

# The Prince

May 19, 1983

Game Openings: No

Number 12

"Men more quickly forget the death of their father than the loss of their property."

Machiavelli

The Prince is a postal diplomacy zine published every three weeks by Jim Meinel 628 Whitworth Lane So. Renton, WA 98055. Phone (206) 228-7802. Sub rates have gone up and now cost the outrageous price of 10 issues for \$5.00. There are presently no game openings available.

Unheard of, a publisher actually doubling his sub fee. It had to be, however, because of the increased number of subbers (54 now) and the larger number of games (8) my costs have risen much higher than I anticipated when I was only two sheets of astrobrights and twenty subbers. Personally I feel 50¢ is kinda high for a zine that just has games in it and I wouldn't feel bad at all if people who aren't playing decided to let it go. But all issues people have paid for at the old rate will be honored.

I know that people value different things with different intensities but I blanch at the thought of dropping \$50 a month publishing a zine. I mean, where's our sense of perspective? For fifty bucks you can take your wife or girlfriend (or either) to the movies five times a month, or subscribe to 20 or 30 magazines a year, or sock it away in the bank at 6% and have \$3,483.72 in five years, or buy about a dozen paperbacks a month, or six albums, or fourteen six-packs of beer (give or take a couple depending on if you can taste the diff or not), or if you are a real hardcore you can sub to 120 zines per year! People will say that they derive a lot of personal satisfaction from what they do with the money. This is true. I'm sure subscribers and players of zines derive a lot of enjoyment from the product too. Can't the costs be spread around a little more equitably?

While I'm apologizing I think apologies are in order for Kevin Tighe. He wrote asking why I had left off Humboldt from the Leader Poll ballot. I tried to fob him off with some line about not being around in 1982 which he immediately picked apart correctly. I have to plead confusion; the announcement said any zine published after April 1, 1982 but didn't state an ending date. At first I thought from April 1 to Dec. 31 but that would leave out three months at the start of the year. So then I thought April 1 to April 1. Unfortunately I thought that after I made up the ballot. And now I hear it may apply to zines and GMs anytime after April 1st. Which is right? Who knows. So vote for whoever is around. That's why I had plenty of blank spaces on the ballot - to fill in who I missed. Your virginity is intact Kevin; I'd like to know what put that argument into my head. And a postcard with a vote for Humboldt has been sent to Randolph. Being a publisher is like trying to navigate through a minefield - you'll never know where the next one will hit you.

White paper: boring, antiseptic, utilitarian. And cheap. I was willing to pay a dime a sheet for the stuff but when they raised the price to 12¢ per I had to reassess. I'll use it on special occasions only from now on. Tallman has been urging me to use colored paper just on the front and back page like some big-time pubbers do. I might go that route too. I know, I know, big letdown. Many of you have complimented me on the dazzling array of colors.

I have the results of the poll in this issue. The turnout was just fantastic! The response rate for voluntary subbers was even higher than the overall rate of 69%. I picked up five new people from the orphan and none of them returned a questionnaire so that would translate into 77½% return rate. I hope you find the answers as interesting as I did. A couple of points I want to add: on #4 I only included players who are playing in this zine. Several people answered the question who don't play here and the objective of the question would have been thwarted if I had included them. And as to the answers to the question of why you play Dip, those will be in next issue.

Believe it or not there is more prattle inside...

I took the CPA exam on May 4,5,6 and I didn't do so well. Probably because I didn't study as much as I should have. I think I passed one of the four major parts but the bad news is that you must pass at least two parts in order to avoid having to take those passed parts over again. So late this summer I'll start cranking up for another run at the test in November. Loads of fun.

I had a tough go of it putting this ish out. First I came down with the flu on Tuesday and I'm still trying to shake it off. My sister is getting married tomorrow so of course all the relatives are in town. Midterm this week and the full brunt of eight games starting to make itself known to me. It's still looking good though.

Let me say a bit about plugs. Plugs for zines are supposed to reflect that the plugger has seen enough of a zine to decide that he likes it, but more importantly the fact that he feels it is worthy of being recommended to others and is not the result of a quid pro quo arrangement. So a few things have to happen before you'll see a plug in this zine:

1) The pluggee has to ask for one. I know there are some publishers who would prefer to keep their subber lists and sample requests down to a manageable level. So I won't say anything until someone asks.

2) I have to personally like the zine. No one likes an insincere effort, especially the person making the effort. If someone writes me or calls me and happens to ask, 'Hey, what about such and such zine, is it any good' and I'd say, 'Yeah, it's okay'. But that's a lot different than going out and telling your readership at large that such and such zine is a good one and you ought to sub to it, or at least check it out. So if I don't like a zine I'm not going to plug it.

3) I have to feel comfortable plugging the zine. There are some really good zines that I like a lot (North Sealth West George, Thirty Miles of Bad Road) but are so different in style and personality from me that I don't think I could do a plug justice. I could say, 'check out NSWG, it's weird and if you're weird you'll like it'. Boring. But I cannot muster up the kind of paragraph that would capture or at least hint at the kind of craziness that you'll get by seeing these zines. So if I don't think I could write up a good plug for a zine then I won't.

So the attempt to get a plug in these pages can fall flat on any of these three steps. And that doesn't leave too many zines left - Europa Express or Appalling Greed I wouldn't have any trouble at all accomodating plug requests. There's some others. I am being picky but I think you should be when you're attaching your name to an endorsement.

Many of you players are concerned about how deadlines are going to go when I get to Alaska. It's been on my mind a lot also. It's kind of a hummer for me to be going to Siberia and make it hard on you players. I'd like to keep it at three weeks but the slow mail just may make it too short of a time. Using the phone for orders may not be bad but it's not like it's just a call across the state line; it'll be a hefty bill. So I think what I'll do is have the first deadline be three weeks and I'll look at the postmarks and see how long the mail is taking. I'll also make a collect call to everyone who has no orders on file, just to make sure no one gets caught unawares. But I think it'll be a losing battle and deadlines will most likely go to four weeks.

"Scooter" Hanson in his latest ish of Irksome which just arrived today called The Prince a "tramp"; fast and cheap. Hey, I like that! Too bad this tramp is raising her price and moving to a better part of town. She'll always be a tramp at heart, though. The cleverest and funniest zine filler I ever saw came out of Scooter's zine,

"186,000 miles/sec. - it's the law."

Funnier than hell.

I'm on the road to ruin. I'm printing what I think. Tallman does it and pulls it off brilliantly. Others do it and make an ass out of themselves. I do it and set pubbing back to the dark ages (15 years according to Tallman).

Long live the Seattle troika. Fleming is back.

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## Atreides Press Prom pg. 4

Tur-Ger: You're leaving? Ha ha ha.

Tighe-Nelson: You've never heard Cosby's Revenge album? My god, how did you get through childhood? I thought it was required hearing.

Tur-Ita: My, my, another Russian fleet in the south. I guess he enjoys cruising the Black Sea. But it's nothing to concern yourself with.

Sultan-Tsar: That was really a pitiful offer. Lucky for you I'll be eliminated soon, or you'd find yourself strapped with a game-long enemy.

WHO WANTS BELGIUM (I DO, I DO!)

- Austria (E.Diamond) A Bud-RUM, A SER S A Bud-Rum, A Vie-GAL, F ALB-Gre
- England (Stephen Wilcox) A Nwy-FIN, F Nrg-BAR, F Nth-SKA, F Edi-NTH
- France (P.Gardner) A Por-SPA, F Spa(s.c.)-MID, A Par-PIC, A BUR-Bel, A MAR-Bur
- Germany (P.Clemens) A HOL-Bel, A Kie-RUH, A MUN H, A BER S A Mun, A WAR H, F DEN S ENGLISH  
A Nwy-Swe(nso)
- Italy (J.Wall) A Tyo-BOH, A Ven-TYO, F Nap-ION, F TUN S F Nap-Ion
- Russia (K.Sesler) F Rum H(dis, ret-Bla, Sev, OTB), F Bot-SWE, A Lvn-MOS, A Fin-STP
- Turkey (R.Delzer) A Bul-GRE, F AEG S A Bul-Gre, A Con-BUL, F Smy-EAS

The deadline for Summer 1902 retreats and Fall 1902 moves will be Thursday June 9, 1983  
8:00 PM PDT.

Press:

Par-StP: The president extends a champagne welcome to the new ruler in hopes that he will flourish where his predecessor floundered. Now if only Lawrence Welk had been born in 1860...  
 Russia: Now that the former Russian Tsar has resigned his position, there is no longer any reason why any of you should want to attack my adopted homeland, especially since there is a very powerful Western alliance which is much more dangerous to you than I ever will be.  
 Dateline Vienna: The Austrian government today reluctantly bowed to the will of the public and ordered all available forces east to attack Russia. The government would have preferred to make peace with the new Czar, allowing its forces to guard against the unpredictable Italians. But after near rioting in the streets of Vienna, with the people shouting, "The only good czar is a dead czar" the reversal of policy was announced. A treaty with the Ottoman Empire is expected to follow shortly, so as to hasten the invasion of Russia.  
 Russia-GM: This sure is a fine mess you've got me into.  
 GM-Russia: Don't mention it.  
 Switzerland: Stephen, rumor has it you were the victim of a letter passer. More later...  
 Paris-Berlin: Let the hostilities begin! Contrive what nastiness you will - I'll come up with some of my own.  
 Par-Lon: May your waters always sparkle and the channel stay clear!  
 Iceland: Alliances shape up: E-G, R-T, F-I, A-G, E-F. So who's going to go folks?  
 Por-Spa: "Coming through! Clear the streets! No rooms, thanks. Won't be staying."  
 Wandering Frenchman: "In Balkan hills I heard rumors of a cable the young tsar was supposed to have received, begging help against the dreaded Turk, but the young Tsar had problems aplenty of his own."

LOOK AT EVERYTHING WE REPUBLICANS HAVE DONE FOR THE FAIR SEX-



WE BLOCKED THE ERA TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE DRAFT...



REDUCED CHILD CARE MONEY TO HALT EROSION OF THEIR FAMILIES...



AND CUT NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO PRESERVE THE PRIVILEGES OF MOTHERHOOD



AND WHAT DO THEY DO?



FLOCK TO THE DEMOCRATS

WOMEN! WHO CAN UNDERSTAND THEM?!



WASSERMAN © 1983 by Political Humor Resources

Actually, I have nothing against women, really. They served us well for 10,000 years... I'm not about to let 20 years of errant behavior stand between us...

4 ALLIES IN GERMANY, 3 IN TURKEY - HOW SOON  
WILL THEY COME TO BLOWS

Austria (G.Hail) F Gre-AEG, A Ser-GRE, A BUD H, A Boh-SIL, A Vie-BOH  
England (M.Paoletti) F Nth-ENG, F Nrg-CLY, F Eng-WAL  
France (M.Luedi) A Bur-RUH, A Mar-BUR, A Par-PIC, A Por-SPA, F Bre-MID, F Liv-NAT  
Germany (J.Shea) F Kie-BER, F Hel-DEN, A Hol-KIE, A Ruh H(dis,ret-HOL)  
Italy (B.Gosselin) A Syr-SMY, F EAS S A Syr-Smy, F ION S AUSTRIAN F Gre-Aeg, A Ven-TYO,  
A MUN S FRENCH A Bur-Ruh  
Russia (N.Heintzman) A Nwy-SWE, F Ska-NWY, A STP S F Ska-Nwy, A War-PRU, F BLA-Con,  
A BUL S F Bla-Con, F SEV-Bla, A RUM S A Bul  
Turkey (K.Tighe) F Aeg-Con(ann), A Smy S F Aeg-Con(dis, ret-ARM), F ANK S F Aeg-Con

The German player (John Shea) has resigned his position due to time pressures. Will Richard Delzer 2952 North 124th St. #1 Wauwatosa, WI 53222 please take over the German position?  
Thanks Rich. This is a prophetic play game. The deadline for Fall 1903 moves, any conditional Autumn 1903 retreats AND Winter builds and removals will be Thursday June 9, 1983 8:00 PM PDT.  
Below are possible retreating units for Autumn season:

Aus: A Sil, A Boh, A Gre, F Aeg      Ger: F Ber, A Kie      Rus: A Bul, A Pru  
Eng: none      Fra: A Ruh      Ita: A Mun, A Smy      Tur: F Ank, A Arm

Press:

Eng-Ger: HA,HA,HA,HA,HA,HA,HA,HA.....

Tsar Nelson-Kaiser John: Thanks for everything! Wish you the best.

Par-Ber: Hope you didn't leave any fleas, or whatever it was that was eating you.

Ita-Stand-up Comics(Hey! Somebody has to take his place): I can't pass up the chance to give all hobby Italy's a bad name. Here's a real gut-buster for all you Dipophiles and humor-lovers.

Question: How many Dippers does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Seven. One to pretend the post office didn't deliver the bulb on time. One to pretend he's screwing in the bulb. Two to pretend they're holding the ladder. One to actually change the bulb through a sense of honor and dedication to fair-play. One to sabotage the whole affair by switching a broken bulb for the good one. And one to take a stab in the dark. (What do you say fella's. How about making this a rotating thing. It took me about 12 hours to think up one that bad. You're next France.)

Par-Rom: Communication is requested. Must be finals time, eh?

Tsar-GM: I usually let typos slide, but not this time. In my previous press, please spell my Austrian accompaniment as HAYDN, as in Franz Josef - famous composer - not Hayden, as in Tom - famous Fonda husband.

GM-Tsar: By ding, you're right! Consider it done.

Vatican City-Europe: I got more daughters for anyone else that needs some. Get 'em while they're hot.

Par-World: This silence is eerie.

Vienna Daily News: The Crown prince and commander of all armies was soundly spanked by his father the emperor today for the spelling error ordering the crack units of the Austrian Navy from Greece in the wrong direction. The Crown Prince was demoted a grade for his mistake and will be retaking the third grade next year.

Par-Ber&Lon: Qualified toad looking for a toadie. Apply promptly.

Par-Lon: East! East! East! Not South? South? South?

Eng-Fra: No thanks France I won't be your puppet with 3 centers like Germany was to Russia.

Par-Ank: Shatner in Airplane II?! I can see Spock and McCoy arguing in the control tower, and Scotty looking for dilithium crystals on runway 115.

Geneva: We'll let that little ball of fur build until he is ten or twelve units across and still won't do anything. Now if he will only let me grow to my full height!

Par-Ank: Gunkie!!!! Is that what you Californians call people from the East?? Yuk!!

Message from Switz. to all players: I don't believe that any of you are aware of a great personal tragedy that is taking place in your midst. The Italian player, Bob Gosselin, is dying of terminal cancer and it's not his fault. He's too big of a guy to try to use his hopeless plight as leverage in the game but I happen to know that out of the 200+ postal Dip games that he has played in he has never had a win. I think this would be the perfect time for all of us to give "The Draw King" as he is known a well-deserved victory so I'm proposing that we all concede to him nextturn. I'm one of the players in this game and I want to remain anonymous for reasons of my own. I know Bob won't see this message because the cancer has eaten his eyes out and I've alerted his reader to skip over it. What do you think, guys? Let's give him a big surprise. Show a little charity for a gent with a real big heart. Well, it used to be a big heart until the cancer got to it. C'mon, vote yes on the Italy wins proposal and earn a stack of stars in heaven for yourselves. ((More press on page 2))

DUTCH AND SWEDES STILL REMAIN FREE

Austria (R.Winslow)	A Gal-VIE, F Alb-GRE, A SER S F Alb-Gre
England (T.Washburn)	A Edi-NWY, F NRG C A Edi-Nwy, F Nth-BEL
France (E.Givan)	F Mid-POR, A SPA H, A BUR H
Germany (G.Milewski)	F DEN-Swe, A MUN H, A Ber-SIL
Italy (M.Frueh)	A Ven-TYO, A Apu-TUN, F ION C A Apu-Tun
Russia (R.Delzer)	F BOT-Swe, A Lvn-WAR, A Ukr-RUM, F SEV S A Ukr-Rum
Turkey (C.Braxis)	A BUL-Gre, A CON-Bul, F Ank-ELA

Winter 1901 Supply Center Chart

Austria	Home, SER, GRE	5	build 2
England	Home, NWY, BEL	5	build 2
France	Home, SPA, POR	5	build 2
Germany	Home, DEN	4	build 1
Italy	Home, TUN	4	build 1
Russia	Home, RUM	5	build 1
Turkey	Home, BUL	4	build 1

The deadline for Winter 1901 builds only is Thursday June 9, 1983 8:00 PM PDT. We have two COA's, Rob Winslow(AUS) 62 Walzford Rd. Rochester, NY 14622 and Mark Frueh(ITA) 309 N. Livingston St. Apt. #1 Madison, WI 53706. If all seven players submit Spring 1902 moves along with their builds I'll play both seasons. But if only one does not then only Winter will be played.

Press:

Por-Lon: Calling out, walking out, and singing out: Save us from les grenouilles - baked frogs' legs, yumm!

GM: Here we go again...

Gre-Tur: Lay off. Stay out. Shin-gala, nei? We'll have the Italian Spagetti-Brains make our souflaki. However, our drug exchange (poppies from the Parthenon for sweet brown Ankaran hashish) is on, on ...Turn Me ON!

Aus-Ger: No, I think not Georgie-boy.

Lon-Par: Don't you dare build in Brest, or all deals are OFF!

Par-Lon: So you want Belgium and Norway? Next year Holland and Sweden? I think R-G may have other ideas in mind for you.

Sicily-World: Enough of that shit, the RAT alliance lives! The eastern powers are comin' and they're comin' strong.

Fin-StP: You can't fool us; we know your puppets in E.Germany tried to fool the western fools into believing the Great Blasphemy Hitler's word back from the dead, just to make you, block-head, look good. In the future, stuff revisionist history. Instead think of your breakfast and the dawning of the morning of time. It's just begun, you know.

Attention All: New address for Italy: Mark Frueh, 309 N.Livingston St. Apt#1, Madison, WI 53706. Apologies for not writing, I'm just finishing finals and now I'm on my way to Montreal and Quebec until June 1st. I will write after 6/1 - and apologize profusely! Black press sure lives on in this game.

Adr-Lon: "Free" is trying to pry apart your Alliance for Western Democratic Nation-States. I told him he may have to pay the price and offer himself for sacrifice, with kamikazi spirits singing in the background, "We are the dish of the day for the green machine and the pink eyes of the tree museum."

Fra-Ita: I didn't "promise" not to move to Piedmont.

Lon-Ita: I think the time is ripe for our talks to continue, because now we have something to talk about.

Switzerland: Soccer is a terribly boring sport.

Syr-Vie: My friends in the West exist because they know what the reason is, and they smile.

Swiss-Ita: Continue trying to make friends with everybody and you'll find yourself. Resist, mi amore, the Pharoah's kiss and play your happy music. Get the Message?

Ireland-Swiss: YITBOTS?

Lon-Rus: Note the UK's full compliance with the Vladivostok Treaty - you better comply too!

Gemini 4-Earth: I can hardly express my mixed emotions to the other half of the sky. While I may be distant, my story is written in the stars while I walk forever more across the sky. I love you, now and forever.

Fra-World: Marco, the mindless Wop, has once again alienated six of the seven players. By 02, he'll even hate himself.

Lon-Aus: How can we implement "Arms Across Europe" without writing more? RSVP

Crete-Turkey: I really hope you didn't let a red fleet into Greece.

TURKISH COALITION LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Austria(B.Zilberman) A Ven-Pie, A TYO S A Ven-Pie, A TRI S A Tyo, A BUD-Gal, A VIE S A Bud-Gal  
England (B.Gosselin) F NAF-Wes, F MID S F NAF-Wes, F Gas-SPA(n.c.), F POR S F Gas-SPA(n.c.),  
A UKR S GERMAN A Sil-Gal, A MOS S A Ukr, A StP-LVN, A Nwy-BEL,  
F NTH C A Nwy-Bel  
France (B.Blum) F Spa(s.c.)-MAR  
Germany (M.Henry) A SIL-Gal, A WAR S A Sil-Gal, A Mun-BOH, A Ber-MUN, A Pie-Tyo(ann),  
A Mar S ENGLISH F Gas-SPA(n.c.)(dis,ret-GAS), F Hel-HOL, F SWE looks for  
Russian subs(h)  
Russia (E.Wiggers) A SEV H  
Turkey (J.Cummins) F WES H, F TUN S F Wes, F LYO S FRENCH F Spa(s.c.)-Mar, F TUS S AUSTRIAN  
A Ven-Pie, A Rom-VEN, F Con-AEG, A RUM S AUSTRIAN A Bud-Gal, A BUL S A Rum,  
F BLA S RUSSIAN A Sev

The deadline for Fall 1907, Autumn 1907 retreats AND Winter 1907 builds and removals will be  
Thursday June 9, 1983 8:00 PM PDT. Below are the possible retreating units for Autumn season.  
This is a prophetic play game.

Aus: A Tyo, A Pie  
Eng: F NAF, F Spa(n.c.), A Ukr, A Mos  
Fra: F Mar  
Ger: F Hol, A Boh, A War  
Rus: A Sev  
Tur: F Wes, A Ven, A Rum

Press:

Ber-World: ((the Kaiser speaks!)) Somewhere in 1902 or 1903 the Austrian came begging, "Please help me or the Turk will combine with the Russian and Italian to eliminate me" so I proposed a three-way alliance and we eliminated Russia. I started to move upon Italy when BANG Boaz decided to ((show)) what kind of an ally he was. Look, I fought a war against Wiggers and Cummins and both have been enemies from day one but next game I could ally with them but that thankless Boaz I really do not see any way after saving his ass (and we did) and having him turn on me not even for a win. Maybe if he could win (I could see the stab) but just to try to have a 4 or 5 way draw, what an idiot.

Eng-Ger: Way to go, good buddy. Thanks for backing me up.

England-CM: Gee Jim, I didn't mean to precipitate all this press. It must be a tremendous burden for you to prepare. ((why, not at all, Bob. I have nothing better to do than classes, homework, cleaning up, family, shrink time...)) I'll be more considerate in the future.

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## Machiavelli press from pg. 5

Syr-Apu: My friends in Istanbul claim in unison "FUKIKI!" We see you sinking in Lepontan Hyperspace - sucked in?

Ireland-Lon: Do you think it's a good idea to let the French get strong? I DO!

Hol-Mun: Stop bouncing and send the masters out of Van De Kamps and into the real thing:

Amsterdam Green from Die Paradisio!

Tun-Apu: Who do you think you're fooling? The path of Salvation goeth not via Apulia. Our Most Righteous Leader, Muammar Khadafy, Lord of Light will assuredly come back from the future to one day save us from spineless phlatafish-puss immense catastrophe the Wall Street Journal called Italian Communists Who left Their Brains Down in Africa.

Swiss-Swe: The Pink Flag of Socialism, featuring Olaf Palme, still breathes, "Freedom isn't Free". Welcome National Socialism to ward off the English and Russian life-sucking vampires.

Eng-Ser: Love may be a green world, but the Ancients have so much love inside of them, worlds within worlds.

Swiss: Yeah, a great idea. A strong France means a worried Italy and a panic-stricken Kaiser.

Edi-Ger: Reminder: Holland is mine in '02, in accord with plan B-5.

Fra-Eng: The President of France, in an effort to promote peaceful relations between the frogs and the limeys, will allow a temporary occupation of Belgium by the English fleet. Every effort must be made to vacate the occupied territory, in a Northerly direction, immediately after establishing dominion.

GOL-Fra: You're a mean old man and you'll pay for abandoning our attractively-built fem-bots; look out for the itlalian coming through your bathroom window- he's hungry.

"The surface of the strange, forbidden planet was roughly textured and green, much like cottage cheese gets way after the date on the lid says it is all right to buy it."

## HUMBOLDT

III

This subzine is put out by Kevin Tighe (pronounced like Thai) at 1603 G st. Arcata, Calif. 95521. The only state that has it's faults coming out of the closet.

The above opening quotation is the science fiction winner in the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest held last month by a San Jose State professor. The object of the contest is to try to write the worst opening sentence to a novel. Bulwer-Lytton, a poor 19th century writer, actually opened one of his novels with "It was a dark and stormy night..."

The grand prize went to a San Francisco woman but I prefer the first runnerup's entry. "The sun oozed over the horizon, shoved aside the darkness, crept along the greensward, and with sickly fingers, pushed through the castle window, revealing the pillaged princess, hand at her throat, crown asunder, gaping in frenzied horror at the sated, sodden amphibian lying beside her, disbelieving the magnitude of the toad's deception, screaming madly, "You lied!"

Personally, I believe there are many people in the hobby who can do much ~~better~~ worse than that, and most of them are reading these pages. So I'm giving you a years head start. Send your entries to Scott Rice, English Dept, SJSU. Deadline is April 1, good luck.

For those of you who expect me to offer my own example of godawful sentences, I suggest you reread the back issues.

Instead I shall share an excerpt from a very old Kurt Vonnegut introduction to his first book "Player Piano". I often spend Friday afternoons inside the Tincan Mailman, a used book shop in town. It's quite enjoyable standing among the bookcases, smelling decayed paperbacks, while Renaissance music plays on the cheap stereo. Anyway, I found that the second printing of Player Piano contained a completely different introduction than one in the more recent printings. Vonnegut is a very depressing writer, but his intros are usually far superior than the stories which follow; and this one was no exception.

...It occurred when the wife and I stayed for a few days in Illium, New York. My wife insisted on visiting some friends of her's at their house. I had to go along because I had no friends in Illium. Still don't. When we arrived, we found that my wife's friends had also invited some of their friends over especially to meet us. I regreted the rest of the evening.

After the meal everyone was bored but only I would admit to it. I'd yawn alot and make frequent trips to the John. This is the only house I've been to that had a real John. John Douglas Co. was stamped right on the rim of the bowl.

JOHN DOUGLAS CO.

It was beautiful.

During one of my return trips to the living room I got a surprise. My wife, my wife's boring friends, and their boring friends were on the floor sitting around a colorful game board. It was explained to me that this was Diplomacy and I was going to have fun playing it. Hi Ho!

I hate board games, so I pulled out the Pall Malls and smoked up a storm. Secretly, I hoped cancer would claim me then and there, but to please the wife, I agreed to play. The game lasted longer

than I care to say. I moved Germany's black boxes around. They reminded me of coffins. I don't know why. I never saw a coffin in Germany, only piles of black burning bodies in Dresden. So it goes.

The game didn't liven up the party any. All they ever did was talk their boring talk and move. I just sat there, nodded, smoked, and moved. They'd talk some more, move, and so on. Luckily, my coffins got eliminated early in the game. So I went into the kitchen and watched some healthy, decadent TV. My wife's boring friends were right, I did have fun.

Hi Ho

If you really enjoy this sort of stuff you're sure to enjoy the Brand X Poetry Anthology and the Brand X Fiction Anthology. These two books contain the best parodies of the world's best poets and writers. The fiction book just came out last month, so it should be hitting the stores by now. If your local bookstore doesn't have it in yet, be sure to ask for it by name. Well, enough of the free advertising.

BIGALBICALBIGALBICALBIGALBICALBIGALBICALBIGALBICALBIGALBICALBIGALBICALHUMBOLDT

Dippy Sports dept: The mailbox has been full of real letters from mostly real people, so let's get right into it. First batter is Scott Hanson.

"I am a member of the International Frisbee Ass'n, though I'm very rusty. I picked up some soccer skills while in Brazil and play a mean defenseman, though I'm sticking to reffing the sport this year. And I was on the Univ. rugby team until my work hours were doubled conflicting with the practices...Good enough for you?"

((Hey, I'm only curious about how people have fun when they're not writing letters or typing zines. At least now I know why I haven't seen an Irksome for the last few months.))

Next up is Pat Conlon:

"...I've played in bowling, soccer, and softball leagues this past year. A League's season never lasts more than a semester, for obvious reasons. Rec sports are also offered as classes. Ninety minutes of volleyball is a great way to break up a dreary day full of lectures. PE classes are also fantastic places to meet other people(girls). Those classes are also easy ways to learn those social sports you don't know without too much embarrassment. I'll make room for a tennis class next Fall.

"Oh, by the way... although I haven't had confirmation from ~~(0)~~ Mark Berch yet, I believe the only way a zine or subzine can lose it's virginity is by running that wretched hive of scum and villainy that 'Nukes' Michalski occasionally barfs up."

((That's about the best reason I've heard yet, but that sure doesn't leave very many of us virgins around. In tennis, the hardest thing to learn is how to pick up balls with your racket. But, then again, you'd probably want to try girls first, and you shouldn't need a racket for that.))

The power hitter is Nelson Heintzman:

"I hate participating in athletics and lead an extremely sedentary life (don't quote me stats, I know all about risk factors). While I am an avid fan of TV football and hockey, participate..? Nope not me.

(( ))

Finally, at clean up, is Mark Frueh:

"I feel that you don't give equal time to the motorcycle enthusiasts! Much more exciting than badminton or tiddly-winks."

((How can you work up a sweat riding a motorbike around? Or are you referring to motorcross?))

*Out of room. Till June,*



PLENTY OF VERBAL JOUSTING AS WAR DRAWS CLOSER

Austria	Bob O'Donnell	1234 Center NE	Salem, Oregon	97301
England	Ed Henry	4072 SW Hanford	Seattle, Washington	98116
France	Scott Keller	824 Brighton Ave.	Pennside, Reading, Pennsylvania	19606
Germany	Ken Hager	412 Alderdale Circle	Anaheim, California	92807
Italy	Dudley Kidd	2421 Redmont Rd.	Huntsville, Alabama	35810
Russia	Derwood Bowen	1643 Graniteway Lane	Columbus, Ohio	43229
Turkey	Stephen Wilcox	6426 Alisa Lane	Houston, Texas	77084

Two little mistakes in the announcement last issue. Scott Keller's (FRA) zip code is 19606, not 19607 as I typed. And, the deadline for Spring 1901 moves is Thursday June 9, 1983 8:00 PM PDT, not June 10th as I incorrectly typed. The zine will be gone by the 10th. I have a set of orders from everybody. (great!)

Press:

Minister of Social Affairs; Berlin - European Heads of State: His Imperial Highness, the Kaiser, recently expressed concern over what he feels is an alarming sense of hostility growing among various members of our European family of nations. He believes that everyone has been working too hard lately and thinks that giving everyone the opportunity to "get away from it all" for a couple weeks will improve everybody's disposition. Therefore, he has instructed this office to arrange a "getaway" vacation on which you're all invited. The fun begins with everyone hopping aboard the pride of Germany's airways, the Von Hindenburg where you will enjoy first-class accommodations enroute to the good ole U.S. of A. After two wonderful weeks savoring the hospitality of our friends across the sea, you will return to New York and board the luxury liner Lusitania for your relaxing ocean voyage home. Space is limited so make your reservations early. Unfortunately, the Kaiser is unable to attend, but promises that those of you who do will experience a vacation that you'll remember vividly until your dying day.

Dateline Kiev: The Russian Tsar is extremely angry at having his playtime interrupted. He was doing some despicable things with the Tsaress and her handmaidens in the Royal Debauchery when news reached him of imminent hostilities. This reporter was able to interview the page who brought the disturbing news to the Tsar. Asked what the Tsar's immediate comments were, the messenger said that the Tsar moaned, yelled, screamed and made many other unintelligible noises. The messenger took this for a sign that the Tsar was extremely annoyed. Methinks the Tsar was just enjoying himself. In any case, later in the day the Tsar made an official announcement to the effect that, if the rulers were going to meddle in Russian "affairs" that heads would roll. This is your reporter on the spot, Nose For News, signing off for now. PS - The page has offered to let me use his peephole into the Royal Debauchery for only 100 rubles. He assures me it is worth it. Having seen the Tsaress, I am not so sure, but if the handmaidens are anything like he says, then just maybe.

Somewhere in Zurich: The Sabotage, Espionage and Xenophobia (S.E.X.) Bureau began operations today, opening a post office box letter drop for the use of informants. Their first release (received by a major Basel paper) reads as follows: MWWPK DDWMX WIZPJ JMWKZ.

Rum-Con: The Black Sea will be a Russian lake.

Rom-Board: Urbi et orbi, to the city (Rome) and the world.

Mos-Par: Tsar, Tsar, Tsar, Czar.

Eng-Tur: You want to carve up \*\*\*!!? Mind your stuffing, my friend.

Rum-Lon: Stay out of the north.

Syr-Mos: Prepare for the end.

Mos-? Hey, little sister, what have you done? It's a nice day for a white wedding. (Hopefully, the ? will be filled in by my ally by the time '01 happens)

Eng-World: Am now standing by to receive and consider missives from all foreign powers with the exception of Argentina. This includes snide remarks concerning the Seattle Mariners.

Lloyd's-World: Mines of as-yet indeterminate origin have been reported in the English Channel. Two fishing vessels reported lost are presumed to have been victims of these heinous weapons...

---

Standbys: Beck, Martin, Gardner, Civan, Frueh, Ellis, Wall, Wilcox, Milewski, Hager,  
M. Henry, MacFarlane, Conlon, Kurtz, Gosselin, Heintzman

Maximilian 1983 AN  
Spring 1901

ALL MOVES SUCCEED! GERMANS, ITALIANS & RUSSIANS LOOK TOUGH

Austria (P.Gardner)	A Bud-SER, A Vie-TRI, F Tri-ALB
England (J.Wall)	F Lon-NTH, F Edi-NRG, A Liv-YOR
France (B.Orloff)	F Bre-MID, A MAR drinks, sunbathes and enjoys the view while studying its worthless Managerial Accounting.(h), A Par-PIC
Germany (G.Sherrill)	F Kie-HOL, A Mun-RUH, A Ber-KIE
Italy (A.Incorvaia)	F Nap-ION, A Rom-VEN, A Ven-PIE
Russia (N.Wheeler)	F Sev-BLA, A Mos-UKR, A War-GAL, F StP-BOT
Turkey (M.Whitty)	A Con-BUL, A Smy-ARM, F Ank-CON

COA: Brian Orloff(FRA) 110 South 17th St. Manhattan, KS 66502. The deadline for Fall 1901 moves will be Thursday June 9, 1983 8:00 PM PDT.

Press:

Crete-Aus: Beware the Russo-Turkish alliance.

Ank-Mos: My moves are safe enough until I discern your true intentions.

Vie-StP: Hopefully, you will pass the test of temptation and Galician neutrality remains intact.

Rus-Eur: There seems to be some unrest of you nations in the west, we will come and show you a better way.

Vie-Eur: I'm standing on a tall green hill, spy glass in hand, aides de campe all around me. Troops. I can see troops on all sides marching, riding, running to battle stations and with luck, and the skill of the diplomat (long live the diplomat!) my enemies will weaken and die and my friends will be strong and flourish. Onward to battle!

Ger-Eng: If I don't hear from you I will have to assume the worst.

Fra-Eng: No, it is not true! I don't think that Glenn believes, as did Hitler, that he is superior to all living creatures in the galaxy. How dare you make such an assumption! He means the universe, not just our silly Milky Way!

Bus-Ser: Ahh, for a soft dot to scratch!

Ireland-Ger: Interfere in Scandanavia and we will bury you!

Ank-Vie: A screwball postcard is still more than I have received from Russia.

Sardinia-Ita: Go west young man - before the west goes east!

Tri-Ven: Keep those gondolas swimming on course, and out of our hills.

Fra-GM: Accounting is the pits! Who warped your mind so much as to make you desire self-punishment in this manner!

GM-Unenlightened soul: Pain leads to pleasure; you must follow the path to reach the rewards.

Wash-Utah: You've got the desert and we've got the wilderness; neither of us should get lost.



THE LANGUAGE AND TOOLS OF DIPLOMACY

Charles 1983 I  
Fall 1902

JUST CALL FRANCE THE COMEBACK KID

Austria (j.Beck) NMR! F Gre H(dis,ret-Aeg,OTB), A BOH, A VIE, A BUL, A SER all H  
England (R.Delzer) F Bel S F Nth-Eng(dis,ann), F Nth-ENG, F Edi-NRG, A LON H  
France (P.Conlon) F Eng-BEL, A PIC S F Eng-Bel, A Spa-POR  
Germany (G.Ellis) A MUN-Boh, A Ruh-HOL, A SWE S F Bal-Den, F Bal-DEN, F Ska-NTH  
Italy (E.Diamond) F Apu-ADR, A TRI-Ser, A Alb-GRE, F ION S A Alb-Gre  
Russia (B.Orloff) F NWY S GERMAN F Ska-Nth, A STP S F Nwy, A MOS-Sev, A War-GAL, F SEV-Bla,  
A RUM S AUSTRIAN F Gre-Bul(s.c.)(nso)  
Turkey (K.Sesler) A CON-Bul, A SMY-Ank, F ANK-Bla, A ARM-Sev

Winter 1902 Supply Center Chart

Austria	Vie, Bud, <del>Tri</del> , <del>Gre</del> , BUL, Ser	4	remove 1
England	Home, <del>Nth</del>	3	even, due to ann.
France	Home, POR, BEL	5	builds 2
Germany	Home, Hol, Den, SWE	6	build 1
Italy	Home, Tun, GRE, TRI	6	builds 2
Russia	Home, Rum, <del>Ska</del> , NWY	6	even
Turkey	Home, <del>Con</del>	3	remove 1

There are two COAs: Brian Orloff(RUS) 110 South 17th St. Manhattan, KS 66502 and Pat Conlon(FRA) RFD 5 Abilene, KS 67410. The deadline for Autumn retreats, Winter 1902 builds and Spring 1903 moves is Thursday June 9, 1983 8:00 PM PDT. Will Dick Martin 26 Orchard Way N. Rockville, MD 20854 please standby for the Austrian position? Thanks Dick. This is a 'regular' diplomacy game (not prophetic).

Press:

Czar-Frenchie: See you in two weeks!

Fra: The Premier has named July 2nd "God Love a Wop" day, in response to the beautiful moves we saw in the Spring of 1902.

Rus-Ita: Why? What happened? You could be in the Hofbräuhaus right now! You could be on your way to that center of humanity Smyrna. But no, instead you stab. Sob. Sob.

Par-Ber: That ostrich egg was for you to practice with. I want you experienced at such things the next time I make a trip down your way.

Par-Atreides Tur: What's a Gunkie?

GM-Atreides Tur: Me too.

Par-Tokugawa Tur: Best of luck. I'll be watching you, so don't disappoint me.

Rus-Frog: Corps Commander, eh? Not bad. When I see you am I supposed to drop to my knees and grovel? (I get my bar in December)

Par-GM: Considering the lack of code names here, I'll be interested to see your reply to that one poll question. You know, I almost decided to pull that one on you, after seeing the poll. Just to see what you would do. Nothing sweeter than catching a man with his foot firmly entrenched in mouth. Where do you think trenchfoot disease came from anyway?

GM: Bee careful!

Czar-Ger: Phi Slamma who? Phi Slamma got Jamma'd.

Russia: Pac 10? What's that? Is that like Pac Man? SEC? Yeah, they make me sec to my stomach. Big 10? They're a bunch of animals; Wolverines, Hawkeyes, etc. Big 8? Real Men! Sooners, Huskers, Cyclones; names you can be proud of!

Ber-Par: The SEC is indeed a unique conference. Where else can you have two undefeated teams at the end of the season? The powers never seem to play each other. Baylor is hardly representative of the SWC. Why don't the Tigers try a Cougar on for size?

GM-victims of delusions and fantasies: Huskies will be Top Dog next year.

Ber-Lon: By three on one squeeze do you mean England, France and Russia vs. England?

Ber-Par: Never let the right hand know what the hand is screwing!

Ber-Rom: Oh! Now I get it! You are going to nueter Austria!

Ber-Down but not out yet: A three way alliance is hard to get going, let alone keep going! By the way, who is allied against whom?

Dateline, Berlin: Fierce fighting in Silesia ended in a stalemate while German forces in the north took Sweden unopposed. The French and English appear to be square dancing, while Turkey Tanged out of Bulgaria. Minister Kirk has been sent as an envoy to Austria in an attempt to clear up their communication problems. A spokesperson from BSU stated, "If he does as good a job there as he did here, we all may have to worry about the English taking over Vienna."

Lon-Ber: I am very disappointed!!!

## Questionnaire Results

The response rate for the questionnaire was excellent. 69% (31/45) of you returned filled out forms. Nine out of ten publishers responded and 70% of the player positions (23/33) were heard from. An asterisk (\*) next to an answer indicates the response I would have put but the totals do not include it. Thanks to everyone for providing me with a lot of useful feedback!

1) I first learned of The Prince's existence by:

Sample	13	Fairly standard ways of learning about a new zine. By sample I meant unsolicited sample. #1 qualified as that but I think a couple were from requests for a sample from me. A lot of word of mouth references which surprised me.
From a friend	6	
A plug	6	
Game Openings Flyer	5	
Kinda heard about it	1	

2) Regarding FTF play I:

*Hardly ever play	14	No surprises here. Most postal people are doing it because they can't find anywhere to play FTF.
Play occasionally	13	
On a regular basis	4	
Play all the time	0	

3) I receive, by sub or trade, \_\_\_\_\_ other zines.

4-10	12	What I wanted to find out was how many other zines people were getting to compare with The Prince. Most people are getting a fair number. I didn't want to ask for an exact number because when I went to count it took me a half an hour!
1-3	7	
21+	6	
*11-20	5	
zero	1	

4) Besides my games in The Prince, I play in \_\_\_\_\_ other games.

Average: 5.0 games	Looks like the games people play here make up a good portion of all the games they play. This could mean that people are going to scrutinize their games very closely. All the more reason for me to be careful.
Median: 3 games (half more, half less)	
Range: 0-20 other games	
Mode: 0 games (5 people play in no others)	

5) When I play in a game I prefer:

DIAS	2	Pretty one-sided but that is probably due to the fact that the zine runs its games non-DIAS and thus naturally attracts people who prefer it.
Non-DIAS	19	
*Don't care	10	

6) Assume a player's orders are complete except it is missing one of the below named pieces of identification. Would you still accept the orders?

	yes	no	Very few people went all yes or all no, maybe 1 or 2. Each person sprinkled his/her answer with yesses and nos (?) depending on their pet peeves I suppose. Lots of yes votes qualified with "a warning" or "if there was no confusion". For those of you who may be wondering why some of these are even being asked, I have seen houserules (not all in the same set) where each of these omissions or actions will get your orders invalidated. Finally, the one day late 'yes' answers were qualified with the statements of 'if the game was not adjudicated yet' or 'if the USPS has really screwed the person'.
No real life date on orders	22	6	
No signature of player	15	13	
Game season not identified	19	9	
Player's country not identified	16	11	
No Boardman # or housename	14	13	
Paper smaller than a postcard	24	5	
More than 1 game on sheet of pa.	18	10	
Orders among personal letter	23	5	
Orders ONE day late	3	26	

7) Favorite zines:

Europa Express	5	Cheesecake	1	Magus	1
Voice of Doom	4	Coat of Arms	1	Sleepless Knights	1
*Appalling Greed	3	Dogs of War	1	SNAFU!	1
Diplomacy World	2	Down 'n Dirty	1	Xenogogic	1
Irksome	2	Lone Star Diplomat	1		
Retaliation	2				

8) Player claims his orders given over the phone are bogus. GM should...

\*Leave season as played 18  
Replay Season 5  
Call game off 2  
Then shoot self 19

A lot of people into hara-kiri. Several people pointed out that the manuver described could still be accomplished even if passwords were used. The ploy can be avoided just by having the GM announce beforehand how he'll treat the situation. But that still leaves passwords needed to prevent impersonations.

I've never had a problem and since many of you have called orders in I know a lot of your voices. I also do what Dick Martin does and try to sneak in a little personal stuff so I know who I'm talking to is who I'm talking to.

9) Five dollar gamefee is  
About right 13  
A real deal 9  
A little steep 5  
way out of line 1

10) 25¢/issue is  
An incredible deal 24  
Okay 6  
What it's worth 1  
A ripoff 0

Okay, how about 50¢/ish? Shift all numbers down one (or two) lines. On the whole people seem willing to shell out big bucks for a well run game (\$5-10 than for a good zine (50-75¢).

11) Three week deadlines are...  
Just right 19  
Too fast 4  
too slow 0

Three weeks is a great speed but you have to keep writing and not get lazy. No room for late pubbing dates or unforeseen delays. By adding just 1 or 2 days to turnaround time 7 people defect to the four week camp. The general opinion seems to be that losing a couple days only is an overly optimistic forecast. I also don't know how a three week schedule is going to bump up with a full time job. It's leaning towards a four week deadline right now.

13) If I move to Alaska...  
keep at 3w 11  
move to 4w 11  
don't care 2

players everyone  
19 25  
4 6  
0 0

12) I may publish in the future sometime.  
Yes 10  
No 5  
No way 4

A couple of 'hell' and 'fuck' nos in the totals. Interesting to see the possible zines of 1985!

14) Sample gets charged to your sub:  
Cheated 9  
Piqued 9  
Fair is fair 10  
a smart one 3

after a SASE: 17  
9  
5  
0

I'm not quite sure why I asked this. I don't know if anyone does these things or not.

6) Quality of GM'ing in The Prince has been:  
Can't judge 10  
Much better than avg. 7  
About the same 4  
Somewhat better 3

17) Jim's houserules are:  
The right size 18 (1½ pages)  
I lost mine 5  
Too short 2  
Not specific enough 2  
Too picky 1 (!)

3) Pubber should hit subbers for \_\_\_% of costs.  
Average 84% Median 90%  
Range 50-100% Mode 90%

If I were to charge 84% for what you are holding in your hand sub rates would be 87¢/ish. If it were 7 pages of Astrobright colors it would be \$1.05.

1) Passwords should be required.  
Yes 24 No 7

Not yet.

1) Age of subbers:  
17 & under 1  
18-23 12  
24-30 8  
31+ 10

Of the other subbers who didn't respond to the survey I would say that their ages roughly correspond to this distribution.

1) I get or have:  
Diplomacy World 19  
Diplomacy Digest 10  
Everything 12  
Supernova 24  
Zine Directory 8  
Game of Dip 6  
Gamer's Guide 14

Medici 1982CI  
Spring 1905

TURKEY SCREWED AGAIN; FRANCE ON LAST LEGS

England (D.Scheifler) F Nwy H, F NRG S F Nwy, F NTH S F Nwy, A Bel-PIC, F MID S GERMAN A Spa  
France (M.Whitty) A Mar-PIE, F Lyo-TUS, A Pic S ENGLISH F Mid-Bre(nso,dis,ret-BRE)  
Germany (J.MacFarlane) A Bur-MAR, A SPA S A Bur-Mar, A Mun-BUR, A PAR S ENGLISH A Bel-Pic,  
F Den-BAL, A Kie-DEN, A HOL ds. ((?))(H)  
Russia (L.McCloud) A Ser-BUL, F RUM S A Ser-Bul, F BLA S A Ser-Bul, A Gal-BUD, A Ukr-GAL,  
A TRI S A Gal-Bud, A FIN-Nwy, F SWE S A Fin-Nwy, A STP S A Fin-Nwy  
Italy (K.Byrne) F GRE S RUSSIAN A Ser-Bul, F Ion-AEG, F Tyn-ION, F Wes-TYN, A VEN H,  
A VIE prays!(H)  
Turkey (K.Tighe) F ANK-Bla, F Bul(e.c.) S F Ank-Bla(ann), A CON S F Bul(e.c.)

The deadline for Fall 1905 moves, any conditional Autumn 1905 retreats AND Winter 1905 builds and removals will be Thursday June 9, 1983 8:00 PM PDT. Below are the possible retreating units for Autumn season. This is a prophetic play game.

Eng: F Nwy                      Ger: A Den, A Par              Rus: A Tri, A Bul, F Swe  
Fra: A Bre, A Pie              Ita: A Ven, A Vie              Tur: A Con

Press:

Par-Mos: If this works, it should be fun!

Ber-Mos: Sorry, Larry, but two seasons of almost complete silence (despite my continued writing), your large size and close proximity to my borders makes you a little hard to trust. The move to the Baltic is purely defensive, though you probably won't take it as such. If I turned out to be wrong, and you are still my friend, I hope we can re-ally. If I was right-- en garde!

Ita-Rus: I plead temporary insanity - Woody made me do it!

Mun-Rom: Why all the fleets? Really, I wouldn't have minded that much if you had kept the A Tyo

Ita-Ger: No I don't know what I'm doing! I told you I should have attacked Munich in 1901! Now look at the mess you've gotten me into!

Par-Rom: Why are you trying to play the innocent little victim? Anyone who has kept up with this game's press knows why I am doing everything I can to stick it to you. I try to play the game for fun, not for blood, and when I do develop a grudge, it's for a reason.

Kathy-Mike: Of course, I want you to stay in the game, without you it wouldn't be a three ring circus! Ita-Eng: I'm glad mommy gave your crayons back!

Ita-Tur: Would you believe....?

Tur-Ita: And you thought you had problems with prophetic builds!

Ank-Con: Better get those trenches dug. We're in for a long one.

---

Jim Meinel  
628 Whitworth Lane So.  
Renton, WA 98055  
(206) 228-7802

your sub expires with # frude

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