

The Zine Register vs PDORA—who's right?

EXCELSIOR 43

Some good looking new maps go with the games this issue. In FAURE, on page 14, another SMURF (Randy Davis, who took the Ruslan position just before

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he realized how bad it was) bites the dust, and in GREGORY, on p. 24, it is a three-way battle between Randy Davis, Claude Gautron and Gordon Argyle.

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The Top Ten Endgame Statement Excerpts From The 1992 U.S. Election Diplomacy Game

(read from bottom up)

1. **G. Bush (Germany):** "My win just proves the fact that the New World Order requires us to go out and get what we need, at all costs. Next time maybe I'll protect my own cities a little more, but the global village requires a globetrotter."
2. **B. Clinton (Russia):** "President Bush won with only one home centre and twelve units, thanks mostly to nearby neighbours that were only thinking about their reputations for the next game instead of actually playing this one. We successfully attacked Mr. Bush where he is weakest--we won two thirds of his major cities--and we still lost. I'm very fearful for the future of this country."
3. **D. Quayle (advisor to Germany):** "I was amazed at the president's superior diplomatic skills. All of his neighbours tended to laugh or sneer at whatever he said in negotiations, yet they all somehow self-destructed during the game."
4. **H. R. Perot (Italy):** "This game goes too darn fast fer me. Ya can't get anythin' done in 15-minute sound bites. Money don't help either."
5. **J. Brown (Turkey):** "I limited my campaign funding to \$100--er, I mean one supply centre per game year. Critics told me it'd never work, and I guess it didn't, but I don't care about that: it isn't what works, it's what's right."
6. **H. Clinton (advisor to Russia):** "Bill's 1907 NMR was because we were in another room showin' each other how the past didn't matter anymore."
7. **J. McLaughlin (advisor to England):** "When the president blew Pat's boats out of the water instead of taking his centres, Pat built armies instead of fleets. From then on it was Bye Bye! What a loser. As far as I'm concerned, he can go and find some other Group to sit in on."
8. **P. Buchanan (England):** "My England-first strategy, while popular with my supporters and what America needs, didn't work out as planned."
9. **M. Cuomo (France):** "I took my neutrals but couldn't bring myself to attack my neighbours. My heart said yes but my head said no. Maybe next time."
10. **P. Tsongas (Austria):** "I started pretty well, but perhaps if I hadn't scheduled that doctor's appointment for the afternoon of the game, all of my neighbours might not have worked so hard to knock me out so quickly."

Directory

EXCELSIOR #43, by Bruce McIntyre, with a heaven of a lot of support from Nancy Hurrell, and with thanks to Fred Davis (whose subzine appears twice this issue) and Eric Brosius (who is busy collecting Runestone ballots). Special thanks to Bob Kwong at Budget Printing and *Microsoft Publisher* 1.0, although that last may be put on hold if this issue is as unreadable as the last one...

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- 3 DipGab. As usual, it starts out on Dip and goes off on a tangent. We have a long essay on the ZR vs PDORA squabble, an obituary, a piece on the David Milgaard case (Canadian news), a shocking computer story, a shocking execution story, a shocking computer bridge hand, a whole paragraph (this is really an accomplishment!) on my moustache, a shocking Persian metaphor, and a recap of the hockey strike. The usual shocking stuff.
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- 26 Most of the Post. Letters from Brent McKee, Pete Gaughan, Andrew York, Garret Schenck, Rosie Roberts, David Hood, Charles Arsenault, and Chris Carrier.

Starting on page 3 are this issue's baseball questions.

This issue is \$1.40 to Canadians, \$1.24 to Americans, and \$1.00 U.S. overseas. Again it looks as though finding a way to Pt. Roberts will be difficult, so expect your copies from Canada Post.

Deadline for next issue is June 19th.

Housekeeping

Games in XL are named after composers, and all are to be run on six-week deadlines. I prefer retreats conditional on moves (with Winter 1901 always separate and lenient but discretionary later separations), but a majority of the players may overrule. All that is required to sign up is a name and when the game fills I'll inform you. You'll need to subscribe and pay a returnable \$3 NMR fee.

IVES (Seismic Diplomacy)

(Charles Ives (1874-1954) was an American composer who was ahead of his time in using modern compositional techniques like polytonality and multiple rhythms.) I have rules for this 7 player map-changing variant if anyone wants a copy. Signed up: Grant Fraser, Randy Davis, Pete Gaughan—still need four.

KODALY (Regular Diplomacy)

(Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967), pronounced CAW-dye, was a Hungarian composer and influential music educator.) I still have copies of the last megarun of XL houserules if anyone wants 'em. Signed up: Randy Davis, Gerry Paulson, Andrew York—four more needed.

JOPLIN (Gunboat—no press)

(Scott Joplin (1868-1917) was the black American composer who was King of Ragtime.) Gunboat is Diplomacy without negotiations—the players remain anonymous. Signed up: Charles Arsenault—six more needed.

Standby list: B.Acheson, Argyle, Arsenault, Bamo, Davis, Gautron, McKee, Paulson, Touchette, White, Wilson, York. Stand-bys who get into a game do not pay for XL until their part in the game is over.

DipGab

Back again with another issue, another wild attempt to screw up your vision by using desktop publishing programs while eschewing laser printed output in favour of crude photoreduction techniques. Last issue was a pretty bad start, but I am confident that I can do better this time.

Many things to comment on this time: I'll begin with the latest hobby feud. The controversy over **The Zine Register** has erupted into a feud-like skirmish between **ZR** publisher Garret Schenck and PDORA director Doug Kent. PDORA stands for People's Diplomacy Organization Relief Auction, an annual bidfest for donated goods (mostly old zines, gamestarts, subscriptions, and other fannish hobby paraphernalia) with the money raised going to various hobby services according to the requests and the decisions of the PDORA Financial Committee. When **Diplomacy World** nonchalantly published a PDORA report stating that Garret Schenck had requested \$400 and gotten nothing, the battle began, and within a week I had received circular letters from Garret and Doug, just like the old days. Nobody's hitting below the belt just yet, but if you're Chris (Feud Number Custodian) Carrier, you'd have to sit up and take gleeful notice. I just hope that it doesn't get totally out of hand, as things did in the mid-eighties. Unfortunately, it does have that potential.

The story goes like this. Doug took over the PDORA from John Caruso last year sometime and sent out a circular requesting donations to the PDORA auction. In this letter he specifically mentioned the Boardman Number Custodian, the Miller Number Custodian, and **The Zine Register** as the types of hobby service the PDORA was set up to aid. This was valuable ammunition for Garret when push came to shove.

Also last summer, Tom Nash handed over **The Zine Register** to Garret, who sent out its nineteenth issue last fall. There was a lot of griping about the content of that edition, and it had nothing to do with

the fact that the printing was very small. Many of Garret's reviews seemed overly critical, often quite harsh. Another problem often cited was the tendency to assume the worst without getting the facts--Garret decided that the normal interval for game deadlines in this zine was 2-3 months, based on two issues of the zine and thirty seconds of research, and built a pyramid that came crashing down when he used this assumption to lambaste me for attempting to lure novices by writing a misleading zine description.

When I sent out an initial editorial about the new **Zine Register**, I received a bunch of photocopies of other **Zine Register** reviews from an apparently sympathetic reader. I didn't want to join any organized **Zine Register** revolt, so I read them and

It's Your Call 8th Inning Questions

Again, ten baseball questions based on the official rules, taken from the book *It's Your Call: Baseball's Oddest Plays*. You are directed to keep answers concise and assume that there is enough information in each question for a ruling to be made. Here's the first:

1. **Bootnose Hofmann is catching and there's a play at the plate. The runner slides around Hofmann's tag, but also misses the plate. Hofmann doesn't notice the runner missed home. When the runner reaches the dugout, the first baseman yells to Hofman that the runner missed home. Hofman immediately runs into the dugout and begins tagging everybody in sight, but the runner sneaks out of the end of the dugout before he is tagged and bolts back toward home plate. Hofmann throws the ball to pitcher Coonskin Davis, who is now covering and the runner beats the throw. Is the runner safe and do you score the run, or is he out when the team on the field begins the appeal process while he has already retired to the dugout? It's your call.**

(Next question is on page 5)

forgot about it. The person who sent them was Doug Kent.

The PDORA announcement in **Diplomacy World** listed the following services and allocation of funds:

Total Collected: \$525.03 (out of \$557.21 worth of successful PDORA auction bids). The PDORA had carried over \$180.76 from last year for a total of \$705.79. The Committee (Bob Acheson, Steve Arnawoodian, Don Del Grande, Steve Heinowski, and Bill Quinn) were not named in the announcement.

Service	(Received/Requested)
Boardman Numbers	(\$270/\$270)
Orphan Service	(\$100/\$100)
Miller Numbers	(\$50/\$50)
North American	
Variant Bank	(\$30/\$30)
Game Opening List	
Zine, Pontevedria	(\$35/\$40)
Covenant Miller Numbers	(\$6.66/\$10)
Hobby Awards	(\$43.41/\$100)
Emergency Account	
Proposal	(nothing/\$???)
Zine Register	(nothing/\$400)

Total Distributed \$535.07 out of \$1000 worth of requests. \$170.72 carried over to next year.

I asked Fred Davis, Hobby Awards treasurer, if he had any problem with being comparatively snubbed by the PDORA committee, but he said that the request (he didn't know who made it) shocked him as the Hobby Awards didn't need anywhere near \$100 to break even, and the \$43.41 would actually put them slightly in the black for the first time in a while. So the one that sticks out like a sore thumb (the Emergency Account proposal was apparently thought to be not needed--perhaps the financial committee thought that since \$170 was to be carried forward to next year, that money would be available in case of some unforeseen emergency) is the shutout of the **Zine Register**. In fact, I was surprised to see such potentially volatile material in **Diplomacy World**, and

in a call to David Hood (I wanted to know if I still needed to write the promised second part of my article on tournament protocol, since I can't find the disk anywhere...) he said he hoped it wouldn't lead to trouble.

Anyhow, it just so happened that Garret was about to put together another issue of **The Zine Register**, and was sending to publishers requests for zine descriptions and revised data. It seemed inevitable that there'd be some mention of the PDORA auction, and there was, about 500 words or so. Then a few days later Doug's "Open Response" came in, totalling 1200 words or so, not counting the extensive quotes from Garret's 500. A characteristic of hobby feuds is the exponential growth in the size of position papers, so maybe I should summarize while it's still possible:

Garret mentioned that while his request was large, he expected only a fraction to be approved. Doug speculated that the Committee might have felt that approving only 10% of a request would be insulting, or that the snub was because of the size of the request, or that the Committee didn't think the direction **The Zine Register** was going under Garret kept it under the hobby service definition.

Garret mentioned that **The Zine Register** was a major drain on his finances. Doug said that \$2.50 for 64 pages was well within current copying and postage rates, and pointed out that Garret's costs are incurred voluntarily, as he uses his laser printer to make each copy and purchases recycled paper.

A little over a third of Garret's request was for advertising--he has placed an ad in a widely circulated SF magazine. Doug felt that this was not cost-effective, that an ad in the Avalon Hill magazine would be better.

Garret criticized PDORA, calling it a "private organization" with a "faceless committee" pulling the purse strings. The financial committee members are listed on the cover of the booklet that lists the items to be bid on, says Doug, who forgot to include this data in the **Diplomacy World** announcement.

Garret mentioned the PDORA letter mentioning **The Zine Register** as a hobby service, and called the decision to deny funding after specifically mentioning it as a prime candidate for funding "cruel dishonesty." Doug countered this with a rhetorical question about the impossibility of Caruso travelling through time to see who'd get the money before he wrote the sentence listing prime candidates.

Garret concluded by deciding not to support the PDORA in future. Doug saw him to the door.

From this vantage point (don't forget, as I write this Doug has the advantage of last word--so far), it appears that Doug is slightly ahead in the inevitable fight for public support. I suppose Garret has a right to be disappointed, but clearly the PDORA should discourage requests that are far higher than what is hoped for, or the whole request procedure will become a farce. But I think the Committee should have simply disregarded the \$150 request for advertising, and given Garret what they could from the remaining \$250, keeping in mind that the bulk of the money drain is coming from his own decision to ignore photocopiers and print a hundred or so originals on recycled paper. I don't totally understand why \$170 or so is carried forward from year to year; surely \$50 or so out of that wouldn't have been so bad. A small demerit to David Hood, who probably should have seen how controversial the PDORA announcement was going to be before printing it in **Diplomacy World**. David should at least have requested that Doug include the names of the Financial Committee in the blurb.

I have never plugged the PDORA, because my theory on most hobby projects except the Runestone Poll is "other zines will publicize this; why should I?" Even so, I caught the seriousness of the announcement right away.

The PDORA doesn't emerge unscathed. Garret's charge that it is faceless and not answerable to the hobby at large has not been completely answered. We know only that the Financial Committee consists

of five people who (Doug says) don't play hobby politics (basically accurate), and Doug also says that as chairman, he simply reports the results of their deliberations. Until we get some confirmation that they have indeed deliberated with one another to resolve their differences, we don't know that they did. I'd like to see some proof that these five decided among themselves who was to get how much before I agree that Doug is only reporting the results. If Doug sent a copy of the requests to all five and then received recommendations from them, that wouldn't exonerate him--that sort of scenario would indicate that based on five diverging opinions, Doug was the final judge of who got what, not (as he says) the Committee. Doug says he doesn't plan to speak to the five Committee members about the criticism from Garret, and the five will have to make their own decisions whether to speak or not. If no further information comes to light about how the decisions were made, Garret's charge of "unanswerable to the hobby at large" might not be nearly as wild as Doug makes it seem. Perhaps they did consult one another; if they did, good, but the omission of the names in the **Diplomacy World** blurb makes me wonder if the five had much to do with the final decision.

And in the midst of all this, a bunch of things are going unnoticed:

It's Your Call continued
(previous question: page 3)

2. **The Beaumont Golden Gators have the bases loaded with two outs with Pug Bennett on third base and Nig Grabowski on first. The runners leave with the pitch and the ball is grounded to second base. The second baseman attempts to tag Grabowski goes out of the base path. Grabowski is out, but not before the speedy Bennett has crossed the plate. Do you count the run?**

(Next question is on page 10)

--the PDORA raised half a grand for hobby services, and was able to meet almost all of the requests

--there are no more scheduling problems with **The Zine Register**, and Garret is at least listening to the complaints about his first effort

Kind of silly, isn't it. And yet you get the feeling that there will be more. The thing has reached critical mass as it is: any further arguments will probably start a feud, and the original cause will be quickly forgotten as the insults and allegations start flying. I hope they cool it. You've said your piece, gentlemen. Agree to disagree and go back to work.

The death of Issac Asimov last week was depressing to me. I don't mean to offend, but I'd have preferred to hear that he was the victim of some violent crime or some random tragedy. His writing always put science in a positive light, and his death as a result of the failure of science to stop heart disease and kidney failure made me feel as though science had betrayed one of its greatest allies. Science for the common man has lost its best spokesman.

In 1969, a nurse named Gail Miller was found dead on a Regina street. Evidence later showed that she had been raped, and in 1970 a teenager named David Milgaard was convicted of all charges in the case and sent to jail. He never admitted guilt in the case, and was thus ineligible for parole. Years after Milgaard would have been set free on parole, some new evidence surfaced, involving a *Silence of the Lambs*-type villain that happened to be in the area, and after a long period of cajoling by Milgaard's family, primarily his mother, Justice Minister Kim Campbell decided to ask the Supreme Court of Canada to have another look. Milgaard, it turned out, was no angel, heavily into drugs and wild parties, as were most of his acquaintances. The testimony was conflicting, faulty, and untrustworthy. Milgaard even tried to escape from night custody at one point when the testimony being heard was damaging,

but later that night returned voluntarily to claim it was only a misunderstanding between he and his handlers. It took the Court months to untangle the knot and come up with a verdict. They decided that a) the police investigation was faultless, b) the original trial was faultless, c) Milgaard's defence was competent, d) because of new evidence, a new trial should be held, and e) if Milgaard was found guilty in a new trial, he should be set free since he's served his time.

My trouble began at d). Why on earth would the highest court in the land hear exhaustive evidence on a case and then decide not to make a decision? Some of the new evidence is not even permissible under the rules of evidence; the hearing was not bound by this, so no matter which way a new trial goes we will hear complaints (and probably endure appeals) from the losing side. We hire our top judges to *decide*, not to defer cases to lower courts! If the buck doesn't stop there, where the hell does it stop? The Supreme Court said that based on what they heard they could not find him innocent--but let's let a lower court decide the issue, we're getting tired and we want to watch some *L.A. Law* reruns.

The final point was lost on me as well. If a new trial were held and Milgaard found guilty, wouldn't that mean that his sentence should continue until such time as he admits guilt and becomes eligible for parole, or his full sentence is served? Wouldn't a trial in which the accused goes free no matter what the verdict was be rather skewed from the start? The Saskatchewan justice minister thought so, saying that the government would not give Milgaard a new trial.

But of course it doesn't end there. Milgaard, now a free man despite that nobody can find him innocent, wants compensation now for the time he spent in prison. I guess if he proves that he was innocent the Supreme Court should be fired after deciding that his original trial was legit. That's the Canadian judicial system for you. Judges don't judge, criminals demand compensation despite being

proven guilty, and anybody can escape jail if your mom bitches to the Minister of Justice enough times.

Apologies are extended to those who had a tough time reading the last issue. That list includes me, by the way. This desktop publishing is fun to learn but tough to get 100% right. The crucial bad decision was deciding to go with a condensed sans serif typeface to save space in what looked like a large issue. The i's and l's ran together and the whole thing was a mess. Over time we'll get it right. Soon, I hope.

A few Americans have noticed that they got their copy with Canadian postage. This was because I couldn't arrange for anyone to make the trip this time, and it would have been nearly a week before I could do it myself. If you're subbing I always deduct the U.S., not the Canadian, postage from the American subscribers accounts.

I finally decided to take somebody's advice and never again turn my computer and monitor off. The theory is that the sudden surge of power to the system when you turn it on is much more damaging than leaving it on when you're not using it. But you do need to have some sort of program that keeps the computer screen active (since you don't turn the monitor off for the same reason) or you'll get an image "burned" into your screen. So I now have the thing set up so that after one minute without a keypress or a mouse movement, the screen abruptly blanks and starts doing a colourful spyrograph imitation. It actually makes for a useful nightlight! And any keystroke or mouse movement takes you immediately back to where you were.

I tried this out last Sunday when we went to my parents place for dinner. Upon returning, I confidently approached the desk, and was shocked to find the Windows screen pop back to life before I even sat down. "Holy megabytes," I thought. "This goddam machine actually recognizes me!"

Then I realized that I'd brushed the box

that the mouse rests on, moving it slightly...

I note with some amusement that the state of California has found something worse than capital punishment. That's right, worse than an execution. It's quite simple. They sentence you to death, give you all kinds of legal avenues to get out of your appointment with the Grim Reaper, which you of course pursue, and then, when they finally think there's nothing left to avoid the finale, they sit you down in the gas chamber, give you the final instructions, you hear the guy operating the mechanism that releases the gas to the chamber, and prepare to take a deep breath like they told you...

...and then the phone rings. They turn everything off, open the chamber and lead you back to your cell.

Now I don't care who you are or how calm you looked while you awaited death, after an wild ordeal like that you're going to be well on the road to Bonkerville. But that's exactly what the state of California did this week, four times in an hour, before the U.S. Supreme Court stepped in and said "enough already, kill the S.O.B." I'd be appalled at such torture under normal circumstances, but I suspect that anyone who can be legally executed under the liberal laws of La-La-Land probably is getting off lightly and deserves some imaginative effort to make the ultimate sentence more severe.

Bridge hand of the month, currently displayed at the top of my screen (now that I've learned how to multitask in Windows I can play a bridge match while writing up stuff for the zine, switching between windows while the computer plays itself to get the result at the other table), and which I still don't understand. You hold: ♠T ♥QT8653 ♦AKQ ♣QT8, nobody vulnerable. LHO passes and partner opens one diamond. RHO doubles. I bid one heart, which later turned out to be the parting of the ways on this hand. LHO passed, my computer partner rebid 1NT, and I raised to 3NT, at which point LHO

came to life with a penalty double. I felt pretty confident, and so I redoubled. Good decision, as it turned out, partner's hand was ♠A75♥A♦J8532♣K654. The program switches hands around when a human player becomes dummy, so I played the contract when the computer opponent led the eight of spades.

South West North East

1♦ Dbl 1♥ Pass
1NT Pass 3NT Dbl
All Pass

♠T♥QT8653♦AKQ♣QT8

♠8 led ♠J played

♠A75♥A♦J8532♣K654

I could see nine tricks via five diamonds, two major suit aces, and hopefully two clubs, but the question was how many spades would I lose after losing the ace of clubs? I knew the takeout doubler (now my RHO) had to have at least three of them, and if he had four then his partner would have only five, so it seemed like no problem. Just in case the takeout doubler had three spades only, I decided to hold up the ace until the third round, so that if, as seemed likely, he also had the ♣A, I wouldn't see a spade return. I ducked, and RHO decided to switch to a club. LHO took the ace, led the ♠K, and RHO showed out...

If you've followed this far you'll see that this defense made me cold for nine tricks and +800. What I couldn't believe was what appeared in the window when I switched back to the word processor:

South West North East

1♦ Dbl Rdbl 1♥ Pass
2♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♣ Pass 4♣ All Pass

♠T♥QT8653♦AKQ♣QT8

♠J ♠KQ986432

♥KJ974 ♥2

♦974 ♦T6

♣J973 ♣A2

♠A75♥A♦J8532♣K654

Four spades by South (!) went merrily

down five, no doubt due to the 8-1 break in trumps. The really oddball bid is 2♠ by the South hand. The explanation was contained in a bidding flowchart which the user can access, and to find out why the program bid 2♠, we hear that the machine consulted the flowchart entitled *Bidding after partner has made a forcing bid*, and here we find that 2♠ was meant to be fourth suit forcing, the program not wanting to bid 2♥ (which gets passed out) because of the free bid of 1♥ made by LHO. So we turn to South and ask why he didn't recognize 2♠ as forcing, and under the section *Bidding when partner has bid (1)* we find that he didn't even consider that 2♠ might be artificial, not surprising since it shouldn't be. A glitch is found. Good thing I made the +800 or we'd have lost about 10 IMPs.

I've been trying to fit in better at work by developing a moustache like the rest of the Iranian guys have, apparently from pre-puberty. Unfortunately, this seems to require different genes or a few years, neither of which I have. Most discouraging is that it won't grow evenly at all, and instead of a moustache I actually have two small Hitler-like thingles under my nose. At least this gives me an excuse not to get to DipCon this year...

The first word of Persian I learned was the word for popcorn, which is pronounced jo-sa-FEE, like Josephine minus the last consonant. I then learned (devious tests with other Iranians have confirmed this many times since) that the literal translation for the word is "elephant farts." But nobody will tell me the source of the metaphor. I do note that popcorn is not a real big seller.

If you are a hockey fan you will have heard by now that the NHL playoffs this year were almost lost due to a players strike. Because hockey is the number one sport in Canada and nothing else is in single digits, the month of March was a traumatic one for Canadians, but luckily a strike was averted at the last possible mo-

ment.

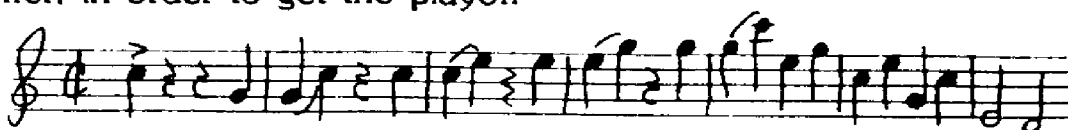
The foundation was laid for the players strike when Bob Goodenow replaced Alan Eagleson two years ago to become the second-ever head of the NHL Players Association. Eagleson then became implicated in a financial "investigation" by the FBI, and the general feeling was that Goodenow would be the first NHLPA president not to kowtow to the owners. When the owners refused to negotiate last summer on a technicality (The players failed to give official notice that they wanted to negotiate a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. What they did was assume that sitting down with the owners and reading and discussing the owners proposals made it obvious that they wanted to do so.), it looked like trouble. but the season began without incident. But by March, nothing had changed, there was still no contract, and the union set a deadline of March 30 for an agreement to be reached. If not, they would strike at the time the owners were most vulnerable-- just before the start of the playoffs.

The fans were solidly behind the players, until the heat was turned up. The deadline was put off two days until April 1st while the players voted 560-4 to reject the owners final offer. Then, with three games left in most of the teams seasons, the strike began. For us in Vancouver it was a particularly bitter blow, with the hometown team above .500 for the first time since the mid-seventies. I had predicted a playoff upset for the locals, so maybe the strike would allow Vancouver fans to claim that this "coulda been da year" but for the strike, should the playoffs be cancelled.

In the end, the final agreement delayed the playoffs by eleven days, both sides didn't get what they wanted, and the final three games of the season were laughable for their non-intensity. The owners were embarrassed enough to go beyond their final offer and then go again beyond their final final offer, in order to get the playoff

revenue. With a ten-day layoff followed by a week of nearly meaningless games to complete the schedule, the sixteen playoff teams were unusually well-rested leading into the playoffs, and the result was that none of the eight best-of-seven first round series were decided before the sixth game, and six of them went to a final game. Three teams overcame 3-1 deficits to win their series (including the locals), something which had only been done eight times in 75 years. It looks like an exciting second season ahead.

But the questions from the strike linger on. There was much talk about the NBA, which uses salary caps and revenue sharing to ensure that player salaries and team finances are kept under control. The NHL, by contrast, appears to be a league of under the table profits and wide gaps between team financial situations. The older owners especially do not appear enthusiastic about schemes which will cut into their take (by making them accountable for their revenue) in order to ensure that the league is stable. And there is still the unresolved problem of the Canadian teams playing at a disadvantage because of the Canadian tax laws. This could easily be offset by dividing the TV money by the teams involved on a per-appearance basis (Canadian teams raise far more TV money than the American teams because the league is totally inept at getting a decent national TV contract--the NHL three years ago ditched ESPN for SportsChannel America, which shows fewer games to fewer people for less money, apparently), but the American team owners are too intent on pressing home this advantage to talk about fairness. There were many issues held over in the agreement, to be hammered out over the next few years. I suspect that there is more trouble to come. But meanwhile, let's enjoy the playoffs. At this writing (10 May) it looks like Boston and Chicago, having swept their second-round opponents, are the favorites.



Canadian Content

(I bought some old Leacock hardcovers about a month ago at a downtown used bookstore. Amazing what you can find if you look around.)

Why I Refuse To Play Golf

by Stephen Leacock

I am old enough to remember very distinctly the first coming of the game of golf to the city where I live. It came in that insidious but forceful way that characterizes everything Scottish. It was similar to the spread of Scottish Banking, the Scottish Church, and Scotch whiskey.

The exact circumstances were these. One afternoon in April when the wind was on the new grass, three Scotsmen went out to a hill slope near the town. They carried with them three crooked sticks and a little ball. There was a firmness in their manner but nothing obviously criminal. They laid the ball down and began to beat it about on the grass. In fairness it must be admitted that they made no parade of the matter. They paid no attention to the few mystified people who watched them. At the end of an hour they were seen to sit down under a briar bush; there they remained for some time; it was thought at the time that they were either praying or drinking whiskey. Opinion was divided. But the real truth was that they had formed themselves into a Golf Club.

This, I say, was on a Saturday. Had the city been well advised these men could have been arrested on the following Monday. A judicious application of the Vagrancy Laws or rather free interpretation of the Sedition Acts might have forestalled at the outset a grave national peril.

But nothing was done. Indeed at the moment, little was thought of the matter, or, at any rate, little was manifested in the shape of public indignation or public protest. Even when six Scotsmen appeared on the ground the following Saturday, and twelve the week after, and twenty-four on the last Saturday in the month, few people, if any, realized the magnitude of what was happening. The

news that a Golf Club had been formed in Montreal was presently presented quite openly, in the newspapers as if it were an ordinary event.

One must admit, even, that a very lively curiosity mixed with something approaching to envy began to surround the afternoon gatherings of the Scotsmen. There is something in the sweep of the wind over the April grass, something in the open space and the blue sky that conveys an insidious appeal to the lower side of a man's nature. It is difficult to sit indoors at one's desk and know that other men are striding over the turf. Moreover the ingenious expedient of carrying out a ball and beating it round with sticks supplied a colour of activity and purpose that acted as a drug upon the conscience. Had it not been for this use of the sticks and the ball the players would have appeared as mere loafers. But the evident earnestness with which they followed their avocation robbed it of every appearance of idleness; and the public was entirely deceived as to its character.

In short, it was not long before the game began to exercise an evident effect upon those who at first had been idle spectators. They became anxious to join in. Here and there, by a very obvious and cunning piece of policy, they were invited to try

It's Your Call continued

(previous question: page 5)

3. Honde Hollmig leads off the inning for the Bur-Gra Pirates with a single. Beauty Bancroft then follows him in the lineup with a single to right on a perfectly executed hit-and-run play. Hollmig, however, steps right over second base on his way to third base. The opposing right fielder throws the ball into second base and the shortstop takes the relay while standing on the second base bag. Do you call the force out on Hollmig since he never touched second base, or does the defence have to appeal the play? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 14)

their hand. The spectator then found to his surprise the peculiar difficulty of the game. He discovered that, simple though it looked, it was not possible for him to place the ball on the ground, take a drink of Scotch whiskey, and then hit it with the stick. He tried again and again but failed each time. The natural result was that he solicited membership in the Club, and reappeared on the following Saturday with a ball and stick of his own and with a flask of whiskey on his hip. The Saturday after that he turned up in a pair of knickerbocker trousers, a round tam o'shanter hat and a Cluny Macpherson tartan over his shoulder; after that, as far as any general utility to the community went, the man was lost.

I remember well, some eighteen months after the Club started, realizing how far already the movement had gone when I heard the head of our greatest bank accost the president of a railway, on St. James Street, with the words, "Hoot mon! it's a braw morning the day!" Up till that time language of the sort would have come under the criminal code.

I have since learned that this kind of thing was going on all over the country just as it was in my own city. Men were appearing in the business streets in the Cluny Macpherson tartan. Some even had tail feathers stuck sideways in their tam o'shanters. At more than one public dinner the music of the bagpipes was not only tolerated but even applauded. On every Saturday and presently even on weekdays men were seen lifting long bags filled with crooked sticks on to the street cars.

In those days the public at large was still innocent and ignorant. We had not even heard the word "propaganda." Otherwise we should have seen under all this a dangerous organized movement for the spread of Presbyterianism and the sale of the poetry of Robert Burns.

The original Club of which I speak soon took further steps. They erected a kind of wooden structure on the ground where they played. It was a modest affair--merely two large rooms, one a sitting-room, with easy chairs, for talking about

golf in, and the other a rest or silence room for thinking about golf in. The ground on which they played was supposedly public property. But any attempt at ejection was rendered out of the question by the fact that they had enrolled among their membership all the leaders of the bar and all the senior judges.

This last point, indeed, went strongly in their favour throughout. Even when they had left the modest building of which I speak and were spreading over the landscape, it was plain that the game of golf had insinuated itself most daringly into the structure of our legal institutions. A decision of the courts decided that the game of golf may be played on Sunday, not being a game within the view of the law, but being a form of moral effort. Another decision laid down the principle that a golf club need never close the bar, not being a bar within the legal meaning of the term, but a place of rest insomuch as the drinks sold are not drinks as known to the statute but a form of recuperation. In the same way, the pay given to a boy attendant, or caddy, is not pay but a reward, and exempts him from the Cruelty to Children Act. The excess profits tax, the license tax and the property tax do not apply, it is held, to the premises of a golf club, as it is a religious institution; and both the Privy Council and the Supreme Courts are said to be preparing decisions to the effect that consuming whiskey in or near a golf club does not constitute a breach of the law provided that it is taken only when needed and in the proportion or quantity needed and that it is not made the subject of treating.

But I anticipate: these decisions belong, of course, to later days. I was saying that in my own town, and no doubt everywhere else, the golf club idea once started and established soon spread. The original ground was abandoned. A vast stretch of beautiful land that might easily have supported hundreds and hundreds of hogs was laid out into a golf course. It was whispered that the ground was not purchased but seized; this is no doubt untrue, but it is an undeniable fact that this beauti-

ful hog pasture was presently laid out into flat lawns and greens. In reality, nothing more is needed for the driving of a golf ball except a straight piece of air two hundred yards long. But it is a nice pretence of the game that a whole landscape must be seized and occupied to the exclusion of agriculture, manufacture, and all other uses. In the case of which I speak, the vast purposelessness of the affair was concealed by the cunning device of setting out tomato cans and red flags at irregular intervals. By walking among these the players are made to appear as if pursuing some known object. The position of the flags are so contrived that each player is led in a circular course and returns at intervals to the club house where he may take a drink and start again. Each set of drinks is called a "round," and of course an expert player can make a round far more rapidly than a beginner.

One large club, I say, was established. Yet even after it was definitely in operation very few people realized the way in which it was disturbing our civic life. It was noticed, indeed, that the schedule of trains of our greatest railway had undergone marked changes. A great number of suburban trains were introduced and a sharp discrimination made between transcontinental and other needless traffic. A branch line was built in a convenient situation to form a natural obstacle, or bunker, for the golf course. But few people connected these changes with the fact that the president of the railway and the entire directorate were members of the golf club.

A new stage of development presently appeared. There is a certain kind of animal, so biology tells us, which increases its numbers by simply dividing itself in two. The original animal is called, I think, an amoeba. But the real type of the species is the golf club. If you put one of them in the landscape and leave it there for a year or so you presently come back and find two; and if the two are left unmolested for a short period they presently turn into four. Where the landscape is especially favorable, where nature has spread out her fertile land all ready to make bunkers

and her pure streams all ready to mix with Scotch whiskey, the two clubs will even turn into six.

Such has been the case in our city, and I imagine, in every other. There are now twelve golf clubs in the vicinity with ten others being organized. The area now covered occupies, it is said, twelve thousand acres. One passes in the train from the crowded confines of the city to the wide expanses of the golf clubs. Everywhere there are little greens, and tin cans and red flags, and club members in knickerbockers. Each year the city is more and more crowded. Each year the golf area is bigger and bigger.

Nor is there any public protest. Each year more and more men, hitherto respectable God-fearing citizens, are being caught in the lure of it. It is difficult to say just what the fascination is. But it is there. Sometimes I think that it lies in pretending to be a Scotsman. It may be that there are so many things about the Scotch that attract--their contempt of rain, their peculiar nerve in wearing a hen's feather in their hat, their comprehensive ideas on damnation--that it may well be that the golf members are simply trying to be Scotsmen. In addition to that I blame Harry Lauder a great deal: and undoubtedly Robert Burns has a lot to answer for. But taking it as you will the golf club has become a grave national menace.

In my own city we are, I suppose, beyond redemption. We have golf tournaments, golf teas, and golf dinners: golf trains and golf cars and golf motors. The use of the bagpipes is everywhere tolerated and we eat Haggis on St. Andrew's Day. But if there are any cities in which this insidious movement is still in its infancy, I can only exhort them to suppress it while there is yet time.

[from *Over The Footlights* (1923)]

Please Explain, continued from page 13

take steps to control it and punish the offenders. But we cannot assume it to be a factor in every dispute between people of different races. The blind assumption of racist motives without evidence is in itself racist.

Please Explain

My opinion on the Los Angeles riots may offend you. I suspect there are a few in the media who share my opinions but are muzzled by editors who don't want their papers blamed for further rioting. It appears to be forbidden to blame the rioters and obligatory to be "understanding".

Well, I don't understand.

I don't understand the argument of black leaders when they say the black community has patiently waited 14 months for a decision in the King case. Are we to conclude that this is a concession on the part of the black community? That, had these black leaders been in power, the cops would have been sent to jail without a trial?

I don't understand the role of the media in all of this. There was obviously something in the entire King video that we missed when only the highlights were shown. I still don't know why the hell they keep referring to King simply as a "motorist," but it sounds to me like they are trying to make an asshole smell like a rose. The media apparently never doubted that the verdict would be guilty, and when they were shocked by the innocent verdict they reacted by explaining that the jury was racist. (Do not be misled by the wording: when they say that the decision was racially motivated, or point out that the jury--was the defense not allowed to challenge jurors in this case or did they just not get out of bed that day?--was mostly white, or report that the turning point in the case was moving the venue to predominantly white Simi Valley, they are simply glossing over the racist accusation as nicely as possible.) When it took six days for the jury to make a decision, why didn't the media change their tune--wasn't the time it took in itself newsworthy? Wouldn't that have helped prepare people for the shock?

I don't understand the lineup of people second-guessing the jury in the case. The video evidence is damning, but it is incomplete. What started the beating? We don't know. What was being said while

the cops were hitting and King was not submitting? We don't know. Why must we assume the very worst from this, especially after a jury has decided against King? Why, given that verdict, must we immediately dismiss any notion that the decision reached is the right one? If the jury believed the cops version of the story rather than King's (don't forget, King's lawyers decided not to have King testify), why do we assume that skin colour is the only factor?

I don't understand what the rioters and vandals and looters and murderers hoped to accomplish. Even if you accept the notion that these people have no hope in life (I don't believe this at all--there may well be people who are disadvantaged, but few have no hope except the chronically lazy) how does it help their cause to fight perceived racism with racist violence?

In bringing to light the problems of modern racism, we have attached to it a double standard which says that racism is somehow worse when the victim is a member of a minority group. This unwritten rule is in itself racist, but nobody cares about such a triviality. Those who say "if King were white and the cops black, it wouldn't have happened," are appealing to racist stereotypes to make a point which assumes that the white cops beat King because he was black, which has not been proven. If the cops in the case were bigots, if there was even any flimsy excuse to believe so based upon their police records, it would have come out in the trial. It apparently did not.

Another sad side-effect of the public war on racism is that it becomes an ready-made excuse for scum. I see this often at work--I've been accused of racism for asking drunks or drug-influenced people to leave the store. It's their first line of defence, and once the accusation is hurled there is no use in arguing. The L.A. idiots that caused the riots felt justified in doing so because the cops, according to them, were racist--case closed. In order to live together, we must fight racism, we must acknowledge that it exists, and we should

Fred's Column #8

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[McBruce here. I should have printed this instead of the Ring Around The Rosie Dip article which appeared as **Fred's Column #6**. It was offered to me if David Hood didn't use it for **Diplomacy World**, but I didn't start subbing to **DW** until the issue after it appeared there. Apologies extended to David and Fred, and a double dose of **Fred's Column** this time:]

Mark Your Calendar

One of the more important things we've inherited from the reign on Julius Caesar is the modern calendar. The astronomers of his day were able to calculate that the year was 365 days and 6 hours long, and were able to provide us with a calendar in which a single leap-day every fourth year replaced the uncertainty of the insertion of leap months at irregular intervals to suit the whims of the ruling class and/or the debtors whose loans were coming due.

At the time of the introduction of the Julian calendar in 45 B.C., many cultures still celebrated **March 1st** as New Years day. This was probably related to the resumption of agriculture in most areas of Europe in that month, due to an increase in hours of daylight and of warmth, and the return of spring rains. Accordingly, February was the last month of the year. This is why February was "gypped" of a day and has been the shortest month ever since. In Julius's time, February was given 29 days every year, and a 30th day in leap year. The original February 30 was transferred to July to honor the man who had given us this new calendar by imperial edict. (The name July, for Julius, replaced its former name of *Quintillis* or Fifth Month). Later, after Augustus had become the first official emperor and brought Rome to its peak of glory, the sixth month, *Sextillis*, was renamed August, and another day was snatched from February in order to give August 31 days and thereby match the length of July.

This calendar served civilization well for many centuries. However, by the time of the 13th century, scholars realized that something was wrong, for the seasons were coming too early. Around 1300, they calculated that the true length of the year was 365 days, 6 hours and 6 minutes. This was quite an accomplishment for the time. With our modern instruments, we've learned it's 6 hours and 9 minutes, but the original calculations were made with nothing more complicated than sticks and an hourglass.

By 1500, the calendar was running 12 days behind the seasons, the leap years having added three extra days to the year 400 years. By 1555, the surplus was 13 days. The Church fathers moved very slowly in considering changing the calendar. Finally, with the advice of his astronomers, Pope Gregory XIII decreed the change in 1582. The day after October 4, 1582 was to be October 15th. Only *ten* days were dropped. This was deliberate, in order to keep Christmas separated from the ancient pagan holiday of Winterset. Had 13 days been dropped, Christmas would have again fallen on the festival of *Solis Invictus*, the Day of the Invincible Sun, which marked the return of the sun from the southernmost part in the skies. It is very probable that December 25th was originally picked to celebrate

It's Your Call continued (previous question: page 10)

4. **Eddie Collins is on third base, Chick Gandil is on first with one out. Shoeless Joe Jackson hits a deep drive to the left center field gap, but the ball is caught. Collins tags and easily scores from third, but Gandil, thinking the ball was going to drop, is caught between second and third when the catch is made. Gandil scrambles and tries to get back to first base, but the throw just beats him for the third out. Collins has already crossed the plate. Do you count the run or not? It's your call.**

(Next question is on page 17)

Christ's birth for that very reason, since the early Christian holidays were often deliberately made to coincide with the pagan holidays they were intended to replace. By dropping only ten days, the Winter Solstice would fall on the 21st or 22nd of the month, as would all of the other equinoctial changes.

Only Catholic countries adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1582. Most Protestant countries made the change in 1699, the last year in which it could be done by dropping only ten days. (1600 was a leap year under both systems.) The British Empire did not adopt it until Sept. 2, 1752, when the next day became September 14th. Note that an 11-day adjustment was now needed. Other nations accepted the Gregorian calendar much later, usually after some revolutionary event. Thus, China adopted it in 1912 and Russia in 1918, by which time 13 days had to be dropped.

Further proposals have been made for adopting a World Calendar, under which each day of the month would fall on the same day of the week each year. The year would start with Sunday, January 1st. Each calendar quarter would consist of one 31-day month followed by two 30-day months. At year's end, December 31st would be called *Worldsday*, falling between the Saturday and Sunday. In leap years, the official proposal is to create a June 31st, *Worldsday*, so there would be an exactly even number of days in each half of the year. Under the Gregorian calendar, there are not enough days in the first half of the year (181 compared to 184 in the second half).

Newly created days would be February 30, April 31, and, in leap years, June 31. Days "destroyed" would be March 31, May 31, and August 31.

A permanent repeating calendar would eliminate the need to be constantly checking to see on what day of the week a certain day would fall. Within a short time, everyone would have memorized the dates for each month. While this might significantly cut down on the need for ephemeral calendars, it would open up the possibilities for the creation of permanent calendars as beautiful and long-lasting as our clocks. Anyone who has ever experienced the pain of a mix-up in

the names and numbers of a date would appreciate such a calendar.

A modest proposal was made in Britain many years ago, to simply eliminate the date of August 31, and restore February to 29 days in every year, with a leap day of February 30. I've been told that such a resolution was passed by the House of Commons, to become effective only when the other major countries followed suit, but I haven't been able to find written confirmation of this.

My own proposal would minimize the number of created/destroyed days by leaving February with just 29 days, and March with 31. This would minimize some of the opposition which would come from people whose birthdays would be eliminated. I'd also like to see the leap year left at the end of February, for tradition's sake, putting that *Worldsday* between Wednesday, February 29 and Thursday, March 1.

While we're at it, it would be nice if we could drop six years from our current calendar to correct the error the early Church made in estimating the year of Christ's birth. While I'm not a religious person, I find it somewhat ludicrous to say "Christ was born in or about 6 B.C." If we were to simultaneously provide for a Year Zero, the year 1994 could be followed by the year 2000. Rejoice! The Millennium is almost here. January 1, 1995, will "really" be January 1, 2001. Mark your calendar.

POSTSCRIPT (McBruce): Again, I apologize for not printing that in the last issue, which was close enough to the 1992 leap year to be logical. I asked Fred if he'd mind a few words of mine tacked onto the end of his articles, hopefully to encourage discussion on the topics raised. You can write to me and I'll put them in the lettercol, or you can write to Fred and maybe he'll make another **Fred's Column** from your comments. I've included Fred's address this time so you can contact him if you like.

Somehow, I have it in my head that the year has been measured as 365.2422 days in length, and I think I got that figure (which works out to 365 days, 5 hours and 48 minutes) from a book about twenty years ago. Fred's modern figure of 365 days, 6 hours

and 9 minutes works out to 365.2563 days. The current leap year system gives us a leap year for every year divisible by four, *unless* it is also divisible by 400. Thus, none of us will see a President elected in a 365-day year, although it did happen in 1900, and will in 2100. This system works out to an average calendar year of 365.2425 days (365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes) which makes me wonder if my memory is better than Fred's source--it's certainly more accurate. If it were 365 days, 6 hours and 9 minutes, we'd have added leap years to the every-fourth-year cycle, but instead we've subtracted three per 400 years.

I've learned from the guys at work that the Persian New Year is celebrated on the day of the Spring Equinox. There's also a gift-giving custom that requires Iranians to give gifts to all acquaintances who are younger. I was asked my age a number of times last month, and eventually decided it would be financially wiser to stick to Christmas.

My first thought was horror at the notion of a standard calendar where all dates fell on the same day of the week every year, but I hadn't considered the idea of artistic permanent calendars, which is appealing. The problem of people's birthdays being eliminated is silly: I think somebody mentioned to me that the Italian composer Rossini (1792-1868) had had his 50th birthday on February 29, 1992, which is good for a laugh, but I'm sure he celebrated it on March 1st 1842, which is more logical. (If you see something wrong there, I salute you; if not, have another look and read on and I'll tell you at the end.) You just count the same number of days from January 1st and celebrate on whatever day the new calendar says it is.

Sadly, I don't see a new calendar being ever adopted. We all have less trouble remembering what year it is until about March or so, than remembering how many days in

April. And even if we got past the problem of people's birthdays "destroyed," we wouldn't ever be able to console those whose birthdays were always destined to fall on a Monday, and those whose birthdays fell on a Friday or Saturday would have an undeserved extra reason to party!

I agree that we have to get a Year Zero put in there, to aid calculations. It won't happen, of course ("Columbus sailed the ocean, wheel/In fourteen hundred and ninety-three"), but it would make sense. Two recent SF books made plot elements out of the coming millennium: in Carl Sagan's *Contact*, the world economy goes slightly awry as people save their money until the long-prophesied Millennium Doomsday is safely passed, and in Arthur C. Clarke's *The Ghost of The Grand Banks*, a main character is able to provide financial support for a Titanic raising by virtue of her genius in solving a computer problem: most banking computers, it seems, store dates by giving only two digits for the year, which means that the stupid machines will take your deposit on 3/2/00 and immediately give it a century of compound interest!

One final note. I moved to a larger, 7-11 type store with the rest of the staff two months ago, and the financial records are mostly kept on a Shell-developed computer program called SIMM, which has been in use at all the Shell convenience stores (previously I was at a smaller, gas and not much more, outlet) since 1989. There was a huge problem the day we took over, as the computer was taking final totals from February 28th, and carrying them over to March 1st. It knew there there was a February 29th, it just kind of thought we'd all be closed, I guess...

(February 29th, 1992 was Giacomo Rossini's 48th birthday, not his 50th. There was no February 29 in 1800 or 1900.)



Fred's Column #9

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Civilization Repeats Itself

I'd like to comment again on that great collection of books by Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization*. I have learned so much from these books. The series shows how things which we felt were unique to, say, the last 125 years of civilization have in fact been repeated over and over again in many places down through the ages. Empire after empire has grown up by conquering its weaker neighbours, then become decadent itself, and been swallowed up by yet another invading horde. The doubledealing and backstabbing which took place inside every kingdom and fiefdom of the past thirty centuries shows that human nature has changed very little in that time.

The miracle is that *any* elements of civilization survived all of the visits of the Four Horsemen. Fortunately, in every country in every age, there was always a small group of "nerds" who hoarded away old books for copying, or "voted with their feet" to bring them to another land when they left their collapsing homelands. The conquerors now lie forgotten, for the most part, while the books have come down to us, to amaze us with some of the forward thinking they gave to the world in the fields of philosophy, theology, science and medicine. Thank you, nerds, for your efforts.

The concept of a rational universe, for example, with either a remotely detached God or no God at all, goes back at least 2500 years. Every society which had progressed beyond a hand-to-mouth existence or warrior culture to the point where a tiny percentage of scholars had time to study, debate, and write books came up with concepts very similar to the deistic, agnostic, and atheistic beliefs of many modern thinkers. However, very few of these concepts reached "the great unwashed." Indeed, many of the ancient and medieval philosophers argued that it was necessary to maintain the orthodox religions,

not because they were true, but to keep the common people under control, since the hope of religion was the only thing that made their rugged lives endurable. Many of the rulers did not believe in the religions they promoted. How else to explain that fear of excommunication by the Pope did not affect the courses of many European kings and dukes as they plundered their way across the land.

When I was a teen, I thought I was all alone in being unable to believe in the conventional mysteries. How nice to know that there have *always* been those who did not accept the state-supported mythologies!

To cite another field, in virtually all established societies the birth rate dropped significantly among the educated and the affluent, even where birth control was unavailable. Unfortunately, in many societies this meant carrying a child to term, and then exposing it to death if it were a girl. In Rome, for example, it was reported that it was almost unheard of the patrician girl to have a sister. However, the ancients were not as dumb about birth control as we may have thought them to be. In addition, abortion was often an available alternative in some societies.

While children were valuable workers on the farm, they were just as "useless" to the upper classes in the cities then as they are today. Strict inheritance laws, where every-

It's Your Call continued (previous question: page 14)

5. Crash Davis drives an inside fastball deep over the left field fence to break a scoreless tie in the thirteenth inning. As Davis rounds first base, he looks up to admire his long shot and twists his ankle badly on the base. Davis falls to the ground in pain and cannot get up to continue his trip around the bases. Can Davis's team insert a pinch runner to complete the round-tripper or do you call him out since he left the base path as he was writhing in pain from the sprained ankle? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 26)

thing went to the eldest son, were a significant factor in limiting the sizes of affluent families. Another factor, sometimes overlooked, is that the women in these families, having learned to read and write, became interested in doing more with their lives than just having babies. A few of these actually dared (gasp) to write books and teach classes!

The end result, of course, was that the ranks of the most capable people in any society kept diminishing, except where people from the "underclass" succeeded in working their way up. Meanwhile, the population of the peasantry, the plebeians, and/or the barbarians beyond the gates continued to grow. The story of almost every empire is that of falling resources from within, partially induced by the decadence that accompanies any era of prosperity, and partially caused by falling numbers--especially among the military leadership--with the eventual fall of the empire or kingdom to outsiders. The barbarians, in turn, after one or two generations, fell sway to the comforts of soft living, such as warm baths and pleasing female companions, and lost their warrior skills. (Yep, bathtubs will do you in every time!)

Within the course of a single person's lifetime, these big changes might not be seen. Many would not know that "the Empire was falling" (familiar words?) until near the end. Many of these "exchanges of Supply Centers" took place slowly, and without too much in the way of a clash of arms.

We should all ask ourselves whether there are any more barbarians at the gate today. Some prophets are predicting "The end of history" with the end of the Cold War. I suggest that we take a closer look at the long sweep of history before accepting any such optimistic hypothesis.

P.S. For the record, Mensa's records show that Mensa members are reproducing themselves at only 50% of the needed replacement level. This sample is large enough to be applied to the entire population of North America and Western Europe scoring in the 98th percentile or higher on I.Q. scores. Unfortunately, some people are

trying to solve the problem by looking through "the wrong end of the telescope," and suggesting that affluent people should have more children. The correct answer, as I see it, is to limit the population contributions of the less endowed. ("Don't raise the bridge, lower the river!")

POSTSCRIPT (McBruce) I'm not too sure about the P.S. part here. If the data says that the children of Mensans are not becoming Mensans in the same numbers as their parents, I don't think you can extrapolate and say that *the total number of intelligent people in the world is declining*, when the actual main cause of the data may well be simply that *there are fewer intelligent people joining Mensa*. Have any studies ever indicated that I.Q. scores are hereditary, that children's I.Q.'s can be predicted from their parents? News to me if that's true. Fred probably will disagree with me, but I think that defining intelligence as the "ability to solve abstract problems on a test" is not flawless, even if the scores correlate closely to academic success. Mensa's 98%ile or higher requirement is watered down by the provision that you need only achieve that height once for membership, with no limit on how many times you may try. (In fact, most Mensans will tell you of a number of other Mensans that they suspect are nowhere near the 98th percentile.) I suspect there are many people who would have little trouble passing Mensa's intelligence test who have never tried, for any number of reasons. Some people don't like tests. Some can solve I.Q. problems but hate to wrack their brains doing them (yours truly included). Some people cannot afford the test fee or membership costs should they succeed. Some imagine, rightly or wrongly, that they wouldn't easily fit in socially with the intelligent. It is amazing to me that I.Q. tests have changed little in a period where science has ridden an exponential development wave almost everywhere else. Perhaps it is our definition of intelligence that is the problem.



It's Your Call-Answers

Only three responders to the baseball questions from last issue have made it in as I type this with two days to go before the deadline. (I'm surprised she let that lead go without comment: all I actually did was copy over the questions, and type in and duplicate the initials, "ANSWER:," and "SCORING:" before I asked Nancy to type up the rest.) The three are Brent McKee (BM), Andrew York (AY), and Pete Gaughan (PG). As usual, my comments are under the abbreviation of McB in order that you not confuse me with one of those three-I'll let you figure out which one...

1. Bases are loaded, two outs. The runners are going with the pitch, which is ball four. The runner going to second base slides and goes past the bag. The alert catcher, Dimples Tate, makes a quick throw and the second baseman tags the runner before the runner from third crosses the plate. Do you allow the run or disallow it because the third out was made before the runner from third touched the plate? It's your call.

BM: I am not convinced the player going to second is out since the runner would normally advance, so I think the run scores.

AY: Run scores.

PG: Allow the run (it's forced home)

ANSWER: Believe it or not, *allow the run* and call the runner oversliding second base out. (Rule 7.04-Each runner, other than the batter, may advance without liability to be put out forces the runner to vacate his base. A runner forced to advance without liability to be put out, such as when a walk forces the advance, may advance past the base to which he is entitled only at his own peril. If such runner, forced to advance, is put out for the third out before a preceding runner, also forced to advance, touches the plate, the run shall score.) The run would score on the theory that the run was forced home by the base on balls and that all the runners needed to do was proceed and touch the next base.

McB: I guess the interesting question is what happens if the runner at second, in

sliding, never touches the base? The run obviously scores, but should the ump rule that the runner has not advanced past second since he hasn't touched second (thus he gets second automatically on the walk), or should he call it an overslide (out as explained above) even though he didn't touch second?

SCORING: All got it correct.

2. Arlie Tarbert is on third base with one out when the ball is hit deep to left field. The left fielder makes the catch after bobbling the ball for a couple of seconds. Tarbert tagged up and left the bag when the outfielder first touched the ball, but before he completed his catch. The defense appeals that he left too early. It's your call.

BM: He left too early. The out only occurs when the ball is controlled by the fielder.

PG: OUT. Allow the appeal-runner must wait for catch, not touch.

AY: Run scores!!

ANSWER: It's a catch and the runner is safe. He may tag up as soon as a defensive player touches the ball. (Rule 2.00-A catch is legal if the ball is finally held by any fielder, even though juggled, or held by another fielder before it touches the ground. Runners may leave their bases the instant the first fielder touches the ball.)

McB: I'm relieved to hear this ruling. Without it, we'd have wild and crazy plays in game-winning sacrifice fly situations: "Tarbert gets ready to go...but McBruce in left-field, instead of catching the ball, swatted it with his glove high into the air toward the infield! What the hell's he doing? Tarbert scores, but wait! He's left too early since the ball hasn't yet been caught! Now the pitcher catches it and tosses to third to keep the game tied..." Without this rule you'd have outfielders practicing stunts like this all the time, and volleyball-like deliberate deflections. Although, on reflection, it might not be too bad-certainly would liven things up, like pulling the goalie in hockey.

SCORING: Andrew York takes the early lead.

3. Sheriff Gainor hits a sharp line drive up the middle that pitcher Rhino Hitt catches on one bounce. The ball was hit so hard, however, that it gets wedged in the webbing of Hitt's glove and he can't get it out. Hitt gives up and throws his glove, with the ball still in it, to first baseman Boots Grantham, who catches the glove and its contents before Gainor reaches first base. Is this a legal putout and should you hand it-or-glove it-to Hitt for fast thinking? Or should Gainor be given the base because two gloves are not necessarily better than one? It's your call.

PG: I give everybody two bases under the "glove detached in order to touch ball" rule. I can't think of another that applies, and I can't imagine an umpire allowing this given the tone of the rules against using equipment except as originally intended.

AY: Runner is given first.

BM: Gainor is out.

ANSWER: Out. The first baseman tagged first while having secure possession of the ball in his hand or glove. He also happened to have Hitt's glove. (Rule 2.00-A tag is the action of a fielder in touching a base with his body while holding the ball securely and firmly in his hand or glove. While a fielder may not throw his glove at a batter or thrown ball, there is no restriction on tossing glove and ball together.)

McB: That last sentence is not in my rulebook, but neither is there anything prohibiting such a play. (Pete's gonna complain-I feel it in my bones-so I'd better mention that the book does say that they got most of the leading umpires to check their answers on the quiz.)

SCORING: Brent catches up to Andrew with 2, Pete has 1.

4. Frank Joiner is on second base and John "Apples" Bagwell is on first with no outs. Narvel Adams lifts a pop fly to the infield, but the second baseman loses it in the sun and it takes one bounce and hits Joiner as he stands on second base. Is Joiner out for interfer-

ence and, if so, is this a double play since the batter has already been declared out on the infield fly rule? It's your call.

PG: OUT. Ball is alive on an infield fly, base is not an island of safety unless it hits runner on the fly in this instance.

BM: Joiner isn't out. Interference wasn't deliberate.

AY: No interference. Joiner remains on 2nd.

ANSWER: No, the runner is not out. (Rule 7.08f-Exception: If a runner is touching his base when touched by an infield fly, he is not out, although the batter is out.) If it had not been declared an infield fly, then the runner is out.

SCORING: Brent and Andrew open up a two point lead on Pete. 3-1.

5. The Arkansas Reds have just completed the top of the third inning. As the home team comes to bat in the bottom of the third inning, the lights come on. Lefty Marks, the Reds' manager, protests to the umpires that they can't turn the lights on until the next inning because his team had to bat in the third inning without lights. Will Lefty's protest be upheld? It's your-O.K., maybe it isn't your call here if he files a protest, but what's your opinion?

BM: Protest upheld. You can't turn the lights on in a half inning since it gives an advantage to the home team which has the last at bat in an inning.

AY: Let him file his protest, assuming that the umpire ordered the lights on (the umpire-in-chief controls whether the lights are turned on-not the home team).

PG: Tough Luck. Light failure would be cause for protest, but so long as the umpires felt there was enough light to play by in the top of the inning (and apparently they did) what's the beef?

ANSWER: No, the protest will not be allowed. Although it is common courtesy to try to turn the lights on at the top of an inning, the umpire may legally turn them on at any time. (Rule 4.14-The umpire-in-chief shall order the playing field lights turned on whenever, in his opinion, dark-

ness makes further play in daylight hazardous.)

SCORING: I have to call Andrew wrong since I cannot figure out whether he thinks the protest will be upheld or disallowed. Pete closes the gap but still trails the others, 3-2. So far this looks like the toughest set yet!

6. George "Old Wax Figger" Hemming is the victim of a practical joke by his teammates. In his last pitching stint he got hammered and the players ribbed him unmercifully about the shellacking. As a joke they painted his glove white. In his next turn in the rotation he still hadn't bought a new glove. He attempts to use his glove, which is still painted white. Do you allow him to use the glove or do you rule it would be too big a distraction for the batters? It's your call.

BM: Disallow the glove. Because it is white it will make it very hard for the hitter to see the ball.

AY: He'll have to find another glove, pitchers can't use white gloves.

PG: Pitcher may not use white gloves.

ANSWER: Of course he cannot use it, nor may a pitcher wear a gray glove. (Rule 1.15a-The pitcher's glove may not be white or gray.)

SCORING: Everyone got it right; Brent and Andrew lead 4-3.

7. Razzle Dazzle Murphy breaks off a nasty two-strike curveball on Ding-a-Ling Clay and it bounces a foot in front of the plate. Ding-a-Ling is fooled on the pitch but somehow his mighty swing catches enough of it on the bounce to send it over the right centre field fence. Home run or foul ball? It's your call.

BM: Home run. I suspect it would be called a ball if Murphy hadn't hit it.

PG: Home run.

AY: Home Run (this question is confusing, some words are missing. I'm guessing you were talking about a ball that bounces from the pitch, not a double hit by the batter).

ANSWER: Clay can touch them all, it's a home run. (Rule 2.00-If the pitch touches the ground and bounces through the strike zone it is a ball. If such pitch touches a batter, he shall be awarded first base. If the batter swings at such a pitch after two strikes and misses, the ball cannot be caught. For the purposes of Rule 6.05, he must be tagged as on any dropped third strike. If the batter hits such a pitch, the ensuing action shall be the same as if he hit the ball in flight.)

McB: The word "swing" was missing from the question (as Andrew suspected)...

SCORING:...but everyone got it right anyhow. 5-4, Andrew and Brent leading.

8. You're having a rough game and you've already ejected three coaches and the manager from the home team. The team is down to only two more coaches and the acting manager decides he doesn't want to use any of his players as base coaches because he's afraid you might run them as well. So he doesn't send any base coaches out when his team hits in the bottom of the eighth. Do you allow the home team to bat since they are bringing the disadvantage upon themselves or do you insist the acting manager use base coaches? It's your call.

BM: I don't believe a team has to have base coaches if they don't want to so I allow them to bat.

AY: Have him put his two coaches out before play can resume.

PG: Teams must put out two coaches.

ANSWER: Make him send out some base coaches and if he gripes too much run him, too. (Rule 4.05-The offensive team shall station two base coaches on the field during its turn at bat.)

SCORING: And it's now Andrew in the lead with 6, Brent and Pete close behind at 5.

9. Cozy Dolan hits a fly ball down the right field line and the right fielder drifts under the ball in foul territory as the wind pushes it back toward fair

ground. The right fielder, whose feet are both still in foul ground, does a circus act and can't hang on for the catch. The ball caroms off his glove, which is over fair territory, and bounces fair. Fair or foul? It's your call.

BM: Fair. Since the glove was over fair ground, the ball is fair in spite of the fact that the glove's owner is in foul territory.

AY: Fair ball, the question is whether he'll make an 'in-the-park' home run.

PG: Fair-ball was in fair territory when touched.

ANSWER: The ball is fair. (Rule 2.00-A fair fly shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the fielder is in fair territory at the time he touched the ball.)

SCORING: All correct. Andrew clinches at least a tie, with a one point lead, 7-6, on Brent and Pete with one to go.

10. Grandma Murphy is called on to sacrifice bunt Topsy Magoon over to second base on the first pitch. He squares to lay down the bunt but changes his mind and tries to pull back at the last instant. But Murphy is not quick enough and gets nicked on the forearm with the pitch, which comes in on the inside corner of the plate. Magoon, having missed the signal, doesn't make a move for second, and the catcher catches the ball. Do you call Murphy out for interference, give him first base, call the pitch a strike, or simply call it a ball? It's your call.

BM: Give him first. He may have been over the plate when he was hit (the only thing that worries me) but he was attempting to avoid hitting the ball, and presumably being hit by the ball. (Brief enough for you.)

AY: Strike called.

PG: Strike. Pitch in the strike zone

which hits a batter is a strike, bunting or not.

ANSWER: Stick up the right hand, because it's a stike. (Rule 2.00-A legal pitch that touches the batter in the strike zone is still a strike.)

SCORING: Brent McKee finishes with 6/10, Pete Gaughan with 7/10, and Andrew York wins with 8/10. (Wow, no fractions this time.) Andrew and I are trading (check out his excellent zine **Rambling Way**, at P.O. Box 2307, Universal City TX, USA 78148-1307), so instead of the \$2 sub credit prize I'll send him some of my C64 software, gathering dust but still useful.

BASEBALL QUESTION STANDINGS AFTER 70/90 QUESTIONS

(Based on a 46.67 question minimum)

Umpire	Answered	Right	Wrong	Pct.
R. Lesco	50	42.0	8.0	.840
P. Gaughan	70	56.0	14.0	.800
B. McKee	70	45.4	24.6	.649
A. York	40*	29.3	10.7	.628
E. Brosius	40*	25.7	14.3	.551
D. McCrumb	(20)	13.8	6.2	.296
P. Milewski	(20)	11.7	8.3	.251
C. White	(20)	11.1	8.9	.238
R. Davis	(20)	9.4	10.6	.201
J. Galt	(20)	7.4	12.6	.159
M. Smith	(10)	5.5	4.5	.118

Those with their number of questions answered in brackets cannot answer the minimum of 60 to have a reasonable chance at winning the grand prize of \$10 (I think it was \$10), and have had their percentages computed by dividing their correct answers by the artificial minimum of 46 2/3 questions (two thirds of the total to date). Those with asterisks must answer both remaining sets to avoid this fate. If you answer more than six sets, your best six scores will be used in determining the winner of the grand prize.



AUSTRIA NEEDS JUST ONE MORE Italian suspicion nets France a build

FAURE 1986 CC Fall 1912

Germany: Bob Acheson 1510-10883 Saskatchewan Dr., Edmonton AB, Canada T6E 4S6
A Swe-Den, F NAf-MAO, A Ruh*-Mun, A Cly-Lpl, F Bel-Hol,
F Eng-MAO.

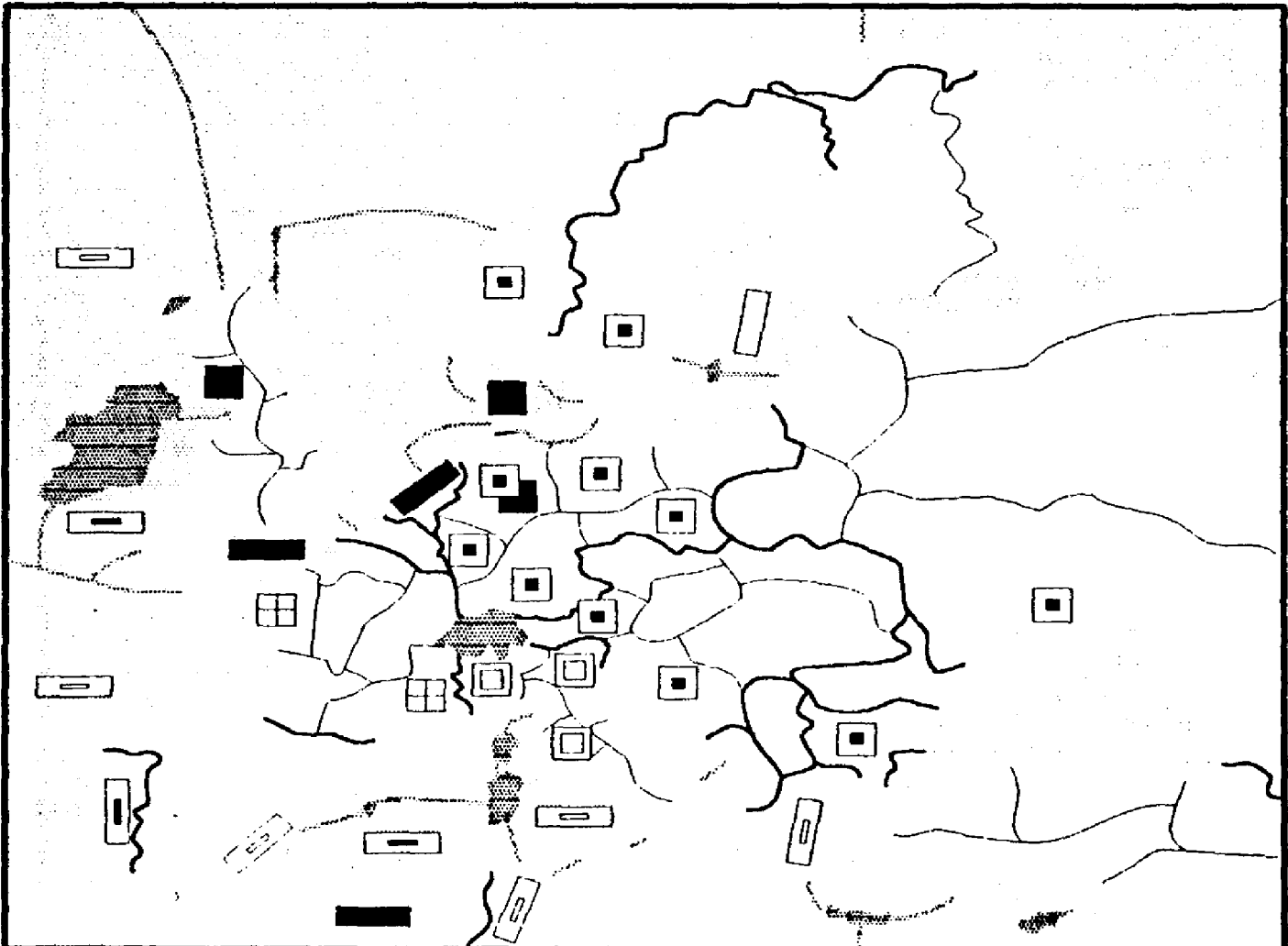
Russia: Randy Davis, 8771 Shepherds Way, Delta BC, Canada V4C 4J9
F GBo-StP.

Austria: Pierre Touchette, 74 1/2 Falardeau, Hull PQ, Canada J8X 3E2
A Gal-Sil, A Tri H, F TyS-WMe, F MAO-IrS, A Sil-Mun, A Mun-Ruh,
A Kie S A Mun-Ruh, A Fin-Swe, A Bul H, A Ber S A Sil-Mun,
A StP S A Nwy, A Tyr S A Sil-Mun F Por S Aus F Spa(sc)-MAO,
A Nwy S A Fin-Swe.

Italy: Claude Gautron, 620 rue St.Jean-Baptiste, Winnipeg MB, Canada R2H 0H2
A Rom H, A Ven H, F Gre H, F Tun S Aus F TyS-WMe, F GLy-Spa(sc),
F Spa(sc)-MAO, F Nap-TyS, A Pie S A Ven, F NAO S Aus F MAO-IrS.

France: Jacques Belanger, 985 1/2 Mainguy, Ste-Foy PQ, Canada G1V 3S5
A Bur-Mar, A Bre H.

continued on page 25



FRENCH UNIT BEHIND GERMAN LINES

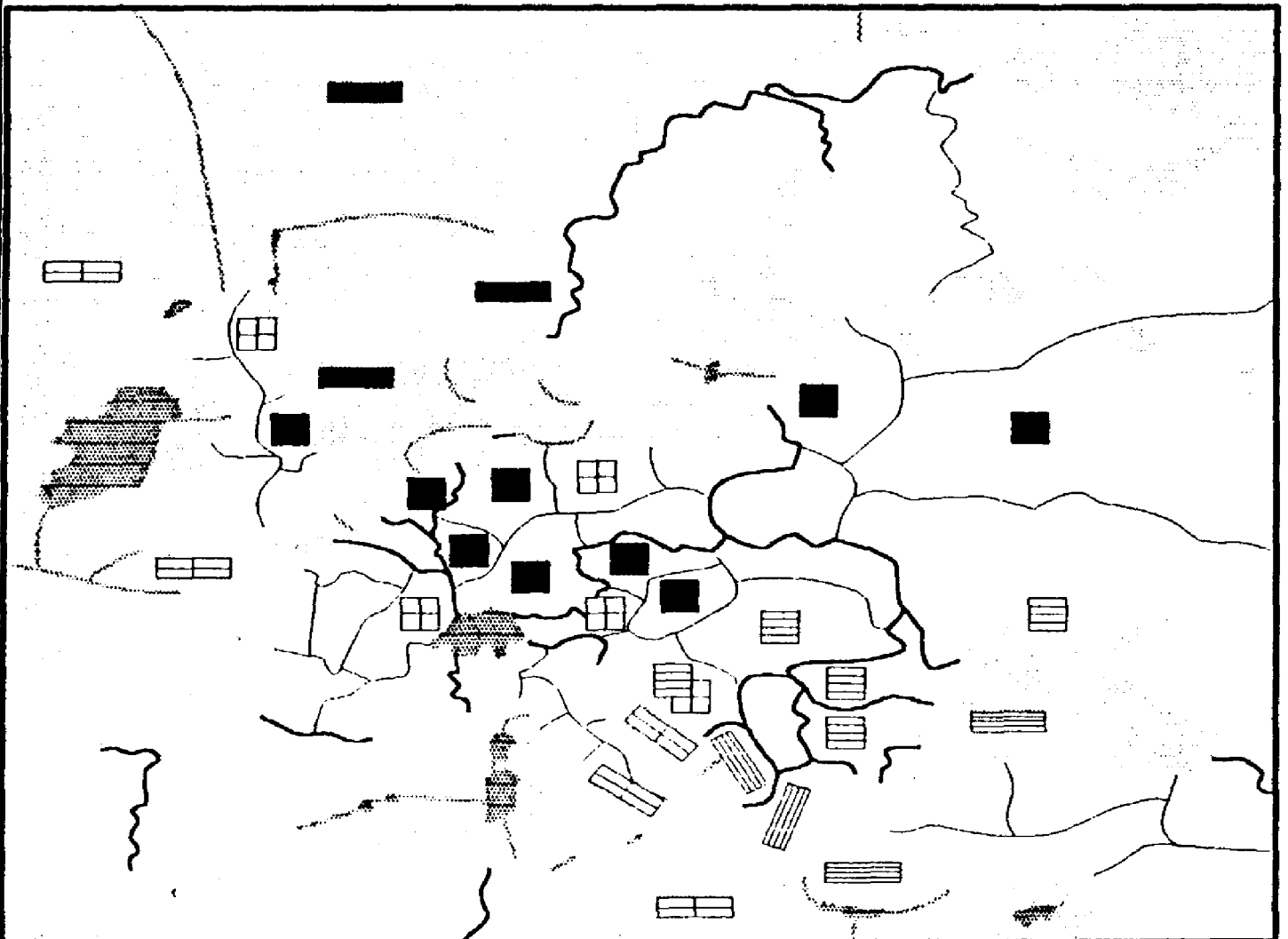
Turks take Trieste as French protect Ionian

GREGORY 1989 CE Spring 1907

Germany: Gordon Argyle, #308-330 Michigan St., Victoria BC, Canada V8V 1R5
 A Ber-Kie, A Sil-Mun, F Bel-Nth, A Ruh S A Sil-Mun, A Hol-Bel,
 A Mos H, A StP-Lva, F Nrg \$ F Bel-Nth, F Nwy S F Bel-Nth,
 A Vie S A Boh-Tyr, A Boh-Tyr, A Lon-Yor.

Turkey: Claude Gautron, 620 rue St. Jean-Baptiste, Winnipeg MB, Canada R2H 0H2
 F Aeg S F Gre, F Bla C A Ank-Rum, A Ser-Tri, A Bud S A Ser-Tri,
 F Alb S A Ser-Tri, F Gre S F Alb, A Con-Bul, A Ank-Rum, A Sev H.

France: Randy Davis, 8771 Shepherds Way, Delta BC, Canada, V4C 4J9
 A Pic-Bur, A Mun-Ber, A Tyr-Boh, A Tri*-Vie, F Adr S F Ion, A Edi H,
 F NAO-Nrg, F Nap S F Ion, F Eng-Bel, F Ion H.



Most Of The Post

This'll be unusual—a letter column without the usual zillions of letters to type. The reason, of course, is that I'm starting this a full week before the target date listed last issue, with a plan of attack (that means that I've listed writers and subjects on a separate sheet and marked out who going where in the batting order, which in turn means all letters are gonna get cut up a bit). If no more letters come in this week I

RAM

might actually be ready to publish on time...

This looks like a good place to start:

Brent McKee: I don't suppose I can get through this without some comment on the "new look" of **Excelsior**. I have a lot of trouble with the combination of typeface and spacing used for most of the zine. The vertical letters (i, l, f, k, and some of the others) sometimes blend together making some words difficult to read. The word "still" looks like s, t, and a thick black blot. The type size isn't that hard for me to read, although the second last paragraph on page 17 came awful close. The type used on the letters column and the subzines serves to point out the faults of the other typeface. Still if all I've got to complain about is the typefaces you can probably consider that you've done a pretty fair job.

BM: That's fair comment. I wasn't real happy either with the way it all turned out: it looked much better before it all got photoreduced, but I will continue to experiment. It certainly is easier putting the issue together without any cutting and pasting, but I'm learning the pitfalls of desktop publishing programs at the same time. (Such as page 17 last issue, where I ran out of room with time running out. I should have continued it somewhere else. Looking back, I'm baffled that I didn't just tack a "continued" sign on that bit.) The "new look" is still in flux, at least for the next few issues.

Brent McKee: The Mandelbrot stuff is interesting. I'm afraid the maths are a bit above my head, but I haven't spent a great deal of time working at it. As I understand it Chaos Theory is an attempt to understand and predict the random events of nature. I first heard about it in a book called *The Eudaemonic Pie* which is about a group of young physicists who try to develop a way to win at roulette using computers in their shoes. It is quite an entertaining book, especially when you realize that these guys were in on the first wave of a new science

Pete Gaughan: I liked the Chaos Novato CA article—I've heard of Mandelbrot Sets but never knew what they were!

Andrew York: I enjoyed the fractal *Universal City TX* pictures and discussion. I'm interested in them, though the math is a bit beyond me (I'm quite rusty in that field, these days).

BM: I think I probably could have done a better job of making the M-Set easier to understand, but the real purpose of the article was to provide a starting point for people encountering the M-Set without an explanation. That is the torture I went through, when I read an Arthur C. Clarke novel which mentioned and described it but didn't fully explain it. I hope I at least

It's Your Call continued
(previous question: page 17)

6. The Lodi Crushers have the bases loaded and two outs when their cleanup hitter strikes out. Victorville catcher Bear Gile can't hang onto the pitch, however, and all the runners try to move up a base. Gile finds the ball and instead of risking a throw to first base, steps on home plate to force the runner there. Is this a legal play? Can Gile force somebody at home on a strikeout? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 29)

succeeded. I do plan to do another chaos article soon, on something called the Logistic Hump Attractor. The math is so simple you can do it on a calculator, but the results are, like most chaos formulas, pretty far out.

Garret Schenck: Enjoyed your last issue--the M-Set stuff

didn't come out too good, of course, but I've seen other pictures of it and it is truly mind-boggling to look at (what it means though-who cares?) Have you ever looked at what you can do with the square root of 5? It's a pretty interesting number, lots of interesting properties. I obsessed about that one for a long time about a decade ago. I was into plane tessellation (Escher one of my favorite graphic artists) at the time, still am, and I guess I was frustrated that while you could do all sorts of regular plane tessellation with threes and fours, fives just made an infinite kind of mess. My guess is other primes beyond five are also as tricky, but I never explored them. I think the square root of five figures into the golden mean or the golden ratio or something.

BM: The golden ratio (usually called phi and denoted by the Greek letter Φ) is the ratio $1:\Phi$, where $1/\Phi = \Phi - 1$. A little figuring gets us the value of 1.6180339887 for Φ , which is half of the sum of the square root of five and one. In fact, I used the golden ratio in deciding the uneven margins to use on page 2 of last issue. Two numbers in this ratio will have the property that the ratio of the smaller to the larger is equal to the ratio of the larger to the sum of the two. I guess I should stick with it-it seems to have a hypnotic effect on my correspondants!

I saw an irregular tessellation which utilized the square root of five in a Martin Gardner collection recently. There were two four-sided pieces used, both with two sides of length Φ and two sides of length $1/\Phi$. One had interior angles of 54, 36, 54, and 216 degrees, and the other had interior angles of 36, 90, 144, and 90 degrees, and it could be proven that these

tiles would tessellate the plane without a universal pattern, but the smaller of the two would be needed Φ times as much!

Another thing you might want to check out is Douglas Hofstadter's collection of *Scientific American* articles. One deals with a unique type of tessellation where the shapes undergo a sort of metamorphosis that is eerily reminiscent of Escher's work.

Garret Schenck: Regarding "political correctness." John Boardman says it best-that he'd rather be correct than incorrect. But I guess you and several of your correspondants feel differently. I just wish your ancestors had had the common decency to learn Algonquin when they immigrated to Canada, though...

"Pickaninny?" Come on, Bruce, my *Random House Dictionary of the English Language* defines it as "usually offensive," and I would guess that coming out of the mouth of Rosie "I'm Politically Incorrect" Roberts, it was meant to be just that. You're an editor. Wield your blue pencil!

BM: I did not know what the word meant, and assumed from the context of the sentence (Rosie mentioned a black pickaniny-British spelling?-which is uncharacteristically redundant, based on the definition I eventually found) that it had something to do with some mythical horse-like animal. I have three dictionaries in the apartment, none of which listed it. I did find one dictionary (well out of my price range) at a bookstore which defined pickaninny as "a Negro Child" (careful, Garret: if I hadn't found it in that dictionary I'd have taken you at your word and decided that pickaninny meant "usually offensive"!) and of course the whole thing blew up in my rather red face-the sarcastic comment I appended to Rosie's letter made me look pretty stupid. Thanks for clearing me up, and I'm sorry to those I offended. I should also mention that without my asinine, ignorant comments it is hard to find fault with Rosie's paragraph on the subject.

Pete Gaughan: Any Moslem who doesn't like Western civil rights in fact is required by his faith to "stay home"!

Many Islamic commentators have developed guidelines on what is or is not permitted (similar to the Hebrew Mishnah) and while they mostly allow Moslems to remain in their land when it is taken over by infidels, they do not permit remaining in a faithless land except for the purpose of converting the infidels! (And proselytizing is viewed with unease-killing infidels in a holy war is much more accepted.)

I think your immigration problem-and to a lesser extent ours-has two parts. One is law; if someone keeps his wife chained against her will, or joins a violent gang, or will not pay taxes, he should be prosecuted regardless of race. But arranged marriages, language use, and voluntary submission to a husband are customs, perfectly legal, and should be tolerated by a pluralistic society. Hell, I know some WASP wives who are more enslaved by their own fundamentalist religion than any Moslem woman I've known.

BM: Agree, except that marriage partners should be arranged with the consent of those who are getting married, whatever the customs of the couple's ancestors were. I can tolerate foreign languages and I even have learned some Mandarin counting to help make myself understood at work. But we can't live together if we can't share a common way of communicating, so I don't think asking that immigrants acquire at least a working knowledge of English is too much. Critics of Canada's immigration system (which is the most lenient in the world, apparently) point out, I think correctly, that for almost all immigrants, coming to this country is a privilege. Those who do not treat it as such should not be tolerated.

Brent McKee: There are to my knowledge three epithets describing "white on the inside"; Banana (yellow on the outside, white on the inside), Apple (red on the outside, white on the inside), and Oreo (brown or black on the outside, white on the inside). These are generally given out by members of a particular group to members of their own group

who don't meet the "standards" that the group sets for itself. Translated that could mean living up to their own stereotypes. In Detroit, and presumably other cities in the U.S., black teenagers who study "too hard" in school are labelled as "acting white". I'm not sure, but the same standard may apply among Canada's natives.

BM: That is a convincing argument against this ludicrous notion that racism doesn't exist minority to majority. I wonder whether the kids who label black scholars as "acting white" expect to be given a good job because they are disadvantaged by their colour. While it may still be an unbalanced playing field, it is far better than it used to be, and our society should be proud of the steps it has taken. And despicable comments like the "white on the inside" epithets and "acting white" should be harshly exposed as rhetorical garbage by those who encounter them.

Brent McKee: One thing about immigrants who refuse to adjust to North American customs is who decides what the standard is. Remember that we are not that far away from a time when European Jews were barred from coming to Canada to avoid the Holocaust because a bureaucrat in Ottawa decided they were "too foreign" and "wouldn't assimilate." Mostly, I think that assimilation takes time. Immigrants may not give up everything of their old culture, and I don't necessarily think that is a bad thing, but hopefully they will give up the worst things.

BM: I think that we have to be extremely careful of judging past decisions with today's standards. I suspect your sentence about the European Jews is a bit oversimplified, and the reality is not as bad as you made it sound. The same principle applies in these cases where somebody tries to take the objectionable words out of Shakespeare or Twain or something-to edit this out is to hide it, and it's much better to leave it in and educate people about modern standards. It was recently revealed that at the height of the Cold War, when homosexual civil servants were

being blackmailed by the Soviets far more often than heterosexuals, the government tried to rid the civil service of gays, using a number of silly-sounding experiments, including something called "the fruit machine." Thankfully, both local newspapers have reacted to this by pointing out that while the Prime Minister acts horrified at the news, he still hasn't fulfilled a campaign promise to add discrimination by sexual preference to the Charter of Rights. PC types would call for the immediate execution of all involved, I guess.

Rosie Roberts: There has been some publicity recently about

Adendorf, Germany Kurdish groups in Germany who import young boys and use them as drug couriers (children under the age of about 12 cannot be arrested or tried for any crime; the police have to pick them up, take them home and let them go). Since practically all the Kurds in this country either have political asylum or are waiting to be granted asylum (there is no chance that any of them will be turned down; proximity to Saddam Hussein is considered a fate worse than death) this seems to me to be about as bad a case of misusing hospitality that it would be possible to conceive. I would like to see asylum refused to people who get involved with smuggling and pushing drugs, but this would probably fall in the realms of a "cruel and unusual" punishment.

BM: Not to me.

David Hood: Rosie Roberts's comment **Hickory NC** about the PC in *Fantasia* made me think of something else. One of the presents I gave Sandi this year for Christmas was a copy of Walt Disney's *Dumbo*, which is a good movie, I think, about how we need to recognize diversity and not poke fun at people who are "different."

I always wondered why you never hear about *Dumbo* any more. The reason is that the crows who sing "I've seen 'bout everything when I see an elephant fly" are obviously black stereotypes. Not only are they featured with black feath-

ers, but they also have black accents and black singing styles. It is unfortunate that this movie has been dropped because of that, but I'll bet that is what it is.

BM: Never seen it so I can't comment, but if this keeps up we'll be redefining the whole portfolio of literary imagery. We'd better reshoot *Star Wars* before somebody notices that the good guys are in white and Darth Vader always wears black.

Time to switch topics.

Garret Schenck: All malls are the same—all cities are the same. I've gotten pretty good at the geography of American settlement (and I'll bet Canada is pretty much the same, except that all your gas stations, at least on the Trans-Canada highway, also include a café)—partly due to several bicycling trips I've taken. It's gotten so I can practically navigate around most towns and cities, just by seeing the surroundings. A dreary and depressing sameness. Luckily for us American culture has escaped this continent (having completely infected and overrun your country) and now stands bestride, like a colossus, the entire world. This makes travel for us North Americans very soothing and un-stressful-like we never left home. And we haven't. A very real pity. The TV-shopping-compulsion culture is destroy-

It's Your Call continued (previous question: page 26)

7. **Jamie Don Weeks is on third base with one out in the bottom of the ninth of a tie game. Stud Cantrell hits a long fly ball down the right field line in foul territory. Weeks will certainly score on the sacrifice fly if the ball is caught, but the outfielder never gets a chance to make the play because a fan reaches over the right field railing and catches the ball with a fishnet. It's a clear case of interference, but what do you do with Weeks on third base? Does he score the winning run? It's your call.**

(Next question is on page 33)

ing the world and wrecking any real historic culture, and we're left with the crap that some guys in design offices in towers in big cities decide is authentic Ugh.

BM: There are actually a few interesting malls that have opened up around here, reclamation projects of old buildings (keeping in mind that old buildings in Vancouver are maybe 50 years old). We do have an advantage out here in that our climate is pretty mild, so you can essentially put a sheet of plastic over a walkway between two buildings and call it "indoors." An interesting shift is taking place in the Vancouver area, as the downtown core is being abandoned in favour of suburban town centres, each of which has its own design flavour. Burnaby, for example, has a pair of large malls along the rapid transit line, but traffic is kept from crossing the tracks to the low-rise neighbourhood we live in, which is a fine bit of planning. Very convenient for us: close to rapid transit and highly competitive grocery shopping, but no major traffic problems nearby.

Garret Schenk: My guess is your problems with PageMaker are Windows problems. I have heard that there is a thorny UAE (no, not United Arab Emirates, I think it means Unexplained Application Exit or something like that) problem with Windows. PM works more than excellent on my Mac-I've never had any problems with it (well, on a slow Mac it's slow, but it doesn't bomb out very much, if at all). QuarkXPress is buggier, but more powerful, but they don't have Windows version for that yet. Hey, Bruce, it's your own damn fault, should have bought a real publishing machine. Heh.

As for your complaint about "pull quotes" (just one of a variety of names for "big type that the body copy wraps around")-yeah, I know what you mean, they do get in the way sometime. You don't see that device much in Dipzines, because you don't have much trouble getting people to read your stuff-for the most part people read Dipzines pretty

much from cover to cover (with one exception, which I'll get to). The point of a "pull quote" (or "call out," another term that also helps describe it's *raison d'être*) is twofold-one is, as you note, to help fill space, or more properly, to help fix nasty design problems (i.e. help eliminate windows/orphans, or bring the last line of a story to the bottom of the page, that sort of thing), and the other is to get the reader's attention and get them to stop turning pages and start reading.

Dipzines could use pull quotes for the first reason, but because we are writers/editors/layout artists/art director/printers/binderers all rolled into one, if we want to make the layout work right we just bang in some more copy, or cut something. Nobody is going to get upset, it's completely our own show (this is why I enjoy doing **Upstart** so much, even though it has a rather similar feel to what I do for pay-because I don't have to worry about anyone else getting in the way). In other words, normally there's a writer or editor involved-when you're at the layout stage, adding or cutting text means having to go back to the writer/editor to get permission. (And in many situations you can't so that-editors are god and DTPers are pretty low down!) And by God, even if they agree to it they go and cut too much, or add too much, and you're back where you started! But DTPers and layout people can often get away with sticking in some dumb pull quote-that's not the writer's business (in the same way that it's not the writer's job to come up with the headline [in a newspaper/newsletter situation, for instance]).

On the other hand, where Dipzines *could* make use of pull quotes would be in game press-which is probably the part of any Dipzine that gets read the least (pored over, of course, by the players in each particular game, who are looking for shadings and nuances, most of which were never intended, but often ignored by casual passers-by). Call outs could attract readers' attention and get

them to start reading the game press.

I'm not sure about your comment about margin changes. Are you talking about having text "cut in" to the body copy (something you'll often see in magazines)? That's different than playing fast and loose with your basic grid, which is the advice that you've been reading in the DTP books, and one that you should follow, and indeed have been following--one thing about Eric's masters is that they have enforced a pretty rigid grid on your part! But having text cut into the grid, especially if you have some good white space--that can really look good in a magazine. Not in a Dipzine, though; there's no need for such ploys to get people to read our crap!

Other than that, though, I don't see all the "rules" you're breaking with XL. The "ransom note" effect is something to be listened to, I think--put a million fonts on the page and people will be so wowed by all the excitement that they may miss what you're trying to communicate, which is presumably your solid prose. I have always been annoyed by "over-designed" pages--some artistic types can barely read, apparently, and for them, the LOOK of the page is all that's important. So they gaudy it up with a trillion fonts, extra-wide letter spacing, curvey type, and other wacko special effects. Okay, you end up with nice looking pages that are almost works of art, but people will spend ten seconds and move on. Reading is hard work, and the key to good design, in my humble opinion, is to make things as easy to read as possible, given your budget and tools. Note that you and I use rather small type. Of course I'd like to use larger type (even though you can get away with generally smaller type on the digest page), but that would cost more money, and waste more resources. These are important considerations. Design is the art of compromise. Make do with what you got--and make things as readable and pretty and useful as you can manage with your available tools and bud-

get. The point, I think, is that you want to impress people with what you write, not by showing them all the nifty fonts that come with your DTP package. One way they're impressed by you--the other way they're impressed by the software you bought.

There's something wrong with your calculations regarding laser printing versus reducing dot-matrix, I think. The results speak for themselves--your type is not very easy to read, especially the sans-serif stuff you used for your comments (the serif face you used for reader letters was a lot more readable, at least at the size you chose, but my guess is it takes up more space). Ah, you don't get nothing for something. I'd try another typeface for your stuff, or maybe use italics of the reader letter face, something.

Is it possible you are more "generations" from your original than you need to be?

BM: I was a tad harsh on *PageMaker*, which is a great program if you have the power for it. When I was trying to get PM 3.0 to run I didn't--that was before I went to 4MB of RAM. *Microsoft Publisher*, the program I'm now using, is a fine compromise for my purposes. The missing features are ones that I wouldn't often think of using, such as font sizes divisible by 0.5 points instead of PM's 0.1 points--without laser printed output I definitely don't need that! MP has a bunch of features that can really help out novice DTPers, like *Page Wizards*, which take templates a step further. The Windows UAE (Unrecoverable Application Error: it means that a program Windows is running has gone amok somehow and Windows is stopping it before weird things begin to happen.) problems have apparently been mostly solved with version 3.1, which is about the only numerically underrated upgrade I've ever seen--Microsoft should have called it Windows 4.0. The only thing stopping them was that 3.1's look is not significantly different than 3.0s: the improvements are mostly in speed and advanced features.

I mostly agree with your opinions on

pull quotes. The manuals seem to be designed with the boring office newsletter in mind-maybe some of them need to be spruced up, but you rightly point out that Dipzines are read mostly cover to cover. I'd put pull quotes in press if the press was good enough-I don't get too much, and most of the good stuff can be pointed out in a funny headline.

I think I would be less offended, as a writer, with a "hatchet" editing job or a "redesigning", than I would with a brand new title on an article I wrote. Newspapers and magazines are playing so fast and loose with headlines and titles these days-alliterations and puns are raised to an unnaturally high pedestal-that I often refuse to read an article because of some assinine headline. Issac Asimov berated editors for this regularly, and the titles they chose were never as good as his own.

Eric's masters are scrap now-the program produces them. They did serve me very well in the interim.

Let me ask a specific question about the ransom note effect. Is it unreasonable to use two fonts for letter columns to distinguish between correspondants and my comments? Between my stuff and Fred Davis's and Eric Brosius's? Disregard the actual fonts I've chosen-I've got so many to choose from that I'll be experimenting with them for a while. The question is where do you draw the line?

There are a bunch of problems with the calculations whereby I figured that last issue should be around 250 dots per inch. The good news is that my printer is not 180x180 dpi, it is 180 vertical by 360 horizontal. The bad news is that the dots are not really that small and overlap one another a bit, especially horizontally. More bad news is, as you diagnosed that the final product is a third generation copy. Each master page on 8.5 by 14 is reduced, and the reduced versions are pasted together on an 8.5 by 11 sheet and copied, but as you suggested (in a paragraph I cut), the printer takes the two on ones and copies them to get a machine feedable sheet. Why they need one is beyond me--they make 50 copies of each sheet, so

presumably they can change them by hand every two minutes or so. I'll ask them to hold the line at second generation this time.

Brent McKee: The idea of some sort of a daily report put out during a tournament sounds like a good one. It might be a problem getting someone to do the job, but it is something that deserves consideration for a major tournament like DipCon or Origins.

BM: I really think that DipCon organizers should consider this. A workable plan might be to have a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday edition of the DipCon Daily, or whatever you want to call it, 4 digest pages (one sheet), with about half of this pre-typed (schedules of events, lists of organizers, maps of places around town to visit, tournament rules, DipCon Society meeting agendas and details, etc.) and have the results and anecdotes added later. All you'd need would be a 24-hour Kinko's nearby and a computer on site, and (the hardest part) somebody (or a group of somebodies, which would be easier) staying up late doing the typing. I would suggest that you get about 10 copies and post them on bulletin boards all around the place, and print up as many as you can sell to people as a small extra to the entry fee. There would probably be a market for them to be sent to interested people who couldn't attend, too. If this small plan worked it could be expanded for the next year, with ads from publishers, articles from people who couldn't make it, even ads from nearby restaurants--there's no limit to how far this could go. The technology is certainly available.

Brent McKee: In *Lopanto 4-Ever* Larry Peery has written about an International PBM Team Competition, which he is apparently trying to get off the ground. Apparently he has gotten someone to organize a Canadian team. As yet, however, I haven't seen or publicized anywhere in Canada. Do you know anything about it?

BM: Larry sent me the details, but as usual with Larry the details are too lengthy to publish. Larry's projected a start date of

June 1 with Spring 1901 orders due September 1, but I don't know who's organizing the Canadian team. Larry says Cal White is responsible, but I don't recall reading about it in **Northern Flame**. I'd say write Larry or Cal if you want in. I don't want to touch this one though, for fear of being recruited, a sure way to keep Canada out of any chance at first place...

Brent McKee: I am sure you are happy that the NHL strike was solved in time to save the playoffs, although you will probably be less happy if Vancouver goes out in the first round. Since their opponents look to be the Winnipeg Jets I don't think you have much to worry about. Actually I am still something of a Jets fan, which dates back to the days when my high school buddy Morris Lukowich played for them. I also have a special place in my heart for the San Jose Sharks, the Quebec Nordiques, and (in baseball) the Cleveland Indians. I guess I just like hopeless underdogs.

BM: Well, the Canucks dispatched of your "hopeless underdogs" by scores of 8-2, 8-3, and 5-0-after losing three of the first four games in the series. The Canucks have been so quickly transformed into a skill team that it is hard for the locals to appreciate the chances of a grinding team like the Jets against them, but the teams matched up well. The Jets defensive forwards matched up well against the Canucks forwards, and for four games the Canucks defense couldn't outscore the Jets rushers. The difference in the end was goaltending-I bet John Paddock wishes he'd started Bob Essensa once in the final three games now.

Bill James has an interesting view about baseball parity in his *Baseball Book 1992*. He thinks that competitive balance will decline in the 1990s, for the first time in baseball history. The reason, he says, is that some teams (hello, Cleveland) are losing the ability to pay the salaries. It'll be interesting to see if the next generation of hockey contracts has this effect-it took a decade and a half for these first hints of anti-parity to emerge in baseball.

Pete Gaughan: Boy, you really pick nits

in the baseball quiz! My answer to #6 was just fine as far as getting the call right-but I didn't follow the "show your work" rule, I guess. Okay, I'll try harder (or keep my answers shorter!).

BM: (grumbles as he looks up the evidence) But you didn't say anything about what to do with the batter, when that was one of the questions. I probably should have cleared up that question though, so you umps wouldn't have to do so much assuming.

David Hood: No surprise that the Thomas/Hill vote would have been party line in Canada. It's because you have a parliamentary system that focuses attention on the parties themselves. In the US, politicians run much more as independents, since the big Democrat and Republican organizations stand for nothing. The Democratic Party, in particular, is just an umbrella for a large number of insular groups who don't agree with each other much. The Southern Democrats have very little in common with the environmental folks, for example, and this is true between most of the other groups: Blacks, Hispanics, gays, zero-population people,

It's Your Call continued (previous question: page 29)

8. Bases are loaded with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning of a tie game. You're working a two-man crew so you are stationed behind the pitcher between first and second. Orville Swan hits a blue darter line drive, which hits you before you can get out of the way. It is uncertain whether the ball would have gone up the middle to score the winning run, or would have been a double-play ball. As it turns out, the ball ricochets into right field after hitting you. Is the ball still in play and does the Iowa Baseball Confederacy win this one, or is this a dead-ball play and will Swan have to hit again? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 38)

big-spenders, isolationists, consumer groups, etc. Big Labor is even worse in this respect-most Democrats in NC wouldn't give them the time of day. But of course, NC is an anti-union state anyway.

BM: Are there Democratic Isolationists? I thought they were all Republicans. I suspect that in a Thomas Hill type situation there would be what's called a "free vote," which is the government's way of saying "we really don't want this vote to look like a mindless rehash of the last election score, so let's make all MPs (Members of Parliament) theoretically free so that maybe 5% of them can vote against the obvious party line and thereby get a few sound bites on the evening news." In BC, the election of the socialist party has raised great concerns-the NDP's constitution says that the elected MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly--for some reason the provincial government is different) are only there to present the party's policies to the people, and the real steering is done by the Provincial Council. Who's on the Provincial (note the initials...) Council? Nobody will say.

I have to wonder whether American politicians are as financially answerable to their parties as Canadian ones are. Most MPs who vote against the party more than occasionally are severely censured and often left out to dry, funding-wise, in the next election. One of the attractions of the new Reform party is that they promise more free votes, but the down side is that they are nearly puritanical on who they will nominate-more free votes won't make any difference if they won't run any mavericks.

Rosie Roberts: Re Steve Hutton's letter: I have long had the impression that many modern Austrians are for more *nationalsozialistisch* than most modern Germans: the Germans are still extremely exercised by their past crimes-the Austrians don't seem to feel the need for any pangs of conscience. To do them justice at least they cannot be accused of Pan-Germanism; they seem to dislike *Piefkes* (Germans) just as

much as other foreigners.

The "new German states" are more troubled by right-wing extremism and racism than the "old German states": the former Communist government propagated the view that all former Nazis were in the West (so that only the West had any reason to pay reparations) and so had no need to encourage people to atone for their past. It is the young ones who are out of work (and in many cases so badly trained as to be virtually unemployable) who are kicking over these particular traces.

However, a couple of state elections in the "old German states" also give rise to concern: the Republican party (not to be confused with the GOP: the German Republican party is only a hair's breadth from being a neo-Nazi party) got about 10% of the vote from people whose purpose (revealed by opinion polls) was "to teach the other parties a lesson". The historians among you will know that this is exactly how Hitler's party first attained power.

BM: Am I too optimistic in believing that a neo-Nazi government would be harshly dealt with in today's world? I don't think there'd be a lot of hesitation in hitting on a modern day Hitler should one emerge, but I could be wrong.

Rosie Roberts: Your comments on my letter on page 33: Are you accusing me of slamming you or was that Phil Reynolds? I wasn't attempting to criticize you at all-of course you are free to publish what you want. It needn't surprise anybody that I don't find the baseball interesting-in fact I skip it, I haven't even enough understanding of the game to read any of it. (I have played rounded, which is the superficially similar game baseball is supposed to be derived from, but even so I can't see much similarity apart from the shape of the bat and the shape of the pitch.) There is plenty of interesting stuff in an XL evenb if I have to skip a few pages.

A historical question: why don't Canadians play cricket?

BM: The big four North American sports

(baseball, football, basketball, and hockey) are awful hard to crack--even soccer hasn't been able to make a dent in Canada. Cricket is a real long shot, although like most sports it is played, but not covered much by the media. I've never quite understood cricket myself--the highlights are interesting to watch, but there is a lot of detail and strategy that just eludes me. For example, what's an "over", and why is it divided into decimal portions?

My slam of Phil's "review" was poorly written to make it look like a slam on you. Sorry--I should have been clearer.

I guess this leads into some **Zine Register** talk.

Garret Schenck: Re: novice purchasers of **ZR**. Gee, Bruce, you might have written me and asked me how many of my copies have gone to novices! But instead you decided to SLAM me on this question of novice purchases. Heh! Actually, I think your number is a little on the low side. I sent out about 50 trades last November, and about 25 issues for pay (almost by definition these were going to established players or publishers who were buying the thing). Since then I've sent out maybe 50 more copies, and I'd say 30 or so were to bona fide novices or relative newcomers. So my guess is that roughly 20% of **ZRs** sent out have gone to "novices." That's still a pretty small amount and I would like to find a way to get more **ZRs** into the hands of more novices. One way **ZR** did get out to novices was by having established hobbyists sending me the \$2.50 and saying, send a copy of **ZR** to this guy, followed by an address. I think that's a great idea and it could be expanded.

BM: If you thought I was slamming you on the question of novice purchases, I'd like to know where you got that idea. I will say again--in the game openings blurb in **ZR#19** I was not looking for novices, was definitely not trying to deceive novices, and in fact the paragraph did not even mention the goddam word! Why is this even important? Gamestarts are made up of people who want to play a game.

Whether they are novices or not is unimportant.

Garret Schenck: Actually I wouldn't mind if people paid others to write zine reviews for **ZR**. Although I've already received quite a lot of stuff so far (though, um, nothing from you, either about your zine or others zines!) I believe the more the better and if someone wants to bribe someone else to add to the amount of reading matter in **ZR**, I surely won't stand in the way.

BM: I'll wait to see what #20 reads like before I decide whether to start writing reviews. When you make someone look as bad as you made me look you shouldn't expect them to help you do it again. I fail to see how you can say that "**ZR#20** will likely be a little smaller" and then go out asking for even more reviews. Smaller type?

Garret Schenck: You are blowing my point about your pushing your game openings all out of proportion. Reread what I said--I thought it was "ironic" that you were pushing games when what **XL** is known for is your excellent reading matter.

BM: Which implies pretty strongly that I should just quit running games and just write. I consider that a dead end, one which I saw coming long ago. If the games here die out, I will quickly lose interest in the rest. So I am acknowledging that I haven't done real well keeping the games going, and I'm trying to improve. I'm tired of fighting this out. I'm tired of typing up this letter, which goes on and on for several more paragraphs about how hopelessly slow my games are and how I am pissed at the messenger and how "average is 6-7 per year" is "crock" (42 issues in 7 years, Garret. I ain't proud of that but I ain't lyin' either). I went overboard two issues ago. I'm sorry for the inaccurate statements I made, but I stand by my opinion that a **Zine Register** of mostly negative zine reviews is not a good thing. If **ZR#20** is, as you promise, toned down, I'll happily trumpet the fact and might even write a review or two. If not, my blurb will just say something to the tune of "Some

like XL. Some don't. You won't know how you feel until you see a copy. Samples are free: ignore the reviews which follow."

Garret Schenck: The information about "the folks that sent the photocopies of negative ZR reviews" was of course quite interesting-this is the first I've heard of it! Gee, I wonder why I haven't heard about this before? I can only guess as to the identity of the "perpetrators," but as they say, you get three guesses and the first two don't count! Oh well, I'll live in spite of their best efforts to deep-six me. Too bad for them that they misjudged you and sent the crap to you-now you had to go and blow their cover! Instead of slinking around in the shadows, throwing mud when and where they can, they stand exposed like the rats they are, their beady little eyes blinking in astonishment as the rest of us recoil in shock! horror! from the blackness that lies in the depths of their souls. Or something like that. What was the point of their packet, by the way? To provide you with ammunition for a "Garret must go" campaign? Or to embolden you to "fight back" against the "Garret Schenck Politically Correct Zine Register." I'd be interested (of course!) in finding out about this whole matter.

BM: Yawn. I was silly to not reveal the name of the person who sent me about a half-dozen negative ZR reviews, and I've corrected that error this issue: it was Doug Kent, whom, I suspect, correctly deduced the fact that I don't get a lot of zines and thought I wouldn't mind knowing that there were others who agreed with me. If you are going to respond to the concerns of the critics you'll be deserving of praise, Garret, but you have to admit that there was a pretty sharp turn in the ZR style when you took over from Tom Nash. Surely you didn't expect everyone to hang onto their hats when you turned the wheel.

Brent McKee: I don't want to have anything to do with a "Get Garret Movement," especially if it endangers a ser-

vice like the **Zine Register**. Having seen #18, I would have to say that Garret did a pretty good job for the most part, given the material he had to work with. Where I do disagree with him rather strenuously is his feeling that the most important aspects of running a zine is fast turn around, maps and good adjudications, mostly in that order. I do hope he will clearly state his prejudices in this area in the future. On the other hand, if you want to see other points of view that Garret's, Phil's, or to a lesser extent mine, you have to send in reviews. As publishers, amateur and professional, the world over will tell you, you can't print what you haven't got.

BM: I'm just campaigning for decency here-I don't think it helps a zine to say "some people like this one but frankly it makes me yawn." or "you'd be nuts to play here." We publishers are all doing this voluntarily, some of us are better than others, but it is incredibly discouraging to read comments like that in a large circulation publication. If the expanded staff of reviewers keep away from that sort of shit, fine, but if they by and large adopt Garret's lead, it's going to make publishing considerably less fun, zines will slow down or disappear, and people who might have tried publishing might be afraid to make the jump.

The "Get Garret" movement, if there is or ever was one, should be ignored, of course-the ZR is in good hands in terms of looking good and coming out on time, something that we haven't been able to say confidently for a while.

Something now that didn't really fit anywhere else.

Charles Arsenault: Everything is fine here in Montréal.

One year has passed already since I've come back from Europe and I don't regret my move. I miss some of my friends, the countries and of course the good wines and cheeses, but I'm glad to be back, to be closer to my family. Here, we are preparing ourselves for the 300th anniversary of Montréal. Are you coming

this summer? If you do, it would be a good opportunity to meet. There will be a lot of festivities during all summer in and around Montréal. It will be fun. Some of my friends from France are coming here in July for vacation. There will be plenty of action.

BM: Nancy is pretty sure to be going to Montreal this summer, but I don't think we have enough money for me to go as well. I think I'm unique in that I've spent a little time in all three of Canada's largest cities, and (here's the unique part) I love each one. Montreal to an Anglo seems to present a disorienting wall of French, but it's beauty and energy quickly puts to rest any nagging fears. Many Canadians view Toronto with derision, but I like it—it's a kinder, gentler Big Apple that makes you think that megacities can work if they're well run. And Vancouver, surrounded by mountains and ocean and fertile riverbed land and the American border, with its mild temperatures and picturesque setting and West Coast wackiness, is a fine place to call home. I don't think it'll happen, but I'll give you lots of notice if money appears out of thin air enabling me to buy a plane ticket!

ROM

I didn't think there'd be a lot of responses in in time for this issue, but I was wrong. There weren't

a lot, but there were certainly enough to print. Let that be a lesson to those of you who figured (with justification given my recent schedule) that you had a couple of months to get a response in.

1. (Answer as many as you feel qualified to.) What did you think of the movie JFK? What is your gut feeling as to the truth in Kennedy's assassination? Do you think Kennedy would (assuming he was not killed and served two terms) have been a better president than any following? What events would have been different? Can you help me out with any of the questions on [last issue's Top Ten list] cover?

Brent McKee: I haven't seen JFK and

probably won't until it comes to the video store or to TV, so I can't tell you much of anything about the film except, from your top ten, 9) yes [everyone did wear those geeky glasses in the 60s], 1) [why did the audience applaud when it ended when I went?] probably because they are of the post-Vietnam generation which thinks Kennedy was perfect and that Johnson was close to the anti-Christ. From the reviews I have seen I would have to say that it is a brilliant film, but lousy history. As to my feeling about the truth, I don't think that Oswald was the only assassin simply because of the "magic bullet." As Scotty says in Star Trek, "you canna change the laws of physics," but for the magic bullet to do what it did, you would have to. The majority of the feeling that there was a conspiracy comes from the amazing way that the "investigation" was handled. For example: look at the way in which the federal authorities broke Texas iae to take the President's body to Washington without an autopsy having been done and then having the autopsy done in Washington by a pair of doctors who were not qualified to do it.

As to predicting the future if Kennedy had not been shot, that is nearly impossible. Take a look at a book called The Proteus Experiment about the impact of changing one or two events in history. It's like dropping a pebble into a pond. The effects just keep spreading out further and further. If Kennedy wasn't shot he probably would have dumped Johnson from the ticket in 1964, maybe in favour of John Glenn. He may or may not have pulled the troops out of Vietnam following the election. Without the war, Glenn would probably have been nominated in 1968 and Nixon might not have run. If that had been the case there probably would not have been a Watergate, Jerry Ford would have remained little more than a powerful congressman, Jimmy Carter wouldn't be able to run against the "Washington insiders," Reagan would have remained a marginal figure in the Republican party, and George Bush would have stayed in

private business. I would suggest that it is impossible to know how Kennedy would compare with the men who would follow him because we don't know who would have followed him. (How's that for weaseling out of a question?)

Pete Gaughan: I haven't seen JFK and don't plan to. I agree with your analysis of the whole conspiracy fuss (your paragraph "Certainly there is a lot of evidence [we should be looking at again]").

Andrew York: Never saw the movie, so I'm not qualified to speak on it. Ditto regarding the assassination. I've not read too much about the actual assassination and I'm too young to remember much about it. I don't believe Kennedy would have been that much better than the people who followed him. From what I've read about his term of office, most of the 'legend' is seen through a perspective distorted by the feelings generated by his assassination. Overall, he was an average president; who, in today's atmosphere of investigative reporting, would have scandal after scandal.

Rosie Roberts: Re JFK: I haven't seen the film, nor am I likely to, but there was a fascinating article in the *Times* a few weeks ago which described a totally plausible theory which never seems to have reached the public consciousness (I meant to keep the article, but I can't find it; it must have ended up under a guineapig cage as usual). JFK was not shot by Oswald or any of the other supposed gunmen, and the only conspiracy was the conspiracy of silence that came after the event. The scenario goes like this: Oswald fired at JFK, but missed, whereupon all the bodyguards in the following (open) car jumped to their feet and started waving their pistols around. There were certainly further shots fired; some of them certainly by one or more of these bodyguards. If you consider that they were standing up in a moving car whose driver was knocked all of a heap, what could be more likely that one of them fired a shot that went wild. Unlike Oswald's shot, a shot from the fol-

lowing car would come from the right direction, and the bodyguards were carrying the kind of heavy-duty guns that would do the kind of damage that the fatal shot did, damage which Oswald's light-weight weapon could not have inflicted. The perpetrator might not even have realized what he had done until much later, by which time nobody would have been interested in changing the official stance. I don't know if the article was written to coincide with the publication of a book-it's conceivable. It did actually name the man they thought most likely to be responsible (nor surprisingly, he refused to comment); I am most annoyed that I can't find it!

Chris Carrier: Oliver Stone's pathetic anti-Americanism shows again. The idea that the CIA did it, which Stone portrays, is rather farfetched in light of the fact that the alleged 'conspiracy' involves several dozen people, none of whom have managed to come clear in 29 years-compare that to other scandals and non-scandals such as Watergate (a real scandal) and Iran-Contra (a non-scandal). As for President Kennedy himself, had he lived, I think he would have won the 1964 election and then had his presidency destroyed by Vietnam, as Johnson did. As to your ques-

It's Your Call continued (previous question: page 33)

9. Red Wilson is catching when the runner on first base breaks for second. Wilson goes into his throwing motion, but hits your mask as you're leaning in to get a close look at the pitch. Wilson's throw sails into center field and the runner goes on to third. Is this a throwing error on Wilson and are you in play, or should this be a dead ball when he was interfered with by you? What if Wilson had still thrown out the runner despite being interfered with by the umpire? It's your call.

(Next question is on page 38)

tions, 5-"Colonel X" is not a real person, but a composite of three people Garrison talked with in DC. 7-Material filmed in black & white-you answered your own question. [I said that it was done that way to make it look real amid the B&W TV clips they used.]

BM: What was Iran-Contra then, if not a scandal? The scenario suggested by Rosie's *Times* article still assumes the unlikely, that a number of people would have to remain silent for a long time for anything (other than Oswald alone) to be the truth. I don't like the "magic bullet theory" or the "nobody could reload that fast" argument, but they go only as far as making the Oswald alone theory *improbable*, not impossible. As to what would Kennedy have done, it's incredibly hard to speculate. There are many things that might easily have brought him down-pushing too hard on civil rights, playing too rough in Cold War intrigue, even a major sex scandal is obviously not out of the question. Vietnam is a hard one to call, but we must admit that anything he did was going to cause trouble somewhere. I like to think that he would have done spectacularly well, but we are affected by his assassination in favour of thinking him a superman. All we can really say is it would have been different and interesting.

There was an interesting passage in James Gleick's Chaos: Making a New Science that dealt with the flow of time and the effects of changing history. The way science fiction writers usually think of time is as a uniformly flowing river: put a blob of coloured paint in and it will flow with the current and disperse to form a certain pattern. But experimenters have found chaos theory to be at work here, because if you put the blob in one inch to the left you will get a different **but remarkably similar** pattern. This has given way to a new theory that competes with Brent's "pebble in a pond" theory: the short term effects may be different but the system will stabilize in the long term. How long would depend, I guess, on the change, so this particular argument could go on forever without a solution.

I didn't think the movie, minus all demerit points for the oddball history revision by Stone, was all that great. The music was trivial (first time a John Williams score hasn't wowed me), the splicing of all sorts of old footage was interesting but not any great feat with today's technology. What was significant was that a historical event was adapted into a movie that became popular-I wouldn't mind seeing more movies that twist history (although not quite as much as Stone did) a little bit and make a story out of it. Amadeus comes to mind.

If I can assume that Chris saw the movie (he's the only one who didn't deny seeing it), I wonder how many people actually saw it. Few people I know went out to see it. It certainly did get talked about.

2. Now that the Cold War is over and the U.S.A. has won (I know this because George Bush said so...), which countries are most likely to be responsible for starting a new one over the next ten years? Give me a top ten list with short reasons for each one.

Brent McKee: Define "Cold War." If you mean a conflict of ideologies, there is already a cold war between the U.S. and Cuba (1) and between the U.S. and Libya (2), and the potential exists for one with China (3). If you want to extend the definition to a purely economic rivalry, then I think that we are seeing a cold war between the U.S. and Japan (4). Certainly the Japanese have long worried about the Americans. Europe (5) also presents the potential for conflict. Actually, any of the industrial countries, including Canada, that are in competition with American industry for the U.S. market has the possibility of being drawn into a cold war with the U.S.

Garret Schenck: The U.S. is of course the country most likely to start a war-it remains the strongest military power and with the elections coming up in November, a good swift war could provide Bush with all the surprise he needs to clinch a squeaker (though barring some horrid scandal-always a possibility, he's a Re-

publican, after all-he's got it by ten points is my bet).

BM: I must be getting better at writing these questions when I get unexpected answers like these. On reflection, however, there is a reasonable argument for the U.S. as most likely to start a war or a cold war or an economic war. Here in Canada we've seen a few amazing election year decisions come out of the U.S. free trade commissars, and even free trade supporters like myself are wondering if the benefits are worth putting up with the crap we have to go through to get these American decisions overturned. From this countries point of view, it will be interesting to see if we can get a significant issue out of this in the campaign.

Andrew York: A new Cold War: I think not. We'll have regional brushfires, but no world-wide military build up akin to the Cold War. The next major conflict will be for economic control and influence.

Chris Carrler: top ten:

1) JAPAN-Economic, but not military "cold" war.

2) CHINA-Now that the USSR is finito there really is no reason for this alliance to exist, and a falling out over human rights issues is quite possible if we had a globalist for President. (The phrase "death of communism" is terribly Eurocentric-while Communism in Europe is indeed deader than an aborted kid, and good riddance, the percentage of the world's population living under it during the period 1980-92 only fell from 33% to 25%.)

3) IRAQ-Our failure to get Saddam now means we might have to go back in there in a few years, hopefully BEFORE he gets the bomb.

4) SAUDI ARABIA-The present monarchy is pro-U.S., but it is hanging by a thread-the average Saudi is madder than hell about what they see as tolerance of Western ways by the monarchy, which will likely be thrown over in an Iran-style revolution-with the added caveat that the U.S. is much more dependant on Saudi oil than we ever were

on Iranian.

David Hood: New troublemakers:

1) IRAN-These guys are no better than they were in 1979. I expect big fundamentalism troubles in the new Independent Soviet states as a result.

2) SERBIA-wars of conquest in the Balkans will continue as always. No one is completely without fault.

3) CHINA-Evil, evil government with no signs of a Soviet-style breakup. They will be supplying most of the 90's bad guys (Libya, Iran, etc.) with arms.

4) IRAQ-Hussein will continue his repressions, though will not actually invade anyone anytime soon.

5) BURMA-Not an international threat, but bloody evil.

6) SOME SOVIET STATES-too early to tell which will be bad guys on the international scene: likely Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine.

7) INDIA-These folks are going to decide, someday, that they could be a true Superpower if they jettisoned Socialism. Until then, potential trouble for Russia, China, world peace.

8) SOUTH AFRICA-potential for serious Commie/Socialist crap if the wrong people took over. I'm fairly optimistic about this one, though.

9) ISRAEL-How can settlements in the West Bank lead to peace in the long term? Can't.

10) LIBYA-Bad guys, but too wimpy to be serious threat.

BM: Most of the guys at work tell me that the recent election of Rafsanjani and his moderates in Iran is good news that may tip the balance of power in that country, but even they agree that that is very optimistic. The breakup of the Soviet Union will harden China's resolve not to abandon Communism, as will their huge population: I don't think any capitalist system could keep control of the population the way the communists have. Not that this is admirable, but it is a potential for huge unrest if the communists are ever brought down. The overall picture is that there is potential for trouble nearly everywhere, regardless of political systems, as opposed

to the Capitalist vs. Communist stance of the Cold War.

3. Do you think my theory about home-field advantage magnified by taking the home side's version of the DH rule in World Series play holds water?

Brent McKee: You are correct in saying that eight of the last nine series were won by the team with the home field advantage, but surely if home field advantage were a major factor, you would expect to see home teams winning more games than away teams. In fact, home teams have won 30 games while away teams have won 21 games. However, of those 30 wins, 14 were in series involving the Minnesota Twins, in which the National League teams won at home, but where Minnesota had home field advantage. The nature of the Metrodome means that the home team has an advantage that has nothing to do with the DH rule. The Twins are an inferior team when playing outside of their home park. A look at the 1987 season supports this; Minnesota was 56-25 at home, 29-52 away. If we delete the series in which Minnesota participated, 14 games were won by home teams while 21 were won by away teams.

BM: You mean 16 and 21 in the last sentence, not 14 and 21. What has happened in the last six years that makes the Twins unbeatable at home and dismal on the road? Bill James calculates the Twins HFA as third highest in the majors over the last six years, but in 1986 the Twins HFA over the period 76-85 was only slightly above average. You can't tell me it's the fans—they're in every park except Montreal, I think. It isn't even the Metrodome: there was no great HFA until the late 80s. What is it?

Pete Gaughan: I omitted a phrase which changed the meaning of my paragraph on HFA. I was not (and am not) convinced there's a huge advantage in the DH rule at home. As I said a little later in that letter, I do acknowledge a big HFA, but I attribute it to other causes. And now the Elias Baseball Analyst has supplied a possible cause,

though I still think stadium effects (fans at the Metrodome, weather in Texas and at Candlestick) are key

(Stats drawn from the Twins essay in the 1992 Analyst.) From 1903 to 1968, World Series games were won by the home team 51.4% of the time. Games, not series, and actually that includes a few one-game playoffs. Since 1969, the home team has won 58.6% of all post-season games! This home advantage is much smaller in regular-season play (54.4% before divisional play, 54.0% since), and much bigger if we just consider World Series games since 1969: 63.3%!!

What we have, then, is a HFA which is fairly consistent in regular season. It used to recede a little in the postseason, but once we got divisions it actually grew larger than the regular-season HFA. And it grows even more when we move from the playoffs to the World Series. And then the DH rule enters: since the "house rules" on the DH were set up in 1986 (not 1983), home teams have won 70.6% of series games.

Domes do not explain this—Seattle and Toronto are below average while Minnesota and Houston lead their leagues in HFA since 1982. And the Twins alone do not account for enough of the difference in post-season. Elias offers this:

Throughout this century, the home-field advantage in a particular game is related to how closely the teams are matched. ... Postseason games presumably involve teams that, on the whole, are more evenly matched than a cross section of regular season games would be.

... And since the gap between the best teams and the rest of the pack is narrower now than at any time in baseball history, the advantage should even have peaked in recent years.

In between there they provide the numbers on HFA for teams separated by 0-5, 5-10, 10-15, and more than 15 games in the standings. (And the evi-

dence for increasing parity in baseball is all over-the reason we haven't had a 400 hitter in 50 years is pitchers and hitters are closer than ever in talent.) Even parity doesn't explain all the HFA gain-but I suspect when combined with stadium changes, and the extra level of 'weeding out' provided by the league playoffs, the DH is left with very little influence.

(I want to point out-I had already made all these calculations for the 1980s when the Elias book came out and saved me going back through my Baseball Encyclopedia! More than you ever wanted to know, right? But this is why I buy the Analyst every year. Stuff on effectiveness of pinch hitting, ground-ball vs. fly ball pitchers, stadium impacts...) The 2-3-2 Series structure was a minor blip, statistically insignificant according to my meager understanding of such things but not discussed in Elias.

BM: The Elias stuff sounds like interesting reading, and I'll have to check it out. I think we agree that the DH "houserules" have some effect, we just disagree on how much. I guess the most obvious conclusion is that there isn't yet enough evidence in yet, telling as that limited evidence may seem. If the Elias finding is that HFA is related to how closely the teams are matched, that seems logical to me. Something has to happen to make one team better than another. If talent is equal, the constant of HFA (whatever that is) will become far more significant. My argument is that after playing 170 games without a DH rule, a manager is not going to know all the minor details of DH strategy (and vice versa for the other manager), and the HFA constant is increased, which gets us a homer series like last year. Be that as it may, the Twins faced incredible pressure in the first two games not to lose the vital HFA and again in the last two to come from 3-2 down to win. We shouldn't take anything away from them. (How about a points system? 2 for a home win, 3 for an away win, play 2-2-1-1-1-1-1... until one team has nine points. Nahhh...)

4. Prediction time: which country will take the most Olympic medals this summer in Barcelona? Will there be any trouble from terrorists or boycotts?

Andrew York: I have no idea about the medals; however, terrorist problems are quite likely with the continued pressure on Iraq and the recent diplomatic battles with Libya. Also, the increase in regional conflicts all over the globe brings with it the potential for added tensions.

Chris Carrier: Who will win the medal count? Germany. Why? The standings of the major countries over the last 25 years or so have been fairly steady, unless there was a boycott, but 1992 offers a shakeup due to political reasons. East and West Germany together won more medals than any other country singly; therefore, they will be first. The USSR-now CIS-which won last several Games excluding 1984, is still fielding a "Unified" team, so they will be second. The USA will be third. However, in 1996, we will be second because each Commonwealth republic will be fielding its own team.

Brent McKee: No terrorists, no boycotts (well maybe Libya). Winners: USA with China and Germany battling for second. Unified Team will be strong but there are one or two sports where the withdrawal of the Baltics will hurt their chances, especially Basketball. Look for South Africa to put in a strong showing in Boxing. Between 1932 and 1960 their Boxers won more than half of the medals they won. Even under apartheid, South Africa was strong in all weight classes.

Pete Gaughan: The Germans will so dominate the Barcelona Olympics that there will be calls of "Break 'em up!"

BM: I suspect the athletes from former Communist countries (including East Germany) will be either very good or very bad, as a result of the reduced funding since the fall. This may be enough to put the U.S. over the top, but China seems to me to be the favorite. Let's hope there's no trouble.

5. Do native people have a valid com-

plaint about the Tomahawk chop?
About Indian names of sports teams?
Where do you draw the line?

Garret Schenck: Yes, on both counts. Note that we did away with that famous baseball team, the "Mississippi Pickaninnies," back toward the end of Reconstruction, so let's move into the 21st Century already. What do you mean by "draw the line"? Is this like George Bush drawing a line in the sand? I presume from your use of this curious phrase that you believe we can generalize from this issue of sports teams named after names given to Native Americans by white people (i.e. "Redskins"-it does have a certain cachet, doesn't it) to some larger issue, but I'm not sure where you feel it could be generalized to. I guess my "general" take on things is this: if people find things offensive, don't do them. If a "people" find something that a larger, more powerful people majority "people" do, offensive, then by god that larger group shouldn't do those things! "Drawing the line" is something that "we" do against "them." I don't see it that way. We are in this together. All people can contribute to our living together, in harmony with each other, and with our world. Even those on the "margins" of society deserve to have their concerns and needs met. How would you like to be a small, weak, relatively powerless bunch of white people in a larger society of native people, and everyday have to listen on the sports channel to how the "Honkeys" or the "Palefaces" did? Think about it. It's a small thing. It's a civilized thing. It's a thing we do for ourselves, for we are all from the same womb of Mother Earth.

BM: By drawing the line, I just meant "what is acceptable and what isn't?" Isn't that what the phrase means, or is anything George Bush may have said tainted and thus off limits to users of the language?

Andrew York: No, I don't. Nor do I feel having the Detroit baseball team named after Tigers is going to demean the animal; or having Pittsburgh's baseball team called the Pirates glorifies them.

At the rate the U.S. is going, trying to legislate absolute equality for all (when life is blatantly unfair); while, filing lawsuits for every real or imagined inequality (whether any damages were caused) is going to be the ruin of us.

Chris Carrier: The "tomahawk chop" was something to complain about (shows native people as vicious) but I don't see anything wrong with "Indian names." In fact it is sort of a compliment-you wouldn't name a sports team the Wimps or the Cowards, after all.

Pete Gaughan: As an Irish person, I take Indian objections with a grain of salt...if we can have Celtics and Fighting Irish and enjoy it, why can't they take pride in Braves and Chiefs? I understand that they were more oppressed than we were, but there is nothing inherent in the current Indian names that's insulting.

Brent McKee: I tend not to be politically correct on this one. I do draw the line at the Redskins, although their name

It's Your Call continued (previous question: page 38)

10. Gonzalo Marquez takes off running from first base when Coca Gutierrez hits a screaming one-hopper right at the first baseman. Marquez assumes the first baseman will tag first base and then try to complete the double play at second base on him. Marquez decides to foil the plan by faking to go to second base and then retreating to first base. Marquez outsmarts himself, however, as the first baseman's first play is to force him at second base. As the shortstop takes the throw he steps on second for the force and then throws to first to complete the double play. But the clueless Marquez is sliding back into first base, and gets hit with the ball in the back, allowing Gutierrez to beat the throw. Who's out and who's on? It's your call.

(Deadline: June 19.)

comes from the Boston meat packing plant that owned the team when it was started. I don't think the complaint is that valid. No sports team is going to take the name of a group it doesn't admire or think represents good qualities. Practically any name can be interpreted as being insulting if a group is determined to find it so. Try these names: Fighting Irish, Padres, Yankees, Reds, even Canucks. Finally two true stories. The United States Navy names attack subs after cities. One of them was supposed to be the Corpus Christi after a city in Texas. They were forced to change the name to City of Corpus Christi. The American council of Catholic Bishops felt that it was inappropriate to name a warship after Jesus (in Latin, Corpus Christi means "Body of Christ"). Second story: The women's teams at the University of Saskatchewan used to be called the Huskiettes until campus feminists said that was demeaning to women. The name was changed to Women Huskies, that apparently being preferable to the correct name for canine females.

BM: The tomahawk chop can't be eliminated, but it probably should be discouraged. TV cameras should not highlight it, MLB shouldn't sell plastic tomahawks or other chop paraphernalia, the ballpark announcers and scoreboards shouldn't encourage it, and (most importantly) the various Indian groups should quit making such a big deal. If the protesters and the team and league officials will work to-

gether, the chop will die out in a few years. (Personally, I'd ask for my money back if I went to a game and was anywhere near some lunatic with a huge plastic tomahawk.) But if the protesters want to go for the home run and also get the team's name changed, the chop will live forever, or at least as long as the wave. The protesters should chill out and take what they can get. On the names, I agree with Pcte- If the protesters take it as insulting, that's their problem: it isn't.

I suspect that the next generation of team names might be affected by this controversy, so we won't have any new teams with politically incorrect names. (I wonder if the police force in South Florida is pissed about the Miami Heat...) Protesters should confine their protests to new teams to ensure that this remains the case, and lay off the teams with long traditions.

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT TIME:

1. What will be the major issue that decides the upcoming U.S. presidential election? What will be the issue that should have been important but wasn't? Assuming the candidates will be Bush and Clinton, and that Perot will get on the ballot everywhere, what will the outcome be?
2. Which side do you support in the Zine Register vs PDORA feud?
3. Which side did you support in the NHL strike? (While we're on this topic, let me ask a related question to those of you who watch the NHL playoffs on CBC. Is Don Cherry overexposed?)

Deadlines on page two.



The map at left is an experiment: I expect to get a slam from Garret on the game reports with the term "ransom note" in it. To those of you who haven't yet been educated, this means "too many fonts." I agree, and to avoid this in future I'm trying to see how small I can safely make the maps. The ones with the game reports are 90% of full size, the one at left is half that. Many of you will recognize the improvements as vector-graphics based; if the maps come out as good as they look on the first copy I'll write an article about them for next issue. Gotta run... McB.