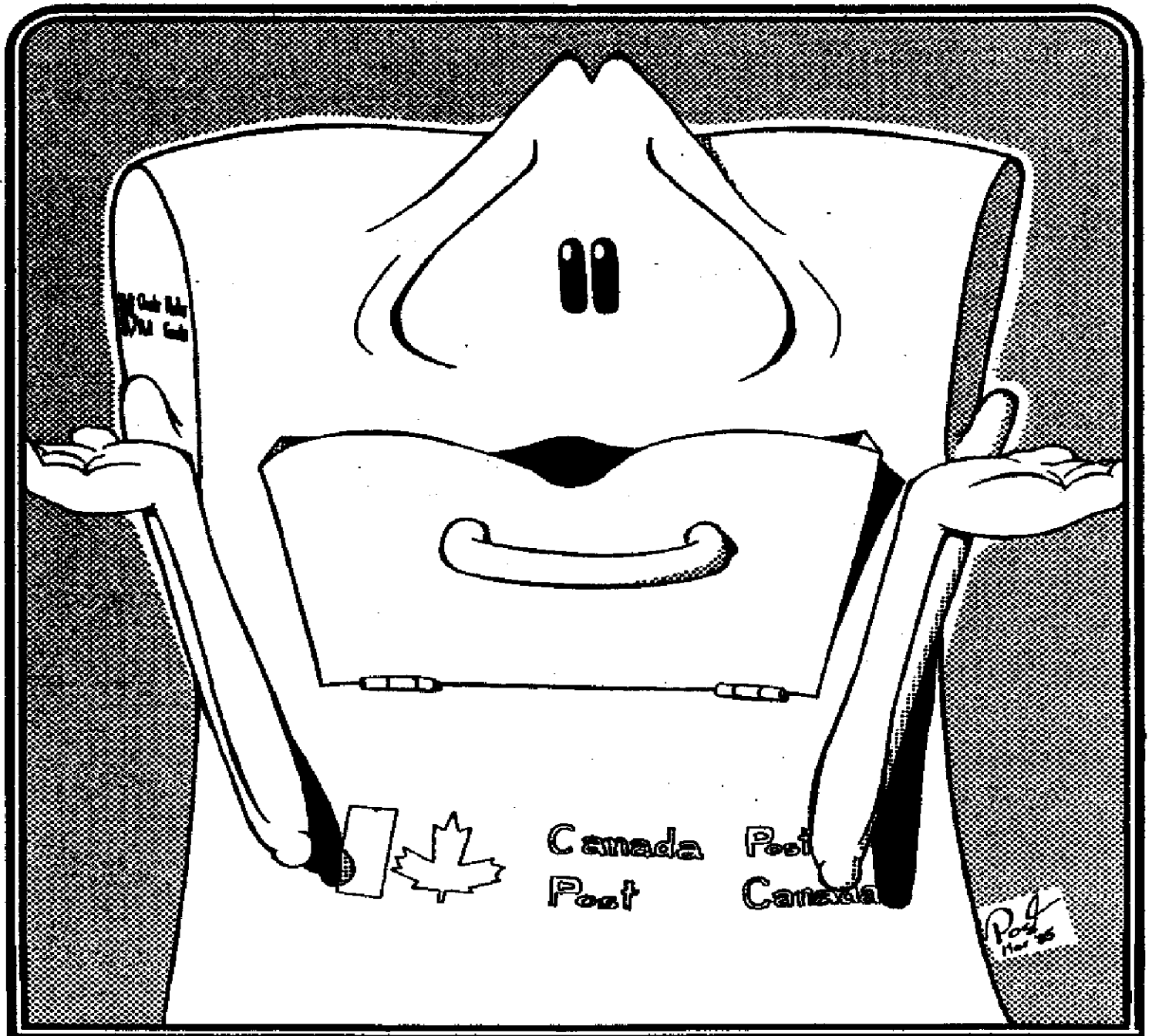


JUST WHEN WILL YOU GET THIS? HUH?
Late breaking news: STRIKE VERY UNLIKELY!!!!
(so you'll get this in May or so)

excelsior

MARCH 1985

Issue No. 2 by BRUCE MCINTYRE



excelsior DIRECTORY

No. 2

EXCELSIOR #2 Published March 10th in Vancouver BC CANADA

Page	Contents
1	Another great cover by Patricia Post! At this time, I don't know for certain whether there will be a postal strike, but it does look better than it did when I asked her to do a "Postal Strike" cover. If there is <u>any</u> possibility of a strike, I shall delay mailing your copy until I get to LepreCon next weekend.
2	Directory and stuff.
3	In Case of Emergency, try Memphis...
4	My Feuds with Canada Post...
5	DipGab, or "You mail out 400 copies of somethin' yer bound to get <u>something</u> back."
6	ALBINIONI gamestart and introductions all around.
7-8	My Move/Your Move-now let me make this perfectly clear.
9-14	CONFERENCE CALL #9
9	Spring 1901 in DIALTONE, and EARPIECE startups!!
10	AREACODE-Fall 1904 in the "Russia vs. the world" game
11	BOOTH-Spring 1903, in the "McIntyre missed his build!" game
12	CORDLESS-Fall 1902 in the "Tyrolian People's Army" misadventure
13	Ideas for the CC NHL Playoff Hockey Pool.
14	Report on MitchCon I and invitation to MitchCon II, and more
15-16	Most of the Post
17	Quiz results.
18	The Excelsior Baseball League-a pool for baseball widows...
19	Round One, the quarterfinals of the <u>XI</u> Zine Poll Knockout Tourny
20	<u>Excelsior's</u> nomination for the Dave Carter Award.

And there it is: Excelsior number two, which amazingly enough now looks as though it shall be out on time. Boy am I looking forward to having only 60 or so to collate and stamp...

It may occur that your copy has an American stamp on it. No, I have not moved, I've just decided that with the Canuck Posties thinking picket signs, I might be better off mailing them from LepreCon, even if that would make them four days late...

Let me make the money side of things perfectly clear-for Canadians it is three issues for two dollars, and cheques are welcomed. For Americans (listen closely now) it is SIX American dollars if paid in cash, seven if by cheque, for ten issues. My bank is not appreciative of American money for some strange reason. American cheques are reduced by a dollar by discriminatory procedures that certainly would shock most decent folk. I don't mind the American cash--since I can use it at cons and visits, but I can't afford paying for cheques, or, if you prefer, checks...

Overseas it's a dollar an issue. Don't worry about exchange rates; whatever the Bank declares your cheque (please don't send cash) to be worth here, I shall divide by a dollar, round up, and figure it from there.

Diplomacy gamefees are \$3 a game. Your money. Overseas free. We still have a few openings.

Diplomacy is a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and copyrighted by Avalon Hill. Non-game activities have nothing to do with them.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, Try Memphis

At this time (March 2, 1985, the absolutely ludicrous hour of 9 AM), I am just starting the massive job of typing XL #2. It was, perhaps, a bit of an error having the time between the first and second issues be just four weeks, but I'm determined to get the zine out on time if at all possible.

Since I can't predict the future, even just seven days ahead, let me try to inform you on what may or may not happen to XL in the next week.

First off, Canada Post (no relation to Patricia) is talking strike. Thus our cover, thus maybe the LONG delay in getting to you. (Is it July already?) With regards to labour strikes and the Canadian Postal Service (using that word extremely tentatively), we've three problems. First is that our posties, having done so once before quite successfully, believe that they have the right to strike, completely ignoring people like me who argue that the mails must go on, and that they don't. Second, they have divided up their union into two groups-inside and outside workers. Seems to me this is simply a ploy to make sure that the government must negotiate twice each time a contract comes up, in effect making it doubly probable that a strike will occur. The third problem is by far the most serious-postal strikes here have a tradition to keep up: I predict a serious postage rate increase. Last time they hit us for thirteen extra cents immediately, and two more about four months later, for in-Canada mail. This time Ghod-only-knows...

The first day that they can legally (if your philosophy-politics can live with that) go out is March 12. Needless to say, this is bad for XL, which gets mailed March 11, and will probably still be baffling some moron wondering when he can take his holidays, when they decide to shut down.

So, you ask, where does Memphis come in? Well, in an attempt to stay calm despite impending doom, I called up Gary Coughlan this morning. (It probably wasn't morning for Gary, but that's Pacific Standard Time for you.) I will be mailing Gary a four-page issue of XL until the strike is over, from Pt. Roberts (that peculiarity on the very northwest corner of Washington, connected to the continent only by Canadian land, but nonetheless American through and through.) to keep you informed. We agreed to talk about it at LepreCon, which somehow Gary is going to attend. I will try to be sure that all XL subbers receive a copy of EE, or at least the subzine by itself. This should not pose a serious problem, as many of you are subbers to EE already.

Your subscription money will be kept in my account, I'm afraid, for the duration of the strike, but if it lasts long enough, I may add an issue or two to your sub. The subzine in EE will cost you nothing. If a miracle happens and I get a game started this issue, it will of course have to be delayed, despite the subzine in EE. I won't be able to get any mail, remember? I will try to remember to send Canadian subbers a copy of whatever appeared in EE once the mails are going again. And I will attempt to contact the other Canadian publishers to find out about their plans for the strike. I'll pass those along too...

A few other things have come up other than the postal blackmail. A fellow named Bernard Fernandes is trying to turn me into a professional Caribbean musician. In three hours I shall be demonstrating to him how long it has been since I played the tenor saxophone ("great, mon" will invariably be the response) and Bernard will try to teach me the intricacies of Trinidadian rhythms, probably with little success. The concert is this Friday, a day that I should have kept free for XL, but I forgot. So Saturday morning may find me typing like a madman, with a hangover to boot. Sigh...



My Feuds with CANADA POST

(From the Hitch Hiker's Guide, entry: Earth history)

"It was most unfortunate that a lunatic named Douglas Adams not only successfully forecasted the end of the Earth long before it happened, but put it all into a best selling book. Somehow he knew that forty-two was the Answer to the Ultimate question of Life, the Universe, and Everything, but he hedged on what the actual question was....")

How many times must we put up with this crap??

Oh, I know, I know-this one if indeed it does occur, will only be number two (forty more to go) but Canada Post's walkouts have a history of being my own personal Voice of Doom.

Should this one go ahead as rumoured on March 12th, it will be disastrous in all likelihood for XL. I will do my best to make sure people remember us (at present a smallish band of eighteen, but growing rapidly as people send in their praises) after the strike, but the longer the strike, the poorer the outlook. Anyway, let me say this: if the dispute does not show signs of clearing up by the end of March, I shall not start on #3, instead appearing in Europa Express, as a subzine. If you live outside Canada, and do not get EE, you will receive the first issue of EE in which XL appears free. (I hope there won't be a second issue, though I'm sure the EE hospitality will be well recieved.) If however it looks O.K., I'll start on #3 on April 1st-so expect #3 to be late either way.

I sure wish I didn't have to do all this, but it could be—and has been—worse.

In April of 1982, long before I entered The Hobby, I was younger, more energetic, and madly in love (and vice versa) with a wonderful girl I met in high school. It was in April that she informed me that she would be going on a four-month trip with a military band during the summer. It was no April fool, but we were certain that the time away from one another would do us good, and pose no problem to the relationship. Unfortunately, this didn't happen.

That summer, I made three bad mistakes. The first was enrolling for a Math 100 course. The problem with this was that the college had found an ingenious way to cram six months of work into five weeks. To make matters worse, I was enrolled also in a similar first-year computer programming course, which got rather better treatment for two reasons: I was much more interested in a PASCAL program to arabicize Roman numerals than I was in the derivatives of the trigonometric functions. Also, I met a freindly young lady in the more social computer class.

That proved to be the second mistake.

Halfway through the term, a week passed without a letter. My computer-class friend assured me that nothing was wrong, though I'd been recieving two a week up until then. When another week passed without a letter, I began to neglect my calculus homework. Then a third week passed, and I started the time-honoured practice of assuming that some terrible tragedy had taken place, and working the details out from there. And I began to depend on my computer-class friend to keep me going. We became good, then better friends, and then one day I detected a crush on her amongst my confusion-riddied brain. I whistled my way into the kitchen to find two letters from Halifax. I opened them apprehensively.

The first contained a lot of other excuses for not writing. The second contained the real reason, an apology, a beg for forgiveness, and a necklace.

Then I made mistake number three: I sent a terrible, vengeful, offensive, awful letter back. I think there was some kind of 'contract', but I'm sure that the biggest mistake (other than mailing it) was sending the necklace back with a note about not being able to wear a bribe.

It was then, with immaculate timing, that Canada Post decided to intercede. First they made damned sure that the 'black letter' got to its destination.

Then they went on strike.

The strike effectively killed any reconciliation opportunities. I remember two phone calls: one in which I ignored most of what was being said, and another in which we did our best to show that each other was 'at fault', when in fact the blame was probably rather equal, and in any case irrelevant.

Needless to say, the whole thing broke up in late August. The reunion didn't, and I lost touch with my computer-class friend.

But I have not lost touch with my 'ex': we're still freinds, and we're even co-operative. She does covers for Excelsior.

At least until the next postal strike....

DipGab

Look at all this space. O.K., how about a hobby news column, then. I'm getting so much mail lately, that I feel confident to talk about the hobby as though I know something about it.

Keith Sherwood sent me a sample of The Inner Light, with a covering letter saying some very nice things about XL. In Til#5, there was a plug for XL, which I don't remember asking for, so I'll return the favour. Til is, despite Keith's disclaimers, a first rate zine. The article on extending the Beatles into the early 70s was one of the best things I've read in quite a while. I urge you all to make this zine a high priority, you'll be glad you did. Keith's address is 8866 Cliffridge, La Jolla CA, USA 92037. One warning: you hafta know yer prime numbers....

BRUX Linsey has sent out Runestone ballots, and while they were too late for me to get in this issue, I'll be making room next time. I urge you to vote in this poll despite what you hear to the contrary. It appears that Brux's enemies are going to be on the lookout for any screwups from Brux, so if you want to make it more complicated for him, send in another vote that he'll have to process. I feel certain that this will be a good year for the Poll, despite the controversy indirectly affecting it.

And that sort of talk brings me to Ed Wrobel, who sent me a letter which patiently tried to explain 'what was so wrong with Bruce Linsey'. He decided not to sub, and the clear implication was that my editorial had made that decision for him. I'm very sorry that had to happen, Ed. But I wonder what Steve Hutton would make of your letter, what with the numerous claims of things Linsey is purported to have done, without proof. Would you mind terribly much if I sent a copy to him? By the way, there were many parts of the copy of Feudesse that I liked very much-for example, the first part of Bob Olsen's letter of Nov. 14 1984 was hilarious satire! But I find that I have neither the energy nor the desire to fight with you over our differences. Can't we just agree to disagree?

Oops-that almost looked like NFA's Fighting Words section. If you want to know the details of feuds, with comment unedited from both sides, NFA is well into the battles. At least until Steve Hutton goes broke. Last issue went 100 pages...

Oh yes....

I recieved a postcard from a fellow named Mr Pay A. Visitto (901 San Benito, College Statio Tx, USA 77840) who wants to get into a game-although I must admit that he only would require the game page-without any monetary obligation. He claims he'll be going to Red China, India, and perhaps Soviet Uzbekistan ("Huh?") in an attempt to get into XL's prestigious international game for free. Well, I never thought I'd say this in XL to anyone, but I feel I should tell this idiot off. See p.21.

GAMESTARTS

It is with great pleasure that I announce XL's first game opening. It didn't look promising for awhile, but today (deadline day) I got two more entries! So, here it is:

ALBINIONI GM: Bruce McIntyre Zine: Excelsior Diplomacy. Monthly dlines

Player	Preference	Country	Address
Charles Arsenault ("Charly 1st")	GEAFIRT	GERMANY	4490 St. Kevin #7, Montréal Québec, CANADA H3T 1H9 ph. 341-3516
Kevin Brown	RFIATEG	RUSSIA	100 Patton Dr., Warner Robbins GA, USA 31093 ph. 912-923-5477
Michael J. Ditz	AEEGITR	AUSTRIA	5785 Danube Way #C, Orlando FL USA 32807 ph. 305-275-0670
Stephen J. Dycus ("Steve")	IATFEGR	ITALY	3450 Koring Rd., Evansville IN USA 47712 ph. 812-963-9006
Melinda Holley	TIFAEGR	TURKEY	P.O. Box 2793, Huntington WV USA 25727
Ron Krukowski	TFIAGER	FRANCE	5339 W. Eddy, Chicago IL, USA 60641 ph. 312-282-2257
Bill Shirley	XXXXXXX	ENGLAND	618 Main St. Yarmouth NS, CANADA B5A 1J9 ph. 742-9768

Friday March 5th is the Spring 1901 deadline, and if you try to get me on the phone, the deadline for that is 12:01 AM. If I get three votes for a deadline extension, I shall reluctantly do so. Good luck!

Charles Arsenault is a Montréal pubber who has connections with the European hobby. He's in Physics Engineering at the University of Montréal (I assume you mean Laval, Charles?)....Kevin Brown calls himself an 13 year old WAS (as opposed to a WASP), which is also rather more accurate for myself. He is in six games now, having broken into the hobby with the Mensa group in 1982....Michael J. Ditz, by way of introduction, calls himself "The Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich King" So that's what his name is.....Steve Dycus broke into the hobby about the same time I did, from a background of other PBM games. Steve tells me he's 33, married, and slightly overweight. Me in ten years?....I think it would be reasonable to assume that Melinda Holley is in more Diplomacy games than the entire state of West Virginia combined! Thirty years old and single, she includes among her other interests embroidery, music, history, winter sports, bowling, and her Diplomacy zine Rebel....Ron Krukowski will be doing his best to make sure I am completely humiliated in Chess (which won't be too difficult) and at this time has a higher score than all the other entrants of the trivia quiz combined. He's 28, married, and has two sons, and lists miniature painting and civil war history books among his other interests....Bill Shirley says he is 6'2" and about 160 lbs, a fact that disturbs me greatly, for I am both shorter and fatter. He works in a textile plant in Yarmouth, and is involved in a large number of games in SK. And there you have it, the lineup for ALBINIONI.

We also have a few other loonies who, for some reason or other, wish to play Diplomacy here...

BEETHOVEN. GM: Bruce McIntyre Gamefee: \$3. Entrants so far: Krukowski, Brown, Holley, acheson (if you don't pay, you don't get a capital), and Touchette. 2 needed, 3 if I don't get some frostbitten Canadiana bucks from the Notorious Northern Nut....

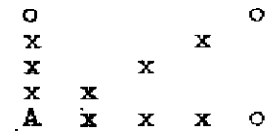
COPELAND. GM: Bruce McIntyre. International Diplomacy—it is quite likely that we will have 1½ or 2 months between moves. Gamefee: \$3 for North Americans, free elsewhere. Signed up: Charles Arsenault (CANADA), Ben Schilling (USA), Sean McGonigle (New Zealand). Four needed—perhaps I could get a plug from Gary Coughlan???

My Move/Your Move

Many of you (well, not that many..) have written to ask for the rules of games in this competition. I'm not too great at writing out such rules, preferring instead to play & learn, but I shall give it a try.

CHESS: I simply don't have enough space to explain Chess, but this does not mean that it is difficult to learn how to play the game. I would suggest picking up a copy of Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess, the best (and probably the cheapest) Chess primer ever written. I don't remember whether or not it contains an explanation of notation, but I do remember that it has an easy-to-follow 'how to play Chess' part, followed by a series of graded problems. Highly recommended to all Chess novices.

OTHELLO: Each disc-shaped piece is white on one side and black on the other. The object is to have more pieces your-colour-up when all possible plays have been made. (Usually this occurs when the board is full and all the discs have been used, but it can occur before that, and ends the game if it should happen.) Each turn consists of placing a disc (with your colour up) so that it traps one or more of the opposing pieces between a piece of yours already on the board and the played piece. Each piece thus trapped (the Othello term is "outflank") is flipped over to your colour. You may trap more than one disc at a time, in all 8 directions. (As you can see, by placing a disc at square A, the o player can trap the nine x discs, and then turn all of them over to the o colour) You must play to a space which gives you at least one legal capture, or you lose your turn, until such time as you can do so. Oh, the initial position is two White discs at d5 & e4, and two Blacks at d4 & e5.



PENTE: I once described PENTE in one sentence, thus:

On a 19x19 board, onto which pieces are played alternately to points (not squares), starting with the center point as the first move, two players attempt to attain either of two objects: to successfully place onto the board a Pente (five pieces in a row orthogonally or diagonally) or to capture, Othello-style, five pairs of pieces, the rule stating that only pairs may be captured in this way.

The Tournament Rule mentioned applies only to the player who plays first (ME). What the Tournament Rule does is it makes going second easier—the rule is that my second move must be three points away from the centre. No further restrictions apply.

The Pente notation I like is this: for each move, you start from centre, then count squares until you reach the one you want, using the notation U,D,L, and R for up, down, left, and right. Captures are indicated by enclosing the move in asterisks. The centre is O, and the left-right move is usually indicated first, thus U7R4, would be seen as R4U7. But I don't care what path you find to the right spot, something like the rather unusual L6R7U4R2D3U6 would be reluctantly interpreted to, um R3U7, I think...

BACKGAMMON: (or Bachgammon, as it was spelled here because of a most witty typo I decided to leave in last issue) I learned my Backgammon from a book called Backgammon For Blood by a fellow named Bruce Becker. If you don't know how to play, this small but entertaining book will not only show you how to play, but also how to win. Even experienced players who feel that my opening 6-3 move sucks should check out the case Becker makes for it.

So much for that; here's what happened so far.

CHESS: 1 P-K4, P-K4
2 N-KB3, ??

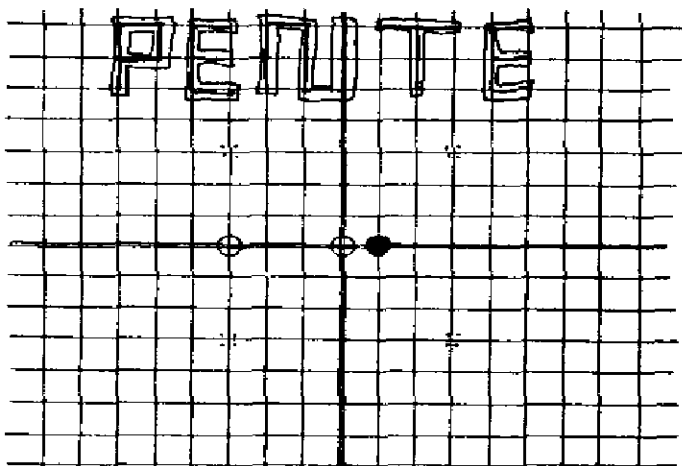
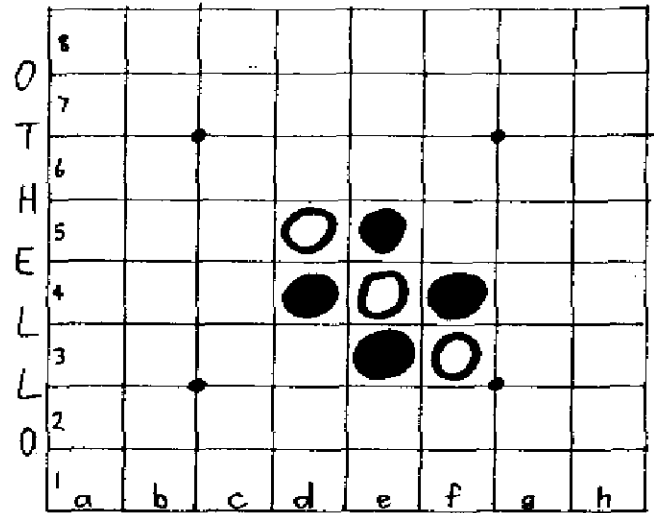
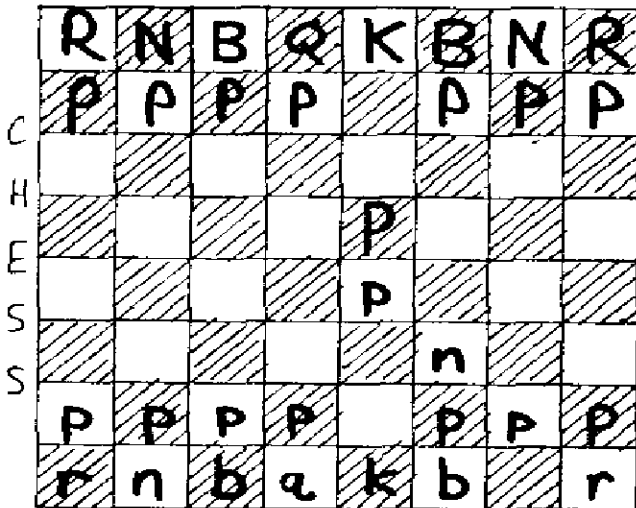
OTHELLO: 1. f4, f3
2. e3, ??

PENTE 1. O, R1
2. L3, ??

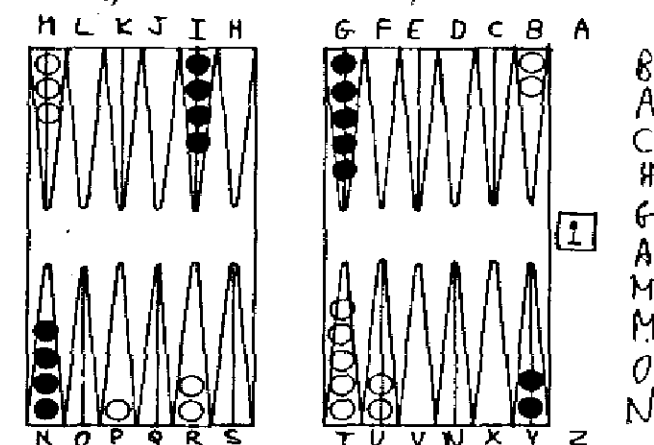
MY MOVE/YOUR MOVE continued

BACHGAMMON: 1. (6-3) MP MS , (3-2) NI
 2. (3-2) RU SU ; (6-3) ?? (I'll have to get new dice...)

These are the resulting positions:



(you've rolled 6-3)



BACHGAMMON

I was going to print who made the moves, but you know who you are. Next time anyone who has contributed in both moves in the same game will get recognition. Especially if you're losing (unlikely).

It's YOUR MOVE.....

PATTERNS II

I am serious about this, you know. It really is a good game, so think about giving it a try. I have three signed up at the moment, so I think in all fairness we should wait another month. I am not going to tell you who the players are because I was wondering if any of you agree with one letter I got, in which the possibility of alliances came up. Please let me know if you'd prefer to play it Gunboat style, not knowing the names of the other players, a style which makes the game less interesting to follow, but at least takes out that unfortunate possibility. I myself don't quite see how such an alliance would work, but I can see far enough to know that there is the possibility of their hurting the game.

Vancouver's finest PhoneZine

March 10 1985

conference call

Issue no. 9

by Bruce McIntyre

DIALTONE:

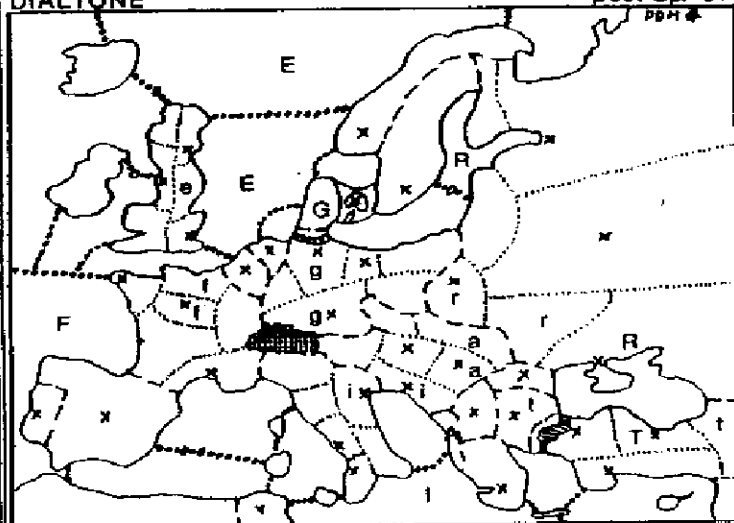
SERBIA UP FOR GRABS

Italians exploit new Austrian opening

DIALTONE

post Spr '01

DIALTONE loony list



GM : Bruce McIntyre 299-2382
253-6388

ENG: Klaig Morton 524-3368
GER: Mischa Sandberg 298-6710
RUS: Laurie McIlvena 522-9132
TUR: Greg Jansen 594-9126
AUS: Randy Davis 581-6964
ITA: Bruce Waddell 434-6523
FRA: John Cooper 676-8396

GM: Normally I'd put the name of the openings with the orders, but Mischa Sandberg has my copy of Richard Sharp's book that I use for that purpose.

No retreats this time.

Deadline for Fall 1901 is at 3:05PM, Thursday 21 March.

DIALTONE SPRING 1901 ORDERS.

GM: Bruce McIntyre Zine: Conference Call

ENGLAND F Edi-Nrg, F Lon-Nth, A Lpl-Yor
GERMANY F Kie-Den, A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Bur
RUSSIA F Sev-Bla, A Mos-Ukr, A War-Gal, F StP-GoB
TURKEY A Con-Bul, A Smy-Arm, F Ank-Bla
AUSTRIA A Bud S A Vie-Gal, A Vie-Gal, F Tri-Alb
ITALY A Ven-Tri, A Rom-Ven, F Nap-Ion
FRANCE A Mar-Bur, A Par-Pic, F Bre-MAO

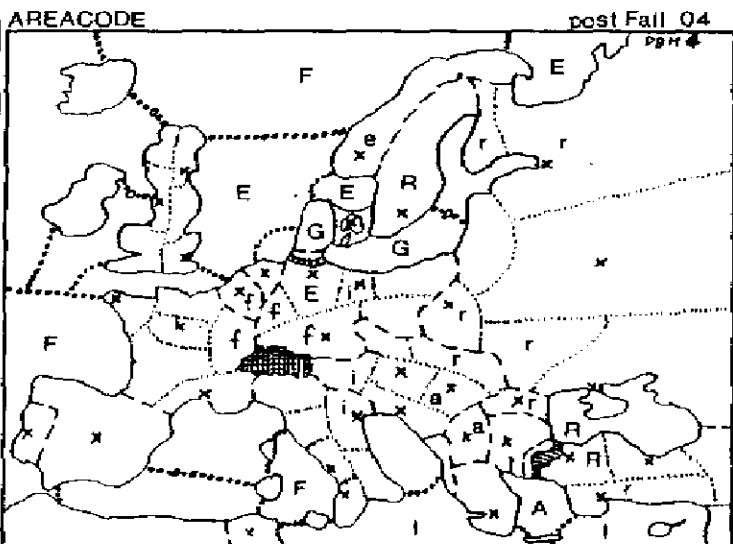
PRESS:

Operator: Once again we have a violent press war, started by all seven powers refusing to say anything to one another, leaving poor old Operator to use his admittedly poor and often-inaccurate powers of clairvoyance, to explain the goings on to the common man. Aside from the amazing Balkan State Lottery (or, who's going where??), we've some other interesting happenings. The age of the German wimp is over, as finally we see a German player challenging Russia's right to Sweden. Will England be tempted by the appetizing sight of the vacant Low Countries? Will there be more fighting in Burgundy in the Fall? For the answers to these and other questions, make sure your subscription to CC reaches me today.

CONFERENCE CALL #9 by, for the most part, Bruce McIntyre, but with increasing help (if you call it that) by Grant Fraser.

CC is still a zine for Vancouver area PBPhone games, and is not about to fold, no matter what BRUX or G.F. thinks. So there. Huh?

Russia withering away? Revolutionaries uncoordinated?



the AREACODE asylum
 GM :Bruce McIntyre 299-2382
 253-6388
 ENG:Simon Matthews 929-3708
 GER:Charles Becker 684-0534
 RUS:Denis LaBerge 669-0974
 AUS:Gray McMullin 266-0444
 ITA:Mark Woloshen 273-4269
 FRA:Mitch Wageler 874-3605

GM: I did my best to avoid this NMR by Austria. I phoned John Reay, who contacted Gray by radio. I then waited six hours for Gray to complete the trip home. Then I gave up....

Retreat: AUSTRIA A Gal (r Bob Vie, OTB) If Gray does not make this retreat by the deadline of Monday at 11PM, I will at that time appoint a standby.

AREACODE FALL 1904 ORDERS
 GM: Bruce McIntyre Zine: Conference Call

- ENGLAND F Kie S (I) A Ber, F Ska-Swe, F Nth C (F) A Yor-Bel, F Bar S A Nwy
 GERMANY F Den H, F BaS S F Den
 RUSSIA A Fin-Nwy, A StP S A Fin-Nwy, F Swe S (G) F Den, F Con S A Smy, A Smy S F Con, A Sil-Gal, A War S A Sil-Gal, A Rum S A Sil-Gal, A Ukr S A Rum, F Bla S A Rum
 AUSTRIA has sent me orders which make no difference in the time it took to type this, so it's not an NMR, but it may as well be. A Gal* H, A Bud H, A Ser S (I) F Bul, F Aeg S (I) F Bul
 ITALY F Ion-Eme, F Adr-Ion, F Bul H, A Ber H, A Tyr H, A Ven H
 FRANCE A Bel-Ruh, A Mun S (E) F Kie, A Ber S A Mun, A Yor-Bel, F Eng-MAO, F Nrg S (E) F Nwy, F GOL-TYS

PRESS:
 GM: Tuesday 12 March is the deadline for adjustments; Thursday 21 March is the Spring 1905 deadline. 11PM Tues., 3PM Thurs.

Germany: would like to give warning-don't nobody try nuthin' or I might get angry.

Lon-Par: Move should have been A York-Dogger's Bank

Rom-Vie: Thanks for the 'bona-tion'

Operator: O.K. I won't appoint a stand-by for Gray. I must confess, your mysterious press releases have me completely baffled. Huh?

Bruce McIntyre
 6191 Finch St
 Burnaby, B.C.
 Canada V5P 2L7

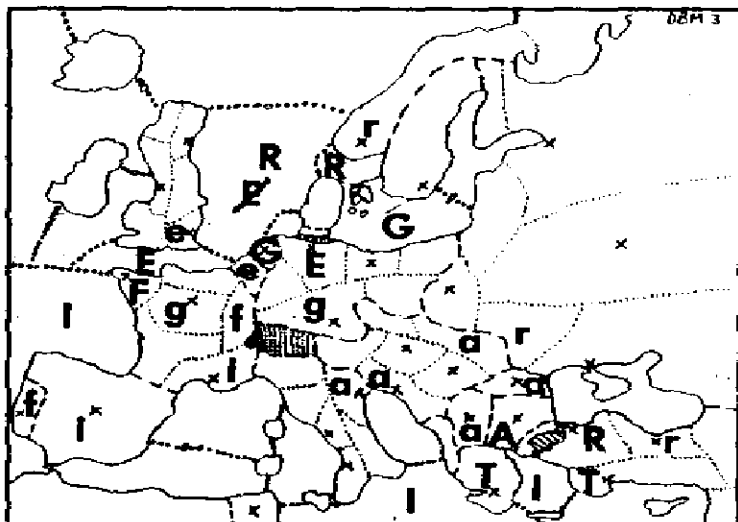
Supplies OWNERSHIP OF CENTRES

GAME: AREACODE Austria builds if A Gal r OTB.

post-FALL 1904

ENGLANDS	TURKEY	NEUTRALS
Edi (E) E	Ank (R) R	Bel (F) F
Lpi (F) E	Con (R) R	Bul (R) I
Lon (E) E	Smy (R) R	Den (F) G
GERMANY (R) I	AUSTRIA 4 (G) I	Gre (I) I
Ber (G) I	Bud (A) A	Hol (E) E
Kie (E) E	Tri (A) A	Nwy (E) E
Mun (I) F	Vie (A) A	Por (F) F
RUSSIA 9 (R) I	ITALY 7 (B) I	Rum (R) R
Mos (R) R	Nap (I) I	Ser (A) A
StP (R) R	Rom (I) I	Spa (F) F
Sev (R) R	Ven (I) I	Swe (E) R
War (R) R	FRANCE 8 (B) I	Tun (I) I
	Bre (A) F	
	Mar (F) F	
	Par (F) F	

BOOTH Spring 1903 BOOTH



- GM Grant Fraser 291-8149
- A. Mitchell Wageler 874-3605
- E. Tor Abrahamsen 872-3777
- F. Steve Shamash 684-5788
- G. Bruce Waddell 434-6523
- I. Denis Laberge 669-0974
- R. Bruce McIntyre 299-2382
- T. Gray McMullin 266-0444

DEADLINES

Retreats - Tuesday, March 12,
10:00 A.M.
Moves - Thursday, March 21,
1:30 A.M.

GAME NOTES

Please note that there was a misprint last issue. France has 3 supply centres.

WINTER 1902 (Retreats & Builds)

- GERMANY A Den disbanded
- AUSTRIA +A Tri
- ENGLAND +A Lon

In case you haven't figured it out yet, the line through a unit on the map indicates the unit has to retreat.

<u>SPRING 1903</u>	<u>CONVOYS</u>	<u>MOVES</u>	<u>MOVES</u>	<u>MOVES</u>	<u>SUPPORTS</u>	<u>OTH</u>
ENGLAND	F Nth(d) C A Lon-Hol	A LoneHol	F Eng+Bre	F Den+Ris	A Bel S A Lon-Hol	
FRANCE		A Bur H	F Bre H	A Por H		
RUSSIA		F Nwy-Nth	A Swe-Nwy	R Rum-Ukr	F Ska S F Nwy+Nth	SP1
				F Bla-Con	A Ank S F Bla-Con	

	<u>MOVES</u>	<u>MOVES</u>	<u>MOVES</u>	<u>MOVES</u>	<u>SUPPORTS</u>	<u>SUPPORTS</u>
AUSTRIA		A Gal-Rum	A Tri-Ven	A Ser S F Bul		F Bul S F Gre
		A War-Gal	A Bud-Tri			
ITALY		F Aeg-Gre	A Gas-Spa	F MAO S A Gas-Spa	A Mar S A Gas-Spa	
				F Ion S F Aeg-Gre		
GERMANY	F Hol H F Bal H A Mun H		A Par H			
TURKEY		F Smy H A Con(d) H	F Gre H			

SP1 A Mos wonders why the hell they didn't give us uniforms!

PRESS

McBruce-Tor: Woof!

LONDON-VIENNA: Moscow told me your sheep are as ugly as your women.

I've been blessed with more space this time around (or does Bruce just have twice as much room in Conference Call with it's increase in size?) Either way I'll be telling you about the imminent success of the Conference Call hockey pool on the next page but first of all, for those who were unable to attend, here is what happened at the first face-to-face game of Diplomacy arranged through this zine. Thanks go to Mitchell for the use of his home for the event.

The game was set for noon February 24 and having been informed of the possibility of side games of chess, backgammon, bridge, or maybe even a second game of diplomacy because of the enthusiasm for this game, I was advised to get there early if I really wanted to play Diplomacy. I arrived, therefore, promptly at 12:15 to be greeted by four people. Mitchell's wife soon left us to our insanity and Simon, who was only there to pick up the latest issue of Conference Call, left even sooner as soon as Bruce McIntyre arrived. How did we manage to get a game underway you may ask. Several emergency phone calls, which resulted in, among Conference Call regulars, the appearance of eternal stand-by John Reay, who is

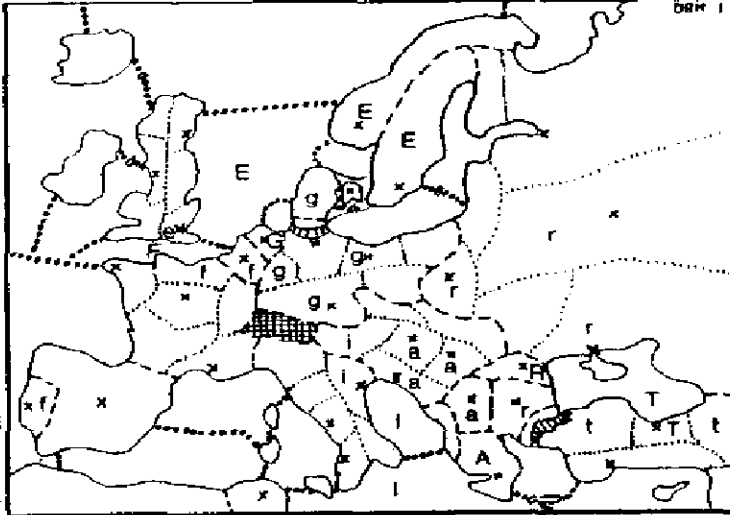
CORDLESS:

Italians, English STRIKE! English succeed....

CORDLESS

post Fall 02

CORDLESS crazies



GM: Bruce McIntyre 299-2382
253-6388
ENG: George Moen 430-5373
GER: Tor Abrahamsen 872-3777
RUS: Simon Matthews 929-3708
TUR: Steve Shamash 684-5788
AUS: Arthur Jenkins 299-8105
ITA: Don Clancy 876-6200
FRA: Charles Becker 684-0534

No one noticed my error last time, which doesn't excuse me for making it, but I sure wish you'd watch a bit closer as I'm nowhere near perfect. The mistake was that I retreated Tor's FBel for him to Hol. Luckily, this was what he agreed to do, so...

SUMMER 1902

RUSSIA F Bla r Rum
GERMANY F Bel r Hol

CORDLESS

TURKEY A Bul r Con

FALL 1902 ORDERS GM: Bruce McIntyre Zine: Conference Call

ENGLAND F Ska-Swe, F Nwy-StP, F Nth-Nwy, A Lon H
GERMANY A Den S (E) F Ska-Swe, F Hol H, A Mun-Ruh, A Sil-Mun, A Ber S A Sil-Mun
RUSSIA F Rum S A Sev, A Sev \$ F Rum, A War H, A Mos-StP, F Swe*\$ (G)
A Den, A Bul S
TURKEY A Con-Sev, F Bla C A Con-Sev, F Ank-Con, A Arm S A Con-Sev
AUSTRIA A Ser S (R) A Bul, F Gre-Ion, A Bud S A Tri, A Tri H, A Vie-Tyr
ITALY A Tyr-Vie, A Ven-Tri, F Ion-Gre, F Apu-Adr
FRANCE A Spa-Por, F Eng S A Bel, A Bel H, A Bur-Pic

PRESS:

GM: Just a quick reminder-deadlines are Monday 11 March at 11PM for the one retreat (RUSSIA: F Swe r (Fin, GoB, BaS, OTB)) and 24 hours later for all adjustments. Moves for Spring 1903 are due 3:05PM Thursday 21 March.

England: hates France. Charles, watch yer backside!!

Bel: Mapmaker sends sincere apologies to whoever wants them.

Pic: I hereby promise to keep all my promises, and to keep all my double-crosses to a minimum.

Eng: Hey, partners! Can we still talk Italy?

Adr: The Emperor has just boarded the fleet...

Vie: No comment.

Operator: The Tyrolian Peoples Army: attempting to vacate Tyrolia?? I'm telling..

Supplies OWNERSHIP OF CENTRES

GAME: CORDLESS

Russia builds if
F Swe r OTB

post-FALL 1902

ENGLAND 5 (B1)	TURKEY 3 (R)	NEUTRALS 0
Ed (G) E	Ank (T) T	Bel (G) F
Lpl (E) E	Con (T) T	Bul (T) R
Lon (E) E	Smy (T) T	Den (G) G
GERMANY 5	AUSTRIA 5	Gre (A) A
Ber (G) G	Bud (A) A	Hol (N) G
Kie (G) G	Tri (A) A	Nwy (E) E
Mun (G) G	Vie (A) A	Por (N) F
RUSSIA 6 (B1)	ITALY +	Rum (R) R
Mos (R) R	Nap (I) I	Ser (A) A
StP (R) R	Rom (I) I	Spa (F) F
Sev (R) R	Ven (I) I	Swe (R) E
War (R) R	FRANCE 5 (B1)	Tun (I) I
	Bre (F) F	
	Mar (F) F	
	Par (F) F	

continued from P. 11

always willing to help fill up a game but not wanting to commit himself to something he won't be able to finish, and newcomer Dennis McMahon. John, to our dismay, finds himself with too many responsibilities and has limited time to spend with other activities. Some readers may recall John was actually in the first game of Conference Call for a short period while we waited for a seventh person to join our hardy group and we are grateful to him for helping us to get things rolling when they might not have otherwise. Dennis, on the other hand, has no excuse. Others in attendance that fateful Sunday were Bruce Waddell, Klaig Morton, and Tor Abrahamson. (Yes, that's eight people. I'll explain later.)

After a rousing half game of hearts, we had the country assignments near 1:00. Bruce received command of the Austrian units while France was assigned to Bruce. As you can see, we had problems right from the onset (that were never truly solved to our satisfaction) yet we survived. Let's try that again. McIntyre - France, Waddell - Austria. Meanwhile Tor took up a strategic position in England and Dennis inhabited the other side of Europe, in Turkey. I was nominated for Germany leaving Italy to the control of Mitchell. Klaig was on his way and would inherit the rights to Russia from John as soon as he arrived. Thanks to Bruce M's alarm watch, which was occasionally even set to go off at the right time, we kept to our fifteen minute deadlines and events went smoothly right up until the conclusion of Spring 1901. Here it was discovered England was commencing a (fake) attack on France, but Italy and Austria were planning a (real) attack on Germany, who had just agreed with France to a "standoff in Burnaby". Turkey was unable to ever get his moves co-ordinated with others' and was soon reduced to one unit. Cries of "the Turkish running fleet strikes again" were heard throughout the room and we should have heeded the fire that arose in Bruce W's eyes. It was around this time when the game got interesting and although I've tried to sort this out for two weeks, I never was quite able to figure out what happened first.

As I recall John was relegated to GM duties after Klaig's arrival (although unable to decipher anyone's handwriting) yet later in the game was back in action when Klaig had to depart, leaving Dennis to GM. Before departing, however, he was credited with the second greatest line of the day. While writhing on the floor he was heard to exclaim "Oh, stabbed... Cooohhh, SUPERSTAB!". It wasn't until later when France stabbed England that the ultimate in screaming was heard. At that time France's orders were being read out by a neutral entity whom I can't remember. For some reason Germany was in Paris and Burgundy at the same time France was in Kiel and Ruhr. (A regular occurrence when Bruce and I play that defies logical explanation) The orders were read out as F Kie-Den, A Ruh-Bur, F Rol S ... (and then from across the room -) **Fleet Kiel? Does WHAT!?!**

But it was of no use. The game was quickly coming to a close. As Austria mopped up Russia and was turning Eastward, the Austrian-Italian alliance was in full force at 10 Austrian and 4 Italian units. (Nice balance, Mitch) With the taking of Liverpool by an untrustworthy Italian fleet and the announcement that he would not break his alliance with Austria, the game was conceded (although not unanimously) to Bruce Waddell. Congratulations, Bruce, but watch out next time. Yes, there will be many next times. For those interested Mitch was planning on another game March 17. I suggest you phone him to find out for sure. However, if he has changed his mind he'll kill me for announcing this and we will meet at my place. A pleasant time is guaranteed for all participants, and as proof I offer you the knowledge that at no time was reference ever made to anybody's sexual deviations. (For those of you who prefer that sort of thing though, I have pictures which may interest you.)

Oops. I hadn't intended to use that much space for the Diplomacy game. Oh, well, very quickly, we have lots of support for the hockey pool and not much time to get it organized. If we can get another Diplomacy game in on the last day of the hockey season I suggest we meet then to draft players for the pool. That will be April 7. The location of the draft will depend on exactly who can make it to where and when. We have to get about a dozen people who are normally busy all together at the same time. Not an easy task but to give you more incentive to arrange a good time here are the ideas we've come up with for the pool.

The basic idea is 2 points for a goal and 1 point for an assist. Other ideas include special scoring for special goals such as overtime, or shorthanded and power play goals. There was also an idea to encourage drafting of defensemen by having an alternate scoring method for any player you wish to designate as such. The idea was 2 points for an assist but -3 for a goal thus preventing you from selecting Gretzky as a defenseman (maybe). We would also like to encourage the

selection of goaltenders and offer two possible scoring methods. One idea is everyone must pick a goaltender and there overall goals against average is subtracted at the end of the playoffs. This will be good for settling any ties. A more interesting idea is to give a goalie 2 points for blanking the other team for any one period including overtime. On this idea should he receive points for an overtime period so short the other team never gets a shot on goal, and what about goaltending changes in the middle of a period? I suggest if a goalie plays more than ten minutes in a period he is considered to have played the whole period for our purposes. Other possible ideas are trading players and substitutions if one of your players gets injured but the new player only receives credit for what he does after the substitution. The cost to you the participant in this event is a mere two dollars and the prize (I suspect there will only be one) will have to be decided upon to be either cash or a sort of door prize. Whatever you want this pool to be like is up to you; phone me at 291-8149 and give me your votes on all these ideas. Majority rules. No vote, no complain.

We have a game opening here, and what's more, I distinctly remember announcing as such, but somehow, response has been poor.

EARPEICE. GM: Bruce Waddell (ph.434-6523). \$1. Signed up so far: Don Clancy, Charles Becker, John Cooper. Four needed. If youse guys don't hurry up and sign up for this one, I warn you, I'll sign up. You don't want that, now, do you?

Grant has not asked me to inform you of this, but I think somebody should make it clear: he disagrees with the notion that players who NMR should have it documented in the reports. This little bit of information should help those of you (me included) wondering what the hell's going on in BOOTH. It may even save Grant having to answer a few phone calls, for which I'm sure he will thank me...

My proposal for the hockey pool, touched upon above but not too elaborately, is this. Every player shall draft twelve players: two goalies, four defensemen, and six forwards. The scoring is as follows: for goalies, plus two for a shutout period, plus one for a period in which he only gives up one goal, and minus one if he gives up more than three goals in a period, or ~~give up~~ the winning goal in overtime. No period is counted unless he was the only goalie for his team in that period. For defensemen, count two points per assist, minus three for each goal. This is the simplest ratio that will keep it disadvantageous to nominate Gretzky for the defense. Forwards as usual, or rather as stated above, 2 per goal, 1 per assist. Trades are O.K. by me, as are substitutions in case of injuries (but what happens if the injured player is able to return to the lineup later??).

I don't like April 7 as the draft day, as that will probably be XL#3 weekend. But I shall try to get out on that day...

Let me correct an otherwise good article by Grant about MitchCon I. The set of orders that elicited the large-print response (from Tor) was the French set for Spring 1905 or so, read out by me (yer freindly neighbourhood neutral entity) as A Kie S GERMAN (Grant's) F Swe-Den. (Den was a supply centre at that time held by Tor) My simple excuse for this stab was that the English French alliance was going nowhere, with Tor up to about 8 units, and me up to my ass with German units. Unfortunately Tor didn't see things this way, and continued to call me names of four legged animals. The trouble with the whole thing was that when I agreed to support Grant into Den, I didn't even realize that it would be a stab. And by the time I returned to the map room, time was up, and orders were due. Oh well... I think that the game was a great success, and lots of fun all around. Despite Grant's generosity, Mitch has just informed me that MitchCon II will take place Sunday March 17th at 665 E.29th, just off Fraser. I assume it will start again at noon, but let's all try to get there in time, no latecomers like last time, eh?? (Myself included.)

Did you notice the new look to CC? (Look again.) I decided I'd had enough with the original masters, so I made these new ones. Their best point is that the reduction will now only be 64% instead of 58% or so. The only problem I've so far discovered is that the map takes up more room, making it a close thing to print names and numbers, even with the country names abbreviated. But at least I no longer have to touch up the mastheads, and redo the border lines.... B'Bye...

Most of the Post

Let me start the first XL letter column by saying two things. First, I don't intend to edit too harshly, so if you've time, write me something. I got a whole bunch of extrapolations on the 'nice zine, sign me up' theme, and while this is most welcome and heartening, it doesn't make for an interesting letter column. Second point is just that: I did edit all the praises for XL this time—everyone who subbed liked XL, it seems. This of course is not terribly surprising, as why would you send money if you hated it? We start with a letter I recieved before XL#1 D-Day...

ALAN STEWART: I read somewhere, I think, that you are thinking of opening a zine called Excelsior. Did you know that according to classical scholar Gilbert Highet, "excelsior" does not mean "ever onward" or "ever higher" or anything of that sort, but "rather tall?"

EM: Rather tall, eh? I myself was accused of being tall lately, by my landlord, Mr Chang. He and his wife, whose combined English vocabulary of over a thousand words is often replaced by philosophic wisdom which sounds like "oooooooh" and "aaaaaaaah", confronted me at the bus stop the other day, with the comment that "you must be very smart." They said this five times before I removed the earphones to find out why they were staring at me. I then was told about Mrs Chang's cousin, who apparently is as tall as I am (about 6'), and is very smart. And I wondered, what did Confucious have to say about logic??

R.L. MORTON: Vancouver is my home town. When winter here gets as bad as it has been, I wish I were back in Vancouver.

EM: Are you sure? I had to lug 4000 pounds of XL through a foot of snow that fell in the two hours it took to get XL printed! All the buses in North Burnaby were dead, and I very nearly dumped the box in the snow a few times. Quite pleasant though now, if you prefer rain.

CHARLES ARSENAULT: I have also my own Montréaler zine with about 70 players.

EM: Congratulations, Charles! You were the first to respond to the 400 samples I sent out. I'd certainly like to see your local zine-wanna trade? 70 players! That's triple CC's number!!

BILL QUINN: Send me EX ((I think you mean XL, don't you??)) and I'll send you Everything on a trade basis.

EM: Everything? Sounds like a good deal to me. Wow. Everything, eh? Now all I need is the Universe—I already have Life. (For those who don't know, Bill, the Boardman Number Coordinator, publishes a zine called Everything, and since I've not yet seen it, I'm waiting with excitement for my first look, but believe it shows stats dealing with postal Diplomacy games. Bill's address is 301 Conroe Dr., Conroe TX USA 77301.)

KEVIN BROWN: I look forward to participating in the My Move/Your Move portion of the zine. Do I have to send in a vote for each game or can I just vote on some of them?

EM: You may vote on/enter any number of contests in XL, omitting as you see fit. In some you may vote as many times as you like—but two votes for the same contest in the same envelope will not be counted. I do wish somebody would vote on the Pente game, though—it appears it's not as popular as I thought.

BILL SHIRLEY: I have one other sub; that is to Dave Carter's SK.

EM: In that case, I'm quite honoured that you chose me as your second! I hope you check out NFA, FSF, EE, and others. I get a lot out of this hobby through off-the-board gab, and I'd advise you not to miss the fun!!

GARY COUGHLAN: I gather that you take US checks—you didn't say that you

MOST OF THE POST continued

didn't—so here is mine...Tell Patricia her artwork is great...You seem to be out of the same mold as the other Canadian publishers that I've dealt with—friendly, enthusiastic and fair, and even-handed in dealing with feuds. Is it in the water up there?

BM: I will accept personal cheques for \$7 U.S. or more—any less and you pay the handling charge of \$1 U.S. Canadians love Americans, but mostly we love your money...

Patricia's artwork is great, but thanx for allowing me to tell her someone else agrees—she's getting tired of me telling her over and over.

Per haps everyone should check their water. Pour out a glass and look through it. If you can still tell the difference between the dog and the pretty girl walking down the street, you are a certified ombudsman. If not, you're destined to be a feuder for life. Even-handed enough for you?

ALAN PARR: I've put a copy or two of Hopscotch in the post; I hope you'll agree to trade (surface rates)?

BM: Canada Post has three speeds: First class, third class, and Postal Strike Special. I'll try 1st class with the probability of having it reduced to Postal Strike Special. Third class is for bulk mailing—with 20 subbers at this point I don't think that qualifies as a 'bulk', so you'll get your copy of XI faster than I'll get Hopscotch. Oh well—them's the breaks.

ALAN PARR(Ctd): P.S. Back to music—self taught and highly incompetant on clarinet, though I'd like to give saxophone a try. But I'm a real virtuoso on (what we used to call in my youth) the gramophone & pretty useful on tape & cassette recorders.

BM: Welcome to the PDP!!

BRUX LINSEY: Your first issue was fantastic—probably the best debut issue I've ever seen.

E4: I quite agree—but then I've been unfortunate enough to see more final issue than debut ones, so I've little to compare it with. But thanx!

CONRAD MINSHALL: I might be interested in a 6-8 week deadline Dip game—but I have noidea of what the timing of your games will be like.

BM: I quite understand the problem, I'm in a few with quick deadlines, mostly because of the turtlish speed of Canada Post. But I despise the thought of doing mid-month mass mailings if we go 6 weeks, and 8 weeks would, with the exception of COPELAND, the international game (once filled) be a bit too prolonged for a North American game. But I'm quite willing to listen to suggestions.

LARRY PEERY: Dear Bruce, or should I call you Bruxie, Jr.? ((Oh Ghod...)) ... I've been saying for two years that none of the new zines really turned me on. Yours was the first I've seen that sparked my interest...

BM: I'm honoured, but don't understand. The same day your letter got to Burnaby, I also recieved a sample of Frobozz, obviously one of the new zines you mention. I was pretty much impressed; maybe you missed that one. Did you figure that I could translate the Chinese you sent me? I don't dare take it to my landlord, but Albert Lam, my mechanic friend at work, tells me 'you must have send him a book.'

CHARLES BECKER: Thought I'd live dangerously, and send cash in the mail. On CC#8, you left a note saying, "plus a sub" Don't know if that means substitute or subscription. I'll ask you next phone call, and you'll know I'm not complaining, just finding out!

Hope the \$5 keeps me in the good for awhile, what an inexpensive hobby-eh!

My appreciation to you again for all the effort you put into DIP and

CC

BM: Thanx for filling the page,

Charles-bye!

The Quiz Results

First off, let's get the answers to last months quiz out of the way:

1. A cuckoo. I did have some cute guesses though. A few twits tried to get by with 'a scratch' or something similar. Mitchell Wageler tried 'a gunshot', probably the best pure guess, but unfortunately he still got shutout in the score.
2. Twice. The last three movements are played without a break; indeed, the transitions from one 'scene' to the other are probably what I like best about number 6. Nobody guessed four. Somebody guessed three; yet another guessed one. Why?
3. Ron Krukowski gets three points for reminding me that the lyrics are on the insert (or perhaps the jacket, I don't remember) of the FSG album, by laboriously writing them out. I've not listened (or looked at) my copy of the album for years, having bought the tape, which fits in my Walkman somewhat easily by comparison. The lyrics are recorded on Mangione's 20 Miles Young album, interestingly enough. They're somewhat lengthy. Let's go on. Look 'em up if yer interested.
4. What I was looking for here was that in a Stop Time rag, the pianist bangs out the beat with his foot wherever the word Stamp appears in the music. (In a regular rag, presumably, the feet are left alone to do more important things like operating the pedals and shooing the cat...)
5. I knew people would guess, and what's more, I knew they'd never guess right! I was wrong. The answer, AMAZINGLY GUESSED by Ron Krukowski, was viola. The more common guesses, sax, trumpet, oboe, are wrong in that the range of the clarinet is rather larger than these instruments, especially in the first of the two sonatas, in which there is a leap in the opening that all clarinet players have lost sleep over....
6. The Ives piece deserves an explanation. First we hear a string quartet playing these widely spread out chords, long and softly, so that you almost can not hear them. These chords are supposed to represent the Stability of the Universe or something equally silly. After a few seconds of this, the Question is heard for the first time. It is a tune without any perceivable reference to rhythm, key, or style—upon hearing, you almost want to say "Huh?" Then four flutes make the first of many attempts to answer, with uncertain rippling runs and atonal crescendoing arpeggios. Soon The Question is asked again. ("Huh?") The flutes respond, with more complicated harmonies still. All the while the strings are playing away the universe. Finally after about eight minutes, the trumpet intones The question for the last time, and this time the flutes do not answer... Kind of like The Hitch Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy, huh?

Scores: Wageler 0 (Oh well...), Arsenault 1, Lorber 2, Peery 6—unless the Chinese you sent was another answer..
The winner was—you guessed it—Ron Krukowski*****with a perfect score of 21, for which he has won the big prize of five issues of XL free. Well done, Ron!!

Nobody got the excerpt on page 13 from XL#1 for five free issues. It was an excerpt from the Clarinet Concerto by Mozart, K.622. I hope someone guesses at this months excerpts, they won't always be classical, by the way. No quiz this month, as there is just no room.



THE EXCELSIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE

This is the baseball pool for people who know nothing about baseball. If you know a lot about baseball you'll probably be racking your brains figuring out "who to take", and you'll find out that your system won't work as well as you thought...

Here's how it does work. There will be 25 teams. Each team, managed by one player, will be allowed to draft four 'groups' of players as outlined below. Each of these groups constitutes about 1% of the players in baseball, and there is no advantage to groups that have more players than others, as extra players is as much a liability as an advantage.

For each game played in the majors this season, there will be a losing pitcher. Whoever has drafted this player (by drafting the group that he is in) gets one loss in the standings. Each game will similarly have a winning RBI. The player who has drafted this player gets one win in the standings. The one exception is if you have both the winning and losing player in the same game—you wouldn't get both a win and a loss for the same game; the game would be discarded.

These are the groups:

FIRST LETTER OF SURNAME	NUMBER OF LETTERS IN SURNAME										To enter, just send me a matrix with the numbers 1 to 100 entered in once. 100 means you really don't want that group; 1 means you'd make them your first pick. If I get a letter describing a trade between players from each of the players involved, the trade takes place the day after I receive the last letter confirming the deal, and will be announced in the next issue of <u>XL</u> . You may trade only complete groups. Each issue I will print standings at the end of the preceding month and the groups each player held at the time. If a trade was made, it shall be announced. Players may send <u>SASE</u> to get the latest standings and trades at any time during the season, but if you make a request during deadline week it will not come back as quickly as you'd hoped... If you do not keep up your sub to <u>XL</u> , you will lose control of your groups to the "house teams" which will serve to fill out the 25 teams until we get a full complement. Players may enter, with a preference list among the groups that remain, at any time. All new players will get their groups on the first day of the next month, and the house teams will make trades to reconstruct themselves so that these players may fit in, with the groups that they want. However, <u>entry costs more as the game progresses</u> , and once we have 25 teams there will be no further entries. At the end of the season, the pennant winning teams will receive all of their divisions groups for post-season purposes. There will then be a playoff series and a World Series. (I'll divide the 25 teams into four divisions for this purpose. The last place team in the six-team division will have its groups split between the pennant winners randomly.) Teams losing in the playoff donate their groups to the teams that defeated them for the World Series. Team names are strongly encouraged—if you don't, I will... PRIZES: World Series winner.....10 free issues of <u>AL</u> , plus free entry next year. World Series loser.....5 free issues
	1-5	6		7		8		9 or more			
	AL	NL	AL	NL	AL	NL	AL	NL	AL	NL	
AB	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
CD	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
EF	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
GHI	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
JKL	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
MN	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
OPQ	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
RS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
TUV	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
WXYZ	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

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Players may enter, with a preference list among the groups that remain, at any time. All new players will get their groups on the first day of the next month, and the house teams will make trades to reconstruct themselves so that these players may fit in, with the groups that they want. However, entry costs more as the game progresses, and once we have 25 teams there will be no further entries.

At the end of the season, the pennant winning teams will receive all of their divisions groups for post-season purposes. There will then be a playoff series and a World Series. (I'll divide the 25 teams into four divisions for this purpose. The last place team in the six-team division will have its groups split between the pennant winners randomly.) Teams losing in the playoff donate their groups to the teams that defeated them for the World Series.

Team names are strongly encouraged—if you don't, I will...

PRIZES: World Series winner.....10 free issues of AL, plus free entry next year.
World Series loser.....5 free issues

XL BASEBALL POOL continued

Playoff Losers.....3 free issues
Second place in division.....2 free issues
More wins than losses.....1 extra free issue
Gamefee.....\$1 and rising

A team MUST HAVE at least 65 wins to qualify for free issues at the end of the season. My calculations indicate that teams will play an average of about 180 games, though some may play a few more or less, so it is entirely possible to win the pennant by $\frac{1}{2}$ a game. Any entries without game fee enclosed will get one issue taken off their sub.

The deadline for the bargain basement price of \$1 is April 1st, one week before opening Day. If a postal strike occurs, I shall, if possible try to reconstruct the draft when I get the entries after it's over, but this may prove to be difficult. As I write, it would appear that the two sides are making every effort to avoid a strike, but we've heard that before. If there's no strike, the entry fee goes up to \$2 after the deadline so don't delay!!

PLAY BALL!!

(Oops-I see that I forgot to mention why I put that * in, so:*By way of explanation, RBI stands for Run Batted In, and is given to a player who causes a run to score by virtue of what he does at the plate. However, there are instances numbering about 6% of runs, in which no RBI is awarded. One that I know of is that if a batter hits into a ground-out double play and a runner from third scores while this is happening, the batter doesn't get an RBI. It seems unlikely that this would account for 6% of all runs, so I offer free entry to anyone who can tell me another no-RBI situation, with documentation-no 'I figure' or 'They said' stuff. In any case, if there is no winning RBI, the name of the winning pitcher will be used instead.)

The XL Zine Poll Knockout Tournament

I didn't get many votes for the Zine Roll Knockout Tourney, but I got enough for a tournament. Fourteen zines were mentioned, I have broken a few ties, and come up with the following eight.

ROUND ONE (Quarter finals) Deadline April 1st, 10:00 AM

Seed Zine & Publisher

- (1.) Europa Express (Gary Coughlan)
- (8.) Life of Monty (Don del Grande)
- (4.) No Fixed Address (Steve Hutton)
- (5.) Diplomacy Digest (Mark Berch)
- (2.) Thirty Miles of Bad Road (Mark Luedi)
- (7.) The Inner Light (Keith Sherwood)
- (3.) So I Lied (Marc Peters)
- (6.) Xenogogic (Larry Peery)

Publishers will be getting a form letter describing (again) the rules of the tournament shortly.

Other popular zines, apparently, are, in no particular order-Sleepless Knights, Perelandra, The Concert of Europe, Magus, Lone Star Diplomat, and Diplomacy World. I will be making certain that I get all these zines, by sub or trade, soon.

Now, you know what to do, don't you? Send me your favorite of the two zines in each matchup, along with whether or not you are on the subscribers list of any or all of them. You do not have to sub to both zines to vote, but your votes will be less weighty if you don't. And you may vote as many times as you like, provided each vote comes with its own separate postage. Good luck!!

excelsior No. 2 from the podium

Excelsior's nomination for the Dave Carter Award committee

For those who are unfamiliar with this award, let me explain.
The Dave Carter Award is put out by Judy Winsome, and
is given to the most sexist member of the hobby.
Apparently Dave won the award in its
rookie year by printing nude
females' pictures in
SK.

Last year's
award was presented
to Steve Hutton of NEA fame.
I would like to continue the Cana-
dian tradition by winning it this year.
Unfortunately, my printer absolutely refused to
reduce the obligatory dirty picture, and the original
simply would not fit in XL's reduced pages. But by using a
self-serve machine and a bit of disguise, I was able to reproduce at
least part of the XL entry for you. Whaddaya think, Judy?

Bruce McIntyre
6191 Winch St.
Burnaby B.C.
CANADA V5B 2L4

ph. 604-299-2382
604-253-6388 weekdays between 7:30pm and 12

And DO NOT FORGET that Burnaby, a suburb on the east side of Vancouver,
is on the Pacific Standard Timing System. If you phone me when you get
up in the morning, I'll just be getting to bed.....

Finally, for all those who asked (and myself, who forgot to answer), XL
Diplomacy games will run on 4 or 5 wk. deadlines. Each deadline will be
the Friday before the second Monday of each month except December.