

How LONG did you say I'VE BEEN GONE???

EXCELSDOR 39

A True C.D.O. Zine: Correspondance, Diplomacy, and Opinions

Only two game reports in this issue: FAURE (86 CC) on page 31, and on page 32 you'll see GREGORY (89 CE). We still have spots open for IVES (Seismic Diplomacy), KO-

April 1991

OUR ADDRESS
6636 Dow Ave., #203
Burnaby, B.C.
CANADA V5H 3C9

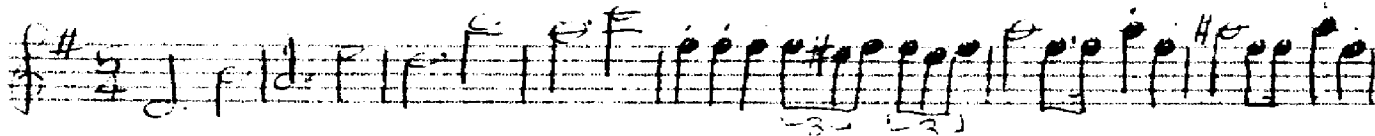
DALY (Regular Dip), and JOPLIN (Silent Seven Dip) as well as openings for my game Road Trip, and the new XL Brotisserie League (rules on page 19.) C'mon, sign up!

Publishing has no set hours. No DipZine publisher can accurately say that he has never worked on his zine during the wee hours of the morning. As a matter of fact, we here at XL believe that the best work is usually done after midnight, and with that in mind, we present:

THE TOP TEN UNUSUAL THINGS REGULARLY DONE BY PUBLISHERS AT 3AM

(read from bottom up--preferably after midnight)

1. TIM MOORE tiptoes to the main switch and quickly turns on all the lights in the apartment, shouting "AHA! Caught you!"--but, as usual, there's nobody trying to fake his zine.
2. MARK BERCH wakes up in a cold sweat after dreaming that a vital issue of an obscure zine has been misfiled in his extensive records.
3. BRENT MCKEE carries out his latest plan (this one involving the Exxon Valdez) to get another week out of the ribbon that came with his year-old printer.
4. CAL WHITE clips a few weeks worth of *Calvin & Hobbes* from the newspaper, checking for appropriate places to change the names of the characters so as to politically embarass his CDO rivals.
5. DOUG ACHESON is going through his "collection" in search of inspiration for titillating passages to include in the next *Studies in Scarlet*.
6. MELINDA HOLLEY reaches the half-way point of this issue of *Rebel's Diplomacy* adjudications, having worked without a single break since *last* night at 3AM.
7. CHRIS CARRIER has another bad dream involving himself, some futuristic weaponry, and the dreaded GerykMonster.
8. BOB ACHESON dreams up a great idea on how to get MORE than 34 people into a Diplomacy game, but will not be able to remember it when he wakes up.
9. LARRY PEERY answers another international long-distance call on the "red phone"--the DC3 hotline.
10. McBRUCE blatantly plagiarizes the Great Composers, wearing out the rewind button on his Walkman in so doing.



PRIME MOVER: Bruce McIntyre HEAVENLY SUPPORT: Nancy Hurrell
CONVOYS (PRINTING): Bob Kwong, Budget Printing, Burnaby, B.C., CANADA
BRAND NEW PAGE TEMPLATES DESIGNED BY: Eric Brosius

DIRECTORY

EXCELSIOR #39, finally printed March 16, 1990, in Burnaby BC, CANADA by Bob Kwong at Budget Printing (who, like the rest of you, has been wondering if I'd ever return). With the usual heaven of a lot of support from Nancy Hurrell, and encouragement over the long distance line from Fred Davis and Eric Brosius--and even Cal White, checking on behalf of the CDO to see if I had died. I hope he charges the call to the organization.

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1	The Top Ten Unusual Things Regularly Done By Publishers at 3AM.
2	Directory
3-6	DipGab. Lots of old news interwixed with some not-so-old news here. Your mission: figure out which is dated, and which is current.
7-8	Leacock section. This issue's selection is a look at our southern neighbours, entitled <u>Why is the United States?</u>
8	Spacefiller. As this particular spacefiller was sent to me without comment, I won't comment on who sent it.
9-11	The Smiley Series. The first essay in an eight-part (possibly nine-part) series on the Circus novels of John le Carré. If you haven't read them, don't avoid this: the first essay is an overview of the whole series. You might find that it's right down your alley.
12-13	NHL Gives Birth...expansion teams go to some unexpected places.
13-16	Answers to the Baseball Questions in #37 and #38.
17	FRED'S COLUMN #3, by Fred C. Davis. A follow-up to some topics which had previously appeared in <u>Bushwacker</u> .
18-19	Gulf Thoughts. Two short essays on war and post-war issues.
19-20	Let the Brotisserie begin. The DipGab section has a report on a proposal from Eric Brosius on a simple and unique way to play Rotisserie-type baseball by post. It's getting late, so if this interests you, read it first!
21	Poll Talk #6, by Eric Brosius. I wish I'd run this sooner. Eric's proposal here to include non-Dip GMs in the GM poll will be in effect this year. I'd have preferred a discussion--I think non-Dip zines, GMs and subzines should at least be asterisked.
22-30	Most of the Post. Letters from Steve Hutton, Claude Gautron, Pete Gaughan, David Hood, Dave McCrumb, Robert Lesco, Steve Robinson, Mark Nelson, Paul Milewski, Eric Brosius, Brent McKee, Andrew York, Mark Berch, and Rosie Roberts. Many topics, as you might expect. Also, a rundown of the response to the yawner questions I posed last time, and some new ones which hopefully will get more than a yes or no answer.
31-32	Diplomacy games. What's where, you ask? Details on cover gamefinder.
33-36	FRED'S COLUMN #4, by Fred C. Davis, Jr. (Fred had originally intended this to be in the next issue, but that was based upon a schedule which I couldn't keep, so I thought it best to not keep everyone waiting.) Topic this time: the most influential people in history: a published ranking contrasted with Fred's own "top 60."

SCATTERED THROUGHOUT: The 4th "inning" (it's a 90-question quiz in nine parts) of It's Your Call, a test of your baseball umpiring skills. First question on page 4.

Excelsior is a postal gaming zine dedicated firstly to the game of Diplomacy, copyrighted by Avalon Hill in the U.S., and sold by Waddington-Sanders above the line, which tries to be published about every six weeks, obviously failing miserably this time. Excelsior are wood shavings used in packaging--this zine is quite unsuitable for that purpose.

This issue costs \$1.42 to Canada, US \$1.24 in the USA, and US \$1.00 elsewhere, except for those overseas subbers playing in a Diplomacy game or variant here, for whom the cost is halved. The normal overseas rate is fixed (but has been cut by 50% this time), the others are [postage] + [(2¢ CDN) or (1.75¢ US) per page], but the last page you pay for is page 28. This time Canadian subbers got hit with the GST (on the postage portion only), and I've figured what it would cost to mail from Pt. Roberts even though I likely won't have time this issue and will pay more as a result.

The address to which things must be sent is 6636 Dow Ave., #203, Burnaby BC, Canada V5H 3C9. Phone number is 604/438-9735, and Monday through Friday from midnight to 8 AM, 604/524-9915. Still no E-Mail account number. I've hidden Fred Davis's address on page 35, in case you'd like to contact him concerning the excellent material he's written for this issue.

Cutoff date for next issue (not counting the separate deadlines the Dip game always have) is Friday, April 26, but it'd be best to beat that by a few days.

DipGab

Long time readers of this zine will know that any scheduling plans I make are likely to be blown away by the time the next issue has to be out. Well, it's happened this time again, but it ain't all my fault! I had hoped to put out a nice Christmas issue, with letters from people describing how they celebrate Christmas in their part of the world, etc. With the international participation in this zine, I thought this might make for some interesting reading, but as usual I left it too long before asking for such essays, and while there may be a zine full of interesting material in the mail, I haven't yet received any of it. So the Christmas issue is held off until next year. Somebody remind me about August that plans should be made.

Starting this issue, I'm publishing on a new six-weekly schedule. The games and stuff will continue to run on six-week schedules separate from the zine, so that if a game needs to be delayed, or the players want to speed the game up, it's all right, and doesn't affect the zine schedule at all. The six-weekly publishing schedule, of course, will fit in better with my paycheques, now that I'm not being paid twice a month, but biweekly.

By now you will have noticed that we have new page templates. Thanks very much to Eric Brosius, who threw my rough specs into his new laser printer and came out with something even nicer looking than I had envisioned!

You probably read somewhere about the rainfall (we're talking November-December here) in my part of the world and wondered whether it kept me from publishing. It didn't. We live on the second floor of a low-rise apartment building in one of the highest regions of the city. If it's borderline rain and snow, we'll get snow while the rest of the city gets rain. It did rain quite a lot here, but the effect on Vancouver was not nearly as bad as the effect on the surrounding agricultural lands, and the great rains created some real bad situations in northwestern Washington State. Even in Seattle, where a mile-long floating bridge spans Lake Washington as Interstate 90, there were problems, as the original bridge, which was being renovated so that it could serve alongside the new bridge and double the traffic flow, sunk to the bottom in the flood waters of the lake two Sundays ago. But compared to the troubles faced by some smaller towns in the region, that was minor.

Locally, we had the same old stories about washed-out homes along the dangerous Squamish Highway, which is situated on a high-risk mudslide area. I'm perhaps too sarcastic about this, but it seems to me

that a lot of otherwise rational people around here will never get the message. Any Vancouverite will bitch to all tourists about the amount of rain the city gets. This is the unifying force behind life-long city-dwellers here, and they never forget that the rain can come down quite a lot when it wants to. All their life they base decisions on this vital knowledge: few cheap umbrellas are bought here, houses are built that shock Easterners because heavy snowfalls would collapse the patio sun-screen, but the fact is that we don't get heavy snowfalls, and the same house is built to withstand a lot of rain before the basement floods. But, it is now apparent that there is one time in every Vancouverite's life when all their lifetime of conditioning fails them, and that crucial moment is when they sign the contract to buy a new house that is quite obviously situated on a high-risk area. Yes, the disasters were devastating, but looking at the surroundings, I kept asking myself, "Why in hell would anyone want to build a house there? And why are they surprised that it has now been washed away?"

About the only thing that doesn't surprise me is that my tax money is going to pay for these people to get back on their feet and rebuild their homes nice and vulnerable for the next mudslide.

And now for some out-of-date news--just for the record. (I gave up trying to revise the present tense into the past tense throughout, so imagine it's November and bear with me.)

I've been asked to tell you that there is a CDO election campaign on for my seat on the Executive Committee, being contested between Claude Gautron of Winnipeg MB and Eric Young of Armstrong BC. Anyone who subs or trades for this zine may vote on one of the two. The returning officer is Brent McKee, 901 Avenue T. North, Saskatoon SK, Canada S7L 3B9. There's an official ballot, too, but quite frankly I think that's kind of silly--most of us in this hobby can manage to write a name on a sheet of paper and post it correctly.

I don't know who to vote for, quite frankly. Like most CDO campaigns, this one has been run without any campaigning, and the ludicrous voting deadline of Dec. 31 (right in the middle of the holiday mail rush) may create the usual apathetic turnout, but of course this means that your vote may decide it, so I should tell you what I know of the candidates.

Claude has served on the Executive before, and is given the historical credit for reviving the organization a few years ago (likely on the urging of Ron Brown) after Steve Hutton and I disappeared from the hobby for months, and it became apparent that we were trying to make people forget that regular elections had to be called.

Claude founded Quinipique, a French-language zine that is now in the hands of Pierre Touchette under the name Diplodocus, and would probably cite his fluency in French (as well as a large number of other languages, I gather) as a good reason to vote for him.

Eric Young is an enthusiastic newcomer to the Canadian Diplomacy scene, who publishes an interesting zine called The Tactful Assassin. The zine is quite reliable, meaning that Eric would probably be quite willing to take on CDO projects and do a fine job with them should he win. If you feel that the CDO job should go to someone who is still a relative newcomer to the hobby (one, Brent McKee, has done a fine job in his CDO position), Eric would be the logical vote.

I suspect that the lack of any campaigning is due to the fact that each realizes that the other has fine qualifications for the job, and I personally am not that interested in the result, since either candidate would be an excellent choice. As I never tire of saying, not being on the Executive Committee doesn't mean that you may not take on CDO projects. In fact, the powers of the CDO Executive have been reduced when it comes to exerting political influence on CDO projects with the changes to the constitution, so if you have a pet project that you'd like to do for the CDO, you don't need to be elected as much as appointed.

But, as I say, do vote if there's still time. Your vote might make the difference in this race!

(Claude Gautron won 9-7.)

I want to inform all of you that I had a fine 28th birthday on December the 1st, starting off with a \$40 win at backgammon, continuing with a long afternoon nap, and then finishing off with a fine Mexican enchilada dinner with liberal quantities of my beloved mole sauce (for those of you unfamiliar with this wonderful taste, that's a creamy mixture of chocolate and chili spices which tastes far better than it sounds like it ought to). Then on the next day I discovered a airline-sized bottle of rum which I diluted into some root beer and enjoyed during the football games. This got me to thinking that I haven't made a silly joke about rum & Pepsi (which I prefer and can distinguish from rum & Coke) for ages, so I have taken the liberty to add that element into the local environment. Whether it will have any effect or not on the quality of this issue, I do not yet know, and eventually I may not care.

And on December 3 I discovered I'd lost my bank card. Luckily I'm not rich enough for it to be too valuable for the lucky finder, even if he cracks the code.

Nancy is going to spend Christmas in Montréal this year, leaving on the 18th and

returning on the 2nd of January. She's been hopping up and down around here for the past little while, and I'm sure she'll have a great time, having not been home for Christmas for five years. We've already made a pact that no presents are to be bought until the post-Christmas sales start.

A silly Bridge story now. Guy on my left says hello to me, *salut* to Nancy, and then opens "*un sans atout*", which is French for 1NT. Nancy passes in English. His partner bids two clubs. Pass by me. Two spades by LHO. Pass by Nancy. Right-hand opponent thinks and then comes up with a bid: "*trois sans atout*" (3NT), he says. Before I pass, the guy on my left says, "Huh? What'd ya say? I missed that." Right-hand opponent throws down his cards in disgust and berates his partner: "What is this? In French you can only count to one?"

Eric Brosius, in Tom Nash's zine Been There, Done That, has come up with an interesting mechanism for playing Rotisserie League baseball without the tremendous involvement required. The Rotisserie system is a complicated type of system whereby drafted fantasy teams are ranked according to their position relative to the other drafted teams' totals, in eight categories, four offensive and four defensive. You score each category in matchpoints as in duplicate bridge, so that in an eight team league, the highest score in each category would get eight points, and the worst would

IT'S YOUR CALL

Off we go with the fourth round of the baseball quiz. Some guy named Lowrey in North Carolina has admitted that the layout of previous quizzes has been too much for him, so I'll tell y'all right up front that there are 10 questions in this issue, and that the location of the next question will always immediately follow each question--except of course for the last question. I even tell you the location of the preceding question in case you miss one! This way it should be easy to locate the whole set no matter how many layout things I forgot when the time grows short. Funny, I thought I'd been doing it that way all along, and that the scheme was kind of obvious, but down in NC apparently this is not the case, so I thought I'd let y'all know up front this time.

1. Henry Wiggin is at the plate. On a two-strike pitch, Wiggin foul tips the ball. Bruce Pearson, the catcher, catches the ball after it caroms off his mask but before it hits the ground. Is Wiggin out, or is it just a foul ball since Pearson did not catch it directly in his glove? It's your call.

[Next question is on page 5.]

THIRTY-NINE

5

get one, and the winner is the team amassing the most points. The reasons Rotisserie is so difficult to run postally are the complicated drafting rules, in which each player is bid on, and there is a "salary cap" on each team, and the difficulty in effecting trades, which help to make a good Rotisserie league so much fun.

Eric's idea was to have 6-8 people in a (well, let's call it this and see what he says!) Brotisserie league, each draft a team as follows. One guy gets the 25 players (or however many are agreed upon) he wants at the start of the season. Then after a month of games, another guy drafts 25 untaken players. Then after two months a third drafter takes 25 from whoever is still left. And so on. The guy drafting from the dregs of the league on October 1st, reasoned Eric, would be able to select the right players to get a lot of points in certain areas, while the guys picking players in mid-season would have progressively more stats to go on. Eric felt that the advantage of picking the "predicted" best 25 would be offset by the advantage of seeing who is having a good year, and what categories are ripe for the picking. In any case, it wouldn't be too difficult to run as a multi-game, like 7x7 Gunboat Dip, where each participant would play each of the "positions" once.

I think this is an excellent idea. The best bet, I think, would be to have seven people, and have picks due on the first of each month, from April to October. This would mean that each participant would have a team to pick each month, there'd be no conditionals at all, and there'd be little chance of anyone doing poorly in all seven games and losing interest. Let's give this a try. Please tell me if you're interested, and I'll see what I can do about getting some rules together if there's enough initial interest. One thing that comes to mind: when we total up the points in each of the seven games, should the overall winner be the one with the most points, or most games won? I'm leaning towards the latter (with point totals as the determining factor if there is a tie for most wins, as in Silent Seven), but I'll accept arguments for either method.

A sad note here: the MAHLER game, having just received a BN from Eric Klein, has died, with only two people (Frank Easton and Marc Peters) sending orders. I am astonished that after all the trouble he went to in getting the game to a Canadian zine, Doug Acheson couldn't send in orders to me. Still, I think I'd have preferred to have to call no more than three stand-bys into the game, so perhaps it is good that Doug did NMR, because clearly 2/7 is not cause to continue, where 3/7 is questionable. Thanks of course to Frank Easton and Marc Peters for having the perseverance to continue; let's put this one to rest now.

Another thing I have reluctantly decided to zap is DiploScrabble, mostly because of this letter from Rosie Roberts:

I'm astonished that you should have managed to dredge up a book calling itself a Scrabble Dictionary that doesn't know the word "ZO"; it is a kind of Himalayan domestic cattle, spelt in a large number of useful ways--ZO, ZHO, ZHOMO, ZOBO, JOMO, ... , and is probably the single most played word in Scrabble in England. Or was until your stupid book appeared. I don't suppose it will have this-time's words either, although they're all in either Chambers or Collins:

"GIFT", "IN" and "TEAK" you will know; "GA" is the name of an African people and/or their tongue (so it is just as much a legal word as "ENGLISH" or "GERMAN"!); "VISIRATE" is the position held by a Visir (the chap who is variously spelt Wisir, Visir, Visier, Wizir, etc.), and "BOOZEY" is the same as "BOOZY", viz: affected by or given to indulging in BOOZE.

It strikes me that if you disallow enough of my words my score will end up negative. Can you still work out the percentiles if it does? (Serve you right!)

ZO may very well be an English word, but if it has at least four alternate spellings I think I'd rather do without it in any word game. If we're going to bring in foreign words for use in English, then I think for the purpose of word games we ought to allow one spelling only. I mean, I can well believe that ZO has a great popularity in English Scrabble tournaments, as I'm sure a great many other dubious words with funny alternate spellings are as well. The North American view is that there must be some limits, or the playability of the game breaks down. Thus, the Official Scrabble Dictionary, which I now realize is limited in jurisdiction to North American tournaments.

"GA" should be capitalised if its definition is as you describe. ENGLISH (spin on a ball), FRENCH (to cut into thin strips before cooking), GERMAN (an elaborate dance), RUSSIFY (to make Russian), and TURKEY (a large American bird), all have viable meanings not requiring capitals. The OSD lists VIZIR and VIZIRATE--based on the many alternate spellings of other foreign words, I'm forced to conclude that the dictionaries they looked up VIZIR in didn't have the alternate spelling. Same with BOOZEY--OSD has it without the "E". Negative scores wouldn't hurt the percentiles.

I'm not trying to say that you're wrong, only that I cannot obtain Chambers or Collins too easily here, and neither can any of the other players. And, since I suspect that you cannot get an OSD (and would probably spend rather a long time berating

it publicly!), I think maybe it's time we switched to something else.

For Christmas I received some nice gifts from Nan's parents (given to me when she returned): a smart looking corduroy beret with ear covers for when it gets cold, and a wonderful gadget that holds your letters and orders in a more convenient position for me than simply putting the paper face up on the desk. While Nancy was gone I spent very little money but lots of time and elbow grease cleaning the apartment and rearranging furniture. As a result the computer is in the living room beside the TV, but the other colour set is in the other room, meaning that I'm typing on a B/W set, until I find a colour monitor.

I took Nancy to the airport on the 18th. On the transit bus ride there, it snowed like hell, and the temperature dropped drastically in the middle of the afternoon. Her plane got off twenty minutes late, by the grace of God I got home by bus without disaster, and when it was all over, we had 4 inches of snow and a great bloody arctic air mass putting lows down to -14 C at night, which of course is when I work. This cold snap lasted about three days, and then when the cloud cover rolled in to warm things up, it snowed again, another 4 inches. This snowfall ensured a white Christmas in Vancouver for the first time in at least a decade, but that wasn't all. On the 29th (Saturday), it began to snow in late afternoon, and didn't stop until Sunday noon. This was probably the worst of all, and we still haven't recovered completely, but the essential point of the whole story is that Nan has been here five years, and hasn't seen a white Christmas yet. The year she left, she nearly missed one in Montreal, while we were swamped with the stuff!

Someone explain to me the logic behind the NFL tie-breaker system, which kicked the Seahawks out of the playoffs despite having the tie-breaker advantage over all the teams that had the same record. Seattle, Cincinnati, Houston and Pittsburgh all ended at 9-7. Seattle had beaten Cincinnati and Houston, and had not played Pittsburgh but had a better conference record. But, after Cincinnati was named the Central Division winner, the three-way tie-breaker went to Houston, because no team had beaten or lost to both others, and Houston had the best conference record. So it's like this: Seattle is better than Houston, Seattle is better than Pittsburgh, but Seattle is not better than both. Does that make sense to you?

I was going to have a barnstormin' response to the batch of zine reviews put out by David Hood and Mike Lowrey, but I figured it might be better to see if their dismissal of XL as the worst non-warehouse

zine in North America for layout, readability, and maps was a view shared by readers. Accordingly, this is the only question in the letters section this time. I'd like to have some responses on this, so that when I do blow my top next time I know whether I'm out on a limb or whether I have at least some support. It would be idiotic for me to take umbrage at their slams at the zine's scheduling and GMing, since they are probably true. But the slam at the layout surprised me, and I want to find out whether you agree. Publishers should do what they like, but if this is turning into a real problem, lemme know and I'll see what I can do.

I have a short bit of advice for those of you who will be participating in a hockey pool on the NHL playoffs. If yours is one of these pools that reverses the order of drafting for the second round, you should consider asking to draft last. The other people in the pool might let you, when in fact you would be a favorite to win with last pick. If you have 1st pick and 30th pick in a playoff pool, you decide who will be in the Stanley Cup Final and pick their highest scorer, then you hope that there are other players from that team available 29 picks later. Unfortunately, there won't be. If you have 15th and 16th pick, you can see what's been taken and plot strategy accordingly. Especially in this year where 6-8 teams have a legitimate shot at getting to the last round, your strategy should be to get as many players on two or three teams as possible, then root for those teams to succeed. Because if L.A. is eliminated early and Boston makes the finals, for example, Bob Sweeney may well outscore Wayne Gretzky.

Don't understand? Well, let me remind you that I won my playoff hockey pool last year after having eight out of twelve players eliminated in round one. The remaining four were Oilers, and they put me into the lead just before the end. Why did I choose Oilers? Because the Oilers were the only team with a legitimate shot who had a number of players available in the middle rounds. Calgary's top scorers were gone before you could say "Nieuwendyk."

Next issue we'll have a look at a fascinating new discovery (not yet a dozen years old) in mathematics: a function which, when graphed, is infinitely detailed. I have the article ready to go, but I want to be able to show you some of the amazing results, and I'm having some trouble with accessing the printer's graphic modes from BASIC. And then, the program itself takes over 12 hours to run on this dinky little 1MHz machine...

...by STEPHEN LEACOCK

[I guess in late February it's a bit late for one of the many Leacock Christmas pieces, so here's one that might more aptly fit the current state of affairs.]

Why is the United States?

by Stephen Leacock

I wonder how the United States came to be the United States? I mean--how it came to take on it's peculiar national character, as a sort of "neighbour" to all the world. As the years and the decades, and now even the centuries have gone past, we can begin to see this peculiar aspect of the United States, unknown anywhere else in history.

It is not imperial dominion; in fact it's not dominion or domination at all--just a peculiar result of mingled merit, destiny and good fortune. People all over the world--Chinese in Chow Chow and Patagonians in Pat Pat--"look to the United States" as a sort of neighbour to appeal to, and to borrow from, just as among the earlier settlers of this country....

Ah! That's it! I see it now--the early settlers. That's where they got it from.

I think there must have been, I mean away back in early settlement times, a country store at a cross-roads--you know the kind of place I mean--a store and post office and farm combined--and this one was called Sam's Place. And the man who kept it, they came to call Uncle Sam.

There was always one or two loafers in the store, sitting on nail-kegs and whittling sticks. Uncle Sam sold pretty well everything, but as a matter of fact the neighbours seemed to do far more borrowing than buying.

In comes a raggedy little girl, very swarthy, with very black hair in pigtails.

"Mister Uncle Sam," she says, "Ma wants the loan of a teakettle."

"Now let me see," says Uncle Sam, as he takes a kettle down off a shelf, "which are you? Oh yes, you're little Guatemala...Here, run along with it. But tell your ma she ain't sent back the last kettle yet."

"Kind o' shiftless folk," says Uncle Sam as she goes out, "they live down below there...Spanish...fine land for all sorts of stuff they've got, but they don't do anything with it....Sometimes think I might go down there sometime."

Presently in flounces a big dark girl, all colour and style, "Uncle Sam," she says, "let me have another yard of that red calico."

Uncle Sam takes his scissors. "Are you paying for it, Miss Mexico?"

"No, charging it."

"Well, I suppose, you got to take it, and tell your pa that I paid him for the coal oil and he hasn't delivered it yet."

Yet Uncle Sam prospered--oh, ever so

much! You see, the farm was a wonderful bit of land, and he owned a tannery, and a sawmill--oh, he had everything. Money just seemed to come without trying. "It is a good location," he said.

So of course all the neighbours seemed poor as beside Uncle Sam, and it was just natural that they borrowed his things and charged things and didn't pay, and ate candy (conversation lozenges) out of the open barrel.

He took it easily enough. They were after all, his neighbours. He treated them all the same way; except that there was one special lot that used to come now and again, who were evidently favorites. These were settled up north and would come down in sleighs in winter and in democrat buggies in summer. "They're folk of my own," says Uncle Sam, "they settled back north but mebbe they'll come home again one day."

To this good neighbourship there was perhaps one exception--call it a special case. The reference of course is to old Squire Bull, who lived on a fine, big place, at quite a little distance because it was separated from Uncle Sam's corners by the whole extent of a big mill-pond, so big it was like a lake. From Sam's place you could just see the tops of Squire Bull's grand house and stables.

John Bull was his name and he liked to call himself "plain John Bull," but, as all the neighbours knew, that was just plain nonsense, for everybody saw that he was "stuck up" and couldn't be "plain" if he tried. Uncle Sam just couldn't get on with him; and that was a funny thing because they were cousins, their folks having originally come from the same part of the country. Sam always used to deny this--at least when he was young. "He's no cousin of mine," he said. Later, as he got older, he said, "Mebbe he is," and later still, "Oh, I shouldn't wonder." But he said it grudgingly.

That's the way they lived, anyway, till a reconciliation came about in the queerest way. It happened there came a gang of bandits to the settlement, or, at any rate, the rumour of them. They were reported as robbing here and plundering there. People began to lock up the doors at night--as they had never done before--and you couldn't be sure of travelling the roads in safety. Quite a few had been robbed and one or two killed.

Some people wanted to organize and get together and hunt the bandits down. But Squire John Bull wouldn't believe in the stories about bandits. "All nonsense," he said, "and if any such fellows come round my place they'll get a dose of cold lead."

Uncle Sam didn't do anything either. He was a peaceable fellow, never liking to interfere. "Keep out of quarrels," was his maxim. Yet he had a musket and powderhorn hanging in the store and they said that when it came to shooting he was the best shot in

the section.

Well, one day, late in the afternoon, towards dusk, some of the children came rushing breathless into the store. "Mr. Sam, Mr. Sam," they called, "the bandits have come, the gang of bandits. They're over at Squire Bull's place."

"What's that?" said Uncle Sam, all confused.

"The bandits, they're over at Squire Bull's. We saw them smashing in the gates of the yard. We heard the shots. Oh, Mr. Sam, will they kill Mr. Bull?"

"Eh, what?" says Uncle Sam, "smashing in the gates?"--he seemed hesitating--"Hold on! What's that! By gosh, that's gunshots, I heard them plain."

In ran another child, wide-eyed with fright. "Mr. Sam, come quick, they're over at Mr. Bull's and they've shot some of the help...."

"Is Squire Bull killed?"

"No, he ain't killed. He's in the yard with his back to the wall--his head's all cut--but he's fighting back something awful."

"He is, is he?" said Uncle Sam, and now he didn't hesitate at all. "Hand me down that powderhorn, Sis."

He took the muskethorn off the wall, and he took out of a drawer a six-shooter derringer that no one knew he had.

The children watched him stride away across the field faster than another man would run. Presently they heard shooting and more shots, and then there was silence.

It was just about dark when Uncle Sam came back, grim and dusty, his hands

blackened with powder. The children stood around him while he was hanging up his musket and his powderhorn.

"Did you get the thieves?" they ventured timidly.

"The gol-darned scoundrels," the old man muttered, "there's some of them won't ever steal again, and the rest will be safe in jail for years to come. Too bad," he added, "some of them came from decent folks, too."

"And how's Squire Bull, is he killed?" the frightened children asked.

"Killed, no, sir!" laughed Uncle Sam, "he's too tough a piece of hickory for that. His head's tied up in vinegar but he's all right. We had a good laugh over it. He allowed I needn't have come but I allowed I won the whole fight. We had quite an argument. But here, don't get in my way, children, hand me that clothes brush and reach me down that blue coat off the rack, the one with the long tails--now that hat."

"But you ain't never going out again, Mr. Sam, are you?"

"Sure, I am. I'm going back over to Squire Bull's. He's giving a party. Now hand me down those cans off that shelf."

And with that Uncle Sam began pulling canned salmon and canned peaches off the store shelves. "I thought I'd bring them along," he said, "that darned old fool--why didn't he say he was getting hard up? I don't believe the folks in his home have been fed right for months....Pride, I suppose!....Still he's a fine man, is Squire Bull. My own cousin, you know, children."

[from *My Remarkable Uncle* (1942)]

SPACEFILLER

BEDROOM GOLF

1. The player will furnish his own equipment for play, normally one club and two balls.
2. Owner of the course must approve equipment before play may begin.
3. Unlike regular golf, the object of the game is to get the club into the hole, while keeping the balls out.
4. For most effective play, the club should have a firm shaft. The course owner may check the stiffness of the shaft before allowing play to commence.
5. Course owner reserves the right to restrict the shaft length, so as to avoid damage to the course.
6. The object of the game is to take as many strokes

7. as possible, until the course owner is satisfied. Players are cautioned to play the correct hole, as indicated by the course owner.
8. It is considered bad form to begin playing the hole immediately upon arrival at the course. Experienced players will admire the course, paying special attention to the well-formed bunkers.
9. Players are cautioned not to mention other courses they have played recently to the owner of the course presently being played.
10. If the course to be played is temporarily under repair, player is advised to find alternate means of play.
11. It is considered outstanding form to play the hole several times in one match.
12. Course owners shall be the judge of who is the best player.
13. It is considered bad form to reveal your score to other players, or even that you have played the course.

BASEBALL QUIZ: 4TH INNING, continued
[The preceding question was on page 4]

2. Roy Hobbs has been out with Mimi a little too late one night and when he rushes to the ballpark the next day, he forgets to take most of his equipment. Hobbs's teammates are tired of covering for their

slumping slugger and decide they are not going to lend Hobbs a glove or a hat. Their equipment manager is nowhere to be found. Hobbs takes his position in right field without his hat or glove. Do you let him play? It's your call.

[Next question is on page 10.]

THIRTY-NINE

THE SMILEY SERIES

"The byways of espionage are not populated by the brash and colourful adventurers of fiction."

—*"A Murder of Quality"*

John le Carré's twelve novels include seven which, despite having been written over an extended period (over 25 years from start to finish), are all intricate parts of a meta-plot, involving not only a sort of history of le Carré's "Circus" (the nickname he gives to the British Secret Service), but also (and more importantly) an intricately personal look at le Carré's "breathtakingly ordinary" master spy, George Smiley. The Smiley character appears in all seven books, for the most part in prominent roles (except for two novels in which Smiley's role seems, at first glimpse, more behind-the-scenes), and the series ends with an immense personal triumph for Smiley, which, paradoxically, brings him more pain than pleasure.

The seven "Circus" novels are:

- Call for the Dead (1961)
- A Murder of Quality (1962)
- The Spy Who Came In From The Cold (1963)
- The Looking-Glass War (1965)
- Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (1974)
- The Honourable Schoolboy (1977)
- Smiley's People (1980)

The gap between 1965 and 1974 saw two non-Circus novels with subject matters removed from espionage: in A Small Town In Germany, a British Embassy researcher in Bonn goes missing along with some secret files, making necessary a desperate but discreet manhunt; A Naive and Sentimental Lover takes as its protagonist a successful businessman whose personal problems draw him to a nomadic Sixties couple. After Smiley's People, le Carré's novels (The Little Drummer Girl, A Perfect Spy, and The Russia House) have dealt strictly with espionage, drawing from the extensive jargon used in the Circus series at times, but with no reference to any of the events or characters of the Circus novels.

There are unifying features in le Carré's novels, Circus and non-Circus, beyond the easy answer--spying. (The easy answer is inaccurate: A Naive and Sentimental Lover is totally unconcerned with spying, A Small Town in Germany is more concerned with the protocols of Foreign Office procedure, and even the second Circus novel, A Murder of Quality is not a spy story, but rather an Ellery Queen-type detective story, which only happens to have the spy, Smiley--at the time retired--as protagonist.) Detail in le Carré's novels is on a higher level than much contemporary fiction; often a second-time reader will come to the conclusion that the "answer" is obvious given the subtle clues, but the

reality is that le Carré often gives many clues, yet the first-time reader often is surprised at the ending. Le Carré shows great skill at weaving his plots around historical events. The Honourable Schoolboy takes place mostly in Southeast Asia as the Vietnam war is drawing to a close, The Spy Who Came In From The Cold begins and ends at the Berlin Wall, The Little Drummer Girl takes the reader deep into the Palestinian conflict, and The Russia House draws on historical events (such as the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia) to shape the motivations of a few of the characters, while making *glasnost* and *perestroika* a significant element in the plot. The normal conflict facing the le Carré protagonist, over and above the details of the plot, is an intellectual one--in the Smiley novels, the espionage operations are secondary to Smiley's struggle with what is Right.

In the Circus novels, these three unifying features become far more important than in the stand-alone novels. The insistence on detail in the Circus novels leads to a jargon of creatively cryptic espionage terms, such as *honey-trap* (blackmail based on an agent's enticement of the victim into a sexually-compromising situation), *pavement artist* (a surveillance specialist), *stick-and-carrot-job* (using threats and bribes to obtain info), *reptile fund* (the Government account which pays for espionage), *stinks-and-bangs school* (the Circus's training centre dealing with chemistry, electronics, and explosives). The reader, force-fed these colourful terms little-by-little from the start, without over-explanation, is led to believe that the jargon exists, if not in real life, at least in the mind of the author. Twentieth century history of course has a big part in the Circus novels, especially in the final trilogy, when new characters are introduced, complete with resumés which take them to locations all over the world, and take them out of those locations (the jargon for this type of escape is *leaving in your socks*) when the going gets tough! Beyond classroom history, the Circus novels (with the exception of A Murder of Quality) increasingly depend upon their precursors for details of previous operations, as well as for development of former minor characters. Events take place (unknown to the reader until two novels later) in Call For The Dead which have a profound and unexpected effect upon The Spy Who Came In From The Cold. Jerry Westerby, a minor character in Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, is the main operative in The Honourable Schoolboy. The personal struggles of protagonists are increasingly monumental in the Circus novels, especially when, as in the final three books, the protagonist is Smiley. Smiley's final triumph as a spy, in Smiley's People, cannot balance the personal anguish he feels towards the means he has used to achieve his goal.

There's a cheat sheet available for all this. It's called Smiley's Circus, by David Monaghan, a Canadian professor. Published in 1986, it contains a directory of over 600 names, terms, and operations in the seven Circus novels, plus detailed reconstructions of major operations, detailed enough to quibble about whether Call For The Dead could have taken place in 1960 as claimed, because January 2 did not fall on a Tuesday... However, it must be said that there is much in any Le Carré novel to confuse anyone, and a few references to the Monaghan book might well clear the path somewhat. Of course, the danger is that you read too much of the Monaghan book, and the twists and turns of the plot do not surprise you as much as they should. Both Monaghan's book and all seven Circus novels are widely available in paperback, despite their age.

In the next seven issues of XL I'll take a look at the Circus novels, one at a time, so as to give you time to read or re-read them beforehand. And, to pique your interest, I'll run through the basics of each book below, while giving away as little as possible.

Call For The Dead begins with a suitable, if uncharacteristic, overture to the whole series--a chapter entitled "A Brief History of George Smiley." The curtain then opens on the apparent suicide of a highly-placed Foreign Office civil servant, a few days after Smiley had interviewed him in response to an anonymous denunciation. Smiley is surprised at this as the interview was not at all hostile, but when he is asked to look into the matter, a number of clues suggest murder rather than suicide, among them the victim's request for a wake-up call from the phone exchange, a call which Smiley takes while interviewing the victim's wife, thinking it is the nervous Circus Advisor calling. Eventually, the Advisor plays down Smiley's suspicion of murder, for bureaucratic reasons, and Smiley resigns from the Circus to pursue the matter with a free hand. With the help of a retired police inspector, and a friend inside the Circus who has a natural interest in the case as it develops, Smiley uncovers an East German Spy network, run by one of his contacts during the war.

In A Murder of Quality, Smiley investigates the brutal murder of a schoolteacher's wife at an elite public school (English boarding/tuition schools are called public schools, not "private" schools, the North American term) in Dorset. As I've said, this is only a Circus novel in that it involves George Smiley--his resignation from the Circus is still in effect. Smiley solves what later becomes two murders.

The Spy Who Came In From The Cold is the novel that brought Le Carré's work to a wide audience. It begins with the aging Circus

head of Berlin Station, Alec Leamas, witnessing the shooting of his last East German agent as he attempts to escape to the West. This being the last in a long series of sudden deaths to agents in Leamas's network, Leamas is called back to London, where an intricate plan for revenge is explained to him. Leamas works for a while in the bureaucracy of the Circus before a hushed scandal hastens his departure. After a short stint as an assistant librarian, he serves a jail sentence for assaulting a grocer, and upon completion of this, he is approached by East German Intelligence. Eventually he defects and endures interrogation at the hands of the East German second-in-command, Jens Fiedler. Fiedler uses the information given by Leamas to mount a case against the head of East German intelligence, Hans-Dieter Mundt (a character who appeared in Call For The Dead), which according to Leamas is the objective of the mission. Unfortunately, things are not quite as they seem, and the plot continues to twist and turn for fifty more exciting pages until the tension-packed conclusion.

The Looking-Glass War is concerned with the rivalry between the Circus and "the Department," an obscure branch of military intelligence. Urged on by "Control" (head of the Circus), the Department organizes an operation against an East German military mystery, first taking clandestine photographs of the site, then recovering the film when the messenger is killed in Helsinki, and finally, training and sending a man into East Germany. While encouraging the operation at all times, Control ensures that the Department has access to antiquated equipment, and the operation fails because the East Germans are able to locate the infiltrator from his Morse communications, especially since, in the heat of battle, he forgets to "rotate crystals" to avoid

BASEBALL QUIZ: 4TH INNING, continued
[The preceding question was on page 8]

3. It is late in a long, dreary game that has been stalled repeatedly by rain delays. With the bases loaded and an 0-2 count on the batter, the catcher, Blackie Mancuso, sets up for a waste pitch way out of the strike zone. So far, in fact, that he is entirely out of the catcher's box. The only problem is the catcher's box has been erased from the action around the plate and the bad weather. Do you call time and have a new catcher's box drawn in? Do you warn the catcher he is pushing the limits of the now imaginary box? Do you call it a balk because he is out of the box? Do you ignore it and call anything close to the strike zone a strike? Or do you do nothing at all? It's your call.

[Next question is on page 20]

THIRTY-NINE

detection. At this point Smiley, now back at work for the Circus but not totally aware of the nature of Control's operation, is sent to the West/East German border town headquarters to delicately pick up the pieces.

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy occurs nearly a decade later, and begins when Smiley, sacked after the reorganization of the Circus following Control's death, is informed of a traitor within the the high ranks of the Circus, and is asked to investigate, with limited access, and identify the highly-placed "double". The information reveals that Control has suspected the existence of a Russian mole (long-range double agent, recruited long before he can become useful, in the hope that he can rise high enough to become valuable) among his top five London Station officers. Control learns of a Czechoslovak general willing to give him the identity of the traitor, (Control gives each suspect a codename from the well-known verse paraphrased in the book's title--Smiley is "Beggarmen") and sends an agent into Czechoslovakia to obtain the information. The agent is wounded and captured, and Control is ousted as a result of the scandal, Smiley with him soon after. Armed with the files obtained by his sources inside the Circus, Smiley sets a trap for the traitor, and as a result of the successful capture of the traitor, Smiley is made head of the Circus.

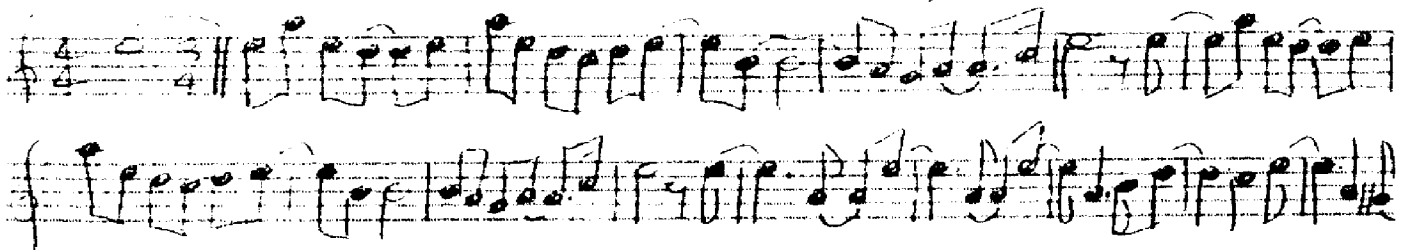
The Honourable Schoolboy is an account of Smiley's major operation during his short tenure as head of the Circus. Operation Dolphin begins with *backbearings*, a scholarly look into the files to determine which operations and agents were compromised by the traitor, and what items of interesting intelligence were oddly suppressed. With the rest of the Circus brought to its knees after the capture of the traitor (and the uncertainty about what Circus outstations and which offices--even which officers--might be readable by the Soviets), this is about all that is available to Smiley. But his researchers do uncover a major source of Soviet money flowing into Southeast Asia, and some preliminary investigations indicate that a rich Hong Kong citizen is keeping the money for his brother, a high level Soviet agent in the Chinese government. Smiley persuades

the newly-formed Intelligence Steering Committee to allow him to mount an operation. The operation results in the capture of the Russian infiltrator into the Chinese government, as he attempts to escape into Hong Kong, but there is just as much plot emphasis on the backroom dealings in London, and the interrogation of the "prize" is entrusted to the Americans. Smiley, upon his return from Hong Kong, is replaced as head of the Circus and again retires.

The finale, Smiley's People, commences with Smiley being asked to investigate the murder of one of his former agents, an Estonian emigré General. The Circus at this time is under stringent controls, and agents, especially emigrés, are strictly frowned upon. It turns out that the General had information for Smiley (not realizing he has retired) concerning *the Sandman*--the Russian master spy who recruited and controlled the traitor. Smiley, while nominally cleaning up loose ends associated with the death of his former agent, discovers enough evidence to implicate his nemesis, and the Circus agrees to fund Smiley's request for an operation to capture his nemesis, by juggling the books and telling Smiley outright that he is on his own if any scandal results. The end result is that Smiley forces the defection of his nemesis, but does so by using means of persuasion which personally disgust him.

NEXT ISSUE: Call For The Dead

LATE NOTE: This was written over the holidays, and since then a remarkable thing has happened: Le Carré has published another novel, *The Secret Pilgrim*, involving the Smiley character. Worse yet, if this is accepted as a *bona fide* Circus novel, it drags *The Russia House* into the series as well, since the Smiley character (who must be by now at least 85) interacts with a major player in that novel. As with most of Le Carré's novels, this one has shot to the top ten lists quickly enough, and commands a \$27 + GST price tag in the hard-cover version, but if I'm going to do a series on the novels over the next seven issues, I may be able to get the paperback by the time I'm finished! Let's hope not, though. I'll not read the new one until I've done the complete series here, and we'll see if Le Carré's latest Smiley novel contradicts any of my arguments.



NHL GIVES BIRTH

As you will have heard by now (if you share my interest in North American pro hockey), the NHL has decided to expand to 22 teams next year and 24 teams the year after that. The new teams are the San Jose Sharks, joining next season, and, the year after that, the Ottawa Senators, and the Tampa Bay Lightning. (It may just be the Tampa Lightning, I don't know yet.)

The Ottawa and Tampa teams will have the usual expansion draft of non-star players from other teams, and top picks in the entry draft in June 1992. The San Jose team is going to be the Eve formed from the rib of a certain Adam known as the Minnesota North Stars. The Sharks will start with half of Minnesota's young players with a certain amount of NHL experience, and work from there in a wild deal (parts of this remind me of the Civil War rules of Civilization!) that has San Jose's front office able to veto North Star trades and do all sorts of things to ensure the Minnesota franchise doesn't screw them. (With good reason: new Minnesota GM Bob Clarke would happily do so if given the chance.) San Jose will not get the number one entry draft pick next year, though. For some arcane reason (whose name is Eric Lindros, a young Gretzky-in-the-works who'll be draft-eligible this year), the league has awarded the Sharks second pick overall.

But the Minnesota-San Jose deal is old news. Until this week, there were eight bids in the running for the two franchises to be awarded in 1992-93, and the final board of governors meeting was scheduled to take place in West Palm Beach, Florida, where the front men of all these hopeful cities would present their credentials, and, perhaps, a decision would be made.

The decision to award franchises to a real longshot (Tampa), and a middle-of-the-pack city (Ottawa), while snubbing the two clear favorites (St. Petersburg FL and Hamilton ON), was quite a shock to almost everyone. St. Petersburg and Hamilton both had strong corporation money backing them (Compuware, and Tim Horton Donuts respectively), and both had fine buildings ready to go. Ottawa has a 10,000 seat facility with eight rows only on one side of the ice, with somewhat uncertain plans to build a new facility in the future, except that the prospective site is on the Capital District agricultural land reserve. St. Petersburg has the Sun-Coast Dome, which will probably be OK in the long run, but in an exhibition game played there in pre-season, the ice was so bad that play was nearly halted after two periods, and in the third period, they ran the clock during stoppages to get it over with.

The Tampa acceptance was a surprise because front-man Phil Esposito had had to go to Japan during November to get some more backing after the principal deep-pocket guy

had bailed out. The Ottawa bid had a more serious problem in that it was a Canadian city. The NHL wants into the southern markets of the U.S. as quickly as possible.

So, how did all this come about? Well, it seems quite obvious to me that there were a few board members who demanded a Canadian expansion team. They had the ammunition to make this demand, because the U.S. teams in the NHL are getting a better deal in the TV revenue than are the Canadian teams. The revenue generated, per team, by Canadian clubs is far more than the piddling amount produced by the pathetic arrangement with SportsChannel America. Based on this, the Canadian owners could threaten to take their Stanley Cup and form a Canadian League, with the existing seven teams plus Hamilton, Ottawa, and Saskatoon, and rake in the TV money, and, by doing so, attract the best players back home, despite the tax disadvantages that players in Canada encounter. The 14 American teams would have a hell of a time competing until they found a TV contract--which they have been unable to supply through the best and most exciting years in the history of the league.

So, under boardroom threat of revolt by the Canadian teams, another Canadian city had to be selected. The reason it was Ottawa and not Hamilton was probably the indemnity problem. Hamilton is so close to Buffalo and Toronto that a team there would cause a serious erosion of the market for the two existing teams. With the expansion price of \$50 million just met a few weeks before the meetings, the NHL may have had qualms about the ability of Hamilton to handle the projected indemnities they were planning. With Saskatoon long out of the running for lack of a Mr. Bankroll, this left Ottawa--a bid that made up for obvious flaws with honesty about the problems and how they would attempt to get 'em solved.

In a way, I am saddened that the NHL gave in. I would love to see the NHL split by fission down the U.S.-Canada border. It's one place Canada can compete successfully, and the existing arrangement, what with players asking to be traded to American teams to avoid the higher taxes, puts Canadian teams at a disadvantage. The cause of all this, of course, is the equal piece of the TV pie that every team gets. Is it logical for the St. Louis Blues to profit from the Canadian TV rights? Is it right for American teams to be getting more from the lucrative Canadian TV contracts than they can get from the American TV contracts? The issue is not who is playing on TV; the issue is which country is receiving the broadcast. Because of the tax laws, the NHL's American teams are already at a financial advantage. I think competition on fairer terms would do North American hockey a lot of good. And, when the league expands again in three years, they'll have to be sure they don't neglect the Canadian cities that deserve a team as

THIRTY-NINE

IT'S YOUR CALL--ANSWERS

Last issue, I wondered whether it would be a good idea to do a few issues without the baseball stuff. Everyone agreed this was a dumb idea. Unfortunately, nobody at the time (not even me, honest!) could foresee that the next issue would not appear until spring training started. In any case, here are the answers to the last set of questions. Responders this time were: Paul Milewski (PM), Brent McKee (BM), Dave McCrumb (DM), Robert Lesco (RL), and Pete Gaughan (PG). As usual, to distinguish myself from Brent, I go under the abbreviation "McB" when I comment. By the way, most of you are doing far better than me...

1. Light hitting Jack "Sour Mash" Daniels is at bat with one ball and two strikes on him. The bases are empty and there are no outs with Lynchburg trailing by one run in the bottom of the ninth. The pitcher uncorks a wild pitch which sails ten feet over Daniels's head. Daniels thinks quickly and swings at the wild pitch and reaches first base easily. Do you allow Daniels first base, or do you call the pitch a ball since he swung at the bad pitch to intentionally reach on a strikeout? It's your call.

PM: Give Daniels first base.

PG: Strike, strikeout, batter safe at first.

DM: Goes to first base. Manny Sanguillen of Pittsburgh used to do that every so often. Of course, he swung at almost everything.

RL: Daniels is allowed to stay at first base. I seem to recall seeing this happen before (I may even have done it myself in Bantam League ball.)

BM: Daniels goes to first. I am not sure whether the umpire has the right to decide whether a player is trying to abuse the intent of the rules.

ANSWER: In appreciation of Daniels's ability to think that quickly, you may allow the play to stand. (Rule 5.03--The pitcher shall deliver the pitch to the batter who may elect to strike the ball, or who may not offer at it, as he chooses. Rule 6.09b--The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, provided first base is unoccupied.) If Daniels had been a little slow and had swung after the ball was clearly at the backstop, you may not judge this as a swing at the

pitch. In every case, you should rule with common sense and fair play in mind.

McB: Looks like one point for all. What I wanna know is whether Daniels can swing even before the ball reaches the plate, and thus get a head start. Don't tell me it's illegal to swing early, it's not.

2. Buddy Budlong is batting and he squares around to bunt but the pitch is wide. During his aborted bunt attempt, he steps on the plate. Budlong makes no contact with the ball, so should this be called just a strike or is he out for stepping on the plate while trying to make contact? It's your call.

BM: Out.

PM: He's out.

RL: I would just call it a strike. No interference has taken place nor has he hit an illegally batted ball.

PG: Strike. You can only be out for stepping out of the box if you actually hit the ball.

DM: It is a strike. An out only occurs when contact is made while standing on home plate.

ANSWER: No, he is not out. He would be out, however, if he made contact with the ball regardless of whether the ball went fair or foul. (Rule 6.06a--The batter is out for illegal action when he hits a ball with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the batter's box.) As long as no contact was made, the pitch is a ball or strike depending on whether or not it's in the strike zone.

McB: Brent and Paul miss, the others move ahead 2-1.

3. Runners on first and second base with two outs. The New York Mammoths' Bruce Pearson loops a fly ball over the first baseman's head and it falls in for a Texas League hit. The runner on second comes around to score and after he crosses the plate, players on the other team tell him the ball fell foul. The runner starts walking back toward third and the coach there sends him back home. By this time the outfielder has retrieved the ball and has relayed it to the catcher who is waiting on the runner when he comes in, and the catcher easily tags him. Should the run count or did the runner give it up when he attempted to return to third base? It's your call.

BM: Run counts. I suspect it counted the moment he reached home the first time. When in doubt he should have checked with

much as the American ones.

LATE NOTE: Since this was written, I've heard arguments on the local sports shows that the NHL should go to a league-wide "NHL dollar" in order to avoid the problems of players being traded from American teams to Canadian ones. The threat of a split could,

of course, force this issue at the summer meetings, and I think it's probably a decent idea that deserves all the support it can get--even "hardball" type tactics. After all, we do have a free-trade deal in place; this is one of the few places where Canada can legitimately claim to be at a disadvantage.

the ump, not a player from the other team.

PM: Run counts.

RL: The run counts. It was achieved legally and the runner's mistaken belief that it was a foul ball will not negate the run.

PG: Run counts. I'm going to say because [he then crosses this out and writes:] No. I will not be decoyed. A run scores when you legally touch home. To apply the "decoy" rule here would violate that definition. Run counts.

DM: Safe! And the run scores. You can not get someone out after they have scored, because at that point they are no longer a runner.

ANSWER: The run counts. A run legally scored cannot be nullified if the runner legally touched first, second, third, and home. (Rule 5.06--When a batter becomes a runner and touches all bases legally he shall score one run for his team.) A run scored cannot be nullified by subsequent action of the runner, such as, but not limited to, an effort to return to third in belief that he had left the base before a caught fly ball.

McB: Score one for everyone. Brent, I don't think as the ump you should say anything to the batter if he asks, although it makes no difference.

4. A runner on first base gets fooled back to the bag as a pitcher delivers the ball to the plate. The lefthanded batter drills a hard grounder down the first base line and it hits the runner who has slid back into the bag. The runner is on the bag when he gets hit. Is the runner safe or out? What do you do with the batter? It's your call.

PM: Runner is safe, ball is dead and the batter must stay at bat.

DM: The runner is out for interference with the ball. All other runners are awarded one base; i.e. the batter goes to first.

BM: Out. He was hit by a batted ball before it reached a fielder. I don't think that the fact he was on the bag changes the situation. Hitter is safe at first.

RL: If the ball and runner are in fair territory and no fielder has touched the ball, or had it go through him, the runner is called out for interference. The ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base.

PG: Runner out unless first baseman was in front of the bag and had opportunity to field the ball. If it is back, runner's out and batter is put at first.

ANSWER: The runner is out. The base does not protect the runner from a batted ball (Rule 7.08f--A runner is out when he is touched by a fair ball in fair territory before the ball has been touched or passed by an infielder.) The batter receives credit for a base hit, and is awarded first base.

McB: Can't you just see deliberate

interference by a player on the last day of the season so that his teammate can be credited with a crucial base hit, for salary, records, or awards purposes? What a controversy that would be. Say Bob's on first and Abner, batting .399, hits a DP ball. Bob dives for the ball, makes contact with it, and *voila!*--Abner hits .400! I'd make sure to reward Bob for his quick thinking if I was the team owner. Score: Paul 2, Brent 3, others 4.

5. Casey is at the bat and the Mudville nine need a base runner desperately in the bottom of the ninth inning. The mighty Casey does not strike out this time, but instead smacks a hard grounder towards shortstop. In the process the bat is broken in half and the top half is headed in the same direction as the ball. The shortstop cannot make a play on the grounder because he is too busy dodging the bat. Do you allow Casey the hit, or call him out because his broken bat interfered with the play. Your decision may decide whether there will be any joy in Mudville that night. It's your call.

DM: Casey gets his hit.

PM: Give Casey the hit.

PG: Allow the hit, on a broken bat. (see #8).

BM: Casey has a hit. The interference is not deliberate, and he has no control over his bat.

RL: I would allow the hit as the interference is unintentional.

ANSWER: No interference on a broken bat. However, if he had thrown a whole bat, intentionally or not. Casey would have been out. (Rule 6.05 h--If a bat breaks and part of it is in fair territory and is hit by a batted ball or part of it hits a runner or fielder, play shall continue and no interference called. If a whole bat is thrown into fair territory and interferes with a defensive player attempting to make a play, interference shall be called, whether intentional or not.)

McB: Everyone got this right, although Brent probably should have said "no control over his broken bat." Score: Paul 3, Brent 4, others still locked at 5.

6. Harry "the Horse" Danning is on second base. Leaky Fausett is on first with two outs and a full count on Brains Padden. Danning and Fausett break before the pitch, but Louisville's reliever, Rubberlegs Miller, steps toward third base out of the stretch and throws the ball there to catch Danning sliding in. Should Danning be called out or is it a balk on Miller for making a pickoff move to an unoccupied base? It's your call.

BM: Balk.

PM: Danning is out.

DM: Runner is out. He was attempting to occupy third, so the pitcher can throw there.

PG: Danning is out--you may step directly toward a base and throw, you simply can't fake to first, nor interrupt a move.

RL: This reminds me of #4 from last time so I'll base my answer on your response. Since Miller is making a play at the unoccupied base and he stepped directly toward the base a balk is not called for making a pick-off move to an unoccupied base. Danning is out.

ANSWER: Legal play. (Rule 8.05d--A balk is called when there is a runner or runners on base, if the pitcher, while touching the rubber, throws or fakes a throw to an unoccupied base, except for the purpose of making a play at that unoccupied base.) Miller worked within the rules because he was making a play at third.

McB: It's easy to get misled by the word "stretch" in the question--it sounds like the pitcher was throwing the pitch and interrupted his motion to make the play at third. The stretch is not part of the pitch, though, it is a legal preamble to the type of pre-pitch position known as the Set Position. (Rule 8.01b--Before assuming Set Position, the pitcher may elect to make any natural preliminary motion such as that known as the "stretch.") Score: Paul and Brent 4, others still perfect after six.

7. Two runners on with two outs in the bottom of the ninth. The visitors are leading 6-4. The home team batter triples and both runners score. Time is called when the ball is thrown back to the infield. The third baseman calls for the ball, saying the second runner missed third base on his way to scoring the tying run. While the pitcher prepares to throw to third, the runner who had tripled breaks for home and is easily thrown out. Can the visiting team still appeal the runner missing the bag? Or does the inning end with the score tied because the third out was made on the play at home? It's your call.

DM: Yes, they can still appeal the runner missing third base.

PM: Play may still be appealed.

PG: Provided the umps allow the runners to go home (i.e. time was not out and the ball was back in play)--then the defense may make the appeal and take the outcome that's to their advantage. In this case, if the runner is called out on appeal, the visitors win.

RL: I think the player who tripled is irrelevant. If time has been called, the ball is dead and the runner can neither score nor be put out. The appeal proceeds, the second runner is declared the third out and only one run scores.

BM: Inning end with score tied. An appeal cannot be made after another play has been made. The pitcher should have thrown to third regardless. Besides time was called.

ANSWER: No appeal allowed, tie score. (Rule 7.10d--Any appeal under this rule must

be made before the next pitch or play or attempted play.)

McB: There are problems with this one. Is the defense supposed to deduce that time is not called because the umps are letting the guy run home? Or is this what the rules mean by an "attempted play?" If so, how can the third out be recorded on an attempted play as opposed to a real play? It seems to me that an appeal is part of the game, and thus cannot be executed when time is called (Rule 2.00--"TIME" is the announcement by an umpire of a legal interruption of play, during which the ball is dead...A DEAD BALL is a ball out of play because of a legally created temporary suspension of play.), therefore time was not called when the runner broke for home. The crucial point here is that no appeal may be made after a play, but I think that the question is poorly worded, so I'm awarding a minimum of a half-point. Brent's answer is not fully correct since he mentions that time was called, which would mean that the out recorded at the plate would not be a legal out, so he gets only 0.8. The score is now as follows: Paul 4.5, Brent 4.8, others 6.5.

8. Fats Berger steps to the plate and hits a grounder toward third base. The bat slips out of Berger's hands and hits the third baseman in the shins, making it impossible to make a play on Berger at first. Should Berger be allowed to stay on first because his bat had eyes on it or is he out for interfering with the play? It's your call.

RL: I'm going to repeat my answer to #5. The bat hasn't hit the ball a second time and it's unintentional so I would allow Berger to stay at first.

BM: Berger is probably out.

DM: Out. Plus the third baseman is going to try and knock him out.

PM: He's out.

PG: Intereference, Berger is out.

ANSWER: Interference, Berger is out. Intent is not the question here; Berger is out whether or not he intended to interfere. (Rule 6.05b--If a whole bat is thrown into fair territory and interferes with a defensive player attempting to make a play, interference shall be called whether intentional or not.)

McB: So what if the ball goes to the 3b, the whole bat hits pitcher Hardhead McGee and splits in two, rebounding to interfere with the play at third? Ah, forget it. Robert Lesco slips up and the score is now Paul 5.5, Brent 5.8, Rob 6.5, Pete and Dave 7.5, as we come into the stretch run.

9. Washington's Jesse "The Crab" Burkett is on second base with no outs and no one else on when Matches Kilroy hits a sinking line drive to right field. Burkett takes off thinking it will drop in for a hit, but has to retreat when the right fielder makes a great catch. Burkett slides

EXCELSIOR

safely back into second, but overslides the base. The second baseman has the ball, so Burkett decides to now take off for first base and makes it with a beautiful hook slide around the first baseman's tag. Is Burkett safe at first or out for running the bases in the wrong direction? It's your call.

PM: Burkett is out.

BM: Burkett is out. His thinking needs some examination too.

PG: Out for running backwards (the only real excuse is the "decoy" play or if you believe you have to back up to retouch).

DM: Out. You can only advance once you safely reach a base, you cannot go back to a previous one.

RL: The runner is out. It's one of my favorite passages in the rules. Something about attempting to confuse the defense or make a travesty of the game. It's one of those rules brought about by a particular event, I believe, but I don't recall the player's name. (Maybe another reader knows--Rabbit Maranville perhaps?) Anyhow, outoutoutoutoutout!!!!

ANSWER: Burkett is out. (Rule 7.08--Any runner is out when after he has acquired legal possession of a base he runs the bases in reverse order for the purpose of confusing the defense.) This does not hold true for a runner decoyed into returning to a previously occupied base. An example of this is when a runner on first steals second, but is decoyed into returning to first by tricky infielders. He may be tagged out en route to returning to first, but once he reaches his previously occupied base he is safe.

McB: Everyone gets it right. There is an incident described in another section of the book where early 1900s player Germany Schaefer, on first with the score tied in the bottom of the ninth and a teammate on third, stole second to draw a throw to make a game-winning double steal possible. When there was no throw, he stole first on the next pitch in order to repeat the attempt! There was no rule against this at the time. Score: Paul 6.5, Brent 6.8, Rob 7.5, Dave and Pete tied at 8.5 with one to go....

10. Bob "Death To Flying Things" Ferguson is on third base when Gilly Bigelow steps to the plate. Ferguson notices the pitcher has a long motion and decides to steal home. Bigelow doesn't realize Ferguson is coming in and he swings at the pitch. The opposing catcher has stepped up on home plate to try and tag Ferguson. Has the catcher interfered with Bigelow or has Bigelow interfered with the catcher's right to make a play at home? It's your call.

PG: If the catcher makes the play to put

out Ferguson, no interference. If Bigelow causes him not to make it, Bigelow has interfered and the runner is out.

DM: The catcher has interfered with the batter. He has the first crack at the ball.

RL: If the catcher doesn't have possession of the ball when he steps up on the plate a balk is charged to the pitcher, the ball is dead and Bigelow is awarded first base on the catcher's interference. The run scores.

PM: The catcher has interfered with the batter.

BM: Catcher has interfered with Bigelow. At the time that Death to Flying Things played, this might have been more common, and had a different answer than today.

ANSWER: The catcher has interfered. Score the run and give Bigelow first base on catcher's interference. (Rule 6.08c--The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out when the catcher or any infielder interferes with him. The runner scores because of rule 7.04d--Each runner, other than the batter, may without liability to be put out, advance one base while he is attempting to steal a base, if the batter is interfered with by the catcher or any other fielder.)

McB: It looks as though McCrumb scores the winning run on a steal of home because of catcher Gaughan's interference! Meanwhile pitcher Lesco says nothing when the scorer fails to charge him with the balk he thought he was going to get. Final score: Paul 7.5, Brent 7.8, Pete and Robert 8.5, Dave 9.5.

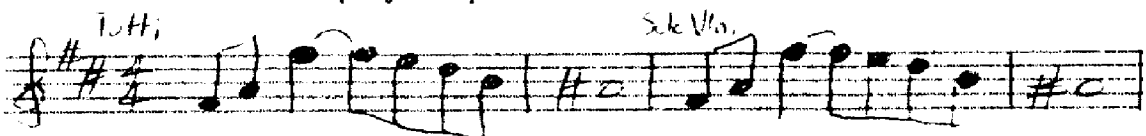
Before I type up the updated standings, let me go over the way this all works. There are 6 more sets of questions to come. You must answer 6 out of the 9 sets to be eligible for the \$10 prize; if you answer less, you are only eligible for the \$2 "best for this set" prize. If you answer more you have the advantage that I throw out all but your best six scores. A number of people have expressed interest yet not gotten in--now is the time! If you don't send in responses to all questions in a set, the ones you do not answer are wrong.

THE STANDINGS

(based on 20 questions or more answered)

Umpire	Answered	Right	Wrong	Pct.
R. Lesco	30	24.7	5.3	.823
P. Gaughan	30	23.2	6.8	.773
B. McKee	30	20.8	9.2	.693
P. Milewski	20	11.7	8.3	.585
D. McCrumb	10	9.5	0.5	.475
E. Brosius	10	7.2	2.8	.360

Winner of the \$2 this time: Dave McCrumb!



FRED'S COLUMN No. 3 by FRED C. DAVIS, JR.

Here are follow-ups on two subjects which were subjects of running commentaries in BUSHWACKER, Comic strips and Baseball.

COMIC SURVEY RESULTS

The Baltimore Evening Sun recently conducted a popularity poll on its comics. The Top Ten finishers were: 1. Peanuts, 2. Calvin & Hobbes, 3. Garfield, 4. B.C., 5. Family Circus, 6. Wizard of Id, 7. Hi and Lois, 8. The Far Side, 9. Blondie, and 10. Hagar. About one-third of the Sunpapers comics appear in the Morning Sun, so they were not included here. (This includes Doonsbury, Pogo, Broom Hilda and For Better or Worse, which rank among my favorites).

My personal ratings would have dropped Hi & Lois and The Far Side, and added Cathy (finished 14th) and Momma (finished 18th) to the Top Ten.

The five worst-rated strips were: 35. Zippy, 36. Batman, 37. Judge Parker, 38. Annie, and 39. Juliet Jones. Batman has already been dropped. Unfortunately, the others are still with us. To the worst rated, I would have added 23. The Quigmans, 26. Mr. Boffo, 27. Ernie, and 32. The Phantom.

While Gasoline Alley (29) and Dick Tracy (33) were lowly rated, I grew up on these strips, and go on reading them for old times' sake. The current Annie is nowhere near as bad as the right-wing polemics thrust upon us by Harold Gray in the 40's and 50's, but it has nothing interesting to say. I'd be pleased to see our paper drop her, and all the rest of the low-rated comics.

On Monday, October 29th, the Sun dropped Pogo! This has resulted in the writing of several indignant letters to the editor. I guess I should write one, too.

* * * * *

BASEBALL WRAP-UP

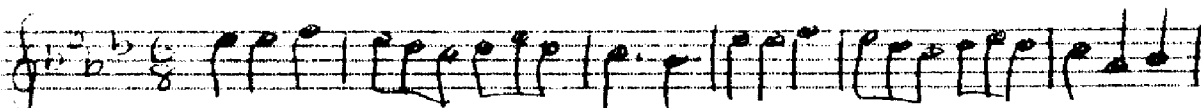
Old BUSHWACKER readers may recall that "Fred's Fearless Forecasts" have been a feature there for several years. The 1990 Forecasts were up to our usual standard, i.e., they were mostly wrong.

My only 100% correct predictions were for Oakland to win first place in the AL West and for Atlanta to finish last in the NL West. I was also technically correct in picking Baltimore to finish 4th in the AL East. The O's finished $\frac{1}{2}$ game behind Cleveland, but they only played 161 games due to a rainout that wasn't made up, Baltimore had been tied with Cleveland in the standings until the last day, and I'd already marked this down as a tie, so I was quite surprised when the final figures showed a half-game difference.

In the AL East, I'd picked Toronto first and Boston second, whereas they finished vice-versa. I had K.C. finishing second in the AL West (they came in 6th), and had relegated the Chicago White Sox to 7th. I was amazed at their 2nd place finish. Likewise, Pittsburgh amazed me in the NL East by winning that division, when I'd picked them for 4th. My choice, the N.Y. Mets, finished second. And I had the NL West finals completely reversed in the first four slots, which wound up Cincy, L.A., Frisco and San Diego, when I had it just the opposite. Oh, I see San Diego dropped down to 5th place in the last week of the season. So much for my crystal ball.

Which doesn't mean that this is the end of my predictions. Somewhere, somehow, either in XL or another zine, you'll find me predicting the 1991 standings sometime next Spring. Hey, I can't be too bad. Phil Reynolds has informed me that I've won the prediction contest in DIPADESDODAH! That means a lot of other peoples' prognostications were even worse than mine.

* * * * *



Gulf Thoughts

1. War for Peace

It is the curious belief of the peaceniks in Canada that the armed forces on this continent should never be used. This misguided idea has been made clear by the stance taken by the NDP against Canada's participation in the gulf war. When the U.S. first sent troops to Saudi Arabia, NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin said we should wait for the U.N. to decide what should be done. When the U.N. passed a resolution giving Iraq a month to leave, McLaughlin abandoned the U.N. and said that Canada should continue to work diplomatically for peace. This line continued long after Saddam made it clear that his aim was to obfuscate any peace process for as long as possible. Eventually the deadline passed and the air war began, with Canada taking a bit longer to get started because we had to maintain our "peacekeeping role," according to the NDP. Finally the Canadian planes were cleared to fly "escort missions," which didn't completely satisfy the NDP because it turned out that if a Canadian plane was in danger of being fired upon, it might (O! Horror!) shoot back! The day following the bombing of the military bunker containing civilians, a peace mission was begun by the Soviets, and Canada decided to expand its role to "offensive missions". The NDP went nuts. Eventually, Canada's planes made up some miniscule portion of the bombing campaign on the Republican Guard, which ultimately helped make the ground war much shorter than it might have been, but of course the NDP feels that we were just responding to an order from President George.

The stance of the peaceniks on the gulf war was that we should not fight until every last ounce of diplomatic pressure has been used to achieve a peaceful solution. How do we know that every last ounce of pressure has been used? We don't. Two words endlessly repeated by the peaceniks adequately describe their position: "Try again." The coalition (this word is not in the true peacenik's language, he says "the Americans" or "the Yanks") tried again and again in the days leading up to January 15th, and nothing happened. We gave a peaceful solution our best shot, without compromising the fundamental goals--unfortunately, the Iraqis wanted too much in return, and the peaceniks wanted to give it too them. Linkage at first. "Why not?" said the peaceniks, oblivious to the precedent which would be set by allowing a country to hold a peaceful neighbour hostage to effect its political goals. Then, the great Moscow solution: an eight point plan which includes number eight: "further points to be hammered out later." The peaceniks went for this too--apparently they haven't heard the story of the genie that grants but one wish: the correct response is to wish

that the genie would grant *all* your future wishes. Finally, the Bush ultimatum, which Saddam accepted while lobbing SCUDs at Riyadh. "Aw, it was just an accident," said the peaceniks. "He has no contact with the guys that launch the SCUDs." Then, when the Iraqis finally left Kuwait, not keeping the ultimatum's terms, they made sure to bring "detainees" along with them. "Just so they won't be attacked by the forces when they leave," said the peaceniks. But for the most part, they didn't leave in their personnel carriers, they left in their tanks, and in Kuwaiti cars that they'd stolen, and laden with all sorts of Kuwaiti "gifts" that they'd appropriated.

Now, after the end of the "mother of battles," it is all over, and we are left to see the scenes of wreckage on CNN. "Cry for the innocent victims," say the peaceniks. By which they mean the Iraqis killed in the bombing raids because Saddam wanted just this type of post-war sympathy. By which they mean the women and children lured into a military bunker by the Iraqis just before a Baghdad bombing raid. By which they mean the Kuwaiti victims of unhuman atrocities only beginning with murder and rape and torture, which would continue to this day had we tried for a military solution.

Every victim of this war, American, coalition, Kuwaiti, Iraqi, is a victim of Saddam Hussein's dangerous thirst for power through fear. Having repeatedly given him ample time, too much time, in total, to withdraw from Kuwait and end the hostilities, the coalition side has nothing to answer for. Any sane man would realize the odds against him after the first few hours of the air war. But Saddam persisted, on behalf of his army, on behalf of his people, on behalf of his supporters. On behalf of his pride. That Hussein has been humiliated but not eliminated, is nearly as great a victory for the coalition as is the military triumph. If Hussein is ousted, we should happily support his successor to rebuild Iraq into a benevolent nation. If Hussein is allowed to keep his stranglehold on Iraqi politics, then we do have a quarrel with the Iraqi people after all.

2. Land for Peace?

Should Israel be prepared to give up some or all of the occupied territories in exchange for a peace deal? This seems to be the thrust of post-war negotiation. I think it's a big mistake for George Bush to take his war-victory and and try to parlay it into a peace settlement that nobody has been able to achieve in days of less tension, but I applaud the effort. The question is whether the "land for peace" overtures Bush is making are reasonable or not.

Before I get going, I'd better say that I don't have a very firm grasp on the facts involved here. As a matter of fact, the basic unbiased facts seem to be hard to come by. (Sounds like a hobby feud!) I'd like

BEGIN THE BROTISSERIE!

You saw the bit about Eric Brosius's idea for postal Rotisserie League baseball in DipGab. Unfortunately, that was written two months ago, and we haven't time to diddle around if we want to launch this before the season starts. So....

Sand in a team!

Here's how to play. As soon as possible, so as to get it here before April 13 and be one of the seven participants, you need to select a 23-player team, as follows:

--all players to come from National League clubs only. (Sorry about this, folks, but we don't want to make it too easy by including both leagues. If we'd had more time, I'd survey the entrants for preferred league, but let's go with the league that doesn't have the DH rule to keep it simple for the playtest.) Any player traded or sold to the AL is immediately worthless to the guy that selected him.

--Position breakdown of your 23 players is as follows: Defense: 9 pitchers. Offense: five outfielders, two catchers, one of each infield position (1b, 2b, 3b, ss), one extra middle infielder (2b or ss), one extra corner infielder (1b or 3b), and one other player, of any position, to be added to the offensive side. Positional eligibility is 20 games at the position last

year (stats on this are in the Sporting News Yearbook), or, if a player didn't play 20 at any position, the position played most often. I'll use common sense where I can.

--Objective is to build a team that will excel in eight categories: Offense: team batting average, total home runs, total runs batted in, and total stolen bases. Defense: team earned run average, team baserunner ratio (hits plus walks, divided by innings pitched, the lower the better), team pitcher's wins, and team pitcher's saves. Pitchers do not contribute to a team batting stats if they bat. Batters do not contribute to their team's pitching stats if they should be called upon to pitch.

--IP and AB requirements. There are new rules this year preventing players from getting advantages in the average-type categories by selecting a superstar and a bunch of guys who seldom play, to get a great composite score. The requirements are 900 IP and 4250 AB per team. Failure to get these minimum disqualifies you from ERA and Ratio points, and/or BA points.

--Trading, reserves, farm teams, waivers, minor leagues, other transactions. Not allowed. Not that they wouldn't make things interesting, just that they wouldn't be managable.

--Each month, participants will be asked to draft a team based upon the players left. At the conclusion of the season, each participant will have drafted one team in each of the seven months (1991 deadlines

to hear views from both sides. And if you should be offended by what I say here, please realize that this is not my intention.

A central concept in this dispute is the recognition by Arab states, as well as the proposed Palestinian state (wherever it might eventually be created) of Israel's right to exist. Israel has repeatedly said that it would talk peace with any Arab state recognizing this, and has done so in the late 70's with Egypt. But what does this involve? Israel's right to exist as a nation including the territories it annexed in the wars over the years? If we can achieve a lasting peace by getting the Arab states to give up trying to eliminate Israel, what claim does Israel have to the occupied territories? Certainly they will no longer be needed for self-defense if nobody is going to attack.

But can the Arab states be trusted not to if Israel concedes the territories?

Another argument in favour of Israel's right to the occupied territories is that they have settled and built up those territories, and asking them to abandon them now in the name of peace is not really reasonable after so much work has gone into making them livable.

Now, the Arab view is quite the opposite

to this. They want the occupied territories back, and they claim that it has been Israeli policy to settle and develop them in order to justify an Israeli claim for them other than that of defensive necessity. The doubt expressed above about the Arab states willingness to abandon the goal of eliminating Israel, would be taken as a gross insult to most Arabs, whatever historic justification it may have.

Doesn't it seem to you that the solution of giving the Palestinians a "homeland" somewhere in the region is not going to help? All that would be is segregation on a large scale. The solution is not to take all the separate groups and push them into a geographical area, better would be to encourage the separation of religions from governments. As long as you have righteous religious governments in close proximity to one another, there will be war and aggression and tension, under the guise of "he started it" arguments. A non-religious state created in the region and supported by the U.N. and the rest of the world might prove to be so successful that neighbouring governments might stand up and take notice. I refuse to believe that people cannot get along with one another because of religious differences. If that were true we'd all be dead long ago, or more likely never even born.

will be April 13, May 4, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, and October 4th), and one team in each of the seven "divisions." Division A might be John in April, Bob in May, etc; Division B might be Harry in April, John in May, etc. I'll decide the breakdown of who drafts when with the first League Report.

Each division will be individually scored as follows: categories will be totalled up, and first place in each category will get seven points, second will get six, etc. With eight categories, the highest score possible would be 56, lowest would be 7. The question is, who has the advantage, the guy who drafts from all available players in April, or the guy who drafts from the few remaining players in October? Or somebody in the middle. By playing seven games, we'll even things out, and find out who is truly the best drafter.

By the way, I will accept team changes by phone up to noon on Saturday 14 April, as long as you have a team in by mail. So get a preliminary team in, right now. You can think later, and call me about it. But don't forget, this is the easy part! The hard part will be picking a decent team in October when the only players left will have a batting average below the Mendoza line, or an ERA out near Saturn....

--Winner. If one player has won more divisions than any other, he is the winner. Otherwise, this is the tie-breaking scoring system: Each player's score is determined by adding his scores from each of the seven divisions. If there is a tie for first place, the first tie-breaker is the player who won more divisions. If there are still three or more tied, then the next tie-breaker is who was second or better in the most divisions, then who was third or better, etc. Once there are two teams tied, the final tiebreaker is which of the two teams finished ahead of the other in the most divisions.

--Prizes. Costs you nothing to enter except the commitment to participate. I will have Nancy draft for you in case of an MMR. This should be a slight

disadvantage--although it might work out fine: you don't want to find out. The winner will get \$10 in XL sub credit, and the other players will get discounts for next year, if the idea turns out to be a good one and I can actually charge a gamefee for this.

--Team Name's: if you do not submit a team name, I will make one up for you. It may not be too complimentary. Rotisserie team names are traditionally based upon the drafter's surname: the original league has the Stein Brenners (owned by Harry Stein), and the Wulfgang (owned by Steve Wulf). You get the idea. Anything up to and beyond anagrams is permissible, but please give us an explanation if it's a bit involved.

--Reports. You'll get stats and rosters once a month, after the deadline, mailed separately. An abbreviated version will appear in XL.

--Keep in mind. This is a test. This is only a test of a plausible Rotisserie League system. Allow me to interpret anything nit-picky if it should come up. Abide by my decision. Have fun. Play Ball.

EXAMPLE OF SCORING

Drafter/ Pt.Total	O F F E N S E				D E F E N S E			
	B Avg	HR	SB	RBI	Wins	Saves	ERA	Ratio
Alfred 27.0--7th	.265	133	179	697	91	13	3.11	1.282
Blair 32.0--4th	5.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	6.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
Charles 30.5--5th	.271	123	154	713	79	16	3.01	1.123
Danton 34.0--3rd	6.0	2.5	3.0	4.5	4.0	2.0	4.0	6.0
Elwood 34.5--2nd	.249	153	152	713	83	45	2.75	1.401
Fernando 38.0--1st	2.0	5.0	2.0	4.5	5.0	4.0	7.0	1.0
Gerald 28.0--6th	.255	177	122	801	73	33	2.81	1.245
	3.0	7.0	1.0	7.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	4.0
	.275	123	189	687	92	55	3.31	1.275
	7.0	2.5	5.0	2.0	7.0	7.0	1.0	3.0
	.248	162	200	797	61	43	2.99	1.112
	1.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	1.0	6.0	5.0	7.0
	.264	120	203	684	67	50	3.02	1.209
	4.0	1.0	7.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	3.0	5.0



BASEBALL QUIZ:4TH INNING, continued
[The preceding question was on page 16]

4. Bases are loaded with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning of a tie game. The fielding team pulls everyone in to cut down the run at the plate and the batter drives the ball over the center fielder's head. The runner on third scores easily, but the rest of the runners retire to their

dugout to prepare for a party after the game, without advancing a base. The center fielder retrieves the ball and on his way to the first base dugout he steps on second and first with the ball in hand. Double play? Do you count the run since everybody else has left the field? It's your call.

[Next question is on page 23]

POLL TALK #6

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Welcome back! I took a break last time—there was no *Poll Talk* in *Excelsior 37*. I spent the time publishing *The Roar of the Crowd*, the official publication of the 1990 Runestone Poll. You can still get a copy by sending me \$5.00 (remember to include your mailing address.)

So what do I do in the off-season? For one thing, I relax; it's hard to believe, but the ballots for next year's Poll are due out in less than four months! But I also want to discuss some Poll issues. I have my own opinions, but I'd like to hear what *you* think.

This time I'll discuss an issue that comes up frequently, not only with regard to the Runestone Poll, but in other contexts as well—exactly what is the extent of our hobby? What zines, games, players, and GMs belong? We call it the "Postal Diplomacy Hobby", but there's more to it than that. Even in the "good old days" people played games other than Diplomacy, and today this trend is as strong as it ever was; the name "Postal Gaming Hobby" might be more appropriate.

If a zine runs games of "Railway Rivals", or "United Soccer", or "Titan", but not of Diplomacy, can it really be said to be "in the hobby"? I think the answer is "yes". A hobby is a group of people enjoying some activity together. I find it far more natural to use an inclusive definition than one which attempts to exclude; why keep people out?

Even in the past, the Runestone Poll included zines and subzines that did not run Diplomacy games, as long as they bore some relation to the hobby, i.e., the majority of their participants also participated in more traditional Diplomacy zines. For 1990 I made an effort to include every such zine that I knew of; there will always be some that I miss, so make sure to let me know if you start a new zine before February 28!

One must thus ask the question "if non-Diplomacy zines and subzines are included in the Poll, why not non-Diplomacy GMs? The rules of the Poll have always required that you be a *Diplomacy* (or variant) GM to be listed. The somewhat illogical result is that in many cases a GM was left out of the Poll even though the zine he published was included. How can this be?

The traditional argument is that while publishing a zine is the same whether you run Diplomacy games or not, *GMin*g a Diplomacy game is different in nature than *GMin*g any other game. To lump Diplomacy GMs together with non-Diplomacy GMs would thus be wrong. I can understand this argument—Diplomacy GMs must exercise extra care to avoid interfering with delicate negotiations, to deal with misorders that may be intentional, and so on—but I no longer agree with it. I have now *GMed* both a regular and a variant Diplomacy game to conclusion, I have had quite a bit of experience *GMin*g the railroad games "Empire Builder" and "Railway Rivals", and I have also joined several United sports leagues.

I do not believe the qualities that make a good GM depend very much upon what game you're discussing. As a GM you must deal promptly and accurately with correspondence from players, especially when you receive a question about a rule interpretation. You must know the rules well and apply them consistently. You must be willing to set aside the time it takes to get the adjudication out promptly, even when there are other things you'd rather do. You must admit your mistakes and work hard to fix them. You must not favor one player over another.

These criteria apply to any game. The United or Empire Builder rules are no easier to learn than those for Diplomacy. Some games take longer to deal with than others, but you still have to sit down on a beautiful Saturday morning and crank the game out when you'd rather be outside. There's no doubt that *GMin*g an Empire Builder game is more work than *GMin*g a regular Diplomacy game (at least for me).

What I am saying, then, is that I think it would be appropriate to include all play-by-mail or play-by-e-mail GMs in the GM Poll, not just Diplomacy GMs. They perform similar jobs and should be rated on the same basis.

I realize that some of you would prefer to limit the Poll to zines, subzines, and GMs which are strictly Diplomacy-related. Even for you, this new plan will not prove much of a hardship. Just draw lines through the names of those GMs you feel don't belong in the Poll, and look at the ones that are left. True, the matchups will have been affected by the non-Diplomacy GMs, but this is a minor factor, and one you *could* eliminate by using data available in *The Roar of the Crowd* to recalculate the preference scores. If people think it is appropriate, I'd even be willing to place an asterisk by the the name of every zine, subzine, or GM that does not run Diplomacy games.

Do you agree with this proposal? Perhaps there are sides to this issue that I haven't considered. Either way, write to me and let *Poll Talk* readers know what *you* think about this issue.

Most of the Post

The biggest apology I have for being late is to those of you who have sent me letters in the interim. Some of these letters, I suspect, may begin to yellow soon. Let's start with our roving correspondent on European Toilets. His letter is so old that there's a schedule of his whirlwind surprise tour of Southern Ontario, over last Christmas. I'll skip that.

RAM

STEVE HUTTON (Stockholm SWEDEN):

Now that that's out of the way, some of you may be hoping I'll continue my Toilets of the World series. Alas, the Swedish toilet is not as bizarre as its Austrian cousin. But, in case you were wondering, yes, the men's washroom at my workplace does have a box for the disposal of sanitary napkins. Swedes take equality very seriously.

These days, my real obsession is not toilets but laundry. You know the little pink erasers we have on pencils back home, that are aesthetically pleasing, an excellent source of dietary fiber, ideal in every way except for the minor problem that they can't erase? Well, I think the same company that makes pink not-quite-erasers also makes Swedish drying machines. I have now used the driers in three different apartment buildings, and they all do an excellent job of moving clothes around in circles. I am often tempted to invite over friends to watch my clothes go around in circles, and stay wet.

My other obsession, of course, is hair. Even someone who wasn't already plagued with feelings of inadequacy about his hair (gel envy, Freud called it) would be driven to such a state after 6 months in Sweden. For example, there's this guy in my bank. Not only is every one of his hairs always in the right place (an I do not understand the physics behind that), but his hair is also always exactly the same length. One of these days, I'm going to break down completely and say "Take all my money, I don't care, just tell me who does your hair!"

Maybe it's a good idea to leave Sweden for a few weeks at Christmas time.

Actually, I already escaped for a week in August when my friend Darryl visited. I decided that a week was more than enough time to show him this silly, little continent. The highlight was our visit to Prague,

where we obtained a ridiculous number of Czech crowns and then struggled desperately to spend them.

We didn't quite succeed, and we still had a few in our pockets as we sat in the train station and waited for our inexplicably (but unsurprisingly) delayed train. We were tired and cranky. It was two in the morning. We had no idea when our train would arrive. To make matters worse, an American tourist was "entertaining" his girlfriend by singing Broadway show tunes with the words changed to refer to food. I made a suggestion. To his credit, Darryl walked straight over to the singer and said, "My friend asked me to offer you 20 crowns to stop." A deal was struck. Never let anyone tell you Czech money is worthless.

Another unusual musical experience occurred right here in Stockholm. The disk jockey played The Red River Valley, sung by a Swedish group with Swedish lyrics. I said, "It seems strange to hear a cowboy song in a country with no cowboys." "Oh, no" the Swede next to me said, "this is a song about reindeer herders in Lapland." Sweden is a wierd place.

BM: May I take it from the context that by "sanitary napkins" you mean tampons? If so, some Swedish children must be awfully confused. I remember being intellectually beaten by the existence in men's washroom of condom dispensers. Being taught to read before entering kindergarden didn't help--it took years before I was able to figure out what the words really meant. I still don't know why they make such a fuss about the colours.

Pink is a silly colour for erasers, of course, unless you are writing on pink paper. It's so difficult to find good eraser refills for mechanical pencils that I have given in and have bought a pencil-sized eraser, which holds white breadstick-shaped erasers.

We had a drier in our apartment in Germany when we lived there. I don't think that getting the clothes dry was a problem, but it would spin the clothes around clockwise for about thirty seconds, then stop, and then spin them around counterclockwise! Perhaps this is the vital difference: maybe clothes require alternating rotational directions to dry properly. I wouldn't know. My job at our visits to the laundromat consists of getting my load of dirty clothes there safely, running over to 7-11 for drinks, then setting up the backgammon board upon my return. By this time Nancy has usually done the mysterious rituals involved in starting the machines with our clothes in them, and she has enough free time to trounce me soundly with endless successions of amazing

17-1 shots. (The laundromat is her home turf; she won't play me anywhere else.)

The introduction of North American Hallowe'en rituals in Lahr by the Canadians stationed there with their families had a strange effect on the natives. Eventually, in neighbourhoods where there was a good enough mixture of Canadian and German kids, the event caught on. My mom did, however, notice a marked costume preference among the German kids towards cowboys and Indians. This was also evident in the German festival parades we saw: a bilingual German (many are, we found out) would be explaining that what we were seeing dated back to medieval times, as a bunch of ten-gallon hats and tomahawk-carrying kids with painted faces would go past.

More travelogues now--and this one is getting yellow; it's even older--October 1st...

CLAUDE GAUTRON (Winnipeg MB):

Thought I'd send a short note to you now that I've returned to Canada after spending 2 1/2 months in Europe. I went to Germany and Eastern Europe mostly, visited Thomas Franke in Oldenburg, went to Berlin and Dresden in the former DDR (hordes of tourists in Berlin visiting the wall), Prague and several smaller cities in Czechoslovakia (my favorite country in Eastern Europe--spent three weeks there), Krakow in southern Poland, parts of Hungary and Yugoslavia which I hadn't visited before, and Austria (Vienna) and France, where I met Charles Arsenault in Grenoble, in the French Alps. All in all a most enjoyable holiday!

BM: I wonder, with Eastern Europe now opened up to Western tourists, whether those countries are taking advantage of it. When I think of European sight-seeing spots I think of France, Germany, England, Spain, Italy, but not so much Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Balkans, Russia. It seems unlikely that all the interesting sights are in Western Europe. Certainly there is no shortage of historical interest. And is money really harder to spend in Eastern Europe than Western Europe? The economics of tourist traps may be a valuable lesson for these countries on the road to economic equality with the richer European countries. For now they can boast of a cheaper deal and perhaps less crowded conditions.

Among the many common topics in letters received this time was the David Hood strategy for trading less than the minimum three cards in Civilization (you trade 5 for 5, agreeing to then trade back 3 for 3, actually handing over only the 2 that will change hands):

DAVID HOOD (Cary NC): I think the Civ trading issue is really one of style--clearly the procedure I

the plastic pieces and I know some people who refuse to play with the wooden ones. For me, I like the smaller pieces (the wooden fleets are just too big) and also the Italy/France wooden pieces are too similar in colour.

BM: Yes, I agree. Also, the German/English pieces can be confused under poor lighting conditions. I've had Nancy paint my French pieces a distinctive sky blue, as well as painting the English pieces in a dark (not quite navy) blue model paint that has sparkles in it. When I got a second set for my birthday last year, I combined the pieces, and painted a few Austrian fleets in the England colour and a few English armies in Austria's colours. The chief problem with the A-H set is that somebody like me who has played with wood all his life cannot get used to the shapes--the stars and anchors are about the same size and not as clearly distinguished as long and short. Have you ever seen a European set, which has a colourful political map without the irrelevant physical features? I learned to play in Germany, and I still think the physical map is better and more appropriate.

ROBERT LESCO (Brampton ON):

It seems easy enough for someone with a bit of time and some leftover paint to be able to cut up a lifetime supply of wooden blocks for use playing Diplomacy.

BM: Don't look at me. I'm completely stupid when it comes to any type of handiwork. I recently went to a hardware store to get some material to make a shelf for our stereo. Having bought a nice piece of wood 18" wide and 36" long, I calmly proceeded to laboriously screw the three mounting brackets into the wall so that the two end ones were a bit less than 38 inches apart. I kid you not!

I also received a note from Fred Davis which refers to Cal White's discovery of no Dip boards in the Toronto area. Fred enclosed a letter from Thomas Shaw of Avalon Hill listing Canadian distributors. I can

BASEBALL QUIZ: 4TH INNING, continued
[The preceding question was on page 20]

5. Socks Perry is the runner on first base and he makes a break to steal second. The opposing pitcher panics and makes a horrible move to throw the ball to first base. The only thing worse than the pitcher's move is his throw, which winds up in the right-field bullpen. Perry proceeds to round the bases. Do you allow the run or do you put the runner back on second and just award him one base for the balk? It's your call.

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report that the stores I frequent around here still have Diplomacy sets. Most of the specialized game stores have the A-H version, and the department stores still have the new Waddington's models.

A bit now on sports.

DAVID HOOD: I appreciate Malc Smith's comment about how Americans only want games they can win, and while I understand how it could look that way with respect to soccer, I must disagree. Soccer is a very popular sport for children, especially in the U.S. but it will never be a big sport professionally for two reasons: 1) Boring as hell to watch (not to play, though), 2) Not sometimes use to trade less than 3 cards is legal under the rules. Can it blow up in your face? Certainly, if a player stops the two-step trade in the middle, or passes a calamity. Obviously the context for the strategy is a peaceful, cooperative game--the kind that usually gets played among experienced players.

DAVE MCCRUMB (Shawsville VA): Civ can be exciting. In the Civ game Sunday at DipCon, we knocked Crete from 7 cities to 1 in one turn, and out of the lead. We were going to try the same with Italy, but one asshole decided to throw the game for other reasons than to stop the leader. That was a very exciting game up till then. I played a game once at Ken Peel's where all six players ended up on the same turn with less than 200 points separating them all, the top three within 50 points. You just have to get into the right game. I find the trading the stimulating part, but five minutes is too short.

BM: I agree with that. I think the trading should go on for ten minutes or until there are three seconds of silence...

The overnight marathon at TomatoCon '86 I mentioned in #37 was perhaps not real close at the end, but although Steve Hutton won it, we all felt we'd done our bit by making it as difficult as possible for him. Of course, the guy was playing Africa, and had cities in Cypress and beyond, which provoked a violent reaction from those of us in the region, of course.

David, you sat down at that game at DipCon, took one look at the board and you probably realized that one of my two neighbours would win handily. Right? What I am saying is that a) if our only chance to win was to attack the front-runners, then we should have, and b) if the game is set up so that attacking front-runners can never succeed, then what we are playing is nothing more than six-player solitaire with a few cute ideas like trading thrown in. I maintain that at any really expert Civ game,

there must come a time when one or more players realize that another player is going to win unless he is attacked. The earlier the players can realize this and take action, the more interesting the game will be. Not only that, but I think that because of this, the point total of the winner is irrelevant in determining accomplishments in a tournament. Better might be to award each player his point total plus the point total of all of the players he is ahead of at the end of the game.

Your trading strategy is quite legal and very useful--I didn't mean to imply that it was at all shady or contrary to the intent of the rules.

Next subject: Diplomacy playing pieces.

DAVID HOOD: Actually, I prefer enough breaks for TV commercials.

STEVE ROBINSON (Greer SC): A few comments on the sports discussion in the post in the November issue. Basketball just doesn't do anything for me. The scoring is nearly incessant, and the object seems to be a race to see who can score the most points the fastest rather than a fight to see who can force a score against a stiff defense. Baseball is great. It is a bit on the slow side, but there is something about it which appeals to me. It's magic I guess because I can't explain it. The sport I enjoy watching most though is football. The speed is right, the opportunity for effective defense is there, the direct physical conflict is there, but it is controlled (unlike hockey where the object seems to be to kill each other with the sticks). Boxing and wrestling (the televised stuff, not the Greco-Roman stuff in the Olympics) aren't sports at all. The one is merely gross, bloody assault, and the other is a laughable farce. I know those last two weren't mentioned in the November issue, but I couldn't resist.

BM: Canada's version of ESPN (the American cable TV sports channel) has been free to our house for the last two years now, and I find I'm watching more and more sports with great interest, which helps me to define what I like to see in a sport. I find "race" sports unexciting. Track, skiing, auto racing, or boat racing don't interest me much. They are, however, one notch up on any sport which is "judged", as opposed to being played for a clear objective, such as a goal, or touchdown. Figure skating irritates the hell out of me. Gymnastics and diving ditto. I can't begin to count the number of times I've felt ripped off when judges give the same mark to two performances when I have a clear and obvious preference, or when they clearly and obviously mark based upon the names involved. I don't like decisions in boxing, but otherwise am seldom appalled at the

violence: the modern instructions to the referee to stop the fight before any serious damage is done has greatly helped: one wonders why there is a time limit--letting them continue would be better now that we know that nobody's gonna get killed. Individual sports don't as interesting as team sports. I'd much prefer to watch a doubles match in tennis, even if the networks think differently. Involved strategy is always great to see, especially if you understand the options, or are learning from the coverage. Snooker is one of my favorites, not for the spectacle of one guy running off 147-breaks, but for the wild frames where strategic safeties are played often. Curling is great--most Canadian coverage of curling is excellent, the colour commentators often give the viewer a clear idea of the strategies and tactics in use. I'll go for almost any team sport, though. As long as the object of the game is concrete instead of abstract (goals or touchdowns vs judging), I think that saying a sport is "boring" simply implies that you haven't watched enough of it to know better.

MARK NELSON (Armley, Leeds, ENG LAND): Perhaps the reason that Americans dislike football is that a game which requires 45 minutes of concentration to follow the play is a game that lasts about ten times longer than their attentive time-span? It is also typical of Americans that they can not enjoy something which requires the viewer to watch the action and think about the 'strategy' of the game at the same time "no time or digest or analyse what is going on." I suppose that doing two separate mental activities simultaneously would be doing double what the average American can easily cope with! Finally it is also typical of Americans that they require excitement to be qualified in terms of easy to quantitative actions such as goals rather than just 'playing the games', an American requires a qualitatively defined activity such as a goal to tell him to celebrate because he is too thick to realize otherwise that he is having a good time. This is probably why David enjoys basketball, he doesn't have to employ his brain to tell him anything since goals (which equal excitement) happen every minute he knows he must be having a good time.

BM: You don't really believe that rot, now, do you? American sports fans are not obsessed with goals--if they were, the networks would continue to hire former athletes who speak of football "feel gols" (field goals) and butcher English grammar regularly. Instead, you continually see former coaches and managers being placed in

these roles, because they can best explain the strategy. Basketball, which seems like a scorefest, is actually quite strategic when you get into substitutions and matchups and defenses and foul trouble management. Increasingly, when you watch a college or pro game, you hear more and more about the strategies instead of "what a great dunk that was," or how "focussed" a player might be. The reasons soccer has not caught on here is that the level of play here is such that defensive teams can succeed more easily than attacking styles. (In Vancouver we know better; the local CSL entry having won the last three national titles by a cumulative score of 14-3!)

Perhaps you could tell me about the standard for British TV coverage of soccer. How do they handle commercials? The standard here is to have a few minutes break about halfway through each half, and a whole bunch of commercials during the interval. This is better than going to a commercial at each goal kick, which sometimes backfires ("While we were away..."). I must say that the British soccer coverage relayed to us on Canadian cable TV is excellent, with not only live coverage but also very well put together highlight packages of other games and the occasional extended highlights, where the 90 minute game is condensed to about 15-30 minutes, without any obvious breaks.

A few comments on CanCon now:

ROBERT LESCO: Regarding CanCon, I was only in attendance on the Friday since I had to work Saturday and Sunday, so you couldn't have been talking to me Saturday afternoon and I couldn't have played Austria to your Russia Sunday morning. I guess I didn't make much of an impression. Unfortunately, my brother-in-law's wedding is tentatively scheduled for the same weekend in 1991 so my participation may be limited again.

BM: It was probably just me confusing you with Graham Wilson, I suspect. There

BASEBALL QUIZ:4TH INNING, continued
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6. Horse Belly Sargent hits a gapper and goes for a triple. When Sargent limbers into third base, he and the third baseman collide. The ball goes one way and the players go the other. Sargent's helmet is knocked off in the collision. The third baseman finds the ball and attempts to tag Sargent as he dives back to the bag and reaches around the tag with his helmet and holds it to the base. Meanwhile the third baseman tags Sargent on the arm. Is Sargent safe or out because he used the helmet? It's your call.

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was a bit of a delay between the time I met you and the time I wrote the article, thanks to Canada 3000 Airlines success at losing the computer, and I did notice a few things that didn't make sense in the chronology, but who cares? It was a great time! Hope to see you this year again, even if only for a day or two.

DAVID HOOD: CanCon sounded fun--and lest anyone worry about your low turnout, remember that DixieCon '89 was 34 while the DixieCon/DipCon '90 was 110. It's all a matter of promotion. That's why I hope that Doug Acheson and Co. will start sending out stuff soon. It's really about time to gear it up.

BM: Since that was written in November, Doug and Co. has come out with some information--if I've space I'll reprint what I have in the zine, or I'll summarize it on the addenda.

STEVE ROBINSON: I seem to remember you writing that you like to receive US postage in payment from people in the States. I've enclosed \$5.00 in 25¢ stamps to be applied toward my subscription balance. If I am wrong and you'd rather have cash or a check, just let me know.

PAUL NILEWSKI (Cincinnati OH): These new postal rates are a major nuisance. The 29¢ first-ounce and 23¢ additional ounce rates are both prime numbers, so I cannot get by with a supply of 25¢ and 15¢ stamps the way I did when the rates were 25¢ and 20¢ respectively, and use the same 15¢ stamps to cover postcards (which are now 19¢) and my letters to Canada (then 30¢, now 40¢). Given the sinister conspiracy theories about the Middle East, it is along the same lines that I wonder if the USPS hasn't pulled off a major coup unnoticed by the masses to have people slap on lots of extra postage. I have noticed some of that already.

BM: But did you hear about the Canadian rates? Used to be 39¢, but a one-cent increase has taken it to 43¢! How? Well, we now pay 7% GST on stamps, so a 40¢ stamp costs 43¢. I do encourage people to send U.S. stamps for sub credit, it really makes it much easier for me. Luckily, I've about run out of the old stamps now, so this issue we'll be spending some U.S. money to buy a new supply. As always, it is money well spent.

While asking Eric Brosius to design me some templates last fall (as you'll see, I did offer to pay any reasonable fee he might name), I mentioned the two distinct ways dot-matrix printers work. One type of printer receives codes-only, some which indicate a letter (for which the dot patterns are in the printer's memory) to be

printed, others (usually preceded by ASCII code 27: "escape", or, in other words, "hey, printer, alert: the next code or codes is not a mere letter!") tell the printer to change the font, or start underlining, or change the spacing, or something. The other type of printer receives codes which amount to columns of dots which in turn define letters. That may or may not help you to make sense of this exchange.

ERIC BROSIUS (Milford MA): I'm sure we can make page templates for you. I'll probably write a little program in raw POSTSCRIPT to do the job. I want to learn POSTSCRIPT (the language that drives my [new laser] printer), and this job is about the right complexity. As for hiring us, any payment you make will be on a voluntary basis only. I'm glad to help.

Actually, the Mac is moving away from the dots-only approach. Characters for printers are now provided as outlines; the printer computes the dots only at the last minute. Supposedly the next version of the Macintosh System (version 7) will work this way for the screen as well. You're right; it is more logical.

BM: Well, I'm not sure if it's always more logical. It seems to be a matter of resolution. A laser printer, which usually prints about 400 dots/inch, might in fact be better off with dots-only for text. This way you could hold the memory for different font styles in the computer, and just have the computer send the dots instead of using the printer processor to compute the image of the letters. Doesn't it make more sense to have the computer's processor (which presumably is faster) compute the dots? But for graphics, quite striking results can often be obtained at lower resolutions (I'm not going to say XL's maps are "striking," but for 80 d.p.i. it's not a bad job at all, unless you're talking to Mike Lowrey), so it depends on what you're doing. However, you do need to be able to mix the two, which I guess is what POSTSCRIPT is all about. Letter-quality dot-matrix printing (what you're reading) obviously cannot hold a candle to laser printed output, but another step down is the print you get when someone tries to have a graphics program produce text, without a laser printer. Cal White's latest Northern Flame is, sadly, an example of this--I'll bet his dot matrix printer has lots of lovely-looking fonts in non-graphics mode. What he's got now looks like the stuff I use for headlines and covers: not great, but not easily readable as text-sized letters.

There are trouble spots with the anti-dots-only approach too. One problem with the new printer that I should be corrected this time is the cancelling out of underlining when the machine goes to the

next line. The fault is the word processor's, which turns off underlining as it finishes a line, and turns it on if it's still supposed to be on when it starts the next line. Unfortunately, after it correctly turns the underlining back on, it fires through the codes for the current font style, which includes underlining off. I found a reasonable alternative, luckily.

Here's one I cannot correct. When the printer inserts microspaces for justification, it doesn't check to see if underlining is on. So I have little gaps in the underlining as a cost of microspaced justification. The partial solution is to insert hard-spaces (the difference being that the machine may not end a line on a hard-space, which you type as [shift]:space) where I want an underlined space, so that it doesn't add non-underlined microspaces into underlined passages. But this has potential problems: if I have a long underlined passage, it may be too long to fit on one line if I fill it with hard-spaces.

A bit more now on computers.

BRENT MCKEE (Saskatoon SK): The new printer looks great. If I had had a choice when I bought my printer, I would have gone for a 21-pin machine as well since it makes the characters look almost as good as any of the daisy wheel printers. I was particularly impressed with the type that you used on your title as well as the graphics on your map. My own latest purchase for my computer is a new serial mouse. With the graphics program (which I am having a little problem with at the moment) the package cost \$39.95.

Since I bought a serial mouse of course, I can't join you in the wonderful world of the modem very soon, since if I ever get a modem I would prefer to get an external unit. Not that I was likely to anyway. Beyond the fact that I don't really feel the need for one, there is the fact that the nearest location where we have a jack is in the basement which is a long way from my computer, and I don't feel like putting one in my room at the moment. Still, I am not totally unfamiliar with the workings of modems. My friend Mike, who manages a local comics shop, has modems on his home computer and the one at work. He was going to run a BBS out of the store, until they decided to move and a number of other problems arose. One game that Mike was going to put out on the BBS was Diplomacy by E-Mail. Since he doesn't play the game however, he wanted me to run the games for him on a one-week deadline. However he felt the need to copy the entire rule book into the computer and before he did

so he decided to fold the BBS.

BM: I've found that the games most popular on Commodore BBSs seem to be the type where you phone in anytime and have a turn at the game, with the only restriction being the number of times you are allowed to call in a day. It has been explained to me by a few SysOps that the chances of getting a game as complicated as Dip going is poor because the deadlines would be a problem, because the players would have trouble learning the rules, and because modems are not really inclined to "negotiate." I have found that out the hard way, being anonymously blown up in a game called Nuclear War a few times... I would expect that the people on the professional services are rather more willing to invest the time and effort required, or you might actually find seven people who are interested from the start, but other than that, I've found the local BBSs to be all talk and little action. Some of the talk is quite interesting or funny, though!

I think you meant a 24 pin machine, didn't you? I don't think I've ever heard of a 21 pin printer. Yours looks quite good for 9 pin. I don't see that the map graphics have much changed from before, or even the titles--I'm still using the same graphics program. (I am making sure that the graphics stuff is dark--the stuff in #37 was abysmal.) I bought my mouse after a few hours of frustration using the joystick with the graphics program. The 64 mouse goes into the joystick port, and can be used as a joystick by pressing down a button on power up. (Cost me \$70, though--at the time, it was a new product; you can get it a bit cheaper now.)

ANDREW YORK (Universal City TX): I run a C-64 also, but I don't use GEOS. Is GEOS worth the time it would take to convert? I'm basically happy with this; but, I'm always looking to improve things. Also, how the heck do you get such excellent maps off the 64? I just started a game by flyer, and it could use anything to spruce it up.

BM: The maps, headlines, most of the cover stuff (the masthead is done with letter-press), page top titles, and page numbers are all produced by GEOS. I got a

BASEBALL QUIZ: 4TH INNING, continued
[The preceding question was on page 26]

7. Dashing Dan Costello rips a ferocious line-drive up the middle which hits the pitcher's rubber on the line and rebounds back to the catcher behind the plate on the fly. The catcher calmly fields the ball and throws the ball to first to beat the stunned Costello. Is Costello out? It's your call.

[Next question is on page 24]

deal from Berkeley Softworks on version 2.0 as an owner of the first version, so if you want I could send you the original boot disk (which is uncopyable) if you want to try it out. You should be able to get GEOS 2.0 for about \$35-40 in the States: about the price of a good game. If you liked the XL maps, I'd be happy to send you a file you can copy. It does take a bit of getting used to, and a mouse (see cost quoted above) is a real help, and it is addictive (I've been holding off on the \$200 needed for a RAM Expansion Unit), but it works nicely.

Next up, a clarification:

MARK BERCH (Silver Spring MD):

Back in May (with DD #125) I offered a swap of \$5.50 sub credit, and kicked your sub to DD to #134. I'm assuming that you did that for me and that it's been run down to 40¢. So here's an extra \$5.00. If I'm wrong, just add that extra \$5.00 credit--don't return.

BM: The clarification is for those others of you (not Mark, whom I've already told this in a note: see, this is another old letter) who have mutual subs with XL. Your credit is based on the value of zines I've sent minus the value of zines you've sent, since we started a mutual sub. Therefore, if it is near zero (slightly minus or slightly plus), things are O.K. If it is markedly minus it means that you have published even less than I have, and if, as now seems likely, it is markedly plus, it means that I've not sent you as much as you've sent me. Once it gets past \$5.00 either way we should figure out some way of balancing the score: look for stamps or money in your envelope. Until then, DON'T PANIC!

Now, if you prefer to trade, you have to put up with my uncertain publishing schedule. That's why I offer the option.

BRENT MCKEE: I was interested to see the interview with Eric Klein in the free issue of Diplomacy World. Eric apparently felt hard done by in his relations with the MNC and the BNC, and delays in getting numbers for his games. Given Randy Grigsby's recent admission of burnout and Don Williams's recent personal problems, there has been a general slowness in getting numbers for games, although I don't know if there have been additional delays specific to E-Mail games. Apparently Eric has taken this whole thing rather personally, and quite literally demands to be made BNC for E-Mail games, or he will no longer get numbers for either custodian. I suspect that this could boil into a major feud.

On the issue of orphan games, I am prepared to admit once ELGIN was rehoused in Protocol it shouldn't

have been transferred again to you. The CDO attitude should probably have been "What's done is done, and let's do what we have to so it doesn't happen again." Beyond that point however I disagree with you. The CDO by definition is intended to serve the needs of its members who are defined as anyone subscribing to a zine published in Canada. Presumably a "Canadian Game" is one that is played in a Canadian zine, whether it has seven, two, or even no Canadians currently active in it. Not to worry, some new orphans are coming soon. Francois Cuerrier has decided to stop running the Passchendaele games, by flyer and is turning them over to Cal. Francois had four or five games running, including an international game with players from seven different countries, and one game with no Canadians in it.

BM: I'm glad I wasn't called, although with me disappearing over the holidays I am not surprised. You are arguing that, under certain circumstances, a game that has seven Canadians is not a Canadian game, but a game that has none is? I should be using that argument to try and prove my view that there is no way to define the "Canadian hobby." But beyond that: whatever is so terrible about giving the US Orphan Service a chance? If something goes wrong, the CDO can raise a protest (quickly, I hope), and if nothing is done in response to the protest, the Executive Committee has the power to fire the USOS guy and replace him with a Canadian officer. First, you'd never have to exercise that option; second, the USOS would probably be happy to rehouse Canadian games under the auspices of the CDO; third, if you are going to tell me that this would damage our "sovereignty" or dredge up any other idiotic anti-free trade slogans, please save your ribbon ink, because if that's your best argument, you'd be better off conceding.

If a "major feud" develops because someone couldn't get BNs for his games I shall be extremely surprised, and will do my worst to show the participants the proper elements of a major feud. I don't think you've been around long enough to know what this includes, but it ain't pretty. The "give me BNs or....or....or I'll start issuing them myself, so there!" issue is far from a major feud. More like a temporary problem. If even that.

BRENT MCKEE: NMR's can be disastrous; just look at GREGORY. Maybe the best way to handle things would be to have an eighth player in the game who would write orders (or more accurately, give orders over the phone) when notified by the GM of an NMR from anyone. On the next move a permanent standby would be appointed. I think Neutral Orders is a very good

option as well, with WAP [Mark Berch's War by Auto-Pilot rule, which has the last seasons orders repeated as far as they will go] coming in as my third choice, "pure" NMR fourth and Civil Disorder fifth.

BM: The problem with the eighth player solution has been that traditionally games have been declared irregular if there was no way for any player to negotiate with any other player. To work, the eighth player solution must give the other players ample time (at least, I should think, 75% of the normal time between moves) to negotiate with the new players. The last thing a player wants is to find that his ally has NMRd and the stand-by has seen that he can attack profitably. You can say that a player shouldn't leave himself that open to anyone, even an ally, but players do so all the time, in the secure knowledge that an NMR will not hurt them. What WAP and Neutral Orders do is to limit the damage of an NMR. A common criticism of them is that they give the NMRing player a chance to gain an advantage. This is more true for Neutral Orders, of course, and I wonder if it might balance things a little (when playing Neutral Orders or WAP) to allow a player to submit one set of orders conditional upon the NMR of one other player.

ERIC BROSIUS: I missed Passchendaele when I heard about the election results in Ontario. François would have provided a detailed commentary in his own unique way. I know very little about Canadian politics, so I enjoy reading what Canadian zines have to say about it. Any chance you could discuss this? I could counter with the story of how I resolved my dilemma over which bozo to vote for in the Massachusetts gubernatorial race!

BM: A few years ago, Alan Stewart sent a letter in which he said something to the tune of "Tomorrow, Ontario hands over political power to the Liberals for the first time in [insert large number here] years. Will the sky turn red? I don't know." I guess Alan is now predicting a real disaster, because the NDP is even further left! B.C. may be soon to follow their lead--there's nothing really wrong with the Social Credit party except for the leader. Bill Vander Zalm has split the right-wing provincial party apart, even more so since I wrote about the Zalm's scandals a few years ago. He steadfastly refuses to leave, and will eventually hand the NDP a victory on a silver platter. Right now we have the recalling of the legislature (arguing under the TV cameras for the first time), amid mass resignations of Sacred cabinet ministers and backbenchers because of the ongoing investigation into whether Vander Zalm's sale of Fantasy Gardens (his tourist attraction just south of Vancouver) was a conflict-of-interest situation, and

whether the Zalm should step aside while the investigation is going on. In fact, it is well documented that the Zalm lied to reporters repeatedly about whether or not he'd transferred the shares in Fantasy Gardens to his wife or not. He's toast in the next election, which must be called before the end of the year. In fact, the longer he delays, the worse it looks. Over and over we've had scandals based on ministers being undercut by Vander Zalm's activities or actions.

But the worst problem for me is the decision I'll have to make in the next election: the local Sacred MLA is Elwood Veitch, a rather unintelligent oaf who has just been made finance minister (nobody else will take the job; the previous finance minister resigned last week), and will stick with Mr. Bill until the ship goes down, and then some. I can't possibly vote for the left-wing (and in Canada "left-wing" means a moderate leader flanked by near-communists) NDP--or can I?

A reunited Germany means some interesting news for people mailing letters there:

ROSIE ROBERTS (Adendorf GERMANY): The Bundespost does have to cope with the problem that all the postcodes used in the West are also used in the East, so there is still the need to specify West or East. We are informed that everybody will get an extra digit--sometime; until that happens the Wessies are to have a "W" before their postcodes and the Ossies are to have an "O". I haven't yet seen any letters addresses in this way, but I suppose we will eventually get used to it.

Last time's [#37: yup, another oldie this] musical extracts look like Tchaikovsky, *Capriccio Italienne?* (I thought at first it was *Scheherazade*, but you've had that one. Yes, I do know that isn't Tchaikovsky, but one Russian is much like another.) Did I understand you to say that you write them down from the record? I used to be able to do that but I haven't tried for years so I expect I'm out of practice by now.

Some parts of your layout were a bit confusing--particularly where you have two articles on one page separated by an invisible horizontal line. Could you not make it a visible horizontal line?

BM: Well, thanks for the positive criticism, but I'm afraid that I really did forget to put in the line! I'll be watching out for that this time: it all boils down to how much time I have before the printshop closes. The last few times I've been racing the clock Saturday afternoon and didn't want to wait until Monday morning.

You're very close--you may even be right,

if Petr Ilyich did some borrowing from himself: the music in #37 was from his Fifth Symphony. #38 was musicless. Probably should have put some in and went to 28 pages--people are accusing me of cramming the stuff in. My motive is to save subbers money: and yes, I do write them with my left hand on the tape machine buttons. It usually takes two drafts before I get it right. Often I make one error and end up with a whole section in a different key because of it, much like the second subject of the first movement of Beethoven's Eighth (which originally appears a tone too high, then drops down into the dominant), except that I don't do it intentionally. Sometimes I don't even catch it.

MARK NELSON: I was puzzled by the Bridge problem, puzzled as to what the problem was! Since at all forms of scoring making the contract doubled will score well I thought the problem was just to make the contract. This is straightforward, just play out four rounds of trumps and then play out the hearts forcing West to ruff. The overtrick would appear to be a nice extra.

BM: I hang my head in shame. Especially after redoubling, I should have made that, even against 5-0 breaks in both majors. (We're referring to the Bridge problem answered on page 5 last issue.) Here's one for you from a recent 28-board IMP match. You hold this hand: ♠AKQJ4 ♥A ♦AQTx ♠AK7, vul vs. not, and the bidding goes: pass, 3♠, pass, to you. What do you do now? (I'm your partner, and I'm notorious for weakling pre-empts: you can take that either as a hint or as a red herring...)

STEVE ROBINSON: I'm interested in playing Seismic Diplomacy; a little chaos might be good for me. Put me on the waiting list if it isn't full. I'll wait and see about regular Dip. I need to limit my games right now so they don't interfere with graduate school. I'd love the idea of Silent Seven Dip except for one aspect. I avoid games where there is a pot to be won. Somehow it interferes with playing a game for the game's sake. The pure competition and intrigue of the game would suffer from the inclusion of the real world aspect of the prize. The satisfaction of winning is award enough, and the rest just distracts. I'll watch with great interest though. In my opinion, this could be one of the best variants to come out in a long time. Also, it is clear from the rules that it is one game and not

seven.

BM: I didn't think of that possibility. In view of the fact that it really isn't filling up that fast, let's eliminate the prize money from the game, and see if we get any more takers. Rules were in last issue for those of you interested. For those not interested in reading rules, it's no-press Gunboat (with retreats and builds based on moves, British-style) on seven boards simultaneously on monthly deadlines, you play each country on one of the boards, and you are identified throughout by a pseudonym, so that a player stabbed on board #1 may be able to extract revenge on another board, knowing who the stabber was. The winner is the player winning on the most boards, with all eligible under a scoring system if two or more tie for most wins. The fee is \$10 for monthly flyer reports of all seven games.

ROOM

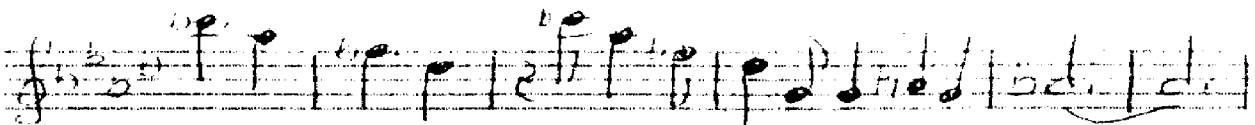
OK, folks. This diskette is nearly full. I was going to print the responses to the questions in XL #37 here, but they were such rotten questions I'll just summarize the answers. Everyone says a unit ordered to do the same thing twice is not doubly ordered. Everyone either understood or didn't much care about the scoring system change in the Runestone Poll (even Eric Brosius wrote in to say he understood it, which is a good thing...). Everyone says I should continue the baseball questions into the off-season. Hmmm. Maybe next year. The Christmas question was answered by a few; I'll save 'em for next year. Questions this time:

1) How do you rate XL in terms of layout/design? Do you agree with Hood/Lowery that the last few issues were worse than any other non-warehouse zine in North America?

2) Which event or events in the Gulf War (including the events of the pre-war period) changed, weakened, or strengthened your support for one side or the other the most, and why?

3) Does Bush's popularity following the war make him a lock for '92, or does it depend upon other things--if so, what? A lasting Middle East Peace? Domestic issues? A new VP?

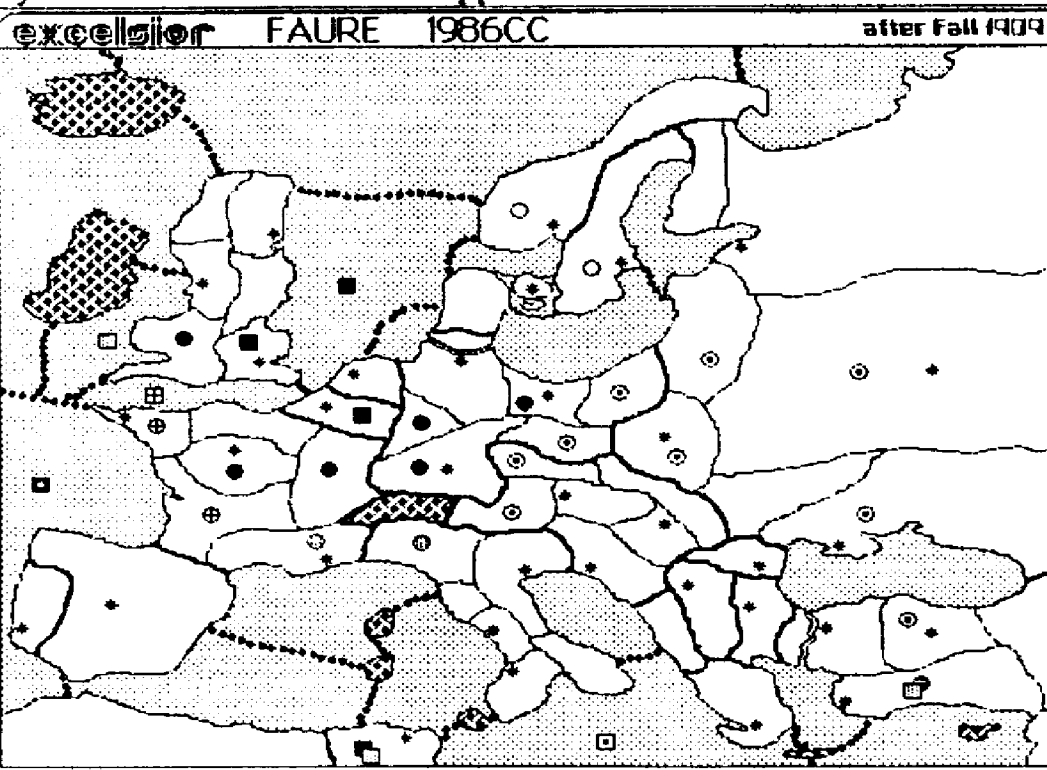
April 26 is the absolute deadline, but realistically you'll have to be in before that unless your answers are just dynamite: when I add too much at the last minute, it tends to make the zine late. I should know...



AUSTRIA TIES FOR LEAD: SIX - WAY PROPOSED

France and Turkey to sue SMURFs for non-support

- ENGLAND**
 - Gordon Argyle
 - 308-330 Michigan St.
 - Victoria BC
 - CANADA V8V 1P5
- GERMANY**
 - Bob Acheson
 - 687-1888 Saskatoon Dr
 - Edmonton AB
 - CANADA T6E 4S6
- RUSSIA**
 - Marvin Baker
 - 121 Trent Dr.
 - Taylor's SC
 - USA 29687
- TURKEY**
 - Paul Milewski
 - 4380 Eastwood Dr.
 - #2101 / Batavia OH
 - USA 45103
- AUSTRIA**
 - Pierre Touchette
 - 11 rue Bruyere
 - Gatineau PQ
 - CANADA J8T 2T9
- ITALY**
 - Claude Gautron
 - 620 rue St. Jean-Bap-
 - tiste / Winnipeg MB
 - CANADA R2H 0H2
- FRANCE**
 - Jacques Belanger
 - 985 1/2 Mainguy
 - Ste-Foy PQ
 - CANADA G1V 3S5



GM: Bruce F. Pinture, 6636 Dow Ave., #287, Burnaby BC, CANADA V5H 3C9. (ph. 604/438-9775)
 NEXT DEADLINE: Noon P.S.T., Friday, April 26, 1991.

SUPPLY CENTRE OWNERSHIP:	ENGLAND (1) NO CHANGE	GERMANY (1) NO CHANGE, unless	RUSSIA (3) BUILD ONE
	Edi <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lpl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ber <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> StP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sev <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> War <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
TURKEY (1) GOT!	AUSTRIA (1) NO CHANGE	ITALY (1) BUILD THREE	FRANCE (2) REMOVE ONE
Ank <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Con <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bud <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rom <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ven <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Par <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
NEUTRALS (0)			
Bel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bul <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hol <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hung <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Por <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ser <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yug <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

FAURE 1986CC FALL 1909 RESULTS

ENGLAND F MAQ-WME
GERMANY (A LVA R PRU) F HOL-BEL, A RUM S A MUN, E TUN*-WME, F YOR-LOW, A WAL S F YOR-LOW, A PAR-GAS, A BUR \$ A PAR-GAS, F NTH S F YOR-LOW, A BER S A MUN, A MUN \$ A PRU-SIL, A PRU*-SIL (BOOM!)
RUSSIA A STP-NWY, A SWE S A STP-NWY
TURKEY A SHY*H (CHECKMATE)
AUSTRIA A BOH S A GAL-SIL, A GAL-SIL, F ION S ITA F TYS-TUN, A UKR-SEV, A WAR S A SIL-PRU, A SIL-PRU, A LVA S A SIL-PRU, A TYR-MUN, A ANK S ITA F CON-SMY, A MOS S A LVA
ITALY F TYS-TUN, A MAR-BUR, A VEN-PIE, F CON-SMY, F ENG-IRS
FRANCE F LON-ENG, A GAS \$ ITA A MAR-BUR, A BRE-PAR

PRESS:

GM: I don't think I sent the flyer to Andrew York last season, so let me thank him in public for sending unneeded standby orders last time. The German-Austrian 2-way draw went 1 yes, 3 no, with 3 not voting. We now have a draw proposal for a 6-way between everyone but Turkey (yeah, surre...)
Rome: Long live the SMURFS!
Ber-Rome: Why just survival? I commend Gordon for putting together the alliance. But, I really think that you're more of an Austrian toady than a SMURF--I'm going to propose a 6-way draw. How will you vote?
Maestro: It will be rather interesting, won't it. For those not remembering, the words "yeah, surre" near the announcement of a proposal mean that one abstention defeats the motion, and is not to be taken as an editorial comment on the integrity of the proposal itself.
Maestro's retreats for next time:
GERMANY: F Tun r (NAE, OTB)
TURKEY: A Smy r (Arm, Syr, OTB): doesn't matter. Paul, get out your copy of XL #33 and pick an icon from the cover.
 I won't have enough room to put the German build situation on the map; he may build one if he disbands F Tun, otherwise no change.

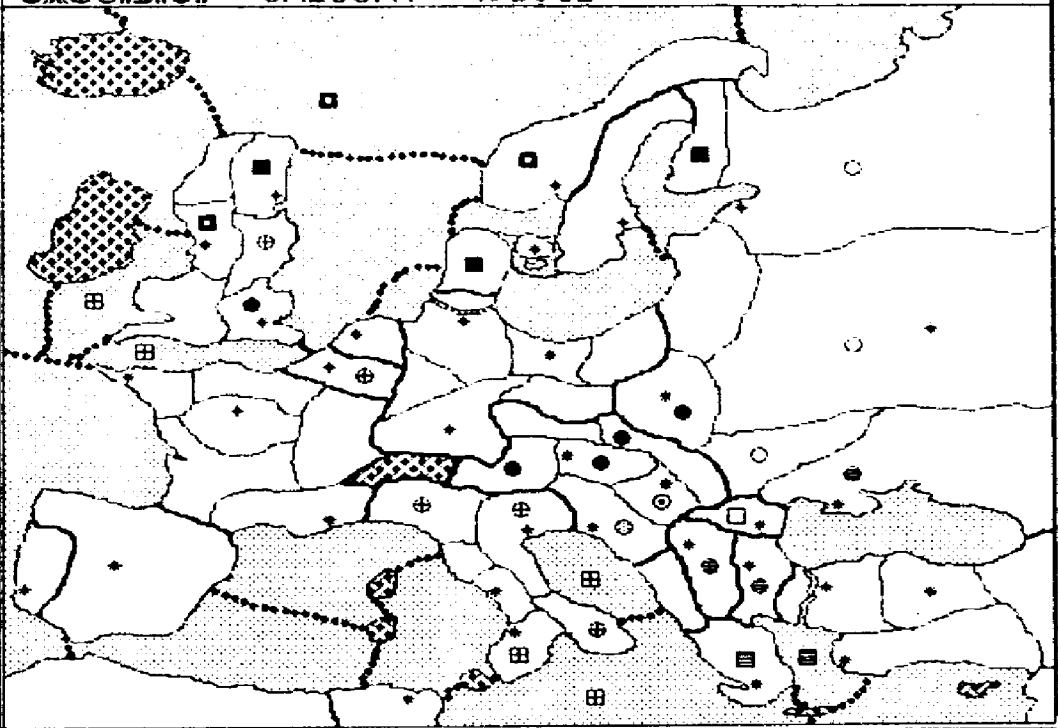
GERMANS, TURKS EXPAND AT A-H'S EXPENSE

Can they contain the ever-present threat of French *victoire*?

- ENGLAND**
 - Paul Milewski
 - 4360 Eastwood Dr.
 - #2147 Batavia OH
 - USA 45103
- GERMANY**
 - Gordon Argyle
 - #308-730 Michigan St.
 - Victoria BC
 - CANADA V8V 1R5
- RUSSIA**
 - Brent McKee
 - 901 Avenue T North
 - Saskatoon SK
 - CANADA S7L 3B9
- TURKEY**
 - Claude Gautron
 - 620 rue St-Jean-Baptiste
 - Winnipeg MB
 - CANADA R2H 2V1
- AUSTRIA (COR)**
 - Bob Acheson ?
 - 603-10883 Saskatchewan Dr.
 - Edmonton AB
 - CANADA T6E 4S6
- ITALY**
 - Charles Arsenault ?
 - 12 rue Doyen Gosse
 - 38400 St Martin d'Heres
 - FRANCE
- FRANCE**
 - Marvin Baker
 - 121 Trent Dr.
 - Taylor's SC
 - USA 29687

excelsior GREGORY 1989CE

after Fall 1904



GM: Bruce F. Intyre, 6636 Dow Ave., #203, Burnaby BC, CANADA V5H 3C9. (ph. 604/438-9735)
 NEXT DEADLINE: Noon P.S.T. Friday, March 22, 1991. for Winter 1904 ONLY

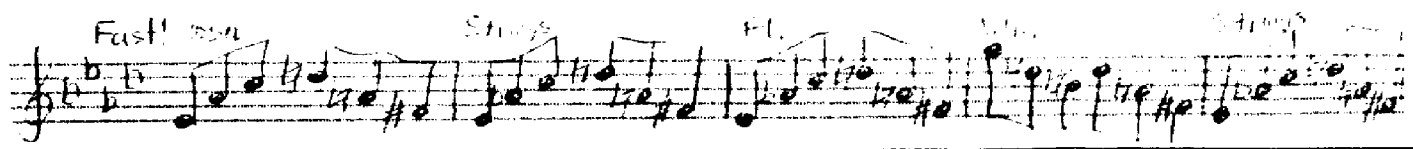
SUPPLY CENTRE	ENGLAND (2 REMOVE ONE)	GERMANY (10 BUILD THG)	RUSSIA (3 REMOVE ONE)
OWNERSHIP:	Edi <input type="checkbox"/> Lpl <input type="checkbox"/> Lon <input type="checkbox"/>	Bar <input type="checkbox"/> Kie <input type="checkbox"/> Mun <input type="checkbox"/>	Mos <input type="checkbox"/> StP <input type="checkbox"/> Sev <input type="checkbox"/> Har <input type="checkbox"/>
TURKEY (1 BUILD THG)	AUSTRIA (1 NO CHANGE)	ITALY (1 NO CHANGE)	FRANCE (10 NO CHANGE)
Ank <input type="checkbox"/> Con <input type="checkbox"/> Smy <input type="checkbox"/>	Bud <input type="checkbox"/> Tri <input type="checkbox"/> Vie <input type="checkbox"/>	Nap <input type="checkbox"/> Rom <input type="checkbox"/>	Uen <input type="checkbox"/> Bre <input type="checkbox"/> Mar <input type="checkbox"/> Par <input type="checkbox"/>
NEUTRALS (0)			
Bel <input type="checkbox"/> Bul <input type="checkbox"/> Den <input type="checkbox"/> Gre <input type="checkbox"/> Hol <input type="checkbox"/> Nwy <input type="checkbox"/> Por <input type="checkbox"/> Rum <input type="checkbox"/> Ser <input type="checkbox"/> Spa <input type="checkbox"/> Swe <input type="checkbox"/> Tun <input type="checkbox"/>			

GREGORY 1988CE FALL 1904 RESULTS

ENGLAND F NAO-LPL, F NRG-EDI, F NMY-SWE
 GERMANY F EIN-SWE, F BAL-DEN, F NTH-DEN, A BEL-LON, A PRU-WAR, A GAL-BUD, A BOH-VIE,
 A TYR S A BOH-VIE
 RUSSIA A STP S A MOS, A MOS S A STP, A UKR S A MOS, F RUM H
 TURKEY A ALB-SER, A BUL S A ALB-SER, F GRE S A BUL, F AEG S A BUL, A ARM-SEV
 AUSTRIA A SER*S TUR A ALB-TRI (NO SUCH ORDER: BOOM!!), A BUD \$ TUR A BUL-RUM (NO SUCH ORDER), A VIE*-TYB (BOOM!!)
 ITALY NMR!! A TRI STANDS UNORDERED
 FRANCE F MAO-IRS, A PIE S A VEN, A YOR S GER F NTH-EDI (NO SUCH ORDER), A APU S A VEN,
 A VEN H, F ION-ADR, A PIC-BEL, F TYS-ION, F NAP S F TYS-ION, F ENG C GER A BEL-LON

PRESS:

GM: Thanks again to Andrew York for submitting unneeded standby orders. This game is on separate shorter deadlines for Winter 1904 and Spring 1905 because of a typical M. Bruce screwup: I originally typed in England's order F Nth-Edi as F Nth-Den, not noticing that this tactic was illogical and failing to therefore discover the error in time. Then, when informed of my error, I corrected the adjudication but forgot that Nth-Den had been supported.... Anyhow, the second correction went out within three days of the first, and we should be back on track with the other game soon. The deadline of March 23 will fall just after I get this issue into the mail; expect a Winter 1904 flyer shortly.



FRED'S COLUMN No. 4 by FRED C. DAVIS, JR.

TOP OF THE LINE: THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE - by Fred Davis, 1991

I recently had the good fortune to come across a book called The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History, by Michael H. Hart. This book was published in 1978, during the Cold War. As such, it is already slightly out of date, since the author was certain that communism would continue to be one of the world's leading forces for an indefinite period. Therefore, he assigned exceedingly high rankings to Marx (11), Lenin (15) and Mao Tse-tung (20). We now realize that while Marx may remain as an important figure, Lenin and Mao may fade to the second level of lasting influence by the 21st century.

Only deceased persons are listed. Hart doesn't say how long his research took, but at least two of these people, Mao and Heisenberg⁽⁴³⁾, must have died during the time he was writing it. (Both only died in 1976). Some others died too recently, in my opinion, to be adequately rated in a book written in the 1970's. (e.g., John Kennedy (80), Pablo Picasso (98), the latter passing only in 1973). By comparison, the Great Books board does not consider anyone until they have been dead for at least 25 years. Had it been my choice, no one who had passed away after 1955 would have been considered in a book published in 1978. This would have still allowed the inclusion of Einstein (10), who died in 1955, and Stalin (63), dying in 1953. We're still too close to anyone who lived any significant length into the second half of the 20th century to rate them. I doubt that anyone preparing such a list in 1991 would include John Kennedy on the list, even though the reason for his inclusion is because he launched the program to land men on the Moon, and not because of his political program.

I was quite surprised to see Hart listing Mohammed first, and Jesus only third, behind Isaac Newton. While he gives his reasons for every choice, to me some of them are specious. He tends to include what I call "tinkerers" like Gutenberg, Watt, Edison, Marconi and Röntgen. More shocking, he does not include Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin or Mohandas Gandhi, although all three receive Honorable Mention.

The largest number of listees come from Great Britain (18), with 15 from Germany or Austria, and 8 from France. A total of 71 people on the list come from Europe, seven from China, and seven from the United States. Hart points out that the greatest advances in new thinking came in areas where people were free to express their ideas; hence, ancient Greece and Western Europe (including the US by implication) are the homes of many of the world's greatest thinkers and philosophers.

I suspect this list is skewed in favor of the Anglo-Saxon viewpoint of history. People who affected the course of British (and American) history are more likely to be listed, since the world has been dominated by the English-speaking peoples since at least 1815. If a Frenchman were compiling a similar list, I'm sure Joan of Arc would have made the Top 100, and perhaps Charles de Gaulle as well. A German might want to add Goethe. And, how can you mention Edison and omit Siemens? Someone from China or Japan would have still other names to suggest. However, European civilization has been the dominating force in world history from about 1400 to the present, so it is logical to see a domination of European & American names here. When it becomes suitable to consider the leaders and thinkers of the post-1945 world, this will surely change.

It is interesting to note that only 16 people who lived before 200 B.C. are listed, while 64 of them were born after 1492. Hart shows that his list includes 37 Scientists and Inventors, 30 Political & Military Leaders, 14 Secular Philosophers, 11 Religious Leaders, 6 Artistic & Literary Figures and two Explorers. I would have included fewer Inventors and more Political & Military figures.

An extremely high number of these people never married (at least 19, and probably higher), and of those who were wed, many had no children, or had their offspring die in infancy (infant mortality rates were no respecter of genius before 1900). This is similar to the rates within Mensa, where people in the upper two percent of the intelligence scale are reproducing at only 50% of their replacement level. While some people might say it's because bright people are less interested in sex, it may be that it's because they know how to have sex without resultant pregnancies!

Hart also adds "the curious fact that at least ten persons on this list suffered from

gout, a figure enormously out of proportion to the incidence of the disease in the general population. The high frequency of gout among great men has aroused the interest of medical observers." Perhaps it's gene related, as are high I.Q. and myopia. He doesn't mention the latter.

The only women listed are Isabella of Spain (68) and Elizabeth I of England (95). Hart says "I see no point in trying to cover up the disagreeable fact of discrimination ((against women)) by adding a few token women to my list. This book is based on what actually did occur in the past; not on what should have occurred." Marie Curie is among the ten people given Honorable Mention. I think a case could have been made for Cleopatra in the "second 100," which includes Joan of Arc and Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley.

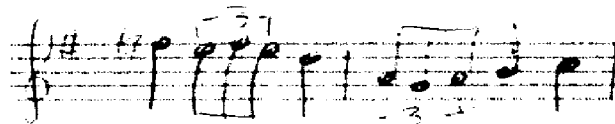
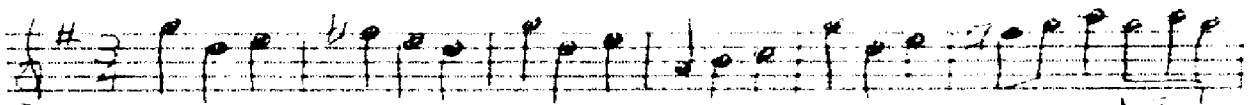
Anyway, the author has given his blessing to other people to draw up their own lists. I decided that I'd make a list of the 50 people I felt were the most influential, using "influential" to mean in the fields of philosophy, politics and pure science. I also wanted to include people who have inspired those who have followed them, even if their own plans were left incomplete at the time of their death or defeat. I wound up with an irreducible minimum of 60 names.

There are several people on Hart's list whom I would never have thought of without intensive study. When I was in college I had tried to make up a list of the twenty most important people of all time, as well as separate lists for each half-century from 1800 to 1950. I had never even heard of Shih Huang Ti, for example, or of Mani (ranked 83rd), although I was familiar with the Albigensians. And, being a liberal arts major, Faraday and Maxwell were just names to me. So, this project has caused my mind to expand to include additional people to consider among the most influential in the long history of man.

I would never have thought of including Simon Bolivar, for example, as South America has always been a backwater in my mind, but Hart's exposition of his life story convinced me that he was worthy of consideration, although a few places lower on my list.

Note that the biggest upward "jumps" on my list are for Abraham Lincoln (27, up 78), Mohandas Gandhi (31, +73), Benjamin Franklin (30, +72), Johannes Kepler (36, +61), and Leonardo di Vinci (43, +60). These are among my favorite people in history. Had I extended my list beyond 60 names, several people from the "second 100" would have been advanced to my Top 100 list. This would have included Frederick the Great, Kant, Pythagoras, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Socrates, to list a few.

Anyway, here is Hart's list of his Top 50 names, on the left, and my list of my Top 60 people on the right, on the next page. On my list, I've shown where the people were placed on Hart's list, where applicable, including the Honorable Mentions ranked from 101 to 105. A dash indicates the persons were not on either of Hart's lists, although they may well be listed in the so-called "second 100" list of names (alphabetical) which begins on Pg. 517.



BASEBALL QUIZ: 4TH INNING, continued
[The preceding question was on page 27]

8. Hooks Cotter is on third with two outs and Klondike Douglass at the plate with an 0-2 count. The pitcher delivers a sharp breaking ball in the dirt. Douglass appears to check his swing and the catcher cannot hang onto the pitch, which gets by to the

backstop. An alert Cotter scores. The catcher then asks for an appeal on the checked swing and the third base umpire rules that Douglass did indeed swing. The catcher tags Douglass for the third out. Do you count the run? It's your call.

[Next question is on page 36]

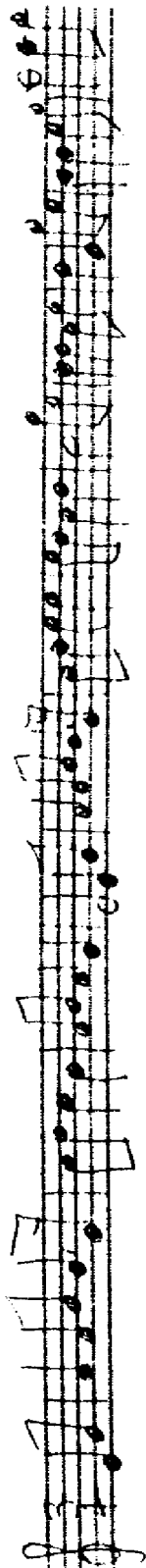
Michael Hart's List

1. Muhammed
2. Isaac Newton
3. Jesus
4. Buddha
5. Confucius
6. St. Paul
7. Ts'ai Lun (Inventor of paper)
8. Johann Gutenberg
9. Christopher Columbus
10. Albert Einstein
11. Karl Marx
12. Louis Pasteur
13. Galileo
14. Aristotle
15. Lenin (Vladimir Ulyanov)
16. Moses
17. Charles Darwin
18. Shih Huang Ti (1st Emperor of China)
19. Augustus Caesar
20. Mao Tse-tung
21. Genghis Khan
22. Euclid
23. Martin Luther
24. Copernicus, Nicolaus
25. James Watt
26. Constantine the Great
27. George Washington
28. Michael Faraday
29. James Clerk Maxwell
30. Orville & Wilbur Wright
31. Antoine Lavoisier
32. Sigmund Freud
33. Alexander the Great
34. Napoleon Bonaparte
35. Adolf Hitler
36. William Shakespeare
37. Adam Smith
38. Thomas Edison
39. Antony van Leeuwenhoek
40. Plato
41. Guglielmo Marconi
42. Ludwig van Beethoven
43. Werner Heisenberg
44. Alexander G. Bell
45. Alexander Fleming
46. Simon Bolivar
47. Oliver Cromwell
48. John Locke
49. Michelangelo
50. Pope Urban II

Fred Davis' List

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Jesus (3) | +2 |
| 2. Muhammed (1) | -1 |
| 3. Buddha (4) | +1 |
| 4. Confucius (5) | +1 |
| 5. St. Paul (6) | +1 |
| 6. Isaac Newton (2) | -4 |
| 7. Aristotle (14) | +7 |
| 8. Galileo (13) | +5 |
| 9. Moses (16) | +7 |
| 10. Albert Einstein (10) | - |
| 11. Charles Darwin (17) | +6 |
| 12. Julius Caesar (65) | +53 |
| 13. Sigmund Freud (32) | +19 |
| 14. Copernicus (24) | +10 |
| 15. Euclid (22) | +7 |
| 16. Genghis Khan (21) | +5 |
| 17. Alexander the Great (33) | +16 |
| 18. Napoleon (34) | +16 |
| 19. Constantine the Great (26) | +7 |
| 20. Martin Luther (23) | +3 |
| 21. Plato (40) | +19 |
| 22. Augustus Caesar (19) | -3 |
| 23. Karl Marx (11) | -12 |
| 24. Shih Huang Ti (18) | -6 |
| 25. Lenin (15) | -10 |
| 26. Louis Pasteur (12) | -14 |
| 27. Abraham Lincoln (105) | +78 |
| 28. Adam Smith (37) | +9 |
| 29. George Washington (27) | -2 |
| 30. Benjamin Franklin (102) | +72 |
| 31. Mohandas Gandhi (104) | +73 |
| 32. Louis XIV (—) | |
| 33. Adolf Hitler (35) | +2 |
| 34. Mao Tse-tung (20) | -14 |
| 35. Charles V, H.R.E. (—) | |
| 36. Johannes Kepler (97) | +61 |
| 37. John Locke (48) | +11 |
| 38. Rene Descartes (64) | +26 |
| 39. Charlemagne (85) | +46 |
| 40. Thomas Jefferson (70) | +30 |
| 41. Voltaire (79) | +38 |
| 42. Francis Bacon (78) | +36 |
| 43. Leonardo di Vinci (103) | +60 |
| 44. Jean J. Rousseau (71) | +27 |
| 45. Michelangelo (49) | +4 |
| 46. Tamerlane (—) | |
| 47. Hippocrates (—) | |
| 48. Hammurabi (—) | |
| 49. Winston Churchill (—) | |
| 50. St. Augustine (53) | +3 |
| 51. William Shakespeare (36) | -15 |
| 52. John Calvin (55) | +3 |
| 53. Joseph Stalin (63) | +10 |
| 54. Kublai Khan (—) | |
| 55. Simon Bolivar (46) | -9 |
| 56. William the Conqueror (69) | +13 |
| 57. Justinian I (96) | +39 |
| 58. Queen Elizabeth I (95) | +37 |
| 59. Cyrus the Great (86) | +25 |
| 60. Oliver Cromwell (47) | -13 |

Change from Hart's List



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Fourteen of the first 50 names on Hart's List do not appear on my Top 60 List. Indeed, several of them would not even appear on my list if it were extended to a full 100. This is because they are, for the most part, what I call "tinkerers,"

gifted researchers or mechanics, but not people whose names will live forever in the halls of history or philosophy. Their inventions may have changed the way we live, but people do not think about them as individuals. Most people snapping on a light switch or a TV set do not even know that Faraday or Maxwell ever lived. On the other hand, the work of Galileo and Einstein eventually forced nearly everybody to think differently about the world (and Universe) they live in. Even the Catholic Church finally had to admit that Galileo was right and they were wrong.

The names I have omitted are: Ts'ai Lun, Gutenberg, Columbus, Watt, Faraday, Maxwell, the Wright Bros., Lavoisier, Edison, Marconi, Beethoven, Heisenberg, Bell and Fleming. Perhaps Lavoisier (31) would appear on my list in the 70's, and James Watt (25) in the 80's, were I inclined to continue my listings.

on my list

Several others are either unlisted by Hart, or have their names appearing only in alphabetical order, on his "second 100." These include Louis XIV (32nd on my list), Charles V (35), Tamerlane (46), Hippocrates (47), Hammurebi (48), Winston Churchill (49) and Kublai Khan (54). Had I extended my list beyond 60 names, I'm sure there would have been several others not included on Hart's "100".

FYI, here are a few of the others included on Hart's list of "100," who have not otherwise been mentioned:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 54. Max Planck | 88. Machiavelli |
| 74. J. S. Bach | 89. Zoroaster (Zarathustra) |
| 77. Thomas Malthus | 91. Peter the Great |

They would probably be included on my list, too, if it were extended. Several others, especially the founders of obscure or extinct religions, would not. The 100th name on Hart's list is Niels Bohr, admittedly one of the great scientists of our century, but he only died in 1962, too recently to meet my criterion, and it's still too soon to say whether his works will profoundly affect our civilization. The same can be said for Enrico Fermi (listed as 76), who died prematurely at age 53 in 1954.

As for those who are still living today, who knows how many may eventually wind up being counted among the world's "Top 100"? Check back around the year 2025.

Virtually any of these people, of course, after the first dozen or so, could be run up or down the list any number of places. The numbers here represent my personal opinions. You, too, may care to draw up your own lists.

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BASEBALL QUIZ: 4TH INNING, continued
[The preceding question was on page 37]

9. Bases are empty and the batter pops up to the first baseman. The first baseman touches the ball in fair territory, but bobbles the ball. The ball gets away from the first baseman and hits the batter, who is racing for first base, in foul territory. The second baseman, who has come over to back up the play, catches the ball after it caroms off the runner, but before it touches the ground. Is the batter out, safe, or is this a foul ball? It's your call.

10. Buttercup Dickerson is fooled on a bad pitch and tries to check his swing to avoid striking out. The pitch gets away from the catcher and Dickerson hoofs it for first base and reaches safely. The plate umpire calls the pitch a ball. You are the first base umpire and Dickerson asks you to appeal the call, hoping to get aboard the easy way. Do you pass judgment over whether the batter swung at the pitch or do you send Dickerson back to bat? It's your call.

Answers by April 26.