

Herlandra

issue number 13

september first 1983

日本旅行

STRANGER IN PARADISE part one

It seemed, as my plane left the gate at Los Angeles International, that I was doing something completely irrational. No college graduate in his right mind takes a volunteer position, outside his field of expertise yet. My plans for graduate school felt like daydreams when I balanced my checkbook, and my father lay in the hospital having nearly suffered a heart attack two days before.

I had twenty-two hours to rid myself of that feeling of disbelief. I couldn't enter Japan with a depressed, belligerent attitude. Somewhere over the Pacific, I began to quiet myself and realize that, most of all, I was insecure--here was a wonderful opportunity to learn a new culture, a new skill, a new lifestyle, and all I could think of was my shortcomings.

The pragmatics of the summer, I must admit, did often distract me. When I was told by phone, two weeks after I arrived in Nagasaki, that my dad had had quadruple-bypass open-heart surgery, I was something of a zombie for three or four days. Fear about finances was a slight but nagging concern towards the end of the trip, and I am still ill at ease with my new surroundings here in Texas. But the prayers of God's people, in two countries, have sustained me and even built me up beyond what I would have been without these trials.

Japan reminds me very much of America's Appalachia in appearance. The streets, like those of Europe, are narrow and crowded; the roads between towns are little better than country lanes, with only one "freeway" in all of Nagasaki Prefecture (size of four or five counties). Yet, against the backdrop of lush green mountains, the cities show the desire of the people for international sophistication. There are no yards, despite the smallness of Japanese homes; the rich sometimes have a tiny garden, but generally if a plot of level ground does not have a building or a road on it then it has a rice paddy. The lack of space even forces gas pumps to hang from overhead.

The famous Japanese hospitality and ingenuity are always on display, but one who searches the souls of the people quickly finds the reasons behind these. Here are 110 million people--half the population of the United States--existing on an aggregate usable living area less than that of Connecticut. Is it any wonder, friend, that interpersonal relations are paramount in Japanese society?

And yet this is a people who do not want to be known. They know about Western hang-ups over Japanese "inscrutability", and they seem satisfied not to relieve them at all. For centuries the Japanese archipelago (and they can never be thought of as anything but an island people) held every person of Japanese descent, and virtually no one else. Thus they have remained the most homogenous people; single-minded in their desire for the benefits of outside advances without the problems of the rest of the world (prominent among them: crime, neuroses, and illiteracy).

To this end--to excel, "in mind and spirit, for the good of society--has led them to a different plan from the Soviets'. Their children are programmed rather than educated, but in the Confucian ideal of an ordered society.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN . . .
just another GM error. The corrected
adjudication:

AUS (Cusack): a vie-tyr, a tri-ser,
a ser-gre (f alb s), a rum-bul (d; r bud, oth).

ENG (Givan): a den-kie, f nwy-swe,
f nth-hel, f edi-nth, a lon h.

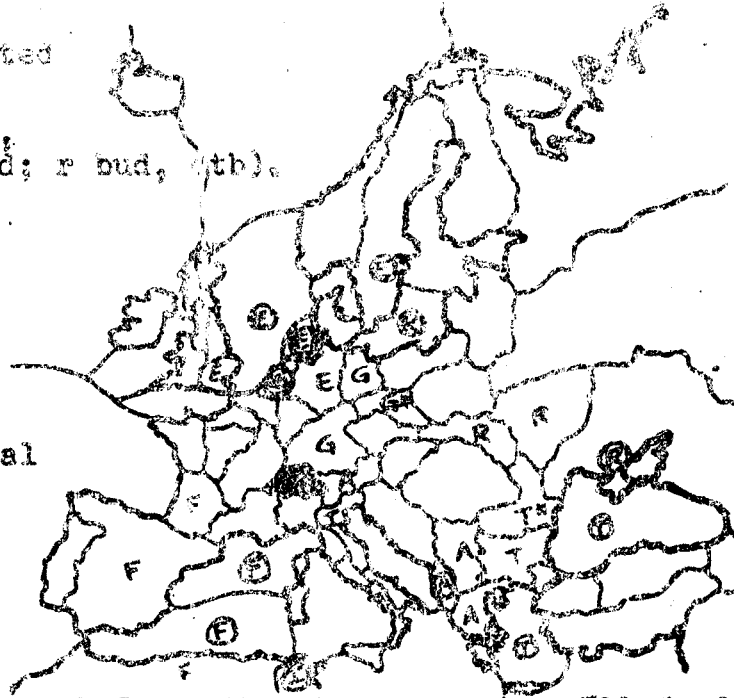
FRA (Ellis): a spa-naf (f wes c),
a par-gas, f mar-gol, a par-gas.

GER (Makuc): a ber-sil (a mun s),
a kie-ber, f bel-hol.

ITA (Mazzer): f ion-tun, a van h,
a rom-nap.

RUS (Ragsdale): f swe-bal, a war-gal
(a sil s) (a sil d; r pru, boh,
war, oth), a mos-ukr, f sev s
T a con-rum.

TUR (Roybal): a con-rum (f bla c,
R f sev s), a gre-ser (a bul s)
(a gre d, /a/), f smy-aeg.



Notes: Deadline is now noon, 27 SEPTEMBER. GM's address is now 509 Sand-
piper #130, Arlington TX 76013 (telephone #: 817-460-3253); GM's new
reserved dateline is "UTA" and all press is now blank: if you've sent
anything, resubmit it.



(STRANGER continued) Japan, in its own eyes, has long ago mastered thing
spiritual, in its blend of Shintoism (worship of nature), Buddhism (wor-
ship of ancestors), and Confucianism (a system of rules regulating social
interaction). But now the younger Japanese realize that a void has been
create^d by the country's headlong rush to success in education, trade,
and politics. The young adults with whom I worked are searching, as they
never have before and as Americans have for two decades, for purpose be-
hind the rat-race they adopted from us.

I have been trying to paint a general picture of Japan, but without
looking closely at individuals you may be drawn to imagine a gloomier
scene than that which exists. It is in individuals that one sees the
promise of the nation, and I will deal with that next month.

Guess what! • • • • •

Yes, this is Perelandra, a monthly amateur magazine for players of Dip-
lomacy (copyrighted and manufactured by Avalon-Hill Game Co.). Perelandra
is available for subscriptions of \$5 U.S. for 10 issues (add \$1 for mail
outside North America) payable to P.J. Gaughan, 509 Sandpiper #130,
Arlington TX 76013. The phone strike being settled, I have finally been
assigned a number by Southwestern Bell: (817) 460-3253. (Hm, I wonder if
that's my place on their waiting list?)

Reader participation is encouraged, and full articles are now remuner-
ated in cash (\$1/page). Of course, the editor retains the right to edit,
or even omit, anything he receives. Being a graduate student and (now) a
teaching assistant, it would be unwise for people to try to call between
10 pm and 7 am Central Time, since this could result in long-distance
bodily injury. And, still, I need SANDPIPS.

Herlandra

Our Guest of Honor

This month: Arthur Simon, executive director of Bread for the World, a Christian citizen's movement; from his book, Bread for the World (New York: Paulist Press, and Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975).

Consider the example of energy. U.S. air-conditioners alone consume as much energy as does the entire nation of China with its 800 million people. On a per capita basis we use twice the energy that West Germany does and three times that of Japan. Turning down our thermostats and driving less may have an integrity of their own; but even if widely practiced they are not apt to cut back on energy waste. To be effective, energy conservation must result from carefully designed national policy, have the force of law, and be applied to the nation as a whole. We need, then, to move from the personal to the public realm on such a matter.

The waste of food in the United States provides an almost endless list of horrors that, in turn, suggest ways in which we could conserve personally on this precious commodity. Each U.S. citizen consumes on the average about 1,850 pounds of grain per year, compared to 400 pounds in poor countries, mainly because we consume most of ours indirectly as meat and dairy products. According to the Department of Agriculture, in December 1974 the average pound of edible beef in this country represented seven pounds of grain. As a result the idea of "eating lower on the food chain" by cutting back on grain-fed meat makes sense, but doing so does not automatically transfer food to hungry people. The grain "saved" may be sold to feed Russian livestock or simply not planted next year by farmers who are worried about low prices. Food will reach hungry people only if government policies see to its proper production and distribution, so an adjustment in eating habits without responsible citizenship may prescribe failure and hurt family farmers.

Adopting a more modest style of life can be a powerful witness in the struggle against hunger, if efforts to change public policy accompany it. Unfortunately too many people attracted to a life-style approach want to stop there. Life-style changes appeal as immediate, personal responses. But they can also lull us with a false sense of fulfillment. Not having a television set because most people in the world do not have one, or not using sheets on our beds because few of the world's poor can afford them, can be morally satisfying. Unless such actions are accompanied by more positive steps, however, they may do nothing more than put people out of work.

The appeal that is primarily needed is not for less personal consumption, but for a greater share of per capita U.S. growth. Therefore the most important sacrifice that readers of this book can make is the sacrifice of their time and energy to change public policy. A life-style adjustment may be useful, but detached from attempts to influence government policy it tends to be an ineffective gesture. Our sense of stewardship must become sufficiently large to include both.

I've been a member of Bread for the World for almost a year, and Mr. Simon has continued to write convincingly, together with the entire staff of this unique Washington-based lobby, for a political solution beyond the old, worn moralisms, to the problem of hunger in the States and overseas.

If you'd be interested in seeing what 40,000 Americans are doing to feed people with their time, write to Bread for the World, 6411 Chillum Place N.W., Washington DC 20012.

"ROMANCE" NATIONS LOOKING FOR A FIGHT

Summer 1904: RUS retreats a gal-war

AUS (Arnawoodian): f bul/se s i f con, a ser s f bul.

ENG (Burgess): f iri-nao, f eng s a bel, f nth-hol (a bel s) (a bel d, /a/), f nwy-nth.

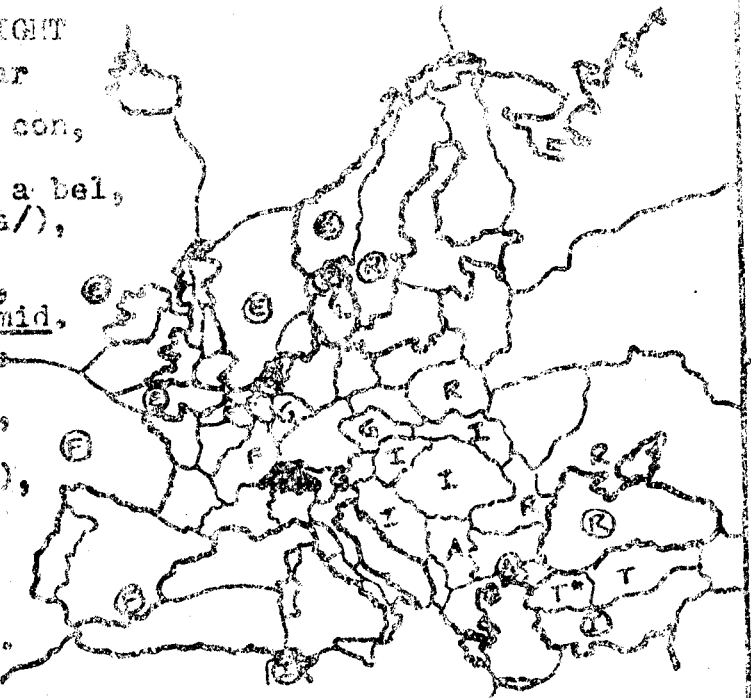
FRA (Cusack): a pic-bel (a bur s), f mid-eng, a bre-pic, f spa/sc-mid.

GER (Marshall): nmr. a den, f hol, a ruh, a tyr, a boh all hold.

ITA (Peery): a vie-gal, a tri-bud, a bud-rum, a tyr-via (nsu), f aeg-con (nsu), f naf-tun (nsu), f eas-sny, a gal u, f tun u, f con u (d; r aeg, otb).

RUS (Givan): f bla s T a smy-con, a rum s A a ser, a sev s a rum, a war-gal, f swe-ska, f bot-swe.

TUR (Keller): a smy-con (a anks, R f bla s).



DEADLINE: noon, 27 SEPTEMBER

Supply Centers held, winter 1904:

AUS	ser gre bul	3-3, 1 short, no room
ENG	lon lvp edi WZ nwy	5-4, even
FRA	par bre mar spa por BEL	5-6, build 1
GER	ber kie mun hol den	5-5, even
ITA	nap ven rom vie tri bud tun SMY	7-8, build 1
RUS	stp mos war sev rum swe	6-6, even
TUR	ank ank con	3-2, even

Notes: "f con u" may receive support (see rulebook), but still does not have enough this time. I will use "nao" for North Atlantic, but I prefer to have your orders as fully written-out as possible. Addresses are supplied for the last time, gentlemen; please don't ask again.

Steve Arnawoodian--602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale PA 19446 (215-699-7659)

Jim Burgess--66 Hall Street, Providence RI 02904 (401-273-5629)

Blair Cusack--General Delivery, Revelstoke BC Canada V0E2S0 (604-837-5507)

Dave Marshall--Route 3, Box 361A, Russellville KY 42276 (502-726-8964)*

*standby, Jim Keeney--1917 28th St. #C, Sacramento CA 95816 (916-456-5174)

Larry Peery--Box 3416, San Diego CA 92102 (619-230-2237)

Evans Givan--Box 15761, Sacramento CA 95852-0761 (916-722-8982)

Mark Keller--9536 Shumway Drive, Orangevale CA 95662 (916-988-7224)**

Pete Gaughan--509 Sandpiper #130, Arlington TX 76013 (817-460-3253)

**Obviously, if Jim enters the game, it will be declared irregular, due to "local game" restrictions. C'mon, Dave! Now, the press:

UTA to Board: This is the GM's new reserved desteline; all others are now cancelled and up for grabs. UTA is University of Texas at Arlington.

Austria to Italy: Wow, are you ever in trouble! I told you not to attack me in '01! You Californians are all alike, limited in brain cells.

Moscow to Berlin: Attack Limeys!

UTA to Board: Limeys reply on page 3.

Perelandra

Vital Statistics

First, the rest of the 1982HK/Yavin press--
England to the Guys: I was really bad. Somehow that long deadline just smuck up on me. I ended up being nice to the people I heard from and not nice to the one who didn't bother. (Guess who?)
Russia to Turkey: I hope your master plan wasn't as dumb as it seemed. If it was, we both bit the big one.

Now, the numbers. Subscribers: 29, but these people are receiving their last paid issue and have one more warning due: Arnawoodian, Tim Brown, & Hart. Lapsing with #14 will be: nobody! But Steve Langley & Daf Fritz' sub ends with #15. Send money.

Standby list: Roybal, Ellis, and Makuc. Jim Kesney is called for 1982HK (Germany) in this issue; that game has been plagued with problems lately, and I hope the players get their acts together now that the GM has his.

Deadline for both games is noon, 27 September 1983. I'm taking suggestions on the idea of dropping the maps--are they causing more trouble than they're worth?

Finally, a comment about another game opening. There will be one more game of regular Dip, hopefully beginning with the November 1 issue (#15). If I have more than seven entrants, priority will be: current standbys, subbers not in games, non-subbers, and then subbers currently in a Perelandra game. Subbers have a one-month head-start on the "game openings list" readers. Anybody who wants in will have to include the new, \$3 gamefee with their letter (and preference list, if desired), but I have eliminated the \$1 NMR deposit for future games. Get 'em in now!

My congratulations to Rod Walker, inaugural winner of the Don Miller Memorial Award.

More congratulations: to Europa Express, winner of the 83 Runestone Poll (formerly North American Zine Poll) with an average vote of 8.13. Diplomacy by Moonlight, which I had rated first, finished one one-hundredth of a point behind. Doug Beyerlein (9.6 score) and John Daly (9.55) topped the GM voting. Perelandra thanks you for placing us 16th, with a respectable vote of 6.93; however, I am disappointed in the four players who scored my GMing at 6.75. I would rate my ability there at no more than 5, but I feel the poll has been subjected to its own form of inflation. Of course, the poll was twisted by the lack of an accurate report; also, such aberrations as a "0" vote for Jihad! (dead for nearly two years now) and two votes for "Thirty Miles of Bad Sports" (did these cost TMOR in the main ballot?).

A few impressions of my arrival here in the Dallas-Fort Worth area (since I didn't receive any mail from my subbers this summer). First of all, Texans have the gall to call this "the Metroplex", when it isn't even fifty miles across, and most of it is open land. I haven't had a chance to visit downtown Dallas yet; but Arlington is living down to my expectations as a small, college town. UTA has over 22,000 students, but the average age is up around 27. It's a predominantly commuter and working-family campus; night registration is pretty even with day classes. The "big names" here are in nursing, engineering, and my own department, Foreign Languages & Linguistics. I'll give you my ideas on teaching English to foreign students after I've done it another month.

The Last Word from Vonnegut's *Slapstick*...

I can think of another quickie education for a child, which, in its way, is almost as salutary: Meeting a human being who is tremendously respected by the adult world, and realizing that that person is actually a malicious lunatic.

That was Eliza's and my experience with Dr. Cordelia Swain Jordaner, who was sidely believed to be the greatest expert on psychological testing in the world--with the possible exception of China. Nobody knew what was going on in China any more.

And finally one of us asked her what she was so mad about.

This made her very calm. "I am not mad," she said. "It would be very unprofessional for me to ever get mad about anything. However let me say that asking a person of my calibre to come all this distance into the wilderness to personally administer tests to only two children is like asking Mozart to tune a piano. It is like asking Einstein to balance a checkbook. Am I getting through to you, 'Mistress Eliza and Master Wilbur,' as I believe you are called?"

"Then why did you come?" I asked her.

Her rage came out into the open again. She said this to me with all possible nastiness: "Because money talks, 'Little Lord Fauntleroy.'"

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The last issue of your subscription is number 18.