

THE SALMON MOUSSE!

September 11, 1989
Meaningless Meanderings

Swing! And a ground ball...
...pulled foul down the third base line

#129
DIAS

The new Marshall Crenshaw CD Good Evening is the only one I've ever seen that is "DAD." This means that it was recorded digitally, mixed on analog equipment, and then reproduced digitally on the actual CD. Most records are AAD, as back in the good old days analog mixing and recording was the only way to go. There's an increasing number of DDD disks, particularly in the classical department. Guess those classical folks are true music snobs, and will settle for nothing but the latest. Really, a decent analog job sounds as good as the triple-D jobbies. Then there are the disappointments like this copy of Tull's Aqualung — the dinosaur-era album sounds better.

By the way, the new Crenshaw record is wonderful. But then, all of his stuff is. Disk of the month is the new Todd Rundgren anthology — a double disk of hard rock, beautiful harmonies, and the idiosyncrasies of Todd R. Second place goes to John Lee Hooker's 40th Anniversary Album. A dose of good ole blooz.

Non-disk of the month is my internal hard drive, which is currently in the shop being fixed. Didn't lose any important files that I know of, just a couple days worth of working time spent trying to fix it instead of doing zeen stuff. If it's not one piece of equipment failing around here, it's another. Now that the copier works fine, the computer's gone south. We haven't reached Mike Scott's depths of virus-ridden despair yet, but I'm still waiting for the day when everything goes smoothly again. I yearn for the good old days of the broken-down "semi-electric" typewriter — nah! There's a new Laserwriter II at work, and I'm looking forward to giving it a workout. Early reports are that it's nicer than the old NEC LC-890 Postscript printer we have, but that wouldn't take too much doing. That poor thing has taken so much abuse it'll never be the same.

Whoops, forgot the press judges again. Well, they're back for now, at least with the forgotten and unprinted stuff that should have gone in last issue. Can I help it if I'm totally disorganized? At least I've remembered to include all the game reports for several issues in a row now. I'm lucky to have my head attached or it'd be long lost by now.

One thing I never manage to forget is the standby list. I'd like to thank those of you who are already on it, and exhort the rest of you to join up. It's the only way you'll get into a regular dip game here for the next year or so, so it's standby or join one of the dreaded variants. And only Perestroika and Kingmaker are left in that department, totalling about three slots. Or jump right into the Anarchy game, the standby rules are going to be downright anarchic for it.

Or write me something else interesting. Nurs: Phil and Anonymous are getting pretty lonely. Mack the Reiffe is only good for one article a year. As the number of games slides down, I wouldn't mind using the space for good writing instead. If you don't come through, how will we drown out Flap Jack McHugh and his never ending quest for free issues?

This issue sees the debut of the new computer-printed maps, replacing the old human-drawn maps. Thanks for their use, Pete, they're still the prettiest maps going. But we'll give the new ones a try for a while. If they don't increase the printing time too dramatically (and graphics have the tendency to do that on Macs), I'll probably make the switchover permanent. The computer maps are a bit more clear, and the small provinces are a little bit more legible. The old maps won't disappear entirely though, as I'll use them as replacements when I botch up one of the computer printed pages. Cut and paste is becoming a thing of the past...at least for now.

So how is the so-called "drug czar" doing these days? Hopefully better than the last Russian Czar, but not that I've been able to see. What a pitiful campaign. How can we win the "War On Drugs" when the

Next Deadline: October 20

President of the Great Big US of A pays off his Central American mercenaries with cocaine and carte blanche to import it into our country? Absurd. So the front lines of the drug war are right here in our cities instead of at the border or beyond. Got to hand it to the Columbian government, though. Even as their country slides into chaos, some of their government officials are showing a lot more nerve than ours have. Unfortunately, these officials tend to end up perforated by drug cartel bullets. They have every right to blame their current troubles on us. Expect more of the finger-pointing typical of the last administration from our side, though. It won't win "The War On Drugs," but it might win an election. And which, after all, is more important?

Latest word from the PG County Police Department (Keith, take note!) is that crack and cocaine cause an increase in syphilis. Huh? That's not how they taught it in my eighth grade health class.

Meanwhile, as the war on drugs costs us eight billion dollars, the savings and loan collapse is likely to end up costing all of us ten to twenty times that much, *minimum*. The Reagan legacy of rampant greed lives on. Some seventy billion is slated for Texas S&Ls alone. Jim Wright is gone, but certainly not forgotten. And these are our "great" statesmen?

Things are looking so bad that I'm about ready to retreat to a nice island in the south Pacific. No, can't do that, Exxon is likely to beach a tanker down thataway any day now. Arrgh! Trapped!

Circuit City sent me a "personal invitation" to their most recent sale. Oh yeah, it was personal all right — addressed to "Resident"! Somebody was asleep at the switch here, of course. But I remem-

Subs to this zeen are available for the low, low price of \$1 per issue.

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: standbies only
Civilization: Standbies, please

Larry Cronin

Investment Diplomacy Variant:
Gorham, Dunn, Golub, Beckett, Reynolds

ber the good old days when such mishaps were always blamed "on the computer." Don't hear that too much anymore, as people seem to have realized that the computers don't do anything they're not told to do. For instance, a real human being told my little Mac to crash at the most inconvenient times. Stupid machine!

Nice to see that I wasn't the only one who liked 7-Up Gold. They just didn't market it very well. Maybe one week of ads, and that's all. Six months later it's gone. Sigh.

So it was Phil Geusz who sent in the clipping of the Lamborghini Van. I should have guessed it would be the car-man's doings. What'll they come up with next? Lamborghini RVs? It is only a matter of time....

This month's anagram: Mark Frederick Larzere — Mark, reefer-crazed killer.

This month's palindrome: Retal Later.

Richard Wheet's contribution to dipdom has been buying out a local hobby store, and selling the booty off at outrageously low prices. Well, maybe not outrageous, but pretty good. New copies of Dip at \$15 plus shipping. Not bad, eh? Looks like a basic 20% off list on everything, and everything looks like a 10+ page listing of games. But no Dr Ruth's Game of Good Sex, I am so disappointed. There is the copy of the 1954 edition of Tactics, though, for a cool \$10,000. Pick up a copy of Spices of the World while you can (evidently created because McCormick Spices is Baltimore-based as is Avalon Hill), that's sure to be a collector's item. So the address on the catalog is PO Box 8506, Crazed Waco, TX 76714. Drop the guy a line. Got a copy of

Source of the Nile, by the way?

Breaking the gang at work in on gaming during lunchtime. We started out with Empire Builder (by the way, didn't there used to be a disaster that flooded the Columbia and Colorado Rivers?), moved very briefly to Kremlin (all agreed that it was a truly dumb game), have run through a game or two of Acquire, and now we seem to have settled on Cosmic Encounter (using only about the first three expansion sets). The company isn't really big enough or slack enough for Diplomacy to be a viable possibility, though I'm looking for a good opportunity to introduce 1830. 1830 is, by the way, just about the ultimate game. No luck, diplomacy can help, master of your own destiny, makes Croftonoids cry easily. All the makings of a classic.

If you'd rather not send me paper mail, you can reach me via CompuServe ID #72427,3372. I check in on my game every couple days or so (stabbed for the fifth time now, and I keep on getting bigger every time). If you've got a modem and would like to check it out, I've got a couple intro-paks which give you a password and a couple hours of free connect time. Not a bad deal, really, if you've got one of the automated access programs to cut down on your actual time on the network. The latest news on the network is the appearance of one "Fred Ieapo" playing Italy in one of the new games. Hmm.

And obviously I couldn't cover all the good things that have happened here over the years in just one issue. So just because you weren't mentioned (and you weren't), doesn't mean you haven't been part of fun (because you have).

Ask Nurse Phil

Q: I am a sixteen year-old girl just learning to drive, Phil, and I want to know what you think about seatbelts. Everyone tells me they're a good idea, and I believe them, but are they worth the tradeoffs? I mean, they rub my neck raw, keep me from being able to reach the radio, and often do terrible things to my clothes.

A: Absolutely I believe in seat belts — not only do they protect you in case of an accident, they can often prevent accidents by keeping you in the driver's seat during violent maneuvering. I've been through enough airborne hillcrests and high-gee turns to appreciate this benefit most of all.

One thing to remember is that it is important to wear your seat belt on short trips as well as long ones, since statistics show that most accidents you are involved in will happen within thirty feet of your car.

Q: I've heard, Phil, that production at the Saturn plant was going to be entirely robotic. How is the UAW dealing with this?

A: A lot of the robotics got scrapped when management discovered the UAW-represented robot operators programming their machines to sign cards demanding a union certification vote....

Q: I am planning a guided salmon-fishing trip near Kodiak Island, Alaska, and as I'm sure you're aware there's lots of brown bears around those parts that have been known to attack anglers. I am considering packing a .44 Magnum for self-defense — do you agree, and if so which brand would you buy?

A: While many browns have been taken with the .44, hunters are very, very careful to place their first shots with great precision, and are almost invariably accompanied by guides armed with heavy rifles. Despite all precautions, the heavy rifle is needed quite frequently. While I understand that a fisherman really doesn't want to be burdened down excessively, a handgun is perhaps likely to do more harm than good. I recommend a pistol-gripped pump-action 12-gauge loaded with slugs. While it is a bit bulkier than a .44, it is both more authoritative and easier to use under pressure than a handgun. And that big .729 bore is a lot more reassuring, too.

If you insist on carrying nothing more bulky than a handgun, I would recommend a pair of track shoes rather than a firearm. No, you aren't going to be able to outrun the bear. But then, all you have to do is outrun the guide....

Q: Another outdoors question, if I may. I see a lot of bow hunters around now, and it seems like all of them carry 10-12 arrows strapped to their bow in one of those bow quivers. Now, I know from experience that unless you're squirrel or rabbit hunting it's darned unusual to make as many as *three* shots at game in a day, much less 10-12. And not many folks hunt small game with a bow, either, since it's so hard to hit a target that small. So what do they carry around all that dead weight for? Is it just for looks?

A: Every hunter should always carry a good bit of extra ammo into the woods with him, since it is possible he could become hurt or lost. And firing three shots is a standard distress signal.

Q: I've been reading about the Saturn project in various industry publications, and they seem to be emphasizing training to an unprecedented degree. How much training does it take to shoot screws, anyway?

A: It depends on the range and wind conditions....

Seriously, the amount of training we are receiving is staggering. The absolute minimum training required consists of several hundred hours, while those of us "lucky" enough (like myself) to have deep responsibilities in a wide variety of areas will actually get several *thousand* hours of paid training. For example, I have attended or am scheduled for courses in paint chemistry, robotics and robot programming, polish techniques, statistical process control, welding, general paint booth operations, fire fighting and prevention, and much, much more. What's funny is that my job is virtually unchanged from where I worked before Saturn, and I was considered fully trained and competent. I get some credit for that — you should see what the *rookies* have to go through!

What's more interesting, however, is the human-relations type training. Everyone has mandatory training in decision-making, active listening, creative thinking, assertiveness, team builders, etc. The best part of this kind of training is the pre-test we usually take that indicates what kind of "style" we employ in interpersonally relationships. For example, I discovered that I tend to be a "manipulator" when part of a group. Saturn considers this to be a no-no. Kids, see what Diplomacy can do to you?

I did better, however, in the creative thinking test. Our training people accept the left-brain/right-brain premise, wherein "left-brain" people tend to immerse themselves in charts and statistics to the exclusion of creativity while "right-brainers" use creativity and impulsiveness to the exclusion of facts. While I don't accept the physical dominance of one hemisphere over the other, I do believe in the two distinct problem-solving styles. At any rate, I score equally well in both areas, making me a rare (and to Saturn, valuable) "dual-dominant," which of course absolutely proves the validity of this test, at least. Despite Saturn's opinion, however, there are drawbacks to dual-dominancy. On this very test, for example, my scores added up to 59 when they should have come to 60, and due to my right-brained over-emotionalism repeated efforts could not find my mistake. And because of my left-brained penchant for detail, this still bothers me....

Q: So, what do you think of the Albany Psycho?

A: You know what they say; Flattery is the sincerest form of imitation.

Q: I'm getting ready to head out of town on my first long vacation, and I was wondering: how much cash should I take on a two-week trip? Can you travel realistically just on credit cards? How about traveller's checks?

A: Traveller's checks are a rip-off — how do you think American Express can pay for so much TV time and so many pretty buildings? I budget \$75 a week cash, because a surprising number of restaurants won't take credit cards, and it could be uncomfortable for you if you find out after eating.... Otherwise, America lives on credit at home, so why not on the road?

And, if you *should* lose your cash and credit cards, I've found that .44 Magnums are accepted practically everywhere.

Q: Also, do you have any preferences regarding airlines?

A: Definitely I prefer Northwest. Their mechanics are excellent — I have had as many as three separate airplanes and delays of five hours on a single flight while Northwest mechanics diligently sat around and discussed each problem among themselves their high *esprit de corps* showing as they slapped each other on the back and laughed almost as if they were goofing off and telling each other dirty jokes. Northwest reservation agents are so eager to please that they overbook practically every flight in their enthusiasm, and often the lights in their MD-80s flicker reassuringly as the aircraft porpoises on to its destination.

They serve a mean back of peanuts, too!

Q: How's the fishing in Tennessee? Is it as good as I've heard?

A: I don't know — I haven't been able to make a connection for dynamite down here yet.

Ask Dr Dicko

Q: How 'bout them Os? Who will survive?? A six way tie??? No! The Yankees are dead, but I'd go for five. Seriously, what happens if three (or more) teams go 82-80?

A: It'll be a three-way tie for second place, that's what, because the Orioles will have 88 wins! I know that in a two-way tie, the teams just have a one game playoff. But a three-way? Who knows. A bit surprising that the media hasn't at least brought up the possibilities. After all, with the NFL we're kept up to date on the seventeenth tiebreaker (the length of the placekicker's shoelaces, for those who didn't already know) by the time halftime of the third preseason game has rolled around.

Q: Me and the wife are house hunting. She fell in love with one but it is on Albany Psycho Lane so I don't want it. Is my reason valid? Signed— Soon to be Flat Broke.

A: Dear Flat, sounds like a good reason to me! Have you considered having your wife committed?

You asked for it, you got it!

Further Adventures of Next of Kin

by Anonymous, Chapter the 9th

Vicki moved ahead cautiously, darting intense glances of mute reproof each time Nurse Phil, her loyal and constantly inebriated commander of troops, emitted a thunderous burp to signal their presence to any potential enemies. Her search for Mack the Reiff had brought her to this remote corner of the world, this country known as Brilliant Disguise where the legendary Mack the Reiff was engaged in a whirlwind of knives, indeed, was the very center of the maelstrom. Such was his skill, or such was the terror and confusion that he sowed amongst his prey, that it was all but certain that when the deadly dance of death was done, he alone would be standing and unscathed. Such malevolent power as Mack the Reiff possessed was the object of her search in order to accomplish the revenge every fiber of her being screamed out for. Well, not quite every fiber. The organs located between her smooth, tanned thighs twitched at her other goal, to seek out and win the favors of the legendary warrior of renown, Dave the Brave.

Sultana Vicki was snapped out of her reverie by a sudden onslaught of disquiet. For the past few minutes the background music of the forest had been mute. Just as she whispered a warning to Nurse Phil, and before that notable wino of legend had a chance to pop yet another Turbo Beer, Sultana Vicki's column of troops was surrounded on all

sides by lean, wiry troops that materialized out of the brush that flanked the trail they had been marching on. Trapped, unable to resist, Vicki realized that her only hope was her own ability and belief in herself and her cause. Just to be on the safe side, she sprayed her breasts with a quick shot of "Jungle Lust" in case she needed a backup.

A tall, hulking officer, evidently the commander of this mysterious body of troops, moved along the column until he reached Vicki and Nurse Phil. Eyeing them both, he addressed Nurse Phil in a quick, impatient voice, demanding to know their business in the land of Brilliant Disguise. After belching loudly, causing the officer to move back several paces, Nurse Phil allowed as to how they were a local scout troop that had somehow gotten lost. The officer nodded understandingly, then with a quick flick of his wrist slashed at Nurse Phil's face with his dagger, carving a thin red line along his jawline. Nurse Phil bore the pain with stoical calm, as though such things were nothing to him. The officer turned to Vicki. "Who are you, and who is this man, who ignores pain so?" Rather than explain that Nurse Phil was loaded to the gills and couldn't feel anything until he sobered up, Vicki decided to press home the opportunity afforded by the strange officer's confusion of inebriation for courage. Summoning up her reserves of strength, Vicki thundered at the top of her admirable lungs, "My business is not such as to discuss with you! I will discuss my business only with your master! Where is he!" The hooded officer's eyes narrowed to slits and he stepped back as his troops on either side pressed in with their weapons, ready to silence Sultana Vicki permanently.

To be continued....

REIFF & RETAL'S 2ND ANNUAL ISSUE

Well kids, it's that time of year again. The humidity is high, the O's have begun to shuffle back, school's about to start, and the best sport in America has begun training camp. So once again it's time for my selections!

NFC

Eastern Division

Philadelphia
Phoenix
NY Giants
Washington
Dallas

89 Prediction

11-5
8-8
7-9
4-12
4-12*

88 standings

10-6
7-9
9-7
7-9*
3-13

This division will rival the AFC West for the sorriest division in football. *Philadelphia* should run off and hide from the rest of the division. Randall Cunningham to Jackson to Quick or handing to Byers will definitely be the class of the division. Neil Lomax is getting old. So are most of the *Cardinals*. But they should be good enough to take second in this division. The *Giants* won't benefit from the 5th place schedule this season. Last year they were 0-4 against playoff teams. Well at least they get to play Washington and Dallas twice. *Washington* — sorry, the Skins desperately need a QB. Williams and Rypien don't cut it. But hey, they've got Ernest Byner — he's always good for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty or a fumble. *Dallas* — what is Troy Aikman worth to Dallas? One more win than last year. *Walsh for Mandrich is worth one more win. Jimmy Johnson reminds me of Jerry Glandville — yeech!

<u>Central Division</u>	<u>89 Predictions</u>	<u>88 Standings</u>
Minnesota	12-4	11-5
Chicago	10-6	12-4
Green Bay	7-9*	4-12
Tampa Bay	7-9	5-11
Detroit	3-13	4-12

Minnesota — The Vikings deserved to win the division last year. Only a freak 18-6 loss to Green Bay the next to last week of the season stopped them. *Chicago* is still a good ball club and should easily make a wild card if McMahon is healthy. Unfortunately, he's usually good for 8 games. The *Packers* were disappointing last year but expect them to do better this year. *Not signing Mandarich costs two games. Trading for Walsh only costs one. Vinnie Testaverde is just about ready to start producing for the *Buccaneers*. He showed moments of glory beating Buffalo and playing tough the second half of the year. *Detroit* could very easily win the 1st choice in the 1990 draft by losing so much. I'm glad Cleveland gets to play them this year, on Turkey day even!

<u>Western Division</u>	<u>89 Predictions</u>	<u>88 Standings</u>
New Orleans	11-5	10-6
San Francisco	10-6	10-6
LA Rams	8-8	10-6
Atlanta	7-9	5-11

New Orleans deserved to be in the playoffs last year. First they lost the division tie-breaker to San Francisco and then the wild card tie-breaker to Los Angeles. A little improvement in the offensive line could really help the running game. Look for the Saints in the playoffs. *San Francisco* has lost the brain trust to Dick Enberg and NBC. They are probably too busy writing books and doing commercials to win the division, but still should make a wild card. *Los Angeles* had a slew of draft picks but unfortunately coach John Robinson does the picking. Robinson led the team to a 10-6 record but that still hasn't convinced me he's a professional caliber coach. *Atlanta's* defense only gave up 12 points a game the second half of the season and the drafting of "Neon" Dion Sanders can only help. Atlanta's year depends on how many points the anemic offense can score.

NFC Championship Game - Minnesota 38, New Orleans 17

AFC

<u>Eastern Division</u>	<u>89 Prediction</u>	<u>88 Standings</u>
Buffalo	13-3	12-4
Indianapolis	10-6	9-7
New England	7-9	9-7
Miami	5-11	6-10
NY Jets	4-12	8-7-1

Buffalo was only a game from the Super Bowl last year and there is no reason to believe they won't improve this year. *Indianapolis* was 6-2 during the last half of 88. With that kind of play they could challenge

Buffalo. I think I'll try to talk Dave into getting us tickets to the Brown's-Colts game at the Hoosier Dome on December 10th. Hint, hint Dave! *New England* needs a passing game. Doug Flutie is not the answer. He stinks as a passer. Hands the ball off great. Hell, Dicko could probably run the Patriots. *Miami* should trade Marino and start rebuilding. By the time they get it together Marino will be old and gray. *New York* — I must admit I love to see teams from New York do poorly. The Jets shouldn't disappoint this year.

<u>Central Division</u>	<u>89 Predictions</u>	<u>88 Standings</u>
Houston	12-4	10-6
Cleveland	11-5	10-6
Cincinnati	10-6	12-4
Pittsburgh	6-10	5-11

Houston is tough and should only improve. The only things holding Houston back are Warren Moon, Jerry Glanville and the Browns. Expect Houston to take the division. *The Browns* hired Bud Carson as head coach, but let's be honest he's just the defensive head coach. Bernie runs the offense. He's got two new tools as well. Look for the Brownies to score a bunch. Unfortunately the defense is switching to a 4-3 and that could hurt. *Cincinnati* is doing too many commercials as well. Boomer's parading around in his underwear (and it's not all that exciting, this comment is from Rhonda, Bruce's wife, the dogs in the commercial are cuter than Boomer). Good thing he's got these endorsements, he may not get a playoff check. *Pittsburgh's* defense gave up 43 more points than anyone else in football. It didn't help that they had to play Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Houston each twice. It won't help this year either. I almost feel sorry for the Steelers (nah, just kidding).

<u>Western Division</u>	<u>89 Prediction</u>	<u>88 Standings</u>
Denver	10-6	8-8
Seattle	9-7	9-7
LA Raiders	7-9	7-9
Kansas City	6-10	4-11-1
San Diego	6-10	6-10

Denver should return to form with a healthy John Elway. Elway is calling his own plays, which I think is a good idea. A smart QB can get into the flow of the game. Elway is one of these QB's smart enough to call his own plays. *Seattle* due to being in such a weak division will probably take second. This is in spite of Brian Bosworth and Ground Chuck (Knox). *LA Raiders* soon to be Oakland again (that's OK I still call them Oakland) are going to need "hobbyist" Bo Jackson for a whole season if they expect to win. Unfortunately the Royals are in the playoff race. *Kansas City* and *San Deigo* should compete for last place. I would have given this to Kansas City straight out but with good old Marty Schottenheimer, and KC's lack of offense there's no offense for Marty to screw up. And he *can* coach a defense.

AFC Championship Game — Cleveland 23, Houston 21

Super Bowl — Minnesota 35, Cleveland 24

[Not like I'm a big football fan or anything, but some of these picks seem a little bit off the wall. Yes, even for Bruce Reiff. Cleveland in the Super Bowl? Talk about your hometown favoritism! First of all, they'd be a wild card team, and I just don't know if they're that good. Particularly if Kosar happens to get hurt again — without Bernie they're nothing. I think Tampa, Green Bay, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Pittsburgh are all overrated. Washington and the Giants are both underrated. And you know, your wins and losses don't even balance! Of course, I've had the opportunity to see the first weekend of play, managing to catch much of the Monday night game between Washington and the Giants. Both teams looked pretty good, though Washington was better in the part I saw. Anyway, how can you get excited about a sport with such goofy tie-breaking rules (and the obvious need to use them)? I'll take baseball or basketball any day of the year.

[Speaking of baseball, the Os are still hanging tough down to the last weeks of the season. Even if they don't win the AL East, and Toronto's finally playing well enough to win it, the Os are team of the year.]

Perestroika Newsletter

(Blueprint notes concerning Investment Dip)

So far we have five volunteers: Steve Golub, Daniel Gorham, Scott Beckett, Phil Reynolds, and Rich Dunn. Having recently obtained wider exposure, I hope we'll be flying in a month or so. In the meantime suggestions and questions are arriving. I'll try to answer some of these.

The *economy* aspect of the game seems to be the high profile feature of the game. It intrigues and confuses. First I want to reiterate, supply centers are *worth* 4 points initially. That is, they have four building blocks in them which yield four points per each supply center in the first year. Initially each country has a *budget* or *GNP* or *income* of 12 points the first year. Russia gets 16 points from its 4 centers. Neutral supply centers also have 4 blocks and generate 4 points each year. *One block* yields *one point* each year. They represent the infrastructure of the nation, ie the ability of a nation to *produce*.

Armies, fleets, and building blocks each cost four points to build. Armies and fleets also cost four points to maintain each year thereafter. This aspect is no different than regular dip. Don't be confused by the four point cost, because each supply center also generates four points, at least initially. When four points are spent on a new building block, the supply center then has 5 building blocks and will yield 5 points per year. Got it?

An example: England starts out with 12 points, builds 2 fleets and a block in any supply center — let's say it's Liverpool. Nothing is left over in the treasury. In 1901 he gains Norway without contest and Belgium with French support against the German. He now has Lpl-5, Edi-4, Lon-4, Nwy-5 (neutrals reinvested automatically), and Bel-3 (decreased by one half after the battle). His Winter 01 GNP is 21. He builds one more fleet in London, two blocks in Liverpool, maintains the two original fleets, pays the French 1 point (for his support), gets one point from the Russian and the German each in return for non-aggression, and thus has 2 points left to put in the treasury. He sits tight in 1902 and is left alone, except Belgium is unsuccessfully attacked. In Winter 02 he gets Lpl-7, Edi-4, Lon-4, Nwy-5, and Bel-3. The 1902 GNP is 23 plus the two points in the treasury = 25. Meanwhile if other countries were fighting their GNPs were likely to fall. And so on and so on...

Dick asks why not put blocks in any province. Well this would get more difficult to tabulate, be a

lot to keep track of, and produce a very lengthy yearly report, but it could be done. In fact, it sounds quite reasonable, but it's hard to imagine Albania or Syria ever industrializing and it would change the strategic importance of centers on the map greatly.

The idea of limiting building to one block per center per year — a *spread the wealth* rule — sounds good. Perhaps as in Monopoly, all home centers must be improved equally. The *looting rule* sounds like lots of fun. I would modify (inhibit) it by depreciating looted blocks by 50%. Thus only 2 points are obtained for every block dismantled, although they had cost 4 points to build. This rule could also apply to dismantling *home* centers. Rapid militarization or a retreat could be achieved by dismantling blocks to yield more immediate income and to leave less spoils to the conqueror.

Winning is defined as having a national GNP greater than half of the total of all the GNPs added together. Gifts and loans could be all public or could be secret or could be semi-secret. That is, they could be published each year, or the amounts in the treasuries could be secret, or amounts loaned could appear in "published" treasury totals without identification of sources. I would anticipate, however, the gamesmaster would always be suspected of having made mistakes.

Other questions: yes, military units can only be built in home centers, but building blocks can go in any supply center. Disbanding has to be done at home. Fleets and armies cannot be randomly left to fend for themselves — they deserve a parade. Variable strength units? To be quite frank, this idea blows my little mind. How would I do this Dick?

The game may need speeding up and spring and fall could be combined into one move, ie one move per year. This would reflect well the years before 1914 as Europe came to a boil.

I'm willing to make any changes by *popular demand*. Send your thoughts.

That's all folks — Larry Cronin (5855 N Kolb, #6207, Tucson, AZ 85715)

[You may want to limit looting in some way, to maybe half the blocks in a province each turn. The devaluation part sounds good.]

[Don't know how the variable strength units would work, and hadn't really thought it out. Maybe start everything at whatever you pay for them, and reduce that by one point every time you lose a battle or something (need a margin of four points to win a battle). I dunno. Think of something.]

[And we still need two more players!]

Orioles 6, Chicago 3

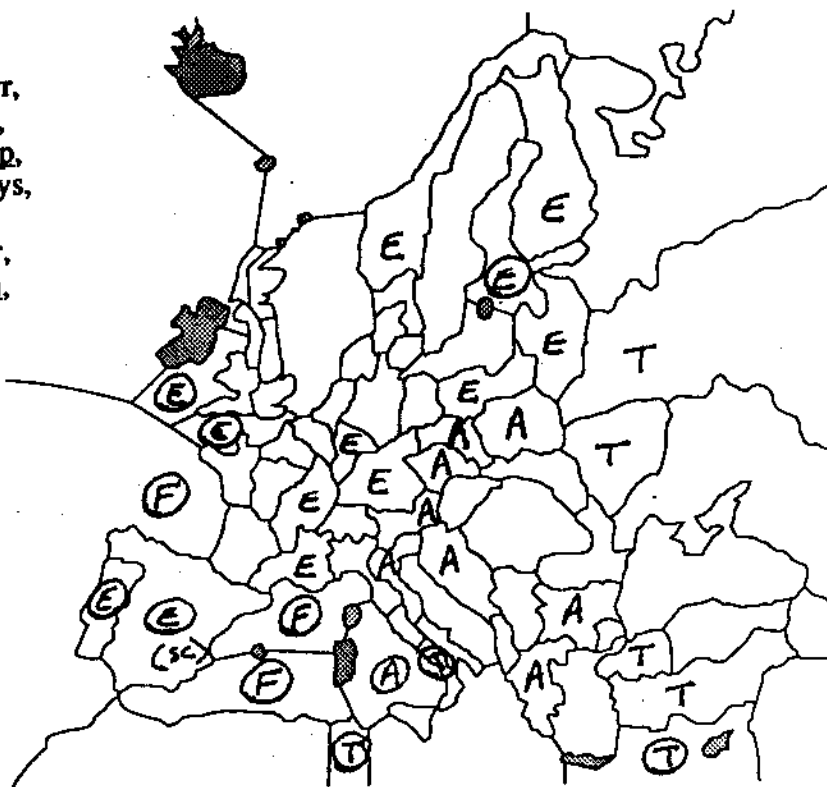
HYBORIA Spring 12

A (Ouzts): (build A Vic, A Tri) A Vic-Tyr,
A Tri S A Vic-Tyr, A War S A Gal-Sil,
A Bul S A Gre, A Ven-Rom, A Lvn-Stp,
A Boh S A Gal-Sil, A Gal-Sil, F Ion-Tys,
A Gre S A Bul

E (Andersson): (build F Lpl) F Mao-Por,
F Gob S A Pru-Lvn, A Sil S A Ber-Pru,
A Ber-Pru, A Mun S A Sil,
A Gas-Mar, F Eng-Mao, F Lpl-Iri,
A Pru-Lvn, A Fin S A Nwy-Stp,
A Bur S A Gas-Mar, A Nwy-Stp,
A Ruh S A Mun,
F Spa(sc) S F Mao-Por

F (Rusnak): (remove A Tyr, A Mar,
A Por) F Wme S F Naf-Mao,
F Naf-Mao, F Gol-Spa(sc)

T (Geusz): (build A Ank, F Smy)
A Mos S Austrian A Lvn-Stp,
F Nap-Rom, F Smy-Eme, F Tun H,
A Ank-Smy, A Con H, A Sev-Ukr



Underlined moves do not succeed.
The Austrian A Lvn is killed. The
English A Sil retreats to Ber or the
box. What's more, Russ Rusnak is the new Frenchman.

The draw last time fails (AFT in favor). This time, England proposes a concession to France.

LONDON to VIENNA: What gives? It's the middle of July
and you haven't stabbed anybody.

CONSTANTINOPLE NEWS SERVICE: Again this month,
no press conferences were scheduled by the Sultan, this time due to
his hospitalization for the treatment of severe back cramps. "I just
don't understand it," the Sultan's surgeon is quoted as saying, "It al-
most looks like His Highness has spent the last six weeks or so bent
sharply over." Rumors persist that The Sultan's notorious case of
jock itch has spread to the lining of his nose, but these stories are un-
confirmed at press time.

SAVAGE SWEDE to GM: I'm not sure just who you're being
unfair to by giving Rusnak France, Dick, but it's for sure that either
I, Russ, or the other two are being "dicked." Quite possibly all four
of us.

RUSNAK to ANDERSSON: I see your diarrhea is still with
you.

ROCKVILLE: This is my way of killing three birds with one
medium-sized accountant-type.

CONSTANTINOPLE NEWS SERVICE: At yet another un-
scheduled press conference, it was revealed that the Sultan planned
to hold yet another series of press conferences regarding absolutely
nothing in particular.

LONDON to GM: Dick, it seems like I've been #4 on the
standby list since you started the damn thing.

ROCKVILLE: And aren't you the lucky one.

LONDON to FRANCE: Ready to make a deal? Or shall I con-
tinue defending myself?

LONDON to VIENNA: Let's make just one more deal.

LONDON to SUBLIME PORTE: Isn't it time we stopped
this ridiculous fight?

ENGLAND to FRANCE: If your donkey eats the feet off of
my rooster, what do you have?

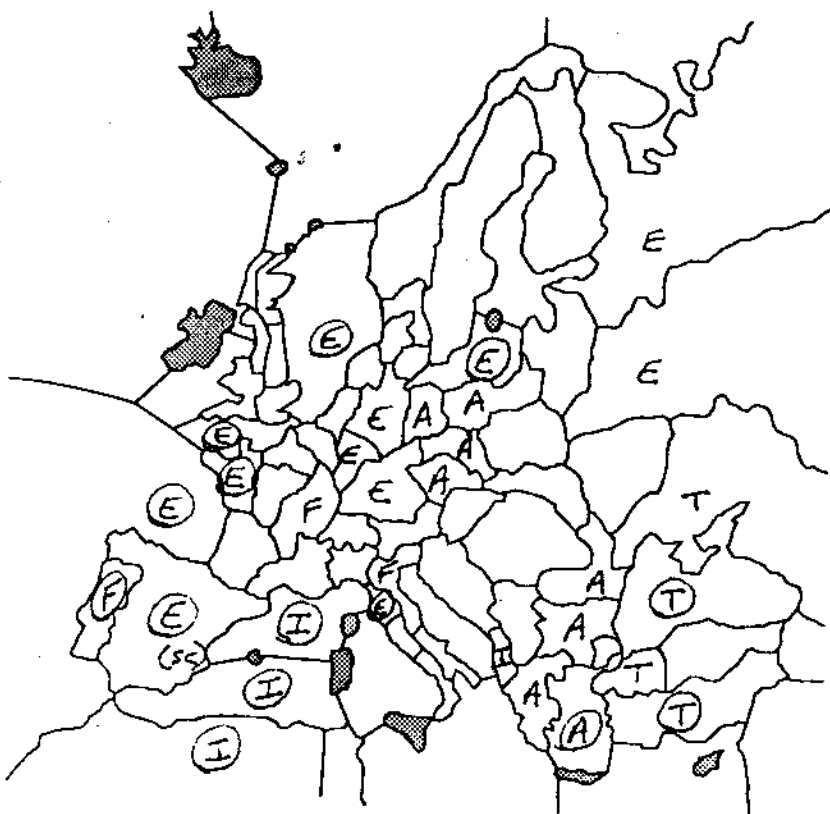
BULLE PENNE

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

Thank you, loyal standbys. One day each of you will be rewarded with a 17-center Austrian
standby position. I promise. And remember, anyone can standby for Anarchy: just submit moves
for countries that are NMR and you could be a lucky winner!

Land of Dreams

CURARE Fall 10



- A (O'Brien):** A Pru S A Ber, A Mos-Sev,
 A Rum S A Mos-Sev, F Eme-Aeg,
 A Bul S A Ser-Gre, A Boh-Mun,
 A Sil S A Boh-Mun, A Ser-Gre,
A Ber S A Boh-Mun
- E (Stanger):** F Gol-Tus, F Mao-Spa(sc),
F Spa(sc)-Gol, A Mun S A Kie-Ber,
F Bre-Mao, F Nth-Eng, A Lvn-Mos,
 A Stp S A Lvn-Mos, A Ruh S A Mun,
 F Hel-Nth, F Bal S A Kie-Ber,
A Kie-Ber
- F (Gossage):** F Por H, A Pie-Ven,
 A Bur S English A Mun
- I (Rifle):** A Gre-Alb, F Naf-Mao,
 F Tun-Wme, F Tys-Gol
- T (Mills):** A Sev H, F Bla S A Sev,
 F Aeg-Smy, A Con H

Underlined moves do not succeed. The Austrian A Mos retreats to War, Ukr or the box.

Jim Stanger has moved. Bob Gossage has survived the summer and is back at his U of I address.

Last turn the concession to England fails (EI in favor), as does the draw (AFI in favor). For next spring, Italy proposes a concession to England, "because he wrote."

gained/lost

A: home, rum, mos, war, mun, ser, bul, gre (8)

E: home, nwy, stp, hol, swe, kie, den, ber, bel, bre, spa, mos, mun (15)

F: par, por, mar, ven (4)

I: rom, ven, nap, tun, gre (4)

T: home, sev (4)

remove 1
 build 3
 build 1
 remove 1
 even

FRANCE to TURKEY: (Yawn) Did you say something?

Press Judges - for two issues back - Left these out last time - oops!!

(Eric Brosius) London to Letterman...or do I need a press judging license?

(Bruce Roberts) In Brilliant Disguise London to Letterman is hilarious! I have to agree with many particular points. Written tongue-in-cheek, as most press in Brilliant Disguise is, it stands as a classic. Runner-up: Fritz to Austria. Even Kansans dump on Kansas. However, speaking from experience, Kansas is a much better place to live than the southeast coastal area. Talk about "behind the times," wow! Suggest all Kansans move out, then they will appreciate the area of the central plains.

(Rich Dunn) Murphy's Revenge, Fall 04 Russia to Italy. Best in the whole issue!

(The Munz) Your "sorry but you write your own press" response in Henway on page 19 takes it, what wit!

(Former Typist) Somewhere on a Small Mediterranean Island to England from Hyboria, page 15.

(Rockville) Not exactly original, but very well done: London to Letterman takes it!

It's Money That Matters

HAPPY DAZE Fall 10

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

G (McHugh): A Gas-Bur, F Nwy S F Den-Swe,
F Nao-Nws, A Bur-Ruh, F Mao-Nao, F Gob H,
A Kie-Ber, A Ruh-Kie, F Bel-Nth, F Den-Swe

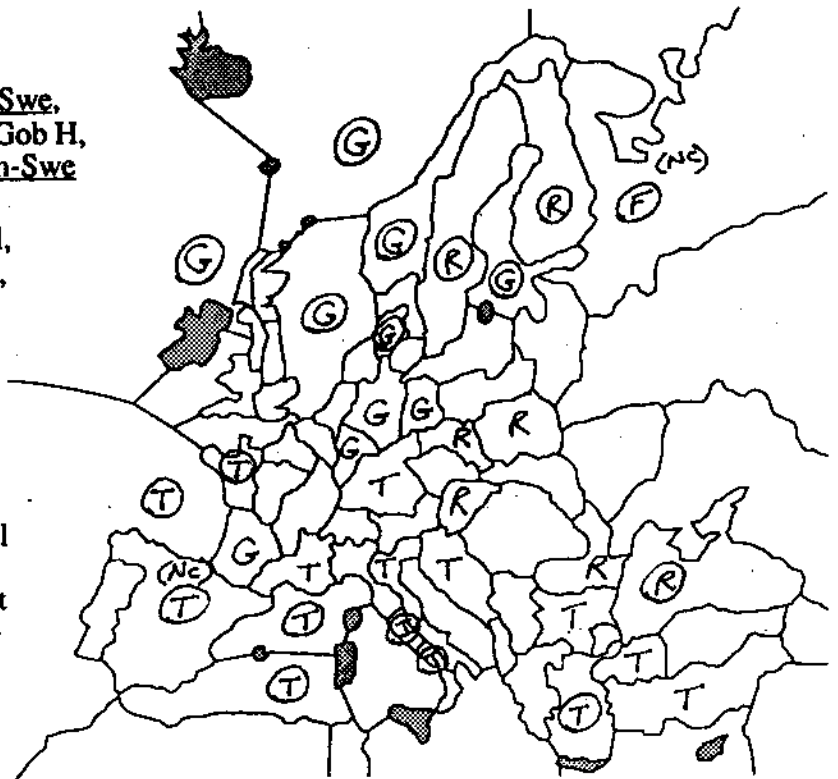
I (Richter): F Rom H

R (Olsen): A Pru-War, A Rum S F Bla-Bul,
A Sil S German A Bur-Mun, A Boh-Vie,
F Bla-Bul(cc), F Fin S F Swe,
F Swe H

T (Yahey): A Mar-Gas, A Tri-Ven,
F Wme S F Naf-Mao, F Naf-Mao,
F Eng-Bre, A Mun-Bur, F Gol-Mar,
A Ser-Tri, F Spa(nc) S F Naf-Mao,
F Nap H, A Bul S Russian A Rum,
A Con-Ank, A Smy-Ank, F Aeg S A Bul

Underlined moves do not succeed. I don't see any retreats, or draw proposals, or eliminations, or any of that good stuff.

Bob Olsen has moved once more. It would appear that his escape/expulsion from Kansas is complete at last.



gained/lost

F: stp (1)

G: kie, den, bel, bre, edi, par, lpl, mar, nwy, hol (8)

I: rom (1)

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

T: home, bul, gre, tun, ser, tri, ven, nap, vie, por, mun, lon, spa, bre, mar (16)

even

remove 2

even

build 1

build 2 (room for 1)

GER to GM: I want my free issues back as Julie promised you would never publish without my moves!

ROCKVILLE: Jack, the presses stop for no man. You should know that. Not even Brad, this turn.

GER to RUS: I may not win but I will make sure you don't either! Die Russian scum, die!

GER to FRA: What ya attackin' me for? Attack the Russian. What a lousy toady!

GER to GM: You forgot to mention my good stuff in your

reminiscence! I give this zeen a lot of class!

ROCKVILLE: But is it the kind of class we'd like to have?

HL MENCKEN: "We must respect the other fellow's religion, but only in the sense and to the extent that we respect his theory that his wife is beautiful and his children smart." circa 1956

GER to ITALY: Won't someone kill you! Guess if you want something done you have to do it yourself! I'm coming for you Brady!

ITALY to GERMANY: Shut up, Jack!

A Little Page-Bottom Playlist

Steel Wheels, Rolling Stones ★★★ Latest from the Stones. Decent, but more steady than spectacular.

Sticky Fingers, Rolling Stones★★★★ An oldie, back when they were all on heroin. Ah, the good old days! If only "Wild Horses" wasn't on here, I'd give it an extra star. Not a bad song, just their version.

Dirty Work, Rolling Stones★★★ Some really good stuff, some really awful stuff.

Loc-Ed After Dark, Tone Loc★★★ Pretty Good, for a rap record. Funky beats, but not monotonous.

Land of Dreams, Randy Newman★★★★ I could listen to this one over and over and over (and have).

Dueling Banjos, Earl Scruggs★★★★ This ain't country music, this is *hillbilly* music!

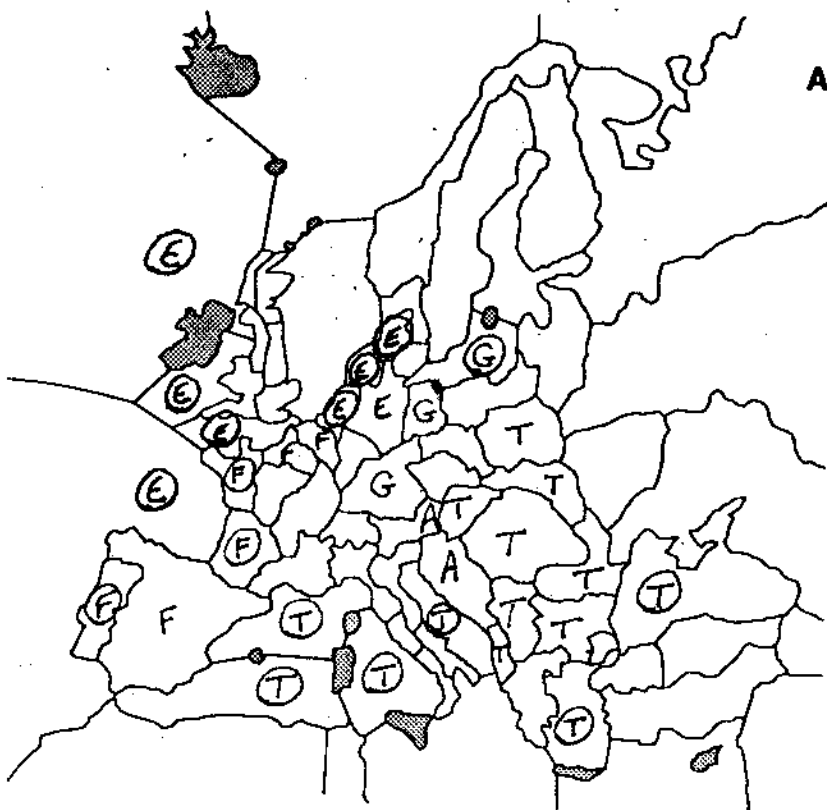
The Wild Thangs

LEX Spring 07

- A (Andersson):** A Tri S A Bud-Ser,
A Tyr-Vie, A Bud-Ser
E (Beckett): F Den S A Hol-Kie,
 A Hol-Kie, F Hel S A Hol-Kie,
 F Nth-Hol, F Nao S F Mao, F Mao H,
 F Eng S F Mao, F Lpl-Iri
F (Hymel): A Bel S A Pic, A Spa S F Por,
 F Por S A Spa, F Bre S F Gas,
 A Pic S A Bel, F Gas S F Bre
G (Gorham): A Pru-Ber, F Kie-Bal,
 A Ber-Mun
T (Boymel): F Wme S English F Mao,
 A Gal S A Ser-Bud, A Vie-Tri,
 F Bla C A Ank-Rum, A Gre-Alb,
 A Ser-Bud, A Bul-Ser, F Ion-Adr,
 F Rom-Tys, F Tys-Gol, A Con-Bul,
 A Ank-Rum, F Smy-Aeg, A War H

Underlined moves do not succeed. The Austrian A Bud is killed. The concession to Turkey proposed last time failed, with only GT voting in favor.

Dan Gorham is the new German player.



AUSTRIA to WEST: Why not simply concede the game since you three have essentially given it to that turkey, Turkey.
FRANCE to AUSTRIA: Dick around!? I'd love to give you a hand, if you could just convince England to stop attacking me.
AUSTRIA to GM: It would explain a lot if Boymel is playing all four countries.
ROCKVILLE: It would, wouldn't it?
AUSTRIA to LON: No, Paul doesn't have any more reason to lie, deceive, and mislead you than anyone else he's dealt with.
AUSTRIA to GM: Actually, I've finally got Boymel just where I want him. People forget that when you're being forced to your knees and have someone's tallywhacker forced into your mouth, you can always chomp down with all your strength. Reiffe, go get 'em.

ZIPPY BILL GRIFFITH

"Jack and Kathy Visit Clonecon"



Flap Jack Kathy

Zydeco Cha-Cha

HENWAY Summer 06

A (Munzenmaier): has: A Mun, A Bul, A Mar,
F Gre, F Tun, A Boh, A Pie, F Ion, F Alb, A Gal

E (Rusnak): has: F Cly, A Edi

F (Schenck): has: A Gas, F Spa(sc), F Gol

G (Maynard): has: A Bur, F Bel, A Ruh, A Kie

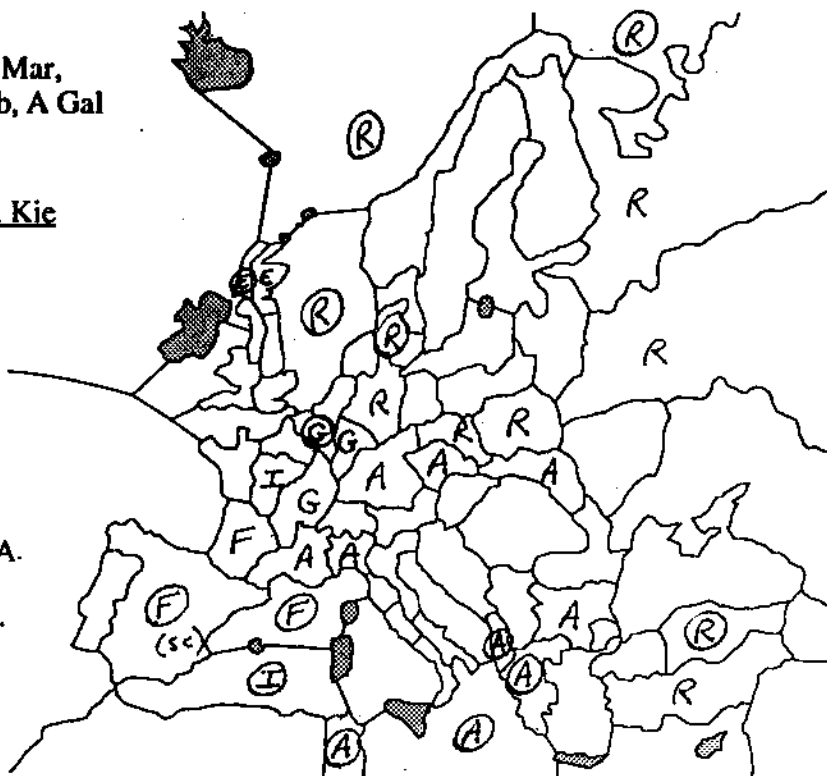
I (Gonsalves): has: A Par, F Wme

R (Geusz): has: A War, A Kie, F Den,
F Ank, A Smy, F Nws, F Nth, A
Stp, F Bar, A Mos, A Sil

T (Squibb): no units on board

The fall turn has been delayed because the USPS ate one of the players' issues last time. Feel free to change moves (or submit some if you haven't already!). The German A. Kie can retreat to Hol or the box.

Mike Gonsalves is the new Italian player.



THE DICTIONARY: def. experience, noun. The ability to recognize a mistake when it is made the second time.

NEW ITALY to GM: Just how in the hell did Italy wind up in Paris. Is this Nixon a false name for good old Bob Olsen?

OTTO VON BISMARCK: When you say that you agree to a thing in principal, you mean that you have not the slightest intention of carrying it out in practice.

MOSCOW to ROCKVILLE: I really am going to try not to dominate Henway press with gun-related stuff. Really I am. Just one last time....

Dick, why *should* the NRA compromise? Everything we know tells us that all guns are essentially equally useful to criminals (in the broad sense). Suppose we were to compromise to call assault rifles "evil" and help draft a law to ban them. Again I ask you, what happens when it doesn't work? Next time, it'll be *all* repeating firearms. And the time after that, it'll be *all* cartridge firearms. Pretty soon, we're down to slingshots as is now the case in Denmark. If the NRA should compromise in its defense of the Second Amendment in order to reduce crime, then I would submit that the ACLU should also compromise in its defense of the Fifth Amendment. (And please don't slot me as an ACLU-basher — I kind of like them. I'm just pointing out how constitutional freedoms contribute to crime.)

As to the most recent Bush proposal, I would like to see Mr Bush removed from the NRA, and have offered to refund his life membership out of my own pocket. The only good thing I can say about his proposal is that it will have virtually no effect on firearms sales in the US. The US-made AK is probably less than three years down the road, judging from past experience.

I stand by my figure of 100 million assault-type (as defined by the Metzbaum bill) firearms in the US. The media figure of 3 million is not even equal to the numbers of the M1 carbine and 10/22s combined. (Incidentally, I made an error in my first letter when I claimed the government has released 5 million M1 carbines to the general public. Total WWII production was 5 million, the government released between 2-3 million, and several hundred thousand

(including mine) have been given as foreign aid and then resold to US sportsmen when rendered obsolete. Sorry!)

The FBI has discovered that it *does* matter if you aim. — they are switching from high-magazine-capacity 9mms to a new 10mm cartridge in part because the large number of rounds available has encouraged agents to "spray." In the real world, this has gotten quite a few law-enforcement officers killed over the last several years, besides endangering bystanders. Anyone who wants to try to "spray" my M1 from the hip (like a submachine gun) on a 25-yard combat target is welcome to come try it, and see for themselves.

I wish I had a solution to the crime problem. While I believe in the death penalty, using it in anything but a case of virtually certain guilt is a crime itself, and I suspect there aren't that many open-and-shut cases. We can't afford the prisons we have, so I can't back "warehousing" as an answer, either. I think partial solutions could be found in legalizing drugs, requiring all criminal cases to be heard in four months or less (thus making society get its priorities straight and expand its judicial system, while providing swift punishment for serious crimes), exploring the possibility of "humane" corporal punishment — meaning that no permanent damage is done — and possibly recognizing that our "disgustingly overcrowded" prisons are better places to live than the homes of half of mankind. I could easily see our lowere-security prisons being "shanty towns" built by the prisoners themselves — after all, we do less for our homeless!

But of course, these are not solutions, only band-aids at best. What cure is there for the evil nature of man? I'm an autoworker, not one of the world's great thinkers. I don't have any answers, and I don't suspect anyone else of having any, either. What I do know for sure is that passing half-baked measure with no basis in reality at the cost of the constitutional rights of tens of millions of Americans is *not* the answer. Down that road lies the end of the freedom of this country, and even worse, the end of the triumph of reason over superstition, preconception, and ignorance.

MUNZ to ROCKVILLE: A slight correction, if I may. Guns are neither good nor evil, they're just guns. The *use* of a gun is

judged to be "good" or "evil" by the critic of the moment. Your question, "...how can guns be so good when they kill thousands of people each year?" isn't really applicable (or perhaps we should get rid of automobiles, after all "they" also kill thousands of people each year). Your statement that "the NRA has long held to the hard line that all guns are good" is flat wrong. The NRA doesn't judge all guns to be "good," they argue that all guns are equal and the ownership of those guns is protected by the Constitution. Once you begin to categorize the guns in order to restrict access to them, you are whittling away at a Constitutionally protected privilege (yes, Phil, it is a privilege, not a right). By categorizing guns you arrive at the kind of non sequitur represented by the inclusion of the 10-22.

What really needs to happen is that people who commit crimes with guns be put in jail and kept there. This means that we need more jails and tougher laws. It doesn't really matter whether a murderer used a pistol, a shotgun, an Uzi or a knife if he won't be punished for the crime. Granted one psychopath with an Uzi can do more damage than one with a knife, but what about the psycho who put the cyanide in the Tylenol? The bottom line is punishment — you do a crime, you're going to jail.

Of course someone will have to pay for these jails, who? I'll help! I have no problem with some form of tax increase that will be used *exclusively* to pay for new and better jails. Actually I would

support any federal tax increase that is enacted *after* the president gets the line-item-veto.

Well, with that change in subject I'll rest and see what stirs up. **ROCKVILLE:** Munz, cars are far more heavily regulated than guns, and they also have other uses besides killing people. Come on, why shouldn't guns be treated at least as seriously?

And realize it or not, the NRA has already compromised on the ownership of firearms. After all, there are strict restrictions on tanks, mortars, missiles, and other heavy weapons. What is the difference between a mortar, AK47, and Saturday Night Special, really? Just size and destructive power. And what good is your puny AK47 going to do when the Guard sends in a tank platoon, anyway? Zilch, that's what. The ownership of guns does not keep us free, any more than the outlawing of slingshots in Denmark makes the Danes prisoners of fear.

Cranking up our prison and judicial system will amount to treating the symptoms, and ignoring the disease. People with good jobs and families and prospects for a decent future are not out on the streets dealing drugs and robbing people. Solve these problems, and the drug problem and gun problem will take care of themselves.

But America has always been a rough-and-tumble sort of country, so guns will always be with us, as will violence, crime and other illicit sources of high adventure.

Black Snake Blues

Next Of Kin Fall 06

A (Munz): No units on board

F (Gonsalves): A Bel-Ruh, A Mar-Bur,
F Nws S A Edi-Nwy, A Edi-Nwy,
F Nth C A Edi-Nwy, A Pic-Bel,
A Bur-Mun, F Eng S A Pic-Bel,
F Mao-Nao

G (Wilson?): NMR A Mun, A Ruh,
F Swe, F Hel, A Hol all hold

I (Reynolds): A Bud S A Ser, F Alb-Ion,
A Vie S A Bud, F Aeg S F Ion-Eme,
F Gre-Bul(sc), A Ser S F Gre-Bul,
A Tyr S French A Bur-Mun,
F Ion-Eme

R (Schlosser): A War-Sil, A Nwy H,
F Ska S A Nwy, A Gal S A War-Sil,
A Mos-Stp

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

Underlined moves do not succeed. The German A Mun is blown up. No standby

for Germany at this time, Brad'll be back. Won't you, Brad? After all, it's your life, that's all.

gained/lost

A: ser (0)

F: home, por, spa, bel, lpl, lon, edi, hol, mun (10)

G: ber, kie, mun, den, swe, hol (5)

I: home, gre, tri, tun, bud, vie, ser (9)

R: mos, war, stp, rwy, sev (5)

T: home, rum, bul (5)

out

even

build 1

build 1

even

even

ROCKVILLE: Yes, I know of the upcoming movie Next of Kin. They gave me a good deal on the film rights to the story, how could I pass it by?

BRER PHIL to BOYMEL: Good grief, Paul! Are you in such dire need of attention that you have to rehash events from a game played two years ago? Or is it that you're just a jerk? (I'm inclined to believe both.) I'll repeat once more for the record that Lex was my first PBM Diplomacy game, and I made a lot of mistakes. I've learned since then, and have changed my ways. Obviously you haven't changed at all.

ROME to MUNZ: Well, we did accomplish my goal: to put a stop to Turkey's growth. It was fun while it lasted (about three turns?). Hope to meet you in another game — though maybe not too soon!

FRANCE to ITALY: I vote for the 17-17 split. Of course if I am not in Munich we may have a problem.

EX-EMPEROR OF SERBIA to NEW SULTAN: No need for the apology, I probably wasn't even sure who I was writing to at the time. It doesn't really matter anymore....

ROME to NEW SULTAN: I believe I did send you one card. But if I didn't follow up, don't blame me. I think it's pretty obvious that we had little chance to be allies. So here's to a good I-F vs T-R-G war!

NEW SULTAN to WORLD: Hmm...could be good, could be bad. I could have held on to what I've got, guaranteed unless Russia got weird, but what the heck, gotta take a chance once in a while — and unless I miss my guess, France is gonna win this while Germany and Russia squabble, so if I do screw up, at least it may keep Italy and France even....

ROME to MUNICH: It had to happen sooner or later. It was peaceful while it lasted.

FRANCE to GERMANY: Again I thought we had a deal! Since you want to keep the war, so be it.

FRA to RUSSIA: No answer means no deal!

ROME to MOSCOW: I can only assume by your moves and your lack of communication that you are siding with Turkey. Tis a pity!

ROME to PARIS: Happy Birthday, Mike!

You're My Mule

Murphy's Revenge Fall 05

A (Milewski): A VieH

E (Boymel): F Nth S German F Den, F Lon-Yor, F Hol S German F Kie

F (Moore): A Pic-Bel, F Wal-Lon, F Spa(sc)-Mar, F Eng S F Wal-Lon, A Ruh S A Pic-Bel, A Mun-Ber, A Bre-Gas

G (Hakey): F Kie S F Den, F Den S English F Nth

I (Weseman): A Bud S A Tri-Vie, A Tri-Vie, F Ion-Tun, F Wme-Mao, A Tyr S A Tri-Vie, A Pie-Mar, F Gol S A Pie-Mar

R (Henry): A Ukr S A Mos, F Edi H, F Ska S F Bal-Den, A Gal S A Ukr, F Bal-Den, A Ber H, A Mos S A Ukr

T (O'Brien): A Sev-Ukr, F Bla S A Rum, F Aeg-Gre, A Rum S A Sev-Ukr, A Bul-Ser, A Arm-Sev

Underlined moves do not succeed. The Austrian A Vie has a retreat but it doesn't matter where to.

Mark Weseman is back at his school address. Ernest Hakey is the new German player. And thanks to Paul Milewski for finishing up the Austrian position.

gained/lost

A: vie (0)

E: lon, bel, hol (1)

F: mar, par, bre, spa, por, lpl, mun, bel, lon (8)

G: kie, den (2)

I: home, tun, tri, gre, ser, bud, vie, mar (8)

R: mos, war, stp, swe, nwy, bud, edi, ber (7)

T: home, bul, sev, rum, ser, gre (8)

gone

remove 2

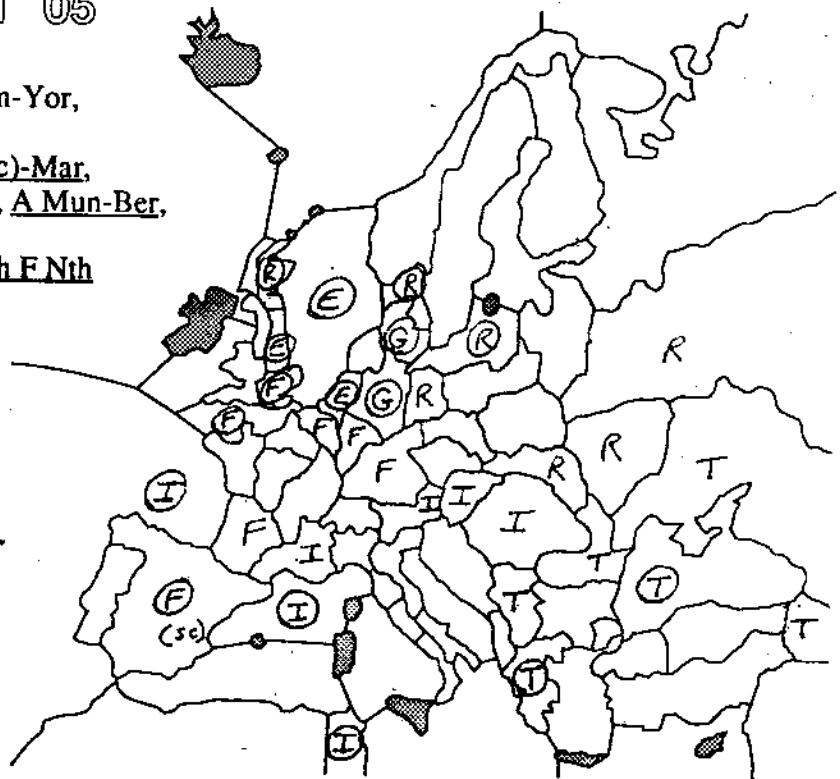
build 1

even

build 1

even

build 2



ZOMBIE to ROCKVILLE: Why are you having a hard time keeping players in this game? Is it the dreaded "Curse of Murphy"? Think I'm immune however. Not much more can go wrong if you're undead.

ROCKVILLE: Makes sense to me. And it seems like we finally have a stable cast of characters.

PARIS to ROME: Hi Mark. See that little island on the Dip board between Ireland and England? Guess who lives there? You have enough fleets here, why don't you go pick up Stanley? And stay out of my newly remodeled Spanish villas.

HAKEY to WESEMAN: Greetings! Long time, no HW, eh? **PARIS to MOSCOW:** Sorry I wasn't so forthright with you, but you really should get rid of those illegal aliens in Sevastopol.

ITALY to TURKEY: Can you see a stab opportunity? If you can't then why not call a draw and get this mess over with.

ZOMBIE to ROCKVILLE: Which brings me to the next big question...press of which kind is allowed? (I like the mottled grey sort best!)

ROCKVILLE: Grey press only: home centers and certain reserved datelines protected — all else fair game.

STANDBY GERMANY to WORLD: Mucho fun this is gonna be, I'm sure — two fleets stuck in the middle of chaos while the big guys in the south march north. Mmm, mmm, good! Anybody want to buy a spare fleet? Someone is gonna need it when the Italian navy reaches the cold northern waters....

PARIS to LONDON (WEST END): I agreed entirely with your analysis. However, I did not think it in my best interests to lose units if I am to hold off the Italian. I'll toast your memory on Bastille Day each year.

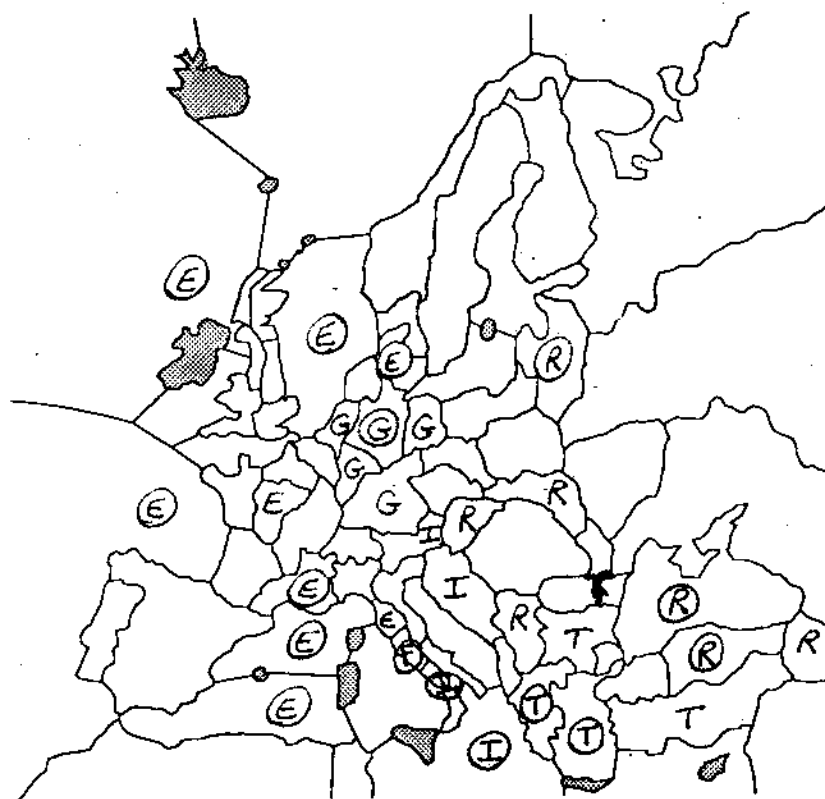
STANDBY GERMANY to ITALO/TURKISH ALLIANCE: Yo, big guys — any offers for a poor nation of refugees afloat? I mean, France and Russia could hold you off...but they've got the Limeys and the Krauts to worry about at the moment....

STANDBY GERMANY to FRANCO/RUSSIAN ALLIANCE: How about you guys? Any offers to cause me not to do the best I can to survive and delay you as long as possible?

ITALY to ROCKVILLE: I know, I know; DIAS is the rule here. Doesn't that stand for Dumb Italians are Always Smelly? Or Doesn't Italy Always Stab?

ROCKVILLE: Nah: Dis Is A Stickup!

Flag Day



Seven Wonders

Fall 05

E (Cronin): A Par-Bur, F Spa(sc)-Mar, F Gol C A Lpl-Tus, A Lpl-Tus, F Mao C A Lpl-Tus, F Den H, F Wme C A Lpl-Tus, F Nth H, F Nao C A Lpl-Tus

F (Pitt): F Tys-Rom, A Ruh-Bur

G (Zulkowski): A Bel-Hol, F Kie H, A Bur-Ruh, A Mun S A Bur-Ruh, A Ber S A Mun

I (Wilson?): NMR A Tri, F Nap, A Tyr, F Ion all hold

R (Dunn): A War-Gal, A Bud-Ser, F Pru-Lvn, A Vie-Tri, F Arm-Ank, A Rum S A Bud-Ser, A Sev-Arm, F Bla S F Arm-Ank

T (Reynolds): A Ser-Rum, A Gre-Smy, F Aeg C A Gre-Smy, F Alb-Gre, F Ank-Bla, A Bul S A Ser-Rum

Underlined moves do not succeed. The French A Ruh retreats to Bel or the box.

The Russian A Rum retreats to Sev, Ukr, Bud or the box. The Turkish F Ank retreats to Con or the box.

Tom Pitt is the new French player. Phil Reynolds has a semi-permanent address which you may want to look up. No Italian standby at this time. Brad will be back.

gained/lost

E: home, nwy, den, bre, spa, por, par, mar (10)

F: mar, tun, rom (2)

G: home, hol, bel (5)

I: ven, rom, nap, tri (3)

R: home, swe, rum, vie, bud, ser, ank (9)

T: con, ank, smy, bul, gre, ser, rum (5)

build 1

even

even*

remove 1

build 1

remove 1

*If the French A Ruh retreats to Bel, Germany has a removal. France can't build.

RICH BUTCHER to TURKEY: Stab, Stab, Stab!

CONSTANTINOPLE to ALL: I've made another crucial mistake. The first was not carrying through with my anti-Russian moves in 1901, for better or worse. The second, and most recent, was overriding submitted orders to build F Con and do F Ank S F Con-Bla (which would have succeeded last turn). The moral of this story? One that I heard a while back: "When you've got a man down, don't let him back up." (As I'm about to find out the hard way!) Oh, well, la-di-da. *To the death, Rich!!*

CONSTANTINOPLE to MOSCOW: Is this how you treat all your allies? Never forgive a mistake? Gee, I'll have to remember that for Investment Dip.

CONSTANTINOPLE to LONDON: All the warm fuzzies in the world don't add up to the equivalent of actually attacking Russia. While you are a nice guy, I wouldn't call you an ally.

LONDON: The Queen dispatched the Archbishop of Canterbury to Rome today for an ecumenical tete-a-tete. The Archbishop was seen departing the Liverpool docks this spring with anticipated arrival in early fall. The entire English navy was involved in the grand passage and plans an extraordinary fall celebration to mark his arrival.

Pope Bradley has been said to herald his arrival making a wonderful summer home available in Tuscany. Recent papal tirades against English exploitation of peasants will top the agenda to be discussed by the two religious leaders.

CONSTANTINOPLE to ROME: Hang in there Pope Bradley! There's still some fightin' to do!

MOSCOW to BERLIN: Oops! Sorry bout that chief.

ITALY to RUSSIA: What offer? To put your noose around my neck? Thanks a lot! What do you take me for — a nincompope?

CONSTANTINOPLE to BERLIN: I admire your stubbornness and endurance, but not your moves. *Send everything east!* Make an alliance with England vs Russia. It's your only chance (and mine too — what the hell!).

Think For A Minute

Brilliant Disguise Fall 03

A (Zulkowski): A Bud S A Boh-Gal, A Tyr H,
A Ser S F Aeg-Bul, F Aeg-Bul(sc), A Boh-Gal

E (Farha): A Bel-Hol, F Swe-Ska, F Nwy-Nth,
F Eng-Nth, F Bar-Stp(nc)

F (Holley): No units on board

G (Roberts): A Den S F Bal-Swe, A Sil-Mun,
A Bre H, F Bal-Swe, A Bur S A Sil-Mun,
A Pru-War

I (Reiff): A Gas-Mar, A Pie-Mar,
F Por-Mao, F Mao-Nao, F Ion-Gre

R (Wallstrom): (retreat F Swe-Ska)
A Rum-Ser, A Sev-Rum, F Ska-Nth,
F Bul(ec) S A Sev-Rum, A Gal-Vie,
F Stp(nc) H, A Mos S F Stp

T ("Fritz"): (retreat F Aeg-Box) A Ank H,
A Con H

Underlined moves do not succeed.

Italy proposes a concession to France because, "it seems like the right thing to do." Unfortunately, France is out of the game, so it is definitely *not* the right thing to do. *English F Swe retreats to Gob, Fin, box.*

Gary Wallstrom has moved, look him up. With these moves, Philosopher Fritz resigns. His lucky replacement is Ronald Newmaster.

gained/lost

A: bud, vie, tri, ser, gre (3)

E: home, rwy, bel, hol (6)

F: bre (0)

G: home, hol, den, par, bre, swe, war (8)

I: home, mar, tun, spa, gre (7)

R: war, mos, sev, stp, rum, swe, bul, vie (6)

T: home (3)

neutral: por (1)

remove 2

build 1

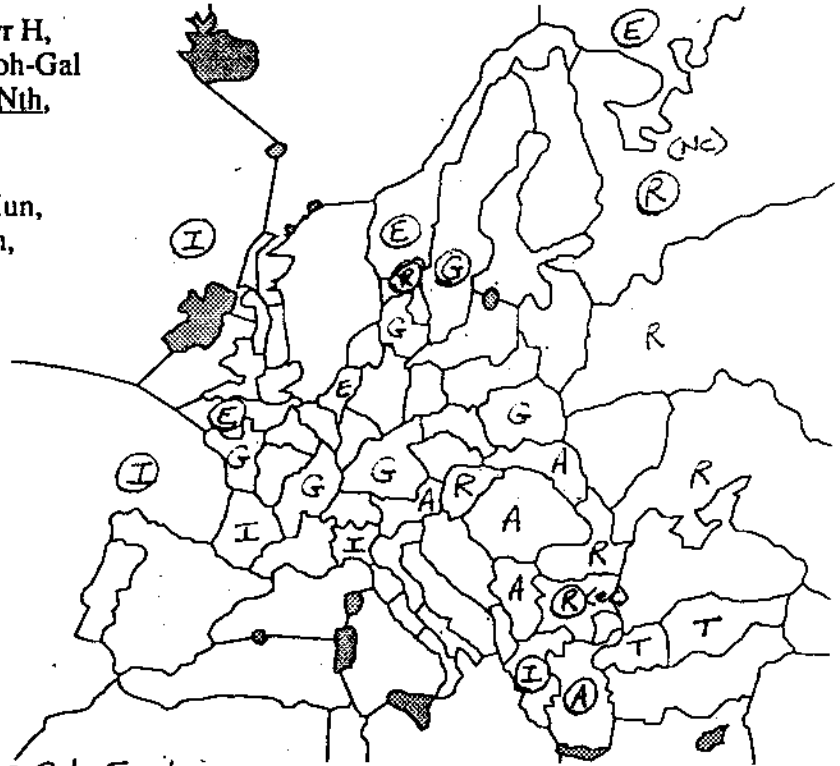
even but out

build 2

build 2

remove 1

build 1



ROME to FRITZ: I'm impressed by all the letters and press you've written this summer. Don't do so much, you may hurt your hand.

FRITZ to WORLD: I am resigning from Brilliant Disguise. I find that I do not have the time or the enthusiasm I expected I would have. One thing that discouraged me early was the harsh tone of the press. I realize now that I took the insults too seriously, and I have no hard feelings toward any of you, but I ask you to go easy on beginners in the future. I intended to stick out the game long enough to fulfill my treaty obligations to Italy, but as he pointed out, I didn't even do that. Now that he no longer wants me as an ally, I can resign without feeling guilty for what my successor does. I apologize that I did not write more letters or press. Thanks to all, especially Dick, for the game!

ROCKVILLE: Sorry things didn't work out for you. Believe it or not, the ones who've been the harshest have been the other "beginners."

LATE PRESS FROM ROME: Well, well, well. I'm sitting here watching Monday Night Football (8-21-89) Vikes-Skins game. 15 seconds left in the first half. Skins ball on their own 20. Kenney's the quarterback. Barks the signals. The snap. Hands off to...Byner. Oh no, *fumble!* Vikings recover. Gee, I must admit it warms the cockles of my heart to see good ole Ernie fumble for somebody else for once. Do I have it for Byner? Yeah, I do.

Dick, I just couldn't resist.

ROCKVILLE: No problem, I understand. By the way, is Kevin Mack back out of jail yet?

ROME to ROCKVILLE: No, Byner's not in jail and Mack's not either, yet. I bet if we put it to a vote among Browns' fans, we'd know who *would* go though, don't we.

ROCKVILLE: But in the end, that's why we have a legal system: so only criminals go to jail. Or at least that's the theory. When will "Crack" Mack be able to play again?

ROME to ROCKVILLE: Is it pretty bloody? I can't look.

FRENCH FREE PRESS: Rumors circulating around the German capital say Italy and Germany have agreed to divide the English Empire. Sources confirm Italian fleets steaming towards the British Isle. However it is still uncertain whether German forces are indeed in Sweden.

LONDON to MUNICH: Sorry about Holland old chap, but I was on my way to Denmark and nature called.

ROME: A brief word on TV commercials. The best — the Nike-Bo Jackson commercial. The one where they have sports stars like Michael Jordan, Kirk Gibson and John McEnroe say Bo knows this and Bo knows that. I'm not sure which is the best part though. Either the part where Bo's playing hockey and Wayne Gretzky skates up, looks in the camera, smirks and says "no" or where Bo's playing guitar (badly) and Bo Diddley says "Bo you don't know diddley." Great stuff. The worst? All of those Quaker Oats commercials with that rude old geezer from Our House where he says it's the right thing to do. Really obnoxious. The vomit commercial? I was watching "Kolchak: The Night Stalker" reruns on WWOR out of New York (yes, I lead a pretty boring life) and then this distressed looking guy comes on and says (I'll try to make this as close as possible), "Can you believe it. Me, arrested for drunk driving. I was ready to throw myself on the mercy of the court. Then a friend said I should call Wilson and Johnson." Then the announcer says something like call Wilson and Johnson to defend you and basically made it look like they could get you off. Lawyers make me sick!

LONDON to MOSCOW: I *told* you I was going to do that, didn't I?

ROME to ROCKVILLE: Gee, my name mentioned in Next of Kin and Vicki's coming to find *me!* I must be almost as important as Nurse Phil to rate something like this.

BER to VIE: It is a good thing to learn caution by the ?????? of others. Note France.

ROME to ANDERSSON: How could I call, I don't have your number. But for football tickets I may call information.

ROMAN MOVIE REVIEW: Star Trek — Well, it wasn't all that good. It wasn't as bad as the first one and at least it wasn't Picard and company running around on the screen. Dead Poets Society — The best movie of the summer. It was also a nice change of pace for Robin Williams. Indiana Jones wasn't bad, but I wasn't a big fan

of the first two though. And finally Batman — I'm sorry, but I'm not impressed. Nicholson's Joker was not that great. Caesar Romero was *much* better. And to all the complaints about Michael Keaton playing Batman, hell, you could have put Dave Andersson in that Batman outfit and he could have pulled off a decent Batman. With that suit it doesn't matter who is in it. Keaton's glaring weakness is as Bruce Wayne. He looks and acts like the same goofball he did in Mr Mom and Gung Ho. I'd give it a 5 out of 10.

ROCKVILLE: I disagree with you about Keaton and Nicholson. Jack is a great lunatic — Romero just isn't mean enough to be this kind of Joker. Keaton makes for a great Bruce Wayne. Mostly a quiet, introspective guy who's a little bit off his rocker. I thought the bit about hanging from the inversion boots was a bit unnecessary, though. And for those of you who say that Nicholson "stole" the movie, guess again. His name is first and biggest in the credits: you can't steal a movie if it's yours to begin with. Dead Poets Society was very good (though you could make the same complaints about Robin Williams as you do about Michael Keaton), but I'd have to rate *Do The Right Thing* as best movie of the summer.

ROME to LONDON: Hey! I liked the "In Search Of..." Nimoy did a great job with it.

FARHA to TREKKIES: Well, the New Star Trek had it's first cannibal episode a few weeks ago; by that I mean they took a dozen scenes/clips from other episodes and wove them into a dying-bedridden-crewmember-recollection episode. Getting lazy already, I see.

And what about the "wargames" episode on not too long ago; I was really getting excited there for about forty minutes, only to have the wind knocked out of my sails by the appearance of the Ferengi. Cop out, cop out, cop out. Yawn.

BER to CON: Star Trek rebuttal next time.

ROME to BASEBALL FANS: Well, Pete's just about done. Fortunately judges in Columbus aren't elected by people in Cincinnati. Look for Pete to be gone before the Redskins lose their second game, which should be about September 17th.

LONDON to ROME: Pete Rose nothing! Look at Steve Garvey! I want to know where I can get the supposed bumper stickers they're selling that say, "If it's a boy I'll name it Steve." Your point is very well taken, however; Rose is guilty as sin, but like Oliver North, will undoubtedly walk away unscathed.

ROCKVILLE: Not hardly, and it's not over yet.

ROME to VIENNA: Remember the 1st Commandment of Diplomacy? No. I'll tell you. Thou shalt write letters. See what happens (I hope) when you don't.

FISH OF THE MONTH: The common goldfish. PH, hardness, temperature, furnishings are all unimportant. The goldfish is not immediately allowed to play with the piranhas or Queen Trigger, can be kept in a bowl or the bag they came in. The goldfish makes a *tasty morsel* good playmate for most fish with big sharp pointy teeth. (I felt a little lazy this month.)

INTERESTED PARTY to GM: We haven't had an NMR yet. What do you think, this turn? Yah, probably.

ROCKVILLE: Almost right.

GERMANY to LONDON: Having problems with people sitting near you huh? Have you tried Listerine?

★★ Subs Expiring With This Issue: ★★

Schlosser, Doskey, Chinnery, Arnawoodian, Zulkowski

★★ Subs Expiring With Next Issue: ★★

Condit, Wheet, Bohner, Swider, Huffman, Langley, Juhnke, Dorneman

That's quite a turnover, even more than usual. Not that I expect most of you to actually turn over, that is. Time to resub!

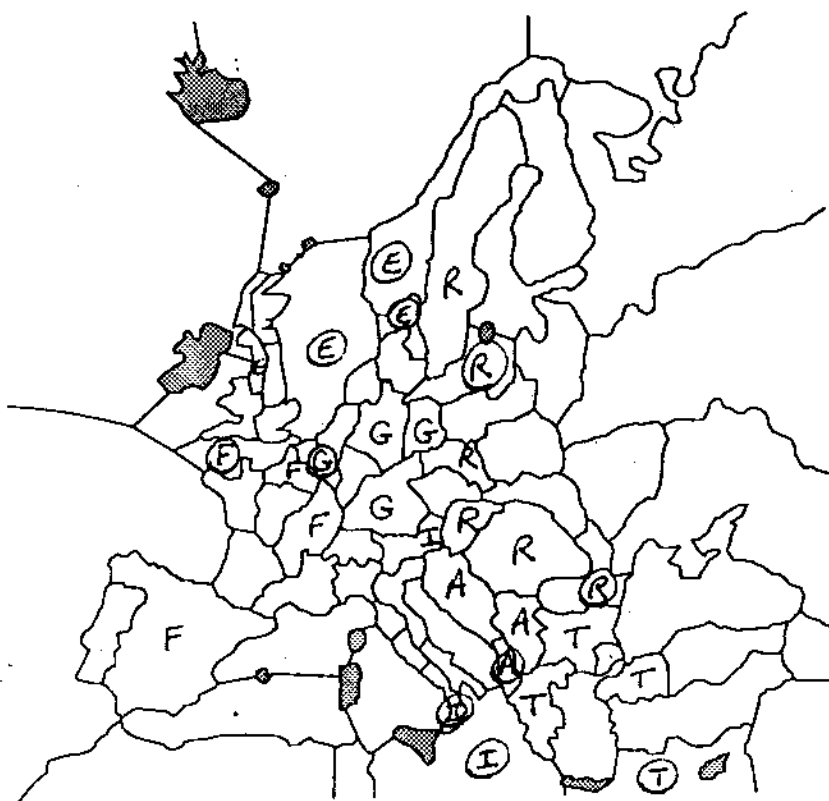
People Get Ready

LAST DANCE Fall 02

- A (Pitt):** (retreat A Bud-Vie) A Vie-Tri,
A Ser S A Vie-Tri, F Alb S A Vie-Tri
- E (Gaughan?):** NMR A Lpl, F Nwy,
F Ska, F Nth all hold
- F (Bowen?):** NMR A Pic, A Spa, F Eng,
A Bur all hold
- G (Palmer):** A Mun S A Ber, A Ruh-Kie,
F Bel H, A Ber S A Mun
- I (Mainardi?):** NMR (retreat A Mun-box)
A Tyr, F Ion, F Nap, A Tri all hold
- R (Nash):** A Bud S A Gal-Vie, A Gal-Vie,
F Bal S A Sil-Ber, F Rum H, A Sil-Ber,
A Fin-Swe
- T (Erikson):** A Gre H, A Bul-Rum,
F Aeg-Eme, A Con-Bul

Underlined moves do not succeed. What moves there were, anyway. The Italian A Tri is blown up.

Three standbys, coming up: England-Melinda Holley, Germany-Paul Mills, Italy-David Andersson. Hope y'all don't get in!



gained/lost

A: bud, vie, tri, ser (2)

E: home, nwy (4)

F: home, por, spa (5)

G: ber, kie, bel, hol, mun (5)

I: home, tun, mun (4)

R: home, swe, rum, bud, vie (8)

T: home, bul, gre (5)

neutral: gre, ser, spa, den (1)

remove 1

even

build 1

build 1, but no room for it

build 1

build 2

build 1

GER to RUS: Your gracious support during our times of tribulation are much appreciated. Vielen Dank!

BULGARIAN BUGLE: Last night a small platoon of Turkish mechanics crept stealthfully across the border into Rumania. Their mission was to locate the enemy fleet in the harbor and disable the ships before they could hurt anyone. As of yet we've had no word from the team, so we are unsure if they were shot as spies or crossed into Greece by mistake.

THERA to CON: It appears your 1st fleet has followed a school of fish into the Eastern Med before refueling could be completed. Please inform the Admiral that he needs to return and pick up the 30 lb gas cap his flagship left on pier 22.

BALLARD (WHAT THE HECK) to ARLINGTON: I'll have to agree with you on the "Monty" stuff. Everyone gets tired of hearing about 54th level Elf/Dwarf Cleric/Assassin/Barbarian/Monks who've a few gods pissed off at them. In my games I believe only one player ever made it to 5th level. No, I'm not a ref who makes killer adventures, I just make players *earn* their keep and in a poor, magic scarce world I find three orcs can give a group of players a night of enjoyment and something to talk about for years. No need to throw gods or let alone vampires at players to make them

think and enjoy.

ROCKVILLE: I agree that lower level adventures are the best, though I'd say that 6th-8th level adventures have been my favorite as a player and dm. Characters are big enough not to really worry about little creatures unless they get careless, and big enough to go up against some of the neater stuff with a hope of surviving. But in general I've found that a good group of players and a good dm can have fun at any level. Unfortunately, some dms mistakenly believe that giving out huge treasures and fighting gods with holy swords is automatically fun. The threat of dying at any time combined with non-player creatures with personalities seems to work for me.

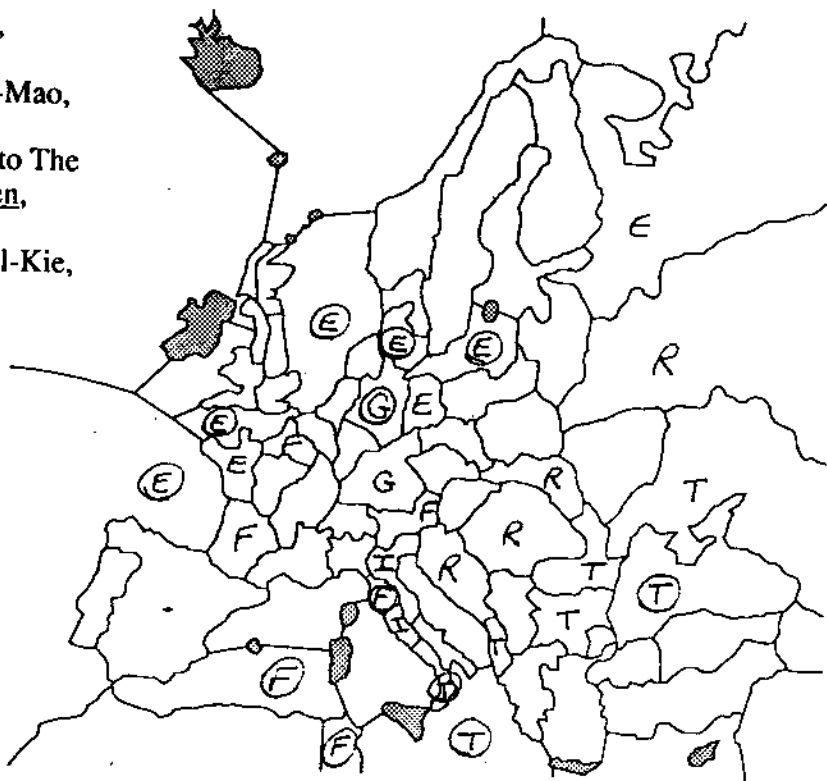
Semi-Random Note:

Did I say that we weren't having copier problems? Spoke too soon, as the crazy thing started misbehaving again as we started copying this issue. Trials and tribulations: will they never end??? Frankly, I doubt it.

Killing Floor

Lympie Spring 07

- E (Slick):** (build F Edi, A Lon) A Pru-Ber, F Bal S A Pru-Ber, A Kie S A Pru-Ber, A Stp-Mos, F Eng C A Lon-Bre, F Bre-Mao, F Edi-Nth, A Lon-Bre, F Nth-Den
- F (Nameless Standby):** (retreat A Mun to The Box) A Bel-Pic, A Bur-Gas, A Tyr-Ven, F Tun-Tys, F Tys-Wme, F Tus-Tys
- G (Binkie):** (remove A Sil) A Mun S F Hel-Kie, F Hel-Kie
- I (Monitor):** A Ven H, A Rom H
- R (Bond, James Bond):** A Tri-Ser, A Rum-Ser, F Ber-Lvn, A Vic-Bud, A War-Gal, A Mos S A Sev, A Sev H
- T (George "The Environmentalist" Bush):** (retreat A Tri-Alb, remove F Aeg) A Alb-Ser, F Ion S F Nap, F Nap S Italian A Rom, A Ser-Rum, A Bul S A Ser-Rum, A Arm-Sev, F Bla S A Arm-Sev



Underlined moves do not succeed. ^{or Hol}
 The English A Kie retreats to Ruh or the box. The Russian A Rum retreats to Ukr or the box, and the same for the Russian A Sev. The Russian F Ber is sunk.

We need a replacement for Monitor — could it be time for Merrimac?

Who's Been Talkin'

THE SPCA Winter 00

- (Dorneman - Avian Aquatic Alliance): F Lpl, F Sev
- (Nash - Boon Docks): F Nap, F Edi
- (Reynolds - Chateau D'Isaster): A Rum
- (Cronin - Dutch-London Bureau): F Hol, A Lon
- (Boymel - God's Country): A Rom, F Ven
- (Reiff - Klingon Empire): F Por, A War
- (Beckett - Las Vegas): F Bel, F Den
- (Larzelere - Pepperland): A Par
- (Sherwood - Rutleland): A Bre, F Nwy
- (Hakey - Xanadu): A Vie, A Tri
- (Burgess - Zinnia): A Mar
- (Roberts): A Bul
- (Moore): F Con
- (Hymel): A Ank
- (Bohner): F Smy, F Tun
- (Erikson — Kingdom of Bavaria [must change]): A Mun, A Spa
- (McHugh - Ruffians [must change]): A Stp, F Kie
- (Dunn - Anarchia [must change]): A Gre, A Ber
- (Wilson?): NMR A Bud, F Swe
- (Huffman?): NMR A Ser, A Mos

Okay, we are ready to roll! We had six (seven, actually) volunteers to take the remaining dots, so

there aren't any more open centers. Yes, rejoice, rejoice.

Eleven of you have picked out names for your countries, and that's good. But nine of you either haven't picked out names yet or picked names that don't start with a unique letter. You gotta have a name, or you don't get put on the map. If you don't get put on the map, that can have dire consequences for you national well-being. So get those names in, and give me a couple choices in case there's duplication.

First turn, and already we have NMRs! Well, guess that gives me an opportunity to call for our first standbys. Remember, this is an open standby call: first player not yet in the game who submits orders for a position is the standby of record. If the original player NMRs twice in a row, standby of record takes over. If you've been eliminated, you may come back again as a standby.

I haven't quite decided what to do on the winter turns — do we separate the seasons or not? Separation is slower, but eliminates much confusion. Combined nobody knows what's going on, and it's more anarchic. Given that I am of two minds on the subject (perfect for an anarchy game), I will follow the will of the people.

Keith Sherwood has gone upscale and has a new address. That was quick.

REIFF to ROCKVILLE: Do you think this group would appreciate Fish of the Month? Just think, I can double my readership!

ROCKVILLE: That's assuming this crew can read. I think they just like to look at the pictures.

RUFFIANS to GM: Who split up these dots? You let someone have Ven and Tri and all the neutral dots on the Med but two? How much did Hakey pay for this shit? I would've taken a better set up as payment for my article. Does Julie and Robert Sacks know what is going on here, you fiend!

ROCKVILLE: Aw Jack, this is just a chance for you to show off your diplomatic skills by turning the whole world against the evil twins. Or aren't you up to the challenge? If that's true, we'll set up a game for you: grandmother's only. Oops, you'd get killed in that one, too. What are we ever going to do with you?

ITALY: Dick, if you allow press in this game, you'll never get anything else done while the game is going!

ROCKVILLE: Particularly not if Jack starts flappin'. However, it's a risk we've got to take!

NEW CARROLLTON: Uptown Theater is the best? Even better than K-B Bailey's Crossroads, which claims to have the largest screen in Virginia? (I saw *Indy III* there and it was awesome). I'll

have to check out Uptown some time, but will wait until they're showing a film that makes full use of the technology. No need to go there otherwise, because anything that doesn't come to the Carrollton 6 goes to the Greenbelt 14! (Except Lawrence of Arabia, for some reason.)

ROCKVILLE: Never been to KB Bailey's Crossroads, though I've been to KB Cinema many times and I hear they're roughly comparable. Don't bother to see *When Harry Met Sally* at Uptown, but next time they get something good, give us a call and we'll all go on down. Batman would have been perfect, but *Star Wars* is about due for a return engagement one of these months. We really like the AMC Greenbelt 8/14, but the 6/14 is really grungy. Amazing how different the two theaters can be in the same mall and run by the same company.

NEW CARROLLTON: Have you seen *Licence (sic) to Kill* Time with Timmy Dullton? I enjoyed it, as there's lots of action the keep your interest. Dullton isn't really *Bond*, though. They go through the obligatory mentions of "Bond, James Bond," and "shaken, not stirred," the obligatory casino scene, the obligatory entrance of Q and his hi-tech gadgets and Miss Money Penny, but it's almost like they're going through the motions just to remind you that he's supposed to be James Bond. And there's no diabolical criminal like Dr No or Goldfinger, just some drug smuggler. And the story doesn't make sense. Who heard of a company that refines oil into gasoline in South America and sends it to the United States by truck? And how did that guy have his legs eaten off by sharks and not bleed to death, staying on in the movie to do nothing? It reminds me of an old episode of "The Saint" I saw a few months ago (with Roger Moore). He cleverly breaks his way into a top-secret complex by defeating a whole maze of hi-tech security gadgets, then after he finds what he's looking for, slips out the back door into the parking lot!

ROCKVILLE: Guess they ran out of time and money, huh! A guy gets his legs chewed off by sharks? Sounds like what happened to Felix Leiter in the *Live and Let Die* novel (in the movie, Felix is fine from beginning to end). I haven't seen either of the Timmy Dullton Bond movies, and have no burning desire to do so. The old ones were great, mostly because they were based on the original Fleming novels. It's no surprise that the movies got campier and more formulaic when they ran out of Fleming-based scripts. Now it's just generic Bond. Maybe if they tried to make a "serious" Bond, that would get me to come back. Until then, looks like *Never Say Never* will be the last Bond I see.

NEW CARROLLTON: Not long ago I was driving and saw a Metrobus that had a WHFS billboard that said, "Not the same old rock'n'roll." I was listening to Hot Fudge Sundae at the time on my car stereo and they were playing "Message in a Bottle" by the Police! But I think WHFS is still pretty good. Maybe it is tamer, but stands up well against the alternatives. Most other stations don't seem to play much of anything at all by Devo, the Waitresses, the B52s, or the Dead Milkmen to name a few.

ROCKVILLE: True, HFS is the only place to go if you want to hear that stuff. And all in all, it's still better than all the DC101s and Classic Rock stations put together. But it's not as interesting as it used to be, and the commercial count has gone way up since they became popular. So when they start blasting out the commercials, I switch the channel. Usual winner is WPFW 89.3, an urban jazz/blues/ethnic/black station. It's a whole different perspective, that's for sure.

Playlist, Part II

Back Door Man, Howlin' Wolf ★★★★★ Great blues, the old fashioned way. You'd recognize a lot of the songs: "Back Door Man," "Spoonful," "Evil," etc, in their original form. One of several blues disks from Telstar Records — they've all been great, and they've all been surprisingly cheap. If you're into the blues, the Telstars are worth picking up.

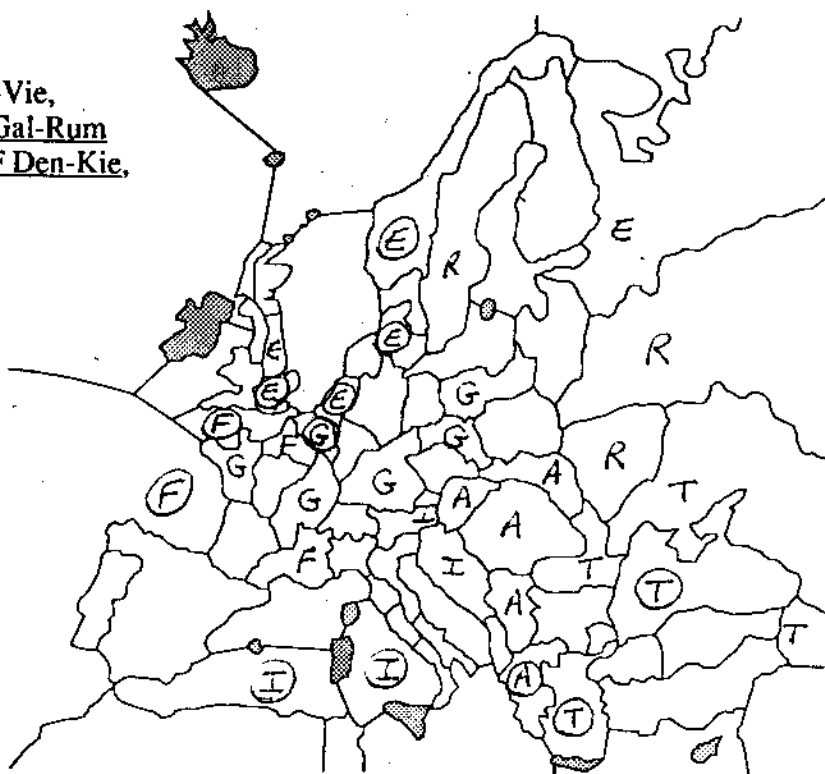
Cosmic Thing, The B52s ★★★★★ This one doesn't have anything as good as "Rock Lobster" or "Private Idaho," but all the songs are consistently excellent. They put on a fabulous live show too.

7 Chinese Brothers

Manuel Noriega Pro-Am

Fall 04

- A (Rug Rat):** A Bud S A Gal-Rum, A Tri-Vie,
A Ser S A Gal-Rum, F Gre-Bul(sc), A Gal-Rum
- E (Jean Valjean):** A Stp H, F Bar-Nwy, F Den-Kie,
F Lon-Eng, A Lpl-Yor, F Nth-Hol
- F (Darth Vader):** A Pic-Bel, A Mar-Bur,
F Wme-Mao, F Eng S A Pic-Bel
- G (Mr Mistoffelees):** A Par-Bre,
A Bur S F Bel-Pic, F Bel-Pic,
A Pru-Mos, A Sil S A Pru-Mos,
A Mun-Kie
- I (Kryptonian):** A Tyr S A Ven-Tri,
F Tun-Wme, F Tys S F Tun-Wme,
A Ven-Tri
- R (Mata Hari):** A Ukr H, A Mos H,
A Swe H
- T (Psycho):** A Rum S F Aeg-Bul,
A Arm S A Sev, A Sev S A Rum,
F Aeg-Bul(sc), F Bla S A Rum



Underlined moves do not succeed.

Looks like Obi Wan has gone over to the Dark Side, and Darth Vader is the new French player. Now it looks like we have to find a replacement for Mata Hari...sigh. Any of you guys look good in a dress?

Oops, forgot to list the Austrian order of A Vie-Gal last turn. Gonna have to change this method of GMing back to the old way. Too many "forgotten units" doing it like this.

gained/lost

A: bud, vie, <u>tri</u> , ser, gre (4)	even remove 1
E: home, den, <u>swe</u> , nwy, <u>stp</u> , hol (7)	build 1
F: <u>bre</u> , mar, spa, por (3)	remove 1
G: home, bel, <u>hol</u> , par, <u>bre</u> (6)	even
I: home, tun, <u>tri</u> (5)	build 1
R: mos, war, <u>stp</u> , <u>rum</u> , <u>swe</u> (3)	even
T: home, bul, sev, rum (6)	build 1

(Sounds of heavy breathing): "Obi-Wan has been seduced by the Dark Side of the Force. The Emperor has won."

KRYPTONIAN to PSYCHO: If you love really do love this game, you must be.

Playlist, Part III (just great for filling up those bottoms of pages, yes?)

60 Minutes With The King of Zydeco, Clifton Chenier ★★★★★ It's exactly what it claims to be. Well, maybe a minute shy. If you like zydeco, you'll like this. Maybe even if you don't.

London 0, Hull 4, The Housemartins ★★★★★ Lots of good uptempo tunes here, and if you don't listen to the words too closely this one can perk you up. The lyrics are a little bit bleak.

Dead Letter Office, REM ★★★★★ A bunch of B-sides, but as good or better than most REM albums. The CD includes their Chronic Town EP, a nice addition. The VU covers are great!

R17 Endgame HABEAS CORPUS

Zeen: Retal
GM: Dick Martin

The Players...

A: Stephen Dorneman (out 10)
E: Garret Schenck (draw W11)
F: Rich Dunn (res F04), Bob Olsen (out 11)
G: Robin Barbehenn (drop S04), Eric Mitchell (drop F07), Dave Munzenmaier (out 10)
I: Steve Rush (draw W11)
R: Michael Gonsalves (draw W11)
T: Brady Richter (out 08)

...And Their Strengths

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
A	5	6	6	5	5	4	2	1	1	0	—
E	5	6	7	9	10	13	14	15	13	15	16
F	5	5	5	6	4	2	1	1	1	1	0
G	5	6	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	—
I	4	4	5	5	6	7	10	9	11	10	10
R	5	4	5	6	6	5	5	6	7	8	8
T	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	0	—	—	—

(Garret Schenck, England) Another in a long series of apologetic personal notes, apologizing for not sending your appropriate stuff, in this case a long-awaited letter to HOL as well as an End Game Statement to Habeas Corpus. France is four days off, and as you might imagine Lisa and I have a million things to get done, and then an old friend flies in from Norway — can we see her before we go? Sure, it just means I won't be able to get that End Game for the first game of postal Dip I ever played to Dick Martin, King of GMs. (Heh!) Maybe I'll send it from France or something. Hey, it's only my honeymoon!

[I understand. But you never know what I'll use as an endgame statement if you don't submit a proper one yourself. This was a very interesting game for me to watch, as Italy and Russia fought to get the draw without giving England the win. Poor Brady managed to hang on with little hope until 1908, and Stephen must have set the single-game record for stabs taken as Austria. Thanks for sticking it out to the end, you two. And to the rest of you for a fun game.]

R24 Endgame Yacc

Zeen: Retal
GM: Dick Martin

The Players...

A: Tom Swider (out 05)
E: Erik Van Rossum (res F02), Jim Burgess (out 06)
F: Paul Mills
G: Derwood Bowen (out 06)
I: Mike Scott
R: John Schlosser (won 07)
T: Vicki Reynolds (res F06), George Rifle

...And Their Strengths

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
A	3	3	2	1	0	—	—
E	3	2	2	2	1	0	—
F	6	7	7	8	9	10	9
G	5	6	5	1	1	0	—
I	5	5	4	4	4	4	2
R	6	6	7	11	14	17	22 ★★ Wins ★★
T	4	5	7	7	5	3	1

(John Schlosser, Russia) I must admit that this was an unexpected win. I never intended to win this game and almost dropped it with the rest of my dip games when I moved to VA. There really isn't much to tell about the secret to my success. I had a naive ally (Vicki), a dependable ally (Spanky), and opponents who for the most part played Gunboat.

There is one thing of note, however, about this game, and that is the role of press in this game. I have never been in a game where press turned out to be such a significant tool of diplomacy. Press was used in a number of creative and devious ways.

Derwood showed his creativity and sheer deviousness by devising press releases to cause distrust between me and Vicki. I think it was Derwood because he used the same tactics in his correspondence. He came close on a number of occasions to pulling it off. Only a flurry of letters by Vicki and me kept the alliance together. These press releases were written as if by one of us and hinted at a stab. They were very effective. At the time they were being written, I had no intentions of stabbing Vicki.

Granted, I was going to stab her or my secret ally Spanky, but at that time hadn't decided which one.

Meanwhile, I was using press to try to reassure Vicki (such as with the submissive Tsarovich press). I tried to build the impression that we had an alliance that was solid and game lasting. I kept this up most of the game, even stepping it up just prior to my stab (with the "Sultana of the Beautiful Eyes" press).

Spanky and I had agreed to ally on turn one but felt that it was in our best interest to secure our part of the world before acting together. So, we formed a secret alliance. A secret that lasted, surprisingly enough, up until my stab of Vicki. In order to cloud the political situation and to dispell any rumours that Spanky and I were allied, we started writing press designed to lead our opponents (and allies) into thinking we despised each other (such as with the "Spankme" and "Princess Paulina" press). I guess we fooled them because when we attacked Germany, I got a letter from Derwood warning me that my actions could only help my enemy France. It was a beautifully choreographed deception that allowed us to lull our allies to complacency while we worked to our mutual benefit. The fact that Vicki was so surprised at being stabbed (and even accused me of cross game animosity) indicates to me that we were very successful in our press ploy.

So finally I stabbed Vicki and it soon became clear to even the most casual observer (so to speak) that we had duped everyone, but by that time it was too late. Spanky and I had the game sewn up.

A quick aside. In case some of you are wondering why I decided to stab Vicki over Spanky, my reason was that Spanky was more reliable and trustworthy. Vicki never trusted me (even when we were firmly allied) while Spanky never seemed to doubt me. I'll take a reliable ally over positional advantages any day.

So, how come I stabbed Spanky? Well, as I said earlier I almost dropped this game, but decided to help Spanky acquire his first win. I pretty much started playing Gunboat and ordered whatever Spanky told me to. However, Spanky stopped writing and calling me, so I got bored and just started playing a nice little game of Gunboat. It wasn't until Fall of 06 with 17 centers that I realized that I could win the game in my own right. By Spring of 07, I had my 18th center and the win. My stab was only a dramatic flourish to see how many centers I could win by. It didn't matter, I had already won.

One last word — "Charlie, I'm sorry I had to FINish you off. Tony"

(Mike Scott, Italy) Yipe! That's what this

game has been all along.

I started with an agreement with Austria to move against Turkey and eliminate him...only to have Austria mess up in Fall 01 and I took his Tri instead of moving on into Albania or Serbia.

With his weakened state, we never got re-straightened out, and as I remember I then had to fight off Germany's southern move. That lasted quite a number of seasons, and by the time he got distracted by other attacks I could not do much to then go for the poor Austrian.

A new Turkey allied with Russia, and moved against me, again thwarting my move on Austria as I had to fend the Turk off.

France and I early on silently agreed to leave each other alone, which happened until he thought Turkey would get me. At that point he headed my way....

Though I was mostly just a pain in this game I enjoyed what I did do — last it out. I know my almost nil writing doesn't do much for Dip, but that's my way of playing.

Congratulations to Russia, and thanks for the good game to him and England.

[Well, I was certainly taken in by the France/Russia alliance. I figured that there was something going on there, but not that it was to be a win for France. I regret my goof that put Vicki and John in similar positions in two games, and whatever negative impact that may have had.

[Press certainly had a significant effect on this game, though I can't say it was necessarily a good one. It seems that some players just lost their heads over a little press — and gray press at that. Hope no feelings were hurt permanently, though I wouldn't do it any differently had I the opportunity to do so again. And no doubt I will, so be warned!]

And that about wraps up another exciting issue. Not nearly as quickly done as I'd like (of course), but a little bit better than usual. You never know exactly when the speed-up will happen, but don't risk being left behind. Get those moves in on time!

No Kingmaker or Civ reports this time, but they'll be back next issue.

In the meantime, remember: root for the Orioles! They need your help! They've just beaten Kansas City, but Toronto hasn't collapsed totally yet and the Os are having a tough time catching up. Let's go Os!

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