

SHOOTING BLANKS

July 16, 1989
Meaningless Meanderings

Well, I used to be disgusted
But now I try to be amused

#128
DIAS

Draw, Pardner!

HABEAS CORPUS

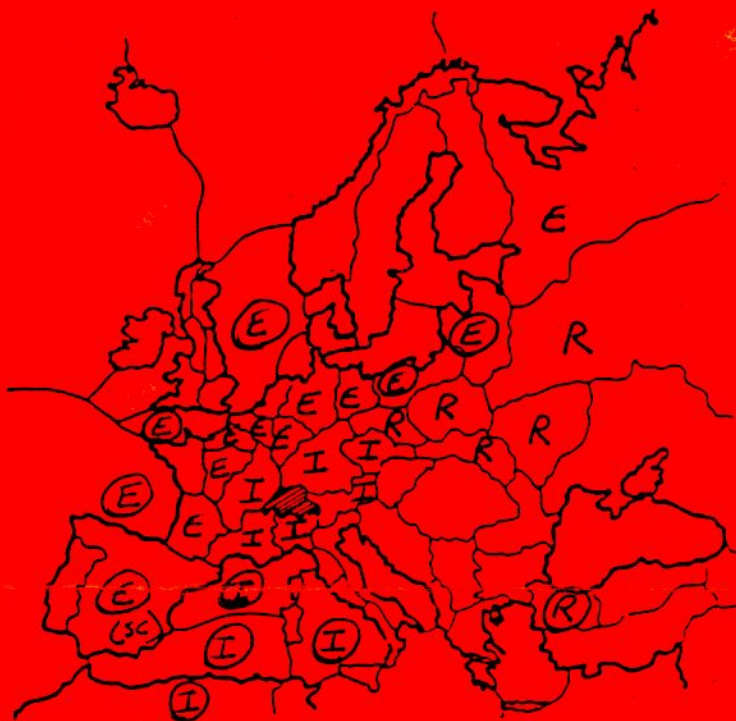
Fall 11

E (Schenck): A Bre-Par, A Pic S A Bre-Par,
F Pru, F Lvn, F Nth, F Spa(sc), F Eng,
F Gol, F Mao, A Gas, A Ber, A Stp, A Kie,
A Ruh, A Bel all hold

F (Olsen): A Par supports Chinese hard liners

I (Rush): A Mun S A Bur, F Wme-Spa(sc),
A Bur S A Pie-Mar, A Boh S A Mun,
A Ven-Pie, F Naf-Mao, A Tyr S A Mun,
F Tys S F Tus-Gol, A Pie-Mar, F Tus-Gol

R (Gonsalves): A Sil S Italian A Mun,
A War S A Sil, A Gal S A Sil, F Bla-Con,
A Ukr S A Mos, A Mos S A War



Underlined moves do not succeed. The English F Gol is killed. The French A Par is blown up. Sorry Bob, the Chinese hard liners are going to have to make it on their own.

Following these moves, the DIAS draw passes. Congratulations to Garret, Steve, and Mike on a hard-fought draw. (A note: while getting Garret's moves over the phone, after getting his vote and the moves for Bre & Pic, I stopped him. No point in what the rest of the units are doing.)

gained/lost

E: home, nwy, swe, stp, den, hol, kie, bel, ber, por, bre, spa, mar, **par** (16) draws

F: **par** (0) finito

I: home, tun, tri, ser, vie, bul, mun, gre (10) draws

R: con, sev, rum, bud, ank, smy, mos, war (8) draws

RUSSIA to FRANCE: Bye bye Bob.

OLSEN to MARTIN: What's the difference between North and South Dakota? Let's ask Bozo Wilson....

MINNESOTA to KANSAS: It's interesting that you, a Kansan, throw the word "brain" out as if your state had some sort of monopoly. I've been to both KU and K-State and the combined IQs of both campuses couldn't light a match.

RICHFIELD to GARRET: Nobody will be happy if Olsen lives to tell the tale of the game. If he does live, it would be his biggest

Next Deadline: August 25

accomplishment since his discovery that *The Brady Bunch* was a very stupid show.

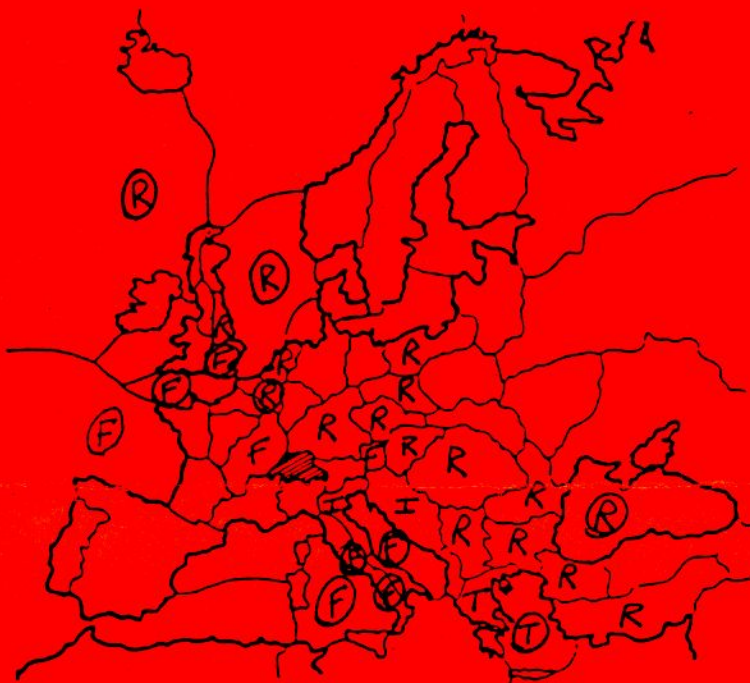
ROCKVILLE: What's that about the Brady Bunch?

RICHFIELD to ROCKVILLE: I really like Wally Backman, he is a heck of a lot of fun to watch play baseball. Why did the Mets let him go? Is Gregg Jeffries *that* good?

ROCKVILLE: The Mets are working in mysterious ways these days. Why they get rid of essential supporting players like Dykstra and Backman is beyond me. Not because they're that old and over the hill, that's for sure. Guess they had to give up Backman because the Twins weren't dumb enough to take Teufel back. Jefferies, from what I saw of him last year, shows immense potential. If he ever gets his head back together and the Mets leave him at one position, he can hit like crazy and is a good fielder. Don't think the Mets will give up on a player of Jefferies' ability after one off year this year, though. The last player they did that with was Kevin Mitchell.

STEVE to MIKE: At long last — no more Italy! I swear, I'll never play the country again for years.

Schlosser Completes Sweep



YACC Fall 07

F (Mills): A Mun-Tyr, F Eng H, F Lon H, F Mao H, F Tys S F Ion-Nap, A Tyr-Ven, F Ion-Nap, F Rom S F Ion-Nap, F Adr S A Tyr-Ven, A Bur-Mun

I (Scott): A Ven S A Tri, A Tri S A Ven, F Nap H

R (Schlosser): A Kie-Hol, A Bud S A Ser, F Nth-Bel, A Edi-Yor, A Boh-Mun, F Bla C A Arm-Bul, A Con S A Arm-Bul, A Gal-Boh, A Vie-Tyr, A Smy S A Con, A Ser S A Arm-Bul, A Rum S A Arm-Bul, A Arm-Bul, F Nao-Mao, A War-Pru, A Sil S A Boh-Mun, F Nwy-Nth

T (Rifle): (retreat A Ser-Gre) A Gre-Bul, F Aeg S A Bul-Con, A Bul-Con

Underlined moves do not succeed. The French A Mun, Italian F Nap, and Turkish A Bul all have to retreat, but that's all academic

at this point. Congratulations to John Schlosser on a most convincing win! Care to tell us how you did it, John? Endgame statements and the game stats will appear in the next issue.

gained/lost

F: home, spa, bel, por, hol, mun, tun, lon, **rom**, **nap** (9)

I: rom, ven, nap, tri (2)

R: home, swe, nwy, den, kie, ber, bud, edi, vie, ank, smy, lpl, con, rum, **bel**, **hol**, **mun**, **bul**, **ser** (22) wins!!

T: bul, gre, ser (1)

ITALY to TURKEY: It looks like the end for both of us. As we are doomed to eternal bliss. It would of been nice to have lasted until the full end of the game. But that's the way it goes. Good luck to all.

ROCKVILLE: Hey, you all managed to last it out. No sweat!

Thus end another two games, leaving me with "only" ten regular games, two gunboats, two gunboat tourneys, and Anarchy to GM. Hey, I could get used to this light load! But seriously folks, I don't expect to start any new games for the rest of the year, of any sort. I'm trying to weasel my way off most of the standby lists I'm on, and pledge not to start any new games as a player either. Well, maybe one or two, depending on how long it takes for my current games in *Graustark* and *The Armchair Diplomat* to end. Not that I still don't enjoy playing the game, as I do. Just that the scale has to be cut down some if I'm to follow through on a few plans I have for the upcoming year. The major drawback to postal Dip is that games take so long to finish. If you plan to do anything radical, and I do have some interesting plans for next summer, then you've got to start preparing for them a year in advance at least. Part of the preparation requires that this zeen come out faster. So starting with next issue, I'm shooting for one or two week turnarounds. If you ain't in by the deadline, you may be outta luck! Just to let you know....

Greetings earthlings! We are here to conquer your planet, and place you all into a delicate form of slavery from which there is no reprieve or escape. You'll love it. Trust me.

So this is the "infamous tenth anniversary issue." Well, there were big plans to put together something special for you all, but they sort of fell through. Then there was the plan to put out the issue semi-on-time. That fell through too. So guess you're stuck with this instead, a fairly typical sort of effort. The only concession to old age in here is a copy of my first issue. I like to print it when in need of a little humiliation. Or is that humility? Whatever.

Ten years. Ten long years. Hard to believe. Hard to believe that so many of you have been here for most of them. That's most of the reason I keep on plugging along, you can be sure. And for you new folks, well, you're just in on the ground floor for the next ten years. If you can bear with me, we'll have many good times.

Dipdom sure has changed over the years. When I first came along, in 1977-78, The Hobby (as it was known then) was dominated by a bunch of guys who were really *into* the "science" of Diplomacy. Hard core, play to win, ratings crazy, cutthroat dippers, Nowadays there's more gossipy silliness, and a pervasive play for fun spirit that just wasn't there in the late seventies. Is play any better now than then? Not really. The style has changed some, but not improved. If anything, it's tougher to find a really balanced, competitive game. Dipcon used to be the big thing, now it's just sort of there. There seem to be quite a few more regional and house cons than there were, and that replaces Dipcon to some extent. I like them better, actually,

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There are no game fees per se, but players must maintain a subscription.

Today's special is a 'life of the position' sub, of no less than ten issues

(yes, even if you're wiped out instantly), for \$10.

In fact, I prefer that new players use this method for the first game here (at least).

And it's a pretty good deal, too.

Trust me.

RSVP

Game Openings

Me

Regular Dip: Standbies Only
Gunboat Dip: Standbies Only
Anarchy: Standbies Only

Mike Scott

Kingmaker: Heck, Wilson, McConnell
(need one more for Kingmaker)
Civilization: Standbies, probably

Larry Cronin

Investment Diplomacy Variant:
Gorham, Dunn (needs five more players)
(rules on page +++ of this issue)

as they're more convenient and less hectic, and generally friendlier affairs.

So anyway, here we are, still alive after ten years. Wonder what the future has in store?

Also in this issue, the rules for Larry Cronin's Investment Dip, and a map to help you all figure out those cryptic Civ reports. Adventures of Next of Kin returns, while Nurse Phil gets the month off. Instead we are blessed with the rantings of The Albany Psycho. Believe me folks, I do not make this stuff up myself. Gone for good are the two gunboat tourneys, which will just run in Thorazeen. A couple more games end, as you must have noticed by now, and the Anarchy game begins. All in all, another busy sort of zeen.

Headline news this time is, of course, the Orioles. You all laughed when I said the Os wouldn't finish last in the division. Brad Wilson, ace sportswriter, scoffed that this wasn't the International League, who was I kidding? Well, the season's not over yet, but it's the rest of the AL East that's playing like International Leaguers. The Yanks may threaten, now that they've ripped off Oakland's relief pitching staff, and Boston has been hot lately. But at last look, they're both six games back and not gaining any ground. Will the Os hang on to their lead? Remains to be seen.

And the Mets...well, they're in serious trouble. Gooden on the DL, and the Expos picked up Mark Langston from the Mariners. Despite having been picked by just about everybody to win the NL East

in the early season, the Mets will lose out to Montreal. The Cubs? Forget about them. No matter how they're playing now, they'll still be the same ole Cubs come September. What's surprising is that the Cards are anywhere near contention. Wasn't this supposed to be a rebuilding year for Whitey?

In pro basketball, the Bullets picked a couple big guys who can help them out. Tom Hammonds, in particular, should turn out real well.

Gary Williams is settling in as basketball coach at Maryland. Sure, Ohio State would like him to pay his phone bill, but that's already become old news. Doesn't look like many of the players will be transferring out, and that's good. They can't afford to lose anybody!

Been playing a lot of basketball again myself, just in case the Terps decide to recruit me. You never know....

Also have had the opportunity to see most of the summer film fare. Hey, if I'm not going to put out a zeen, I've got to do something with all this free time! The best of the bunch have been *Do The Right Thing* and *Batman*, and are certainly worth seeing. The new *Indiana Jones* is also very good, though not as fresh as *Batman*. *Dead Poets Society* is a good vehicle for Robin Williams as a dramatic actor (serious but not too serious). *Star Trek V* was okay, but not great.

Had a chance to read some real books again, too. Wow, all this culture! *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad was good, but the movie (*Apocalypse Now*) was better. *All Quiet on the Western Front* was also quite good. *The Running Man* by Stephen King (did I say *real* books? oops) turned out to be better than expected (I don't see how the movie version could star Arnold Schwarzenegger). And a collection of JD Salinger short stories rounds out the literature corner this time. If you like weird stories, check out Salinger sometime. Now I'll have to read *Catcher in the Rye*. How I missed this stuff in high school and college is beyond me. Must have been too wrapped up in Shakespeare.

Final cultural excursions include seeing the "magicians" Penn and Teller at the National Theater and the gracefully aging "musicians" The Who at RFK Stadium. Penn and Teller were very entertaining in a brash sort of way, though I wouldn't advise seeing them while soaking wet. (We were caught in a torrential downpour on the way to the show, and felt like drowned rats the whole time.) The Who aren't as good as they were in 1980, but the show wasn't nearly as bad as the one in 1982. More horns, less guitar, and much far-

ther away. Stadium shows just leave something to be desired. Maybe it was the video screen showing the band — out of synch with the music. The B52s at Constitution Hall in August should be a lot more fun. And maybe I'll talk Julie into humoring me and seeing REM in September.

There's been quite a stir around here since WHFS took Damian off of his midday show. Damian, as you probably don't know, was in a car wreck several years ago which left him with a speech impediment. He's also immensely popular, and a real patron for the local bands. Technically, he's been "promoted" to program director, but most of the HFS die-hard listeners view it as one more step in the big HFS sell-out. I don't care so much, as I hardly listen to WHFS anymore. No, now it's WPFW 89.3, a downtown listener-supported black station of the "Pacifica Network." This latest infatuation started with their excellent Saturday blues program, and now I just leave the dial there all the time. They've got quite a variety of programming, including Dixieland jazz, regular jazz, blues, plenty of talk, poetry readings (well, maybe I change the channel once in a while), and in-depth news with a different sort of slant to it. Most important in a radio station, I hear stuff that I've never heard before, and the djs really speak their minds. WHFS was getting a bit tame and safe.

So which one of you sent me the clipping on the new van from Maserati? I can't find it anymore (fortunately!). It's a good thing "Miami Vice" has ended after all these years. I just can't bear the thought of Crockett and Tubbs cruising the streets of Miami in a *van*! Maybe Switek could have used it, though, to spiff up his image.

Whatever happened to Seven Up Gold? My favorite drink, gone with the wind. Instead everybody's putting out the same old cherry drink. Boring! Guess I'll stick with orange juice.

The Feds' reaction to the scandal at HUD has been very interesting. Those programs found to be run particularly incompetently have been cancelled. Saves us all a few bucks. But we'd all be better off with Jack Kemp as Secretary of Defense. There'd be plenty of programs to cancel, and we'd be saving billions instead of mere millions.

And how about that Supreme Court? The flag burning decision surprised me somewhat. Not that they made the right decision, but that there was any question at all. So the big stir is against flag-burning...big deal. I'm not so insecure that an occasional toasted flag will destroy my faith in the Great Big US of A. Of course Big George has a lot more to worry about than me — he spent most of the last campaign wrapped in the flag. If it's

burned, everyone will see that the President is wearing no clothes.

In local news, a group of irate citizens in northern Virginia have organized a movement to throw all their elected officials out of office and reorganize the government, and have gathered quite a bit of support. Their complaint is that the money from skyrocketing property taxes is mostly wasted. They've got a good point. Meanwhile the guvvnies are frantically changing the rules to keep themselves in power. I love this sort of stuff. Anything that keeps the business-as-usual types on their toes is a Good Thing. The revolutionaries will probably lose the battle, but stand a good chance of getting their way in the long run.

Similar situation in DC: they're changing the rules to try to scare Jesse Jackson away from running for Mayor. The latest tactic is a bill to limit the amount of money the mayor and city council can earn from honoraria to about \$10,000. Jesse makes about ten times that much. This is such a transparent ploy that I don't think it'll work. If I were Jackson, I wouldn't just run myself now, but would try to organize an entire slate of candidates to throw all the rascals out! The city's in dire need of a clean sweep at City Hall anyway.

Also in DC news is the Catholic minister that's in the process of breaking away from the church. His beef is that the Catholic church just hasn't been doing enough to include black people. Somehow African chants during Catholic mass seems like a non sequitur to me, but I'll root for the little guy anyway.

My CI\$ ID number, in case you'd like to contact me that way, is 72427,3372. If you'd like to submit orders or press via Compuserve, that'd be fine with me. Too bad they've instituted a small mandatory monthly charge, as the no use/no pay arrangement is the only reason I'm still a member there.

And now, before I delay any further, let's get on with the zeen.

Ask Dr Dicko

Q: Dear Dr Dicko, Last year every zeen I opened had a Runestone ballot, but this year (now that I'm a repository) nobody's including them in my copy of their zeens. Am I onto something?

A: I consider that more of a personal question, best kept between your pharmacist and yourself. I do think you have hit upon the solution to the ballot barrage, though: join the team. Really, if you can't find a blank ballot lying around anywhere, I'd be

happy to send you the dozen or so that I've received.

Q: Dear Dr Dicko, I met a man (well, either that or a transvestite) who was called DeCastongrene. Is this a serious disease or just a small case of herpes. I told him or her not to go out with Flap Jack McHugh. -Jealous Bozo

A: Dear Medically Minded, The DeCastongrene is infectious, but not particularly dangerous. The advice not to go out with Flap Jack is correct — only the toughest ex-New Yorkers have proven able to resist his dreaded flapping jaw.

Q: Dear Dr Dicko, How come if I am a Pennsylvanian that everyone insists I sound like a New Yorker. I ain't no foreigner — I resent the implications of these horrible attacks on my honor. Next thing you know they'll say I'm from Canada — and then I'd be an arrogant jerk (oops, I hate to stereotype so I'll forget I said that). -Your long time buddy — the one who sounds like a pure breed Englishman

A: Dear Winston Churchill Jr, Of course you're a Pennsylvanian, your resemblance to Dracula is too obvious to overlook. Or was he Transylvanian, I can never remember?

Q: Dear Dr Dicko, We heard that Dr Marc Hurwitz looks like a frog (all shriveled and ugly) — what we really want to know is does his girlfriend get around (nudge, nudge, know what I mean) or is she just a stationary wart? -Signed Gonzo from Hagerstown

A: Dear Deceased Gonzo, I asked the good Doctor Hurwitz himself your question, and his only response was to ask for your address. He said he wanted to deliver the answer personally, via Minuteman "Happy Face" Missile.

Q: Dear Dr Dicko, My friend Swider and I heard that Tom Mainardi is restarting Bersagliwacker — is this true? And if so why? Didn't he punish us enough in the past? We believe in letting ~~dead~~ sleeping dogs lie! So why is he coming back to annoy us nice people. We don't need no stinkin draws or Mainardi either. We have standards — cat killers and thieves (like him and Hinton) make us look real good! Boy that is hard! -Signed Flap Jack McHugh

A: Dear Modern-Day Flapper, I'd think that making you look good should deserve a Nobel Prize for Impossibility. I'm forwarding the Mainardi nomination to the committee in Sweden immediately.

Q: I know a certain publisher who plays 1830 in excess. Doesn't his wife get bored? -Signed, The Wife

A: Sorry dear. I'll let you win next time.

Brought Back By Popular Demand!

Adventures of Next of Kin

Chapter the 8th
by Anonymous

Q: Dear Dr Dicko, A health question this time. Should Flap Jack be at a con and require mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, who would do it? -Signed, My Lips are Sealed

PS- Mine are sealed too, but Gonzo says he loves his work and his work is to open his mouth and breath life into a stiff like McHugh.

A: Sorry, if Flap Jack needs mouth-to-mouth around here, he ain't gonna make it. The only solution I can think of is to pour some chocolate syrup into his mouth if Lucky Lindy is there at the time. If she doesn't suck his lungs out, this should do the trick.

Q: Dear Dr Dicko, I would like to recommend my friend Flap Jack McHugh as your personal lawyer. His skills at negotiating cannot be matched. At least when we play Doolittle and Waite, he does a good job. I mean he tells everyone to "Screw off," "Get serious," and "Be Linsey's friend." -Signed, Flap Jack Sr

PS- References available upon request.

A: Thanks plenty. Even though Flap Jack is obviously a negotiator of the highest caliber, I'm immune to malpractice suits. I avoid practicing totally.

Question The Albany Psycho

Hello kiddies and welcome to the newest advice column in *Retaliation*. By popular demand, you little ones are getting what you ask for — a column of you very own to seek advice from the only person qualified to answer those questions that your young minds can think of.

It so happens that I have a few questions available right this second. So sit back and enjoy and learn from the teacher.

Q: How do I go about rigging a poll?

A: First you have to become a pollster. You can become a pollster in two ways. Create your own poll, or wait for the only statistically significant poll to have a vacancy (not likely to happen in the near future — hahaha). Second, you make any rules you want. If people challenge your rules, claim they don't know what they're talking about or that they're trying to feud.

Q: How can a person prevent a personal life strike?

A: That's an easy one. Become my friend and support me 100% and maybe you won't have a personal life strike conducted against you.

Q: What's the best brand of cat food?

A: From personal experience — my taste buds love Kal Kan

Suddenly, with a howl of mingled rage and pain, the man-at-arms vanished. Dazedly, Vicki realized that her thrashings had caused her stone of power to lightly strike his skin, and the magic of the stone had vanquished the succubus, for such the man-at-arms must have been.

Mounting her steed, she rode slowly down the trail, barely acknowledging Nurse Phil's salute, still with Turbo beer in hand, at the hard-won victory. Riding at the head of her column, Vicki was lost in thought. Visions of...the marauding minions of John Schlosser marching towards Sevastopol, harsh gut-teral voices singing Ore! Oreoooo!...of station wagons where AM radios blared country music at full blast...of battle joy filling her veins as she consigned Virginia lawyers to oblivion...of John Schlosser smiling malevolently at her, the black form of Potomac Paul floating behind him...of Nurse Phil's snores emanating from beneath a pile of empty Turbo beer cans...of Brer Phil and "de bria-h patch by de great, green, greasy limpopo river, all strewn 'bout wid fever trees"...of a battle, but "news sho do travel slowly in de lan' of Retal, 'specially since the mighty and all-powerful GM, Dick Martin 'o Rockville, done got hisself a job"...of Nurse Phil being found after each battle in new and ingenious hiding places — a la Flashman...of computer nerds chanting cheers to exorcise demons, and Potomac Paul appearing and devouring their souls, using sexy salesgirls and offering no money down, low payments, and big trade-in allowances...of the members of the Council of Europe and a necromancer none had ever seen and lived to tell of, allied with the beautiful Vicki, called Alibbi-Zoom-Babbi, whose fearsome powers had nearly saved Sevastopol from capture...of Nurse Phil swaying in the saddle, held only by leather thongs...of the great and powerful GM, Dick Martin, whose omnipotent benevolence (read NMRs) had yet to be cast in her direction...of a woman of timeless age, Melinda, with the eyes of Cardinal Richelieu, in her hair a circlet of poison ivy held in place with long, sharp, deadly pins, reputed to have advised the legendary Steve Martin himself...of the sword slicing one of Potomac Paul's family jewels off...of a band of jugglers tossing knives and flaming daggers into each others' backs, never missing once...of the master of cere-

monies, Nurse Phil, quaffing Turbo beers and singing "I Heard it through the Grapevine" and "The Backstabbers"...of heroic deeds, of Hyboria England's attempt to seize Moscow...of brave humans cleansing an evil countryside, battling the demons of Twilight and Yugo dealerships, venturing into the shadow of the valley of death...of Nurse Phil's snores emanating from beneath a pile of empty Turbo beer cans...of Potomac Paul's long bony fingers reaching for the blades that hung around her dead brothers' necks...of consulting the wise and beautiful Mistress Julie, companion of the great and powerful GM Dick Martin, and if the truth be known, the smarter of the two...of Mack the Reiffe (#\$*!), master of treachery, without peer in knowledge of the arts of beer and suckers...of her skin, hot to the touch, on fire and her nipples suddenly contracting, hardening to a painful sensitivity she would never have believed possible, her stomach and groin awash in damp heat... Vicki shook herself out of her introspection. Best not to go down *that* road again. At least, not yet.

But in her musings, she felt she had touched on a moment of inspiration. Schlosser and Potomac Paul were treacherous beings, so who better to call on for assistance than the personification of treachery, Mack the Reiffe? If she could convince him to aid her, all might yet be saved. And Mack the Reiffe was rumored last year to have been seen in the company of that fabulous nordic warrior, Dave the Brave, who might be just the ticket for her longings. Her noble mount, 300ZX stirred nervously as her thighs tightened unconsciously around him and her mind raced, seeking a way to convince Mack the Reiffe to come to her aid, and introduce her to Dave the Brave as well...

To be continued....

Perestroika Dip (aka Investment Dip)

by Lawrence Cronin

Yes indeed, inspired by a need to restrain the relentless bloodthirsty ravaging encouraged in our world of regular diplomacy, a variant has been developed which may put curbs on this. Aha, you Vietnam era folks say, finally *Dove Dip!*

Perhaps — but this game has a profit motive, something for folks of the 80s. Do I hear someone groaning "Yuppie Dip"? Well, economics and ambition certainly plays a part, but the key feature

is more cautious militarism. *Prosperity* is a goal, a necessary ingredient to attain prosperity being *Peace*.

In honor of that New Wave politician of the East, Gorby Dip occurred to me. Followers of George Bush may prefer the name Wimp Dip, while those of a past era may smell Chamberlain Dip. Overall I hope we have a game that is both exciting and enlightening as a reflection of the latest in world politics. And now I hear John and Yoko singing "Oh we are saved, just give peace a chance..." Admittedly an economic variant, allow me to introduce a kinder and gentler dip — Perestroika Dip.

We use the *same board, tactics, nations, provinces, supply centers, and number of players*. The only rule changes are below:

Innovations involve an Economy and Infrastructure. "Building Blocks" are added to represent the infrastructure which in turn generates the economy. Each Supply Center in 1900 has Four Blocks. These blocks each generate a value of One Point each per year (four points per supply center initially). A nation's Points are totaled each year yielding a national budget. The budget can be spent each year on buying or maintaining fleets and armies (which cost four points each), or it can be reinvested, ie used to purchase more building blocks (which also cost four points each) in any of the nation's supply centers. Points not spent can be put in a treasury (described below).

Note: The investment scheme which underlies this is one that yields 25% on investments (blocks) per year.

Starting Units: 1900 starts without any armies or fleets, but each supply center yields 4 points each and players decide how they want to spend it in Winter 1900. This version reflects the reality that some nations never had fleets and some did not have to militarize. Winter 00 and 01 are separate seasons.

Play otherwise begins as usual. In the fall of each year one point is earned for each building block in each supply center possessed. The number of blocks occupying any given supply center are signified by a number after each center's name, eg Lpl-5, etc. The sum total is the national budget. For example if in Fall 1905 England owns the following centers with their respective blocks: Lpl-10, Lon-5, Edi-7, Den-3, Nwy-5, Bel-1, then the budget is 31 points, which could purchase up to 7 new building blocks or maintain (or add) up to 7 armies and fleets (total = 28 points) and still leave three points to add to the treasury. Points in the treasury are added to the national budget the fol-

lowing year. To repeat, each army and fleet costs four points per year. Points not spent on the military can be used to purchase blocks (for four points each) in any of the supply centers a player possesses. Those points not spent are put in the treasury.

The Treasury can hold points indefinitely and represents liquid assets. The blocks reflect non-liquid investments. The liquid assets may also be loaned or given to other nations at any time. Repayment is as reliable as the word of other players.

The Transfer of Points from one player to another is accomplished by simply telling the gamesmaster that such and such is given to so and so, and may be done at any time. These may be gifts or loans. The gamesmaster publishes the amounts transferred each season along with the moves.

Overspending is not allowed. If orders involve overspending the orders written first are executed, while those beyond budgetary means are ignored. Thus the order of moves may be important.

Neutral supply centers put their income back into themselves as building blocks with extra points going in the national treasury.

The Rubble Rule addresses the conquering of supply centers in battles. All warfaer follows the usual dip rules. When a supply center is taken by another power without opposition by simply moving a unit in, the number of blocks remain the same. But when it is taken in a battle it suffers economically. Only one half the number of blocks which were present remain (odd number rounded up). This is called the Rubble Rule. This applies only when a supply center is taken by force, overpowering another power, ie there was resistance of any type.

National treasuries are not subject to the

Rubble Rule. The treasury is located in the capital unless moved to another supply center. It is moved by simply telling the gamesmaster and costs one point to do so.

Disbanding: To encourage peace and reflect reality, fleets and armies may be brought home at any time and disbanded in home supply centers only. This allows income to be spent elsewhere.

The Goal of the Game is for a nation to dominate Europe, of course. This is determined by having a budget equal to one half or more of all Europe's combined budgets.

Go for it!

[Ideas? Sure I got some ideas for you!

[How about a voluntary Rubble Rule: the Looting Rule. This just means that any turn a unit spends in any center (except one of your home centers) it can destroy one block and convert it to one unit for the Treasury.

[Disbanding is pretty tough, why not make it adjacent to any home center, or have it cost something to disband units away from home.

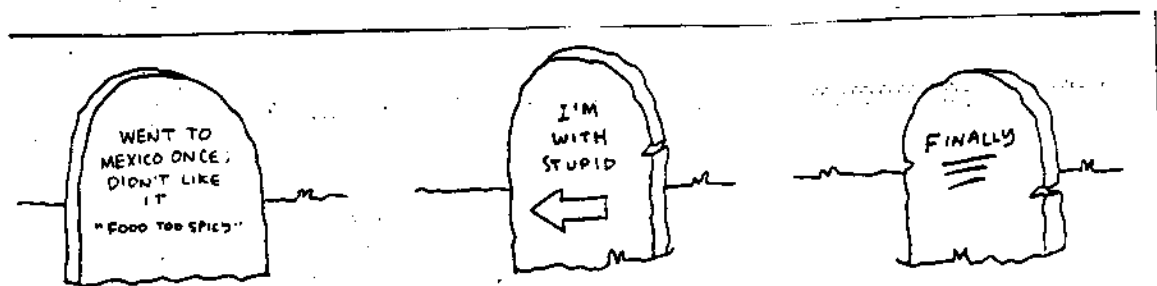
[I guess you can only build military units in home centers, still?

[Why not let the players put blocks in any land province? Or limit the increase to one block per province per year? And round the ravaged lands down, instead of up! Be harsh!

[Would variable strength armies and fleets, depending on how much you spend for them (four minimum, and lose strength if involved in battle — losses can be negated by spending from treasury) be too difficult?

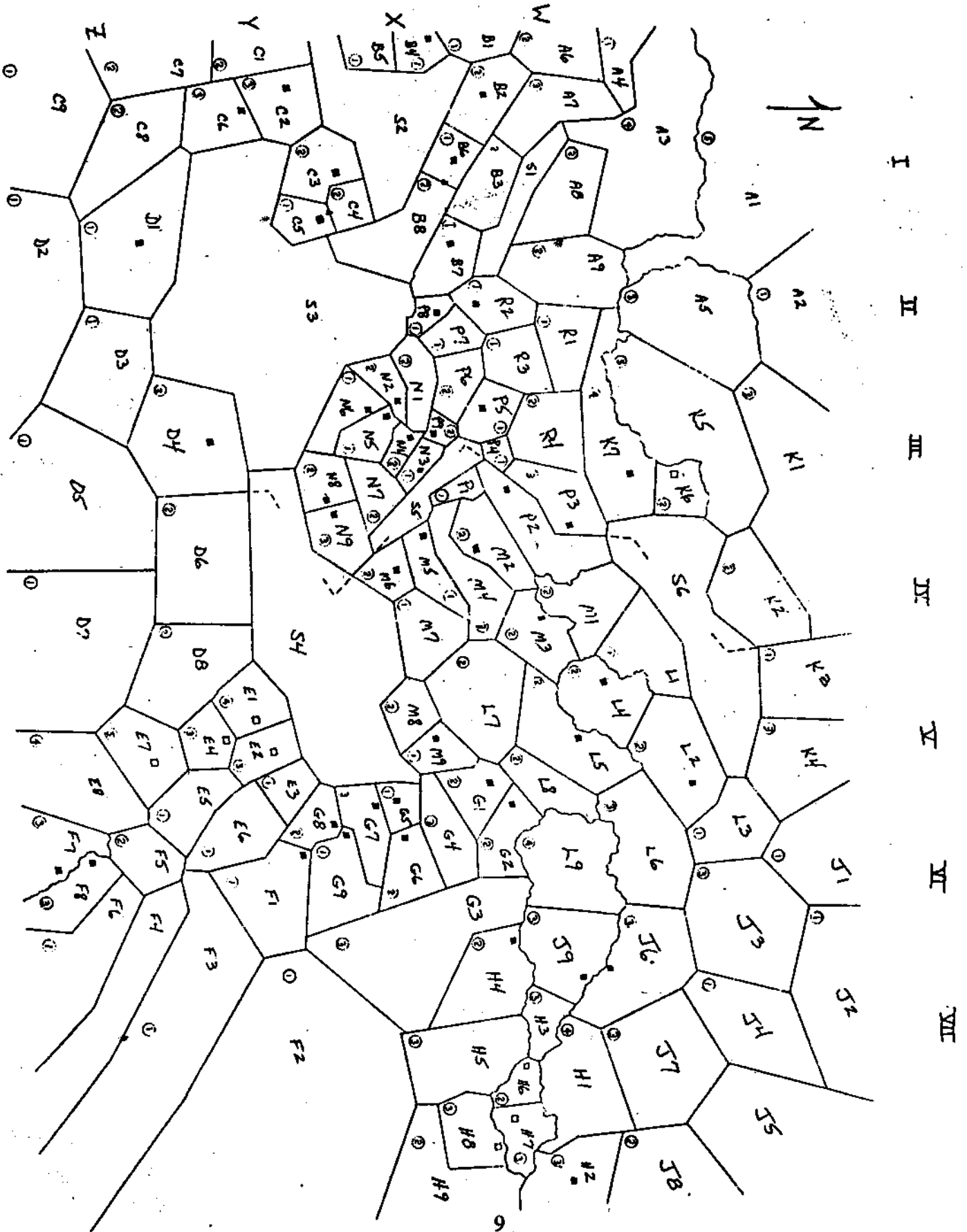
[There, that should be plenty enough meddling from me for one day.

[And you've already got two players, even though they haven't even seen the rules yet!]



ER

The Mysterious Civ Map



Richard Martin, "Editor"
26 Orchard Way North
Rockville, Md. 20854

Exercise In Humility, Part III

??
??

#1

Well fans, here it is, the first issue of that long awaited but untitled magazine of Diplomacy, "?". Since I only have four players at this point, it looks like next issue will see the first game start. This particular work of art will be devoted to an outlining of my house rules and an all out recruiting effort by all concerned (no recruits means no games, right?). Each of you lucky people will find a few spare copies of "?" to give to other Dippyists (friend or foe, it's up to you) or other likely candidates selected at random. The main crunch is that I need Gamers willing to shell out the necessary pit-tance to keep me afloat. Anyway, enough triviality, on to bigger and better things.

My house rules are as follows:

- 1) All the standard rules of Diplomacy will be followed, except where ammended for postal play.
- 2) Orders will be due every fourth Friday after the game starts. Builds and retreats will be due ten days after the issue in which they are necessitated comes out. I don't care how They come in, just so long as I get them.
- 3) The GM will consider the orders most recently received to be valid, any other orders sent in by that player for that turn to be invalid, and any orders not received at all to be unfortunate.
- 4) The GM's decisions will be considered final and not open to dispute unless they clearly contradict the written rules of Diplo-macy available in any new Dippy set of Avalon Hill origin.
- 5) Any player who sends in another players orders will be immed-ately be dropped from any games he may be involved in at the time. Deception is not illegal if practiced exclusively between players. It's not nice to fool Mother Gamesmaster!
- 6) Conditional builds and retreats are strongly recommended.
- 7) Due to the shorter period for builds and removals, only the first set of such orders from each player will be considered valid.
- 8) Each player will be notified of each such move at the first possible moment.
- 9) If a player fails to get his orders in on time, his units go into a state of civil disorder, holding in place (if they are not dislodged). Dislodged units are allowed to retreat, but if the retreat is not received in time, the unit is disbanded.
- 10) If a player misses a Fall or Spring move, then the GM will request that an assigned standby send in an alternate set of orders. If the same player again fails to submit orders for the next turn, the alternate player's orders are followed and he takes control of that country and it's units. The original player is then out of that game.
- 11) Once out of a game there is no return during that particular game. For example, player A fails to submit a set of orders for Spring. The GM requests that alternate B send in orders for Fall. If player A submits Fall orders, B is put back onto the list of alternates. However, if A fails to submit Fall orders also, then B takes over control and his orders are followed. A is out of the game and may

not return as another country in that game. He is not barred from entry into a later game, however.

12) A player wins when either he achieves the eighteen center victory conditions or all remaining players agree to declare him victor by a unanimous vote. An abstention counts as a negative vote. Yes, you must vote for yourself....

13) Adraw is determined by a similar vote or if there is no net change in supply centers over a two year period.

14) Any player may propose a draw or concession.

15) Game fees are \$3 per game, subscriptions are \$3 for ten issues. Players must maintain their subs.

Is there anything I missed? Any suggestions, comments, snide remarks? I shall take my role as GM very seriously and interfere in the games as little as possible. I'll also learn how to type.

And, as a final show of benevolence, the first fourteen people need not pay a game fee, only the sub. Got it?

Oh yes, be sure to send in a country preference list with your application.

I hope to recruit enough players at Origins '79 in the next few weeks, but every little bit helps.

Come next issue, and I'll tell you all what Origins was like. Don't die from anticipation in the meantime....

Until next time, take care.

And that, believe it or not, is how this all started. The lamest, most pathetic, most nameless, most pizza-stained first issue of any zeen ever in existence. By the way, those houserules are *not* in effect anymore. Ignore them!!!! Last time I printed this little beastie, an alarming number of players actually thought they were the new relevant rules. Come on, you're certainly sharper than that.

I printed up a bunch of the suckers to hand out at Origins in 1979, but after seeing what typical zeens looked like (I'd only seen three at the time: *Graustark*, *Non Sequitur*, and *Beaucouillon*), decided that it was the better (and less embarrassing) part of valor to send them out through the mail instead. The rest is history. In spite of a lame front-page article from me every issue, the zeen survived until issue 9 and the Spring 1901 turn of R3, my third game, which featured Bob Olsen, Gary Coughlan, Jack Masters, Tom Hurst, Stephen Lee and Steve Langley, among others, and some of the best (and certainly most voluminous) press ever printed here. Not as off-the-wall as Mike Mills's picture press, maybe, but far more hilarious. R3 also turned out to be my Waterloo, as Gary took the game far more seriously than I did and the resulting fallout has yet to fully settle. You may know of it

as "The Great Feud."

Soon after, R5 started, with Kathy Byrne (now Kathy Caruso), Brad Wilson, Al Pearson, and brief appearances by Don Del Grande and stacked German armies.

Bob Osuch ran two guest-gmed games here, Maniacal and Mass Murders, the second one turning bitter toward the end. Jack Frost started a game here, but pulled it out, and John Chickering guest gmed a game for a brief time, before I took it over. Julie guest gmed a game of Vacation Diplomacy which didn't really get off the ground, and a game of her design, Everybody Plays Dip, which worked out very well. Stephen Lee ran an entertaining Dip game which went by the name "Elephant Heart." Besides Dip, I've run Gunboat, Gunboat Tourneys, Blind Postcard Dip, Magic Realm (abortively), and now Anarchy. Mark Larzelere invented the postal Monopoly hobby here. Now we've got Mike Scott running Civ and Kingmaker games, and Larry Cronin trying to fill up Perestroika Dip (so sign up!). We've done our fair share of dabbling in the gaming arts, run a bunch of games, invented a few variants, inspired a few more, and prodded a fair number of suckers into starting their own zeens so we can torture them for a change. It's been fun!

SECOND FRENCHMAN PASSES

HYBORIA Fall 11

A (Ouzts): (retreat A Sil-War) A Bul sings,

A Tri-Ven, A War-Sil, A Lvn-Stp,

A Boh S A War-Sil, A Bud-Gal,

F Alb-Ion, A Gre whistles

E (Andersson): A Fin-Stp, A Ruh S A Mun,

A Sil S A Ber-Pru, A Mun S A Sil,

F Stp(sc)-Gob, F Nao-Mao, A Kie-Ber,

A Gas S F Mao-Spa, F Eng S F Nao-Mao,

F Mao-Spa(sc), A Nwy S A Fin-Stp,

A Bur S A Gas, A Ber-Pru

F (Emmert? Wheet?): NMR A Tyr, A Spa,

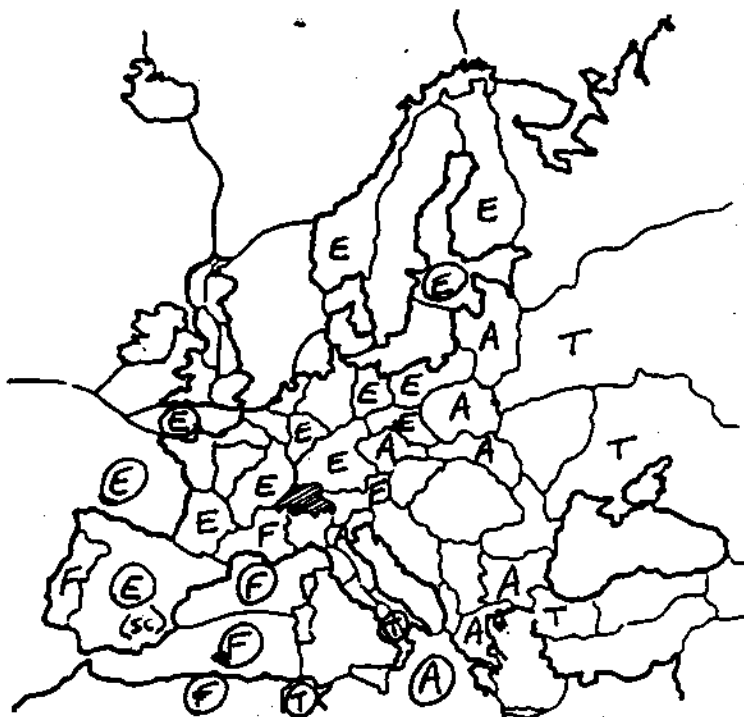
F Wme, F Naf, F Gol, A Mar, A Por all

hold

T (Geusz): A Mos S Austrian A Lvn-Stp,

F Apu-Nap, F Ion-Tun, A Con H,

A Arm-Sev



Underlined moves do not succeed. The French A Spa is blown up.

Guess we need yet another standby for

France, huh? This time, would Russ Rusnak step forward and send in some French moves? Please!

Nobody voted for the concession to Turkey, but now Austria proposes a draw.

gained/lost

A: home, ser, gre, rum, bul, war, stp, ven (10)

E: home, nwy, swe, kie, den, ber, bre, bel, mun, hol, par, spa (14)

F: mar, por, spa, rom, tun, nap, ven (3)

T: home, sev, mos, nap, tun (7)

build 2

build 1

remove 3

build 2

AUSTRIA: What gives? It's the middle of June and the O's have a better record than the Mets.

ROCKVILLE: And any other National League team too, by the way.

ENGLAND to AUSTRIA: If anyone but you were Austria I would say your situation is difficult, but since *you* are Austria, it's pretty hopeless.

CONSTANTINOPLE NEWS SERVICE: At an unscheduled press conference, it was revealed that the Sultan had formulated a new strategy of dot seizure based on the number of erections his harem could induce in one night (one erection = one dot seized).

Based on the Sultan's known condition, no new conquests are anticipated in the foreseeable future.

LONDON to MARSEILLES: Snob? Does the word "cash" ring a bell? Snob? Where are you?

LONDON to GM: I hate to correct you, Dick, but everyone knows that Hyboria is the featured attraction of the zeen. Anything within six pages is considered prime advertising space.

ROCKVILLE: Guess it's time to raise the rates, then!

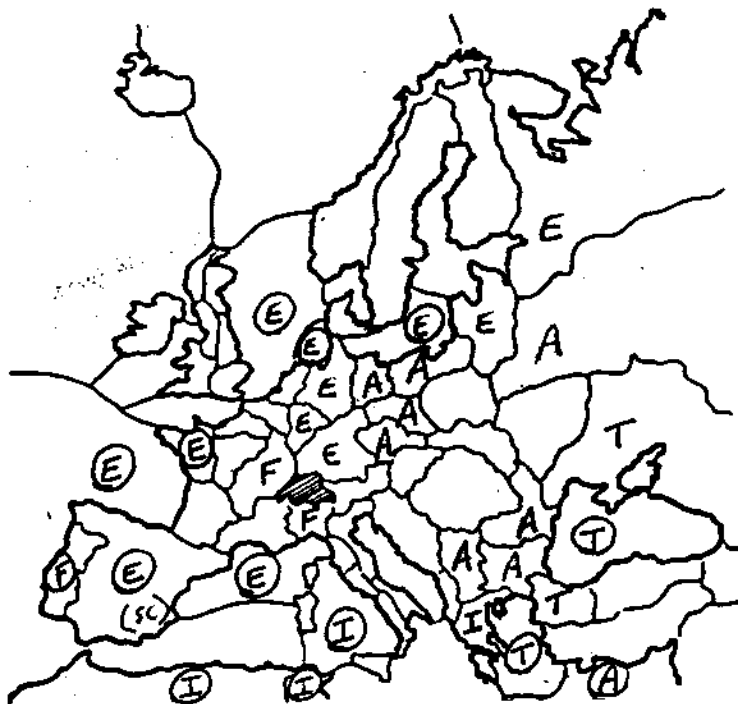
CONSTANTINOPLE NEWS SERVICE: This month, to the great relief of the Turkish nation, The Sultan proved so preoccupied with his genitals that no press conferences were held.

THE BULLE PENNE

Holley, Rush, Mills, Andersson, Geusz, Dunn, Boymel, Milewski, Huffman, Gossage, O'Brien, Beckett, Roberts, "Fritz", Ouzts, Bowen, Dorneman, Gonsalves, Reiff, Nash, Wilson, Hymel, Moore, Hakey, Pitt, Rifle, Rusnak, Gorham

Thanks to you all, of course. I'm in dire need of gunboat standbys (particularly tournament types), and would like to see some new faces on the above list! When the zeen speeds up, I expect some players not to catch on (unfortunate, but true). There will be openings, alas.

I DID IT ALL FOR BROTHERHOOD



CURARE Spring 10

- A (O'Brien):** (retreat A Sev-Rum)
 A Pru S A Mun-Ber, A Bul S A Rum,
 A Mos S A Rum-Sev, A Sil S A Mun-Ber,
 A Mun-Ber, A Ser S A Bul, F Ion-Eme,
A Rum-Sev, A Boh-Mun
- E (Stanger):** (build A Lon) F Mao-Wme,
 A Ruh S A Bur-Mun, F Bal S A Ber,
 F Spa(sc) S F Mao-Wme, A Bur-Mun,
 F Gol S F Mao-Wme, F Nth C A Lon-Kie,
 A Stp-Lvn, A Nwy-Stp, F Bre-Mao,
 F Hel C A Lon-Kie, A Ber S A Bur-Mun,
 A Lon-Kie
- F (Gossage):** (build A Par) A Mar-Pie,
 F Por H, A Par-Bur
- I (Rifle):** (play 1 short) F Naf S F Tun-Wme,
 A Gre S Austrian A Bul, F Tun-Wme,
 F Tys S F Tun-Wme
- T (Mills):** (retreat A Bul-Con) F Bla S A Sev,
 F Aeg S A Con, A Sev H, A Con H

Underlined moves do not succeed. The English A Ber is blown up.
 George Rifle is the new Italian player.

Austria proposes a concession to England, and a draw. Please vote on these proposals with the fall moves.

FRG to VAB: The O's? Who knows?

Methinks they also must go!

Who shall it be?

Don't say Yankees, or think Sparky.

Where are the Mets?

I will take bets,

They're over the hills,

Just like the Phils.

ROCKVILLE: Nobody is as bad as the Phils!

TURKEY to FRANCE: "The wailing of the newborn infant is mingled with the dirge for the dead." —Lucretius

TURKEY to FRANCE, PART II: "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, the spirit of soulless stagnation. It is the opium of the people." —Karl Marx

TURKEY to FRANCE, PART III, THE REVENGE. THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL: "Every religious idea, every idea of God, even flirting with the idea of god is unutterable vileness, vileness of

the most dangerous kind, contagion of the most abominable kind. Millions of filthy deeds, acts of violence, and physical contagions are far less dangerous than the subtle, spiritual idea of a God decked out in the smartest ideological costumes." —VI Lenin

TURKEY to FRANCE, THE FINAL CHAPTER: "The most beautiful excitement which we can experience is mystical. This is the real progenitor of all real art and science. The man to whom this excitement is foreign is no longer able to experience wonder, or to stand bewildered and in fearful admiration, just as if he were dead." —Albert Einstein

TURKEY to FRANCE, A NEW BEGINNING: "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength; while loving someone deeply gives you courage." —Lao Tzu

LIMBER AUSTRIA to PLAYFULLY FLOATING (BOBBING) FRANCE: If love were like an ocean, you'd be the Gobi of my life. Have a nice day, though.

Over the years, this zeen has been printed on five different xerox copiers, one ditto machine, and at three different print shops.

To make the masters, we've used: a Royal typewriter, an ancient broken-down IBM electric, two different IBM Selectrics, Danny Miller's Sears typewriter, a different Sears Communicator I (Julie's typewriter), 128k Mac, 512k Mac, Mac Plus, Mac Se, Mac 2 (with Imagewriter, Laserwriter, Laserwriter Plus, Nec LC890 Printers). That gives us five typewriters, five computers, but only four printers.

Through issue number 127 (last issue) that has come to 2358 pages worth of zeen. Whew.

...STRIKE TWO...

HAPPY DAZE

Spring 10

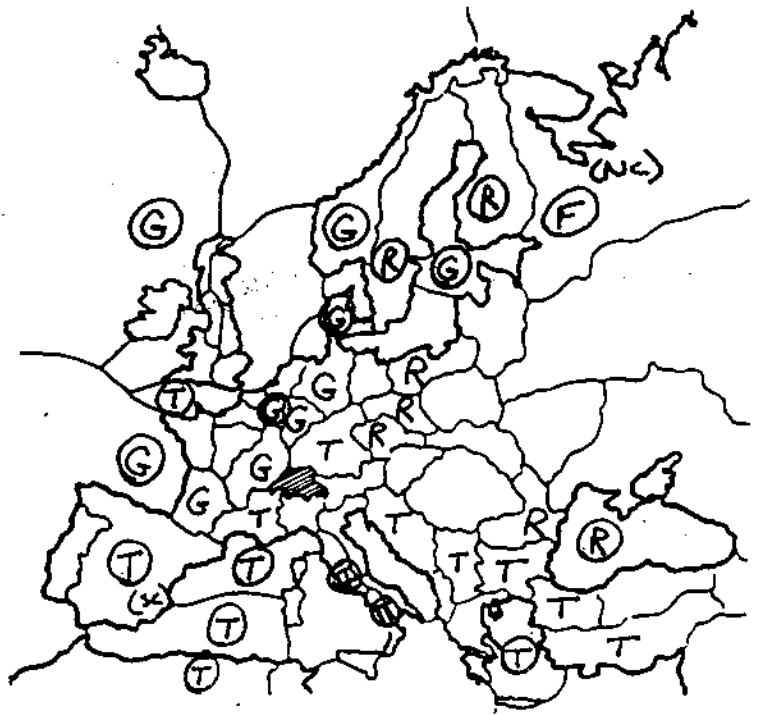
F (Munz): F Stp(nc)-Nwy

G (McHugh?): NMR A Gas, F Nwy, F Nao,
A Bur, F Mao, F Gob, A Kie, A Ruh, F Bel,
F Den all hold

I (Richter): F Rom seeks sanctuary in the US
Embassy

R (Olsen): A Ber-Pru, F Bla & A Bud-Rum,
A Sil S German A Ruh-Mun, A Bud-Rum,
F Swe H, A Boh S A Sil-Gal, F Fin S F Swe

T (Yakey): (builds A Con, A Ank, F Smy)
A Spa-Mar, A Vie-Tri, A Ser S A Vie-Tri,
F Tys-Wme, F Wme-Naf, F Por-Spa(nc),
F Lon-Eng, A Mun-Bul, A Ank-Smy,
F Gol S A Spa-Mar, F Nap-Rom, A Con H,
A Bul S Russian F Bla-Rum, F Smy-Aeg



Underlined move does not succeed. Nice
move with Silesia there, Bob. I see you're up to your old tricks again.

Jack, for this you lose all those free issues I gave you for the clonecon article last issue. You never
cease to amaze me! But I'm not calling a standby, no — I'll see you at Atlanticon and rip a set of moves
from your worthless hide!

RUS to TUR: Once again you have *needlessly* ruined yet another game for me!

RUS to GM: Bet you can't guess the origin of *that* quote....

ROCKVILLE: I've read a lot of Shakespeare, but I just can't place it. Richard III?

EX-TYPIST: No, no, I think the key word here is "bet." Pete Rose.

Still More Reminiscing

So, are you all tired of my prattling yet? Yes? Sorry,
but it looks like you'll have to put up with still more of
it....

You might think, from my previous ramblings, that
all we've ever done around here is play games and
write press. Well, mostly, but there's also been more
than our fair share of good humor pieces. Again, Kathy
got the ball rolling with a series featuring Icapo Stabo,
the misguided alien. Arturo Guajardo wrote a long
series of press pieces entitled "The Sultan and Sue" and
dedicated to my sister Sue, who wrote notes on many of
the earlier issues. I reprinted Bill LaFosse's "Cat
Discipline" articles, probably the most outrageously
hilarious writing I've read in dipdom. Julie wrote a
series of spoofs on the trial and imminent demise of
Woody, Mister Potatohead. Julie and I wrote a couple
satires on the tortured writings of Steve Langley, which
fooled at least one subber (was it the three day bus trip

to Baltimore that gave it away?). Lately we've had Reiff,
Andersson, "Nurse Phil" Geusz, Nhan Vu, the press
judges and list givers.

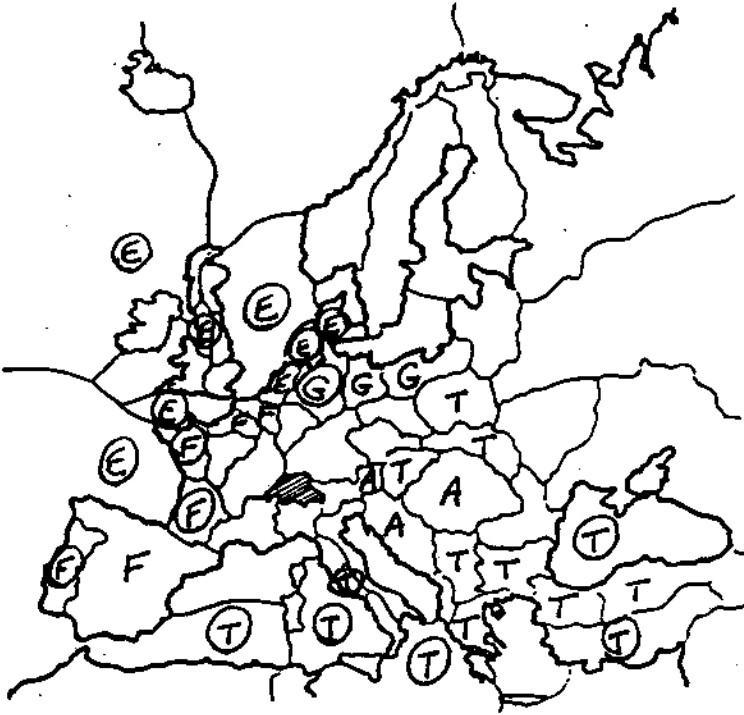
While none of this good stuff appears in this issue,
I've found a box of old zeens. If you'd like back issues,
they're available for the price of postage. Just give me a
range of issues, and I'll load 'em up for you.

And with this issue we welcome the return of Dave
Perlmutter: the hero of issue 16 — "The David
Perlmutter Hate Issue."

What can I say? The best writing here has been the
readers' doing. Certainly not me, my stuff is boring if
it's over four lines long. Writing is such a struggle, I
don't know how you all do it. We all appreciate it
though, I'm sure.

And as long as I'm trying to fill out the rest of the
page, let me gloat one more time about the Orioles.
They're now seven and a half games in front of the AL
East, a bigger lead than the other three division leaders
combined. Just beat the Mariners again tonight.... Ha!

...STRIKE THREEEEEEEE!



LEX Winter 06

- A (Andersson):** (retreat A Rom-Ven, A Ser-Bud, A Vie-Tyr, remove F Alb, A Ven) A Tri, A Tyr, A Bud
- E (Beckett):** (build F Lpl) A Hol, F Den, F Hel, F Nth, F Nao, F Mao, F Eng, F Lpl
- F (Hymel):** (defiantly retreat F Mao-Gas) A Bel, A Spa, F Por, F Bre, A Pic, F Gas
- G (Callaghan?):** NMR (retreat A Hol-box) A Pru, F Kie, A Ber
- T (Boymel):** (build A Con, A Ank, F Smy) A War, A Vie, A Gal, F Bla, A Gre, A Ser, A Bul, F Ion, F Wrme, F Rom, F Tys, A Con, A Ank, F Smy

Seasons have been separated, as you can see. Last turn I mistakenly listed the French move for Bel, it should have read A Bel S A Pic. The result is the same.

Scott Beckett has moved home for the time

being. If you don't know where that is, you can always look it up in the address list. And Erik Hymel has moved too. It's that time of year. Dan Gorham, the world is watching as you standby for Germany.

Turkey proposes a concession to Turkey. Please vote on it with your next set of orders.

AUSTRIA to WEST: I am truly amazed that you continue to dick around while I hold off the infidel horde.

CON to LON: I have no reason to go back on my promise for a 17-17 split. Let's go to work on finishing off Ger now and Fra next year!

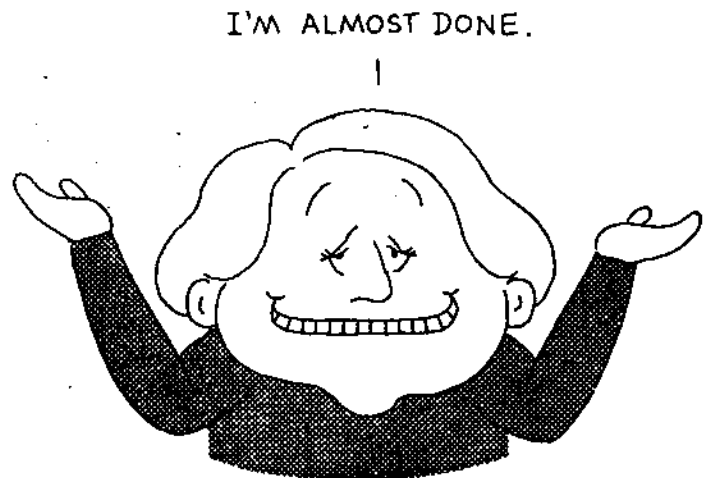
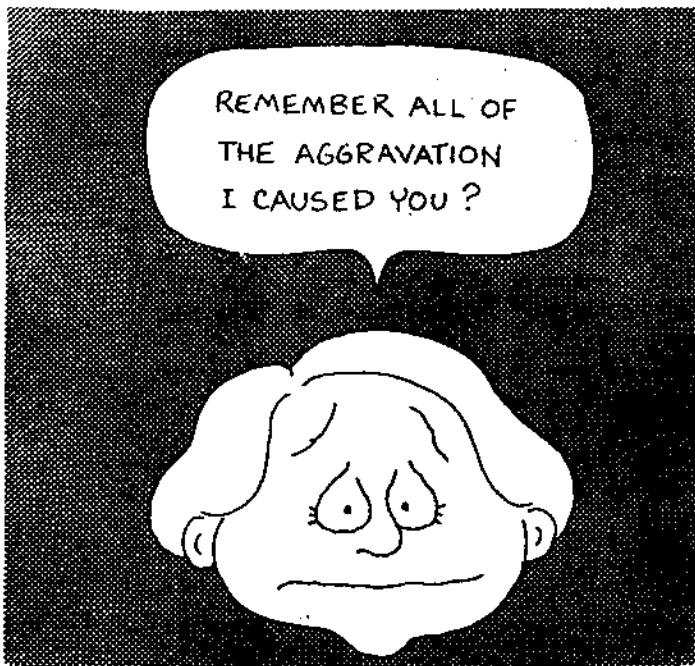
FRANCE to ENGLAND: If you insist on considering my retreating my own unit to my own territory "fighting you," then I guess I'll keep fighting you.

BALKAN EPITAPH: Stranger, go and tell those residing in Lacedamon that we lie here obedient to their orders.

AUSTRIA to TURKEY: Give up?

CONSTANTINOPLE to VIENNA, ER NO, to BUD: The old saying is: "fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

TRIESTE to CONSTANTINOPLE: I had given your offer a probability of about 20%, but my other choices weren't any better. It was a good one-shot ruse.



GUN LOBBY ROARS ON

HENWAY Spring 06

A (Munzenmaier): A Bul S F Aeg-Gre,
A Mun S Russian A Ber-Kie, A Pie-Mar,
F Aeg-Gre, F Tys-Tun, A Tyr-Boh,
A Ven-Pie, F Ion S F Tys-Tun, F Tri-Alb,
A Bud-Gal

E (Rusnak): F Cly S A Edi, A Edi H

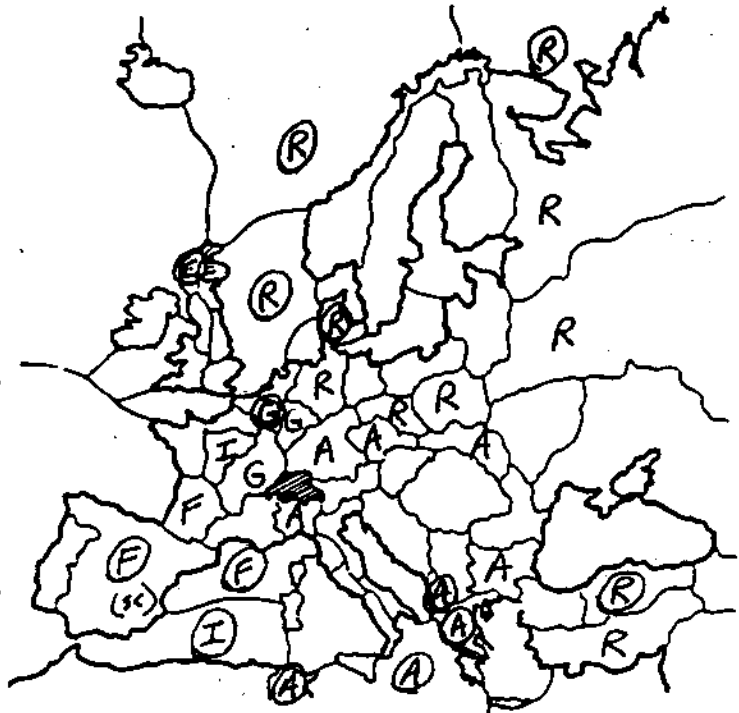
F (Schenck): A Bre-Gas, F Mao-Spa(sc),
F Spa(sc)-Gol

G (Maynard): A Bur S A Bel-Ruh, F Hol-Bel,
A Bel-Ruh, A Kie S A Bel-Ruh

I (Nixon?): NMR A Par, F Wme both hold

R (Geusz): A Ukr-War, F Den S A Ber-Kie,
A Ber-Kie, F Ank S domestic farm prices,
A Smy S the right to keep and bear arms,
F Nws S F Nth, F Nth S F Nws, A Mos-Stp,
F Stp(nc)-Bar, A Sev-Mos, A War-Sil

T (Squibb): F Gre-Ion



Underlined moves do not succeed. The German A Kie can retreat to Hol or the box. The Turkish F Gre is finally squished. Greg Maynard is the new German player. Mike Gonsalves, please stand by for Italy!

GERMAN HQ to ALL GERMAN TROOPS: When you march into Russia, let the last man on the left brush the Baltic with his sleeve.

GERMANY to ENGLAND: In the words of Valtin, "For a cornered mind, salvation lies in action."

MOSCOW to AH: I hate to contradict you, but in fact the California A-K Killer (what's his name, anyway?) passed a waiting period check just a couple weeks before the massacre, and as a result was sold a 9mm pistol that he carried but did not use in the crime. Please note that he, in the previous few years, had somewhere between ten and twenty misdemeanors for drug crimes, robbery, and as I recall, weapons violations. At one time, he was ruled "a danger to himself and society" by a state psychiatrist. Yet due to our incredibly incompetent criminal justice system, crime after crime was plea-bargained away, he never served any real time, and was fully legally entitled to buy a handgun or rifle under California state law. Incidentally, their standards are similar to those of the "Brady Bill" that first sparked this discussion.

I was going to let this subject die down, since I suspected the public-at-large was sick of hearing about it. But since you brought it up...

Why do gun owners oppose the ban on assault weapons? I mean, it would be really easy for us to agree that Uzis and Mini-14s and AKs are inherently evil, and should be done away with. This action in itself, while it would financially hurt us (every confiscation scheme I've seen calls for no compensation for guns turned in — and many of them go for a grand and up!) would by itself be fatal to the shooting sports. *However*, there is a great gaping problem with this idea — what happens when it doesn't work? I mean, most

people just don't seem to understand that semi-autos with big magazines aren't more deadly than other weapons. The kind of firepower talked about by the media just doesn't exist in the real criminal world. Let me debunk a few myths:

1) Semi-autos fire faster than other gun types. The world record for speed shooting is held by a man using two double-action (police-type) revolvers. In long guns, pump actions are invariably faster in the follow-up shots than semi-autos. But it doesn't matter, because *only aimed shots count*. And I don't care who you are, you can't aim faster than a shot every two seconds or so, unless you are the sort that burns up 500 rounds a week in practice. Even then, you're not going to approach the 600 rpm (rounds per minute) claimed by many for the Uzi.

2) We need to limit detachable magazine size to 15 rounds. This one's a laugh. I know of one gun with a 145-round *fixed* magazine — it's intended for long target shooting sessions with the .22 long rifle. And fixed magazines can be quicker to reload than detachables, using stripper clips. The biggest joke of all, however, is that whether a magazine contains 5 or 10 or 100 rounds, it can usually be changed in 1 1/2 seconds or so with practice or 3 seconds without practice. Besides, the average gunfight in the USA sees a total of 2.5 rounds fired, counting both sides. Yes, I can see where turning in my 30-round mags (without compensation) could be of real value to society....

3) Assault rifles are good only for killing people. Just plain not true. I would be a rich man if I could have a nickel for every deer killed by M1 carbines. The government has released five million of them to the general public, and every year I see them in the hunting fields. The same holds true for Mini-14s, Garands, AKs, SKSs, and

HKs, I'm sure, though I haven't encountered them personally. In fact, there are several guns like the Mini-14 and HK that are sold in both assault rifle and sporting rifle trim. The difference? A nicer stock....

What's worse, the bills before Congress would outlaw virtually all magazine-fed shotguns, which for the past 30 years or so have dominated the sporting market. Now, I own three of these (one of them a rare 16-gauge of 1930s vintage) and I can tell you that I'm less than thrilled at surrendering them without compensation in the vain hope that criminals will do the same. Yet, there is no point in any of this legislation unless repeating shotguns are outlawed, since the 12-gauge shotgun is in fact the most lethal short-range personal weapon in existence, followed closely by the smaller gauges.

So why does the military love assault rifles so? They operate in a different world than the criminal. In battle, I have seen estimates that one bullet in 10,000 finds a target. There is no common need for precise aiming because battles are relatively long affairs where volume counts. Detachable magazines are more durable when severely bounced around than stripper clips, so the strippers were replaced after fifty years of front-line usage. And the magazines are large to support long bursts of unaimed fully-automatic fire. It is also interesting to note that the US Army has used large numbers of 12-gauge shotguns in every major war of the 20th century. Pump actions, in fact....

Operating under the definition of current "assault rifle" proposals, there are roughly 30 million owners of such weapons in the USA — indeed, pump-action and semi-auto shotguns coupled with semi-auto rifles and semi-auto pistols would, at my own personal guess, total over half of all firearms sold since 1900. Again, my own personal (somewhat informed) guess would be that about 100 million of these weapons are legally owned today. Of my own collection of BATF defined firearms (ie, not including black powder or air guns) I own seven "assault" weapons and five non-"assault" weapons. This should be a fairly typical proportion. To pick and choose among them makes no sense, since they are all equally (in general terms) useful to the criminal. Any attempts to outlaw "assault weapons" are based purely on emotion and not on facts. Fact is that we use them for duck hunting, deer hunting, ventilating soda cans, self-defense, rabbits, squirrels, formal target shooting, and just to admire on the wall.

ROCKVILLE: So what do you think of the recent Federal law (supported by Prez and NRA Life Member George B) banning most imported assault rifles? Naturally, the domestic gun makers love it, but I don't think the notion of keeping our streets safe is exactly foremost on their minds. And the number of assault-type weapons I see in the paper most these days is 3 million. Sounds like a case of apples and oranges.

One of your main objections seems to be that there is no compensation for guns turned in. I agree that this is ridiculous. Certainly that would make the law unconstitutional in itself.

Criminals don't have the firepower talked about in the media? Only aimed shots count? I think you're mistaken there, at least in this neck of the woods. If you shoot fast enough, aim is immaterial — something is going to hit. That's one reason the Uzi is so popular: kick in the door, reach around and spray the room with bullets. But, of course, this is a fully automatic version of the weapon, and those are already outlawed (or at least tightly regulated, supposedly). Semi-autos just allow your average bozo a slightly higher rate of fire.

I guess that the notion that new regulations won't work is the

last question most regulators are asking. These are desperate people now, desperate to show that they're "tough on crime." A popular stance with you midwestern conservatives, I note. All along you've made a fairly convincing case for allowing us to keep guns. What are legislators to do in place of confiscating and outlawing guns? What is the solution?

PS - LATER: I just saw a piece where an anti-gun group said we ought to outlaw "sniper rifles" (ie, scoped, bolt-action deer rifles) while we're in the process of outlawing "assault rifles." Had Patrick Purdy used one of these on the unfortunate schoolchildren (and thank God he didn't - a lot more of them would have been killed) would this be the law pending before Congress?

One prominent gun-writer I enjoy reading (Jeff Cooper, of "Guns & Ammo") refers to the anti-gunners specifically and the Liberals in general as "the hoplophobe," since they seem to unreasonably fear everything. I am sick at heart over the new LA anti-gun law, especially since they are confiscating (without compensation) among other things, the Ruger model 10-22 rifle. Like millions (literally millions, now) of other Americans, the 10-22 was my first gun, and a neater, more innocuous hunting rifle never existed. If the government can take away my 10-22, it can take away anything and everything I can ever hope to have. Usually when there's two sides to an issue (like gun registration) I can understand the feelings of both sides, even though I only agree with one. In this case, however, the American people are just cheering on the forces of ignorance, prejudice, and political exploitation as they stomp all over the Bill of Rights. Anyone with any significant working knowledge of firearms (a minority even among sportsmen and policemen, unfortunately) will tell you just what a poisonous bunch of garbage this whole "debate" is.

Meanwhile, in Denmark a law was recently passed banning the carrying of *slingshots* in public. According to my source ("Shooting Times", August 1989) the ban was enacted to "help stop street crime." This is dignified, respectful treatment of citizens by their government? If this measure fails, will rocks and sticks be outlawed? How about if we just require everyone to be handcuffed to a chair at all times, except when accompanied by a police officer to work and perform biological functions? That ought to *really* take a bite out of crime!

Crime is part of the price we pay for freedom, and an armed citizenry is a sign of the respect and trust that a free country places in its people. Those nations that do not trust their people enough to allow them to bear arms cannot be truly free. And any people that cries out to have the responsibility of bearing arms lifted from their shoulders by "Big Brother" because they have lost faith in themselves and their brother citizens quite possibly no longer *deserves* to be free.

End of sermon.

ROCKVILLE: Crime is the price we pay for freedom? Huh?

Sorry to hear about the confiscation of the 10-22. The idea of confiscation should be to get the guns used against people off the streets, and the 10-22 just doesn't fit in that category. Of course, this is probably just a *backlash* against the NRA. Instead of working for a reasonable compromise to limit the sort of weapons we'll allow, the NRA has long held to the hard line that all guns are good. Your average person, or Liberal as you tend to call them, seems to believe that guns whose primary or exclusive use is against other people rejects this view. In the process, the NRA loses much credibility: how can guns be so good when they kill thousands of people each year? The NRA has stonewalled for too long, and now runs the risk

of losing everything instead of bargaining away things they don't really want anyway. Phil, you ought to teach these guys some diplomacy.

GUN LOBBY to FRANCE: That's the challenge: first we eat all you little guys up, then we have a two way. If you want to have fun try Candyland, this is serious.

GERMANY to FRANCE: All quiet on the Western Front.

ROCKVILLE: I just read that book, by the way. Pretty good, but he rushes the ending.

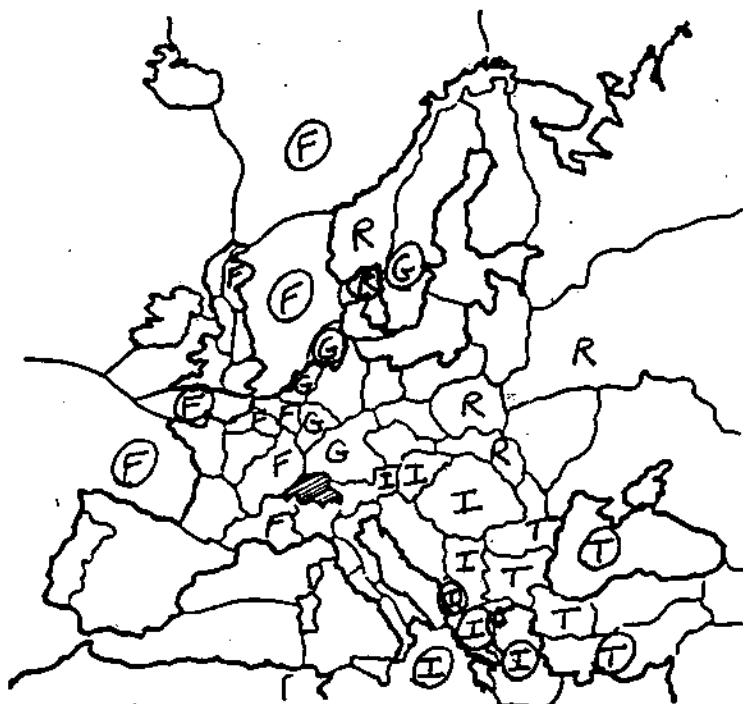
...CONSTANTINOPLE to WORLD: My empire is melting! My perfect Turkish wickedness is melting!

-I would like to congratulate Munz on an excellent diplomatic

offensive on his part. Early in the game, he cemented a long lasting relationship with Russia which benefits both countries. Kaiser Munz also seduced my Italian Ally of one turn. I had spent considerable effort in convincing Italy to attack Austria with a few of my units while I kept Russia at bay. During this period, Italy wanted to attack France (that is all I heard in my correspondence from Italy). Along comes Munz promising eternal friendship, offering to protect each other's backs, and telling Italy, "It's OK to attack France, patriotic in fact and so easy with me here to protect your rear." Italy dumps me, moves west and by the next turn Austria had occupied all the Italian home centers and removed my only ally.

Well done!!

EYES ARE FULL OF DESIRE



Next Of Kin

Spring 06

A (Munz): A Ser-Bud

F (Gonsalves): (build F Bre) A Bel S F Hol,
A Mar S A Pic-Bur, F Nws C A Edi-Nwy,
F Hol H, A Edi-Nwy, F Lon-Nth, A Pic-Bur,
A Bur-Ruh, F Eng S F Lon-Nth, F Bre-Mao

G (Wilson): (retreat F Hol-Hel, build A Kie)
A Mun-Bur, A Ruh-Bel, F Hel S A Kie-Hol,
A Kie-Hol, F Swe-Nwy

I (Reynolds): (build A Ven, F Nap) A Tri-Ser,
A Bud S A Tri-Ser, A Ven-Tyr, F Nap-Ion,
A Vie S A Bud, F Aeg-Bul(sc),
F Gre S F Aeg-Bul, F Alb S F Gre

R (Schlosser): A Nwy S F Ska-Swe, A Gal H,
F Ska-Swe, A Sev-Mos, A Ukr-War

T (Hakey): A Bul S A Rum-Ser, F Bla S A Bul,
F Smy-Aeg, A Rum-Ser, A Con S A Bul

Underlined moves do not succeed. The Austrian A Ser retreats to...the box. The French F Hol joins it. Ernest Hakey has a COA. Phil Reynolds has a *temporary* COA until August 4: Room 914, 2117 Andy Holt Ave, Knoxville, TN 37916.

"EMPEROR" OF AUSTRIA to NEW SULTAN: The operative word here is "used," I was!

LEX AUSTRIA to MUNZ: I suspect that if you used a checklist of low-esteem social and physical traits you'd find that a large number of wargamers and pbm-dip types would score fairly high. Around here we have a small circle of wargamers that are not embarrassed to be seen with each other in public. Mack the Reiffe is an honorary member of our group based on his demonstrated bar skills. One thing I could *never* understand is why when a geeky-type actually latched onto an okay-looking girl, he promptly drags her off to the local game club where she sees him at his worst. Ego I guess.

BERLIN to STP: Dust my broom!

NEW SULTAN to TSAR OF RUSSIA: Hey, what're them

Deutsch troops doing in Sweden? Like we don't have enough trouble already? If your army in Sevastopol isn't doing anything it might want to venture down into Armenia...and of course a venture into Rumania is always fun, the gypsies being so colorful and all.

NEW SULTAN to ITALO-AUSTRIAN WARLORD: No hard feelings! After a long look at the board I decided the most likely result of corresponding with you immediately would be to convince myself there was a possibility of peace with you...which would cause me to weaken my stance so that you could crush me even easier! Not that I expect to be able to hold you back by myself, but I/F vs G/R/T might be quite a battle. Sigh — looks like the northern situation is nowhere near organized, so I guess it's down to a "thin yellow line" while France overwhelms the north. And, speak-

ing of writing, you didn't either, while others did.

NEW SULTAN to KAISER: Well met! Had any thoughts about stopping France? I'm somewhat worried that soon all of Europe will be speaking one Romance language or another....

NEW SULTAN to EMPEROR OF SERBIA: I apologize for not answering your card immediately, but it seemed a) overly optimistic about your future (I mean, builds?!) and b) presumptuous of you to think that I would leave your army in *my* center where it totally messes up my defense. Also, if you were serious about fighting Italy — or even surviving to keep your options flexible — you would be attacking either Trieste or Budapest with support, not "Con". Get real!

ST PETE to BERLIN: I hope it was worth it. Now you're at war with Russia as well.

PAUL THE PUTRID, ERSTWHILE USURPER OF THE BRITISH THRONE to BRER RABID PHIL: No offense taken, Brer Rabid. I am damned proud to be a "rotten scuzball" or whatever. Besides, any Russia who plays Sev-Rum, Mos-Stp, War-Sil, and Stp-Gob in Spring 1901 is looking for disaster — he alienates both Ger and Eng, and if *either* Aus or Tur, or better, both, are against him, he falls apart beautifully. And, of course, any Russia who *tells* Turkey that he will play those moves deserves exactly what he gets. If you are going to give me Sev for free, I guess I will have to take it.

GOOD NIGHT, SWEET PRINCE

Murphy's Revenge

Spring 05

A (Milewski): A Vie-Gal

E (Boymel): (build F Lon) F Hol S F Bel-Nth, F Bel-Nth, F Lon S F Bel-Nth

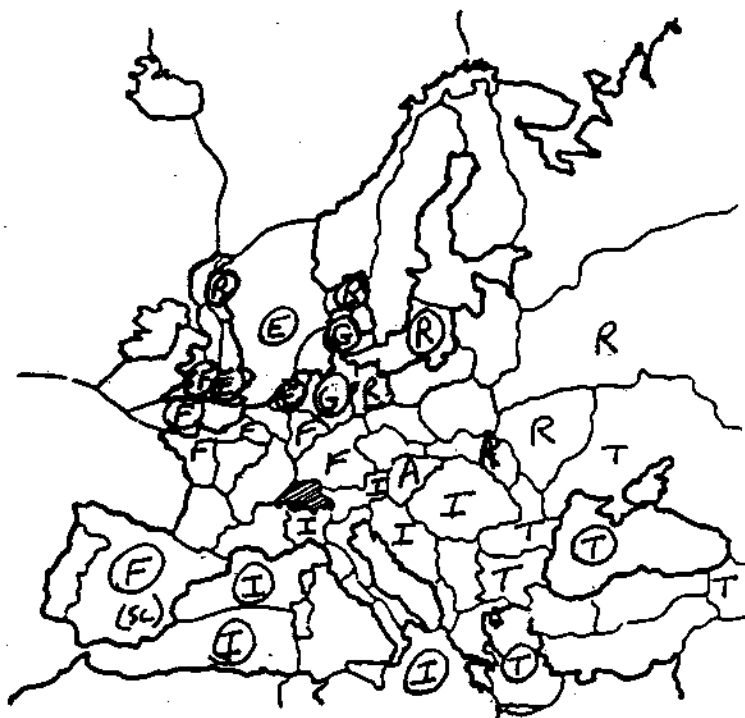
F (Huffman): A Pic, F Wal, A Bre, F Eng, A Ruh, F Spa(sc), A Mun all hold

G (Stewart? Van Rossum?): NMR (remove F Nth) F Kie, F Den hold

I (Weseman): (build A Ven) A Ser-Bud, A Tri S A Ser-Bud, F Alb-Ion, A Tyr-Mun, F Wme S F Tys-Gol, F Tys-Gol, A Ven-Pie

R (Henry): (build A Mos) A Ukr S A Mos-Sev, A Bud-Rum, A Gal S A Bud-Rum, F Ska-Nth, F Edi S F Ska-Nth, F Bal-Den, A Ber S F Bal-Den, A Mos-Sev

T (O'Brien): (build A Con, A Ank) A Con-Bul, A Sev S A Rum, F Bul(sc)-Aeg, A Rum-Gal, A Ank-Arm, F Bla S A Sev



Underlined moves do not succeed. The Russian A Bud is blown up. Berlin doesn't touch Denmark! Paul Boymel is the new English player.

Dan Huffman resigns as France. So we need a new French player and yet another German standby. Sigh. Tim Moore, please take over the French position, and Ernest Hakey standby for Germany? Tanks.

POTOMAC to ENGLAND: Are you any relation to a Bill Ferrier, formerly of Sacramento? If so, I would appreciate your sending me his current address. I have owed him a letter for about three years (we were good buddies at Dartmouth until, howling at the top of his lungs about the frigidity of New England women, he started running westward and didn't stop until he hit Berkeley). Anyway, I lost his address when my gerbil shredded his latest Christmas card, and I really ought to say hi. Thanks. —Paul Boymel

MOSCOW to FRANCE: Onwards and beyond!

MACEY AVE: Love that "The Dictionary" dateline. How about Roget's Thesaurus: The Story of a Boy and His Dinosaur.

Seriously, as Austria fades into oblivion, visions of washing the Russian slime from the streets of Budapest dance in my eyes. Flush them into the Danube to flow past Bucharest into the Black Sea. Then we scrub the cobblestones to remove the stench. At last.

MOSCOW to AUSTRIA: Ode to a Toad (or Farewell to Austria)

Well my friend, your time has come, the Italian I warned you about, *he* wants your bum.

The Turkey you helped, almost is determined to make you DHT, done, history, toast.

The English whome you have had no fear, sat by the Frogs and

poured poison in their ear.

The Germans, who wanted to be your friend, had no say in why, where or when cometh your end.

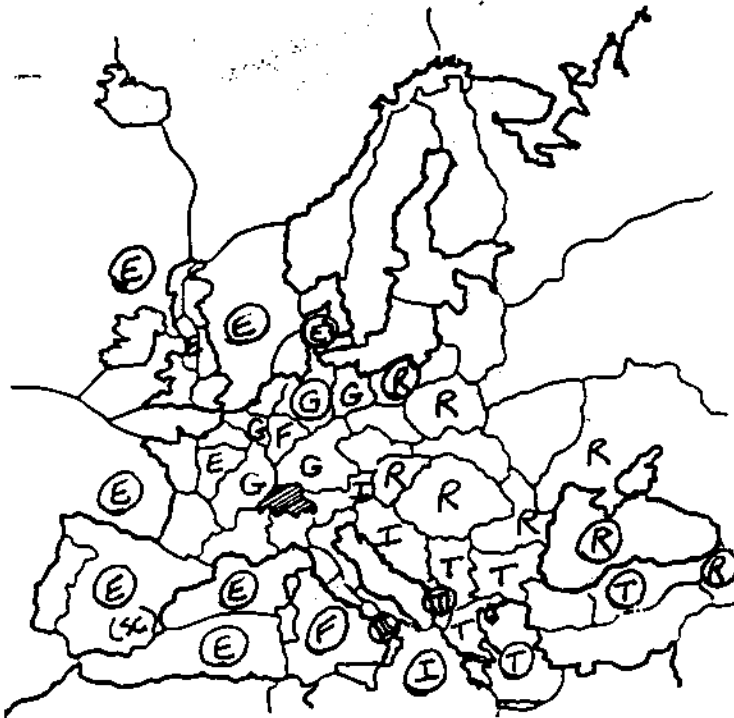
As to Italy, foolish you cared squat-diddly.
And to the Russian who you gave not a dime
Sits by and writes a toadies auld lang sync.

MOSCOW to TURKISH TURKEY: What is the story? Have the once friendly Russians become a visible minority in Murphy's Revenge? Say hello — but then pat them on the head and send them to the back of the board for a nap? Please send a letter, nasty gram or what have you.



HOW COULD YOU?

Seven Wonders
Spring 05



- E (Cronin):** (build A Edi, F Lpl, F Lon)
A Par H, F Den H, F Por-Spa(sc),
F Spa(sc)-Gol, F Gas-Mao, F Mao-Wme,
A Edi-Lpl, F Lon-Nth, F Lpl-Nao
- F (Cardell?):** (remove F Tun) F Tys, A Ruh hold
- G (Zulkowski):** A Bel-Bur, F Kie-Ber,
A Bur-Mun, A Mun-Tyr, A Ber-Sil
- I (Wilson):** A Tri S A Pie-Tyr, F Ion-Nap,
A Pie-Tyr, F Adr-Ion
- R (Dunn):** (build A Mos) A Bud S A Rum,
A War-Sil, F Pru-Ber, A Vie S A Bud,
F Sev-Arm, A Rum S A Bud, A Mos-Sev,
F Bla S F Sev-Arm
- T (Reynolds):** (build A Con) F Gre-Aeg,
A Ser S A Con-Bul, A Bul-Gre, F Ank H,
F Alb S Italian A Tri, A Con-Bul

Underlined moves do not succeed. Tom Pitt, you lucky dog, please standby for France.

DATALINE UNKNOWN: (He's running around somewhere in Europe.) Germany begins big push southward to assist Russia with the slaughter of Italians and the heathen scum. (Turks.) The Kaiser was heard to be saying something along the lines of now that the French is all but destroyed, and our pact with England is stable; we can concentrate on the conque..., er, unification of Europe. Oh damn, there's that black car again; sorry must dash.

MOSCOW to CONSTANTINOPLE: Imperial Russia hereby declares war on the Sovereign State of Turkey. Turkey tried to sneakily attack us at the beginning of hostilities, and has ever since we "forgave" her of this treason, acted cowardly in our faces, her diplomats have been whining, thoughtless, and selfish, thinking only of herself and not as allies. When we destroyed Austria, who also was a trusted ally until she crossed Imperial Russia, Turkey will also taste Austria's fate — down with all turncoats!

ROME: Pope Bradley I denounced the English effort to interfere in the Eastern powers' peaceful, harmonious settlement of southeastern Europe's social and economic troubles. "Fuck the Limeys," said His Sacredness. "They exploit hapless peasants in India — we do it in Croatia, Bosnia, Tyrolia, and Dalmatia. No difference."

MOSCOW to ROME: Never let it be said I didn't make you an offer!

EUROPE: The Organization of European States (OES) voted yesterday unanimously to demand Sultan Reynolds step down. Asylum in Syria was offered via the Islamic Office. His barbaric and boisterous outbursts have made him the pariah of an otherwise civilized continent. Racist groups of skinheads were seen shoving Turkish women in the streets. It seems, ever since the assassination-murder of Kaiser Tom that a Turkish presence on European soil is not to be tolerated.

All these years,
and I still get
caught by the
dreaded
WHITE SPACE!

COMING OR GOING?

Brilliant Disguise

Spring 03

A (Zulkowski): A Ser S A Bud, F Gre-Aeg,
A Tyr S A Vie-Boh, A Bud H, A Vie-Boh

E (Farha): F Eng S German A Par-Bre,
A Bel-Pic, F Nwy-Swe, F Nth-Nwy,
F Bar-Stp

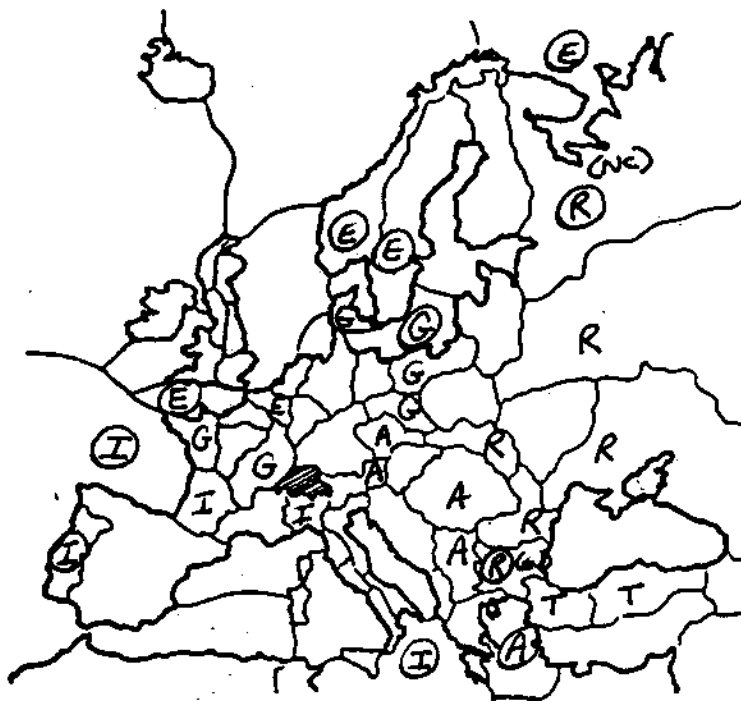
F (Holley): A Bre-Pic

G (Roberts): A Den S English F Nwy-Swe,
A Par-Bre, F Kie-Bal, A Bur waves to the
Italians in Spain, A Mun-Sil, A Ber-Pru

I (Reiff): A Mar-Gas, F Spa(sc)-Por,
A Pie-Bur, F Ion S Austrian F Gre-Aeg,
F Wme-Mao

R (Wallstrom): A Rum-Bud, A Ukr-Sev,
F Swe-Nwy, F Bul(ec) remains paranoid,
A Gal S A Rum-Bud, A Mos S F Stp,
F Stp(nc) S F Swe-Nwy

T ("Fritz"): F Aeg C A Con-Gre, A Arm-Ank, A Con-Gre



Underlined moves do not succeed. The French A Bre is blown up. The Russian F Swe can retreat to Fin, Gob, Ska or the box. The Turkish F Aeg can retreat to Eme, Smy or the box.

NOTE to GM: I have moved again! New permanent address:
Bruce Roberts, 2205 Steeplechase, New Bern, NC 28560.

ROCKVILLE: Noted....

MOSCOW to ROME: Oh, so I didn't get around to it. Don't
take it personally.

WORLD to RUSSIA: Try writing a letter yourself!!!

LONDON to MARTIN: I have seen 1830; you can definitely
tell the Avalon Hill influence (hexes), but then it looks pretty good
anyway. Not having played it I won't hasten to label it a British
Rails or Empire Builder "wannabee" — and there are a number of
them out there.

Crap, I'd be happy if I could get even one of the few people I
still talk to to go out for a beer, let alone sit down for a board game
(if any of you other people move to Wichita, you'd better learn to
like television *real* quick).

ROCKVILLE: Oh no, 1830 bears no resemblance to Brit Rails
or Empire Builder. It's *spore* a stock market game than rail game,
actually. And the strategies...I've tried at least twenty different ones
so far, and each one has a viable chance of winning. Now I'll have to
figure out which is the best, though it seems like a rock/scissors/
paper sort of game — there is a counter to each strategy. And I like
the no-dice, no random events, no cards with destinations aspects of
1830. Like Dip, there really is no luck element involved.

Move to Wichita? You've got to be kidding! Visit, maybe, but
it's not a place where people actually live voluntarily.

WORLD CHRONICLE: England and Germany reconciled
their differences last month. France remained silent during her sen-
tencing. Her sentence was banishment from the realm of "Brilliant

Disguise" so she may better concentrate on her other 49 games! All
wish her well including Kaiser Roberts.

BUMPER STICKER OF THE MONTH: Seen in Columbus,
OH: "If we outlaw guns, how will we shoot the liberals?"

ROME to ROCKVILLE: I had an interesting note on the
cover of the last *Retail*: "Damaged in handling in the Postal Service."
Plus I got *free* tape!

ROCKVILLE: I think you should blame the delay on the
USP"S" — obviously they've been holding onto the issues for
weeks after I mail them, torturing them. Yeah, that's the ticket.

ROME to ENGLAND: I never said for you to attack him. I
suggested you to attack Iceland!

WORLD CHRONICLE (PAGE TWO): Austria attempts
aggression toward Germany! Germany receives advance warning
and positions their armed forces to meet this challenge. It is expected
that the weaker Dual Monarchy will back down, however tensions
remain high. The Tzar refuses to help the German Empire. It is
expected he'll side with Austria Hungary in this dispute. More as
this develops.

REBUTTAL ON STAR TREK: Mr Farha feels the new Star
Trek is only good because "Its material drew itself from science fic-
tion writers acting as scriptwriters." I only dispute one thing in that
view. It's not the *only* good thing! It seems to overlook the fact that
better technology should be used, especially in the post Star Wars
era. Remember the special effects of Flash Gordon? *Barf!* No one
ever speaks about the added complexities in crew personalities. In
my opinion (worth only as much as the paper it's written on) Star
Trek the series has taken a great series and made many improve-

ments! Hell, at least they still use Gene Roddenberry as a consultant. That should tell you this is no shoddy rip-off!

As for Star Trek the movies, I'm not sure how you feel about them. Some I like, some I don't. *Wrath of Khan* was excellent! Three was just okay. Four was excellent again! Five just sucks! I believe if they will stick to space adventure and *not* planetary adventures, they will produce much better films.

How do you feel about the new Batman movie? You probably hate it because the 1960s series is what you grew up with and you're not going to welcome any new ideas about him.

We should all remember this; everyone enjoys different things, some like Dip, others Trivial Pursuit; some like Heavy Metal, others Country/Western. Just be thankful you don't have state-run TV, can change the channel at any whim. You can go watch nearly any movie you wish to see and don't have to piss behind a tree!

FARHA to TREKKIES: Before I go into the new Star Treks (shows or movies), I'll say this right off the bat: TV is TV is TV, so taken in this context it doesn't matter *what* they've done to the series (I'm waiting for them to make a Broadway musical...who knows?).

Now, I could rub it in by saying that the critics (even Siskel and Ebert) have panned *Star Trek V* as *the* worst of the movies, or that Shatner is desperately hitting the radio/tv talk show circuits; I won't, though, because at least Nimoy has pulled some sort of directing career out of this (*Three Men and a Baby*), we won't see him doing any more *In Search Of*'s.

But, come on...how can you even compare the original to that new hype they try to pass as *Star Trek*? I've yet to see the Next Generation producers use an *outdoor set*! And overacting? What do you call Kirk's eulogy at the end of *Wrath of Khan*?

All right, all right, all right. I'll get down to basics and avoid name-calling. *The* core problem, as I have said, is that you have two very wrong groups of people writing for the series/movies: the actors, and the producers. The actors don't know Science Fiction, they know *acting*; they write material to get attention, not to prove a point (never let the message be less important than the person telling it). The producers are bad because all they know is *making money*; never mind if the old cast looks like hell at this point, or that the people writing scripts for them didn't catch the series the *first* time around. "Let's just whip *something* out."

I've watched the whole thing evolve over 23 years; at age four I actually caught one of the first episodes, at age seven or eight I began to watch the syndicated reruns, and in college it was almost always a nightly, after dinner experience to watch them again and again. To this day I can get more fun out of seeing one of the old shows (for the tenth time) as opposed to *any* of the new variations ("To boldly go where *no one* has gone before!").

Now I know what it feels like to have been one of the first Chainmail players who has seen it transform into *Advanced Dungeons and Dragons* ("Wish it into the cornfield, Anthony, wish it into the cornfield!").

ROCKVILLE: The original *Star Trek* succeeded in spite of the cheesiest special effects I've ever seen on a major series. Really, those papier mache boulders are a scream! In fact, the lousy special effects forced the show to compensate in other areas. The characters alone made the show, and nothing more. By the way, I don't recall too many *outdoor sets* on the original *Star Trek*.

FISH OF THE MONTH (FOR NOW): Vermiculated Synodontis - synodontis schoutedeni, Environment - pH 6.9, hardness - 15, temperature - 77-80°. This catfish comes from Africa and will grow to six inches in length. Will not bother other tankmates —

unless he can swallow them whole. Very interesting to watch. Needs hiding places and driftwood. This is also one of the harder synodontis cats to find. If you need some help, I can get you one in Columbus.

WORLD CHRONICLE: Secret spies captured in Germany! Three double agents were arrested this month. All are accused of treason and will be executed! It is expected that neighboring empires will send more spies into Germany as replacements. "All will be dealt with accordingly!" replied Kaiser Roberts. "We shall be victorious!"

HYBORIA LONDON to ROME: We really need to act more benevolent for our uncultured east and west coast neighbors. Will you please turn around so I can benevolently stick this dagger in your back? After benevolently cutting off your balls, of course. Whups! I forgot, no balls.

MOSCOW to ROME: Frisbees....

HYBORIA LONDON to ROME: Are you trying to tell me that *I missed CapCon*? Why didn't you call? I was really looking forward to the novelty display.

ROME to ANDERSSON: You'd have been *very* disappointed with the novelty table this year.

ROME to ROCKVILLE: Yes, Byner's yours and you've got one fine running back. *Fine* running back. Just don't give him the ball.

ROCKVILLE: Don't look at me, I don't call the plays! And give the guy credit: at least he's not in jail!

ITALY to GERMANY: No, I checked my kit. No "German" knife in it.

ROME to ROCKVILLE: Baseball is such a boring sport. Fortunately training camps start next month and then Reiff & Retail's second annual edition! Gives you chills, doesn't it?

ROCKVILLE: Nope, I can hardly wait. Well, maybe I'm exaggerating a little bit. But baseball is only boring when you don't understand the game. And in your case, I have learned to make plenty of allowances....

ROME to BASEBALL FANS: This Pete Rose stuff — sad, sad, sad. Every radio and TV station has nothing else on. The whole front section of the local paper is Pete Rose this and Pete Rose that. The carried the *complete* hearings live. His lawyers did a shitty job in the hearings, but they didn't have to do well. They "shopped" their judge. They picked Nadle. I don't know whether everyone knows this, but he's up for reelection next year, so his decision is no surprise. The people of Cincy are even worse! They think Rose is a god or something. They had a call-in TV show after the Sunday hearing and it was about 10-1 with people thinking the judge did the right thing. If this had been Dave Winfield, Lou Brock, Tommy Lasorda or the like they would be screaming for their head and the stupid judges' head. Makes you sick. On top of all his other problems, Pete doesn't show up in court. No — he's gone to a card signing show in Atlantic City of all places. No one has ever accused Pete Rose of being an intelligent person. And Judge Nadle — he's assured himself of a job for years. He'll always be remembered as the judge who tried to help Pete Rose. I know one person who won't be voting for him.

ROCKVILLE: Right or wrong, I don't mind seeing the Commissioner get his ears pinned back for a change. Giamatti has totally bungled this whole proceeding, and if he loses this case, he only has himself to blame. Speaking of baseball disputes, whatever happened in the Pittsburgh vs Dave Parker squabble.

DATLINE CLOUD CITY: OPLEC announced today that

due to the unfortunate accident involving the capsizing of the Supertanker SS Minnow, which was carrying a large shipment of pimento loaf products to the United States when capsized in the middle of New York Harbor, there will be a sharp rise in the price of

pimento loaf, unless, as one OPLEC official announced: "There is a f**k'n big market for soggy bread!" We'll have more on that as news comes in.

I GOTTA GET RUNNIN NOW

LAST DANCE

Spring 02



- A (Pitt):** A Bud S A Tri-Ser, A Tri-Ser, F Alb-Tri
- E (Gaughan):** A Yor-Lpl, F Lon-Nth, F Nwy S F Nth-Ska, F Nth-Ska
- F (Bowen):** A Pic S A Par-Bur, A Por-Spa, F Iri-Eng, A Par-Bur
- G (Palmer):** A Kie-Mun, A Bel-Ruh, A Ber S A Kie-Mun, F Hol-Bel
- I (Mainardi):** A Mun H, A Tyr S A Ven-Tri, F Tun-Ion, F Nap S F Tun-Ion, A Ven-Tri
- R (Nash):** A Rum-Bud, A Gal S A Rum-Bud, F Swe-Bal, F Bla-Rum, A War-Sil, A Stp-Fin, F Sev-Rum (no such unit)
- T (Erikson):** A Bul-Gre, F Aeg S A Bul-Gre, A Ank-Con, A Con-Bul

Austrian A Bud retreats to Vie or the box. The Italian A Mun retreats to Boh or the box.

LONDON to MOSCOW: Hey, shove off, willya? Yer double-parked in my sphere of influence!!

LONDON to BERLIN: Yes, I guess you will be too "occupied," won't you?

ARLINGTON to ROCKNROLLVILLE: I've seen those dungeons called "Monty Haul" campaigns — what's the point? At least Monty kept you honest, made you pay *some* price for your winnings!

ROCKVILLE: What's the point? Oh, just a power trip I guess. Some players really go for that sort of stuff. Most dungeonmasters have a very hard time killing player characters. The players eventually pick up on this, and take outrageous chances with little real risk. I try to avoid these sorts of dungeons more than the Monty Haul types. In fact, one of the best campaigns I ever played in could easily be classified as "Monty Haul" but the guy had such a wild imagination (spurred on by us players) that it easily compensated. For instance, there was a 38th level wizard/lunatic who threw lightning bolts that spelled out his name! A real cartoon campaign.

ARLINGTON to BALTOMEAL: How dare you name-drop in this zeen? Drag my games into this arena and they're likely to get mauled — we don't play this brand of Dip! (PS- Thanks for Murray but he's a bit player — the keys to the Dodgers in 89 are Willie Randolph and Fernando!)

ROCKVILLE: Who'd we get for Murray, anyway, Holton? He's done pretty well. Most of all, though, the Os got rid of their

number one sourpuss. I'm sure they would have given him away for free if they had to.

ARLINGTON to ROCKVILLE: Bring me up to speed. How can #128 be your tenth anniversary? Were the first 75 issues produced by someone else with a different biological clock than you've got??

ROCKVILLE: Besides a biological clock that could go for entire weekends without rest with no ill effects, nope. Same old me. But for a period there, rather than raise sub rates big issues were considered "double issues."

BATMAN: You twisted devil! only a truly sick mind would think of half-court seats at a Miami Heat game!

NEW CARROLLTON: How come Indiana Jones III is hogging all the local theaters that show movies in 70mm/6 track Dolby.

ROCKVILLE: Ah, but they don't have the all-important Uptown, biggest and bestest theater in town. Batman lives there, larger (much larger!) than life. At least long enough for Vice President Penguin Quayle to watch the show. Now it's the new Billy Crystal movie, I think. What a tragic waste!

PEPPERLAND II: OK, since you liked the first press release, here's the rest of side one. A rotten time is guaranteed for all.

It's getting bigger all the time

...I used to just stab like a fool

The players I played with weren't cool

Just holding me back, me they'd attack

Wiping me out by '02
Now I'm so glad it's getting bigger
Getting bigger dot by dot
Now it's my country getting bigger
Getting bigger, twelve dots I've got
Me used to use words without knowhow
Me using me incorrect pronouns
Then in a week, I learned how to speak
And people will ally with me now
Now I admit it's getting bigger (bigger, bigger)
I used to be cruel to my allies, I stabbed them
And promised support when I couldn't come through
man I was mean, but I've joined a new zeen
And I might even ally with you
Now I'm just glad it's getting bigger
Getting bigger, really keen
Yes, how I fought to make it bigger
Really bigger, I'm near eighteen....

I'm fixing a poll so my toady will win
I'll pay him back for toadying
Poll I will throw
I'm making up votes that never arrived
And cast them for zeens that didn't survive
Poll I will throw
And it really doesn't matter if I'm wrong or right
When Mark Berch says I'm right
Berch says I'm right
See the Martins standing there, who disagree and try to cheat
and wonder why I disallow their votes
I'm making up stats in a hundred-page way
And when I find who's toadying
Poll I will throw
And it really doesn't matter if I'm wrong or right
When Mark Berch says I'm right
Berch says I'm right
Silly people send me votes, they're novices
And never ask me why my own zeens won the poll
I'm trying to find all these hundreds of names
Who left the hobby yesterday
Poll I still throw
I'm fixing a poll so my toady will win
I'll pay him back for toadying
Poll I still throw....

Clonecon morning at four o'clock as the game begins
Finding the gamers who're most hard core
Planning the moves that they they make wile they snore
He goes upstairs to the kitchen clutching his paper plate
His stomach growls as he finds a treat
He finds a pickle to eat
He (He's not a wimp that will sleep)
Is falling (never a wimp that needs sleep)
Asleep (we gave him all the No-Doz we could buy)
Falling asleep after getting no sleep for so many hours
Gamers downstairs now want him back so he'll do his turn
One then comes up and he finds him there
Fallen asleep at the to of the stairs
He gets pissed, and calls down "That bastard"
Now his position's gone

How could he treat us so thoughtlessly
How could he enter CD
He (We're staying up for two days)
is getting (We don't need sleep in this phase)
sleep (Gaming excitement will keep us awake)
Getting his sleep after needing no sleep for so many hours
Sunday evening at six o'clock he is still asleep
Everyone else has just left the place
he stays asleep till Dick slaps his face
He (He's now just dripping with sweat)
is waking (He's feeling grubby, and yet)
up (Sleep can't keep gaming from being worthwhile)
Hitting the road after being a toad for so many hours
He'll get more sleep (bye, bye)....

For the benefit of Mr Sacks, the covenant man to the max,
I'll sign his thing
The Registrar of Projects might, to organize the hobby right,
Make himself King
BNC and orphans, polis and census
Everything must follow the covenant
That's the fact Mr Sacks will work to make true
The celebrated Mr Sacks will laugh just like a duck that quacks
at every joke
Some people will refuse to sign, they won't consider Sacks
benign, his neck they'll choke
Mr Sacks will still assure the hobby
That Karel Alaric does really exist
And of course Mr Sacks' words you'd better not twist!
The Covenant of Mr Sacks - a document he'll send by fax — is
so renown
And Mr Sacks will demonstrate the principles you can't abate,
all written down
When we try to talk some sense into him
A rotten time is guaranteed for all
And with that, Mr Sacks is running Dipdom
NEW CARROLLTON: Actually, John's and Paul's lyrics
were better. (You don't want me to attempt Side Two, do you?)
ROCKVILLE: Yes, I think John and Paul did a bit better, but
your effort is certainly creditable enough. Instead of side two, why
not move on to bigger and better pursuits...let me see...any Bob
Dylan should do well.

Subs Expiring With This Issue

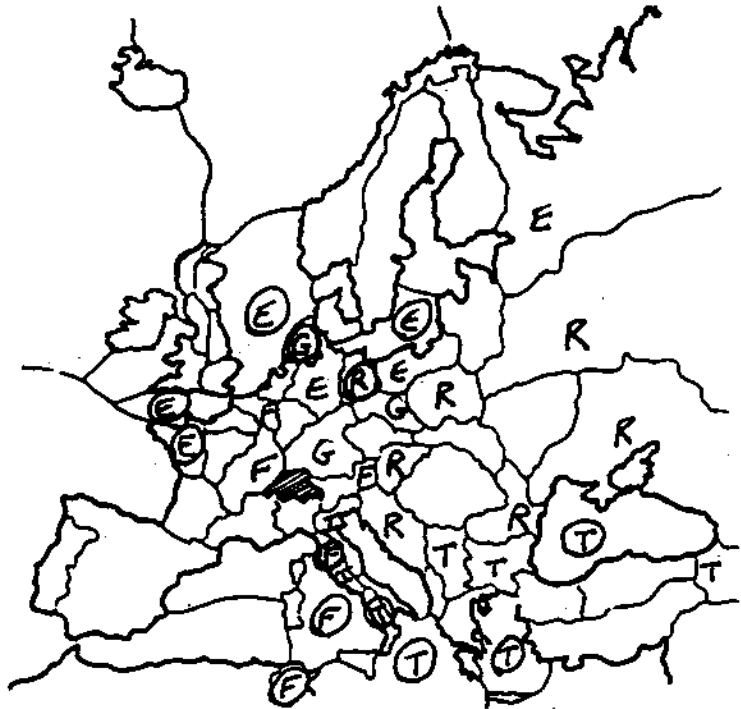
Burgess, Maynard, Schenck, Olsen,
Bordenave, Ferrier, Bowen

Let me see now...I think I've made arrange-
ments with Garret (though I don't remember
what they were — care to enlighten me,
Garret?). A couple of you ought to renew to
keep me happy, if nothing else. If you decide
not to, well, I'll certainly understand. Especially
now that we're dropping back down to the
"skimpier" issues like this one...

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Lympie Fall 06

- E (Slick):** A Kie S German A Ruh-Mun, A Stp S Russian A Mos, A Lvn-Pru, F Nth-Eng, F Bal S A Kie, F Eng-Bre, F Hel-Nth
- F (Nameless Standby):** A Bel H, A Mun-Ber, A Bur-Mun, A Tyr-Ven, F Tun S F Tys, F Tys S F Gol-Tus, F Gol-Tus
- G (Binkie):** (retreat A Kie-Ruh, A Mun-Sil) F Hol-Hel, A Ruh-Mun, A Sil S A Ruh-Mun
- I (Monitor):** A Ven S A Rom, A Rom S A Ven
- R (Bond, James Bond):** A War S A Mos, A Bud-Tri, F Ber S French A Mun-Kie, A Vie S A Bud-Tri, A Mos S A Sev, A Rum-Ser, A Sev S A Mos
- T (George "Don't Touch That Flag" Bush):** (retreat A Rum-Bul) A Tri-Bud, A Ser S A Tri-Bud, F Nap S Italian A Rom, F Aeg S F Ion, F Ion S F Nap, A Bul-Rum, F Bla S A Arm-Sev, A Arm-Sev



Underlined moves do not succeed. The Turkish A Tri retreats to Alb or the box. The French A Mun must retreat to Boh or the box.

gained/lost

E: home, stp, nwy, swe, den, **bre**, **kie** (9)

F: **bre**, par, mar, spa, por, bel, tun (6)

G: **kie**, mun, hol (2)

I: rom, ven (2)

R: mos, war, sev, bud, vie, tri, ber, rum (8)

T: home, bul, gre, ser, rum, nap (7)

build 2

remove 1

remove 1

even

plays 1 short

remove 1

JUST WHAT I NEEDED

Manuel Noriega Pro-Am Spring 04

- A (Rug Rat):** (build A Vie) A Bud-Rum, A Ser S A Bud-Rum, F Gre-Bul(sc), A Tri S A Ser
- E (Jean Valjean):** (build F Edi) A Nwy-Stp, F Bar S A Nwy-Stp, F Bal-Den, F Lon S F Edi-Nth, A Lpl H, F Edi-Nth
- F (Obi Wan?):** NMR (remove F Iri) A Pic, A Mar, F Wme, F Eng all hold
- G (Mr Mistoffelees):** (build A Kie) A Par S A Bur, A Bur S F Bel, F Bel S English F Lon-Eng, A Ber-Pru, A Mun-Sil, A Kie-Mun
- I (Kryptonian):** A Tyr S A Rom-Ven, F Tun S F Ion-Tys, F Ion-Tys, A Rom-Ven
- R (Mata Hari):** (remove F Ska) A Ukr S A Rum-Sev, A Rum-Sev, A Stp-Mos, A Fin-Swe
- T (Psycho):** F Aeg-Bul(sc), A Bul-Rum, A Arm S A Sev, A Sev S A Bul-Rum, F Bla S A Bul-Rum

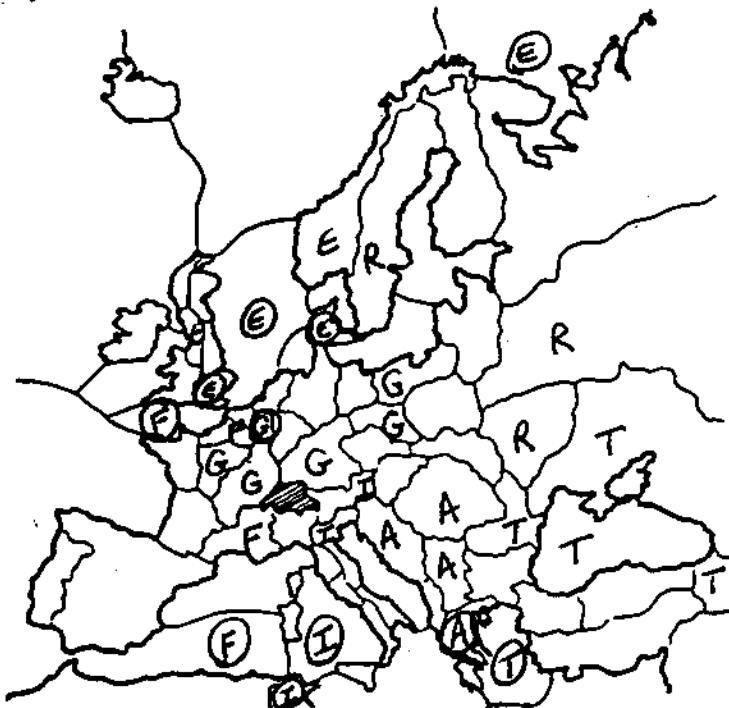
Underlined moves do not succeed. The Russian A Rum retreats to the box. Map & press: next page. Looks like we've got a new Italian player, and now we need a French standby too. Oh well.

PRO-AM MAP & STUFF....

PSYCHO to PSYCHO: Oh shut up! No one cares anymore. They're off reading press somewhere else. Give it up! You're pathetic. I know, but I just love this game.

And a little playlist to fill in the gaps

- The Cars ★★★★★
- Candy-O, The Cars ★★★
- Back In Black, AC/DC ★★★★★
- Quadrophenia, The Who ★★★★★
- This Is Big Audio Dynamite ★★★★★
- Making Movies, Dire Straits ★★★★★
- Rocks, Aerosmith ★★★★★
- Bo-Day-Shus, Mojo Nixon ★★★
- Easter, Patti Smith ★★★★★
- The Innocents, Erasure ★★★
- So, Peter Gabriel ★★★
- Atlantic Soul Classics ★★★★★



anarchy breaks out

THE SPCA Winter 00

- (Boymel): ven, rom
- (Nash): nap, edi
- (Erikson): mun, spa
- (Wilson): bud, swe
- (Reiff): por, war
- (Sherwood): bre, nwy
- (Huffman): ser, mos
- (Hakey): vie, tri
- (Beckett): bel, den
- (Cronin): hol, lon
- (McHugh): stp, kie
- (Bohner): smy, tun
- (Dorneman): lpl, sev
- (Dunn): gre, ber
- (neutral?): mar, con, bul, ank, par, rum

Well, kids, this is it — the briefly awaited anarchy game. To recap, this is just like regular dip, except that you can build in any center you own, and there are one or two extra players. Just think, Jack, you can make thirteen brand new enemies this game!

There will be no standbys, but that doesn't

mean we won't get replacement players. In other words, if somebody NMRs, anyone may send in standby moves. If the regular player NMRs again, the first set of moves in for the country gets it. Sure, even if you've been wiped out once already, why not? Yes, the infamous "Anonymous Standby" policy! Guess this game'll be irregular....

And since there are still six neutral dots, I can take more players if anyone else would like in at the last minute. Tell me what you'd build in each of the six dots, and I'll randomly give you a dot or two. That's right, if four to six of you sign up, you only get one dot each. The price you pay for tardiness! Don't gripe too hard, those of you looking on the vacant dots with lustful eyes, at least you have the chance at a potentially free center!

There will never be separated seasons, and this is a DIAS game.

What I need from you next time is what units you'd like to start in each of your dots. Also, if you'd like to pick a country name, I'd appreciate it. Send in a couple choices, as first one in with a particular first letter gets it. If you don't come up with something, I will. You've been warned!

Hold on a second, Julie is going to whip up a Miller Number for us. Get out your pencils unless you can remember it: 1989F/rb. But use SPCA, ok!

all the players under the sun

- Andersson, David 6128 E 146th St, Noblesville, IN 46060
Beckett, Scott 5348 Tall Tree Way, West Chester, OH 45069
Bohner, Jeff 509 Twist Run Rd, Endwell, NY 13760
Boymel, Paul 12110 Greenleaf Ave, Potomac, MD 20854
Brosius, Eric 41 Hayward St, Milford, MA 01757
Butcher, Tom Kami-Osaki 3-1-31-201, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, T141 JAPAN
Callaghan, John 12835 Long Green Pike, Hydes, MD 21082
Cardell, Dan 7716 Goodfellow Way, Rockville, MD 20855
Chinnery, Paul 1024 Robert, Ludington, MI 49431
Condit, Steve 2352 N 147th St, Seattle, WA 98133
Cronin, Larry 5855 N Kolb, #6207, Tucson, AZ 85715
Cross, Bob 7932 8th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98106
Dorneman, Stephen 94 Eastern Ave, #1, Malden, MA 02148
Doskey, Rick 1201 S Clearview Pkwy, #510, Jefferson, LA 70121
Dunn, Rich 19420 Normandy Park Dr, Seattle, WA 98166-4132
Emmert, Steve 1752 Grey Friars Chase, Virginia Beach, VA 23456
Erikson, Shawn 6313 22nd Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107
Farha, Brent 1202 Farmstead, Wichita, KS 67208
"Fritz", Philosopher PO Box 44, N Newton, KS 67117-0044
Gaughan, Pete 3105 E Park Row, #132, Arlington, TX 76010
Geusz, Phil Rte 3, Box 279A, Blue Ridge Dr, Columbia, TN 38401
Gonsalves, Michael 1401 Haven Rd, #T6, Hagerstown, MD 21740-3071
Gorham, Dan 800 S Euclid St, Fullerton, CA 92632-2913
Gossage, Jr, Bob 9201 S Central Park, Evergreen Park, IL 60642-1405
Grant, John 198 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, CT 06903
Hakey, Ernest 6 Greenbriar Dr, #109, North Reading, MA 01864
Heck, Jon 911 5th Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055
Henry, CPL Brent Box 2426, MP0200, CFS Sydney, Sydney, Nova Scotia E0A 1B0 CANADA
Holley, Melinda PO Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727-2793
Huffman, Dan 12843 Locbury Cir, #C, Germantown, MD 20874
Hymel, Erik 101 Pink St, Metairie, LA 70005
Jolly, Sid 1600 Stanton Pl, #22, Long Beach, CA 90804
Larzelere, Mark 7607 Fontainebleau, #2352, New Carrollton, MD 20784-3820
Lee, Stephen 23690 Doane Crk Rd, Sheridan, OR 97378-9515
Lenthe, John 242 Gleaves Rd, Springfield, PA 19064
Lilleleht, Mark PO Box 3166, Charlottesville, VA 22903-0166
Mainardi, Tom 45 Zummo Way, Norristown, PA 19401
Maynard, Greg 3820 Red Arrow Rd, Flint, MI 48507-5402
McHugh, Jack 280 Sanford Rd, Upper Darby, PA 19082-4708
Milewski, Paul 5642 Macey Ave, #1, Cincinnati, OH 45227
Mills, Paul 207 Diana, Shorewood, IL 60436
Moore, Tim 405 Fair Dr, #101, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-6215
Munzenmaier, David 707 El Dorado Blvd, #124, Houston, TX 77062-4001
Nash, Tom 5512 Pilgrim Rd, Baltimore, MD 21214
Nixon, Scott 133 Pulaski St, Fredonia, NY 14063
O'Brien, Pat C Co, 2/6 Inf, APO NY, NY 09066-1236
Olsen, Bob 2550 S Oliver, #102, Wichita, KS 67210
Ouzts, Jay Box 2722, DSU, Cleveland, MS 38733
Palmer, Dave 16025 East Oxford Dr, Aurora, CO 80013
Pitt, Tom 666 Ridgewood Rd, Maplewood, NJ 07040
Reiff, Bruce 3240 Rocker Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45239
Reynolds, Philip 2896 Oak St, Sarasota, FL 34237
Richter, Brady 54 Fries Ln, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-2506

I hear you're the Stafford of
Kremlin
now!

Rifle, George 165 Garfield Ave, Colonia, NJ 07067
Roberts, Bruce 2205 Steeplechase, New Bern, NC 28560
Rush, Steve 6301 Lyndale Ave S, #102, Richfield, MN 55423
Rusnak, Russ 1551 High Ridge Pkwy, Westchester, IL 60153
Schenck, Garret 40 3rd Place, Basement Apt, Brooklyn, NY 11231-3302
Schlosser, John 11027 Becontree Lake Dr, #304, Reston, VA 22090
Scott, Mike 857 N Greenpark Ave, Covina, CA 91724-2613
Sherwood, Keith 951 Emma Dr, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007
Shutelock, John 8651 Brentwood Dr, Olmstead Twp, OH 44138
Squibb, Steve 377 Mooredale Rd, Carlisle, PA 17013
Stanger, Jim 5110 Park Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46205
Stewart, Alan 702-25 St Mary St, Toronto, Ont M4Y 1R2 CANADA
Swider, Tom 75 Maple Ave, #A, Collingswood, NJ 08108
Van Rossum, Erik 4551 8th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105
Wallstrom, Gary 388 Lincoln St, Abington, MA 02351
Weseman, Mark 4334 Neville Rd, South Euclid, OH 44121
Wheet, Richard 7865 Fairway Rd, Waco, TX 76710
Wilson, Brad PO Box 126, Wayne, PA 19087
Yahey, Pat Box 140, Mode, IL 62444-0140
Zulkowski, Zachary 264 Hale St, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

A nice,
cozy
spot!

STANDBIES NEEDED THIS TIME:

Happy Daze: Russ Rusnak

Lex: Dan Gorham

Henway: Mike Gonsalves

Murphy's Revenge: Tim Moore & Ernest Hakey

Seven Wonders: Tom Pitt

and any last-minute volunteers for the anarchy game? see page 26!

Dick Martin
17601 Lisa Drive
Rockville, MD 20855-1319
(301) 948-3146



Russ Rusnak
1551 High Ridge Pkwy
Westchester, IL 60153

first class