

Constitutional Diplomacy: a 2-way win?

EXCELSIOR 45

A True C.D.O. Zine: *C*orrespondance, *D*iplomacy, and *O*pinions

FAURE ended in a Rule-book victory for Pierre Touchette, whose Austria ended with nineteen centres after 1913. The final moves, map, and stats start on page 19.

September 1992

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Two seasons have passed in GREGORY since XL last appeared; both are on pages 22-23. The next regular game will start soon, with 6 signed up at this point—going, going, ...

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Last time in this space I presented a top ten list where I could only think of five items. Rosie Roberts thought of five more for me. I thought I'd print them here and let you decide whose were best...

Some More Possible Quotes From Ads For The Postal Diplomacy Hobby, If Tailored For Specific Large Circulation Publications by Rosie Roberts

SOCIOLOGY TODAY: "Use your professional skills to deflate violent confrontations and arrive at that highly-prized 7-way draw."

GEO MAGAZINE: "A grand way of visiting parts of Europe you never knew existed. Team up with a complete stranger to bring the world to your neighbour's doorstep."

HOUSE AND GARDEN: "An attractive centre-piece for your dining table. Needs dusting only once a week (and it doesn't matter where you put the pieces back)."

THE CAMPER: "A good game for a rained-out weekend in a tent, and the board resting on the box makes a good makeshift tent for muddy ground."

NATIONAL ENQUIRER: "Don't the the thuth cramp your style: Diplomacy is just the English word for slander, manipulation, and downright lies."

Directory

EXCELSIOR #45, by Bruce McIntyre, with a heaven of a lot of support from Nancy Hurrell, now on a deserved Montreal holiday. Continued thanks to subzinzists Fred Davis and Eric Brosius, Hafez Hamidi for laser printer generosity, Bob Kwong at Budget Printing for the usual excellent copying job, and *Microsoft Publisher* 1.0. Laser printed September 5, 1992; copied soon after. Again later than I'd hoped, but despite the size, getting easier all the time to put out.

Page	Contents
1	Rosie Roberts saved me by thinking up five more items for the half-a-top-ten-list I presented last issue. (Anyone else with a good idea for one, send it along; I'm going nuts trying to think of them. I'd prefer it to be related to the hobby, but you can stretch the connection as much as you want.)
2	Directory (what's in this issue) and Housekeeping (what games are going to be in future issues).
3-18,23	DipGab. A massive file that never ends, which includes a short hobby editorial, some thoughts on the Clinton Convention, four short computer notes, a review of a local <i>Spyro Gyra</i> concert, a long piece on the Canadian Constitutional deal as it had unfolded up to early August, some typically caustic thoughts on the Olympics, two new card games you might try, a recap of the new Canadian protest subject, some self-flagellation on a Bridge hand I screwed up recently, and updates on the Constitutional negotiations written after Quebec was lured back to the table.
9-10	Canadian Content. Running below the Constitutional discussion, some humour for when you get bored—Leacock's "Aristocratic Education."
19-22	The games section. On page 19 and continuing on page 22 is the final season of FAURE, followed by endgame stats. (Statements next time.) On pages 20-21 are the two GREGORY reports that have been sent out since last issue.
23-25	An article I wrote weeks ago on the new maps (thinking this would be a small issue and I'd need the material...).
26-29	Baseball questions answered, ending the contest. (Pipe down with the cheers, you baseball haters...)
30-43	Most of the Post. Contributing this time: Andy York, Rosie Roberts, Robert Lesco, Mark Lew, Brent McKee, Fred Davis, Chris Carrier, Eric Brosius, David Hood, Pete Gaughan, Brendan Whyte, and Bob Acheson. The ROM section begins on page 39.
43-44	Poll Talk #12, by Eric Brosius. Also on the back page are the final baseball question standings and some hints as to what the puzzling phrases and names at the tops of the pages are.

This issue costs \$1.54 to Canadians, \$1.55 (U.S.) to Americans, and \$1.00 US overseas. NEXT TIME: lots of possibilities: software reviews, fractal shows, the referendum will elicit commentary, early hockey pool returns—didn't mention that, did I? Check your addenda sheet..

Deadline for next issue is August 7.

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, or you can simply have this taken from your existing subscription account until the game is over. The first NMR is forgiven, but it'll cost you another deposit to get back into the game if you NMR twice in a game.

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, Brad Wilson—still need three.

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 megaron of XL house rules if anyone wants 'em. Signed up: Randy Davis, Gerry Paulson, Andrew York, Bob Acheson, Simon Matthews, Gordon Argyle—one more needed. Two potential subbers have expressed interest but I haven't heard more...

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. Six more needed.

Standby list: B. Acheson, G. Argyle, C. Arsenault, M. Barno, R. Davis, C. Gautron, B. McKee, G. Paulson, P. Touchette, C. White, G. Wilson, and A. York. Stand-bys who get into a game do not pay for XL until their part in the game is over. I plan to apply for an orphan game here; please let me know if you'd be available as a potential replacement player.

DipGab

I should have been more excited about the Runestone Poll these past weeks, but I guess reaching the 60th percentile in a rather bad year for XL (5 issues since last Runestone Poll deadline) is quite good. It seems obvious that if I want XL to crack the top ten again I have to do just exactly what I'm doing, but more often, and without delays. I don't have any idea how badly I did in the GM Poll, or even if I made the main list, but if I'm in the bottom five as usual, this won't be a big surprise. I could complain about how the "bad GM" tag is nearly impossible to shake in the Poll, but I haven't really done a hell of a lot to shake it. I guess recent tirades have made it more clear to those not playing here that the game flyers come out more regularly than the zine does, even if held over seasons and a few lengthy delays years ago make the critics skeptical. Which leads me to the point of this small bit.

If the element of TurboPhreakism that offends you the most is the criticism of GMs, there is a simple way to combat this, and that is to encourage *players* to complain when they feel something could be done better. Example: Garret Schenck writes that XL games are slow, you'd be nuts to play here, etc. So too, did Ken Hill and Tom Nash, using kinder words, when they were running ZR, but those guys didn't seem to relish the job of calculating turnaround times and average total gamefees (total gamefee is a new fangled DipStat featured in ZR#20: it's the total amount you may expect to pay for an average length game, including subscription costs and gamefees, but not postage, stationery, phone bills or NMR penalties) as much as Garret seems to. My point is that this sort of stuff should be in the ZR, but the ZR job should *not* include finding out who's running games poorly. There ought to be a hobby officer that receives complaints about games and investigates without confrontation. And, once this hobby office is up and running, GMs should encourage their players to complain to this office if they have a problem with a game. In duplicate bridge we have a person called a Recorder, who takes complaints about anything that might be uncomfortable to make a scene about at the time. For example, suppose Mr. A notices that Mr. B, while defending, always plays the last card in a suit with his left hand, giving information to his partner through an illegal agreement. Instead of simply confronting him at the table, which is going to create a disruptive scene that will probably degenerate into name-calling and accusations, Mr. A simply takes his suspicions to the Recorder, who then quietly (but *quietly*, I mean—he doesn't sit behind Mr. B's partner every night for a week and watch him like a hawk) checks out the situation. Perhaps Mr. B did it once or twice inadvertently, and his partner

figured out that that was his last card through "bridge sense". Maybe there is an agreement, but they don't realize it is cheating—an old lady actually had "lead singletons with left hand" on her convention card at a tournament once. Or maybe Mr. A is correct. The point is, the third party quietly checks out the situation, and reports back to Mr. A if no further evidence is found, informs Mr. B of the unethical nature of his agreement if he honestly doesn't know that this is illegal, or takes the complaint to a higher authority if it is clear that Mr. B is a cheater who is fully aware of what he is doing.

Suppose we set up a Recorder to handle complaints about GMs. Players would benefit—they'd have a place to vent their frustrations, without having to harass their GM, always an uncomfortable thing to do. Orphaned games would be transferred quicker, because Eric Ozog and whoever is running the CDO version would have a valuable recommendation to help them decide whether a game should be rehoused. After the service had been in place for a year or so, the ZR editor would be able to get a capsule report on all GMs reliability, as reported to the Recorder by the players themselves. And the GMs themselves would benefit in any number of ways. They would hear more complaints from their players, albeit indirectly, but they'd get some input on what to fix. They wouldn't have to field criticism from the ZR editor unless they deserved it. (That sentence alone will rile Garret a bit, but I don't think all of the criticism of GMs he makes is justified. His tendency is to assume that all novices want the qualities that he values, and that all GMs promise specifically those qualities. Hitting on Bob Acheson for being slow is an unfair slam. Anyone who plays in TCD knows going in that games are gonna take a while there.)

I suppose the reason the hobby doesn't have such an office any more dates back to the Great Feud. There used to be a CDO Ombudsman, but when Doug Acheson was running the show the office was dismantled and assigned to the Co-Ordinator. There weren't many volunteers for ombudsman positions in the feuding frenzy of the 80s, I think because most people hesitated before getting into a position that might require them to arbitrate a feud. What I'm suggesting is a Ombudsman for game-related matters *only*. Look for this subject as one of the questions for next time.

A few thoughts on the presidential race now. The week of the Clinton nominating party in New York was good for Bill, bad for George, and even worse for H. Ross. Mr. Perot, reeling against a scathing *Time* magazine report on shady deals he made to get rich thirty years ago (makes a cynic wonder if it is even possible to acquire wealth without blatantly and knowingly screwing anyone), and against the advice of his professional

advisors, addressed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (which strikes me as a politically incorrect name—"coloreds" being a term long out of style and now mostly derogatory—although when I hear the PC-toadying term "people of color" I cringe), and utterly bombed, referring to attendees as "you people" and "your people" and not even batting an eye when heckled for it almost immediately by some young militant. The most surprising fallout from this came a few hours later on Jesse Jackson's CNN show, when the Rev defended Perot, calling H. Ross's gaffe "an unfortunate choice of words"—mind you, he was still trying to figure out whether to endorse the Clinton/Gore ticket at that point. About halfway through the Clinton love-in, the big news from Dallas was the resignation of Ed Rollins, one of the two professionals working for H. Ross's campaign, over differences of opinion on the way the campaign should be run. This glossing over the truth was quickly interpreted to mean Ed wanted Ross to spend some real money on TV ads, decide on some clear policy positions, or preferably both. Less than a day later, Perot decided that he wouldn't run, explaining that he couldn't win a vote in a House of Representatives filled with Democrats and Republicans, and didn't seem likely to get the required majority of Electoral College votes to avoid having the House relegate him to third place regardless of the popular vote figures. My reaction: No shit, Sherlock! Of course you aren't going to win if it goes to the House, and your chances of winning an Electoral College majority are not exactly great. But swiping the Presidency wasn't the point of your campaign—the point was to get more non-partisan Americans interested in the political process, enough to force changes in an antiquated system even if you lost. Suppose H. Ross had spent the money and decided a clear position on most issues and run a vigorous campaign. It would be a close race, but I think Perot would have had as much chance as the other two to pull ahead in the popular vote, if not the Electoral College. If that happened and H. Ross was then spurned in the House, that would hand the grass-roots, anti-politico crowd the crucial momentum of outrage on a silver platter, and by 1996 there'd certainly be a third party strong enough to cause real trouble. The "let's get together and decide on who to throw our considerable support behind" tack H. Ross is taking now is small consolation from a beaten man who is trying to avoid being made to look the ass.

However, H. Ross's timing couldn't be better for Bill Clinton. Big as the news of Rollins resignation from the H. Ross forces was, it was forgotten in the excitement of Jerry Brown's "I have a right to speak because of all the people who voted against Bill Clinton" twenty-minute harangue,

which, when it became apparent he was just going to scream a lot and not do the honourable thing and endorse Bill & Al, let alone even mention their names, seemed like they let a street looney in to liven things up for a while, and the excellently written and delivered nominating speech by Mario Cuomo, who was pissed at the media for letting it be known that the text of the speech had been leaked, so that Larry King could ask Bill Bradley and Ron Brown if they'd read it and what they thought of the ending, heightening the interest. (I suspect the speech was leaked by some young computer hackers when it was typed into a networked word processor somewhere so it could be displayed on a telestrator that was cleverly concealed from us at the podium—concealed, that is, until CNN switched to a shot of the back of Mario's head, exposing the telestrator just as I was wondering how the hell he could memorize a forty-minute address.) The timing of H. Ross falling upon his sword, twelve hours after Ohio put Clinton over the top on national TV, made the ensuing split of the H. Ross army highly favourable to the Democrats, at least in the short run.

(I think Ron Brown and Rich Bond, the Demo and Repub campaign chairmen—or do I have the title wrong?—should flip a coin each election year in January. Winner counts off the states in the roll call at his convention normally, the losers count 'em off in reverse alphabetical order. As it is, we never get to hear the inane ads delivered in wonderfully distinctive accents—"Mr. Chairman, the great state of Buncombe, from which thirty-seven people in this party who I'm now going to name and describe one after the other until we all fall asleep: have high-level jobs in Washington thanks to the Intelligence of the voters in this state, the state where the sun always shines except at night, the state that attracts tourists like manure attracts flies, has not found anyone able to count up the votes and must at this time pass."—from Wyoming, Washington, Vermont, Utah, or the rest of the states at the end of the alphabet. They should get a chance too, for the benefit of travellers looking for places to avoid. And it will be interesting to see if Ron Brown can talk to any media member this year without saying "I'm Ron Brown, and this is a recording. Bill Clinton is the candidate of change. George Bush can't be a change candidate because he represents the status quo. This has been a recording. It's all I really know how to say once the cameras roll.")

Anyhow, at this writing the Bill & Al ticket has shot from a 5-2 underdog to a 2-3 favorite in the polls, with two out of every three Perot supporters moving away from the incumbent. A year ago, General George's rating was high enough that nothing could possibly hurt him, but nothing indeed has come to pass, and Bill & Al are the overwhelming favorites now. At the start of the

week General George's campaigners guffawed at H Ross's "you people" gaffe, then they described the Rollins resignation as "a sign of the Perot meltdown," and by the end of the week General George returned from a fishing trip to urge H Ross's people to join the G.O.P., which from this viewpoint looks like one hell of a hard sell. The Perot campaign was trashed successfully by the Republicans, with the Democrats studiously looking the other way, knowing that H. Ross would throw his support behind Bill & Al, either tacitly, or overtly—didn't matter. Republicans expecting Perot supporters to wipe their tears on the shoulder of the man who is responsible for those tears would be better advised to wish for snow at their convention which is in Houston, in August.

Can the G.O.P. pull this one out and win the presidency? Not likely, but there are a few possibilities:

1) *Self-destruction.* It took two words, "you people," to start the ball rolling against H. Ross, and because he never was really a decent prospect to win it only took a week for the ball to roll into the gutter. Clinton probably won't self-destruct because you don't get to play the politics game all your life if you say stupid things, and his support is far more solid for a single mistake to hurt badly.

2) *The Gennifer factor.* Like it or not, you must admit the Republican hounds are darned good at the tactics of campaigning. One could say that this is more a function of the stupidity of the American electorate, but that would be rotten. I don't think the G.O.P. boys will score many points with what's come out about Clinton so far, or anything of a similar magnitude, but if there is something new and really damning that comes out, it might be pivotal.

3) *October Surprise, 12 years later.* If Bush gets a deal signed to ensure peace between Israel and neighbours, this might put a big dent in Clinton's lead. But the chances of that happening are not great. Now that the Likud party is gone, the P.L.O. is overplaying their hand, demanding that settlements be ended permanently and not merely halted and placed under review. All of which reminds me of an area five provinces to the east of here, but more on that later...

4) *Go ahead, Saddam—make my day.* Tensions in Iraq are increasing, Mr. Hussein being about as cooperative to UN decrees as Rodney King was after his joyride, and now countries other than the U.S. are suggesting a punitive air raid. The key here will be Clinton's reaction if it happens. If the air raid is poorly-timed, badly carried out and undertaken by American forces without help, Clinton will score easy points whatever he does. But General George isn't stupid. He'll make sure he cannot be easily accused of electioneering if Iraq gets a spanking, and the

spanking will be a success—it will piss off Hussein, expose hidden weapons he was denying, and not spill the blood of any civilians. And if such a spanking is called for (for example, if one of the UN inspection team members gets killed) Clinton would best agree with the President's actions, answer the question "would you have done the same" with "of course," and concentrate on the issue that will win the election for him—domestic policy. If the electorate agrees with the spanking, but Clinton doesn't—or appears not to and then hastily waffles—the campaign may see a photo finish.

But all of these scenarios are unlikely. At this point I'd want at least 4-1 odds on Bush. It's only July, so I'd try to get at least even money on Clinton, despite that nobody in his right mind would give me such generous odds. I guess that explains why I don't often gamble—can't find a big enough edge...

Short computer note #1: I read in *Compute* magazine that the 1992 European Computer Trade Show Awards gave the prize for best sports game to something called *Jimmy White's Whirlwind Snooker*. Snooker being about on a par with cricket in TV popularity on this side of the Atlantic, I'm not surprised I haven't seen it. But the poor excuse for a Snooker simulation I have for the old machine is about the only thing I still do with it. Anyone who sees this program for sale anywhere, please let me know: it may never get to shelves over here.

It was a short blurb about Spyro Gyra in Pete Gaughan's zine *Perelandra*, long long ago, that overcame my curiosity and made me stop looking over their tapes in record stores and actually dish out some money to give them a try. (Radio in Vancouver is notoriously bad—the nearest decent jazz station is in Seattle and you need cable to get it.) This started a love affair with SG's brand of fusion, which is mostly based on the makeup of the band, which features a front-line sax player, Jay Beckenstein, who has a unique style that employs trills and other odd but refreshingly new effects, and a mallet player, Dave Samuels, who casts wonderfully new shadows on the accompaniment tracks and plays physically impossible solos as a habit. I was lucky enough to get hooked early enough to get all of their early stuff (they've produced an album a year since 1979) before it became scarce in cassette form, and have bought everything they've since put out within weeks of its release. A tour brought them to Vancouver about five years ago, but when I went to the local ticket office the concert had been cancelled for some reason I was not allowed to discover. Last Friday I learned that they were scheduled for a Monday night concert downtown (yes, three full days notice—good music is best

kept secret in this town, it appears), and eagerly bought a ticket, only one because Nancy was sick and didn't want to go.

Lucky for me. I pay to listen to live music very seldom, because I don't like the way the *music* at live concerts invariably plays second fiddle (and with that metaphor I must say I exclude classical music from this put-down, of course) to nearly everything else, the lighting, the booze and smokes if it's a club/ballroom setting (as this was), the whoops and screaming, the absolute addiction to sheer volume that makes it next to impossible to mix the sounds properly (especially when the adrenalin gets flowing and the band begins to whale—why amplify the drum set when the guy's beating them so hard it could fill the hall anyhow?), and especially the inevitable feeling I get that the great majority of the people aren't there to *listen*, but rather to *see* whoever's playing in person—if that's all they want, let them pay their \$30 for a handshaking session. I've been dragged to two concerts of Nancy's favourite pop group, Air Supply, since 1986, and each time I was entertained by the music (although both times I couldn't help noticing some screwed up chordings in the live versions of hit songs) but distracted all to hell by the teeny-boppers screaming in the front row and exhausted by the incessant play of the lights, which after the first few minutes becomes rather tiresome. (Actually, if you know the music well enough you can start to guess which biff-bam-zocko lighting effect will take place to highlight the next cadence, but even that little game gets boring after a while.) I had heard over the years from a few friends that many jazz groups were a disappointment in live concerts, with less than the full band (often augmented by somebody who just didn't fit in) and sub-par playing, or real over-reliance on pre-programmed synthesized solos—and Spyro Gyra certainly is into electronics, with credits listing such things as "wind-driven synthesizers" (electric sax) and "mallet-triggered synthesizers" (electric marimba). So, I paid my \$25.75 not without the knowledge that I might be let down somewhat, but that this was a good thing since an intellectual type like myself shouldn't really be overdosing on a single band like this, and at least Nancy wouldn't be there to bug me about juvenile behavior as I usually do when she fawns at Air Supply while they're playing.

Good thing, too. Because the concert was fantastic. Spyro Gyra played two sets (this, apparently, is fundamental vocabulary in jazzese: if a band is going to play *x* sets, this means there will be *x-1* intermissions to load up on beer: not counting the short break between "g'night folks" and the traditional encore) to a young crowd of about 250, and although there were the usual distractions with the wild lighting and the whoops and hollers and a few problems with the sound

mix, these guys just knocked everyone out with an amazing display of sheer skill. Jay Beckenstein (the last syllable pronounced STEEN; I know now because he introduced himself) brings to the jazz audience a unique style that makes people sit up and listen. Hard to explain this, but I think with a little practice I could play the licks that, say David Sanborn plays—he's just another sax player, and we all love the saxophone, but it doesn't really matter who plays it. With Beckenstein you get something different: a style of play which defines itself not in the tone quality, but in the technique he uses. He trills long notes where others would just use vibrato. He creates more even and intense vibratos by trilling between two alternate fingerings of the same note. He chooses solo passages based on lightning-fast cascading arpeggios that include 9ths and 11ths and 13ths, rather than just playing scales and licks to fit the chords. In live performance he punctuates his unique style with an energetic sequence of gestures which liven things up without looking overdramatized. Tom Schuman's army of keyboard synthesizers got shortchanged a bit in the mixing, but his solo runs were impressive: I was surprised to see him pull off some very long chromatic runs at lightning speed—you hear them on the albums and expect that it's all been preprogrammed. Dave Samuels mallet playing had people banging their heads against the walls in disbelief after an early solo in which he played at about five hundred miles per hour, with four (or was it six—the harmonies to my ear sounded too rich to be four-part only!) mallets: and watching closely you could just pick out that he was varying the distances between the mallets to fit the chords he wanted to play, not merely holding the mallets so that they'd always strike thirds or something simple. It seemed as though the sax solo that preceded the first mallet solo (or more likely the deserved applause Beckenstein got for it) had caused the mallet solo and accompaniment to get slightly out of sync, but to my ear it sounded like Samuels gamely fought his way out of that trench and by the second chorus had chins all over the room hanging down in amazement. The lead guitar man, Julio Fernandez, played some impressive solos, including a couple of excellent harmonizations of the sax line and a fine solo number "for a future album" which brought the house down when he held us on the unresolved dominant seventh for about five minutes before crashing back to the original key. Even the bass player, Scott Ambush, and drummer Joel Rosenblatt were featured in lengthy solos during the second half of the show; both avoiding the empty feeling bass and drum solos sometimes give you. Beckenstein finished the second set of their first concert in Vancouver since 1982 by saying that "we hope we can get back here sooner next time." I hope I'm not being too

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— "Many Chances Does
He Get, For Chrissakes?"

fannish when I agree completely.

Short computer note #2: Nancy and I are getting hooked on Wordtris, the Tetris version for Scrabble players. For a bottom-shelf game, it's surprisingly well stocked with features and common sense parameters. The high score screens are accessible from any skill level, with the higher skill levels gaining more points for fairness, and even the "see next letter-block" and "repeat words" toggles gain you more points if they are on the harder settings. The game works like Tetris, but what drops are not odd shapes but Scrabble-like tiles, with a letter on them. They do not drop to the bottom of the pit as in Tetris, but instead drop to about halfway down, where they float. When another falling tile is placed on top, they move down so that only the top one floats. Underneath the floating tile four tiles can be submerged before the next block gets stacked on top. All blocks, submerged, floating, or over the water level, can be used to form words, and when one or more words (3 letters minimum, 4 at higher skill levels) are formed horizontally or vertically, all the tiles in the word(s) disappear, and the player is given a score based on the Scrabble total times the number of letters in the word, multiplied by the difficulty factor, which is based on the level of play and the various game options. When blocks disappear, stacks above water fall down, and submerged blocks work their way back up to the water level, and the shift sometimes forms additional words. It takes some getting used to, but after a while it makes sense. There are also blanks (they come up more often than in Scrabble, but the rest of the letters are about in the proportion of the Scrabble set) that you choose what letter they represent as they are falling (quickly, or the program will choose for you), erasers to rub out a poorly placed letter, and bonus blocks that double the score of any word(s) it forms when it lands. As well, there is a magic word displayed at the top of the screen that, if formed, clears away the whole screen and scores big. (Alas, sometimes forming this magic word is harder than it appears. With SOOTHE as my magic word I got as far as SOO-H-, and then dropped the T into place, only to see SOOT disappear to my great surprise!) And the game is not limited to a single person—there are four excellent variations. In Co-operative mode, two people play in the same grid, one with red blocks, one with blue blocks, and with two blocks in play at once, either colour able to form words in combination with the other, the object is to get the highest score by co-operating. This often means you have to get the hell out of the way, if the other guy has a good letter and your falling block is between his and the optimum destination. You can speed up the fall rate of your block, but if your block forms a word, it might screw up his

scoring play! Then there's Competitive mode, same as Co-operative mode except that separate scores are kept and the player that completes a word gets the full score for it—even if all the other letters are those of his opponent! In Tournament mode up to four people can play the same game (the same letters drop in the same sequence) one after the other, to see whose skill level is highest. Sort of like Duplicate Bridge. There's also a head-to-head mode for two computers connected by network, cable, or modem, in which success on your board translates to obstacles placed on the other board.

If, like me, you enjoy Scrabble except for the dead time it takes to think, Wordtris is an interesting alternative that will make you think just as much and not get bogged down.

And, speaking of getting bogged down, the negotiations aimed at keeping Quebec as part of Canada are getting bloody tedious, and it is starting to look as though there is no way out of the hole dug by Mulroney's persistent attempts to lure a province of malcontented separatists, who seem to want to stay in Canada for the benefits but don't want to incur any of the costs, into full membership in Canada's ten year old Constitution. Alternatively, it may actually be that the populace of Quebec is as pissed off as are the rest of the country at the separatist whinings of the politicians, and will dump on the whole prospect of *le Quebec libre* in a referendum, leaving *les grands fromages politiques* to come crawling back to the table hoping for as much as they are currently being offered. Let me fill you in...

The first item on the wish list of Pierre Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister from the late 60s to the early 80s (except for Joe Clark's short-lived Conservative minority government in 1979-80), was to free Canada from the ancient British North America Act that created it in 1867. His final term in office accomplished this when the Canadian Constitution Act was made effective in 1982. But there was a hitch—one province, Quebec (whose premier at the time was Rene Levesque of the separatist Parti Quebecois), had refused to sign the Constitution Act without certain demands being met, and Trudeau, feeling that these demands were excessive and at odds with his political philosophy of a strong central government, refused, and arguing that the federalist victory in the Quebec referendum on separation in 1980 was not accomplished without explicitly promising to repatriate the constitution, pushed the Constitution (and a separate Bill Of Rights) through the courts, without the approval of Quebec. By the mid-80s the recession and various other scandals had made Trudeau's Liberal party unelectable, but the Constitution was not an issue in the 1984 campaign that first elected Brian Mulroney. But in the defeat of the

Parti Quebecois during his first term, Mulroney, a Quebecker, saw a chance to finally get Quebec's constitutional acquiescence, and he promised to "make commitments to convince the Quebec government to give its consent." This led to the Bourassa government's five demands:

—explicit recognition of Quebec as a distinct society

—increased powers over immigration

—limits to the federal spending power (in areas of provincial jurisdiction)

—consent to appointment of Supreme Court judges

—a veto for Quebec over constitutional matters

...which in turn led to the 1987 Meech Lake Accord, an agreement signed by the ten provincial premiers and Mulroney, and requiring provincial legislature ratification by late June 1990. The notion that Quebec was a distinct society was seen at first as an obvious thing not worth quibbling over. In B.C. it was passed easily, early on, in a unanimous vote. By mid-1989, all provinces but Manitoba and New Brunswick had passed it, and then all hell broke loose. In December, the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional the Quebec law that required business signs to be in French only. Bourassa moved quickly to invoke a remote loophole (the "notwithstanding clause") in the 1981 Constitution to ensure that the Supreme Court decision would not affect the validity of the law, and English-French tensions erupted. And (to paraphrase J. Danforth Quayle) it didn't help matters when Mulroney's nationally televised, bilingual Question Period (QP is an hour a day of opposition questions to government ministers which is the only parliamentary proceeding that gets national news airplay, essentially a daily competition for sound bites) response was significantly different depending upon the language he was responding in. Responses to the "distinct society" recognition (and some of the other Quebec demands) thus changed from "certainly, it's obvious" or "sounds reasonable" to "just a second—please define this: we want to know what Quebec will be able to get from this if we agree" or even "haven't you got enough already?" And worse. In early 1990, the new government in Newfoundland revoked the support given by the previous government for Meech Lake, and the Accord died when a last minute compromise package was stalled in Manitoba by an Indian member of the legislature, because Canada's aboriginal people were not mentioned in the package. Newfoundland, seeing that it would not pass in Manitoba, decided to let it die there as well.

Complicated enough for you so far? The sinking of the Accord left Mulroney with big problems: a dangerous separatist movement in Quebec (which critics attribute to Mulroney's insistence in tackling the constitutional imperfec-

tion almost as soon as he took office, when there was little separatist sentiment in *la belle province*), mounting problems with the economy, sinking poll scores for his Conservatives due mostly to the formation of the Reform Party (Canada's answer to Ross Perot) as well as the defection of a few Quebec MPs who formed a new party called the Bloc Quebecois, and contentious bills (among them a new goods and services tax, an abortion compromise, and a gun control bill in response to the December 1990 misogynist massacre in Montreal) to get through the machinery of government. Following a wild summer of native discontent centred on the Oka crisis near Montreal, the GST became a major Senate squabble, Mulroney resorting to appointing enough friendly hacks to the Upper Chamber to finally get the hated but logical new tax through, by which time the nation was involved in peaceful participation in the Gulf War (to appease the opposition parties, Canadian planes did not use ammunition until the final stages, where it made little difference, turning Ottawa into a committee war zone between the opposition parties—both against the war, and the Conservatives—where External Affairs Minister Joe Clark scored points in the eyes of many). When we emerged from this triple play of high drama in Canadian politics, we found that Quebec had been working up a great pout called the Allaire report. The essence of this was that Quebec's demands should remain in place, but, apparently because of the mortifying embarrassment to Quebec of the Meech Lake fiasco, *la belle province* would boycott all constitutional talks, and set a deadline (which is sometime this fall, requiring that a deal be presented by the end of the summer) by which it would expect another constitutional proposal from the rest of the country to be put before the province in a referendum. Without one, or with only unacceptable proposals, a referendum on "sovereignty" would be called. (We must be careful to use the word sovereignty because Quebeckers react negatively to the other S-word (separation), and anyway sovereignty implies that the new nation of Quebec will "share" things with Canada such as the dollar, airports and railways and many other federal holdings in Quebec, the armed forces, as though Canada will somehow agree to all this.) Almost all of 1991 and early 1992 was marked with Constitutional Conferences, which quickly degenerated into the battle between special interest groups and their agendas, and ordinary people who apparently thought that all such problems with Quebec could be solved by pleading. Joe Clark, fresh off a fine stint in External Affairs during the Gulf War, was asked to take over the National Unity job by Mulroney. After a long, tedious series of negotiations and squabbles, which focused on Senate reform, native self-government, and a request from the socialist premiers

for something called a "social charter," the nine premiers and Clark came up with a proposal, to everyone's great surprise, on July 7, just when everyone expected Mulroney to deal the squabbling premiers out of the game, and hand in his own deal to Bourassa, whether the premiers liked it or not. The Quebec demands were dealt with as follows:

—"recognition of Quebec as a distinct society within Canada" to be added to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and within a new "Canada Clause," which "would express fundamental Canadian values."

—"a new provision should be added to the Constitution committing the government of Canada to negotiate agreements with the provinces relating to immigration."

—provisions "limiting federal spending power" were virtually identical to Meech Lake.

—Supreme Court Justices to be chosen by the Prime Minister from lists prepared by each province.

—amendments to the constitution would require the unanimous agreement of Parliament and the provincial legislatures (giving every province an effective veto), *except* for adding provinces, which requires only a Parliamentary majority "following appropriate consultation."

The addition of new provinces would trigger a change in the amending formula, which "should then become a requirement to obtain the approval of three-quarters of the provinces representing a total of 50 percent of the population."

Meeting Quebec's five requirements was not all that the new agreement did. Not at all! The highlight of the new agreement was the tinkering with the Senate, which followed closely the Triple E model (Equal, Elected, and Effective) actively campaigned for by the Reform Party. Each of the three E's was somewhat tarnished, though. An equal Senate? Yes, eight from each province, two from each territory, regardless of size or population, but the francophone Senators have a special position in that they alone constitute a bloc from which a second majority must be simultaneously won in any vote on a bill "materially affecting French language and culture." No such double majority for bills affecting English-Canadian culture. And, to offset the hecklers from large provinces about the ludicrous notion of equality between Ontario and Prince Edward Island (population ratio about 72:1), the Commons was made more reflective of the population, with ten extra Ontario seats, three each added to Quebec and B.C., and one added to Alberta. Elected Senators? Yes, but only during a federal election

CONTEST

The baseball players named on the top of odd-numbered pages were given Chris-Berman-style nicknames, which appear on the top of even-numbered pages, by

more, p. 10

Canadian Content *(more, p. 10)*

[As Canada prepares to revamp the Senate, this looks like a good time to run an essay satiring the Senate's precursor, Britain's House of Lords.]

Aristocratic Education by Stephen Leacock

House of Lords, Jan. 25, 1920—The House of Lords commenced to-day in Committee the consideration of Clause No. 52,000 of the Education Bill, dealing with the teaching of Geometry in schools.

The Leader of the Government in presenting the clause urged upon their Lordships the need of conciliation. The Bill, he said, had now been before their Lordships for sixteen years. The Government had made every concession. They had accepted

Lordships on the opposite side in regard to the original provisions of the Bill. They had consented also to insert in the Bill a detailed programme of studies of which the present clause, enunciating the fifth proposition of Euclid, was a part. He would therefore ask their Lordships to accept the clause drafted as follows:

"The angles at the base of an isosceles triangle are equal, and if the equal sides of the triangle are produced, the exterior angles will also be equal."

He would hasten to add that the Government had no inclination of producing the sides. Contingencies might arise to render such a course necessary, but in that case their Lordships would receive an early intima-

tion of the fact.

The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke against the clause. He considered it, in its present form, too secular. He should wish to amend the clause so as to make it read:

"The angles at the base of an isosceles triangle are, in every Christian community, equal, and if the sides be produced by a member of a Christian congregation, the exterior angles will be equal."

He was aware, he continued, that the angles at the base of an isosceles triangle are extremely equal, but he must remind the Government that the Church had been aware of this for several years past. He was willing also to admit that the opposite sides and ends of a parallelogram are equal, but he thought that such an admission should

campaign—making it likely that the Senate and Commons would be similar in political make-up. Plus, the Senators would be elected by proportional representation on a single transferable vote. Translation: when I vote for the eight B.C. Senators, I'll be able to mark selections from 1 on down to 25 or 46 or 74 or however many are on the ballot. Candidates are ranked according to first selections, the last place finisher is lopped off, with those ballots electing him to be transferred to the next highest choice for the second round. This continues (presumably by computer...) until only eight remain. But exactly how this system jives with proportional representation, where 50% of the popular vote gets you half the seats, totally baffles me. An effective Senate? We need a new paragraph for this one.

Bills will reach the Senate once passed by the Commons. The senate has thirty days (not counting Commons holidays) from the day the Commons passes a bill to defeat it. No extensions. For bills affecting natural resources, a simple Senate majority would be a veto. Other bills would require 70% for a veto, and 60-69% would necessitate a joint sitting of the Senate and the Commons (which is about four times as populous), where a simple majority would prevail.

There are also special "double majority" rules for bills affecting French language and culture, described above. A key provision is that defeat of a bill in the Senate would never require the resignation of the government (it's not clear if this applies to the 60-69% joint sitting with the Commons—generally a defeat of a bill in the Commons constitutes a mandate of non-confidence and forces an immediate election). Senators are no longer to be Cabinet members, now a rare occurrence, and the Senate would ratify high-profile government appointments (not including Supreme Court Justices).

Apart from the Senate proposals, there are many detailed proposals for effecting native self-government, a bunch of things specifically recognized as coming under provincial jurisdiction, a forced meeting of the Prime Minister and the provincial premiers once a year, and other odds and ends. In fact, there is so much in the new proposals that even Canadians reading this a month or more after the fact will see something unfamiliar they hadn't seen before. So, recognizing that the initial story was just "deal reached, includes Triple E Senate," let's go back to the hours after agreement was reached for reaction.

Mulroney was in Munich at the Economic

Bill James in his *Baseball Book 92*. Berman, an ESPN sportscaster, has an unusual style of nicknaming: he adds a word or short phrase, before or after a player's surname to create a pun or other wordplay on some well-known phrase. Example: John Kruk of the Phillies gets a Watergate reference: John "I am not a" Kruk. James is often more risqué than Berman. The nicknames will indicate how the player's name fits around them, the teams the players play for is just extra information. (The book was published before the season began, some of the players may have switched teams or retired.) \$3 credit to the winner.

be coupled with a distinct recognition of the existence of a Supreme Being.

The Leader of the Government accepted His Grace's amendment with pleasure. He considered it the brightest amendment His Grace had made that week. The Government, he said, was aware of the intimate relation in which His Grace stood to the bottom end of a parallelogram and was prepared to respect it.

Lord Halifax rose to offer a further amendment. He thought the present case was one in which the "four-fifths" clause ought to apply: he should wish it stated that the angles are equal for two days every week, except in the case of schools where four-fifths of the parents are conscientiously opposed to the use of the isosceles triangle.

The Leader of the Government thought the amendment was a singularly pleasing one. He accepted it and would like it understood that the words isosceles triangle were not meant in any offensive sense.

Lord Rosebery spoke at some length. He considered the clause unfair to Scotland where the high state of morality rendered education unnecessary. Unless an amendment in this sense was accepted, it might be necessary to reconsider the Act of Union of 1707.

The Leader of the Government said that Lord Rosebery's amendment was the best he had heard yet. The Government accepted it at once. They were willing to make every concession. They would, if need be, reconsider the Norman Conquest.

The Duke of Devonshire took exception to the part of the clause relating to the production of the sides. He did not think the country was prepared for it. It was unfair to the producer. He would like the clause altered to read, "if the sides be produced in the home market."

The Leader of the Government accepted with pleasure His Grace's amendment. He considered it quite sensible. He would now, as it was near the hour of rising, present the clause in its revised form. He hoped, however, that their Lordships would find time to think out some further amendments for the evening sitting.

The clause was then read.

His Grace of Canterbury then moved that the House, in all humility, adjourn for dinner.

END

Summit of Western Big Shot Nations, listening to Boris Yeltsin tell us how Russia would be economically competitive by next Tuesday if all went well. He did not look pleased; in fact, he looked like the recipient of a well-timed Diplomacy stab. Bourassa was more restrained, congratulating the premiers for reaching agreement, but reserving judgment until he'd had time to look at it, and not committing to end the Quebec boycott of constitutional talks. The mood of the Quebec media was immediately summed up in a one word editorial by Lise Bissonette of *Le Devoir*: "Non." This was followed by the appalling spectacle of Mulroney trying to squirm out of having to sell the deal, with a cascade of Mulroney's Quebec ministers saying Quebec needed more, and the predictable backlash from Clark and the premiers, many of whom refused to attend any further constitutional talks without the presence of Quebec. Apart from the fact that a reduction from 25% of the Senate seats to 9% will be a tough sell in Quebec, a major irritant for Quebec is that most of their demands have been met by giving similar powers to every province: similar increased immigration powers have been given to all provinces, constitutional vetoes have been given to all provinces, opting out of federal spending programs is an option open to any province, and Supreme Court Justices are to be chosen in the same way regardless of whether a Quebec or Anglo seat is being filled.

This leaves the distinct society clause. The latest talk from Ottawa is that Mulroney and Bourassa are working behind the scenes to fine-tune the agreement. One of the wildest changes being considered is a change in the distinct society clause, whereby they take the phrase "Quebec constitutes a distinct society within Canada" and then delete the last two words. To politely ask why this is necessary is considered grossly politically incorrect in Canada. Mere Anglos are not supposed to ask just why it is that Quebec insists on constitutional change but will give us only guidelines and not clear direction in what Quebec wants, and, far more importantly, what it will mean in the future. The answer, of course, is that Bourassa wants as much as he can get, and realizes that the best way to maximize the gain is to put the Anglo premiers in the awkward position of suggesting something that will not be spat upon, thus making it a good bet that he gets more than the minimum. What Bourassa didn't expect was the avalanche of power gifts to all provinces contained in the new accord, which puts added pressure on Quebec to accept, since the other nine provinces are gaining as well. Ontario gains ten Commons seats for accepting a reasonably equal Senate. The West and the Maritime provinces get their Triple E Senate (or, at least, much more of it than anyone expected—early on in the hearing stages Joe Clark said the chances of a Triple E

Senate being accepted were about equal to the probability of a second virgin birth!), and Quebec gets its distinct society, strengthened by the unique Senate double majority on French issues. Bourassa's choice now is to accept the new deal (perhaps with some needed clarifications and a few minor changes to be worked out) and present it in a referendum, or to decline it and go to a referendum on sovereignty. I'd be surprised if Bourassa declines—that would throw the issue into the hands of the Parti Quebecois, and a referendum in such an atmosphere would likely result in a separatist win. He's waffling now primarily to appease the separatists, but eventually the deal will be sold without major alterations. There may be surprises, but Mulroney knows how to sell a deal (or more importantly, he knows how to get a deal sold) in a political campaign—he did so in 1988 with the Free Trade Agreement, and will probably prevail over the separatists.

But that doesn't mean I have to like the deal! The trouble with the deal is that it is hastily arranged with the various deadlines, and set in stone once adopted, with each province getting a veto over further change. There is no formula to correct obvious problems which will show up, except the unanimity of everyone, which just won't happen. Nobody really knows how effective the new Senate will be—the strategy will be to preach to the West that it will keep Ontario and Quebec from imposing their wills on the rest of the country, but it might never come close to send a bill back to the Commons: 70% is a large majority to get in a Senate that will be elected at the same time as the Commons and will likely have about the same percentage of seats from each party—unless this proportional representation and transferable vote stuff gets wild. Nobody knows what loopholes will be found, real or rhetorically alleged, in the referendum campaign, in the first year after the Constitution is amended, or ten years down the road. The essence of the deal is more power to the provinces, which may work well, or may screw up badly. Nobody knows. And if the only way to correct problems is to somehow get past the vetoes all provinces will hold, no loophole favouring one province over the others will ever be corrected, unless politicians suddenly get honest.

During the Meech Lake debate, many provinces, including B.C., passed bills forcing provincial governments to go to the people in a referendum before giving provincial consent to constitutional changes. I would vote for the changes today, but reluctantly. I hope that by the time the B.C. referendum is called, I will feel less reluctant. But I think the turning point was the Toronto meeting with Clark on July 7th, and if this leads to Quebec joining Canada after 10 years of constitutional uncertainty, the big winner

will not be Mulroney, but Clark. This former Prime Minister (in 1980 Clark's minority government was defeated when he tried to pass a tough budget, which some have said might well have adequately prepared the nation for the recession of the early 80s and reduced the national debt that had accrued by the middle of the decade), often satired almost as harshly as Dan Quayle, has made a fine comeback after losing the Conservative leadership to Brian Mulroney in 1983. If Mulroney's poll scores continue to be low, look for Clark in a leadership race if Mulroney steps down. If Quebec does not accept the deal and separation proceedings begin, Mulroney, not Clark, will be the big loser, which, since he is the one who raised the dust in an effort to clean the table top, is pretty justified.

(This issue's lateness means there's more to tell, which should appear later on in this larger-than-usual DipGab section. For now let's go on to something else for a minute.)

The Summer Olympics are about a week old as I write this, and certainly there will be some comments I think of before they end (check your addenda sheet) but this zine has always had some sarcastic comments to make on the Games (and especially the TV coverage of them), so since that's what's on the TV now, it seems like a good topic for a good long ramble.

The TV coverage is probably just great on the TripleCast, which isn't available in Canada. The problem is that most of us are restricted to network TV coverage, which in North America has been bad. NBC is focussing on the prime time show, where the American medal hopes can do no wrong, and CTV is playing similar tunes for the rather smaller number of Canadian medal hopes. CTV's great strength is an extensive seven hour block early in the North American day, when things are happening live (more or less—we on the West Coast get everything three hours later as usual) in Spain. But their hosts, to me, seem third-rate. I watched most of the morning shows after coming home from work this week, and the reruns in prime time disgusted me. It seems as though both CTV and NBC are editing the hell out of the morning stuff to make for a easily-flowing evening broadcast. To somebody who seldom watches sports, it's hard to put up with the smooth-at-all-costs approach. I don't want to see the fifth dive, three commercials, the sixth dive, and then have to wait a half-hour before the seventh dive. It just doesn't make sense. Basketball games, even those involving the Dream Team, don't take just one hour to play, unless they are edited so the anchor guy can pretend to return to the game when they've got the next juicy dunk cued up. Boxers are not available for interviews fifteen seconds after the bout ends. If they want to show us daily high-

lights, better to show one after the other in real time instead of jumping around more often a golf tournament.

One interesting controversy, related to the editing approach, surfaced just after the first Canadian gold medal performance by Mark Tewksbury in the 100m backstroke. At the medal ceremony, they played an abbreviated version of *O Canada*. The next day, CTV explained to us (only after a few irate patriots had complained by phone) that a vote taken among broadcasters had decreed that anthems not last longer than 45 seconds. The vote against full anthems was opposed by the U.S. and Canada, but passed on the voting strength of the European bloc. The second wave of outrage was based on NBC's prime time coverage, which showed Americans receiving their medals to a full rendition of *The Star Spangled Banner*. At this point CTV has no response to the new criticism, but the obvious answer is that NBC is alternating shots of the winner and the crowd and dubbing in the full version, a solution apparently considered unethical or, more likely, not thought of by CTV technicians. (Another answer might be a well-placed bribe, which would better explain CTV's reticence toward further commentary, but I suspect the former.)

[Late note: looks like bribery in progress here. It took about a week for the letters to the editor and the phone calls to the network all kicked in, but CTV finally came out with a scathing sarcastic attack on the anthem controversy once it was revealed that the American winners *were* getting the full 70-second version of *The Star Spangled Banner* played at medal ceremonies, while other countries, Canada conspicuous among them, were limited to 45 seconds. The American anthem could easily be shortened to 45 seconds by eliminating the second eight bars (which are a repeat of the first eight) and playing the rest a little bit faster. This was done for most other anthems, including Canada's and Germany's. But clearly someone has put a bunch of money into the right hands, thinking that nobody would notice. For Germany there is no harm no foul, if they were part of the European bloc that got the anthem rule passed. But Canada is certainly owed an apology.]

I don't complain about biased broadcasting anymore, I just laugh at the differences between American and Canadian partisanship. The women's springboard diving featured a tiny Chinese favoured against an American. The morning coverage showed the Chinese girl winning clearly, but at night, watching the rerun on NBC, the script went about like this:

"And now here's the American hope, Mid-summer Moonbeam" (or whatever—no longer are the foreigners the only source of funny names as the 60s children enter their athletic prime),

"with a triple flip in the tuck position—", (boing, flip, flip, flip, SPLOOOOOSSSSSSH! Water everywhere.)

"Whoa! Aaooow! Whee!" (Focus on diver's mother wrapped in flag having a near orgasm on sidelines.) "That'll really put the pressure on!!! She really put that dive in the water!!! Good marks, I'm surprised they aren't higher—what do those judges want?"

"Now, the leader, Qinx Zedoqxzvbng." (look for these new Chinese spellings to revolutionize championship Scrabble soon...) "She'll be doing the same dive that Midsummer nailed a few minutes ago." (boing, flipflipflip—glush. A few drops fall back into place.)

"Well, that's not her best. I think I saw a slight misalignment of the toes. Here come the marks—look at that, 9's and 9.5s. What are the judges thinking of?"

The Canadian partisanship is firmly based on inferiority. The CTV guys are going gaga over our brightest medal hope, solo rower Silken Laumann. You might wonder why we aren't hitting on somebody in a more popular sport. The reason Laumann is the star of the Canadian squad going in is that she is far and away the best woman rower in the world, but was injured in a freak accident a few months ago, *so she has an excuse for losing*. The criticism here is not on Laumann, who is unquestionably an athlete of colossal courage and fantastic fortitude, but on the Canadian broadcasters who concentrate not on the sport itself but on the creation of a human interest story to focus on, one that, to CTV's delight, need not actually win to get the job done. Every time Laumann advances in a heat there is more mindless oohs and aahs of disbelief over how she could come back from the injury so fast, and little speculation that the original diagnosis might have been a bad one and is now being overplayed. Laumann's bronze in the final, holding third place in the final 100 meters against the late charge of an American rower, nearly overshadowed the rest of the amazing Canadian rowing haul, until three of our teams won gold later the same day. It's a good thing rowing isn't high-profile or we'd be accused of cheating. Which brings us to...

The other high-profile member of the Canadian team is Ben Johnson, the steroid-aided winner of the 100 metres in Seoul, until betrayed by his urine. Canadians are satisfied that our athletes are now tested for drugs more often than ever and without warning, and understand that after four years of sheer hell, just getting to the Olympics is a small consolation for a man who would have been great without drugs. But when Johnson lined up for the semi-final (where he stumbled at the start, eliminating any chance of reaching the final), the NBC guy, Charlie Jones, I think, called him "the most notorious cheater in

Olympic history." I must retort that Canadians handle their drug scandals a hell of a lot better than Americans—two years after the Dublin Inquiry exposed Johnson and many others, the American Olympic trials were held up by the court challenge of a urine test! The American feeling is "just don't get caught, and if you do, claim a screwup." With the 110m hurdles won by Canadian Mark McKoy (who also admitted steroid use in 1989 and served the mandatory two-year suspension) the IOC may now realize that short suspensions don't work and that they are essentially licence to develop yourself with drugs, serve a two-year suspension and return in your prime ready to go. Perhaps there should be a grandfather clause allowing older athletes some lenience, in admission of the shit that's happened, but the only ultimate solution is a lifetime ban. Until then, we should have no tolerance for athletes who fuck around, like the German sprinter whose urine was chemically identical to two others. The first step is to get the test results out of the hands of court challenges, a spectacle that makes the IOC and IAAF look spineless.

The most unsurprising thing about the Olympics is that the judged sports are as biased as usual. I'm sorry, but I still don't think merely impressing somebody else in whatever fashion, with no other clear objective, satisfies the question "Is it a sport?" Along with the usual situation where judges favour athletes from their own country, and previous champions get preferential treatment over rookies, some of the decisions have been unbelievable. Accuse me of nationalistic fervour, but the most striking of these was the decision to allow a mistyped mark to deny a Canadian woman the gold medal in synchronized swimming. The Brazilian judge responsible freely admitted that her intended mark was 9.7, and the 8.7 was a mistake, retyped erroneously under pressure, but the Canadian protest was defeated by rhetoric from the head referee and head judge, American and Japanese respectively. The U.S. swimmer benefitted from this screwup to win gold, and but for a fine performance by the Canadian in the last round the Japanese swimmer might have won silver. Then there was the boxing fiasco. Boxing took some harsh raps in Seoul for awful judging, and the whispering behind the scenes was that boxing was a sport on probation—another embarrassment, guys, and forget about '96. The boxing folks came up with a new way to score fights, whereby the five judges would not decide at the end of each round which boxer won the round and whether it was worth 10-8 or the usual 10-9 decision. The new method had each judge given a two-button pad, and instructions to hit the appropriate button whenever a blow was landed. One point was to be awarded by a central computer every time three of the five judges agreed that a blow had

been scored within one second. The computer would thus be able to give a running score of any match, and this score was flashed on the screen. But it soon became apparent that the amalgamation of the five judges decisions was not the same as just counting the number of blows from each judge at the end of the bout. Not only that, judges were very reluctant to give points for body blows, or even clearly jarring blows that failed to hit square in the face with the white portion of the glove, all of which made covering up very effective. The system's controversy came to a head when an American boxer was beaten by a Spanish boxer with a crucial point in the last ten seconds, despite the fact that the blow counts of all five judges had the American ahead. The judges apparently didn't agree within a second on many of the American's blows, and did immediately agree with the Spaniard's blows, perhaps a function of the partisan home crowd, the closeness of the bout, and the underdog factor. I think both boxing and synchronized swimming, as well as diving, gymnastics, figure skating, rhythmic gymnastics, and other totally subjective sports, shouldn't be part of the Olympics. The Games motto is "Faster, Higher, Farther", not "Nicer, Better, Cuter."

But even the sports based on absolutes had troubles! First brouhaha was the Ugly American Syndrome in volleyball. Japan leads the U.S. 2 sets to 1, and the fourth set is tied 13-13. A spike gets past the American block and is called in, for a point to Japan. American player protests the line call in foul language, and the referee holds up a yellow card. Japan points out that this particular American has already accrued one yellow card and should therefore be ejected, and the referee is faced with his worst nightmare. I've seen this happen in soccer—in the heat of the moment a referee forgets that he's already given number 15 a yellow card, and although the current foul by number 15 merits another, there is natural resistance against giving him the automatic ejection that goes with the second card. The American player was allowed to stay in the match, the referee insisting that he was reaching for some tissues or something. The Americans come back and win the fourth and fifth sets to win the match. But the next day a committee overturns the result, since the ejection would have resulted in a penalty point, making it 15-13 Japan, ending the set and winning the match. The U.S. reaction is subdued—the player in question has a scalp disease and is bald, so the whole team shaves their heads before their next game against Canada. I call this a subdued reaction because I have no doubt that if the synchroswimming screwup had jobbed an American, the entire U.S. Supreme Court would have caught the next flight to Barcelona to issue an Injunction on the IOC.

The 10,000 metre race was beautiful. With

three laps to go, it was between a Moroccan and a Kenyan. They were lapping other runners, and as they lapped a second Moroccan runner, the two Moroccans were seen to be talking for a few paces. Then the lapped Moroccan suddenly found new strength and passed the leaders, unlapping himself. This is normally regarded as very poor sportsmanship, of course, but the Moroccan made it disgusting, pulling up directly in front of the Kenyan for about a lap, only to be eventually lapped again. Then it happened again—he passed and blocked the Kenyan, then fell back—with two laps to go. By this time the crowd was booing and whistling and an official had run out onto the track to yell at the lapped runner, to no avail. At the finish the Moroccan had a fine finishing kick; the Kenyan didn't. The initial decision was to take the gold away from the Moroccan runner and award it to the Kenyan, but this was later overturned when officials decided the Moroccan didn't need the help he obviously got. Apparently they took the claim that the two Moroccans hated one another seriously!

Then there was the decathlon screwup. Dave Johnson, the favorite, fouled on his first two attempts at the shot put, and the red flag appeared again on his third attempt. There was no question that this was an error—the throw was clean and Johnson stayed inside the throwing circle. But the officials saw only the red flag and didn't bother to mark it. Johnson later got an unprecedented fourth try—apparently nobody could remember where the third throw had landed and the mark left by a sixteen pound shot had disappeared—and did remarkably well on his fourth attempt, gaining about 150 points in the process.

All in all, this year's Olympics are more frustrating than ever. And we haven't even got a lot of mysterious Iron Curtain athletes to blame problems on. Instead we have the greatest sporting event in the world ruined by greed and politics and poor sportsmanship. No wonder the ratings are down.

Two card games to report on now. The first is the game Claude Gautron and Pierre Touchette were promoting at DipCon last summer in Toronto, a game called DROL, apparently gaining popularity in Manitoba (where it was invented) and Quebec. DROL is for four players, and is played with a special deck which consists of five suits of twelve cards—one through twelve in red, green, blue, grey and black—plus seven cards numbered 13-19 in a sixth pink suit. Each player gets 16 cards and the three left over are placed face up in the centre of the table. Like bridge, there is a bidding round, which in DROL decides the trump suit, the number of points the side declaring the trump suit has to take, and the suit that the pink cards are added to. The final bidder gets to add the three extra cards to his hand and

discard three others. Then the play proceeds much like whist (no dummy hand), with five suits in play, one of which is extended to nineteen cards with the addition of the pink suit. But the objective in the play is not to collect tricks, but to collect points. Each 12, 11, or 10 taken from anyone's hand as a result of winning a trick counts 3 points, each 9, 8, or 7 counts 2, and each 6, 5, or 4 counts 1. Other cards are worth no points, including the higher value pinks, so the deck total is 90 points. At the end of the play the number of tricks taken is of no importance; what counts is the point value of the cards captured in tricks. As you might expect, this turns hand valuation concepts I've learned from experience in Bridge inside out! The rules also allow bidding "negative points," where the objective is to force the opponents to take a certain number of points.

There is only one bidding system in DROL. I do not know whether the game's inventors have made their bidding system mandatory or not, but the Bridge players out there will recognize that this type of rule is unworkable. But until somebody finds an improvement we have only the standard DROL system of bids and conventions outlined in the rules. Compared to bridge, there is a lot of bidding space available in DROL. But there are no doubles or redoubles, and once you pass you are barred from the rest of the auction. As well, you must increase the level with every bid. The minimum bid is 1 in any suit or notrump, and the "par" point level is 50, so you must bid to take at least 51 points or to force your opponents take at least 41. A positive bid may be overcalled by a negative bid, or vice versa, at a higher (not equal) absolute level, thus -2 NT outranks +1 Blue. But the actual denominations have no order, as the four suits do in Bridge. The systemic meaning of any bid is derived from the suit bid, whether the bid is plus or minus, and the distance jumped. DROL auctions utilize cue-bids far more than in Bridge, and strategic pre-empts seem to be rare. A sample auction from the pamphlet Claude gave us:

North	East	South	West
+2 Blue	-5 Grey	+10 NT	+11 Green

If I recall correctly, this would be an interpretation of this auction so far:

North's bid of +2 Blue shows the 12-card of the Blue suit (unless the 12 is one of the exposed cards, in which case it shows the highest unexposed card) and shows a hand suitable for DROL+ (as opposed to DROL- where you have to force the opponents to take points) with a Blue suit (possibly combined with pinks) that should be worth about four tricks minimum.)

East's -5 Grey call is a jump of -3 in a suit. This shows three pink cards and suggests that the pinks be assigned to the Grey suit. Despite being a DROL- bid, the choice of a suit means East has enough strength to be interested in a DROL+

contract

South bids +10 NT, a jump of +5 in NT. This shows five suits having at least the 11 or 12, and therefore quite a good hand, but probably balanced. South and North are agreed to play a positive contract.

West's bid of +11 Green is similar to North's starting bid except that it is a jump of only +1, so it only shows the second highest unknown card in the Green suit (to me this should be the 10, since South's bid showed at least one of the 11 or 12, but DROL authorities may disagree with this reasoning) and agrees on a positive contract.

I don't know enough about the DROL system to know whether West's bid shows the 10 or the 11, but Bridge players must be surprised at this almost typical (certainly South's bid is unusual) style of bidding, utilizing what in Bridge we call cuebids, almost from the very start of the auction. The biggest difference, of course, is that passing is not an option early on. (Even very weak hands have merit in DROL-) But it seems to me that some types of conventions that originated in Bridge might be successful in DROL. Asking bids of the Blackwood type would work very well, since the partnership could assign an artificial order (disclosed to the opponents, of course) to the six denominations (the five suits and NT) and responder could answer in steps. With 12 steps available within a minimum jump, a huge range of responses could be covered. For example, suppose I start with -3 NT and the agreement is that this is an asking bid for, say, 12s and 11s, 12s counting four points, 11s counting one for the purpose of the response. Partner could respond as follows, after the next player bids:

Jump	Black	Blue	Green	Gray	Red	NT
-1	0 pts	1	2	3	4	5
+1	6	7	8	9	10	11
-2	12	13	14	15	16	17
+2	18	19	20	21	22	23
-3	24	25				

It would of course be rare if not impossible for the responder to have to make a jump of three to respond to such an asking bid. In Bridge, the Blackwood convention and its many variants are not without some risk that answering might get you too high. Not so here. Claude and Nancy beat the poop out of Grant Fraser and I in a July visit, but Grant and I are working on developing a system to hit them with when he returns in a few weeks.

The other game was a little enhancement to German Whist that I hit upon in a laundromat with Nancy. It worked quite well; I call it *Last Change*. It's for two people. You deal each player 13 cards and place the next card face up on top of the deck. The bidding determines who names trump and how many tricks he gives up from the final total to do so; his opponent leads to

the first trick. Play proceeds as in German Whist:

—the winner of the trick (players must follow suit if able, as in most trick taking games) gets the upcard, and the loser gets the next card in the deck, without exposing it.

—another card is turned up as the spoils that will go to the winner of the next trick, and the winner of the previous trick leads to the next.

—when the deck is exhausted after 13 tricks, the last thirteen are played out without any hand replenishments.

The simple modifications to this for *Last Change* are as follows:

—after the deal there is a bidding auction which starts with the dealer and continues until one player passes. A bid includes a trump suit (no notrump bids) and the number of tricks you wish to give up in order to name the first trump suit. The lowest bid is one club, then one diamond, one heart, and one spade, then two clubs, etc. (The highest possible bid is twenty-six spades, but no auction ever goes anywhere near that high.)

—During the play, players keep track not of the total number of tricks won, but the lead one player has. Thus, if both players have won two tricks, they should throw them into a neutral "discard pile" beside the deck. Since both players will usually win over ten tricks, this is convenient more than a requirement. But the player who named trump also "owes" the discard pile tricks equal to the level of the final bid he made. If the bidding ends at four spades, the player who bid four spades must give his first four tricks to the discard pile, and no exchanges should be made before the auction winner pays the price of naming the initial trump suit. We call this "paying your debts."

—any player who wins a trick that he did not lead to (we call this "winning back the lead") may change the trump suit before leading to the next trick, with one exception and one clarification. Clarification: The first trick is led to by the opponent of the person who named trump. He cannot change the trump by simply playing an ace, he has to lose the lead and regain it. Exception: the loser of the thirteenth trick has the final change of the trump suit if and when he regains the lead. (Thus the name of the game, *Last Change*.) This means that the trump suit can only be changed one more time after the hand enters the final phase where there are no cards left to replenish hands.

—a tie goes to the player who wins the final trick. The scoring is by hands won, with no bonus for winning by a large number of tricks (but see options below).

It is amazing how these small changes get around the usual problem of two player trick-taking games: often one player has a great majority of strength. But in *Last Change*, unless you can win a long sequence of tricks with your "rock

crusher," you will have to give up the lead and see the trump suit changed. Being dealt a seven-card suit is no great advantage when you have to pay three or four tricks to get it named as the first trump. Also, losing tricks in the first stage has advantages—you know what your opponent is adding to his hand, but he doesn't know what you're getting. At about trick ten the two players begin to manoeuvre into a position where they can safely lead a losing card to trick thirteen in order to ensure that the final trump suit will be theirs, and the player who wins trick thirteen usually tries to win a bunch of tricks (often running his own suit) to keep his suit as trump and to avoid seeing his opponent's suit become trump for as long as possible. In very close hands, there are often delicate moves toward the end to ensure getting the last trick—just in case it's a tie.

You might even try these variations:

—play with a non-standard deck. The Trumpet deck (6 suits) might be interesting, or even the DROL deck, but don't ask me what to do with the pink cards!

—it may be that the game gets bogged down if one or both players can remember which cards remain at the end. If this becomes a problem, simply put 2-8 cards aside before dealing, so that there remains uncertainty to the end.

—offset the advantage that higher ranking suits have in the bidding by requiring that a player must pay a trick when changing the trump to a higher-ranking suit.

—use a doubling cube, as in Backgammon, with doubling allowed before playing any card. (This means that the player not on lead might double based on seeing the card lead, which makes for interesting strategy.) The gammon and backgammon plateaus (for doubling and tripling the stakes) are set at leads of three and five tricks. This makes for a fine gambling game!

Short Computer Note #3: The local bridge unit bought two large programmable digital clocks for use in tournaments to keep things moving. There are four digits, and the first two show the round number (as in "this is the fifth round"—duplicate bridge is played in rounds, and between rounds the players change tables to take on different opponents), and the next two show the number of minutes remaining in the round. With two minutes left, there is a double beep, and there is a different type of beep when the round ends. The machines are about two feet high and twice as wide. They cost \$4,000 each. When I heard this I couldn't believe it. This sort of thing could easily be programmed to occur on a computer screen. You could buy an old, used IBM computer and a monochrome monitor for \$150 and save a bundle—with \$8,000 you could buy enough stuff to have monitors set up around the room. So I took about six hours and wrote the program last

week in QBASIC, the new BASIC interpreter that comes with MS-DOS 5.0. It wasn't difficult, just tedious, as most programs are. But QBASIC, along with the reference guide I purchased, takes care of almost every problem that springs up. Compared to earlier versions of BASIC I've used, well, there is absolutely no comparison. QBASIC gives you a word-processor like editor to work with, powerful new keywords for graphics, sound effects, and program flow, a useful debugging aid, and an extensive database of help screens for instant reference. Under Windows 3.1, I can actually set it up so that a sixth of the screen is a QBASIC window and the rest is the word-processor, so I can type in stuff and watch the program running in the background. I wish I'd had it when I was working on the duplicate scoring program about four years ago. I might have been able to do enough to sell it!

And now for something completely different...There was a movement this summer in Canada towards gaining equal status for women. Not in the way you might expect, though. The protesters in this crusade confined their criticism to one aspect of male-female inequality that will make you think I'm making this up. I'm not. There are a number of women in Canada who want the right to go topless in public, as men normally do.

When the whole crusade started with the first anniversary of the arrest and subsequent fining of a young woman in Ontario for going topless on a searing hot day, the media of course went wild. The concerns of the protesters were overshadowed by the double entendre headlines and shocking photos, and the advance notice of the next scheduled protests only served to ensure that a large number of idiots would show up with videocameras. Only a few of the women involved actually exposed themselves, most going only as far as covering their nipples with CENSORED signs. Not that I blame them, considering the crowds of goofball idiots that the protests attracted.

The whole controversy has continued through the newspapers letter pages. Few men have tried to argue either side seriously, since if you support the protesters you come off as having the ulterior motives of a voyeur, and if you are against the protest you appear to be ultraprudish. The consensus of most women seems to be on the side of the protesters, realizing that most women will never go topless in public anyhow. The moralists argue that allowing this will only increase the likelihood of violence against women by men, but I saw the pictures and I think the long term result is fewer "I couldn't control myself, your Honour, she was topless!" rape defenses. Toplessness, like any sexual delight, loses its lustre when repeatedly offered up on a silver platter without any sense of

naughtiness. We men may not be quite ready for it yet, but given time we might get over our hangups.

Bridge hand of the month: IMPS, both vulnerable. I held this hand:

♠AK9532♥1043♦5♣K732

and got to four spades easily: 1♠-2♣, 2♠-4♠, no interference. Opening lead was the seven of diamonds, and this was what I saw:

♠106♥K75♦AK108♣A854

♦7 led

♠AK9532♥1043♦5♣K73

I won the ace in dummy and took stock. Looks like the danger suit is hearts, given that I'm going to have to lose at least one trump trick. If left hand opponent (LHO) wins a spade, he can lead a heart through the king and I could lose three hearts before I get time to breathe. So, when I led the ten of spades at trick two and RHO covered with the queen, it occurred to me that it would be safe to duck. If RHO returned a heart I'd be assured of one winner in the suit. (It also occurred to me that if the queen of spades was a singleton I'd look foolish, but then LHO would have four to the jack and there'd be no way of keeping him off lead, right?) So I ducked, and RHO returned another diamond. What to throw, a heart or a club? I decided to pitch a heart, winning the other high diamond on the board. I ruffed a diamond and played the ace of spades, and RHO discarded a club.

Great. Now I have to lose another spade, the third round of clubs and the ace of hearts, along with the singleton queen of spades I brilliantly ducked a minute ago. Not only that, there may be another heart loser and I may be down two. I went to the board with the ace of clubs and ruffed a diamond back to my hand. Then I cashed the king of clubs. We were down to this ending with me needing three of the last five tricks.

♠—♥K75♦—♣85

♠K9♥104♦—♣4

I played a heart from my hand. LHO paused and finally produced the ace. He led another heart. I won the king on the board and led the last heart. This was the final hurdle. If LHO had to win this heart, he'd have to lead to the penultimate trick. His last two cards would be the queen of spades and a small spade. With him on lead at this precise moment, his apparently solid trump trick would disappear. I was smiling to myself as I led the last heart, but my smile disappeared when RHO played the queen of hearts. There was another hurdle to go, but I never saw it. Resignedly, I pitched the small club, sealing my fate. Obviously, I have to ruff the heart with the nine of spades and hope that LHO cannot over-ruff. If he can, I'm down whatever I do. The lessons: never give up hope, and stand by your

convictions. I think it was correct to let the queen of spades win early, but when everything else went down the toilet, I panicked and screwed up.

Short computer note #5: I don't know whether I'll get a chance to use it, but I now have a program to convert GIF files, the ones created by my fractal generator programs. You should expect some interesting "computer art" in the next few issues once I get time to play with this. The program also allows you to capture full or partial screens from any program, which would be nice to help illustrate the zine if I ever get around to writing some computer stuff. I realize computers might not be everyone's favorite subject, but that's never held me back before. Expect some computer stuff next time, with reviews.

Back to the Canadian Constitutional negotiations, which have been going on since I wrote the lengthy essay above. The deal reached by the premiers of all provinces but Quebec on July 7 gave Bourassa a difficult time, as I indicated, but after a few weeks Mulroney summoned all ten premiers to his Harrington Lake summer cottage. The joke then was that it was clearly correct to avoid Meech Lake this time, since that was the birthplace of the last deal that failed (apparently the PM has an infinite number of cottages all along the Ontario-Quebec border, either that or he moves house a lot), but this one had better succeed because the number of lakes near Ottawa was finite. This was to be a discussion on whether or not the July 7 deal could be used as a framework for continued negotiations with Quebec. The premiers emerged and in what was to become a familiar scene on Newsworld (Canada's version of CNN—which is about like comparing the B.C. Lions to the Dallas Cowboys), Mulroney, followed by the premiers in random order, made short statements and fielded questions from reporters. It appeared that everyone was happy—Bourassa spoke of the acknowledgment that Quebec's concerns (which had included their loss of power by the creation of an equal Senate, something Quebecers apparently give a large thumbs down to, further loss of power if any of the territories became provinces (the July 7 agreement gave nobody a veto over new provinces), and a few other things Quebec politicians huffed and puffed about) were valid ones and would be met, and Don Getty (premier of Alberta and Triple E's biggest supporter) claimed that despite this the July 7 deal was still the basis for negotiations. Most Canadians were dubious. To me the post conference quotes came awfully close to being self-contradictory. The major hurdle had been tentatively cleared, Bourassa would return with the other nine premiers, the prime minister, and native leaders, the following week, for two days of talks.

The first day produced nothing. People predicted disaster—or at least that Mulroney would call an end to the talks and present to Quebec a federal proposal without provincial consultation. Many suggested that this was the master plan to allow Mulroney to weasel out of the July 7 deal negotiated by Clark, some going as far as saying that the federal fallback was already written and waiting on somebody's hard drive in the Parliament Buildings. But the second day produced a Senate reform agreement, and further surprises continued throughout the week. When the smoke cleared, a tentative deal was in place, including the following:

A watered-down Senate in comparison to July 7, not deserving the Triple-E appellation, but Don Getty says so, so I guess it is. 62 seats, six from each province, one from each territory, down from 8 and 2 in the July 7 deal, and a larger Commons to compensate Ontario and Quebec (18 more seats each) for loss of Senate clout. (B.C. gets four more Commons seats, Alberta two.) Elected at the same time as the Commons (the initial election of senators may occur in the middle of Mulroney's current term, which runs through 1993, I think), but provinces choose the way they elect Senators—Quebec has indicated they will elect their six on the floor of the provincial legislature, keeping the people out of it. The July 7 70% supermajority to kill bills is out, but only 50% is required for a joint sitting with the Commons (I guess we should call this procedure "overtime"). Of course, the joint sitting is now more heavily weighted against the Senators, about 5½ to 1 as opposed to the July 7 ratio of 3½ to 1. Natural resources bills can be vetoed with 50%, as before. Supply bills are out of bounds for the Senate—they can vote against, but it doesn't mean anything. Senators can initiate any other kind of legislation. No Senator may serve in the Cabinet.

A perpetual guarantee to Quebec is one quarter of the seats in the Commons. This replaces the previous guarantee of 75 seats minimum, which has become meaningless as the number of Commons seats has grown. Quebec's population is expected to decline to about one-fifth over the next ten years, and the current setup has B.C. paying most of the shot in Commons seats for this disparity, but there is a separate deal to redistribute the seats in 1996 (rather than waiting for the next major census in 2001), which should give B.C. a total gain of 8-9 seats.

The issue tackled after parliamentary reform was native rights. The inherent right to self government has been granted to all Canadian aboriginal people. We don't yet have a definition for self government yet, and we don't know how this will be financed, but the key to the breakthrough was

DipGab concludes on page 23

VICTORY-LAP CONVOY SUCCEEDS

Austria wins, stand-by not (quite) needed

FAURE 1986 CC Fall 1913

GM: Bruce McIntyre

GER: Bob Acheson, 1510-10883 Saskatchewan Dr., Edmonton AB, Canada T6E 4S6

AUS: Pierre Touchette, 74½ Falardeau, Hull PQ, Canada J8X 3E2

ITA: Claude Gautron, 620 rue St. Jean-Baptiste, Winnipeg MB, Canada R2H 0H2

FRA: Jacques Belanger, 985½ Mainguy, Ste-Foy PQ, Canada G1V 3S5

Fall 1913:

Germany: F Eng-IrS, F Hol S A Den-Kie, A Den*-Kie (BOOM!), F NAf-WMe, A Bel-Ruh, A Lpl*H.

Austria: A StP H, F WMe C Ita A Rom-Lpl, A Mun S A Ber-Kie, A Kie-Den, F IrS C Ita A Rom-Lpl, A Sil-Ber, A Swe S A Kie-Den, A Tri S A Tyr, A Ruh-Hol, A Bul-Gre, A Ber-Kie, A Tyr H, A Nwy H, F Por S Ita F MAO.

Italy: A Rom-Lpl, F NAO S A Rom-Lpl, F TyS C A Rom-Lpl, F Spa(sc) S F MAO, A Ven S A Pie, F Tun-NAf, A Pie S A Ven, F MAO C A Rom-Lpl.

France: A Mar-Bur, A Bre S A Par-Pic, A Par-Pic

Centres:

GER: Lost Lpl, Den. Edi, Lon, Bel, Hol = 4. (Survives in third place)

AUS: Gained Den, Gre. HOME (3), Ber, Kie, Mun, Mos, StP, Sev, War, Ank, Bul, Den, Gre, Nwy, Por, Rum, Ser, Swe = 19. WINS!!

ITA: Gained Lpl, lost Gre. HOME (3), Lpl, Con, Smy, Spa, Tun = 8. (Survives in second place.)

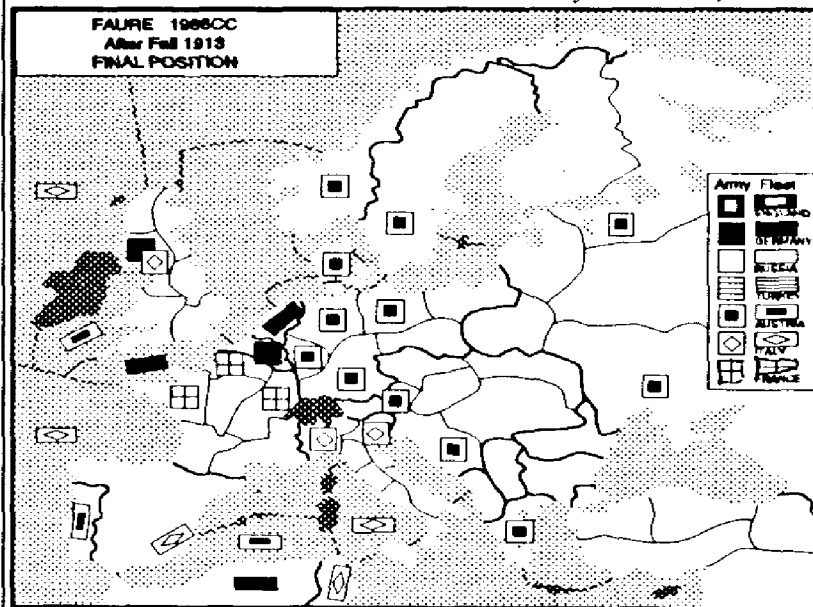
FRA: No change. HOME (3) = 3. (Survives in fourth place.)

PRESS:

Maestro: Congratulations to Pierre on the outright win, the second win in XL, but the first played from start to finish in this zine. (Ron Brown completed an outright win in XL#8, in a game Steve Hutton lent me while he went on holiday in 1985.) Thanks also to Brent McKee for being very prompt with stand-by orders for Austria. In fact, I didn't know who would get official credit for the win (even though Brent's conditional victory press release credited Pierre) until the Friday before the deadline, when Pierre's orders came in!

Vienna: Sorry guys for the NMR. Bit I was in Europe for a month and just returned home from that trip. Also, I would like to thank a lot of people for letting me win this game, the second time I've won a solo with Austria. Since me, Claude, Bob, and Jacques are the players who started this game in 1986, it has been a long game for six years, but it isn't the longest game that I played in.

Stats, page 22



TURKISH PLAYER MOVES-TO CHINA!!

Two-way proposed as France loses one

GREGORY 1989 CE Fall 1908

GM: Bruce McIntyre

GER: Gordon Argyle, #308-330 Michigan St., Victoria BC, Canada V8V 1R5

TUR: Claude Gautron (COA), Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, People's Republic of China 430070 [Claude suggests you copy the Chinese characters he's provided and use them on envelopes; I don't know if mail will get to him otherwise.]

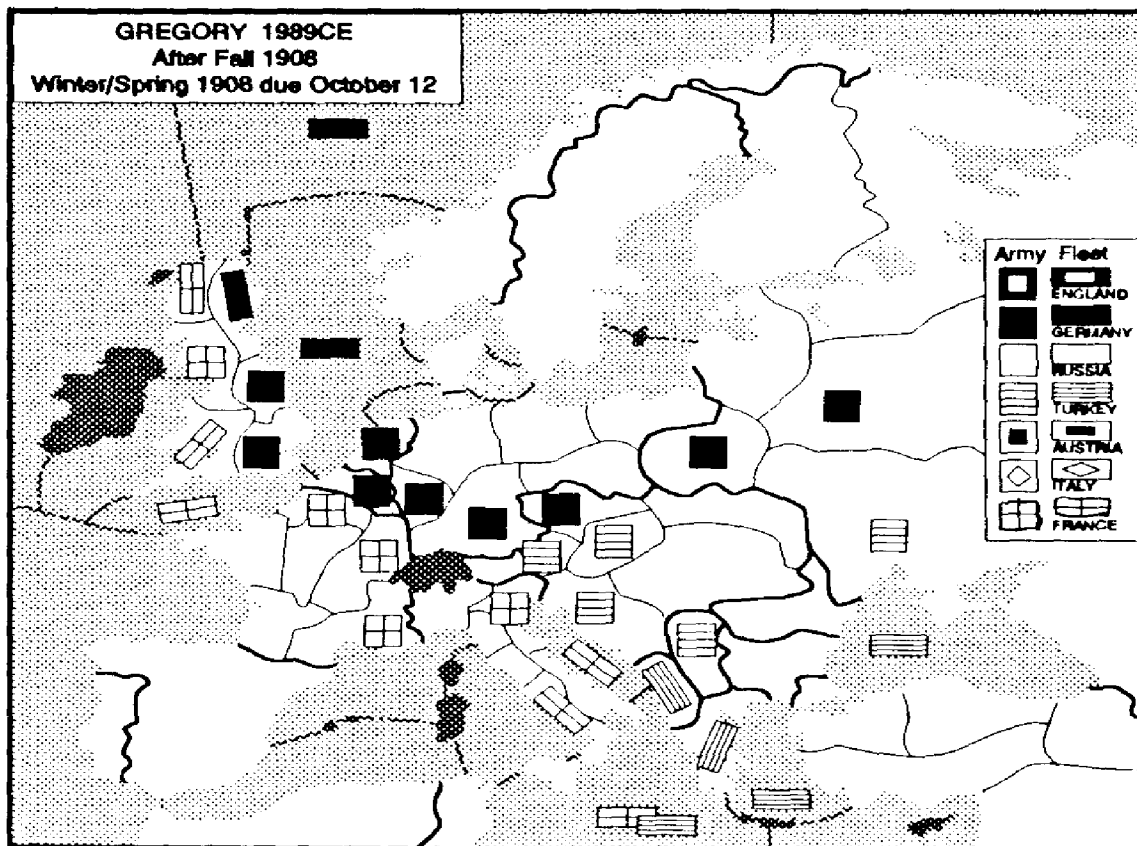
FRA: Randy Davis, 8771 Shepherds Way, Delta BC, Canada, V4C 4J9
Fall 1908:

Germany: A Hol S A Bel, A War H, A Ber-Mun, F Edi H, A Bel \$ A Mun-Ruh, A Mos H, F Nrg S F Edi, F Nth S A Bel, A Mun-Ruh, A Yor S A Lon, A Lon H, A Boh S Tur A Vie-Tyr.

Turkey: F EMe-Ion, F Aeg S F EMe-Ion, F Bla S A Sev, A Tri S A Vie-Tyr, A Vie-Tyr, F Alb-Adr, F Gre S F EMe-Ion, A Sev H, A Ser S A Tri, A Bud-Vie.

France: (F Lon r Wal) A Mar S A Bur, A Bur S F Eng-Bel, A Ven-Tyr, F Adr-Ven, A Lpl-Edi, F Ion*H, A Pic S F Eng-Bel, F Eng-Bel, F Cly-Lpl, F Nap S F Ion, F Wal-Eng.

more, page 22



FAURE Final Stats

Here are the final stats for FAURE, 1986CC, which ended in a Rulebook victory for Austria, played by Pierre Touchette, in 1913. The gamestart was announced in XL#14 (August 3, 1986), Spring 1901 results were sent out on Nov. 17 1986, and the game ended July 20, 1992. The game was conducted on flyer but with nearly all reports appearing in XL when the following issue was ready for publication. My copy of XL #15 holds the Spring 1901 season over, and XL #16 (after a lengthy delay following an extended holiday and a jobless period for me) has Winter 1901 builds, with two changes from the initial lineup. I'll try to figure out who sent orders when, but since this means looking over 6 year old disks and firing up the primitive computer, I might need help. [OK--Spring 1901 was sent out November 17, 1986, with a letter to all that I'd be unable to publish for awhile. The game continued by flyer until XL returned the next spring. I think I have Italy's start straightened out.]

Dramatis Personae: One GM, me, and many, many players:

ENGLAND: Wayne Wittall (dropped out after Spring 1902), Alan Stewart (dropped out after Fall 1904), Doug Acheson (resigned with final orders for Fall 1906), Gordon Argyle (eliminated after 1911).

GERMANY: Bob Acheson (survived through 1913).

RUSSIA: Derek Daniels (resigned with final orders for Fall 1901), Craig Reges (dropped out after Spring 1904), Brian Wilson (dropped out after Spring 1907), Marvin Baker (eliminated after 1912).

TURKEY: Paul Milewski (eliminated after 1909).

AUSTRIA: Pierre Touchette (won with 19 centres in 1913).

ITALY: Dennis Quine (signed up but never sent orders), Ron Krukowski (resigned with final orders for Spring 1901), Claude Gautron (survived through 1913).

FRANCE: Jerry Falkner (dropped out after Winter 1901), Jacques Belanger (survived through 1913).

Of the nine player changes, three were resignations sent with final orders, one was a resignation sent for medical reasons by Brian Wilson, who died a few weeks after that (I put it down as a dropout because he NMRd once before the next player took over), four were consecutive NMR dropouts, and the other player (Dennis Quine) was signed up but never sent orders for Spring 1901, which triggered the double deadline with Ron Krukowski as the standby. Large player lists for a game which has seen many player changes tend to be looked upon as public notice that somebody screwed up with NMRs, or somebody resigned because the position was bad, and the game became unbalanced. I should point out that the resignations all were cases of people lowering their hobby involvement, and none of the player changes appeared to have a great contribution to Pierre's win all by itself.

Supply Centres:

POWER	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13
ENG:	4	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	0		
GER:	5	6	7	9	10	12	13	11	10	7	7*	6	4
RUS:	5	5	4	2	2	1	1	2	3	3	2	0	
TUR:	4	4	4	4	3	3	1	1	0				
AUS:	5	5	6	8	9	9	11	10	10	13	14	17	19
ITA:	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	8	7	9	8	8
FRA:	4	5	5	5	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	3	3

Endgame statements should be ready for next issue's general deadline.

GREGORY Fall 1908 continued

Centres:

GER: Lost Vie, gained Lon. HOME (3), Edi, Lon, StP, War, Mos, Bel, Den, Hol, Nwy, Swe = 13. Build one.

TUR: Gained Vie. HOME (3), Sev, Bud, Tri, Vie, Bul, Gre, Rum, Ser = 11. Build one.

FRA: Lost Lon. HOME (3), Lpl, Nap, Rom, Ven, Por, Spa, Tun = 10. Remove one if dislodged F Ion retreats somewhere.

PRESS:

Maestro: Thanks to the usual summer slowdown here, XL is a bit late, and will be coming out about the same time as this report. Players, if you haven't got a flyer yet, it may just be a quirk of Canada Post--I will mail the flyers before the zines, but I'm nearly ready to have the zine printed up as I type this, so there may be only a few days difference. Claude's address has changed-*really* changed. Check it out. A two way draw between Turkey and Germany has been proposed. Please vote with your next orders.

Maestro's retreats for next time: FRANCE: F Ion r (Tun, TyS, Apu, OTB)

DEADLINE for Fall 1908 is Noon, PST, Monday, October 12, 1992.

The New Maps

Having promised to explain the way the latest version of this zine's maps are produced, and not really feeling up to anything more creative at the moment, this seems like a good spot to start typing for this issue. (You didn't really think I typed it all up in the order it appears, now, did you?)

In 44 issues of XL, I've gone from hand-drawn maps all the way to laser-printed multi-layered vector-graphics maps. Whatever method I use, there are bound to be screwups from time to time, so I should remind everyone of the house-rule (stated explicitly here even though it is generally in force everywhere): *where the map does not agree with the printed orders, the printed orders shall prevail.* Maps are only for show, because it's easy to screw them up: I should know. For one thing, comparison with an actual board position is tedious—you can't just look it over and expect to get it right all the time; you have to count units, check each position to see that the right type and nationality of unit is in each space, etc. I think the current way XL maps are produced is going to minimize map errors (and I'll explain why in this piece), but even so, there was a missing unit in the FAURE map last issue. So please be sure to check if you think something is

wrong—the maps are not foolproof.

Producing Diplomacy maps for print is a two-part job—obtaining a reasonable map-board, and indicating where the units are. The first 15 issues of XL used a poorly drawn map by myself. The units were letters, capitals for *fleets* (I have never understood the reason most people use capitals for armies. Capitals are larger than lower-case letters. Land spaces are usually smaller than water spaces. It seems logical to use smaller letters for units that will go into smaller spaces.), and the method of applying them ranged from just writing them in, which I did at the start of *Conference Call*, the local play-by-phone zine I published in the mid-eighties, to using letter-press letters, to a combination of letter-press and hand-writing when the predictable happened and I began to run out of the letters I needed, to letter-press capitals only (circling the fleets by hand), which was necessary when I found a way to order strips of single letters, but found out that you could only order capitals...

After XL #15 came out, there was a long delay, nearly eight months, before I had enough money to put out XL #16 (I had some job troubles). But during the time that the zine was AWOL, I was

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the natives guarantees: no new land claims, and native laws under self government would "conform with federal and provincial law in matters of peace, order, and good government."

The provincial governments get a lot out of the deal, including exclusive spending powers over six jurisdictions: forestry, mining, tourism, recreation, housing, and municipal/urban affairs. As well, there are agreements to hand over a lot of responsibilities to the provinces, should they want them, in other areas, notably immigration.

There's guaranteed rights to health care, social services, education, workers' rights, and protection of the environment, an agreement to reduce trade barriers between provinces, which will be a slow process, and a preamble called the Canada Clause in which Quebec is recognized as a distinct society (the words "within Canada" have been omitted as I feared), and provinces are committed to "developing the vitality of the English minority in Quebec and francophones outside Quebec." Other Meech issues are dealt with as follows:

—as mentioned above, provinces can work out immigration deals with Ottawa

—the federal spending power is now limited in that provinces, including Quebec, may opt out of new national programs with federal compensation. (Existing national programs such as medicare remain.)

—Quebec is guaranteed three Supreme Court judges

—the veto over constitutional matters is limited to "future changes to the Senate and other national institutions", and new provinces would have to work out a deal with all provinces over Parliamentary representation and constitutional rights: not a full veto, but enough of a roadblock to act as one

In general, while the Quebec demands are not met as easily as they were in the Meech Lake Accord, they are given special importance in this new deal. Obviously limiting the vetoes are better than just handing them out and hoping like hell that the whole package works.

The biggest question with the deal is how it becomes official. Quebec, B.C. and Alberta have provincial laws requiring referendums to be held on constitutional changes, and other provinces are thinking of going that route as well. The talk from Ottawa now is to preempt all this and call a national referendum. I hate this idea! What chaos would this create if Quebec voted no and the rest of the country voted yes? Better to have referendums where and when they are required, and hold them one after the other, so the full weight of the country's federalists can win each fight one by one. Difficult as this might prove, that truly would be nation building. I'll vote yes.

OK, enough of this—we're over 80,000 characters already, just for this DipGab monstrosity.

working with a new program for the Commodore 64 called GEOS, which in today's computer terms would be described as a pathetic attempt to make the C64 (still quite popular in 1987) look like a Mac. Mac owners will immediately burst out laughing at this outrageously optimistic statement, but the unadorned Commodore 64 operating system was worse than raw MS-DOS: to load and run programs required typing in commands like `LOAD"PROGNAME".8.1` instead of clicking on an icon (the Mac or Windows way) or typing some short name that would start the program (the DOS way). GEOS, while slow, sluggish, and full of bugs, was a huge improvement, and the company that sold the program, Berkeley Software, used the money they made from GEOS to get into the IBM PC market with GeoWorks Ensemble, currently the #1 (so I'm told) Windows clone for low-end PC users (Windows requires at least a good 286 machine and lots of memory). GEOS's desktops and icons came with a bunch of utilities, a word-processor, a paint program, and enough stuff to ease a first-time user through the intricacies of mouse control. One of the things I did with the extra spare time was to draw a Diplomacy map from scratch using geoPaint.

Paint programs are just computer manipulators of dots in a grid. You tell the computer the size of your grid, whether you need colour, and then go about filling in the dots you want. The program makes this much easier than just colouring in squares on graph paper would be, by giving the user a bunch of tools to work with. You can have the mouse trail trace a freehand line of different thicknesses, draw circles and rectangles and straight lines, define square regions of what's already drawn and cut and paste it somewhere else, rotating or inverting the whole region, as standard "tools". You can have the machine use pre-created dot patterns that look like text, in different fonts and styles, and type the text into your drawing. You can fill in enclosed areas with colours, or, in monochrome, with patterns. You can do detailed work pixel by pixel using a magnifying tool. With a few days work, I had a decent map drawn that geographically wasn't too accurate, but more presentable than the hand-drawn maps I'd been using. The new computer-printed maps had stars for supply centres and little circles and squares for fleets and armies respectively (note: squares are larger than circles—at least these were), and after the initial mistake of assigning a specific shade to each country (this failed because GEOS only produced output at 80 dots per inch, and some of the shades looked far too similar at such low resolution, especially after photoreduction), I settled on a monochrome icon approach:

ENGLAND: Black except for a white dot in the middle.

GERMANY: All black

RUSSIA: All white.

TURKEY: White with three horizontal bars.

AUSTRIA: White with a black central dot.

ITALY: White with a sparse sprinkling of dots to imitate gray.

FRANCE: White, quartered with a black crosshatch.

This is the scheme I still use now, except that the Italian units now are white with a white diamond inside. I feel the icon approach makes it graphically clear what's where, more so than letters, which are to my eye too similar to achieve the same effect. My map area included a top box for headlines, a bottom box for deadlines and my address, and a sidebar containing player addresses. Later on there was a box showing supply centre ownership, which I will eventually add to the existing maps. The units, compared to the maps you see here, were very small, with good reason. It is clearly more efficient to create a map for any game from the previous map, moving the circles and squares around, than to place the units on the map from scratch each time. But when you move a unit from one space to another, you also move everything around it. This means that a unit going Rom-Tus takes the surrounding borderlines with it, while a unit going from TyS-WMe takes the surrounding water pattern with it, and leaves a white blotch in its wake. So I kept the units small, to make them easier to move without disturbing the map lines around them.

Anyhow, the GEOS maps continued with few changes (Pete Gaughan tried to get me to improve the map, which didn't happen but ultimately had an effect on the next generation, and in XL #33 I presented some zany icons to put into the spaces for an eliminated player's address, such as units-in-a-toilet-bowl, the tombstone, units-under-falling-guillotine, etc—but there were no major changes) until XL #41, where the next generation of XL maps appeared. Still dot-matrix printed, still printed from a paint program, the big difference was that I used a map program to generate the basic "Europe-shape" I worked from. Using Windows Paint was a significant improvement over the GEOS paint program, as well as providing better resolution. But I still had to take the dots produced by the map program and smooth them out pixel by pixel, and then add borderlines between provinces. It was a rush job, but it was a significant improvement. Even Garret Schenck noticed!

The maps that appeared in XL #43 were produced with a different type of graphics program called a draw program. The difference is simple: paint programs store dot-grids after you decide the contents, and draw programs store a list of elements that make up the picture. Elements include circles, rectangles, lines, curves of all types (even freely drawn curvy lines can be broken down into a series of mathematically-defined

elements), text (fonts and styles are varied using a pre-defined set of curves which make up the outline of each letter), and more. Element definitions include position on the page, inside colour (you can define the colour as "hollow" to let another element underneath show through), borderline thickness and colour, and the elements are tacked onto the page one by one, overlapping if necessary. The difference between the paint approach and the draw approach is best explained by example. Suppose you wanted to create a large "no entry" sign in an 8 inch square, at low (80 dpi) resolution. The paint program file would have to store about 400,000 bits of information, which would take up about 50 kilobytes, with much more required if you wanted it in colour. The draw program file would consist of just two elements:

—a red circle with a radius of four inches and no boundary, centred on the page

—a white rectangle with no boundary, one inch high and seven inches wide, on top of the circle, centred on the page

This gives the draw program many advantages over the paint program. The length of the draw program file would be much smaller. The draw program would be able to print a similar image on any printer once the printer's resolution was known, whereas the paint program would have trouble adapting to different printers. The draw program would have no trouble scaling all of the elements in a drawing to a different size, but the paint program would lose a lot of detail in such a transformation. The paint program is unintelligent—it says "printer, this is the dot pattern: print it," without worrying about what the output will look like. The draw program intelligently decides what the pattern defined by the elements should be, adapting it to the printer's resolution, before telling the printer what to do.

There are even more advantages in creating a Diplomacy map with a draw program. Since the picture consists of elements, you can actually place the elements on the board and move them around, without disturbing the dot pattern underneath. (This had always been a problem: to move a unit from Nth-Nwy would leave the North Sea's grey dot-pattern with a splotch of white I'd have to refill) I decided on a plan of action early on that took advantage of the layers function of my draw program (KeyDraw! Plus, a fine deal at about \$50: not Windows compatible but you can run it as a DOS program from Windows). The layers function allows you to separate a drawing

into multiple layers. For the XL maps, the layers, from bottom to top are:

1: The outline of the board (thick black line) filled with the light gray water colour.

2: A series of shapes in white which together make up the land areas on the board.

3. Some dark gray shapes (Ireland, Switzerland, unnamed islands).

4. Borderlines between nations in thick black lines, borderlines between provinces in thin black lines (when the board is printed full size—it usually appears at about 60% of size in the zine—these thin lines are actually dotted lines), and borderlines between water spaces in thick medium gray lines.

5. The box that appears in central Russia containing the unit samples, and the units themselves.

6. The box around Iceland, which gives the game name, BN, game date and deadline, plus another heavy board outline in black to clean up spillage.

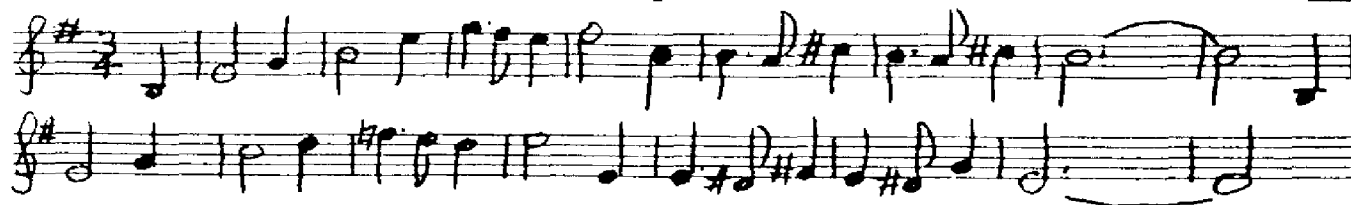
The Europe shape from the second generation of computer maps was traced for this version. The program allows you to take a bit-mapped image and trace it, using the computer-defined curved lines.

I think the latest version of Corel Draw allows layering but the previous version didn't, which is surprising to me. The biggest advantage with layering is with moving things around. It would be frustrating to point to a unit in Berlin, miss by a few pixels, and instead have the machine conclude that you want to move the line that runs from Sil/War/Pru to Ruh/Mun/Bur. In KeyDraw! I just go to level 5 and I can only select elements on that level, eliminating that problem.

One great improvement is that with this program I can rotate things to any angle. Some paint programs allow you to do this as well, but most allow only 90 degree rotations. The map looks much better with the oblong fleets rotated to fit into the spaces they occupy, especially when the spaces they are in are small ones like Hol, or oddly shaped like Gre. It seems to me that oblong vs square is easier on the eyes than square vs circle.

The final improvement, of course, was getting the zine versions printed with a laser printer. The scheme now is to print maps full size (about 7 by 9 inches) on the backs of game-report flyers using my dot-matrix printer, and use a laser printer to produce the smaller versions for the zine. I hope you like the improvement as much as I do!

END



Baseball Answers The Last Of 'Em!

For the final time, we check in with the answers to the questions that appeared last issue. This time we have responses from Pete Gaughan (PG), Robert Lesco (RL), Brent McKee (BM), Rosie Roberts (RR), New Zealand publisher Brendan Whyte (BW), and Andrew York (AY), plus comments from myself (McB).

Let's get started:

1. Jesus Vega at the plate. Two straight pitches on the outside corners, and you call them both strikes. Vega can't believe it. Vega steps out of the batter's box while he calls time and starts giving you the business in two or three languages. You listen to a little of the whining, but you soon get tired of it. When you tell Vega to get back in the box and hit, he refuses. You then tell the pitcher to pitch, and he bounces a pitch about a foot in front of the plate. Is this pitch strike three, or is the count now 1-2? It's your call.

BM: Count is 1-2. I have seen incidents where the player steps out of the box assuming time has been called and the ball has been called whatever it would have been if the hitter were in the box. ✗

BW: It's a ball. Any pitch must be at "strike level" to be a strike. He should have pitched a strike to the catcher's mitt. Vega lives awhile yet. ✗

RR: 1-2 (whatever that means). ✗

McB: That means one ball and two strikes. It's conventional to refer to the count on the batter balls-first, strikes-second.

PG: Automatic strike, strike three. ✓

AY: Vega is called out on strikes. ✓

RL: Strike three. ✓

ANSWER: Strike three! (Rule 6.02c—if the batter refuses to take his position in the batter's box during his time at bat, the umpire shall order the pitcher to pitch, and shall call "strike" on each such pitch. The batter may take his proper position after any such pitch, and the regular ball and strike count shall continue, but if he does not take his proper position before three strikes are called, he shall be declared out.)

McB: I wonder what happens if Vega gets beamed while out of the batter's box?

SCORING: ✓ is better than ✗.

2. You're working a two-man crew. With the bases loaded, Handsome Ransom Jackson doubles to right centre field. All three runners score and Jackson tries for third on the throw home. You're the base umpire and you call Jackson out on the subsequent throw to third. The home plate umpire is calling Jackson safe at third at the same time. How do you resolve this mess?

BW: You as base umpire override home plate's one. Jackson is out. (Otherwise, toss a coin if he argues.) ✗

RR: Base umpire decides. ✗

BM: The umpire who has the better view makes the call. In this case, I would assume that that would be the home plate umpire. Jackson is safe. ✗

AY: The field umpire should have the call unless completely out of position. The correct way to handle this would be the two umpires having a very private consultation and reaching a verdict there. ✓

RL: I think we had better step aside for a minute and talk it over. Usually the plate umpire is the head ump so if he insists he is right I would defer to him. ✓

PG: Consultation between umpires—in most cases, if you can't determine who had the better angle, the home-plate ump's call goes. ✓

ANSWER: This is covered in the rulebook. Get all the players together and managers away and decide which call is most likely correct. Be prepared to argue with the other manager. (Rule 9.04c—If different decisions should be made on one play by different umpires, the umpire-in-chief—in this case the plate umpire—shall call all the umpires into consultation, with no player or manager present. After consultation, the umpire-in-chief shall determine which decision shall prevail, based on which umpire was in the best position and which decision was most likely correct. Play shall proceed as if only the final decision had been made.)

SCORING: To get the point you needed to indicate that there should be some consultation between umpires here. It didn't matter who you decided was correct.

3. In a tie game, Tobacco Chewin' Johnny Lanning has run the count full on the leadoff batter in the ninth inning. As Lanning begins to make his payoff pitch to the plate the ball slips out of his hand and dribbles about fifteen feet toward home plate. Is this ball four and do you give the batter a base on balls or call this no pitch and give Lanning another chance? It's your call.

BW: It's a fair pitch, ball four! It left the pitcher's hand after an obvious windup. Batters don't get another chance if they don't hit it far enough! ✗

BM: Ball four. There is no other choice if the pitcher is toeing the rubber. ✗

RR: It's ball four (whatever that means). ✗

McB: Ball four means the batter is awarded first base (other runners advancing if forced) without actually having to hit the ball. A "base on balls" is usually referred to as a walk.

RL: I think it's no pitch and he starts over. If I recall though, that's a balk if runners are on base. ✓

AY: Called no pitch and he gets another chance to strike the batter out. ✓

PG: With no runners on (as here), no pitch. ✓

ANSWER: No pitch, give Lanning another chance. A pitch must cross the foul lines. (Rule 8.01d—A ball which slips out of a pitcher's hand and crosses the foul line shall be called a ball; otherwise it will be called no pitch. This would be a balk with men on base.)

SCOREBOARD: Rob, Andy, and Pete are perfect at three, Brent, Rosie and Brendan are still in the starting gate.

4. Bases are loaded with Peninsula Pilots and Calvin "Nuke" Laloosh lets go with a wild pitch. The Pilots begin to move up a base and when Durham Bulls catcher Crash Davis gets back to the screen to retrieve the ball he finds it lodged in the chain-link fence. Davis can't budge the ball from the screen and all three Peninsula runners circle the bases. Do you allow all the runners to score, or do you call a dead ball and let the runners advance only one base each? It's your call.

RR: All the runners score. ✗

BM: Dead ball. Players advance only one base. Since the ball cannot be retrieved I assume it is the same as if the ball had gone into the photographer's enclosure. ✓

BW: Dead ball. No doubt. I might give two bases if they were nice about it. ✓

RL: Dead ball. Runners advance one base. ✓

PG: Advance only one base (but this is a ground rule, not an official rule). ✓

AY: Runners advance one base. ✓

ANSWER: The ball is dead any time it becomes lodged. Since it was a pitch the runners would get one base. (Rule 7.05h—Each runner including the batter-runner may, without liability to be put out, advance one base, if a ball, pitched to the batter, or thrown by the pitcher from his position on the pitcher's plate to catch a runner, goes into a stand or a bench, or over or through a field fence or backstop. The ball is dead.)

5. Bump Bailey is playing centre field for the New York Knights. With two outs and the bases loaded he decides to make a hotdog catch in the outfield on a routine fly ball. Bailey tips his hat to the crowd and then proceeds to use his cap to catch the ball. Is this legal? If not, what is the call? It's your call.

BW: Fair catch. As long as he or his clothing stops the ball hitting the ground. ✗

RR: It's not legal (but how should I know what the alternative is?) ½ ✓

BM: In the old days of baseball they used to catch bare-handed. Later they added gloves as a protection for their hands. I assume the glove is considered a part of the hand. I think that using a cap to catch is going a bit too far. It is not a legal

catch. Ball is live, runners may advance, fielder has to throw to one of the basemen. ½ ✓

PG: Aha! At last the detached equipment rule! Not a catch—batter entitled to three bases. ✓

AY: Not legal; everyone advances three bases; the batter can try for home, if he feels lucky. ✓

RL: In spite of the ad for "A League of Their Own" this is not legal. (That's from my brother who almost burst a blood vessel when he saw that ad.) It's like throwing your glove at the ball—the ball is in play, runners are awarded three bases and the batter is awarded third but since the ball is alive he can continue if he chooses, at his risk. ✓

ANSWER: Bump messed up here. No catch. The batter and runners get three bases. That's right, a triple, and the batter may try for home at his own risk. (Rule 7.05b—Each runner including the batter-runner may, without liability to be put out, advance three bases, if a fielder deliberately touches a fair ball with his cap, mask, or any part of his uniform detached from its proper place on his person. The ball remains in play and the batter may advance to home base at his peril.)

McB: A half-point here for refusing to allow the catch, and a half point for stipulating the correct penalty of three bases. The batter being allowed to try for home is not real important. But since he's awarded third once the cap catch is made, can he go directly there and then try for home or does he have to touch first and second?

6. The Mudville nine has runners on first and second base with no outs. Casey has come out of his slump and instead of striking out, he pops up to deep shortstop. You're umpiring the bases and you call an infield fly, but a gust of wind carries the ball out to short left field and the left fielder calls the shortstop off of the pop-up and attempts to make the catch himself. Does the infield fly rule still apply? It's your call.

RR: No ✗

BW: What's the point of the Infield fly rule? If the ball is caught anywhere, no matter how many outs, he [the batter] should be [out] too. Why only on the Infield? Answer: no, if ball is no longer in infield, rule doesn't apply. ✗

McB: The rule is that when first and second are occupied (with or without a runner on third), a popup to the infield that will easily be caught is declared an Infield Fly. The batter is out immediately, the runners may advance at their own risk of the fly being caught, catching them off base. Without this rule, a crafty fielder has the option of intentionally letting the ball drop. This would create a catch-22 for the runners: If they advance, the fielder catches the ball and throws to the vacated base(s), catching the runner(s) advancing before a fly is caught for an easy double (or triple) play; If they do not advance, the fielder lets the

ball drop and picks it up for an easy double play since the runners are forced to advance now that the batter is not out, and they don't really have a great head start.

PG: Batter is out as soon as you call Infield Fly—no 'retracting' of call allowed. Yes ✓

AY: Yep, still an infield fly. ✓

RL: I say it still applies. ✓

BM: Infield fly rule still applies. ✓

ANSWER: Yes, the infield fly is still in effect. (Rule 2.00—Pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield shall be considered an infielder for the purpose of this rule.)

SCOREBOARD: After six questions, Pete, Andy and Robert are still perfect (a three way umpire's duel!), and way out in front. Brent has 1½, Brendan has 1, and Rosie has ½.

7. Baltimore's do-everything player, Oyster Burns, is tiring in the ninth inning of a tie game. He is removed as the pitcher and moves to right field to bring in a lefthanded pitcher to face a lefthanded Altoona slugger. The Baltimore reliever strikes out the slugger for the second out. Altoona has a righthanded hitter coming up with a runner in scoring position, and a refreshed Burns wants to come back in to pitch. May Burns be moved back to the mound? It's your call.

BM: I saw this in a movie. Burns can go back on the mound, however, if the Designated Hitter Rule is being used, the Baltimore DH cannot hit. Burns must hit for himself. ✓

BW: I don't see why not! Swap fielders around anytime, especially for different handed batters. Unlike cricket, no 'overs' to complete! ✓

RL: I think they did this at least once with "Sudden" Sam McDowell so I say it's O.K. [Now I'll learn if this story is true.] ✓

PG: Certainly, Burns may pitch again. ✓

AY: Yes. ✓

RR: Yes. ✓

ANSWER: Yes, Burns can come back to pitch, but only once during the inning (Rule 3.03).

8. A visiting National League team starts the game with a bang with eight straight hits. Five runs are in and the bases are loaded when the pitcher moves up to hit in the top of the first. The visiting team's manager decides he would like to play for a huge inning and wants to pinch-hit for his pitcher. Do you allow the substitution? It's your call.

BM: Situation is allowed, however the pitcher who has been removed cannot come back into the game. ✗

BW: Yes, but only if substitute replaces pitcher for entire game. Once a sub is on, he can't be "substituted for" by the original guy again. So they probably won't pinch-hit their pitcher! ✗

RL: I did it once in Strat-O-Matic so I hope it's

O.K. I allow it. ✗

PG: No-player listed as "pitcher" must pitch to one batter at least. ✓

AY: No, the pitcher must pitch to at least one batter before he can be substituted for. ✓

RR: No. ✓

ANSWER: Do not allow the substitution, make the pitcher hit. (Rule 3.05a—The pitcher named in the batting order handed to the umpire-in-chief as provided in Rule 4.01 shall pitch to the first batter until such batter is put out or reaches first base, unless the pitcher sustains injury.) Since the visitors haven't been in the field yet, the pitcher could not have pitched to the home team's first batter.

SCOREBOARD: Rob drops back to 7/8, Pete and Andy still perfect. Brent 3½, Rosie 2½, and Brendan 2 complete the picture.

9. Pittsburgh's Sure Shot Dunlap decides to pinch-hit Dandelion Fritz Pfeffer in place of Blimp Hayes in the bottom of the ninth of a tied game, but he forgets to tell the umpire about his substitution. Pfeffer steps in to the batter's box and drills the first pitch over the left field fence for the apparent game-winning homer. The Boston manager appeals to you that the pinch hitter batted out of order since he was never entered into the game. Is Pfeffer out or does this one belong to the Alleghenies? It's your call.

BW: I can't see why he's out. But he can't stay. Put Blimp Hayes back on the plate and start again from pitch one. But seeing I have to choose, he's out. Can't sub and not tell the players. ✗

BM: Pfeffer is out. Substitutions aren't legal until the umpire has been notified. Since the umpire has not been notified, Pfeffer is hitting out of the order specified on the lineup. ✗

RR: He was out of order. ✗

PG: Home run counts—a play on an unannounced substitute stands. ✓

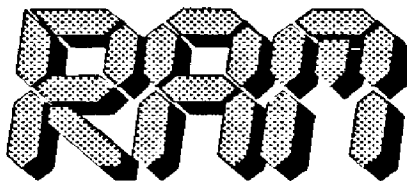
RL: Even if it's not announced, it becomes "official" by the act of stepping into the batter's box. ✓

AY: The game's over, Pittsburgh wins. ✓

ANSWER: This one is over. The batter did not bat out of order because he was a substitute. Batting out of order occurs when a player already in the game bats in the improper spot. The fact that the manager failed to notify the umpire is covered under Rule 3.08a. (If no announcement of a substitution is made, the substitute shall be considered as having entered the game when, if a batter, he takes his place in the batter's box.)

10. The Norfolk Tars trail by one run with one runner on and Yogi Berra batting. As usual in these questions, there are two outs in the bottom of the ninth. Berra hits a pop-up behind first base. The first baseman goes

Most of The Post



I changed the letter column procedure this time, typing in all the letters first, then breaking them up into segments, inserting

them in the order I had mapped out, and then inserting the "BM"s into places where comments or links seemed to be required. The biggest advantage of this was that I could cajole Nancy into typing up some of the letters. Let's see how it all works out.

ANDY YORK: Another enjoyable issue of XL—I especially liked the potential ads on the front page.

BM: Read on...

ROSIE ROBERTS: I'm sure your top five *Adendorf, GERMANY* could have been extended. How about

these (in no particular order)?

BM: I love 'em. Check out the front page, folks, if you haven't already.

ROSIE ROBERTS: Well, well, well. European record holder, is it? I perceive that I quite often got a question wrong that everybody else got right. This is surely proof-if-proof-were-needed that baseball is inher-

ently counter-intuitive. I could get a taste for this. This time's questions are even more impenetrable than last time's but I'll try again anyway:

BM: It doesn't take long to get a decent idea about how baseball is played, but you have to watch for years before you can get a good working knowledge of the minor details. To cite an example from the final set, the Infield Fly rule (which I explained in the baseball answers section) comes up maybe once every 20-30 games, if that, but the logic of it is quite apparent. I'm glad to see people taking a shot at the baseball questions just for fun—it livens things up, and is genuinely interesting to see the reactions of somebody who isn't as familiar with the game as we "experts." (Course, when I did the quiz after I bought the book, I got no more than about 60%.) Now, the page-tops quiz this time, while baseball related, might be a little easier for people unfamiliar with the game...

ROBERT LESCO: Brent McKee's comment *Brampton ON* on how the NHL owners

treat the players as "ignorant idiots" begs the response "Have you ever dined with one?" During the playoffs my wife began to chuckle and she told me that Bure (pronounced the same but spelled differently) is Swahili for "useless."

BM: I may use that the next time I get enough

back to make the play, but gets tangled up with a sportswriter who is on the field taking photographs. The ball falls harmlessly to the ground in foul territory. Is this interference? Is it a foul ball or is Berry out, or do you give the slugger another chance to win the game for the Tars? For the ninetieth and final time, it's your call.

BM: I have seen a number of cases where fielders run into ballgirls, cops and the like while trying to catch foul balls and it hasn't been called interference. Since the photographer is on the field "legally" I think it falls into the same classification.

BW: Interference. Give Berra another chance.

RL: I don't know about Berry, but Berra is still alive at the plate. It's a different case than fan interference since the photographer is there by permission.

PG: Foul ball, "Berry" steps back to the plate.

RR: It's interference; he's out.

AY: I'd call it a foul ball. However, I've a question about why a writer is on the field, shouldn't it be a sports photographer?

ANSWER: If the interference is viewed by the umpire to be unintentional, the play stands. Call

it a foul ball. If the interference is viewed by the umpire to be intentional, you could give Berra another chance. Or, if in your judgment, the fielder would have made the catch, you can call the batter out. (Rule 3.15—No person shall be allowed on the playing field during a game except players and coaches in uniform, managers, news photographers authorized by the home team, umpires, officers of the law in uniform and watchmen or other employees of the home club. In case of unintentional interference with play by any person herein authorized to be on the playing field...the ball is alive and in play. If the interference is intentional, the ball shall be dead at the moment of the interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in his opinion will nullify the act of interference.) Fortunately, separate areas for working media are made available these days, and this situation rarely occurs.

SCORING: Hard to get this one wrong, with three possible correct answers. OK, so I spelled Berra wrong. Sue me. Pete and Andy finish in a tie at 10/10, for \$2 each (more C64 stuff coming your way, Andy!), closing the contest with a bang! Robert finishes at 9, Brent has 4½, Rosie 3½, and Brendan 3. You'll find the final standings on page 44

nerve to phone up an open-line talk show. Bure could go either way this year—the loss of line-mate Igor Larionov to a Swiss team (because Igor refused to stay while the Soviets were guaranteed transfer fees) might hurt his production, but the new NHL anti-stickwork rules could double his effectiveness. I suspect we will continue to disagree on the players vs owners issue: I feel it is definitely the right of the players to be guaranteed a certain percentage of the game's profits, and the NHL's tactic of hiding the profits is unacceptable. Within months of carping about not being financially healthy enough to accept player demands, the owners are now competing for playing with open wallets: saying "we're too poor" and then paying Lindros \$21 million before he's even played a game in the league is talking out of both sides of the mouth simultaneously.

MARK LEW: The Quayle jokes pretending *Oakland CA* to point out to the vice-president that Murphy Brown is a fictional character are unfair. Mr Quayle did not say that "it doesn't help matters when Murphy Brown decides to have a child out of wedlock," as you report. He said that it doesn't help matters when a prime-time TV program shows a character having a child out of wedlock. I disagree with him—I don't think Murphy Browns on TV are so bad (ditto for Molly Dodd who did the same thing a few years earlier)—but it's dishonest to pretend Quayle thought Murphy Brown was a real person.

I didn't think Quayle was entirely wrong in his speech. I do agree that values are relevant. I grew up below the poverty level according to the government's definition, but we weren't really poor because we had so many other things going for us: family communication, home in a safe neighbourhood, support of friends and neighbours, and family values emphasizing honesty, work, and education. On the other hand, I've seen kids from middle class families—class suburban families who have the safe home but are otherwise set adrift by parents who are absent, indifferent, unreliable or dishonest. These kids get into plenty of trouble. I think the liberals go astray in minimizing the importance of such cultural factors in combatting poverty and lawlessness.

Quayle's mistake is in thinking good values are synonymous with traditional family structures and beliefs. His narrowness comes from being conservative in the original sense of the word—he thinks today's problems will go away if we go back to yesterday's answers. I think you and I are mostly in agreement on this. You're probably not aware that Quayle has

spoken well of single mothers in many of his post-Murphy Brown speeches. He criticizes absent fathers, and applauds single mothers for their effort in the difficult task of raising a family alone. There's still a sense that these single-parent families are somehow illegitimate, but he's not as bad as you think.

BM: I agree that Quayle has taken a bad rap, and my article was not so much laughing at Quayle himself (as the jokesters do), but at the whole situation. The right-pandering of the Republicans, a veritable orgy of which seemed to occur in Houston, continues to amaze me. It's as though they think that the political spectrum is a circle, and they can get left-wing votes by going whacko right.

BRENT MCKEE: Quayle keeps digging *Saskatoon SK* himself deeper and deeper.

First there was the "potatoe" matter, and now there is the abortion thing. He said that if his daughter got pregnant and wanted an abortion he would stand by her decision even though he is against abortion. Wife Marilyn later said that if their 13 year old daughter got pregnant, the daughter would have to keep the baby. Later she said that of course she was speaking of a 13 year old; if their daughter were grown, she could make her own decision and the family would stand by her. As for the Murphy Brown comments, it is passing strange that we have seen a handful of single mothers EVER on American TV series, while we have seen dozens with single fathers. Apparently being a single father is just fine, the influence of mothers isn't really needed. This makes Al Gore look so good that it has to rub off on the Democratic campaign.

ROBERT LESCO: It's only a theory but it has been speculated that the Murphy Brown comments were designed to distract attention from the Environment Summit in Rio. I've only seen that show a couple of times. I've never found it to be particularly funny and I quickly tire of one-dimensional supporting characters. The movie "Basic Instinct" also dealt with fictional characters (you can come up with other examples, no doubt) which didn't calm certain groups to any extent.

BM: This whole theory of Quayle's speeches as a strategy to divert attention from Bush is disturbing. If it isn't true, than how do you explain the endless gaffes of the Vice President, and if it is true, why do the Republicans feel this strategy is needed, especially as it clearly panders to stupid people who cannot see through such a transparent ruse.

But can Quayle become president?

FRED DAVIS: Thank you for printing *Ellicott City MD* both my **Fred's Column** #10 letter and my comments on the forth-coming Presidential election campaign. While Ross Perot's sudden withdrawal changes the face of this election, I'd like to first make a brief comment on your question on Pg. 33 of how the House of Representatives would handle an election where no candidate gains a majority of the Electoral Votes.

To begin with, the U.S. Constitution says the House shall choose among the three candidates with the greatest number of Electoral Votes. The new Congress, which takes office on January 3rd, does this, so they have only 17 days until Inauguration Day to decide. There are no rules telling the House they have to elect the person receiving the most Electoral Votes or the most popular votes. They can do anything they please. In 1824, John Adams, who came in second on both the Electoral and popular votes, was elected over Andrew Jackson, who was a clear leader on both counts. The story is that Henry Clay, Speaker of the House, made a secret deal with Adams to cast his votes for Adams in exchange for being made Secretary of State. No one has ever been able to prove this, but it seems likely that this is what happened. In those days, the Secretary of State post was the stepping stone to the presidency, and Clay's main ambition was to become President. The resulting outcry affected American politics for years afterwards.

What many people don't know is that if the election is thrown into the House, each State, large and small, has only one vote. So, the single Congressman from, say, Delaware, has as much power as the 50 Representatives from California. You can imagine how much logrolling and sheer bribery could occur, especially in the smaller delegations.

Meanwhile, the Senate selects the Vice-President from among just the *two* top candidates. So, you could wind up with a President being selected from one party and the V-P from another. If Clinton-Gore had finished third in the Electoral Vote, Gore would have been out in the cold no matter what the House did. If the House cannot come up with a President by 12 Noon of Jan. 20th, the Vice-President selected by the senate takes over as Acting President. This has led to some scary scenarios of Dan Quayle becoming President in a 3-way race. Thank you, Mr. Perot, for at least eliminating this nightmare.

Perhaps we'll get a Constitutional Amendment out of this. Some have suggested a switch to a popular vote; others have suggested that whoever gets the most Electoral Votes should win automatically. We'll wait and see.

MARK LEW: All the talk in **XI** about the presidential election going to the House of Representatives is way out of proportion. First of all, Perot will not be competitive by November. Second, even if he is, it doesn't take much lead in the vote count to get a majority of electoral votes. If the vote goes 34-33-33 but is evenly spread across all the states, the guy with 34 gets 100% of the electoral votes.

Whoops, Perot dropped out, making much of that discussion not very relevant. Perot's claim that he didn't want to throw the election to the House is nonsense. He knew he couldn't win so he quit.

The mentions that the House might elect someone other than the three candidates demonstrates lack of information. The Constitution forbids that.

Here's the way it works: Each state is represented by a number of electors in the electoral college, equal to the number of representatives each state has in both houses of Congress (ie, two for the Senate, plus 1-52 roughly proportional to the state's population). (Also, the District of Columbia gets three electors.) The Constitution does not dictate how electors are chosen, leaving that to the states, nor does it require that a state's electors vote unanimously. Currently, the process used in all states is to hold a popular election and require all of the state's electors to vote for the candidate who gets the most votes.

State elections take place in November. On January 3 of the following year, the electors gather and cast their votes (which will already have been determined in the popular election) for president and vice-president. A candidate who wins a majority in the electoral college is deemed elected. If no candidate wins a majority in the electoral college, the House chooses the president and the Senate chooses the vice president. The House must choose from among the top three electoral college vote-getters, and the Senate must choose from among the top two.

In the Senate, senators vote individually. Two-thirds quorum is required to call a vote, and a simple majority wins. In the House, representatives vote *by state*. That is, each state receives one vote. Of those 50 state votes, two-thirds quorum is required to call a vote, and a simple majority

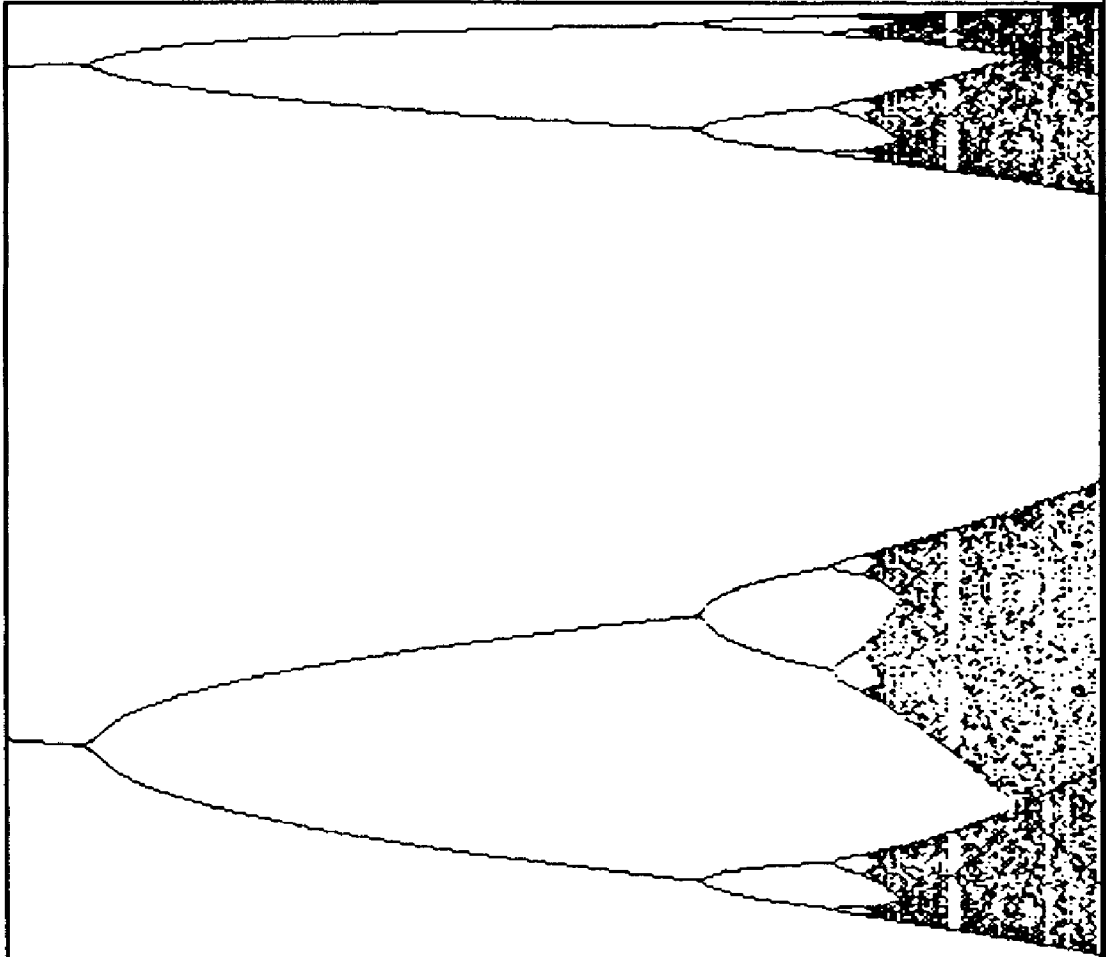
wins. In states represented in the House by more than one member, how those representatives shall agree to cast their single vote is not specified. The last time this happened, in 1824, it was agreed that a majority of a state's representatives could determine that state's vote.

The president is to be inaugurated on January 20. If no president has been elected by then, the vice president-elect serves as acting president until a president is chosen. If there is no vice president-elect either, the Constitution allows the Congress to determine by the usual legislative process who shall be chosen as acting-president until a president is chosen. Currently, the law lists a hierarchy of officials such as president of the Senate, speaker of

and immediately used QBASIC to set up a three-way simulation. The somewhat simplified parameters were as follows: Bush and Perot 33% each, Clinton 34%, 50 fictitious states, state number x has $10 + x$ voters and $x + 2$ electoral votes, and ties are broken at random. The program starts with state #1, surveys 11 voters, awards 3 electoral points to the winner, then goes on to state #2, surveying 12 voters and awarding 4 electoral points to the winner, and so on. The small number of voters means that the national average will remain constant but the states will vary a bit, as in the actual election. As I expected, the chance of somebody winning half the electoral votes is not good. Clinton usually wins, but only 60% of the time with a majority. With a larger number of samples from each state, Clinton wins majorities nearly always, but this keeps the

This is a blowup of the graph of the logistic difference equation, which is:

$$x_{t+1} = kx_t(1-x_t)$$
 After the first bifurcation (not shown here, the bifurcations come faster and faster, splitting the output into 2, 4, 8, 16, and then quickly into chaos. You can see hints of 3s in the midst of the chaos, and clear self-similarity to other portions of the graph that are not inside the chaotic region.



the House, etc.—I don't know the exact order—but that law could be changed.

Expect Congress to act on reforming the electoral process sometime in 1993. Senate Judiciary has preliminary hearings scheduled soon. House is interested, but won't touch it until after the election.

BM: I was intrigued by your 34-33-33 scenario

states quite close to the national average of 34-33-33, which is not what would happen.

It seems to me that these rules are based on the 18th century limitations on vote-counting. Surely in today's computer age it would be more democratic to simply hold a run-off election in December, or even use the single transferable vote—explained in DipGab's discussion of Canada's Constitutional deal.

FORTY-FOUR 1992

— "Oh I Wish I Was
An Oscar Mayer" —

Looks like we agree on why Perot quit, Mark. **MARK LEW:** Since you're fond of printing mathematical pictures. A friend of mine tells me he's seen an imperfectly tessellated pattern showing five-way symmetry. Have you heard of this? I can't even picture it, but my friend says it's for real. I'll let you know if I see it.

In your latest chaos bit, the discussion of the "logistic hump attractor," partly parallels my discussion of the "logistic difference equation" in BZ#71. I can't recall if I ever sent you a copy. Your diagram is misleading, I think. Because the laser printer relies on regular dot patterns, it appears that as k increases the pattern becomes more and more multifurcated but remains regular. My understanding is that it is irregular at sufficiently high levels of k , correct?

BM: Yup. Somewhere around this paragraph should be the real graph, not the unreasonable facsimile I printed last issue when I couldn't get my shareware graphics converter to work with Windows 3.1. I now have a much better program that can do this and more.

It's the logistic difference equation I discussed, the logistic hump attractor is another way of explaining the same thing, that has to do with mapping the equation's iterations using a hump-shaped parabola and the diagonal line $x=y$ to feed one result into the next. I'll get around to explaining them both better in future—with a good graphics program it'll certainly be easier.

I'm sure your first paragraph refers to Penrose tiles, which I described in XL #43, page 27. The five way symmetry is shown on the cover of one of Martin Gardner's collections of articles. Your essay on chaos in BZ #71 was great reading; thanks for sending the back issue. The same day that it came, I also got this letter from Chris Carrier, which oddly enough had material that had appeared in BZ #71's letter column! (Anti-environmentalist Chris Carrier recycles letters? I wonder what else he recycles...)

CHRIS CARRIER: Actually, the environment should be an issue in the 1992 election, but not in the way that Fred Davis would like to see it discussed. I regard the leaders of the environmental movement as fear-mongers and frauds who have stampered millions of people into thinking that we have to turn away from technological progress to save the planet, while the actual situation is that improved technology is the only way to give everyone on Earth a decent standard of living, and the '92 election should be about exposing the environmental cult for the fraud that it is, and to discuss how much higher our living stan-

dard would be if eco-cultism were rejected. Actually, now that Communism has proven itself to be a bigger failure than Bruce Geryk's college career, the totalitarian Left has seized upon ecological extremism as its way to seize power. Basically, if you read the propaganda these people put out, they want to see our living standards drastically reduced, and the only way to do that is to set up a dictatorship. (In fact, I doubt if even the platform of the so-called "Green" parties that exist in many European countries could be implemented without a dictatorship.)

The next time you hear one of these people making dire predictions of ecological doom, remember these predictions made as a scary buildup to Earth Day 1970: (Source: Life Magazine, 1970 January 30): "...scientists have solid experimental and theoretical evidence to support each of the following predictions: 1) By 1980, urban dwellers will have to wear gas masks to survive air pollution. 2) In the early 1980s air pollution combined with a temperature inversion will kill thousands in some U.S. cities. 3) By 1985 air pollution will have reduced the amount of sunlight reaching Earth by one half. 4) In the 1980s a major ecological system—soil or water—will break down somewhere in the U.S. 5) Increased CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere will lead to mass flooding or a new ice age. 6) Rising noise levels will cause more heart disease and hearing loss. 7) Sonic booms from SSTs will damage children before birth. 8) Residual DDT collecting in the human liver will make the use of certain common drugs dangerous and increase liver cancer. 9) New diseases that humans cannot resist will reach epidemic proportions.

Nine predictions, of which eight are totally false and while AIDS might fill the bill for Prediction #9, AIDS is caused by a virus, not environmental contamination, and even though it cannot be cured as yet, it can be resisted through drugs such as AZT and by educating people in avoiding risky behavior.

Other literature put out by the radical environmentalists of 20 years ago has proven, in the course of the last two decades, to be just doomsaying. (Food rationing in the US in the 1970s in an 'optimistic' Ehrlich scenario, Commoner's prediction of the death of the oceans by 1979, etc...) In fact, (this is something to think about whenever you hear someone talk about the alleged threat of global warming)—10-15 years ago the official ecoradical

line was that an ice age, not warming, was inevitable.

Of course, ecoradicals have no monopoly on end of the world nonsense. In fact, they remind me of holy rollers: "REPENT! For The End Of The World Is At Hand!" Does anyone here have any thoughts as to why this seems to be such a basic part of human psychology?

BM: It's easier to defend a position when all your opponent can do is claim that you're exaggerating. The ecoradicals act is getting stale though. Most of us know full well that there are companies abusing the environment, but (in Canada, at least) there are governmental agencies that control this stuff. Do the ecoradicals support governmental agencies? Course not. They'd rather spike trees and blockade roads and do things that make them look like fools. If they'd cooperate with the authorities instead of playing their silly conspiracy games they might get some respect, and ultimately a reasonable balance would be reached. There's been enough concern about environmental issues in Canada that people are willing to voluntarily recycle garbage, taking the time to sort out cans from newsprint, etc. Faced with this new attitude, the ecoradicals feel their best course of action is to yell that it isn't enough, and that anyone not co-operating should be jailed, and that there should be even more money poured into these programs. It's tiresome, and makes people wonder whether the stance is not calculated to put attention on the environment or on the ecoradical groups themselves.

ROBERT LESCO: I am no admirer of LBJ but, grudgingly, I concede that without his Congressional/Senate connections none of the Civil Rights legislation would have passed. JFK couldn't have done it on his own. Aside from my reading and conversing with my elders I've come to hold the opinion that of the three Kennedy brothers who entered politics, Robert was the best man.

BM: It seems that the assassinated Kennedy's "woulda, coulda, shoulda" reputations grows without bounds. That in itself is reasonable, until it reaches the point where the conspiracy theories emerge, not out of solid facts, but out of a cynicism toward government that says "JFK (or RFK) was going to do such good that it forced the backroom boys to have him killed" as their major argument for the conspiracy. The perception that nobody who is any good can attain power because of "the backroom boys" is probably behind the current dissatisfaction with government in the U.S. It won't be long until somebody claims that Perot quit because he thought he'd be bumped off if he won. And if Clinton loses somehow, there'll be a conspiracy theory about that, too.

BRENT McKEE: As to polls, every time I

hear of one (except the Runestone), I am reminded of the immortal words of former Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker: "Dogs know what to do with polls!"

MARK LEW: I don't know if polling in Canada is as rudimentary as you imply; I suspect not. Here in the United States polling is as sophisticated as anyone could want. The low-brow papers will report simple nation-wide percentages, but if you read the right magazines you'll see separate polling in every state with detailed analyses of how the electoral count will come out.

BM: So what are the names of these magazines? I saw one small graphic in *Time* a few months ago showing which states were leaning to Bush and which to Clinton, and which were winnable by Perot, but beyond that, nothing. In Canada I think a weekly poll of 2000 voters across the country would be better replaced with a poll of 5-10 from each constituency. What's more informative, this...

Party	%of pop vote
PC.....	29%
Lib.....	27%
NDP.....	21%
Rfm.....	14%
BQ.....	9%
±4% 19 times out of 20.	

...or this?

Party	Safe seats	Narrow leads
PC	110	16
Lib	85	12
NDP	43	4
Rfm	12	2
BQ	2	2

In a parliamentary democracy, obviously the second breakdown is more useful to campaign strategists, but I never see that sort of thing in magazines or newspapers. Apparently the conclusion is that we shouldn't be fed such numbers during the campaign.

Fred Davis didn't have enough time to prepare a full column for this issue, but he did send along a letter answering my questions on the nature of intelligence:

FRED DAVIS: As for your question on the *pre-school intelligence* of children of bright parents, I have only anecdotal evidence at hand, but this is a question which might be available in the psychological literature. Some Mensa people might have knowledge of this. All I can tell you is that I have personal knowledge of children born to "double-Mensa" backgrounds in Maryland Mensa. I refer to children where both the husband and wife are Mensa members or Mensa-eligible. One happens to be my own son, Kevin, as Inge is also a

Mensan. (Her scores came out higher than mine). In all cases where I've had a chance to observe such double-Mensa children, they are very precocious, speaking full sentences at age 2, starting to read before age 4, and demonstrating other high abilities. Kevin was playing Monopoly at age 4, Chess at 6, for example.

Of course, just living in a Mensa household, where books and magazines are available and the TV isn't blaring all day, would have some effect on almost any child. But, I do see bright people having bright children. Since tall parents have tall children, and all the other physical aspects of parent usually show up in children—sometimes skipping a generation, with a child taking more after a grandparent than a parent, I've never understood the reluctance of people to accept that intelligence is also a mainly inherited characteristic. I always say, "It goes back to Mendel and his peas." The current literature, including work done with identical twins separated at birth, seems to show that high intelligence is about 75% nature and 25% nurture. Even where the adoptive parents are not very bright, the identical twin will usually overcome adversity and become a gifted child.

Of course, there are many cases where a gifted child comes from ordinary parents. This could be due to a mutation, or to a long-hidden gene from some ancient ancestor. The same thing happens physically. To cite just one example, Mata Hari, the beautiful French spy of WWI, was born to two "dumpy, clumpy peasants." So, these things do happen. The important thing, however, is to keep your eyes on the bell-shaped probability curve. While everybody tends, statistically, to fall back to the mean on all aspects, a lot of Mensa children will fall into the Mensa I.Q. range, which is beyond the second sigma. I think all Mensans are 2.2 sigmas beyond the mean (the 98th percentile), which means we are all quite abnormal.

As for I.Q. scores changing, I know that people who have suffered strokes or other severe diseases or head injuries tend to have their I.Q.'s drop. I do not know of any verified cases where I.Q.'s have risen, other than if the person was ill or under great emotional stress when taking the first test. An abused child, for example, or one suffering from, say, asthma or a mental illness, would be likely to do better on a subsequent test if the original environment or condition were changed for the better. I've heard of allegations of certain pro-

grams being able to raise a child's I.Q. From what I've read in Mensa publications and elsewhere, these usually result in arranging for the child to be in an environment where its *real* I.Q. can be uncovered, rather than some magical increase in the I.Q. it was born with.

Minority children raised in middle-class suburbs almost always do better on test scores than those living in the ghetto. But, one must keep in mind that the minority parent who is able to move into the suburbs is probably smarter to begin with.

Some of these I.Q. differences may *not* be genetic. The length of time between the birth of children, the number of children in the family, and—most importantly—the *diet* of the mother during pregnancy—can affect the child's I.Q. We once had a black speaker from Head Start at a Mensa meeting. We asked her, "At what age should we start working on these deprived babies?" She replied, "At *minus* nine months."

In other words, births too close together, too many children, and a mother eating junk food or smoking/drinking when pregnant, will produce babies of lower I.Q. according to the people who are into the child health field. And we all know what the result is when crack mothers have babies! Perhaps there wouldn't be such opposition to the theory of inherited intelligence if some of these environmental factors could be explained to people. Proper spacing of babies to mothers who are taking care of their own bodies ought to at least eliminate the frightful statistic that the average American black's I.Q. is only 85. (It's 100 for Caucasians, and 110 for Orientals).

As a sidebar, it's also very interesting to note that in American Mensa, those groups which are considered to be bright have a much higher percentage of dues-paying members than the average. Jewish people, for example, are found to be 700% "overrepresented," while Unitarians are 2000% overrepresented. Members of Fundamentalist denominations are very underrepresented in Mensa, with Baptists, at 30% coming in last. These percentages were calculated for American Mensa about ten years ago, so there could be some changes by now.

BM: The reason I am very reluctant to accept that intelligence is 100% genetic is that it allows reasonable argument to be made that since the unintelligent are reproducing at higher rates, the overall average intelligence of humanity is decreasing. This of course leads to uncomfortable thoughts that we need to do something about it. Maybe the truth is that the renorming of intelli-

gence tests create a kind of counter to this effect. As the ratio of intelligent people in the population declines because of their lower birth rate, the average intelligence remains constant as non-genetic factors (minor as they may be) such as improved education and exposure to technology kick in.

MARK LEW: "Everyone knows that the Germans are ... a very hard-working and intelligent nationality"? I didn't know that. Fred's obsession with IQ numbers is bizarre. I took a GRE test not long ago, so I'm recently reminded of how idiotic these standardized tests are. I suppose a person's IQ has some correlation with how smart that person is, but it's probably no better an indicator than, say, skill at playing poker. Call me an ostrich, but I say IQ scores are total crap. (And that's not sour grapes. I took a Wechsler when I was about 10 years old, and I scored 152.)

I hesitate to make a comment which might encourage the idea that some human beings are more worthy of existence than others, but it seems to me that preaching the zero-population-growth mentality is contrary to the purpose of promoting a smarter population. The ZPG pitch is invariably aimed at discouraging reproduction among reasonably well-off and educated Westerners. The poor, uneducated and third-world never even hear the arguments.

In case I was too subtle, let me make it clear that I think your idea (and Fred's) that reproduction by people you deem more intelligent is more desirable than reproduction by others, is extremely offensive.

BM: That's not quite what I said. I said that if intelligence is 100% genetic (if parents with IQs of x and y could expect children with an IQ close to $(x + y) / 2$ most of the time), and the disparity of birthrates between intelligent and non-intelligent people remains, we could expect to have less and less intelligent people. Of course, this all assumes that we have a standard by which to measure intelligence, which you do not accept, Fred does, and I'm undecided but leaning toward Fred. (Fred, by the way, mentioned the German race as a whole, is hard-working and intelligent, which I think would be accepted by most people considering Germany's post-WWII performance.)

Your criticisms of ZPG are accurate; it's information aimed at people who don't need it. What needs to be done is to eliminate the poverty that makes childbirth one of life's few rewards, instead of just saying "don't have babies."

ERIC BROSIUS: If Mensa accepts the top 2% on any of several tests, then more than 2% of the whole population is eligible, since it's not always the same 2%.

BM: Mensans do not dispute this; 100% of the

whole population is eligible; to get in you need to score in the top 2% on an I.Q. test, which means that the test scores have been normed and a certain score beats 98% of the rest of the people who will ever take the test. It doesn't mean that if you sit down with 49 other people to take a Mensa test, only one of you will get in.

ERIC BROSIUS: I'm suspicious of Fred's numbers on p.29. I think there are approximately 366¼ sidereal days in a year — exactly 1 more than solar days. Isn't this true?

BM: OK, let's work this out. Fred says "it takes a few minutes longer each [solar] day to point to the same spot in the sky." How much longer depends upon the earth's rotation speed, and since each planet would have a different rotation speed, I'd be most surprised to find that the earth's rotation speed is such to make it work out to solar days + 1 = sidereal days. Looking it up I find the figures on p.29 last issue to be correct.

FRED DAVIS: You have a slight error in your comment that "the average man today is taller than the average man 100 years ago by at least an inch or two." The difference is much greater than that. For example, U.S. military records show that the average serviceman in World War II was at least two inches taller than the average serviceman in WWI—and that's just a lapse of some 24 years.

At the time of the American Revolution in 1776, the height of the average American male was just 5'3". However, in Virginia, where many of the people were descendants of English aristocrats, the average man was 5'5". (This you will learn if you visit the reconstructed Colonial capital at Williamsburg.) The difference is due to two factors, they say. First, the wealthier people had a better diet. Second, if you will agree that the aristocrats were "better" people to begin with, throughout all history taller people have dominated virtually every society. In case where two identical male candidates are up for a job, statistics show that the taller man will usually win the job. Where we know the heights of kings, generals, noblemen, etc., their heights almost always are above the average. George Washington, for example, for example, was 6'2". This literally made him a giant in his time.

You can obtain similar height records for the American Civil War, Spanish-American War, Korean, and Vietnam Wars. They show a steady increase in the average height, and foot-sizes, of both American males and females, thanks mainly to better diet and dentistry. All you have to do is look at the actual uniforms, preserved in

museums, of famous people to see how tiny most of them were. And look at how small the living spaces were in older houses, and the preserved warships. When they rebuilt Ford's theatre in Washington, for example, they could install only slightly more than half of the seats which were there in 1865. Even our new baseball park in Baltimore had to increase the width of the average seat from 17" to 20", as our derrieres are growing, too. No one knows how long this will continue. Perhaps if we all have decent diets, we will all be over 6' tall in another two generations. I know that I'm constantly amazed at how many young ladies are now as tall as I am, and I'm 5'11". In the old days, none of them were my height.

BM: Interesting—from my experiences in Europe watching my father duck his head when entering old castles (and occasionally having to duck myself, even though I was only 12 at the time!), I knew that people were taller today, but I had no idea it was as much as that. I wonder if there is a natural limit to this. Benoit Mandelbrot (the man behind the Mandelbrot set I wrote about a few issues ago) first became known to mathematicians for a paper entitled "How long is the coast of Britain?" You can estimate the circumference of a circle by inscribing a square and measuring the four sides, then inscribing a hexagon and measuring the six sides, which results in greater accuracy, and so on, until you have an accurate enough measurement. Mandelbrot showed that measuring the coastline of Britain with successively smaller and smaller rigid measuring sticks produced larger and larger estimates, as you might expect. But as the size of the hypothetical measuring stick got smaller, the estimate continued to rise, not converging on some final estimate. This became the first guideline for defining a fractal curve. Relating this back to heights, I wonder if the heightening of the human race is showing signs of approaching a limit, or whether we'll continue to grow forever. I guess we'll have to raise the height of the baskets in hoops eventually...

ROBERT LESCO: The maps are excellent. You may be aware that I'm running a game for Cal in NF (without aid of a computer). I may not end up doing this but would it offend you if I photocopied one of your game reports & touched up the map so I could use it?

ERIC BROSIUS: Just want to let you know how readable and attractive the laser printing made XL 44. I'd keep it up if at all possible. Are you sure you're never run the Leacock piece before? I must've read it in a chess book.

BM: Thanks for the compliments! Nope, never run the Leacock piece before—I have enough

stuff to get to at least XL#100 before I have to repeat. I'll see what I can do about sending along some blank maps, or, if Cal has CorelDraw working (my files can be converted) I could send him a copy—if you sent him a list of which units moved each season he could easily update the map file. When I adjudicate now, I make a list of which units have moved successfully, which have been dislodged, which have been added or removed, so that I can change the map file.

ANDY YORK: Regarding the deadlines and holding things; go with that you've got. It will only hurt the contests and games; lettercol questions can always have answers an issue or two still getting responses almost a year after they were poised.

As for whether you should publish with a smaller page count, I leave to you. I would not feel cheated if the page count was less; nor, would I be bothered if you used filler. It's your call (and your budget). Personally, in RW, I (now) have two staff writers who keep an article of two on file. When I have spare space, I pull one of those out and use it — and the writers are expected to replace it. I also have ads from some subbers and friends who have gaming companies. I've solicited material from them and use it on a "space available basis". I do it for free, as a courtesy to them. Just another route you may go.

BM: I'm thinking of changing to seven weeks between issues because it takes people's mail so long to get here. I can only do so much preparatory work before the responses come in, and if something comes up (like the constitutional debate this time) that I want to write about, I often need another week or so to get everything down. Overall, I'm happy with the zine's content and reader-participation, getting happier with the consistency, and still worried about the games. But I don't want to change things too quickly.

MARK LEW: The jury pool for the relocated Rodney King trial was the entire Ventura County, not just Simi Valley. It was frequently suggested that the trial should have been moved here to Alameda County (Oakland) where there's a demographic base similar to L.A.'s.

BM: I think that makes sense.

BRENT MCKEE: The example I used to explain the riots was straight out of a child psychology text. Activities are reinforced by any attention, therefore if you only pay attention to the child when he/she is bad, the child will see such actions as the only way to gain attention. In the case of the riots, the 27 years since the Watts riots have seen little in the way of improvements to the lives of the people in the ghetto.

The programs which brought business and industry to the area were discontinued or had their funding cut and the police continue to act as if they are an occupying army. The arguments you have raised may be valid to an extent, but if a company has a small plant in an area like south central LA, and a big factory in St. Louis, it is much more likely to close the plant in LA if they aren't getting quite as many orders, rather than reducing production in their larger plant. As to high prices in stores, it is worth noting that in many inner city areas in the US there are few supermarkets which means that the small store owners don't have to face that sort of competition, and can charge what the market will bear because the local people don't have the mobility to go farther afield. This is a recurring pattern even without a crime problem. Stores can get away with charging inflated prices for shoddy merchandise because they don't have outside competition. And yes, you are jaded.

BM: While I was unemployed about five years ago, Nancy and I decided to try a new grocery chain that was opening megastores in the suburbs. It meant a long bus ride and some heavy lifting, but it saved about \$15 a week. I don't understand this overcharging for groceries argument—surely there are reasonable grocery stores somewhere in L.A., plus transit systems to get there. And if you have the money to buy groceries you must have the money to get there. It just takes the will to do the right thing. I may be jaded as all hell because I see welfare families waste their cheques on convenience store junk at 3AM (instead of waiting four hours for the grocery store three blocks away to open), but it isn't as though I haven't ever been in similar situations. Those folks in south central L.A. should think about helping themselves too.

ROBERT LESCO: An incident, local to you, received some attention in Toronto. Our news carried the tape of Vancouver (or nearby) police roughing up an innocent man of Oriental origin who apparently didn't speak English. Maybe they thought "Ow!" is Mandarin for "Hit me harder". That case ended in an acquittal, if I recall correctly.

BM: Too recent for an acquittal, nobody's been charged yet—I believe the police have apologized and possibly some compensation has been handed out. What happened was that the informant had the wrong house. Odd that we never hear about it when they get the right house, even though this happens far more often.

ROBERT LESCO: You've hit the nail on the head again re Zine Register controversy and the TPP issue. Well done.

Douglas Kent: "They were set up this way so that 'hobby politics' wouldn't distort the distribution of funds" Bob Acheson: "I gave the thumbs down *because I didn't like much of the Zine Registers content*" Almost contradiction not quite I guess. I'll have to see #20.

BRENT McKEE: Having read Doug Kent's explanation of the mechanism for deciding on allocations of PDORA funds, I have to remove my foot from my mouth long enough to apologize to him for implying a conflict of interest in allocation of funds. I still think that Garret should have gotten something, and I found Bob Acheson's explanation of his vote not sufficient.

BM: I found it troubling as well, but don't forget that two other no votes would have been required. Where'd they come from? Doug's letter did clear a lot up and did so without the feud-style rhetoric often seen when these types of charges are flung about. It bodes well for the hobby to have somebody like Doug around who can take a bit of heat without going overboard.

BRENT McKEE: Milgaard wasn't denied parole, he refused to accept parole since he felt that by accepting parole he was admitting guilt. His "logic" is beyond my poor simple mind to fathom.

BM: Well, nobody ever claimed he was too brilliant.

ROBERT LESCO: It's admirable that Garret, not wishing to cause anyone offense, curtails his use of the English language and becomes upset at the sight of the Confederate flag. However, in *The Tactful Assassin* he claims to be a Marxist. Try and imagine how someone of East European, or Chinese lineage feels to hear someone defending the system that has murdered, tortured and imprisoned millions of his countrymen. Ah, but it's never been practiced properly—no, luckily, enough that it lived to show the world that the wonderful promises of socialism are murderous, barbaric lies.

BM: OK, comrade, pipe down a bit. We don't want to cause a real fuss, now, do we?

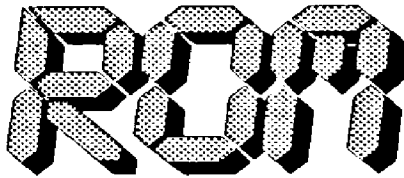
ERIC BROSIUS: My definition of a TurboPhreak is someone who sets high standards *and then* tries to demand that *other people* live up to them. High standards, or even a disregard of the "non-professional aspects of the hobby," are not objectionable as long as they are confined to one's own zine or GMing.

BM: I don't think anyone is *demanding* that non TurboTypes live up to their high standards, nor even is anyone asking that non TurboTypes do so. What the alleged TPP does is to criticize zines

which don't meet a minimum standard, and as long as this is done in one's own zine, it's all fair. But even though the Zine Register criticism tends to rankle folks, it'd be hard to argue that any demands are being made.

DAVID HOOD: Another fine issue of **XL Hickory NC**. You are indeed on the path to TurboPhreakism at this pace.

BM: Well, we've lost ground a bit over the summer, but this issue should be sufficiently large to offset that. I might have taken that as a cheap shot a few months ago, but I've accepted my fate as a sitting-on-the-fence TurboPhreak Wannabe, which means I may not achieve TurboPhreak status, but I'll be trying to.



On to the answers to the questions I posed last issue. The first one (written before the English premiers came up with their

Triple E senate deal on July 7) concerned the Senate of Canada.

1(a). If you live in Canada, what Senate Reform plan do you support (ignore for the moment that Quebec may commence separation proceedings while we fight over this)? Do you think it is possible that your preferred plan would be acceptable?

BOB ACHESON: Scrap that damn Senate!
BRENT MCKEE: I have never really been a firm supporter of a Triple E Senate. One of the problems I have with it is that such a body would have more power than I think it should have. The Canadian Senate was created as a chamber of sober second thought, which I interpret as meaning that it has the responsibility to suggest modifications to legislation to make it more palatable/non-controversial and then send their *suggestions* back to the Commons. They shouldn't be able to start legislation or whatever. I can readily understand the position that Ontario and Quebec have taken in these negotiations. In labour negotiations neither side wants to give up what they already have. I also have a great deal of difficulty with any system which makes Prince Edward Island as powerful as Quebec or Ontario, while the Yukon territory with more people than PEI has a lesser voice. Ideally what we should try to get is an upper house elected without regional or political allegiance, closer in style to the British House of Lords than to the US Senate. Unfortunately that can never happen.

ROBERT LESCO: My brother brought up

the theory how in Canada things are the opposite to what they appear. For example, in trying to tear apart the country Louis Riel ended up, in effect, making us stronger. All these current politicians trying to bring us together are ripping us apart.

I support a Single-E Senate: Eliminated. Is it any wonder that a bunch of politicians decides that what this country really needs are more politicians? I think abolishing the Senate would be acceptable to a majority of Canadians. Elected or eliminated, what do we do with the current Senators? I don't think another acting level of government is a good idea, particularly one where a province with my home town's population has as much say as a province of 10 million.

While the patriation of the Constitution may not have started the trend towards the "Americanization" of our government, it gave it a big boost. So, too, did replacing a largely symbolic Bill of Rights which didn't have Trudeau's name on it and was thus unsatisfactory with a Charter where if a certain right wasn't written down, it doesn't exist. If we want to make our government like that of the republic to the south why not investigate the separation of the legislative and executive arms? I am not convinced it's a good idea but I think the debate would be more interesting than it currently is.

Of all the issues to lose the country over, the Senate would be the saddest.

BM: I was angry when they watered down the effectiveness of the proposed new Senate to get Quebec onside; I'd have preferred to sacrifice Equal for the 5-way Equitable format (equal representation to five regions: Quebec, Ontario, B.C. and the North, the prairies, and the Atlantic provinces) that Quebec supported, retaining the 3½-1 ratio between Commons and Senate. But (after sober second thought) there appears to be little difference in the effectiveness of the Senate under the revised deal—either way it would only affect minority governments and maybe some narrow majorities. Getting Quebec onside with the concessions they gave up in other areas was worth a smidgen of effectiveness. Let's hope it passes. (By the way, I don't go for arguments that are essentially "vote for this because if it fails the country breaks up," which seems to be the point of Robert's final sentence. If the deal passes only because people are afraid of the alternative and not because it is a good deal, how far have we really come, and how long will it last?)

1(b). If you live in the U.S.A., give us Canadians some advice based on your system of government, keeping in mind that we ordinary Canadi-

ans barely know the rudiments. It's obvious that the Elected, and Equal parts of Triple E is modelled after the U.S. Senate, but how Effective (In terms of ability to block legislation) is the U.S. Senate? Are there hard feelings in the U.S. over California getting no more Senators than Wyoming? Who among the Senate, House, and the President can veto bills, and what do the others need to do to override vetoes? Does government work better as a three-way system than it would as a two-way system? (Canada's political leader, the Prime Minister, has always been simply the leader of the party that forms the government, elected only in his own constituency.) Critics of Triple E in Canada say it would give the smaller provinces too much power, and would potentially bog down legislation, or force a majority government to act as a minority, bringing in compromise Bills, if they didn't control the Senate. Is this a common complaint with the American setup?

ANDY YORK: Whew, you don't ask a short one, do you. I won't go into a lengthy description, it could take pages; however, I will say that there are little or no complaints about the smaller states having the same number of Senate seats as the larger ones. If you seriously need a complete run-down, let me know and I'll see what I can do.

DAVID HOOD: As I'm sure others will tell you, the US Senate is in many ways more important than the US House. On most bills the two Houses have equal power (i.e. both must pass the same version of the bill.) Once a bill passes Capitol Hill, it goes to the President, who has sole "veto" power. If he vetoes, the bill can still become law if both Houses "override" the veto with a two-thirds majority vote. The Senate has special powers in the areas of judicial appointments and foreign relations, while the House has special powers in the organization of spending bills.

Yes, there is some bellyache in big states about the standard "two" senators per state—it does tend to skew the Senate towards more rural, and more conservative, states. However, the system is so ingrained now that change is very unlikely. It turns out that big-state Senators end up with more political capital anyway because they have a larger mandate.

The chief reason for having two houses of roughly equal strength, and three branches of government, is to *slow down* and ultimately *prevent* the government from doing very much. The founding fathers distrusted the institution of government itself, and wanted to keep it as limited as possible. I think it is a great idea,

myself.

CHRIS CARRIER: The Senate and the House are theoretically co-equal, and both house must pass on legislation, however each chamber has a few special duties constitutionally reserved to itself: all tax bills must originate in the House, all treaties with foreign nations need only be approved by the Senate (by 2/3 vote), and all Presidential appointments must be approved by the Senate only (by simple majority vote). As a life long Californian, my principal gripe with the system is that our presidential primary occurs so late in the process that we don't have a voice (our State Legislature could fix this but they haven't), and that the results of the November Presidential election are known in California before the polls are closed here. Unequal representation in the Senate really hasn't been perceived as a problem. In fact, California at one time (before the US Supreme Court's 1962 "one vote one value" decision), had a state senate that was even more maldistributed than the Federal system, with one Senator from LA county having 466 times as many constituents as the one senator from three sparsely populated rural counties. The President has the power of vetoing a bill passed by both houses. When this happens the bill is sent back to Congress, which then tries to pass it by a 2/3 vote. If this happens, the veto is overridden, and if not, the bill dies.

The three-way system probably works better than the two-way, as fewer bills, hence fewer undesirable bills, get passed. The comments by anti-Triple E people in Canada concerning the small provinces are rarely—if ever—heard here.

I think, from my viewpoint as an outside observer, that the biggest problem with the present Canadian setup isn't the weakness of the Senate but the extreme adherence to the party line in the lower house—I believe that there have been only two Parliamentary free votes in the last 20 years. The problem with party line government is that MP's become much more dependant on their parties for funding and other help in getting elected, and will therefore vote the way the party says even if s/he really wants to vote the other way, and that a party in power has nearly limitless ability to shove legislation that up to half the community hates. In the American setup, both major parties are likely to control one of the three power centres—House, Senate, President—which leads to conciliation and compromise.

**FORTY-FOUR
1992**

— "Iraqi" —

PETE GAUGHAN: I suspect most of the Yankee comments on your ROM question will be similar to mine. Our Senate is a full partner — bills must pass both House and Senate in identical form (in practice, whichever chamber originates a bill sends it to the other, where it gets amended, and the passed version is compromised by a conference committee made up of Representatives and Senators) in order to be put before the President — and if he vetoes, both House and Senate must vote (two-thirds) to override.

While this has been a successful system for us—and the House/Senate split was insisted on originally for the very same large/small state reasons you face—I think it would be tough in a parliamentary government. If you remove the uncertainty that is inherent in a premiership—no confidence votes or early elections—then a strong Senate makes sense. As the Canadian system now stands, an Effective Senate would be another opportunity for chaos. But then, I don't see anything wrong with compromise. Isn't the whole idea of a constitution that everyone gives up something in return for a much larger reward?

There's no point to having a Senate based on population—it has to be Equal to have a purpose.

BM: So the President cannot propose legislation, he can only veto what gets to him? (I guess the President can always find sympathetic Congressmen to propose something he wants passed.) A lot of the things mentioned above have been spoken of in the immediate reaction to the new deal. Reducing the senators from eight to six is going to decrease their effectiveness, but will increase their mandate. There has been much said about the new government being less able to pass contentious bills—which might not be too bad anyhow. However, the extreme partisanship of Canadian government will probably continue. Chris is accurate in hitting upon the central problem in Ottawa. Members of Parliament who vote against their party (even when their vote means little) are treated disgustingly badly for using their own judgment. Chris's criticism is largely correct, and there has been a clear effort to make the Senate and Commons have the same party makeup, with simultaneous elections. The only way to get different parties controlling the two house will be to simultaneously vote different parties to the different houses. Seems unlikely, but Canadians are great compromisers...

1(c). If you live outside of the U.S. or Canada, please feel free to tell me about any facets of the governmental system of your country that are relevant to the topic.

BRENDAN WHYTE: I dunno if it's relevant, but in September I am a poll clerk for a referendum on our first-past-the-post system. It is nonbinding, but a vote against the status quo will pressure the government for a final choice between the two highest scoring of the four other options (Mixed Member, Supplementary Vote, and 2 others). Current MPs are dead against any change in general, citing Italian instability if there is no clear government and opposition. However, in the last election, the Greens got 9% of the vote and none of the 92 seats, while the National Party with 40% of the vote gets 60+ seats, the system is f***ed.

We killed our upper house about a century ago I believe. Legislation can be fast (the fastest in the West!) but needs a better opposition than the slime we have now. When one of the two parties is in power, they break all their promises and do all the things that they harangued the ex-government for doing. It sucks. Too much big business involved, selling off electricity, forests, telecom, etc., etc., to Japs, Yanks, Brits and Chilean (yes Chileans!) won't help either. Foreign investment helping to run things is a myth. It's a sellout. I hate the present system, no one's got guts to attack the real problems, population growth, immigration, environment, crime. The eternal problem I guess.

BM: I think that first-past-the-post means "whoever gets the most votes gets the seat." It has been criticized because often a minority in popular vote translates to a majority in seats when there are more than two parties involved. I think the solutions to this "problem" are wacko. Proportional representation (where 40% of the popular vote gets you 40% of the seats) still leaves open the question "who gets these seats?" Perhaps the way the address the problem would be to elect a member of parliament from your riding and have a nationwide election for a number of "at large" seats.

2. If the current "rivalry" in the hobby (more or less centred on the ZR/PDORA dispute) does heat up into a second Great Feud, is there any way the hobby can deal with this effectively? Can it be stopped once it begins, and if not, can the beginning be averted? How can neutral parties (I think I'm neutral so far, but then I thought that last time too...) stay on good terms with both sides?

BOB ACHESON: If I get my hands on one of Garret's not for print letters—it'll heat up again.

ANDY YORK: The best way to deal with a feud, from the perspective of non-participants, is just ignore it. A feud can only gain steam if people write about, complain about and generally increase the profile of the feud, it will grow. The whole idea of a "Feud Free Zine" is the best way to go.

DAVID HOOD: Staying neutral is a good idea. It has always been my goal in all feuds. The way to stay neutral is to point out to both sides the problems with their positions (I find that all sides to feuds are usually wrong in some way, and unwilling to recognize that fact.) The way to calm feuds down is to talk about something else. But let's be honest. Feuds are fun to most people on the sidelines. We'll just have to put up with them.

BRENT MCKEE: I suppose that there are two undesirable alternatives. The first is to support both parties, by buying the Zine Register and by buying things in the Auction. The second alternative is far more drastic; support neither. Maybe a third alternative is best. Say nothing at all about the feud as it develops. As much as possible ignore it and if you do mention it say something good (or bad) about both sides. In short, be wishy washy.

BM: Of the four who responded to this, I think only Bob has been around long enough to remember the charges and counter-charges that characterized the Great Feud, and I must tell you that in 1985 it was impossible to ignore the feuding that was going on—you were going to make enemies somewhere no matter what. Attempting to ignore the crap would just get you more circular letters telling you why you should become involved. As long as the current stuff remains a rivalry, it will be entertaining, and I have heard nothing to indicate that feud-style allegations have been launched. (I don't know what Bob is talking about in his response.) But I hope that if wild claims start to appear about hobby members, that we'll be able to find some sort of quick arbitration process before the whole thing gets out of control. Hopefully we have enough people in the hobby now that won't fall for the "either you support my side or else" mentality that I faced when I joined the hobby.

3. I recently received a survey in the mail which, because I was about to mail something else and postage was included, I filled out and returned. The subject was doctor-patient sexual misconduct. Some of the questions, as I remember them, were provocative. We all, I'm sure, agree that the vast majority of doctors are never a threat in this area. But what steps should we take to ensure that the guilty doctors are exposed without inconvenience to other physicians? Is it

O.K. for a doctor to ask a patient for a date while off duty? If not, what about small towns where the doctor is the only one of his profession? Should a doctor report the claims of a victim-patient that a fellow doctor is guilty of sexual misconduct, if the patient does not want the report to be made?

BOB ACHESON: Re doctor dating — No opinion. If he's a one town doctor how is the poor bastard going to get laid?

BRENT MCKEE: Doctor-patient relationships are complex. If I remember correctly, a doctor cannot treat any member of his own family. I know for sure that a psychiatrist cannot date one of his/her patients, it isn't ethical even when they aren't on duty or having an appointment. In the case of small towns, if a physician finds that a relationship is developing with a patient, then he should take steps so that the patient can go to another doctor in a nearby community. Ethically, if a patient reveals to a doctor that another doctor has sexually harassed her but doesn't want that made public, he has no alternative but to keep quiet, otherwise the doctor-patient confidentiality is destroyed. I am not convinced that if a doctor is found guilty of sexual harassment by his colleagues in an appropriate body that the result needs to be made public. All they have to do is remove his licence to practice medicine and let the appropriate bodies in every other jurisdiction know that he should not be allowed to continue to practice medicine.

ANDY YORK: This is another tough question; however, I feel that it is the patient's responsibility to report the act to the proper authorities. If a criminal act happened, then the police are the proper forum. If it was just an indiscretion, then the AMA or other review board (local, state or regional) that hears complaints should be the route to go. I see no reason why a physician shouldn't see a patient, as long as it is a mutually agreed upon date.

MARK LEW: The reason for wanting to forbid doctor-patient relationships is that the doctor supposedly enjoys a special position of power over the patient and thus the patient isn't free to decline. This might make some sense in the case of some mental patients, but otherwise I think it's nonsense. Doctors should be held to the same laws as everyone else, and a patient should have the sense to stay away from a doctor who is abusive. Presumably one could try to charge a doctor with statutory rape, arguing that the patient lacks the capacity to give consent, but I doubt this would get far unless there were other factors besides the

Poll Talk #12

Eric Brosius, 41 Hayward St., Milford, MA 01757 USA

July 26, 1992 .

Welcome back to *Poll Talk*! It's been a while; I published no issues during Poll season this year. The Poll is a lot of work, and I had no time for extras. With any luck you'll see more issues soon.

This time I'll provide you with a guide to criticism of the Runestone Poll. I'll discuss a number of different objections, and I'll give you a brief summary of my own views. As you will see, much of the criticism is reasonable and well-founded; just because I disagree with an argument does not mean it makes no sense. What, then, are the principal arguments advanced against the Runestone Poll as it currently exists?

Objection 1. Any poll is a bad idea, especially in a hobby where the work is done by unpaid volunteers. Some people believe it is wrong to rank or compare in quality the efforts of different people. These people oppose not only the Runestone Poll, but *any* Poll that compares zines, subzines, or GMs.

I believe this view is unrealistic in an environment where people must make choices between one thing and another, even when they are *not* directly comparable. One must compare a new car model with a trip to Europe if one is deciding which to spend one's money on, and one must compare one zine to another if one is deciding which to subscribe to. The Poll may be misleading, but this can be true of any information source.

Objection 2. The Runestone Poll discourages those who finish near the bottom of the list. Those who feel this way could accept the Poll if I would publish only the names of the top finishers. Of all the objections, this is the one I have the greatest sympathy for. I try to take it into account by publishing a summary each year that lists only the above-average finishers; it is this summary that receives the widest circulation in the hobby.

On the other hand, I have always advocated the free exchange of information; I am uncomfortable with the idea of hiding some of the results. I will admit that I may lack the needed sensitivity to see this issue as I should, but I don't think the damage done by the limited distribution of the complete results is so great as to justify a crackdown.

doctor-patient relationship (eg, the patient is drugged). I don't know what the law says on this; I believe the doctors' organizations call doctor-patient relationships unethical and can act against doctors who get involved with their patients.

BM: I agree that the "position of power" argument is not really valid, but I'm stumped on the question of whether a doctor should report the alleged misconduct of a fellow doctor against the wishes of a patient. As the doctor, I would try to get the patient to make the report, and show how this could best be done, but if the patient refused I would be uncomfortable

knowing about the situation and not being able to do anything about it. Ultimately I would probably report the allegation, but I agree with Brent that the hearings into these situations shouldn't be as public as they invariably are.

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT TIME:

1. Who do you like in the World Series? Who are you rooting for? Date your response and indicate who's still alive as you write.
2. Compared to previous years, is your interest in the Runestone Poll waning?
3. Woody Allen-Mia Farrow. Comments?

Deadline should be found on page two.

Objection 3. The Poll is meaningless because it doesn't reflect the views of the entire hobby; those who do not vote are as important as those who do, and their views are not represented at all. It is hard to take this objection seriously; you might as well object that an election only reflects the opinion of those who vote! I suspect those who argue this are thinking of the Poll as a scientific survey, in which it is important to obtain a representative sample. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: the Poll is *not* a scientific survey. It is far more like an election; only those who vote get counted.

Objection 4. The Poll's methodology is flawed. I receive many objections of this nature. Some people would add the votes instead of averaging them. Others don't like "preference" scores. Some wish small zines had a better chance, while others want them banned altogether. No doubt each hobbyist, if he or she were running the Poll, would do things a bit differently from the way I do them.

This just reflects our human diversity. We each emphasize some factors at the cost of others. I'd be the last one to claim that my way is the only way, but it *is* my way. I publish the raw data in the Poll publication; this gives you the option of rescoring the entire Poll to your own specifications if you have the time and energy.* I don't see what else I can do.

Objection 5. People don't vote right. This is, when you get down to it, probably the fundamental objection. One hobbyist casts votes that seem ludicrous to another. "How could you give Zine X a better vote than Zine Y? You must be trying to ruin the Poll!"

I sincerely doubt that many votes are cast for any other reason than that they represent the voter's true opinions. The diversity of votes simply reflects out diversity as a group. And isn't that what it's all about?

*You may order this publication, called *The Roar of the Crowd*, by sending me \$5.00 at the address given above. I hope to have it available by September 1, but don't worry if it's a bit late.

IT'S YOUR CALL! FINAL STANDINGS (Based on a minimum of six sets—60 questions)

Umpire	Answered	Right	Wrong	Pct.	Best 6 sets
P. GAUGHAN	90	75.5	14.5	.839	54.0
R. LESCO	70	59.0	11.0	.843	51.1
A. YORK	60	47.8	12.2	.797	47.8
B. MCKEE	90	53.4	36.6	.593	41.1
E. BROSIUS	40	25.7	14.3	.428	—
D. MCCRUMB	20	13.8	6.2	.230	—
P. MILEWSKI	20	11.7	8.3	.195	—
C. WHITE	20	11.1	8.9	.185	—
R. ROBERTS	20	10.5	9.5	.175	—
R. DAVIS	20	9.4	10.6	.157	—
J. GALT	20	7.4	12.6	.123	—
M. SMITH	10	5.5	4.5	.092	—
B. WHYTE	10	3.0	7.0	.050	—