

Perelandra

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Welcome to the "new look" Perelandra, your direct connection to news, opinions, and antagonism. The main reason for the masthead-reworking is my move to a new residence, this one a boarding house in South-Central Los Angeles, just $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile north of the University. Which??? How dare you question which university? The University of Southern California, of course--home to four Heisman trophies, nearly a dozen Nobel Prize winners, and the best thick-crust pizza in L.A.

I haven't even met my new roommate yet (I lived with one guy for two years, so it's been a while since I've had to go through an "adjustment" period). I know he exists, but I can't tell you now whether he could be twisted enough to play Diplomacy. I'm really glad my game load is lighter than my class load this fall--I'm about to be elim'ed in two games, so with the revival of two from jihad! I'll be in four games. However, Steve Langley is up to ten because he's been given seven standby positions, so I'm counting my blessings.

My courses will be more rugged this semester, but after all, I'm a senior (OOH! AAH! WOW!). I have two classes in German, both cultural (one is a film class), plus Japanese and one linguistics course. I can't get my job back at the bookstore, so I'm right back in with the freshmen and transfers looking for work; my brother, Mike (whom you all may soon meet in these pages), gets my summer job at my father's warehouse.

Finally, just to keep you all totally up-to-date on ME, I've found another love. Yes, it is possible to be a Dipper and keep up a romantic relationship. She doesn't Dip, though; it makes life interesting around deadline day, I'm sure.

Not much inside this. The biggest news is that I have my first set of ~~VCR~~ players, on page 2. Also, since I didn't get much mail this month (hint, hint), the mailbox is short and sweet and leaves lots of room for photographs from Peericon in July. The new repro is by Minolta--our office just purchased an EP310, which does nothing except copy, but gives great quality. Besides, it's free if I supply the blank paper!

Don't forget that new address (I'll be reminding you several times, be sure of it):

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Perelandra 2

EVERYBODY WANTS FRANCE & RUSSIA !!!
(but somebody has to play Italy)

I've already announced this in a flyer to the players, but Perelandra's inaugural Diplomacy game has filled and begun! I'm not hung up on names, and so I only require the Boardman number on orders; but until we get one, I dub this game "Yavin". This continues a fine hobby tradition of naming for fictional places, and it also proves that I'm not so stuffy after all . . . but, no, I won't tell you where it came from until the bottom of the page--don't look 'till you've tried!

Here's the starting lineup for "Yavin": (Spring orders due Monday Sept. 27!)

AUSTRIA: Steve Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale PA 19446, USA
ENGLAND: Larry McCloud, 520 Geary, San Francisco CA 94102, USA
FRANCE: Blair Cusack, General Delivery, Revelstoke BC V0E 2S0, Canada
GERMANY: Dave Marshall, Route 3 Box 361A, Russellville KY 42276, USA
ITALY: Larry Peery, Box 8416, San Diego CA 92102, USA
RUSSIA: Tim Brown, 904 East Washington St., Greenville SC 29601, USA
TURKEY: Bill Highfield, 2012 Ridge Road East, Rochester NY 14622, USA

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Please let me know immediately if I have any of the above wrong. Four players listed Russia as their first preference, and four listed France as either first or second. And two people didn't even send lists, or I'm sure it would have been worse.

A couple of rule notes for the spectators. First, these players are required (look it up!) to sign their orders, or the orders will not be regarded. Also, if we get to the point of proposed concessions and draws, no vote received means no in this 'zine--and I will reveal the complete results of all ballots, since any conference of world powers would do the same. The only exception is rules changes; I have already put two of these to the players for a vote.

Fortunately I already know my new address (see masthead), but at the time of writing I don't have my new phone number. Remember your time zones, guys; no calls 'tween 11 pm and 8 am Pacific time, or you're out.

This may be (no, it is) a good place to request that one or two of you standby for this game. I don't need hundreds of volunteers (like some larger mags) and this looks like a rather sturdy crew, but it would be nice to have a name on hand.

Now, about Yavin. Remember the rebel base in Star Wars? It was on Yavin's fourth moon, which is as yet unnamed. The next game will get an older, more 'classic' name, I promise.

PLAYLIST for this issue: Imperials, Priority; Gerry Limpic, Gentle Touch; Mozart, various works including Don Giovanni; Beethoven, Symphony in D major #2, Opus 36; Copland, Appalachian Spring; Keith Green, Songs for the Shepherd; Bob Ayala, Joy by Surprise.



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Herelandra 3

Many of us here in Dipdom either own or work with computers, so I've been asked to plug a new "discount software mail order house," run by Bob Arnett, who pubs Rus-Q? and Volkerwanderung. My entire experience with logic boxes is a semester of Pascal language on a Dec-10, but maybe some of you could profit from writing to Bob, who specializes in computer gaming.

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Guest of Honor

This month we turn back again to Nature. The occasion: I have just received my first bulletin as a member of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter. The man: Henry David Thoreau (pronounced "Thurrow"), who lived, for two and one-half years, in a cabin on Walden Pond at Concord, N.H. This is especially of note since he was born into a wealthy family; added to his talent with a pen, his background has made him one of the most listened-to of Nature's spokesmen. These quotes are from both his Journals and his book, Walden, or Life in the Woods.

Each town should have a park, or rather a primitive forest, of five hundred or a thousand acres, where a stick should never be cut for fuel, a common possession forever, for instruction and recreation. ...As some give to Harvard College or another institution, why might not another give a forest or huckleberry-field to Concord? A town is an institution which deserves to be remembered. . . .

If we knew all the laws of Nature, we should need only one fact, or the description of one actual phenomenon, to infer all the particular results at that point. Now we know only a few laws, and our result is vitiated, not, of course, by any confusion or irregularity in Nature, but by our ignorance of essential elements in the calculation. Our notions of law and harmony are commonly confined to those instances which we detect; but the harmony which results from a far greater number of seemingly conflicting, but really concurring, laws; which we have not detected, is still more wonderful. The particular laws are as our points of view, as, to the traveller, a mountain varies with every step, and it has an infinite number of profiles, though absolutely but one form. Even when cleft or bored through it is not comprehended in its entirety.

What I have observed of the pond is no less true in ethics. It is the law of average. Such a rule of the two diameters not only guides us toward the sun in the system and the heart in man, but draw lines through the length and breadth of the aggregate of a man's particular daily behaviors and waves of life into his coves and inlets, and where they intersect will the height or depth of his character. Perhaps we need only to know how his shores trend and his adjacent country of circumstances, to infer his depth and concealed bottom. If he is surrounded by mountainous circumstances, an Achillean shore, whose peaks overshadow and are reflected in his bosom, they suggest a corresponding depth in him. But a low and smooth shore proves him shallow on that side.

...I should not talk so much about myself if there were any body else whom I knew so well.

...It is surprising how many great men and women a small house will contain....Many of our houses, both public and private, with their almost innumerable apartments, their huge halls, and their cellars . . . appear to me extravagantly large for their only inhabitants[,] . . . the vermin which infest them.

Perelandra 4



Peericon II crowd; Founder Lawrence is center front. Total attendance was 38.



Lynn Cicotte masterminds T/A/I alliance in game #4, while Dave Grabar smokes on.

Well, the final tallies are in. Nearly everyone has vented his opinion of the results. And still Peericon II was an overwhelming success. Scott Cox wound up atop the heap, with 109.24 tourney points (yours truly finished dead last, with 8.03). Scott, among his other prizes (they were numerous!), has won the dubious honor of a complementary sub to Perelandra.

I have an entire rool of b&w's, but I felt I could only select the best. Larry P. has a set, as well as some of his own, so sub to Xenogogic if you want to see more. It was a rare treat to match name and face; I actually met Larry McCloud and "Black Jack" Masters (don't ask them, they won't remember me). Next year we will probably just reserve a couple more rooms at the Lafayette, instead of using the city rec center for the Saturday rounds. Based on growth to date, Peericon X should see 64,000 players in San Diego--is any of us ready for that??

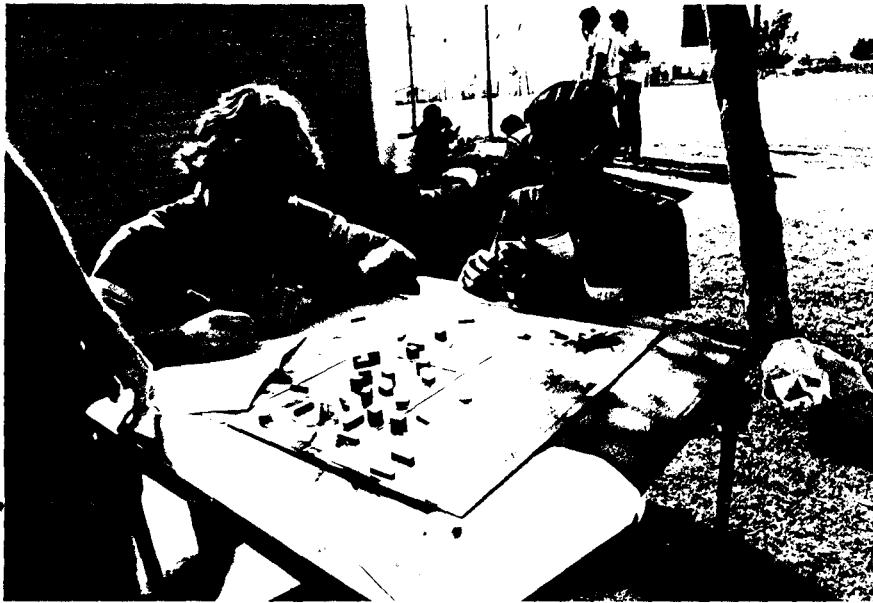
Tim Moore pretends to let Ray Sarbacher (left) soothe his anger in game #5.



Jack Masters and Laury McCloud engage in nail-biting contest, sidelines of game #6.



Perelandra 5



The Point Loma Diplomacy Club learns to spell at registration.

Chip Hanika tries to decide whom to take down with himself.

Mailbox

First, apologies to "Woody" Arna-woodian. I didn't get a chance to pass on his challenge to John Michalski because Yavin filled right after that. Most of my mail was form letters, but everyone who wrote either signed up for the game or said they would later, so I may open a second game in Nov. Stay tuned!

Again, my comments in [...].

GARY COUGHLAN, Mahmphis TN

Don't worry about waiting on a game start. You should talk to Don Del Grande of Life of Monty and Jack Fleming of Paranoiac's Monthly. Both of them had long, long waits but both are going strong now.

[I feel a lot better now--turns out that even John Daly took 5 issues, and now he has 10+ games!]

[Even Gary thought my name was French! I'm trying really hard not to send him a history of HIS name.]

JOHN DALY, Rockwell NC

[John wrote to tell me that Jihad! was folded and my games moved to Magus and The Modern Patriot. He goes on:]

Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.

I tried to break Glenn's games up so that nobody would have to sub to two zines, but somebody was going to get stuck and I hoped you wouldn't mind since you could probably trade PERELANDRA for the two zines you would be playing in. Besides, we publishers can better tolerate inconvenience whereas most players can't.

I haven't forgotten that you want to pick up some orphans of your own. These games were sent out by previous commitment.

[Hey, folks, how about an ovation, eh? I mean, this is service. Not only do I get this note within two weeks, but John is actually trying to save me money (I don't trade, John). I think he and Kathy Byrne, who just resigned, have done a great job with the Orphan Service. I'm unsure about publishers and inconvenience, though; ask me in a couple of months.]

[My English teachers never allowed me to capitalize the name of a periodical, but I will in quoting someone else. It just feels funny.]

STEVE ARNAWOODIAN, Lansdale PA

I suggest you print the names of the people who have already signed up for the game. I'm sure 4 people would see my name & sign up to kick my country apart. I've noticed when a GM doesn't print ((names)) the game fills slowly.

[What do you other pubbers think? Izzat so?]

--Augustine of Hippo

the Last Word

Farewell to the tent and the owl caravan
To the tinker, the gypsy, the travellin' man
And goodbye to the life of the rover.

The old ways are changing, ye canna deny
The day of the travellers over
There's nowhere to go and nowhere to bide
So goodbye to the thirty-foot trailer

Ye've got to move fast to keep up with the times
For these days a man canna dander
There's a bylaw to say ye must be on yer way
And another to say ye can't wander

Farewell to the songs and the travelling talk
Farewell to the horse and the bridle
The buyin', the sellin', the owl fortune-
tellin',
The knock on the door and the hawking

The old ways are passing and soon they'll be
gone
For progress is always a factor
It's sent to afflict us / And when they evict us
They tow us away with a tractor

(The Irish Rovers, The Life of the Rover)

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Rod Walker
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sample? comp sub? sub? expires with issue _____

Downstown

By Tim Downs

