



R a m b l i n g W a y



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Well, this issue is going to be a quick one to get out. The deadline was today at noon, and I'm leaving first thing in the morning for DallasCon. I'll be stapling and stamping at the Con. I don't know where this'll be mailed from; but, I'll make sure that it hits the mailbox by Monday.

Due to this, I'm not doing my usual job of proofreading the non-game reports. So, if there are mistakes in the subzines, Poll Question or press, it's most likely my fault. My apologies if this causes any problems.

In this issue are two (count 'em, TWO) game starts. The Nuclear Destruction game gets off the ground (pun intended) and a Regular Dip game starts. I'd like to get the International Game going soon, so if you're out of the US, consider signing up. I'll take one more US person (west coast, though).

I'd like to announce the start of RW's newest subzine "The Brazilian Times". It is being written by Luiz Claudio S. Duarte who lives there. I hope everyone enjoys it.

Also, Chuck Green has agreed to stay on as a staff writer, so be looking for more material from him. In fact, he asked if he could put out one more issue of "Internazionale" - look for it inside.

One of the subbers who joined on at DipCon (more about that in a minute), Ken Neid, sent me a copy of an article he submitted to THE KOMMANDUER (the newsletter of the gaming organization AHIKS). He agreed to have it printed here, just take the comments about your pubber lightly.

I'll have more about DipCon next issue, just not enough room or time in this issue. Needless to say, Gary and Vince went all out at DipCon (as well as their wives Ginger and Melody) - a top-notch event.

Congrats to the overall winner, Marc Peters, and the rest of the top-board (in order) Allen Calhamer, Steve Cooley, Bob Acheson, Eric Newhouse, Pete Gaughan and Tom Johnston. Best country awards went to Allen Calhamer (Austria), Vince Lutterbie (England), Marc Peters (France), Pete Gaughan (Germany), Cal White (Italy), Mark Frueh (Russia) and Steve Cooley (Turkey). I finished second to last with no wins or draws (the competition was fierce!!).

PoolCon followed at the Lutterbie's. It was an excellent time to play a wide variety of games. John Tompkins was the Acquire tournament, with Gary Behnen, Tim Cunningham and Rich Schwarts making the final board. I placed 11th -- out of fourteen.

Runestone Poll results are included inside. Thanks to all who voted for me and RAMBLING WAY. I was very impressed with the results -- and I'm going to do my best to meet your expectations.

SUBSCRIPTION: Cost per issue is \$1.00 in the US, \$1.25 for those in Canada. Other country's rates set as needed. Trades are welcome, just contact the editor for details. Back issues \$1.00 each. Samples are free, though a stamp or two is appreciated.
GAME FEES: A \$5.00 NMR fee is collected for each game. It is refundable if you play the game until completion or your elimination. A subscription to RAMBLING WAY is necessary to play.

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TRADES

THE CANADIAN DIPLOMAT by Bob Acheson (1510 - 10883 Saskatchewan Dr.;
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4S6 CANADA)
CRIMSON SKY by Michael Gonsalves (530 Treasure Lake; Dubois, PA 15801)
Plenty of Dip and Gunboat games, reputation for regularity.
EXCELSIOR by Bruce McIntyre (6636 Dow Ave., #203; Burnaby, B.C.;
CANADA V5H 3C9) has an irregular publication schedule, but an
excellent commentary section and lettercol.
THE GAMERS' 'ZINE by Earl Whiskeyman (27 Mark St.; Milford, CT 06460)
has regular and gunboat games, En Garde! and Machiavelli.
HOODWINK by Stven Carlberg (1939 Windemere Dr., NE; Atlanta, GA 30324)
LEMON CURRY by Don Del Grande (142 Eliseo Drive; Greenbrae, CA 94904)
besides Dip, runs Trivial Pursuit, Kingmaker, United and 1830.
A LITTLE ORIGINAL SIN by Vick Hall (49 Vartry Rd.; Stamford Hill;
London N15; ENGLAND) openings in Dip, Gunboat, Government, Battle
MOUTH OF SAURON by Mark Nelson (21 Cecil Mount; Armley Leeds, W Riding
LS12 2AP ENGLAND) insight into the British Dip hobby
ORPHAN SON by Bob Hartwig (6612 W. 113th Ave.; Westminster, CO 80020)
hosts orphaned games. Has commentary, a lettercol, subzines with
Gunboat and Civilization games and other features.
PONTEVEDRIA by Phil Reynolds (USF #4270; 4202 Fowler; Tampa, FL 33620)
list of 'zines with game openings. Send a SASE for a copy.
THE PRINCE by Jim Meinel (2801 Pelican Dr.; Anchorage, AK 99515) Dip
QUEST FOR POWER by Russell Wallace (PO Box 256; West Lynn, MA 01905)
openings in Buss Boss, ElfenGold, Fishy and PBM Campaign Trail.
THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN by Eric Young (4784 Stephney Rd., RR #2;
Armstrong, B.C.; CANADA V0E 1B0) Reg, Gunboat, Asian Dip openings.
WAR FAIR by Stephen Glasgow (32009 Pendley; Willowick, OH 44095) is
running Small World II-R and Middle Earth II.
WELL MARTHA, IT KINDA' SORTA' LOOKS LIKE A DIP RAG...DON'T IT? by John
Schultz (POB 41-19390 ICH 308; Michigan City, IN 46360)
WORLD DIPLOMACY by Larry Peery (PO Box 620399; San Diego, CA 92162).
YOUR 'ZINE OF 'ZINES by Jack McHugh (280 Sanford Rd.; Upper Darby, PA
19082) and Doug Kent -- the Siskel & Ebert of 'zine reviews.
ZERO SUM by Richard Weiss (2 Bayside Village Place, #409; SF, CA 94107)
'ZINE REGISTER by Garret Schenck (40 Third Pl., Basement Apt.;
Brooklyn, NY 11231) reviews just about every 'zine in the hobby.

DISCLAIMER: Diplomacy is published and copyrighted by The Avalon Hill
Game Company, Baltimore, MD. It was invented by Allan Calhamer.
SUBSCRIPTION LISTS: A complete, up-to-date, player list is available
at any time for a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
HOUSE RULES: The second edition is available upon request. All
games except RW #1 are, or will be, run using version 2.1.

"Thistle and Shamrock"

MENSA #35 -- BN: 1991A



Summer 1908

Rus: F bla-ARM

Fall 1908

Turkey (Grose): F adr-ION, F AEG s f adr-ion, F GRE s f adr-ion,
 A BUL s f gre, F con-SMY, F bla-CON

Russia (Kohnke): F ARM s f ank, F ANK s f sev-bla, F sev-BLA,
 A ukr-RUM, A GAL s a ukr-rum, A BOH holds,
 A SER s austrian a alb-gre, A BER holds,
 F HOL holds, A NWY holds

France (Hight): F ion s austrian a alb-gre (r-eme/otb), F tyn-NAP,
 F TUN holds (unordered), F lyc-TYN, A ROM-ven,
 A ven-APU, A TUS-ven, A TRI holds, A TYL s a mun,
 A MUN s a tyl, F WME s f tun, F BEL holds, A YOR hold

Austria (Lewis): A VIE s a bud, A BUD s russian a ukr-rum, A ALB-gre

CENTERS/BUILDS

Turkey (4): Con/Smy/Bul/Gre = -2

Russia (13): Mos/StP/Sev/War/Nwy/Swe/Den/Kie = +3
 Ber/Rum/Ser/Hol/Ank

Italy (0): ELIMINATED FALL 1907

England (0): ELIMINATED FALL 1904

France (14): Par/Bre/Mar/Por/Spa/Lpl/Lon/Edi = +1 or +2 if r-otb
 Bel/Nap/Tun/Mun/Rom/Tri

Germany (0): ELIMINATED FALL 1906

Austria (3): Vie/Bud/Ven = EVEN

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 (613) 728-8493

Hight, Marc; 446 Conradi, #A-317; Tallahassee, FL 32304; (904) 222-9521

Kohnke, Peter; 340 Fruitwood Dr.; Bethel Park, PA 15102 (412) 854-1835

Lewis, Jim; 14741 Balsam; Southgate, MI 48195

PROPOSALS

F Win -- 2 Yes, 2 No
 F/R Draw -- 3 Yes, 1 No
 F/R/T Draw -- 1 Yes, 3 No

Reproposed -- F Win & F/R Draw
 (NVRs--Yes; NMRs--Yes)

**Tracking the Celtic
 Connection - Thistle
 and Shamrock**

Sundays, 9 PM, KSTX

DUE DATE for

Winter 1908/Spring 1909 and Proposals

August 27, 1992 at 12:00 noon

PRESS

(Turkey) Sultan Jim the Great is not sure who is the craziest here. President Le Pin claims he would be satisfied with a F/R draw rather than a F Win because he does "not wish to be known as an ungrateful player." This is war for the domination of Europe, not a tea party! The latest actions of Austria-Hungary (losing Venice and Trieste uncontested) suggest Emperor Jim does not understand a basic concept: we are each trying to gain territory, not lose it! In this context, the Czar's latest moves actually make sense! Thus the Sultan sees no choice but to collect his marbles (while he still has a respectable number) and agree to a peace settlement with the infidels.

Fra-Aus: Can I help you go from 4th to 3rd?

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(A LAMB AMONG WOLVES -- Cont.)

One of the best aspects of the Con was meeting W. Andrew York, RD-West, face-to-face. As near as I was able to determine, Andy is a professional gamer. At least that's the way it seemed. From DipCon he was going to PoolCon, then to other regional cons. When he got home, he would continue to publish his Dip 'zine RAMBLING WAY, which gamemasters about ten dozen postal games. I don't know if he sleeps at all. Andy is a nice guy even if he did backstab me at EMPIRE BUILDER.

What's that?, you ask. How can you get backstabbed in a railroad game? Andy denies it, but I think backstabbing is so ingrained in those Dip players that they do it subconsciously. Judge for yourselves. I'm one dot from Memphis on the wrong side of the Mississippi. "How much to build a line into the city?" "Five million." Not enough cash, so I wait. Two turns later I try to cross the river into Memphis. Not allowed. Only two lines can go into a circle city. And guess who had just built the last line into Memphis on the previous turn? That's right, Dandy Andy. "I didn't do that on purpose," he cries. "Yeah, you expect me to believe that kind of disinformation?"

See, I'm getting better at this stuff already.

[Ed-this was printed as submitted. I'm sure people at DipCon in the 3rd round wouldn't agree about my backstabbing tendencies - right Pete G. and Cal? In any case, welcome to Ken and I hope to see more of his writing in the future.]

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HOBBY NEWS

- 01) A Hobby-wide Census is being conducted by Larry Peery. For a copy of the short- (or long-) form, contact myself or Larry at (PO Box 620399; San Diego, CA 92162)
- 02) Congrats to the DixieCon TopFour--Mark Franceshini, Tom Kobrin, Phil Sasse, Mark Stegeman. From all reports, it was a very successful Con!!
- 03) Congrats to Melanie Winters and Randy Davis on their impending marriage. I met them at DipCon/PoolCon - they are great folk.

A LAMB AMONG THE WOLVES -- DIPCON XXV
by Kenneth Neid

I knew I was in trouble. A novice. A wargamer. At a DipCon. Sharks all around. So, in my best show of wargamer's bravado I cried, "OK, let's roll those dice!" Dead silence. Blank faces. Looks that could stop the Terminator. Finally, the slow reply, "DIPLOMACY has no dice."

What? A game with no dice? To a die-hard VITP player, a game with no dice is a contradiction in terms, like "military intelligence," "political ethics," and "rap music." What would I have to blame my poor play on, if not the dice? I soon found out. You see, the one common quality of all Dip players is: none of them can be trusted. Not a one. Liars, cheats, and thieves all. Well, I don't know about the last two, but I have the knife wounds in my back to prove the first.

First game, I draw England. Good, at least there's nobody at my back. Time to negotiate: "Look, I'm a novice. I'm no threat to you. So let's just remain calm this first turn and see what happens." What happened was: Germany, France, and Russia all come after ME! "Yeah, you expect us to believe that clumsy 'novice' disinformation? We're the pros; we're not going to fall for that."

Well, after they saw my first move, the guys must have been convinced, because they left me pretty much alone except for the obligatory backstab every other turn. The game ended up in a seven-way draw, roundly booed by the other tables. Sounded great to me! Especially since I didn't expect to live past Fall '82.

Thus began DipCon XXV, held in Lenexa, KS, July 3-5. My participation was a lucky happenstance resulting from a phone call from Gary Behnen, one of the con's organizers and one of the premier Dip players on the continent. Gary was the reigning DipCon champ, has won as all seven countries in postal play (a fact which has a greater impact on me the more I read about the hobby), and garnered this year's Koenig award "For Outstanding Play of DIPLOMACY." As it turns out, Gary lives about a mile away from me! So if my AHIKS opponents and associates notice me turning a bit Dippy--blame Gary.

I did manage to get in my first game of TITAN. (Great! I thought, a real wargame. Dice, lots of dice. Hexes (sort of). Artillery (rangestrikes). Airborne assaults (flying creatures). Terrain effects.) I only hoped my Dip play hadn't eroded my wargaming skills. Who was I kidding? What skills? Second player eliminated. Followed by two waxings at VITP. Nothing left to erode.

The Con as a whole seemed sparsely attended to me. 35 to 40 players, four full tables of Dip competition. But, as Gary assured me and I verified later, the quality of those players was superb. Allan Calhamer, the game's inventor, proved to the upstarts that he remains a master; he recorded one of the three outright wins at the Con. Marc Peters won the winner's trophy by a very slim margin.

Rex Martin of the GENERAL was the featured speaker at the awards banquet. Rex revealed that a new edition of DIPLOMACY was in the works, with a return to the wooden blocks of old. An updated Gamer's Guide is a strong possibility. Rex reflected that both Avalon Hill and Diplomacy had lasted twenty-five years, possibly unique in the hobby. (After the banquet I was forced to gently remind him about an organization called AHIKS.) Rex's theme: the future of the DIPLOMACY segment of the hobby depends, as does our hobby as a whole, upon the ability to recruit new blood.

(cont. on previous page)

This is the 8th issue of this subzine. Except where otherwise indicated, the views and opinions expressed are solely mine and are not necessarily those of the Department of State or any other U.S.G. agency.

According to articles in the 12/30/91 Mainichi Daily News and the 1/17/92 Asahi Evening News, textbooks in Singapore contain nearly 70 pages about the war, while Japanese textbooks treat the period in only a few pages. When discussing Japanese history, the teachers start with the "ancient ages" and so don't have time to cover WW II and the 20th century before the end of the school year. To help remedy this, some Japanese teachers & cartoonists published a 5-volume series of comics, called "War," which looks at the war from different perspectives. According to the articles, one volume looks at the war from the perspective of a Korean schoolgirl who is forced to repeat daily an oath of loyalty to the Japanese emperor, is forced to adopt a Japanese name, and is banned from speaking Korean at school. That volume also describes the mass burials of dead Chinese forced laborers at Japanese mines in China and the widespread shootings by Japanese of Chinese merchants in Singapore. Another volume reportedly deals with soldiers' perspectives and includes a description of the Nanking massacre.

On 10/04/91, the Mainichi Daily News carried an article describing the "shock and shame" of Japanese students (aged 12-15) at the Japanese School in Singapore after they watched a 36 minute video documenting atrocities perpetrated by Japanese soldiers during WW II. The students had "never felt before we did wrong to Singapore. There is nothing written about this in Japanese textbooks."

Brackman wrote (p. 27), "The Germans are aware of the unspeakable behavior of their former leaders. This is not the case in Japan, where, for example, the younger generation has little knowledge of the recent past....In 1977 Japan's Education Ministry published guidelines for new textbooks. In a basic history of Japan, several hundred pages in length, the account of World War II was reduced to six pages, mostly taken up by a photograph of Hiroshima's ruins, a tally of Japan's war dead, and pictures of the U.S. fire-bombing of Tokyo. 'There is no mention in this text of the casualties of the other side, war crimes, of the forced evacuation of Chinese and Koreans to labor camps in Japan,' the London Economist observed drily." (p. 28) "In 1982 the textbook controversy emerged in full flower. This time the Japanese Ministry of Education described the Japanese invasion of China as an 'advance,' and the Rape of Nanking was attributed to the resistance of the Chinese Army....Throughout Asia, there was an uproar. Protests were lodged by the two Chinas and the two Koreas along with Singapore and Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and others."

THE



KEY



TEXAS PUBLIC
RADIO

"WHAD' YA KNOW"

RW #2 -- MN: 1991Wr-b32

Summer 1905

France: F tyn-WME
Germany: F nwy-STP(nc)



Fall 1905

Turkey (): A ALB s austrian f tri, A SER s f rum, F RUM s a sev,
A sev s f rum (r-arm/otb), F aeg-ION, F GRE s f aeg-ion
Russia (): F BOT-swe, A mos-SEV, A UKR s a mos-sev
Italy (): A VEN-tus, A TYL-ven, F TYN s a ven-tus, F TUN s f tyn
England (): F NWY holds, F NTH s f nwy, F por-SPA(nc)
France (): A pie-TUS, F LYO s a pie-tus, F WME-tyn, A bre-PIC,
A bel holds (r-bur/otb), A mar-PIE
Germany (): A ruh-BEL, A HOL s a ruh-bel, A den-SWE, A ber-KIE,
F SKA s a den-swe, F STP(nc)-nwy, A MUN holds
Austria (): F TRI s french a pie-ven (nso), A BUD-rum, A VIE s f tri
If you're playing, a red checkmark will be next to the country's name.

CENTERS/BUILDS

Turkey (7): Con/Ank/Smy/Gre/Bul/Rum/Ser = +1 (+2 if r-otb)
Russia (3): Mos/War/Sev = EVEN
Italy (4): Rom/Nap/Ven/Tun = EVEN
England(5): Lon/Edi/Lpl/Nwy/Spa = +2
France (4): Bre/Mar/Par/Por = -2 (-1 if r-otb)
Germany(8): Kie/Ber/Mun/Hol/Swe/Den/Bel/StP = +1
Austria(3): Vie/Bud/Tri = EVEN

DUE DATE for

Autumn/Winter 1905/Spring 1906

August 27, 1992 at 12:00 noon

Note

01) The standby player is now the player of record for Turkey.

Press

Rus-Eng: The Tsar has abdicated the throne. Don't blame me for past Limey-Bruin problems. Are you willing to help our fledgling government or will you curse it to see it whither away?
Rus-Aus: Will help you if you'll help me.
Rus-Ger: Strange way of returning Sweden. How about some support from Denmark. I see your fleet set sail.
Palazzo Viento, Rome: "Milord, we were received well in London, and

the Germans have spoken out in our support, also."
 "Ah, Montessori, that is good, but the German words would carry more weight if the German armies occupied Belgium or Burgundy."
 "Perhaps the French are ready to negotiate with us, milord, in order to protect their borders."
 "If the French navy retreated west, all we further require is withdrawing from Piedmont and vacating the Western Med. Then we can turn our attention to matters regarding the Sultan."
 "Monsignor, it is obvious the Turks feel strong enough to disdain all need for allies. Can we not join forces with Austria and Russia to teach him a lesson?"
 "My son, I fear the Austrians are not sophisticated enough to accept the reversal of our roles as enemies. His coarse words reveal his immaturity, but we shall try to be diplomatic. All we need to do is await Turkey's forthcoming attack on Budapest & Trieste"
 Eng-Rus: "We have already begun to expel the filthy Germans from Scandinavia and we would appreciate any help given from Russia."
 Eng-Fra: "Not only was your trust misplaced but you also misplaced your garrison in Portugal!"
 Eng-Ger: "So...now you're ready to negotiate! Ok, how would you like to work together against your Froggy neighbor?"
 Eng-Ita: "We await the arrival of the famous Italian statesman - Montessori. We hope his trip is peaceful as the Mediterranean waters are full of nasty frogs this time of the year!"
 Ger-Fra: I need Belgium to support this war against England.
 Aus-Ita: Yes, I'm still mad at you.
 Aus-Tur: Oops - you NMR'd. If you return, I'll get back to you.
 Aus-Fra: Italy's all yours, unfortunately it looks as though you are all England's.

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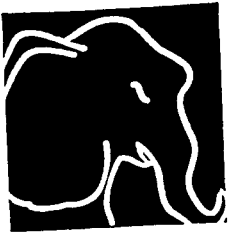
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 Weiss, Richard; 2999 Regent St., #525; Berkeley, CA 94705



"My Word!"
Orphan from THE MESSENGER



BN: 1987IR

End-Game Statements

Lance Anderson (England): Congrats to Steve. You certainly carried the policies of your predecessor out with perfection. The position you inherited wasn't too bad either. Phil, if you hadn't cost me a dot at the beginning, as well as your high-handed approach towards diplomacy - perhaps I would have gone for the 5 way. But I am an original player for this position and had my own plans. You are the one who threw the win to A/H - perhaps you were in league with him all along? Peter, sorry we couldn't tough it out - maybe next time.

Phil Reynolds (standby for France): I entered this game as a standby in Fall 1909. Austria was cruising to a win. Germany and Italy were weak, England was in good shape and decent position, and France was in decent shape but poor position with a bunch of armies away from the front line.

I immediately took a "stop the leader" mentality, and held it until the last turn. By my calculation, if the rest of us made the right moves, we could effect a stalemate line and force a 5-way draw -- a nice bit of work for a last-minute substitute.

It seems, though, that the resistance couldn't get on the same wavelength. England was the biggest problem. He said he wanted to stop Austria, but his moves were very poor ones, not taking my advice. I must not have communicated my thinking well enough to him. (Believe it or not, I do have the well-deserved reputation of having a great tactical mind.) In Spring 1910, England moved a fleet north (clearly the wrong direction) and failed to convoy my army to Italy to stop Austrian progress. The next turn I sacked English-controlled Brest in order to build F Mar (in effect cancelling the now superfluous English F Nwy), thus deciding to take matters into my own hands (somebody had to!).

England still didn't get what I was doing. He attacked me and let up on Austria while I continued to fight the latter. My patience and tolerance of England's stupidity expired, so I threw the game to Austria. I figured if he wasn't serious about stopping Austria, why should I be?

Steve Koehler (standby for Germany): Well, I apologize for Phil for not paying enough attention to this game. It's a shame he gave up the fight: I was just getting the hang of what he wanted me to do!

Me (standby GM): It's always sad to see the demise of 'zines in our hobby. It is just fortunate that we have a method to rehouse and conclude the games -- thanks to the efforts of the Orphan Game Coordinator, Eric Ozog. I'm glad I was able to take over the GMing duties and bring the game to a final end. As can be seen in the center chart, Austria under Wayne Ayers took control of the game from the start. Steve Courtemanche, standing by just before the game was rehoused, was able to continue through to victory. I want to thank my standbys who assisted me in the game. Thanks to Steve C., also, for giving me all of the back season reports.

(cont. on next page)

FINAL GAME REPORT

BN: 1987IR

Game (unknown name) rehoused from THE MESSENGER (GM--Geoffrey Richard) in Summer 1909.

Finished under the name of "My Word" in RAMBLING WAY (GM--W. Andrew York)

CENTER COUNTS

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11

Turkey : 4 2 2 1 0
 (Greg Heinmann-dropped W02; CD thereafter)

Russia : 4 6 6 5 2 0
 (Earl Gessner-dropped F05; CD thereafter)

Italy : 4 4 4 5 5 3 3 3 2 2 1
 (Pete Gaughan-survival)

England: 5 5 5 6 7 7 8 7 8 7 9
 (Lance Anderson-survival)

France : 4 5 6 5 4 4 4 5 6 7 5
 (James Stokes-dropped W01; Warren Ayers-dropped S07; George Rifle-dropped F06; Paul Ivanoskis-replaced S09; Phil Reynolds-survive)

Germany: 5 4 3 3 4 5 5 5 2 2 0
 (Jack McHugh-resigned S01; Chris Long-resigned W01; Linc Madison-dropped S02; Ted Reimer-replaced S09; Jack McHugh-dropped Su09; Steve Koehler-eliminated F11)

Austria: 6 7 8 9 11 15 14 14 16 16 19
 (Wayne Ayres-dropped F08; Steve Courtemance-WON)

INTERNAZIONALE (cont.)

Durant's history of civilization series. There are also quite a number of good histories of Italy out there - Paul Ginsburg's one of contemporary Italy is recommended for a good understanding of Italian life in the past half-century.

Italian-Americans I can understand are tired of hearing about the Mafia and the Godfather stereotype, as this has been the most striking image of Italian culture (God knows why) that has persisted in American consciousness. I can understand the feeling that arises when the subject is brought up. I believe, however, that the way I have presented certain aspects of Italian life was not exaggerated, though perhaps a misleading impression could be conveyed to someone who took them as the sum total of my experience of Italy

In conclusion about Italy: Go there. You'll enjoy it. Even if you don't know Italian (learn!), Italy is the place to be, warts and all. Ciao, Italia - alla prossima volta.

[Ed - the following was sent as part of a longer letter last month (I don't have it dated). It was in response to the INTERNAZIONALE column that included the quiz.]

Jack McHugh: I enjoyed the last issue of RW but I have to take issue with....your subzine writers.

To Charles Green: As someone who is half Italian I am a bit perturbed at the constant mention of the "Mafia" and "John Gotti", how come you don't mention Michealangelo or DaVinci every subzine? How come everyone thinks that Italian history and the Godfather I, II, and III are the same thing? Come on Charles, since you're in Italy, I'd like to hear more than the junk I can get from watching bad TV.

INTERNAZIONALE

"Arrivederci"

by Charles Green

I had the good fortune to spend the better part of a year in Italy, beginning in August '91 and lasting through the end of May. I was also glad to be able to share some of my impressions of Italian culture and contributing reflections on America as seen from overseas. As this is my final effort writing this column, I would like to provide a few of my concluding thoughts and also address some criticism (cf. Jack McHugh's letter [Ed. the letter was passed on for a response by the columnist; a copy of it is at the end of this column]).

I had no expectations of European life before going there, something for which I am grateful. What few images we do get over here about modern Europe are usually skewed and shallow. This, I discovered, also works the other way, though not to as great a degree; perhaps this is because the U.S. gets a good deal more media coverage there than Europe does here. At any rate, I was pleased by what I found and more particularly by who I found. Attending an international university center in which students from all European countries were present (in addition to a sprinkling of people from developing countries) was a unique cosmopolitan experience. For now I have the ability to go one step beyond thinking of the Germans, the French, the Italians, the British. I can think of the people I know as well as the societies they come from. In either case, there is so much positive to be said that it outweighs any negative.

This is not to say that no negative aspects exist in European life in general or with Italian life in particular. Italian political life is indeed rather dirty, much more so than Americans are used to hearing about. Jack McHugh wrote criticizing what he saw as just another stereotyping of Italians in my writing. He also wanted to know why I didn't mention the greatness of Italian culture more often. My response is that describing the very real hold of the Mafia in southern Italy and its corruption is only being true to the facts, as most Italians you talk to will say - very expressively and angrily. As we all know, the quality of political leadership does not necessarily, and certainly does not in Italy, reflect the overall worth of the people. What percentage of the American populace, I might point out, uses their banks mostly as check-bouncing centers?

I agree that more culture could have been injected into my columns. Italian history and cultural achievements are indeed important. For someone like me, possessing a general knowledge of events and having a strong passion for the Renaissance period in particular, living and traveling in Italy was an unparalleled chance to see what a great culture can produce. I attempted to convey this feeling in my travel pieces, especially the one on Florence. The choice of subject matter, however, was also predicted on my position as a correspondent in Italy. Thus, while travel experiences are quite pertinent, I believed that providing cultural history - while valuable - would have been at the cost of the opportunity of viewing the contemporary situation from the perspective of a temporary resident. For those interested in getting a good (and interesting) background on Italian culture, I suggest delving into Jacob Burckhardt's classic THE CIVILIZATION OF THE RENAISSANCE IN ITALY and the relevant volumes from

(cont. on previous page)

The Green Goblin Speaks #3

=====

by John Breakwell

Well, the writer's block seems to have cleared up which means another page for Rambling Way.

Just finished recently was the European football championship, bringing together the cream of the continent's soccer teams. Strangely, the eventual winners of the tournament were only allowed to play because of the unrest in what used to be Yugoslavia. Along with the political and financial pressures on that country's government was the expulsion of the national football team from the championship. Two years of occasional qualifying matches were now for nothing and the organising committee looked around for a replacement. There had been four divisions of which the top two went on to Sweden for the championship and so all the third place teams were compared. Denmark had the best results and so went up into an unenviable position. Not only did Denmark have to compete against three other world class nations but they also had to show they were worthy of taking Yugoslavia's place - rank outsiders with something to prove. For this reason I wholeheartedly backed them through their first few matches.

The other teams in Denmark's group played pretty average football considering how good the players are supposed to be. Three matches each for France, England, Denmark and Holland saw the latter two go through to play Sweden and Germany in the semi-finals; Scotland (after playing some of the most enthusiastic football of the championship) and the CIS were eliminated. The world champions made short work of the hosts, Sweden, whilst Denmark somehow beat the reigning European champions Holland with a penalty shootout. This was giant-killing of the first order but the final looked a foregone conclusion. Germany's aggressive style of play had led them to victory in all but one of the championship games (anyone can have an off day) although their players accumulated a few demerits in the process. Denmark, the ultimate underdogs, took them on and took them out, three goals to one. In the end this Danish victory showed that you can have the best footballers in the world but against a team with nothing to lose and complete self-confidence you might as well not turn up.

Quick joke:

What is the difference between Graeme Taylor (England team manager) and an arsonist?

An arsonist wouldn't throw away his last three matches.

Roll on the World Cup in '94 when the States will see some proper Football. In a similar vein, it is a pity that foreign countries do not get to play into "World" championships such as the baseball world series. I realise that no teams would be able to beat the US teams for the Rose Bowl but I think it would be great if other nations had at least a chance to qualify. The World Football League is a good start but it has not picked up the popularity it needs. This isn't too surprising when the players in the teams are only there because they can't get into the NFL/AFL. I suppose it's a bit like volunteering to stay in Division 4 football in England! But anyway, let's see a bit of internationalism in a shrinking world - I hear the Japanese are mean baseball players just waiting to show the yanks who's boss...

"Mountain Stage"

**Mountain Stage at
the Cutting Edge of
New Music**

RW #3 -- MN: 1992Erb32
(No Press-Gunboat Game)

Sundays, 10 PM, KSTX

Summer 1902

Aus: F alb-ADR

Fall 1902

- Turkey (): A BUL s f aeg-con, F aeg-CON, F EME c a gre-smy (imp),
A GRE-smy (imp)
 - Russia (): F swe-SKA, F STP(nc)-bar, A LVN-stp, A gal-BUD, F bla-ANK
A RUM s a gal-bud
 - Italy (): F tyn-tun (r-tus/rom/nap/otb), F ION-tun, A VEN s a tri,
A alb-SER, A tri s a alb-ser (r-tyl/alb/otb)
 - England(): A NWY s a swe (nsu), F NWG-bar, F NTH s a nwy, F ENG-bre
 - France (): F MAO-bre, A SPA holds, A bur-MAR, F lyo-TYN,
F WME s f lyo-tyn
 - Germany(): NMR; A HOL, A BEL, A MUN, F DEN, F BAR all hold
 - Austria(): F ADR-ver, A ser-TRI, A VIE s a ser-tri
- If you're playing, a red checkmark will be next to the country's name.

CENTERS/BUILDS

- Turkey (4): Con/Smy/Gre/Bul = EVEN
- Russia (8): War/Stp/Mos/Sev/Swe/Rum/Ank/Bud = +2
- Italy (5): Rom/Nap/Ven/Tun/Ser = EVEN (+1 or +2 if
r-otb)
- England(4): Lon/Edi/Lp1/Nwy = EVEN
- France (5): Bre/Mar/Par/Spa/Por = EVEN
- Germany(6): Kie/Ber/Mun/Den/Hol/Bel = +1
- Austria(2): Vie/Tri = -1

DUE DATE for

Autumn/Winter 1902 and Spring 1903

August 27, 1992 at 12:00 noon

=====

Riverwalk Press

Tur-E/G/I: You 3 need to warn [I'm unable to figure the word out]
us or this board is going to be white.

Tur-Aus: If I was you, I would be asking for some parity.

Tur-Ita: You are the next victim.

Rus-Aus: "How about joining me for some roast Turkey?"

Rus-Ger: "If I go to England to get some English ale would you like
to join me in a toast to our GM?"

Ita-Rus: The Riviera is nice in the summer, but I plan to rename it.

Fra-Ger/Ita: Forget it, I'll give everything within my power to
England. I hope that he then goes on to stomp on both of you, just
as he is stomping on my grapes.

Ger-Fra: I apologize. If you haven't heard from me by now, you will.

Ger-Aus: Wherefore art thou Brother Teuton.

Ger-Rus: What can I say. You are just too big and too good to let
you run amok.

Ger-Tur: I hope this helps.

America's Classic Jazz with The Jim Cullum Jazz Band

"RiverWalk: Live from the Landing"

RW #4 -- BN: 1992L

Summer 1902

Tur: F bla-ANK

Fall 1902

Turkey (Gonsalves): F ANK s a bul-con, A bul-CON, A con-SMY
A ARM s a con-smy
Russia (Brooks): F NWY holds, F SWE s f nwy, A FIN s f nwy, A UKR-sev
A RUM s austrian a ser-bul, F BLA-con, F SEV-arm
Italy (Koehler): A apu-VEN, A PIE-mar, F ion-TUN, F tyr-WME
England (Stone): F BEL s german a bur-pic, F eng-MAO, A lon-YOR,
F NTH-nwy
France (Wallace): F SPA(sc)-mar, A BRE holds, A GAS s a mar-bur,
A PAR s a mar-bur, A mar-BUR
Germany (Voogd): F SKA s english f nth-nwy, A DEN-swe, A RUH-bur,
A bur-PIC, A MUN s a ruh-bur
Austria (Eastep): F AEG s a gre, A GRE s a ser-bul, A ser-BUL,
A bud-SER, A tri-BUD

CENTERS/BUILDS

Turkey (3):	Con/Ank/Smy	= -1
Russia (7):	War/Stp/Mos/Sev/Nwy/Swe/Rum	= EVEN
Italy (4):	Rom/Nap/Ven/Tun	= EVEN
England(4):	Lon/Edi/Lpl/Bel	= EVEN
France (5):	Bre/Mar/Par/Spa/Por	= EVEN
Germany(5):	Kie/Ber/Mun/Den/Hol	= EVEN
Austria(6):	Vie/Tri/Bud/Ser/Gre/Bul	= +1

ADDRESSES

Brooks, Joe; 300 Market St.; Navarre, OH 44662
Eastep, Roger; 14715 Soft Wind Dr.; North Potomac, MD 20878
Gonsalves, Michael; 530 Treasure Lake; Dubois, PA 15801
Koehler, Steven; 6166 Winged Elm Court; Charlotte, NC 28212
Stone, David; AmConsul Hermosillo; PO Box 3598; Laredo, TX 78044
Voogd, Eric; 22620 Byron St.; Hayward, CA 94541
Wallace, Russell; PO Box 256; West Lynn, MA 01905

DUE DATE for

Winter/Spring 1902

August 27, 1992 at 12:00 noon

Press

<<On Previous Page>>



Jim Cullum, leader of the band.



"My Music!"
Orphan from BEEN THERE, DONE THAT
(formerly Duke Snyder)

BN: 1989KH

Summer 1905

Rus: A mos-WAR
Ita: F bla-ARM

Fall 1905

Turkey (Gonsalves): F ANK s f bla-con, F BLA-con
 Russia (Kent): A war-mos (r-otb), f kie-bal (nsu), F BOT-stp(sc),
A KIE holds (unordered/r-otb)
 Italy (Schultz): F ARM-ank, F CON s f arm-ank, A tun-NAF, F tyn-WES,
A ven-PIE
 England (Zarr): A lpl-YOR, F nwy-STP(nc), A FIN s f nwy-stp(nc),
F SWE s f hel-den, F NTH s f hel-den, F hel-DEN
 France (Wallace): A BEL s german a hol (nsu), F MAO s f eng,
A BUR s german a ruh-mun, F ENG s a bel, A mar-GAS
 Germany (Lutterbie): A ruh-MUN, F HOL s f den-kie, F den-KIE
 Austria (Grose): A pru-BER, A SIL s a pru-ber, A tri-TYL, A gal-WAR,
A BOH s german a ruh-mun, F GRE s a bul, A SEV holds,
A MOS s a gal-war, A BUL s italian f con

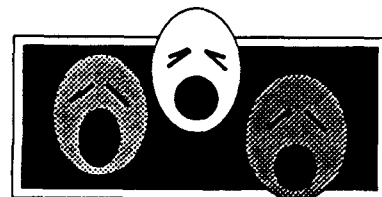
CENTERS/BUILDS

Turkey (1):	Ank	= -1
Russia (0):	ELIMINATED, Fall 1905	
Italy (6):	Ven/Rom/Nap/Smy/Tun/Con	= +1
England (7):	Edi/Lpl/Lon/Nwy/Stp/Den/Swe	= +1
France (6):	Par/Mar/Bre/Por/Spa/Bel	= +1
Germany (3):	Kie/Mun/Hol	= EVEN
Austria(11):	Bud/Tri/Vie/Ser/Gre/Bul/Rum/War Sev/Ber/Mos	= +2

DUE DATE for

Winter 1905/Spring 1906

August 27, 1992 at 12:00 noon



ADDRESSES

Gonsalves, Michael; 530 Treasure Lake; Dubois, PA 15801
 Grose, Jim; 3-1313 Wellington St.; Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1Y 3B1
 (613) 728-8493
 Lutterbie, Vince; 1021 Stonehaven; Marshall, MO 65340
 Schulz, John; PO Box 41-19390 ICH 308; Michigan City, IN 46360
 Wallace, Russell; PO Box 256; West Lynn, MA 01905
 Zarr, Harold; 215 Glen Drive; Iowa Falls, IA 50126-1957

Notes

01) Would any of the original players send me copies of the previous season adjudications? It would be very helpful.

Press

Ita-Fra: Your shift away from England does not bode well for Franco-Italia relations.

Ita-Tur: Nice try but no cigar.

Ger-E/F&A: Thanks for all the info and support group, don't know what I've been able to do so far without it.

(A/H): Silesia was part of the Hapsburg empire for two centuries until 1740, when Prussia seized it from us, unprovoked. A century and a half later we have sought revenge, not only by recapturing Silesia, but Prussia and Berlin too. In 1757, during the Seven Years' War, Austrian cavalry forces briefly occupied Berlin. This time we're here to stay.

Having restored order to Central Europe, using both diplomatic and military means, Austro-Hungarian forces

=====
CON LISTING

- July 30/ - CanCon V, Scarborough, Ontario. Contact Cal White (1 August 2 - Turnberry Ave.; Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M6N 1P6).
- July 30/ - AvalonCon, Camp Hill, PA. Contact TAGHC; 4517 Harford; August 2 - Baltimore, MD 21214
- Aug 8/9 - TreasureCon(?), DuBois, PA. Contact Michael Gonsalves; 530 Treasure Lake; DuBois, PA 15801 (814) 375-2147
- Aug 20-23 - GenCon/Origins, Lake Geneva, WI. Contact Mark Olson (c/o TSR, Inc.; PO Box 756; Lake Geneva, WI 53147).
- Sept 5-7 - PacifiCon, San Mateo, CA. Contact Don Del Grande (142 Eliseo Dr.; Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339).
- Sept 5-7 - AlamoRG, San Antonio, TX. Mensan Regional Gathering. **Contact me**. Dip (and other) games can be organized.
- Dec 13 - BeethovenCon, San Diego, CA. Contact Larry Peery (above) An anything but Dip con
- Mar 26-28 - ConnCon, Danbury, CT. Contact ConnCon; PO Box 44; Sherman, CT 06784-0444

On-Going Meetings

Tustin, CA (Monthly, 2nd Sat): Contact Kevin Kinsel (714) 458-0819

EXPERIENCE THE POWER. TEXAS PUBLIC RADIO

"All Things Considered"
RW #5 -- BN: 1992V

Fall 1901

Turkey (Castille): F bla-BUL(ec), A bul-RUM, A arm-SEV
Russia (Hyatt): F bot-SWE, A WAR s a ukr-gal, A ukr-GAL,
F rum holds (r-bla/otb)
Italy (Young): A apu-TUN, F ION c a apu-tun, A VEN holds
England(Goodwin): F eng-BRE, A yor-NWY, F NTH c a yor-nwy
France (Nesbitt): F mac-SPA(sc), A spa-POR, A BUR-bre (imp)
Germany(Chrones): F hel-DEN, A ruh-HOL, A sil-MUN
Austria(Rosenthal): A SER s turkish a bul-rum, A VIE-gal, A TRI-ven

CENTERS/BUILDS

Turkey (6):	Con/Ank/Smy/Sev/Rum/Bul	= +3	
Russia (4):	War/Stp/Mos/Swe	= EVEN	(+1 if r-otb)
Italy (4):	Rom/Nap/Ven/Tun	= +1	
England(5):	Lon/Edi/Lpl/Bre/Nwy	= +2	
France (4):	Mar/Par/Spa/Por	= +1	
Germany(5):	Kie/Ber/Mun/Den/Hol	= +2	
Austria(4):	Vie/Tri/Bud/Ser	= +1	
Neutral :	Bel/Gre		ADDRESSES

Castille, Michael; 3201 Tenth St.; Port Arthur, TX 77642
Chrones, Jamie; 2117 Wildwood Dr., RR1; Duncan, BC V9L 1M3 CANADA
Goodwin, Deon; 1901 E. 1st, #B; Post Falls, ID 83854
Hyatt, Fred; 60 Grandview Pl.; Montclair, NJ 07043
Nesbitt, Will; PO Box 1231; Front Royal, VA 22630
Rosenthal, Jon; 35 Mayer Dr.; Suffern, NY 10901
Young, Eric; 4784 Stephney Rd., RR#2; Armstrong, BC V0E 1B0 CANADA

DUE DATE for

Autumn/Winter 1901--August 27, 1992 at 12:00 noon

PRESS

(France): The President of the Second Republic grimly addresses parliament. Although he can not understand why England and Germany have decided to open up military frontiers where peaceful borders once existed. He warns the French people that this is the time for all Frenchmen to sacrifice for their fatherland. He hopes that relationships with Russia and Austria continue to grow stronger, and he hopes that his eastern friends do not attack each other. English stonewalling and German inconsistency has baffled his attempt at Diplomacy with his neighbors. In his latest and greatest proposal, Napoleon Bonesbitte suggests "A League of Nations" to help settle international disputes. Interested nations can attend the upcoming peace conference in Paris.

(Germany): Berlin--Who shall be my left arm?

Aus-Fra: "Mais ou sont les neiges d'antan?"

Aus-Ita: This isn't No Press Gunboat, silly.

Aus-Rus/Ger: What's going on?

Aus-Tur: I completely agree with your analysis of prime number theory, but I differ as to its historical importance in preventing Austrian moves to Galacia. Any causal relationship must be strictly coincidental!

"BluesStage"

RW #6 -- BN: tba

Winter 1900

Turkey (Nesbitt): has F ANK, A CON, A SMY
Russia (Hendricks): has F STP (sc), F SEV, A MOS, A WAR
Italy (Stuart): has F NAP, A ROM, A VEN
England(Clingman): has F LON, F EDI, A LPL
France (Anderson): has F BRE, A PAR, A MAR
Germany(Brush): has F KIE, A BER, A MUN
Austria(Gonsalves): has F TRI, A VIE, A BUD



CENTERS

Turkey (3): Con/Ank/Smy
Russia (4): War/Stp/Mos/Sev
Italy (3): Rom/Nap/Ven
England(3): Lon/Edi/Lpl
France (3): Bre/Mar/Par
Germany(3): Kie/Ber/Mun
Austria(3): Vie/Tri/Bud
Neutral : Bel/Bul/Den/Gre/Hol/Nwy/Pol/Rum/Ser/Spa/Swe/Tun

ADDRESSES

Anderson, Lance; 696 Fox Avenue, #100; Lewisville, TX 75067
Brush, Mark; 476 Edith Av.; Johnstown, PA 15906
Clingman, Dustin; 3260 Kayenta Ct.; Orlando, FL 32829
Gonsalves, Michael; 530 Treasure Lake, Dubois, PA 15801
Hendricks, Paul A.; 3506 B King James Ct.; Richmond, VA 23223
Nesbitt, Will; PO Box 1231; Front Royal, VA 22630
Stuart, Rick; 33 Sutton Pl.; Cincinnati, OH 45230

DUE DATE for

Spring 1901

August 27, 1992 at 12:00 noon

NOTES

- 01) Welcome to all the players in this, the sixth game started in RAMBLING WAY. I hope you all enjoy the experience!!
- 02) A Boardman Number has been requested for this game. It will be announced upon its arrival.
- 03) As in all games in RAMBLING WAY, this one is named after a Public Radio program.
- 04) I don't think anyone in this game is in the same area code, thus it shouldn't be considered irregular (I'm not positive about the two in PA, though). If anyone wishes to wait for the next game start, let me know by the deadline.

"World Brief"
(Nuclear Destruction)

RW #7 -- MN: tba

Pre-January 1901

Turkey (Nesbitt): has 1M-ANK, 1M-CON, 1M-SMY
Russia (Koehler): has 1M-STP, 1M-SEV, 1M-MOS
Italy (Grose): has 1M-NAP, 1M-ROM, 1M-VEN
England(Reynolds): has 1M-LON, 1M-EDI, 1M-LPL
France (Breakwell): has 1M-BRE, 1M-PAR, 1M-MAR
Germany(Wallace): has 1M-KIE, 1M-BER, 1M-MUN
Austria(Nelson): has 1M-TRI, 1M-VIE, 1M-BUD

CENTERS

Turkey (4.5): CON/ANK/SMY/cre/arm/syr
Russia (4.5): STP/MOS/SEV/lvn/ukr/fin
Italy (4.5): ROM/NAP/VEN/pie/tus/apu
England(4.5): LON/EDI/LPL/cly/yor/wal
France (4.5): BRE/MAR/PAR/pic/gas/bur
Germany(4.5): KIE/BER/MUN/ruh/pru/sil
Austria(4.5): VIE/TRI/BUD/tyl/boh/gal
Neutral : alb/bel/bul/den/gre/hol/naf/nwy
pol/por/rum/ser/spa/swe/tun



ADDRESSES

Anderson, Lance; 696 Fox Avenue, #100; Lewisville, TX 75067
Breakwell, John; 62 Shackleton Way; Woodley, Reading RG5 4UT ENGLAND
Grose, Jim; 3-1313 Wellington St.; Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 3B1 CANADA
Koehler, Stephen; 6166 Winged Elm Court; Charlotte, NC 28212
Nelson, Mark; 21 Cecil Mount; Armley Leeds, W. Riding LS12 2AP ENGLAND
Reynolds, Phil; USF #4286; 4202 Fowler Ave.; Tampa, FL 33620
Wallace, Russell; PO Box 256; West Lynn, MA 01905

DUE DATE for

January 1901

September 24, 1992 at 12:00 noon

NOTES

- 01) Welcome to all the players in this, the seventh game started in RAMBLING WAY. I hope you all enjoy the experience!!
- 02) A Miller Number has been requested for this game. It will be announced upon its arrival.
- 03) As in all games in RAMBLING WAY, this one is named after a Public Radio program.
- 04) A two month deadline is given so all players may review the rules, ask any questions and conduct diplomacy before the missiles fly. Rules were published in RW #19, if you need another copy, let me know.

THE BRAZILIAN TIMES

by Luis Claudio Duarte

Greetings, readers, from a far land. This is the first issue of The Brazilian Times, a subzine dedicated to explore the intricate world of South America, sponsored by W. Andrew York and written by Luiz Claudio S. Duarte. Any mail to this subzine may be address to:

Luis Claudio S. Duarte
SHIS - QI 19 - Conjunto 7 - Casa 35
71655-070 Brasilia - DF
BRAZIL

First of All, let me introduce myself. I am both a computer programmer and a lawyer (just graduated); I work as a civil servant at Brazil's High Military Court (yes, we have such a court - more about that in the future). However, my interests run from history to politics, including Diplomacy (both the real one and the game), economics and a lot of minor studies. So, you're as likely to find in the subzine a discussion about the differences between American and Brazilian laws as a comment on TV. But, I will try to let it stay mainly on Brazil and its neighbors.

This is a curious country. Indeed, it is becoming "curiouser and curiouser". We are now a democracy - a formal one, not a real one - after two decades of military dictatorship. We are plagued by corruption and influence trafficking. Indeed, the first official document from Brazil, in 1500, was a letter by a scribe to the King of Portugal, giving notice of the discovery of the country, and asking for a job for his relatives!

We were a colony of Portugal from 1500 to 1822. Portugal's rule was very predatory; it wasn't until the Royal Family came from Europe, fleeing from Junot's army in 1808, that Brazil could have a printing press or trade with other nations. Needless to say, the national conscience did not exist. So, our independence was claimed by the Crown Prince of Portugal, who became our first Emperor. Our nation was created by the aristocracy, not by the people. Surprisingly enough, the Empire was one of the best periods of our history. The second Emperor, Peter II, sponsored a (non-constitutional) parliamentary government, which was very stable. Only with the Republic (proclaimed by the military) did we begin our merry-go-round of military dictatorships.

Today, the wealth distribution in Brazil is one of the world's worst, according to the UN. And it is getting worse each year; successive "economic plans" have stagnated the economy, aggravating an almost permanent inflation rate.

This is the country that I will show in this column. It is the country I love, but it is the country that almost makes me cry. Sometimes.

=====

POLL QUESTION

(cont.)

Question for September: Assuming Quayle isn't the Republican VP candidate; who should it be?

POLL QUESTION

Note: my comments within individual responses will be in "[]".

August's Question: Rap music has gotten quite a bit of bad press recently in the US. Two examples are Rapper "Ice T" and the "Body Count" rap group's song "Cop Killer" and the female rapper's (I don't remember her name) comments about 'having a week to kill white people' (she also had a song that mentions killing cops). How accountable should those singers be for any action others take in response to their songs? Should the promoters, record companies and other sponsoring individuals be held accountable?

Jack McHugh: I think that these companies should be held accountable only at the cash register. If people don't like these type of songs or lyrics then they shouldn't buy them. That's the only type of censorship they understand anyway, they are in this to make a buck and if they find a certain type of lyric/song isn't making them any money they will stop as soon as they can.

Curt Milbourn: I am concerned over the recent Supreme Court rulings regarding the First Amendment (as one can see, it is to be interpreted as Freedom of Expression, not Freedom of Speech). I suppose I am a Jeffersonian when it comes to this amendment.

Given this, as the high court seems to be ruling that almost any form of expression is legal, I don't see how the singers/record companies can be held accountable for their words. They have just as much 'right' to express themselves as anyone else in the country.

However, I can guarantee you this; if some group of skinheads or KKK members every marketed a song whose theme was "Kill the Nigger" or "Deport the Spics" there would be a minor crisis in this country raised by proponents of African-American and Hispanics (and rightfully so). My question is this: Shouldn't these organizations speak out against all forms of discrimination/abuse against all groups or, by their silence, condone such acts/behavior if it's aimed at certain groups? Discrimination is either right or wrong, not an issue to pick and choose which group to target.

John Schultz: First of all rap music sucks! I didn't like it when mostly white people did it slower and called it square dancing! But...NO WAY should it be censored. No expression of free speech should be censored, ever. That included the scum-sucking neo-nazi white supremacist views and their counterparts in other races.

I don't personally believe persons other than perpetrators should be held accountable for actions taken because of an idea. However, a court system exists with the power to determine if a defendant would be culpable under those circumstances and I would be satisfied with the determination of such a court...like it or not...just like I was satisfied with the LA verdict...like it or...not! Demonstrations and boycotts which are being enacted now relative to the Cop Killer song, are the proper public short term response at this time.

The long term response is tougher. Police have to recognize and deal with the frustration which is the seed of such words to a song. The trouble is they're too busy protecting each other...right...or wrong. Admittedly, (I hope) only a small percentage of law-enforcement use their power in such a way as to promote their own prejudicial agenda, consciously or unconsciously. However, an even

smaller percentage of 'good' police officers would consider publicly denouncing such action as it occurs. Even less likely that he take action to stop such behavior before it becomes a public item. Silence where voice is needed, perjury where truth is called for, are the rules in these situations...not the exception to the rule unfortunately. Understandably, an officer is hard-pressed to turn on a fellow officer. It's human nature to protect your own. By the same token it is understandable when people search for fairness for overly long, and not finding it, find a verbal position in which to express their frustration.

Regarding "Gaming Conventions" (July, 1992):

Mark Nelson: I only go to ManorCon which is the main UK diplomacy con, attendance around 300. I go to the York hobbymeet once a month and sometimes go to other hobbymeets. Occasionally I organize house cons.

At all of these events I will indulge in some gaming, normally either games that I already play or some simple (and reasonable quick) game that takes my fancy. I am not *per se* a *game's fan*. I don't want to spend all of my time playing games.

No I go to conventions mainly to meet old friends and meet new ones. Games conventions are a social occasion to catch up on what's happening in fandom and to have a good time.

ManorCon is the main UK diplomacy con. There are also 3 others (MidCon, BayCon and Small Furry Creature Con). The reason why I don't go to these events is primarily expense. They're all held in hotels (as opposed to the University accomadation at ManorCon) and they're all (with the exception of MidCon/ManorCon) in the south of England which is an expensive journey when you rely on public transport. Add registration fees and I don't go.

Of course, cost is relative. It costs me about a fiver to get to York and I normally spent about fiver in food/drinks when I'm there. If I didn't go to every Yorkmeet I could afford to go to another Con. But Yorkmeets are more fun then Cons and certainly have a more congenial atmosphere. And the quality of the company...

Regarding "A Businessman for President" (June, 1992):

Mark Nelson: I think that Russ Wallace is overlooking some basic politics in his comments on the strength of a Perot Presidency.

Suppose you are a Representative/Congressmen from an area which voted Perot Numero Uno in the Presedential Elections and that you are up for re-election. Are you going to publically go on the record as voting against everything that Perot puts forward? I think not. If Perot gets elected then I think that you will find that elected politicians are going to have to look at the strength of support for Perot in their own areas --- they can't afford to antagonise the electorate.

As for why the public support Perot, despite the lack of concrete policies I think that there are two reasons. (1) When was the last time that POLICY was either (a) the main issues of the campaign or (b) when did you last have a President that kept his promises? ("watch my lips"). (2) The public are showing their distaste for the "corrupt" two-party system in the States.

<<Next Month's Question Elsewhere>>

The 1992 Runestone Poll

Main List entries finishing at or above average

Zines

(59 on main list)

Rk	Zine Name	Votes	Score
1	Perelandra	34	9.081
2	Maniac's Paradise	30	9.078
3	Northern Flame	27	8.977
4	Kathy's Korner	26	8.716
5	Pilot Light	11	8.236
6	Upstart	35	8.161
7	ark	12	8.126
8	Ramblings by Moonlight	24	8.109
9	Cheesecake	25	7.705
10	Hoodwink	18	7.562
11	The Abyssinian Prince	17	7.543
12	Carolina Cmd & Cmnty	23	7.528
13	Penguin Dip	19	7.504
14	Orphan Son	12	7.500
15	DOGS of War	18	7.455
16	Lemon Curry	17	7.403
17	Diplomacy World	51	7.370
18	Well, Martha...	21	7.208
19	The Home Office	25	7.064
20	The Zine Register	54	7.028
21	The Encounter	10	6.977
22	Rebel	26	6.803
23	Your Zine of Zines	24	6.636
24	Excelsior	21	6.510
25	Concordia	14	6.496
26	The Tactful Assassin	11	6.438
27	Frueh's Folly	12	6.394
28	Crimson Sky	21	6.388
29	Rambling Way	26	6.382
30	The Curator	11	6.297

All the zines listed above finished at or above average.
The 29 zines that finished below average are not listed here.

To order the 1992 Runestone Poll publication, send \$5.00 to Eric Brosius, 41 Hayward St., Milford MA 01757.

I expect to mail the publication around September 1.

Subzines

(22 on main list)

Rk	Subzine Name	Votes	Score
1	The Hounds of Hell	7	8.857
2	DIDOES	17	8.322
3	You're The One	8	7.701
4	Notes from the Bunker	16	7.438
5	Close Your Eyes...	14	7.302
6	Poll Talk	19	6.786
7	The Unabashed Bo(t)	13	6.191
8	Standard Deviation	12	6.010
9	It's Me Again	15	5.893
10	The Unzine Voice	5	5.825
11	Water on the Knee	12	5.738

All the subzines listed above finished above average. The 11 subzines that finished below average are not listed here.

GMs

(54 on main list)

Rk	GM Name	Votes	Score
1	Bruce Linsey	8	9.236
2	Andy Lischett	17	9.033
3	Lee Kendter, Sr.	8	8.474
4	Eric Brosius	8	8.431
5	Kathy Caruso	13	8.377
6	Fred Hyatt	14	8.115
7	Chris Hassler	6	8.081
8	Douglas Kent	18	8.077
9	Jim Burgess	10	7.877
10	Scott Cameron	11	7.874
11	Garret Schenck	22	7.864
12	Russ Wallace	7	7.683
13	Kevin Brown	9	7.677
14	Michael Lowrey	10	7.627
15	David Hood	5	7.605
16	Jim Meinel	7	7.593
17	Stephen Dorneman	8	7.553
18	W. Andrew York	7	7.395
19	Stven Carlberg	6	7.359
20	Michael Gonsalves	13	7.303
21	Pete Gaughan	18	7.287
22	Mark Frueh	5	7.261
23	Eric Ozog	9	7.165
24	Conrad von Metzke	8	7.156
25	Steve Heinowski	7	7.093
26	Bob Hartwig	6	7.061
27	Don Del Grande	5	7.031

All the GMs listed above finished above average.
The 27 GMs that finished below average are not listed here.

GAME OPENINGS

Gunboat (w/Press): two openings, \$5.00 NMR fee required. If you are signed up, there will be a red check ==>

Regular: Seven openings, \$5.00 NMR fee. Signed up: none

Regular, International: Three openings, \$5.00 NMR fee with two month deadlines and no split seasons.
Signed up: Breakwell; Grose; Duarte; Mathias

Standbys: V. Lutterbie, DePalma, Reynolds, Schultz, Koehler, Wallace, Lewis, McHugh, Grose, Young, Gonsalves, Kent, Mathias, Brooks

Please notify the editor if you want on or off the list.

Other game openings upon request of the readership. Contact the editor if you have a favorite game or variant.

=====

Rambling Way

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