Two: Icedance bends over to pack a Dirigible, and is smacked on the rump by that Dirty Old Man Winter. George Costanza reveals what his purpose was in running into the center, by taking a point off of OMW. Tatter runs south a bit while Tigger runs up and bumps into the back of the Snowman, packing a Snowball once his head stops spinning. That move saves him some pain, since Yosemite Sam's second shot barely misses due to the moving Tigger, but now Tigger is close enough that Mr. Freeze's Rattlesnake is nearly perfect. Frost Queen's second shot at Sam is frustrated by the tree trunk, while at the other end of the yard Splat runs into better range.

Segment Three: several SnowFighters (George Costanza, Frost Queen, Old Man Winter, Ramtop Chuckers, Tatter D. Mallion, Splat to the Head) take a break to replenish their ammo supplies, but Mr. Freeze has no need since the Snowman provides a perfect weapon: MF detaches the head and slams it down atop Tigger's rubber skull. (Tigger returns fire with a Rattler which hits—not as powerful but a satisfying 'smack' anyway.) Yosemite uses that extra 'ball o' his to score off pore Tigger. Icedance already has a Dirigible but when it's thrown at the Old Man it flops in the snow, just short.

Tatter to Sadistic SnowMaster: I see you put me in the !@* center again. Not counting Sam behind the tree I see at least six open shots. The old man makes seven at half-yard distance of less. Geesh, how lucky can one get?

SnowMaster to TDM [te-di-um? Te De-um?]: Ya pays your money, ya takes your chances, ya gets shafted by the SM at every opportunity!

OMW to ID: No offence, you just looked like a good target.

SnowMaster to OMW: And a close one, too, more importantly.

Tigger to Yard: Christopher Robin says snowball fighting is what Tiggers do best,

though Tiggers are also known for bouncing so be warned.

SnowMaster to Tigger: If you're such a good bouncer, how did Sam get into this game? Sam to TT: Ah thought yuh said yore name was "Trigger"; an' here Ah was all set to team up with yuh against them other berslackeretty critters. But when Ah jumped up on yore back and hollered "Giddap, mule," yuh turnt round an' clawed muh leventy-seven gallon hat to misflopperty shraidd! So say yore prayers, yuh fladbersted varmint; yuh jest became muh preema-vocal targit! (Heh! Heh! Heh! This orta be easy. The blapdad critter can't even spell "tyger"!)

SnowMaster to Yosemite Sam: Watch yourself, Short Stuff. We defend animule rights around here.

YS to Yard: Do any o' yuh sleetblistered yokels want tuh get in on the good side o' the rootin-tootiest high-falootiest fastest-shootiest cayow-poke in the Wayest?? Jest holler up "Yo, Sam! Ah'm a-buyin' the Red-Eye!"

SnowMaster to Yosemite: Will that be a bottle or can?

Tatter D to Varmint: I see you've won the "Obnoxious Critter" award before we've even started. Play it again, Sam!

SnowMaster to Mallion: (You know he never really said that!) I'll give out the awards around here! He don't win nuthin' unlessin' I sez he does!

GIEDI PRIME / 1992AK

Autumn Retreats: Austrian a bul to ser; English f bel to pic.

Winter 1907: Austria removes a vie, f eas; Italy builds a ven; Russia builds a sev, a mos.

Spring 1908: Let's Twist Again

Austria (Roger Cox): a gal-ukr /dislodged/, a gre-bul (f aeg s), a bud-rum (a ser s).

England (Jamie McQuinn): f lon-eng (f iri s), f nwg-nat, f pic-s Ga hol-bel /aso/, a gar-bur.

France (civil disorder): a gas h /annihilated/.

Germany (Lance Anderson): f den u, a swe u, a hol u, a boh-mun (a ruh s, a ber s).

Italy (Hugh Magen—note COA in Roster): f mid-bre, a mar-gas (f spa/nc s), f bel-pic, a bur-par, a ven-pic, a sil-war, a tyo-boh.

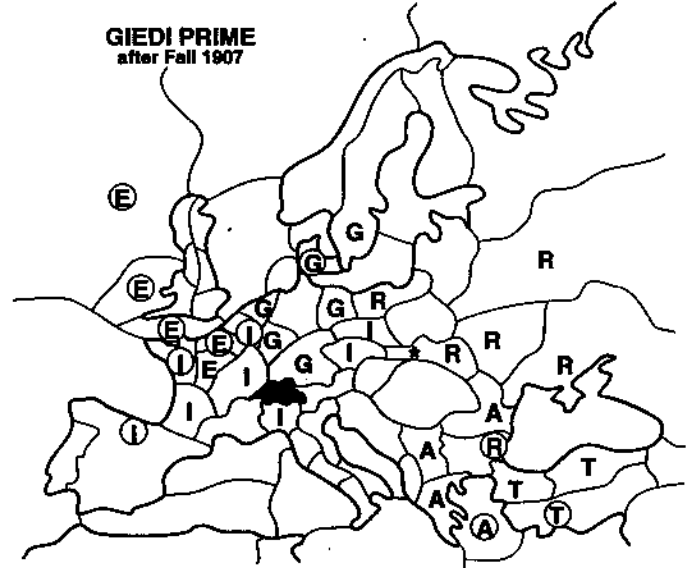
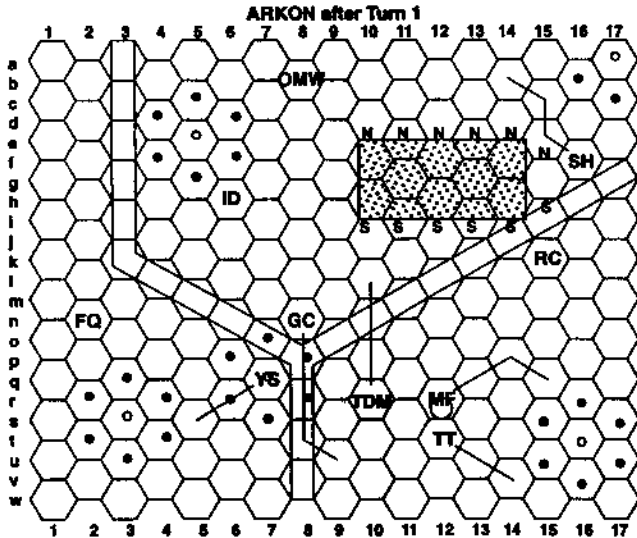
Russia (Greg Ellis): a sev-rum, a mos-war, a war-pru, f bul/ec s turkish a con, a rum-gal (a ukr s).

Turkey (Andy York): a con s russian f bul/ec, f smy h (a ank s).

Retreat: Austrian a gal.

Deadline for Fall 1908 is May 14.

Lance to Recruiter: Done my time already. Volunteered once and look where it took me!



IX / 1993HG

Summer Retreat: Turkish f sev orb.

Fall 1902: The First Wave

- Austria (Kenneth Burke): f adr-ven (a tri s [a vie s tri]).
- England (Mick Taylor): f nwy-ska (f nts c), a lon h.
- France (Don Scheifer): f mid-nat, a pic-wal (f eng c), a spa h.
- Germany (Roger Cox): f kie-den (f hel s), a ruh-hol, a bel stays home to watch the rain, f hol-nts.
- Italy (Bob Ozerov-Clark resigns): a bud, a tyo, f rom, f apu, f ion.
- Russia (Michael Quist): f swe-nwy, a rum s italian a bud (f sev s, a gal s), a mos s f sev.
- Turkey (Vincent Springer): f aeg s italian f ion, f bla h, a gre-alb (a ser s [a bul s ser]).

Would J.R. Baker please take over the Italian position?

- Deadline for Winter 1902/Spring 1903 is May 14.
- GM to Ixians: Bob Ozerov lost his job at United Airlines and is retrenching his finances and time somewhat. We wish you well in the job hunt, Bob!
- Brest to London: Rule #1: Don't leave a threatened home center open in the fall.
- Marseilles to Rome: Sorry about our misunderstanding the lyrics. We now realize you were singing "These fleets were made for carryin'!"
- A.H. to Pizzapuss(y): Since I am doomed no matter what I do, I shall spend whatever time I have left in this game screwing you up as much as possible.
- Brest to GM: But how does your press continue? "Words, words, words! I'm so sick of words! First from him, now from you. Is that all you blighters can do?" What famous musical is that from?
- GM to Brest: Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady."

Sevastopol: Large cheering crowds greeted the beloved Tzar who while vacationing in Yalta personally led the counter offensive to retake the province from Turkish pirates. The surviving pirates were last seen slinking off toward the west.

Marseilles to Vienna: You're warning me to beware Italy? Aren't your folks the ones singing "These armies were made for cartion"?

Allemagne to France: Me too neither! We be blood brothers?

Brest to London: Rule #2: Assume your opponent follows Rule #1.

Burgundy to German Armies: Stop that drooling and scam!

Moscow to Turkey: is the Black Sea so important that you need to keep two-thirds of your fleet there? Don't you have any strategic interest in the Med at all?

Paris to Rumania: Time for "T"?

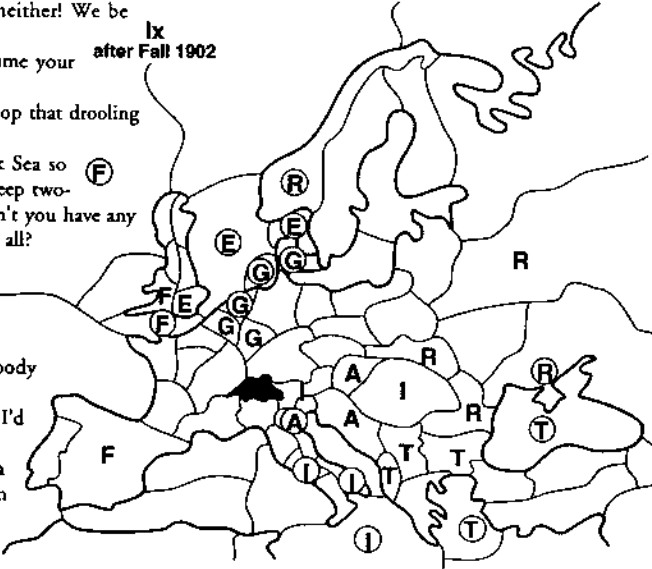
Mar to Con: Are you negotiating, or just kickin butt in general?

Turkey to World: Is there anybody out there?

GM to Mar: Hmmmmm... "b", I'd say.

Brest to London: Rule #3: Flip a coin, and blame poor results on bad luck.

Ix after Fall 1902



IX / SUPPLY CENTERS held as of Winter 1902

Austria	vie	bud	ser	VEN	TRI	.	.	.	3/3	even
England	lvp	edi	lon	3/3	even
France	par	bre	mar	por	SPA	.	.	.	4/5	build one
Germany	kie	ber	mun	bel	hol	DEN	.	.	5/6	build one
Italy	rom	nap	ven	ti	tun	BUD	.	.	5/4	remove one
Russia	stp	mos	war	rum	swe	SEV	NWY	.	5/7	build two
Turkey	con	ank	smv	bul	gre	sev	SER	.	6/6	build one

LAMETH / 1992AJ

Autumn Retreat: Russian a ber to sil.

Winter 1906: England builds a edi, a lon; France builds f mar; Italy removes f ven; Russia builds a war; Turkey builds f con, f smy.

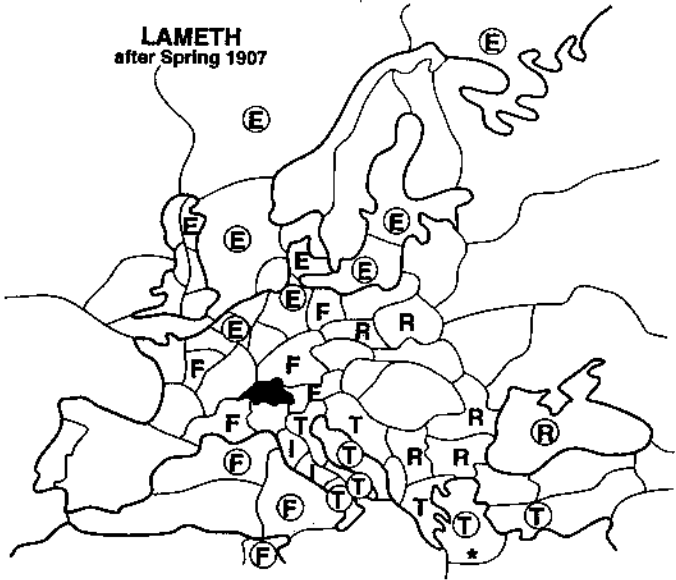
Spring 1907: Italy Not Long(ing) For This World

- England (Stan Johnson): a edi h, a lon-den (f nts c), f den-kie, f stp/nc-bar, f fin-bot, f swe-bal, f nwy-nwg, f bel h.
- France (Martin Johnson): f mar-lyo, a bre-par, f wes-tyn, a spa-mar, f tun-ion (f aeg s /dislodged/), a ber h, a kie-mun, a mun-tyo.
- Italy (Kathy Caruso): a rom h (a tus s).
- Russia (James Bailey): a sil h (a war s), a bud-ser, a sev-bul (f bla c, a rum s).
- Turkey (Tim Goodwin): a bul-gre, a ser-tri, a tri-ven (f adr s), f nap-rom, f apu-ion, f con-aeg (f smy s).

Retreat: French f aeg.

- Deadline for Fall 1907 is May 14.
- Russia to New Ally?: If nothing happens, I can always throw my dots to Turkey. Don't think that I'll play the sucker.
- England: In an attempt to save the world, England has dispatched an army of therapists to aid the Czar.
- Vexvelt Turk to Russia: Sarah MacLachian, huh? I saw her on 120 Minutes recently. Very interesting looking. She's got that, "You'll never be good enough for me" look. Thus, I am lured evermore. Margot Timmons I like not one whit.

LAMETH after Spring 1907



LITERARY QUIZ

From Last Time

167A: The first novel by this colorful contemporary American novelist chronicles the invasion of Anopoei, a tiny island in the Pacific, during World War II. The author explores the fog of war from two vantage points, that of General Cummings, the commander of the forces making the landing, and of Sergeant Croft,

the leader of a platoon sent off on a reconnaissance mission. For a free issue, name the author and the title of the book.

Chuff Afflerbach offers Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead*, which is exactly right. Steven McKinnon makes up an answer just in case: W.E.B. Griffith, *Call to Arms*. Stan Johnson got the title but had the author as James Jones.

181A: When the lame Sheriff of Selkirkshire penned his first novel, subtitled *Tis Sixty Years Since*, he created not only what may be the most influential novel of the 19th century, but also a new literary genre as well. For a free issue, what was the name of the novel, the genre, and the author?

David McCrumb's wild guess is H. Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines* for launching the epic adventure. Chuff narrowed the field down to Sir Walter Scott, deducing that his first novel, *Waverly*, began what we call 'historical novels.' Again correct, Chuff! Steven suggests Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* for 'satire' but, hey, Steven, Swift was IRISH!

For Next Issue

SuperTough. 27A: Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge was, for many years, involved in an unhappy marriage, the problems of which were compounded by his impossible love for Sarah Hutchinson, the sister-in-law of William Wordsworth, his friend and literary contemporary. In 1802, his torment inspired Coleridge to write a poem. What is its title (for a free issue)?

31A: Hester Prynne, in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, is only one in a long line of literary adulterers. A 1930s British mystery romance, a 19th-century Russia novel and a 19-century French novel all have eponymous characters who commit adultery. Name them and their authors (for a half issue each).

More on the Pulitzer Prizes on page 14...

MODERAN / Snowball Fighting Champions' Game ASF26

Turn Six: Not Quite Soup Yet

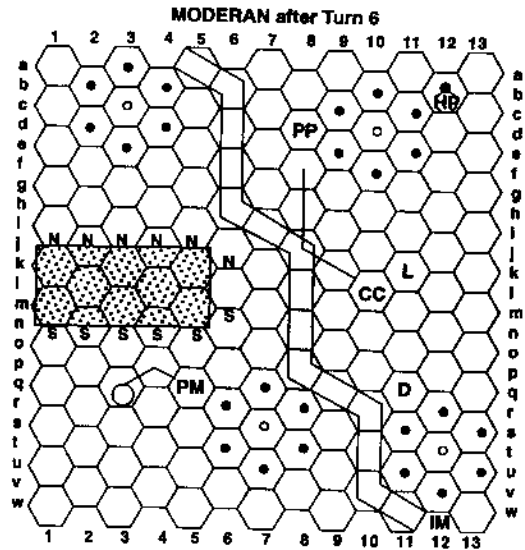
WARRIOR (PLAYER)	loc	segment 1	segment 2	segment 3	new loc	hp	sb-di
Comet Chucker (Clark Millikan)	F8	-H8-J8-K9-L10	collect Di	Di at L (70,99)	L10	9	4 0-0
Desperado (Teresa Armstrong)	Q11	RR at L (95,75)	RR at L (95,77)	collect 2 Sb	Q11	3	10 2-0
Hoi Polloi (J.R. Baker)	B12	nmr	nmr	nmr	B12	0	9 0-0
Ice Man (Andy York)	kit	set inside and warm up	grumble	grumble	kit	5	10 2-0
Lasher (Daf Langley)	K11	RR at PP (95,27)	collect 2 Sb	RR at PP (95,25)	K11	9	4 1-0
PeD Mang (David Wang)	Q3	-R4-Q5, collect Sb	RR at PP (85,83)	RR at PP (85,02)	Q3	10	9 1-0
Phleckless Phool (Tom Hurst)	D8	Di at CC (35,52)	HH at CC (70,39)	HH at CC* (45,83)	D8	13	0 0-1

Weather roll = . † = dodge. * marks conditional orders. IM may come out any time.
 Deadline for Turn Seven is May 14.

Segment One: With Hoi Polloi still unconscious and Ice Man taking an extended leave indoors, Phleckless Phool casts about for his final victim. He sees the image of a fleeing Comet Chucker, receding from Phool at top speed, and Phool's Dirigible is unable to compensate for the Doppler shift to hit Comet. PeD Mang, the Klingon snowwarrior, steps out from his cowardly hiding place and gathers a Snowball. Desperado, fresh from the kitchen, nails Lasher with a shot while Lasher nails the leader with hers.

Segment Two: Comet Chucker bends to gather a Di, and Phool, though unarmed, manages to scrape together enough snow to create a weapon and hurl it at CC's leg. Lasher is gathering snow and takes another beating from Desperado. From his new vantage point, Mang can see Phleckless clearly—clearly enough to score a point!

Segment Three: Phool reprises his Hammer attack on Chucker, but this time CC is facing him and the shot misses. Chuckles also misses with that evil-looking Di, but both Lasher and Mang hit Phool to deprive him of his last remaining HP. Phool will have to run indoors and won't be back out until the middle of Turn Eight!



- Phule's Philosophy #4: Do not run up to player who is holding a loaded Dirigible.
- CC to PP: Run away! Run away!
- Phuzzy-Wuzzy to Chuckles: Nice idea. But you have to hit as well as run in this game. (And that's no error!)
- CC to PP: I guess I wouldn't be such a big target if that Dirigible had hit.
- Phleckless to Cussin' Cretin: When Snowballs avoid you watch out for Dirigibles. I have that on excellent authority. (Is there an echo in here?)
- Phraidy Cat to Lasher: The gag is supposed to go on your *victim*, silly! Spit it out and let's get back to the press, ok?

VEXVELT / 1992R

- Autumn Retreat: Austrian a war orb.
- EFRT draw: EFR yes, T no, AI nvr.
- England proposes an EFR draw.
- Winter 1907: Austria removes a pie; England builds a lon, a edi; Russia builds a step.

Spring 1908: Give Me Just A Minute...

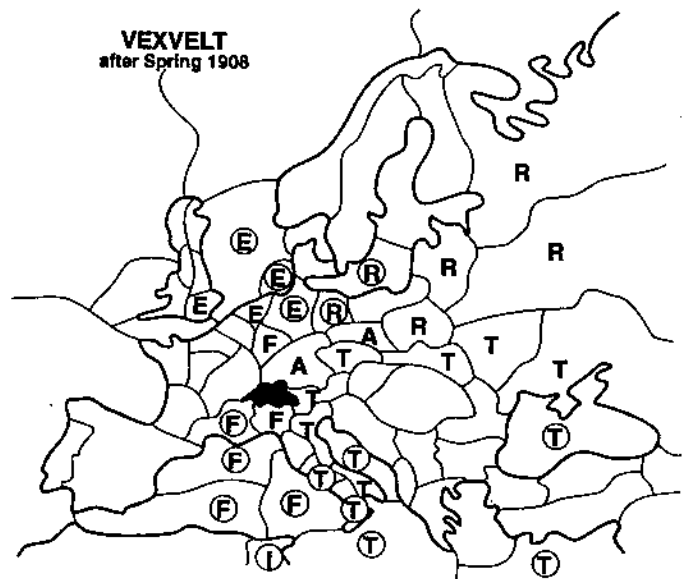
- Austria (Michael Alterio): a mun-bur, a sil-war.
- England (Lance Anderson): f kie s russian f ber, f hol-hel, a lon waves at departing troops, a edi-hol (f nts c).
- France (Tom Hurst): a tus-pie (f lvo s), f tyn h (f wes s), f spa/sc-mar, a ruh-bur.
- Italy (Steve Nicewarner): f run s french f tyn-ion.
- Russia (Russ Rusnak): f den-bal, f ber s english f kiel, a mos-ukr (a war s), a stp-mos (a lvn s).
- Turkey (Steve McKinnon): a rom-ven (f adr s), f nap-rom (a apu s), a tyo-boh (a gal s [a ukr a gal (a sev s ukr)]), a ven-tyo, f ion-nap (f eas s), f alb-ion, f bla continues a-gawkin'.

Deadline for Fall 1908 is May 14.

- Shameless Plug: Soundgarden, *Superunknown*; Roger Waters, *Amused to Death*; The Jam, *Selling Sons*.
- GM's Ignorant Picks: Lately I have been doing some button-pushing off my usual jazz station and have been highly entertained by radio play of Lyle Lovett with Al Green, Counting Crows, and Tori Amos (much to my chagrin).
- Turkey to England: Hey! Those are some very choice Babes there, my friend. I may well vote for a draw with you based solely on your taste in Babes. Of course, perhaps we should ask Mr. Schultz if they really are Babes or not.
- World to Hun: The Turk is a jerk, but we're certain it's no quirk, that when the center began to rumble, it signalled his regime's tumble. If you wait and see, then I'm sure you'll agree with me.
- GM to World: Sorry, I wasn't sure who that was aimed at. Hun? Tun? Someone?
- Turkey to GM: "White Shoulders" should have been capitalized lastish. It's a perfume, not a physical trait.

- GM to Turkey: I had heard of "White Shoulders" but never would have expected you to pick a brand name as a babe-qualifier. Yuck! I liked it better the other way. (And I like my women, for the most part, unscented.)
- A-H to Russia: Thanks for the letter, I'll think about it!
- Phrog to Hun: Who, me? I'm just a poor standby, with nothing but mercenary motives at heart. Why negotiate when I'm already pointed in the right direction?
- GM to Phrog: Mercenary? Seems to me negotiations would always provide at least the chance of better pay.
- Turkey's Babes o'the Moment: Emma Thompson, Delane Matthews, Rachel Ticotin, Suzie Plakson.
- GM to Turkey: Yes, we can only hope Plakson gets some better roles to go with the good parts she already has! (Innuendo intended...)

VEXVELT after Spring 1908



ZEBRA / Snowball Fighting ASF25

Turn Seven

WARRIOR (PLAYER)	loc	segment 1	segment 2	segment 3	new loc	up	hp	sb	di
Big Bad Frank (Brad Wilson)	kit	get new glove broken in / dream about taking Duane Ward down town† / run to Q11			Q11	8	10	2	0
Bullwinkle (Mark Weseman)	J16	RR at P (35,16)	collect Di	collect Di	J16	10	5	0	2
Comet (David McCrumb)	S5	RR at TF (95,81)	RR at TF (95,72)	collect 2 Sb	S5	8	3	2	0
Floating Zeppelins (Randy Davis)	R12	nmr	nmr	nmr	R12	5	3	3	0
75mm Long Barrel (Steve McKinnon)	V10	U9-T8-R8-P8-N8	Di at P (65,79)	HH at PM* (50,38)	N8	8	2	0	0
Pallida Mors (Lance Anderson)	kit	wait to escape	V8-T8-R8-P8-O9-N10-M11	RR at P (running for cover)	M11	9	9	1	0
Puff (John Schultz)	H8	RR at SP* (85,94)	RR at LB* (95,89)	run for cover	H8	14	0	0	0
Snow Poke (Cathy Gaughan)	N12	collect Di	Di at P (55,14)	collect Di	N12	13	3	0	1
Terry Forster (Mike Stewart)	O1	nmr	nmr	run for cover	O7	7	0	0	0

Weather roll = 28. † = dodge. *marks conditional orders and "RR at nearest."

Deadline for Turn Eight is May 14.

Segment One: Big Brad Frank (oops, sorry) sits indoors and ponders a big hurt for Terry Forster, while Terry and Floating Zeppelins both daydream the Turn away. Comet nails the immobile Forster with a Rattler as Pallida Mors readies himself at the kitchen door. 75mm Long Barrel drags his bulk northward up the path, and Snow Poke packs. Puff beans Poke with a Ravenscroft Rattler, and Bullwinkle in turn hits Puff with the same attack.

Segment Two: PM runs outside in the midst of a wild fray. Puff hits Long Barrel in the face; Long Barrel's Dirigible flies wide of Puff; but Snow Poke's Dirigible finds its mark on Puff's now-powdered nose! That's the last of Puff's HP for the time being! Bullwinkle picks up a Di as Comet uses a Rattler to drive Terry Forster out of the game.

Segment Three: Frank runs into the yard (just barely keeping his balance on the icy path!) only to see Forster and Puff headed indoors. Long Barrel scrapes together a 'ball just big enough to hurt Mr. Death, but Mors screws up and tries to attack Puff as he runs past. Everyone else packs snow for Turn Eight...

‡ in ninth inning of seventh game for winning runs of 1994 ALCS

75mm to Puff: The 'women' you know? What, where you are, now?

Puff to 75mm: I repeat... there's more to 'babe' than aesthetics. Gimme one Karen Allen over a dozen star beauties.

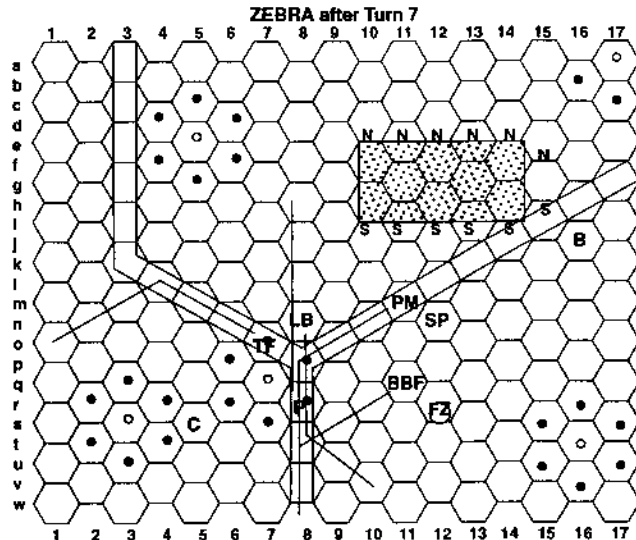
75mm evil maid o'the year: Tonya Harding. It's nice and all that she chooses not to clutter up the courts, but I wanna see her do jail time. Preferably with the other ladies over there with Puff.

75mm exaggerates: NOT!

SnowMaster to 75mm: We are all assuming that your retraction (pardon the pun) applies toward your many lengthy claims, rather than to the immediately preceding press item.

75mm Long Barrel to Puff: Huh, huh. That was cool.

Puff to SM: Don't change the dice on me now.



SM to Puff: Believe it or not, I've been using the same dice for Snowball Fighting since I started GMing it back in 1985.

BBF to Rocky's Buddy/Boris' Nemesis: Hey, look, if I was a crossgamer (which I am not) I would not crossgame in Snowball Fighting! I don't let games bother me much.

75mm Long Barrel to Pallida Mors: boom-ski!

SM to Long Barrel: More like "plink!"

AURORA / Railway Rivals 1025CN

Races For Round Eleven

28R.	12/Bieber or Alturas	46/San Diego
	1. SMOG/WINC j.r. (45 hexes) [2 to COLTS]	
29.	23/San Jose	32/Merced
	1. WINC (7 hexes) [2 to RENO]	
	2. ICE-D (10 hexes)	
	SMOG (7 hexes) [1 to WINC]	
30.	62/Austin or Eureka	13/Westwood or Chico
	1. RENO (34 hexes)	
31.	61/Ely or Caliente	Special 6/any coastal city
	1. RENO (42 hexes)	
32.	42/Los Angeles	14/Marysville
	1. WINC (27 hexes) [2 to S&RVL]	
	2. ICE-D (32 hexes)	
33.	51/Blythe or Needles	34/Hanford
	1. WINC (22 hexes from Needles)	
	2. S&RVL (36 hexes from Blythe) [2 to COLTS]	
	SMOG (33 hexes from Blythe)	
34.	22/San Francisco	44/Long Beach
	1†. SMOG (32 hexes) [1 to ICE-D]	
	1†. WINC (28 hexes) [3 to ICE-D, 2 to S&RVL, 2 to SMOG]	
	ICE-D (32 hexes)	
35.	Special 4/Utah	52/El Centro

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

ICE-D (Richard Weiss, red)

RENO (anarchy, black)

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

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

WINC (Wordelmann's Inroad to NV and CA—Bill Wordelmann, yellow)

	begin	races	to rivals	fm rivals	end
WINC	\$154	+ 85	- 12	+ 1	\$228
ICE-D	\$152	+ 20	-	+ 4	\$176
RENO	\$121	+ 40	-	+ 2	\$163
SMOG	\$137	+ 25	- 3	+ 2	\$161
S&RVL	\$123	+ 10	- 2	+ 4	\$135
COLTS	\$99	+ 0	-	+ 4	\$99

Deadline for Round Twelve is May 14.

Races For Round Twelve

35R.	Special 4/Utah	52/El Centro
	... is still not connected, will not be run.	
36.	15/Red Bluff or Fort Bragg	26/Stockton
	RENO	
37.	Special 2/Mexico	41/Los Angeles
38.	53/Barstow	65/Carson City
39.	43/Santa Barbara	64/Gravelock or Loveluck
40.	24/Oakland	56/Laws or Tonopa
41.	35/Bakersfield	Special 1/Oregon or Idaho
42.	11/Eureka, CA or Weed	36/San Luis Obispo

Enter any four races, plus any reoffers.

BELT 17 / 1993F

Autumn 1904 Retreat: Austrian a con to smy.
 Winter 1904: Austria builds a bud; England builds f edi; France builds a par, f mar;
 Russia builds a mos; Turkey removes f bla, f eas.

Spring 1905: Cain't Get Enough o'Your Dots!

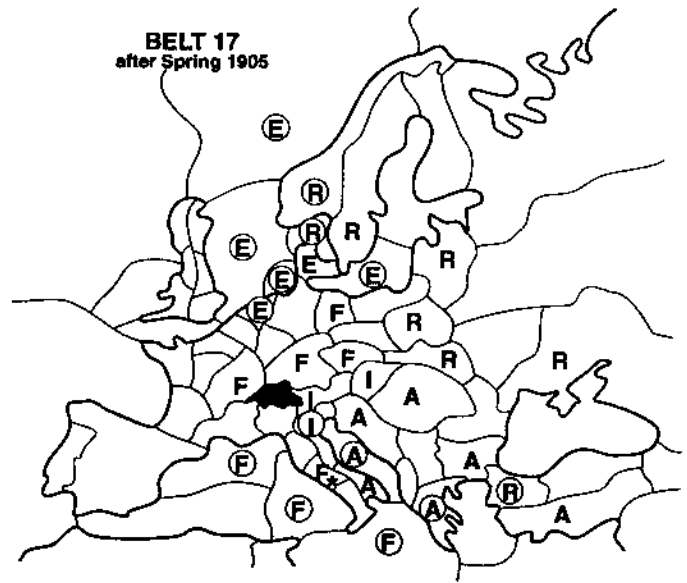
Austria (Rich Irving): a bud-vic, a tri-tyo, a nap-apu, a rom-ven /dislodged/ (fadr.s), a smy s russian f ank-con, f aeg-gre (a bul s).
 England (Les Casey): f edi-nts (f nwg s), a den h (f hel s), f nts-hol, f kie-bal.
 France (Randy Havens): a par-bur, f mar-lyo, f ion-adt, a tus-rom (f tyn s), a ber-sil, a mun-boh, a bur-mun.
 Italy (Victor Thomas): a vie unordered, a tyo-tri (f ven s, a boh s /nsu).
 Russia (Tom Johnston): f nwy-nts, a stp-lvn, f ska-den (a swe s), a mos-sev, a war-sil, a rum-gal, f ank-con.
 Turkey (John McLaurin): a con-ank /annihilated/.

Retreat: Austrian a rom. Goodbye and thanks to John McLaurin.

Deadline for Fall 1905 is May 14.

Austria to Perelandrans: What is the longest time that a neutral center has remained uncontrolled in a game? With Denmark lasting until 1904 in this game, I was just wondering?
 GM to Austria: I know I've seen Portugal open until 1905 in a *Graustark* game, but I don't believe anyone has kept records on that kind of thing.
 Mr. McLaurin to U.S.A.: You are going to have to nuke me into oblivion, because I

BELT 17 after Spring 1905



have not the time to sign up for Tralfamadore right now. Be warned that I am pretty good in the Falcon. Keep an eye out for cluster bombs.

CALADAN / Merchant of Venus

Turn Nine: One Step Ahead

Microsoft Big Deal 4.3—Rich Irving, Eepeeep
 Dice are 336. Move: Whaleport/o-TeleGate 3 (pn 3)-Y-B-Y-R-NC3-R-Y-A-Dryport/o-Dryport/s
 Trade: none. Accounting: \$20.

Mr. Ed—Ed Wrobel, Whynom
 Dice are 1255. Move: Asteroid City East-R10-A-Airhome. Trade: buys Nillis Factory, Guard Plants, Bionic Perfume, Shield. Accounting: \$310 - 10p - 100 - 60 - 80 - 60 + 60c = \$60.

Intergalactic Towel Traders—Clark Millikan, Nik
 Dice are 1155. Move: Grandport/s-Grandport/o-B-Greathome/o-B-Goliath/o-R-B-(Y)-B10/n-R10-(Y10)-B-R. Trade: none. Accounting: \$3.

Millenium Falcon—Chuff Afflerbach, Human
 Dice are 366. Move: R10-Y-B-R-Bypass (south)-R-Y-B-Interstellar Biosphere.
 Trade: sells Impossible Furniture [from the Cup erupts Demand for Melf Pels at 6].
 Accounting: \$10 + 180 = \$190.

We're Dell, Men!—Bill Wordelmann, Dell
 Dice are 146. Move: Open Port-R-B-Y-B-R-B-Y-R20-Terror Station/o-Terror Station/s. Trade: Sells one Voll Silk [from the Cup erupts Demand for Finest Dust at 7a]; buys Terror Station.
 Accounting: \$100 + 220 - 200 = \$120.

Intergalactic Dead Heads—Richard Weiss, Qossuth
 Dice are 124. Move: R30-B-Y-B-R-Minion/o-Minion/s. Trade: none. Accounting: \$88.

Turn Ten: Dead Heads Greeted by Screaming Crowds
 Microsoft Big Deal 4.3—Rich Irving, Eepeeep
 Dice are 126. Move: sit tight. Trade: sells Finest Dust [from the Cup erupts Demand for Mulch Wine at 5]; barters Spy Eye and \$50 for two Immortal Grease.
 Accounting: \$20 + 50 - 50 = \$20.

Mr. Ed—Ed Wrobel, Whynom
 Dice are 3345. Move: -Y-B-R-Open Port.
 Trade: sells Guard Plants [from the Cup erupts Psychotic Sculpture] and Bionic Perfume [from the Cup erupts Chiclé Liqueur]; buys Graw Factory, Glorious Junk, and Space Spice.
 Accounting: \$60 + 140 + 140 - 200 - 100 - 30 + 50c = \$60.

Intergalactic Towel Traders—Clark Millikan, Nik
 Dice are 1335. Move: -B-TeleGate 1 (p.n. 1)-A-(Y)-R-B-(Y)-R-A-Ice Station/o-Ice Station/s.
 Discovers 7b Culture (Eepeeep). Trade: sells Rock Videos [from the Cup erupts Demand for Finest Dust at 5]; barters IOU and \$100 for one ServoMechanism.
 Accounting: \$3 + 200 - 100 = \$103.

Millenium Falcon—Chuff Afflerbach, Human
 Dice are 155. Move: -B-R-B-R-Y-Galactic Base.
 Trade: picks up Fare to 4a. Accounting: \$190.

We're Dell, Men!—Bill Wordelmann, Dell
 Dice are 112. Move: -Terror Station/o.
 Trade: sells other Voll Silk [from the Cup erupts Psychotic Sculpture]; buys two Space Spice.
 Accounting: \$120 + 220 - 60 + 28c = \$308.

Intergalactic Dead Heads—Richard Weiss, Qossuth
 Dice are 234. Move: sit tight. Trade: sells Finest Dust [from the Cup erupts Demand for Voll Silk at 3] with Demand! [from the Cup erupts Voll Silk]; buys two Melf Pels. Accounting: \$88 + 100 - 100 = \$88.

Deadline for Turns Eleven and Twelve is May 14.
 Order of play and dice for Turns 11 & 12, net worth and assets:

1. Intergalactic Dead Heads 114 / 223 \$88
 Equipment: Shield \$60
2. Microsoft Big Deal 4.4 446 / 346 \$20
 Equipment: Shield \$60
3. Mr. Ed 1333 / 1355 \$760
 Equipment: Gate Lock \$100, Shield \$60; Deeds: Volois Factory \$200, Airhome \$200, Nillis Factory \$100, Graw Factory \$200
4. Intergalactic Towel Traders 1114 / 1456 \$303
 Equipment: Shield \$60, Relic Yellow Drive \$80
 Deeds: Neutron Port \$200
5. Millenium Falcon 112 / 566 \$190
6. We're Dell, Men! 245 / 234 \$508
 Deeds: Terror Station \$200

TeleGates 1 through 5 are open. Net worth is total of deeds and cash; equipment or ships, like goods, have value only when traded and their barter value is not included.

MBD to WDM: Better skip the Nik engine treatment. Pay the bucks for a whole new engine!
 WDM to the Big Deal: Not only is six not prefect, but

neither is 6.2! I thought I could travel in Double-Space with your new upgrade, but not only do I seem to fall in all the black holes, warps in space open up and transport me to the land of ones! I want a refund!
 Proposed Microsoft Advertising by Lye, Cheatham & Steele Advertising: Microsoft Big Deal 5.0! This time we finally got it RIGHT!
 (Obviously, the last ad done by LC&S for the software giant.)

WDM to MerchMadnessMaster: Where's a Timegash when you need it most?

PoliEditor to Wet Rag: "What's a *Politesse*?! Babbity, I say, stark Babbity! Have you led such an insular mercantile existence that you know nothing of the jewel in the crown of the Washington Area Retinue of (Tactily) Highly Organized Gamesters??"

MM to WDM: Hey, doesn't *Politesse* count as a flashback?

MBD to Mr. Ed: Shakespeare!!!! You'd better stick to horsing around with WILLLLLLBURRRRRR in TV sitcoms!

Tragedian to Effete Theater Type: Though my roots be in the stick'o'the slap, my soul is pure greasepaint. Perhaps a bit of light dinner theatre would be more to your liking—a rousing musical or a murder mystery or a romantic comedy?

MM sez: I'll take the romantic comedy any day.
 Aboard the Mil-Fal: "Sure, Princess, we'll take you to your rebel base on Tatooine—but it's gonna cost you. And you're gonna have to ride in the cargo hold like the rest of the furniture!"

MBD 5.0 to MM: Hey! I finally sold the Finest Dust! I'm out of last place! Well, for one turn, maybe.

Merchant Master to MBD: Can Dust go stale??
 Dell vagabond sez: We want a rail game! We want a rail game!

Malingering Falcon to Dead Cyclinder-Heads: Looks like that used transport you bought isn't hitting on all three dice! You must have bought it at Peregrine Pete's Wrecking Yard there at Whale Port. The same guy tried to sell me an unregistered Clipper ship a few months back. Hope you got a warranty!

Articulate Quadruped to Fellow Travellers: Now open for business, the incredibly convenient Deep Space Airhome, just this side of the Asteroid Belt, gateway to the southeast corner of the board, where the perfume is always quite bionic and the plants are well-guarded.

MM to Quadruped: Take that, Garrison Keillor! ♣

Literary Quiz continues...

Ongoing Literary Predictions: Guess the 1994 recipient of any of the following awards. Guesses accepted until a prize is awarded. Entrants so far: Brad Wilson (BW), Rick Kohman (RK), Pete Gaughan (PG), Steven McKinnon (SM).

THE PULITZERS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. First, the guesses, then the winners:

Pulitzer for 'fiction' (novel): BW Joyce Carol Oates, RK Mario Puzo, PG April Sinclair, SM John Grisham. Winner is E. Annie Proulx for *The Shipping News*, whose protagonist (a journalist) is right up the Pulitzer ally.

Pulitzer for 'drama' (play): BW Tony Kushner, RK Paul Simon, SM David Mamet. Surprise winner is Edward Albee, ostensibly for *Three Tall Women* but this is his third award and probably constitutes at least in part a 'life achievement' award (only Eugene O'Neill has won four Pulitzers for drama). This is the one category where a Big Name can usually be counted on to win.

Pulitzer for poetry: BW Donald Hall, RK Maya Angelou, SM Pete Gaughan. I had no idea who this would be and sure enough, it's an obscure poet: Yusef Komunyakaa for *Neon Vernacular*.

Somebody (Steven?) guessed W.E.B. DuBois as a joke; well, he didn't win but David Levering Lewis won the prize in biography with DuBois as his subject!

Nobel for literature: BW Ved Mehta, RK Rush Limbaugh or Erma Bombeck, PG Salmon Rushdie, SM Amy Tan.

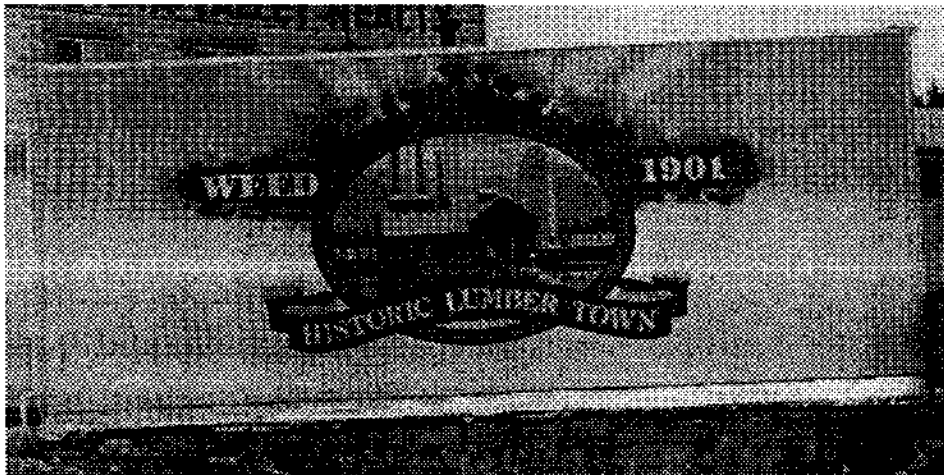
American Book Award for novel: BW Brad Leichter, RK Limbaugh, PG Roddy Doyle for *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* (though now it occurs to me to wonder whether the ABA requires it be an American writer), SM Scott Turow.

One free issue for every correct author. If you guess a writer who wins one of these awards, but you get the 'wrong' category, you get half an issue.

Steven's Pulitzer guesses were mostly 'ha ha ha' but his American Book Award and Nobel entries are pretty damn good. You still have time to send in your wild guesses in those categories! ♣



Mount Shasta...



...and the delightful scenery you pass through on the way there!

The Broom Closet

• Joel Grönberg has sent me a sample of his zine, *Rest in Pieces* (#5). It looks large (40 digest pages) and involved, with letters, games, ads and articles about games, but it's entirely in Swedish so I can only make Germanic guesses at the content. For a sample, write to Joel at the address in the Player Roster (he's a kibitzer in the Deviant Dip game).

• Doug Kent is gathering nominations for the Rusty Bolt Awards. Send him your ideas at 54 West Cherry #54, Rahway NJ 07065, for these categories:

Bernie Oaklyn Award for worst diplomatic skills

Dumb Idea of the Year Award

Ms Nar Award for most entertaining game press

fast trac Award for most unreasonably delayed zine (frankly, if *Zine Register* doesn't win this one it'll be an upset)

Black Splotch Award for ugliest Dip zine

Been There, Done That Award for most eagerly anticipated fold

Acquite Number Custodian Award for most unnecessary hobby service

Paul Milewski Award for most boring topic of hobby correspondence

Steve Sulzby/Jonas Johnson Award for nastiest exchange of game press

Ego Trip Award for silliest hobby debate topic

Rookie of the Year for best new Dip zine

Newcomer of the Year for best new Dip player

Comeback of the Year for best returning burnout

• Peter Sullivan has produced the first issue of *Mission from God* since taking it over from Andy & Madeliene Key. *MFG* is the British zine register, and this issue is a bit short but still full of helpful reviews and data. Write to Peter at 55 Brunton Street, Darlington, County Durham DL1 4EN, U.K., or better yet just send \$2.50 to Jim Burgess (address in Player Roster).

• The latest issue of *Cognisienti* sees Randy up to his old tricks, but this time within the rules: every one of his subbers received a Runestone Poll ballot and a stamped envelope addressed to pollster Eric Brosius. (He did not, as some have in the

past when doing this, write in a suggested vote for his zine, nor did he add in by hand any of his many subzines which were omitted.) So although *Cog* probably deserves to finish eighth or ninth, it will now likely be in the top four. (Quite by coincidence, an RP ballot is enclosed with this issue, as is a Hobby Awards voting sheet.)

• • • Other Dipsters' news: David Wang's *Metamorphosis* showed up after three months off, chock full of Star Trek chatter. ... Keith Sesler's *I Still Live!* is my pick for the next bigtime zine (a la *MP* or *Pere*). ... British Dip gadfly Mark Nelson is working, and bragging about it like it's a major achievement. Ya gotta love those Brits and their dole... In *War Fair's* April 1 issue, Stephen Glasgow goes on for a full page about how the IRS has confiscated his computer and equipment, and has attached his bank accounts, so he's folding and passing his games on to current and former subzine editors. Note the date of that edition. ... If Jim B. was going to contribute the publishing costs, why is *Vertigo* #114 still lost in electronic limbo? Maybe so Brad can find a new home after a rent increase? ... CCC editor Michael Lowery has been promoted to assistant editor for the John Locke Foundation's magazine. ... Rick Kohman's house finally caught up with him, six months after he moved! ... ♣

The Email Box

news and notes from the rest areas of the Infobahn

“.sig”s—Many emailers (and nearly all the serious ones) have a signature file, which can be slapped on the bottom of their mail, often automatically. Those net denizens whose accounts are at their place of work are often required to disassociate their employer from their personal communications, which led to this .sig file...

Richard Irving
408-633-6766

I don't like disclaimers, but I have to put them in. The opinions here are my own and not necessarily PG&E's. (As if it had any opinions about this stuff!)

Made with recycled electrons

PLAYER ROSTER

If you don't have NMR insurance (=collect calls), it could be because I don't have your phone number, or because I have to call you for orders too often.

Bold indicates a new address.

PLAYER	ADDRESS	EMAIL	NMR INSURANCE?
Chuff Afflerbach	5632 Oakgrove Avenue, Oakland CA 94618		yes
Michael Alterio	P.O. Box 713, Millbrook NY 12545		yes
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Teresa Armstrong	P.O. Box 3124, Radford VA 24141		no
Jeff August	5057 South 12th Street, Arlington VA 22204		yes
James Bailey	8337 La Riviera Drive, Sacramento CA 95826-1654		yes
J.R. Baker	2709 Colonial Drive, Dickinson TX 77539		no
Andy Bate	4, Channel Road, Clevedon, Bristol BS21 7DR, U.K.		no
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Ken Burke	6 Meadowbrook Road, West Hartford CT 06107		no
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Les Casey	10 Wrenwood Court, Nepean, Ontario K2G 5V3, CANADA	aal58@freenet.carleton.ca	email
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Stan Johnson	3712 W. Northern Ave. #454, Phoenix AZ 85051		no
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Doug Kent	54 West Cherry Street #211, Rahway NJ 07065-3240	73567.1414@compuserve.com	yes
Matthew Lahtinen	P.O. Box 10786, Zephyr Cove NV 89448		no
Daf Langley	14609 203rd Avenue SE, Renton WA 98059		yes
Mark Lew	5390 Broadway #2, Oakland CA 94618		yes
Hugh Magen	P.O. Box 131, Redondo Beach CA 90277		no
David McCrumb	3636 Old Town Road, Shawsville VA 24162-2038		yes
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John McLaurin	RR #3, Huntsville, Ontario P0A 1K0, CANADA		no
Jamie McQuinn	214 E. Church Street, Adrian MI 49221-2902		yes
Chuck Mercer	1250 Garden Lane, Sebastopol CA 95472		yes
Clark Millikan	778 Center Avenue, Martinez CA 94553		yes
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Michael Quist	2875 Irving Avenue #24, Minneapolis MN 55408	73312.1677@compuserve.com	yes
Russ Rusnak	1551 High Ridge Parkway, Westchester IL 60154		yes
Don Scheffler	16122 Affirmed Way, Friendswood TX 77546		no
John Schultz	Box 41-19390, F-W43, Michigan City IN 46360		no
Vincent Springer	328 Lawn Avenue, West Lafayette IN 47906		yes
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Victor Thomas	22722 Via Santa Rosa, Mission Viejo CA 92691		yes
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Mark Weseman	Hwang Mok Park & Jin, CPO Box 98, Seoul KOREA		no
Don Williams	25252 Via Sistine, Valencia CA 91355		yes
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Andrew York	Box 2307, Universal City TX 78148-1307	WANDREW@aol.com	yes

APRIL

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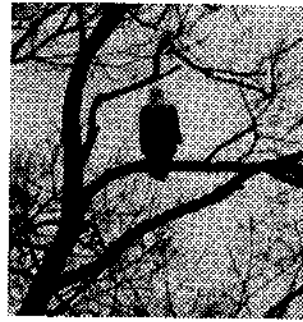
The Official 1994 Perelandra Calendar

Birthdays etc

April: 30 Cathy Gaughan
 May: 17 Vince Lutterbie, 19 Steve Langley, 26 Walter Devin Ellis
 June: 1 Fred Davis Jr., 12 Ed Wrobel
 July: 24 Tom Johnston
 August: 15 Brent McKee
 October: 17 Randy & Melanie Davis's anniversary, 28 Andy York
 November: 5 Kathy Caruso, 22 John Caruso.
 December: 1 Bruce McIntyre, 6 Brad Wilson, 8 Melody Lutterbie, 16 Randy Davis
 January: 8 Lance Anderson, 19 Pete Gaughan, 25 Chuff Afflerbach
 February: 9 David Hood, 21 Gary Behnen
 March: 16 Claire Brosius, 29 Casey Elaine Ellis, 31 Daf Langley

Events

April 23: games at Brad Wilson's place
 May 14: Leprecon in Philomath, Oregon
 May 27-30 : GamesCaucus at Oakland Airport Hilton?
 Might not make it...
 July 7-10: Origins at the San Jose Convention
 Center—definitely.
 (July 11-17: Partridge (my grandparents) family
 reunion in Maine (their 60th anniv.)
 September 1-4: Pacificon in San Mateo
 September: 1-5 Vertigo Games at Brad's place (wherev-
 er he's living).
 Well, what does everyone think about another
 NovaCon wherever *we're* living, late this summer?



Above Left: adult Bald Eagle at Lower Klamath Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
 Above Right: same eagle after we flushed it from the tree
 Below Left: Betty Gaughan (Pete's mom) at Meiss Lake Wildlife Area

Game Openings

Okay, so I lied about 'fourteen pages.' Hey, when I did *that* page I was cramming to fill that much! Now I'm stretching to fill up this page (using scanned photographs and clip art to do even that!).

Well, we are bailing out on the predictive retreats issue. Since the purpose is to reduce the number of season separations, what about instituting a rule that no Winter may be separated if there are fewer than four possible builds and removals, and seasons will never be separated on the basis of retreats?

PLATEAU/Regular Diplomacy (\$5 gamefee): Dave Golias (pd), Jeff August (pd), Victor Thomas (notpd), Don Williams (pd), James Battle (pd), Matthew Lahtinen (pd), Tim Goodwin (pd) signed up, let's get rolling.

X-23/Regular Diplomacy (\$5 gamefee): Peter Evett (pd) signed up, can take six more.

DURLA/Gunboat Diplomacy (\$5 gamefee): Two signed up; needs five more. Will allow grey press.

Note: you are signed up and paid if this box is checked:

TRALFAMADORE/Youngstown Diplomacy XV (\$8 gamefee will include rules and map): This will be a playtest—the game has not been run postally before. Michael Alterio (pd), Jim Bailey (pd), John Bryden (notpd), John Galt (pd), Richard Irving (pd), Martin Johnson (pd), Doug Kent (notpd), Matthew Lahtinen (pd), Steven McKinnon (pd), Jamie McQuinn (pd), Ward Narhi (notpd), Steve Nicewarner (notpd), Michael Quist (pd), Vincent Springer (notpd), Victor Thomas (pd), Chris Warren (pd), Brad Wilson (notpd)—4 positions remaining. I know several of you are itching to get this started or drop it, hang in there! If you have been signed up for more than two months, would you please drop me a note saying whether you're still interested??

LUSITANIA/Gunboat Snowball Fighting ASF29 (free): Five signed up, can take five more players. Players in Arkon are not allowed in this game.

Note: you are signed up if this box is checked: you sent a game name:

I'm dropping the Root Z, Goofy and Lemmings openings due to lack of interest.

They'll be on file in case anyone wants to play a wild variant. Let's get Tral rolling first, then worry about more variant Dip games.

circulation of this issue: 97.

You may use your subscription balance and free issues to pay gamefees or to purchase copies of *Zine Register*, which should be in the mail within a week of this issue and costs \$2 in North America.

Poetry Shelf (the standby list)

The Poets are, for Diplomacy: J.R. Baker, Roger Cox, Randy Davis, Dave Golias, Tom Hurst, Stan Johnson, Jack McHugh, Steve McKinnon, John McLaurin, Jamie McQuinn, Chuck Mercer, Mike Stewart, Nathan Trent, Richard Weiss, Andrew York.

For Diplomacy variant games (and/or Merchant of Venus): J.R. Baker, Randy Davis, Dave Golias (+MoV), Chris Hassler (MoV), Tom Hurst, Steve McKinnon, Mike Stewart, Nathan Trent, Chris Warren, Richard Weiss, Andrew York (+MoV).

Some of you have been on the standby list for a long while without reconfirming. If you want off, would you please take this opportunity to tell me so that I don't drag you into a game you don't want to play?

A free issue goes to each standby when he picks up a game and when he plays it out. Standbys are not called for Snowball Fights or rail games. Subber currently in fewest games will be chosen first., but if a position nmrs more than once I try to call the same standby again.

CALLED THIS MONTH: J. R. Baker for Ix. ♣