

Perelandra 2

number 49

May



by Edmund Cooper

The LAST CONTINENT

[Black humanity is flourishing on Mars. White humans are presumed extinct, Earth a dead shell. But a Martian expedition finds Noi Lantis, the last white outpost, reverted to savagery on the Last Continent, Antarctica (now a rainforest). The races pick up the tension where they left off, until one Martian--the ship's political officer--disappears. Another--the ship's psychologist, Mirlena--tries to avoid a one-sided interplanetary conflict...]

"Even if he does not come back, the matter cannot rest. We have to be able to explain to our people on Mars what has happened to him. He is an important man, Kymri. If my government suspects--as they would, in the absence of facts--that you people of Noi Lantis are responsible for his disappearance, there is no telling what may happen."

"I see....Why does Garl Sinjorge believe that this man has entered the Abode of the Dead?"

"Because last night, while you and I were engaged in other things, Kord spoke a great deal and with much excitement of the tower. It is the only tower in Noi Lantis that is not made of stone blocks. It is made of a substance we call concrete."

"What is concrete?"

"Exactly. You do not know. And that is why Kord was excited. After you brought him back from the tour of the city today, he spent much time looking at the Abode of the Dead through his field glasses--the lenses through which distant things seem near. He was also taking note of the movements of the priests and he told Garl that for two minutes every hour no one could observe if the tower was being entered. He also told Garl that the top of the tower was an observatory and that it appeared to contain a telescope and tracking instruments--that is, machines that are able to watch far movements in the skies. Now do you understand why the tower fascinated him?"

Kymri was silent for a while. Then he said, "The penalty for entering the tower is death. Not even the Pryterguard may go into the Abode of the Dead."

"This we know," said Mirlena wearily. "Whatever happens now, there is bound to be some terrible disaster. I had hoped for so much from this visit to Noi Lantis. I had hoped that white people and black people might look upon each other--as you and I have done--to see what is good, not what is evil. But now this fool, this stupid bigoted idiot of a man, is jeopardizing the destinies of two worlds because he thinks--that a black skin entitles him to do whatever he wishes."

There were tears in her eyes. Suddenly Mirlena felt very tired. Not tired because of Earth gravity. Tired in the depths of her spirit. Tired because an impossible dream was about to be proved impossible.

Suddenly and crazily, Kymri was lighthearted. Suddenly, Godfred had filled him with the death-wish once more, as when he had given battle to the sky beast. Suddenly, there was fire in his veins and steel in his heart.

"Kymriso, my mother, spoke to me of many things," he said softly, "but her last command was that I should follow my duty wherever it may lead. It amuses Godfred, the divine joker, to



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Assistant Editors: Cathy Sexton and Tom Hise

Pere Landra

lead me to the Abode of the Dead. It amuses Godfred to spur me to seek and save one whom I despise. It amuses Godfred also to appoint you, Mirlena, to accompany me in this dreadful act. Tell these, your friends, that presently we shall go to seek their comrade. Tell them also that you and I have looked upon each other, have touched each other, have loved each other, and are not ashamed."

Mirlena looked at him wide-eyed. There was too much to say and nothing to say.



Edmund Cooper wrote a number of mediocre science fiction novels. The Last Continent is better than the average '60s SF (not saying much, I admit) but combines two classic themes: Communism overcome and racism overcome. The black hero, Thomas Mulvaney, has over hundreds of years been converted into a black-Martian Lenin, with Martian society based on the commands of the "Vaney Party".

The science that underlays the book--Earth a withered heath after a nuclear holocaust; the loss of Earth's magnetic field to natural change--is conventional but subtle and accurate. And more important than any other aspect of the novel, the protagonist, Kymri, has just enough ambivalence about him to make the reader want to holler at him at times!

News in Briefs

This is an abbreviated Pere; your editor is in the middle of trying to finish three major papers in three weeks, two of which will be submitted to linguistic societies for publication this summer.

Tom Hise will be moving out of Casa de Studs on May 15 (guess we'll have to rename it--any suggestions?). Cathy and Pete will be married on May 25 at 1:00 (see map) and will live at the Park Row apartment.

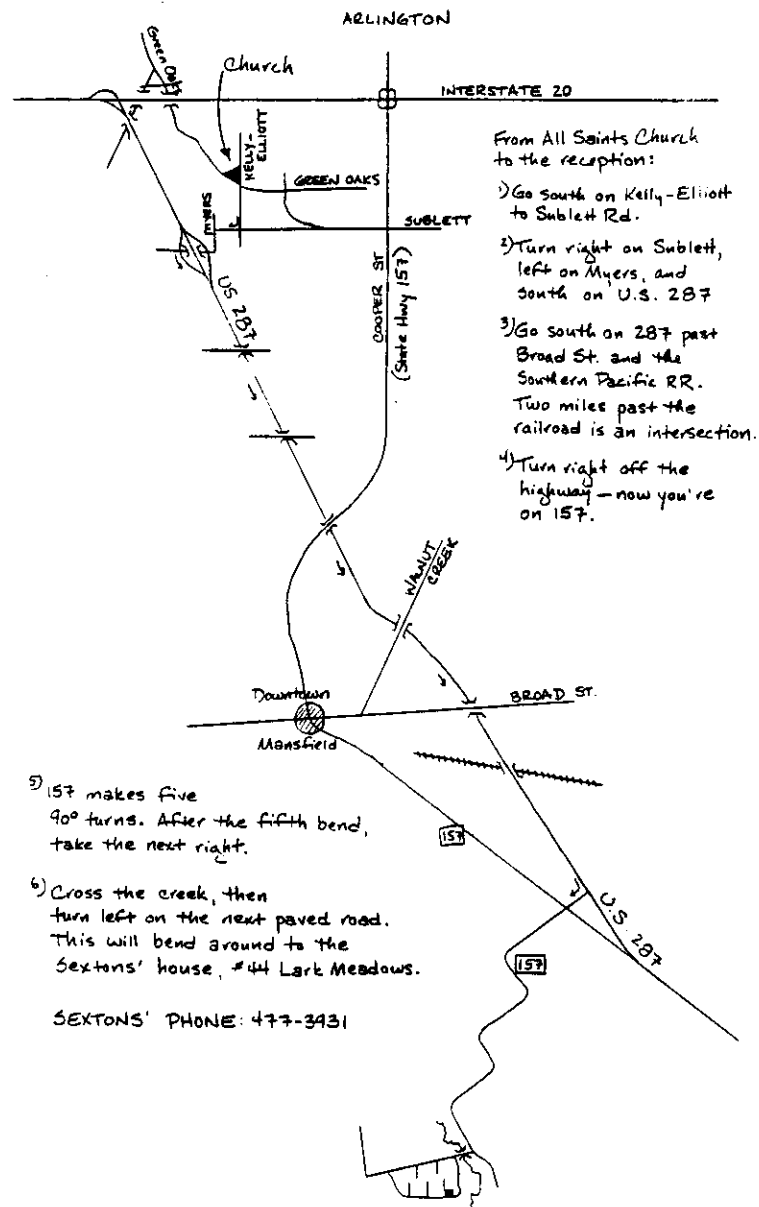
Then, on June first, Don Scheifler will move in to share the pad (his bedroom has a separate bathroom and entryway). Tom will be leaving for Houston about then, where he will be working with inner-city youth for the summer.

This issue contains two gamestarts, two con reviews, the two ongoing games, and a literary quiz. Not much else--but available around the middle of the month will be a complete wrap-up of Arlington 4 (reviews have already been published in Random Thought and Magus). I'll try to send that to everyone who was here--let me know if you'd like a copy of the gossip about SLUDGE, Maniac, Jackrabbit, and the Halfling, among others.

John Caruso is starting up a Ballpark-type postal baseball league. Write to him at 29-10 164th St, Flushing NY 11358.

Conrad von Metzke is putting together a hobby census. He asks you to send you address list to him at 4374 Donald Av, San Diego CA 92117-3813.

(more news with Snowball Fighting...)



Perelandra

Game Openings

For all game fees, add one dollar if paying in Canadian funds. Checks to Perelandra, please.

DIPLOMACY: Gamestart in this issue. Another game (seven needed) is now open. \$5.

SNOWBALL FIGHTING: Gamestart in this issue. Another game (six to eight needed) is open--the next game will be anonymous! \$3 includes rules.

DOWNFALL OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS: Rod Walker, Bruce Geryk, Geoffrey Richard all signed up and paid (needs five more). \$5 includes rules and an impressive 17x22 map.

TITAN: Gamestart in this issue (as well as turn one!)--no openings.

GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY: Four signed up, three of those paid (needs three more). \$3 for a two-week-deadline game.

Standbys: Thank you all! Emmert, Hurst, Ellis, Givan, Langley, Behnen, Walker. Standbys receive two issues for sending in orders, and another for finishing a position.

Literary Quiz

Last month: Who was the poet, and the poem that earned him over \$250,000 in the course of his lifetime? (actually, the question was much longer...)

Well, we got no guesses on this, so Rod doesn't win the second half-issue for submitting this question. I got the poet right (Edwin Markham) but didn't know the title of the poem--"The Man With the Hoe". It was first published in the San Francisco Examiner in 1900. His only other great poem was "Lincoln, Man of the People".

Last Month #2: Who wrote Hunger?

Rod answers: Sult (Hunger) was written by Knut Pederson (a.k.a. Knut Hamsun), who also spent time in Chicago and North Dakota. Thank you, ~~Paine Webber~~ Encyclopedia Britannica.

Matt Kazur: The second literary question of the month is easy. Remembering where I put my Perelandra is the hard part. If I can find it, I'll send my guess along.

Well, Matt's guess never arrived. Rod wins 1/2 issue for question 2...and this month I expect to hear from most of you with this quiz.....

Q131EZ: What maiden in a 19th-century English romance is now the name of a shortbread cookie? Extra credit if you name the novel and novelist.

RATHILLIEN

Spring 1901 orders are due 27 June 1987 (by phone, 11pm 26 June). If I do not have a complete set of orders by 1 June, a standby will be called. Welcome to Perelandra! If you need a copy of my houserules just ask--they're fairly simple. Gamemaster's reserved deadlines for this game are "UTA" (Univ. of Texas at Arlington) and "Newlywed". AND--the first player in this game to tell me where "Rathillien" comes from wins a free issue.

Note that Tom Hise lives with the editor until May 15. The address below is his parents', where he will be May 16-June 3; after June 3, he'll be in Houston (I'll give you that address below also). Press is strongly encouraged!

Austria: Dave Pilant 15819 Crystal Brook Houston TX 77068

England: Tom Hise (5/1 - 6/3) 4568 Black Rock Dallas TX 75211

(6/4 - 8/15) c/o Gano Center 1815 Gano Houston TX 77009

France: Melinda Holley Box 2793 Huntington WV 25727-2793

Germany: Tom Hurst 2686 Richardson Dr Fitchburg WI 53711

Italy: Rex Martin Avalon Hill Game Co. 20 East Read St Baltimore MD 21202

Russia: Gary Behnen 13101 S. Trenton Olathe KS 66062

Turkey: Guy Hail 911 Blanco #208 Austin TX 78703

Anybody who wants me to try to call in the event of an nmr had better send their phone number; if you want your phone number published, just ask. Good luck to you all.

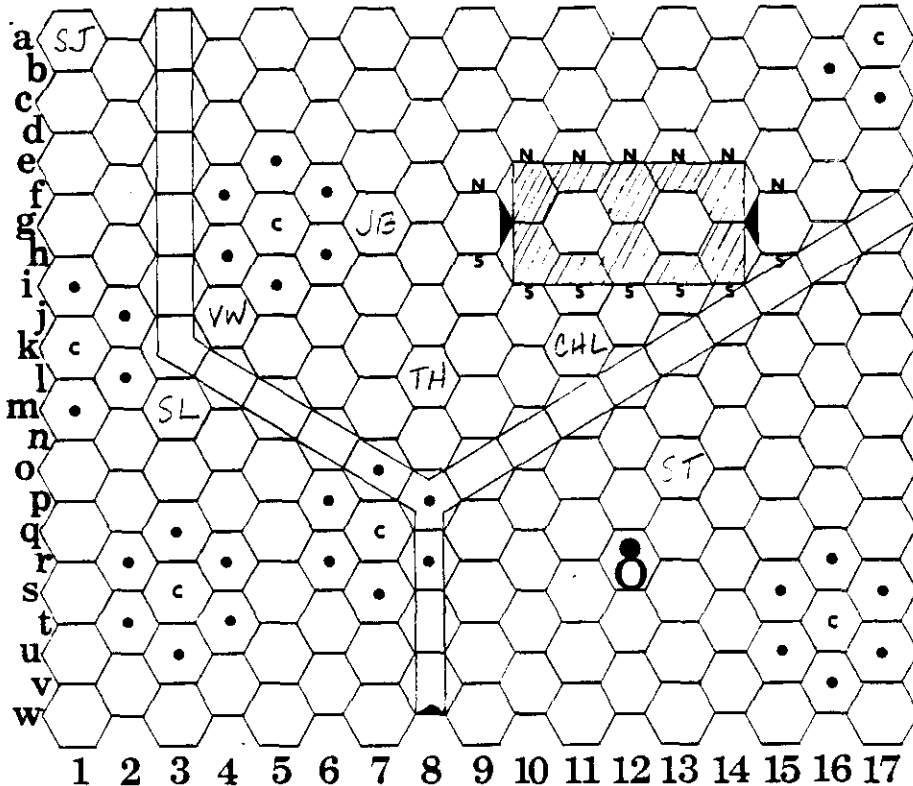
Perelandra

GETHEN ASF

GAMESTART!!

This is American SnowFight #6. I don't have game names from everyone yet, so you may still send in a name, or change the one I've listed, until the deadline: 1 JUNE 1987 (phone: 5/31). Please feel free to free-wheel in the press; my reserved datelines are "SnowMaster", "SM", and "Kitchen"; also, remember you each start with two Simple Snowballs. The starting locations were determined completely at random, so no complaints!

- Jim BurgessG 7
100 Holden St Providence RI
02908-5731
- J.R. Baker (Snow Job).....A 1
44 Airshire Pl Hazelwood MO 63042
- Tom Hise (SnowLord).....M 3
4568 Black Rock Dallas TX 75211
- Tom Hurst.....L 8
2686 Richardson Dr Fitchburg WI
53711
- Bob Olsen (Cool Hand Luke).....K11
6818 Winterberry Circle Wichita
KS 67226
- Venessa Williams.....J 4
1325 E Citrus Av #2C Redlands CA
92874
- Jeff Zarse (Swizzle Thunk).....O13
1 Stonegate Rd Lake Forest IL
60045



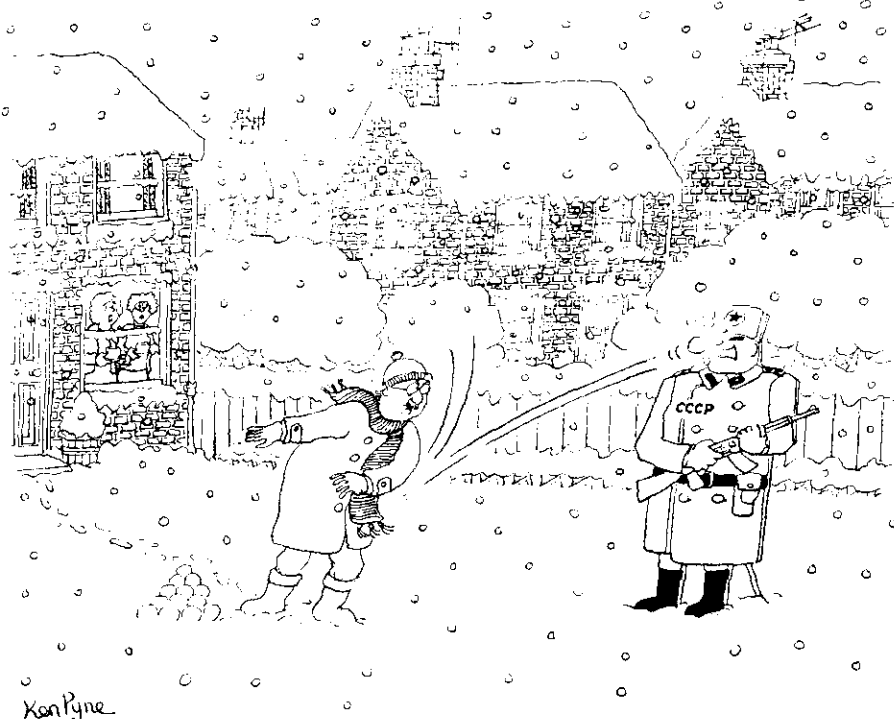
Venessa, did I spell your name right? Jeff's character sounds like a lead cocktail stirrer, so I don't know what sort of creature-warrior to expect from him.

Tom Hise will be moving June 3 (see the Dip gamestart earlier). If you want your phone number listed here, let me know--also, tell me with your Turn One orders whether you want me to call (collect) in case you nmr.

As promised, more News in Briefs:

- What To Look For In The Next Pere about a 13-page letter column, on literature, the HSFPL, Blood Bowl, Downfall, and Arlington;
- the real Arlington story (that is, Pete's perspective);
- a replay of several seasons of Downfall with commentary so you can see how the game moves;
- reviews of Morrigan, a wonderful Irish Dipzine, and possibly one other;
- a compilation of the Dip stats in Pere to date--who really is the best player in Perelandra?
- a cartoon;
- two lit excerpts from Bruce Geryk!

Any further suggestions?



"Graham is getting some practice in for the nuclear winter."

Herelandra

BOTH RUSSIAS RETREAT FROM NORWAY;
BOTH GERMANY'S UNDER FIRE; BOTH TURKEYS DEAD...

NORDEEN 86AH

Summer 1904: Germany retreats a bur-ruh;
Russia retreats f nts-den.

FALL 1904

Austria (Jim Diehl 10530 W Riverview Dr
Eden Prairie MN 55344): a tyo s Ita a ven-pie,
a gal-war, a war-pru, a rum-sev (a ukr s),
a bul-rum, f con-bla.

England (Hugh Christie 43 E Houston Av Mont-
gomery PA 17752): f edi-nwg, f nwg-nwy,
f nts-hol, f lon-eng, f pic s Fre f eng-bel.

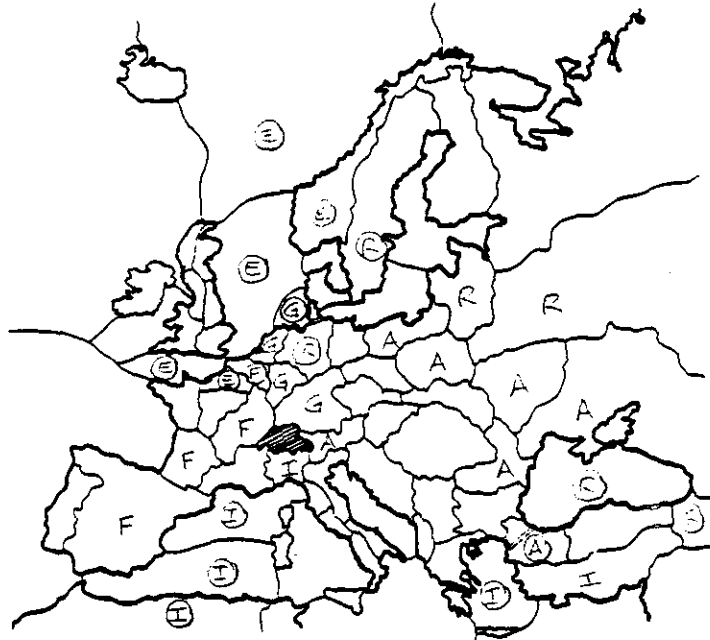
France (Will Woodard 1921 Tracey Circle Irving
TX 75060): a par-gas, a bur-ruh, a mar-spa,
f eng-bel.

Germany (Steve Langley 2296 Eden Roc Ln #1
Sacramento CA 95825-3350): f kie-hel,
a mun-bur (a bel s)(a hol & a ruh s a bel)/a bel annihilated/.

Italy (Rob Wittmond 4315 182nd St #308 Torrance CA 90504): f tun-naf, f tyn-wes, f tus-gol,
a ven-pie, f aeg-smy, a smy-ank.

Russia (John Crosby 1496 Washington Ln West Chester PA 19382-6871): f den-kie, f nwy-swe,
a stp-mos (a lvn s), f arm-ank (f bla s).

Turkey (Ben Schilling 45605 Fox Ln East #206 Utica MI 48087): f syr-smy.



SUPPLY CENTERS HELD as of WINTER 1904

Austria	bud vie ser sty bul rum war SEV CON	7 - 8 may build one
England	lon lvp edi bre br NWY	5 - 5 even
France	par mar spa por BEL	4 - 5 may build one
Germany	mun kie ber hol den	5 - 4 must remove one
Italy	ven rom nap tun tri gre SMY	6 - 7 may build one
Russia	mos stp st swe st ank KIE	6 - 5 must remove one
Turkey	st	1 - 0 out

Many thanks and commiserations to Ben--care to write an endgame statement now to be on file?
Deadline for Winter 1904 and Spring 1905 is 1 JUNE by mail (11pm 5/31/87 by phone).

Rome to Paris: I hear the south of France is beautiful in the spring. Could you suggest any particular nice places I might wish to visit?

Syria to World: "Goodbye cruel world, I'm off to join the circus..."

Germany: War not only creates hatred and anmity, it may also create friends out of people who perceive a common enemy. When those friends are philosophically alien, considerable double-think must be practiced at the leadership level. Fortunately, most of the people in the world are similar, philosophically. It is principally among leaders that such differences exist.

Literary Calendar

May 1 1884: Moses Walker becomes the first black player in the majors. Walker debuts with Toledo of the American Association and bats .263 in forty-two games.

14 May 1900: Nature writer Hal Borland (High, Wide and Lonesome) is born in Sterling, CO.

17 May 1882: Dorothy Richardson (the 12-volume Pilgrimage) is born in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Her use of the stream-of-consciousness technique will predate Joyce's and Woolf's.

25 May 1803: Edward Bulwer-Lytton, dramatist & novelist, is born in London. His novel Paul Clifford will begin: "It was a dark and stormy night...."

Herelandra

TANITH 85CS

The unit which was in Norway is an army.

SPRING 1906

Austria (Greg Ellis 700 Rio Grande Austin TX 78701):

a tyo-pie, a vie-tyo (a tri s), a bud-vie,
a ser-alb, f bul/sc s Rus f con-aeg.

England (John Walker 4819 Corian Oak San Antonio TX 78219): f ska s Fre f nts-den /nso/.

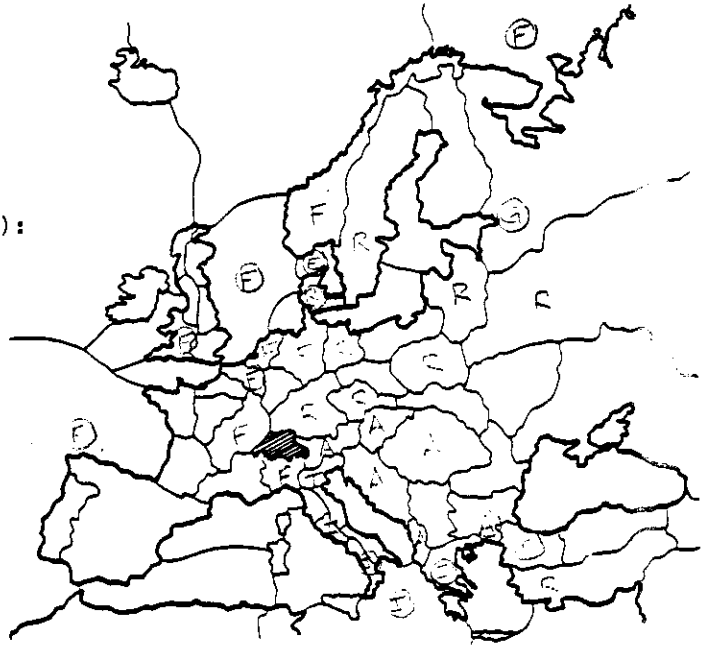
France (Matt Kazur Box 5492 Washington DC 20016):

f bre-mid, f eng-bel, a edi-nwy (f nts c),
f lvp-wal, a hol-ruh, a bur-mun (a kie s),
a mar-pie (Ita s).

Germany (J.R. Baker 44 Airshire Pl Hazelwood MO 63042): f stp/sc-Oz [I'm tempted to allow this order to succeed just to see what happens...]

Italy (John Crosby 1496 Washington Ln West Chester PA 19382-6871): f nap-ion, f ion-aeg
(f gre s), a rom s a ven, a ven s Fre a mar-pie.

Russia (Evans Givan 8066 Camstock Ct Citrus Heights CA 95610-4606): a mos-lvn (a war s),
a sev-mos, a smy-con, f con-aeg (Aus s), a boh-mun (a ber s), a mun-ruh, f den-kie, a nwy-swe.



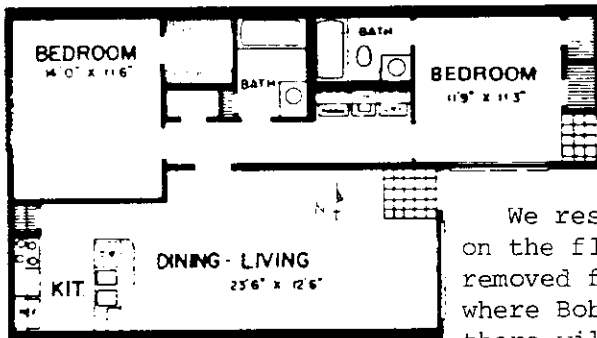
Deadline for Fall 1906 is 1 JUNE 1987 (by phone, 11 pm Central May 31).

Russia to the Great Karroo: I guess I got a little ahead of myself. Maybe next time.

Moscow to St. Pete: I hope you headed for Sweden. I think my part of the swap is just about assured.

Russia to England: It's obvious we were some kind of enemies in a previous life. Probably will be in this one too, from now on.

France to Italy: At your service.



Please note that the floorplan which illustrates our Assistant Editors' columns is reversed; the actual Casa de Studs has doors at the east end, as in the drawing, but has the dining, living and kitchen areas north of the bedrooms and baths.

We resist the urge to draw in furniture, stereo, Tom's stuff on the floor of his room, etc. The mud-wrestling pit has been removed from the living room, but there is still a faint stain where Bob "SLUDGE" Olsen sacked out...any potential Heloises out there willing to recommend a powerful cleaner?

It's Me Again · by Cathy Sexton

Hi, folks! The first thing I want to say is Arlingcon 4 was great! I got to see Daf again. At PudgeCon last year I was kind of shy about meeting all you Dip players, but I'm getting to know more and more of you and everyone is so fun. What I think is really great is the way you get a picture of somebody in your mind, and then when you meet 'em, they're always different. (Of course, the only descriptions I get are from Pete, and, well, he's not terribly descriptive.)

Anyway, I think Smugpuff made the con. However, Smugpuff never would've come to be if Snowball's life hadn't been taken. So thanks, Snowball, for your sacrifice. The gigantic wedding card was swell. Thanks--I'm glad everyone signed it (including Smugpuff).

The funniest people were Jeff Zarse and Dave Frick. Bob Olsen just kind of blended in. Greg was just as sweet as ever, but don't ask him about being in the kitchen with Daf. I think

[cathy sexton continues]

Perelandra

I saw Evans Givan (do I have the right one plural?) about 15 minutes; he doesn't seem to be one to stick around long. (Of course, I worked all day Saturday.) There was Lin [Morrisett], I took over his position in Snowball Fighting and came in third. I didn't seem to get to talk to J.R. much this con either--thanks for the buttons.

People who surprised me when I had one-on-one conversations with them were Dave Baker and Matt Huff. Dave is really swell and sensitive. Cares a whole lot about people; thanks a whole lot for being here Dave. Matt (the one who left without a goodbye) doesn't have to prove as much one-on-one and can be quite interesting. Matt, I hope you didn't leave mad, it just seemed as though Arlington wasn't your weekend. I'm really sorry (maybe we can do Grandy's again sometime?).

Then there was Daf. I feel like I've known Daf forever. I guess it's because of Pete's friendship with her, but she is SO nice. I like the way she puts people where they belong without getting them angry (or getting herself angry!). I don't know if that makes any sense, but she just has a very special way with people. Steve is very lucky to have her all for himself. Speaking of Steve, I really wish you could have come to Arlington. I was getting up the nerve to be more than a cat in D'n'D. And I'll bet you would have remembered to call the airport to find out which terminal Daf's plane was leaving from. Oh well, better luck next time (I hope you weren't too mad she missed her plane).

Hey, I actually got some mail this month (and a note in another zine)! Here it is: from Bruce Linsey: These are just a few lines to let you know that yes, I do read your articles each month in Perelandra--and I'm sure there are many who, like me, enjoy your writing immensely. Your description of getting a job at the party store was hilarious, the high point of this month's issue, in fact! (But don't tell Pete...) Keep up the good work, thanx for the entertainment, and congratulations to you and Pete on your upcoming wedding.

from Steve Langley: Yes, someone out here is reading what you write. My guess is that more people read what you have to say than read the game reports. Just relax and play with it. General rambling about yourself and your surroundings is very interesting to those who want to get to know you better.

Thanks, both of you! Bye!

Obsessions by Tom Hise

The day is Friday, April 3, 1987. The time is 11:45 am. My name is Hise, Tom Hise. I'm a student and this is my story.

(Dum Da-DUM Dum!)

What you are about to read is a true story. The names have not been changed because no one was innocent.

This is U.T.A., in the heart of the city, and I am waking up at the end of my Marketing class. My name is Hise, Tom Hise.

It is 12:05 and I enter the Baptist Student Center. Cheryl is sick and Steve has a computer program due at midnight Saturday so I cut our meeting short and leave at 12:40. I head toward Dallas.

Arlington is only hours away. I check my list to make sure everything is ready. The flyer has been sent out and several people have confirmed that they are coming. I am wearing my official Arlington T-shirt.

It is 1:45 and I've eaten lunch and everything is in order. The Wedding Card Surprise is a 20"x30" enlargement of a picture of Pete and Cathy with a border for the guests to sign on.

It is 3:00. J.R. Baker, Dave Baker and Jeff Zarse are already here. I leave the card in my car when I get to the apartment and sit down to play the computer game Mule with J.R. and Dave while Jeff and Pete talk. Pete leaves to get Daf and I bring the card in and get J.R. to draw a title on it.

It is 3:00. I notice that my watch has broken. The weekend becomes a blur. I play several games of Circus Maximus. There are three styles of play:

Rusnak Rampage--Jeff's style, smashing anyone in sight, whipping other people's horses in the turns, and flipping on opponents in a last attempt to main;

Whip Those Ponies--Daf's style, beating slow horses to catch and smash quicker carts;

Let 'Em Run--Greg's style, using horses that can run like the wind. The only problem was that Greg's chariot damage was always slowing the horses down.

The mass Snowball Fight was excellent. It is always fun to watch novices discover "Kitchen Press." Jeff caught on quick.

The con was a major success. I finally got to meet Daf and Bob Olsen. They are really great people. Jeff was an unexpected pleasure. He has one of the greatest sense of humor, spontaneous humor, I've ever seen.

Sunday we say our goodbyes. This con was better than I even dared to dream it would be. Four people had come in from out of state, but now five were leaving; Evans Givan, Daf Langley, Jeff Zarse, and Bob Olsen took J.R. Baker with them (JR moved to St. Louis to work). The nicest thing about the hobby, though, is that no matter where you move it's never more than a postage stamp away.

It is Monday, April 6, 1987. The time is 9:00. I prepare to sleep through my statistics class. I think my name is Hise, Tom Hise. I have just had one of the greatest weekends of my life.

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS: IF YOU WERE ON A WAITING LIST FOR SNOWBALL FIGHTING OR DIPLOMACY, LOOK FOR A GAMESTART INSIDE. I could just see one of you missing the start, then getting some kind of negotiation in the next couple of weeks and going, "Huh?!"

Since I have this last bit of space, maybe I'll ramble? I could tell you how weary I really am, deep down, of the grind of book reviews we've been forced to write this semester. Or how tired I am of hearing about this or that still not ready for the wedding. But I won't--it would only end this issue on a down note.

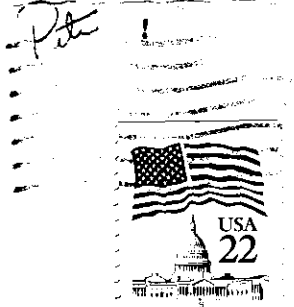
Instead I guess I need to say how wonderful it has been to read Thoreau, Muir, and Pirsig once again (even if it is for school). I'm refreshed, and I rediscover my purposes in life, however vague, when I examine the principles these men expounded.

Now if I could just put together a decent term project for Philosophy and Language based on these...

Stay healthy, for the love of

Herelandra

3121 East Park Row Drive #165
Arlington, Texas 76010



I'm switching this back to "Red Hair #60" as before. Gary.

*Larry Peery
Box 8416
San Diego, CA
92102-0416*

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION ENDS WITH...

E

THIS IS A FREE ISSUE

**May the Road rise up to meet you;
may the wind be ever at your back;
and may the Lord hold you in the hollow of His hand.**