Pigulki

12 NOVEMBER 25, 1992

An occasional electronic collection of news analysis, press reviews, and humor from/about Poland and the Polish community abroad.

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Polish Affairs

By Jacek Kwasniewski

Pioneers of Privatization in Poland

Part 2

In March of 1990 the draft of the privatization bill was finally submitted to the Ministerial Cabinet. As protocol required, it was forwarded to all the ministers, was soon accepted by a plenary meeting of the Government and forwarded to the Sejm (Parliament). We expected serious difficulties - we believed the Sejm was controlled by adherents of the cooperative movement - the "Cooperative" as we called them. The bill was revolutionary and definitely unacceptable to people obsessed with the idea of workers' ownership.

The main idea of the bill was that there were two basic routes to privatization, the **capital** path and the **liquidation** path. **Capital** privatization is based on a transformation of a company, with a single deed, into a one-person partnership owned by the Treasury[1]. The company's stock or shares are then publicly sold. The selling would not necessarily be equivalent to the standard "Public Offering", but the requirement of announcing the intent to sell was implicit, in order to help prevent secret deals. The **liquidation** path would be applied to seriously distressed companies, difficult to sell as a whole, by liquidating them and selling their assets: buildings, machinery etc. The preferences for the employees in buying the companies' stock were included in the draft bill, but they were clearly below the expectations of the Cooperative fraction.

We had an argument about who was to present the bill in the Parliament. The first choice was Goralczyk, its author, who came from the Rybicki school and was an outstanding specialist in civil law. Three people formed a perfect team: Goralczyk's genius was that he had all the regulations in his memory, Domanski's genius was that he had the right ideas for the bill, and Lis's genius was that he married those two together. Domanski couldn't go to the Parliament - he was no politician and would tell the first representative who was

ISSN 1060-9288

talking nonsense, "you are an idiot". One can't do things like that and expect the bill to pass. Goralczyk would not say anything, but he would agree to almost anything, as long as it was not in collision with other law. Eventually Goralczyk and I went to present the bill.

The bill was revolutionary and definitely unacceptable to people obsessed with the idea of workers' ownership.

The fight for the bill lasted from April to July 1990. A special committee, headed by Bronislaw Wilk (who turned out to be a very reasonable man), met daily for three months. The committee consisted of: the leftist fraction headed by Bugaj (the Cooperative), followers of our orientation, and a lot of others, not well versed in the privatization problems, but generally quite open to arguments. The Cooperative presented to the speaker an opposing draft of the privatization bill, authored by Hubert Izdebski. Therefore at the start we had to decide which bill would be debated. Using the committee's jargon, we would ask "on which skeleton will we work?" Of the several experts asked, all pointed to the "Lis skeleton", but it actually took the whole month before it was decided. Tomek Stankiewicz, representing "Solidarity" helped push our version through. The Cooperative believed that "Solidarity" would support their proposition. At that time the second "Solidarity" Congress was taking place, and the privatization topic was hotly debated. One group tried to derail the government project; luckily for us they were neutralized and the congress resolution was very vague on this subject. When Stankiewicz appeared at the Congressional Privatization Committee to present the "Solidarity" position, it turned out that "Solidarity" unequivocally supported the government version of the bill. The "Cooperative" proponents were stunned, but it was too late.

In the Committee, every section of the bill was immediately protested, taken apart and turned inside out by people who did not have the slightest idea what they were talking about. The Cooperative talked about a need for "greater control of the society" on the privatization process. This control was supposed to be expressed in forming workers committees, a kind of super-government which would in effect incapacitate the ministries. In reality those were attempts at paralyzing the government body responsible for privatization. We won this battle. In the end, the changes introduced to the bill were rather small, but the fight was long and tedious. After hours of the committee sessions we would have dinner with the lawmakers, invite them home, and spend countless hours explaining to them what our intentions behind the language of the bill were. For example, for two weeks we discussed what percentage of the company stock the employees would get at reduced rate. The Cooperative had already won the vote on a version quite unacceptable for us. We had then caused a reconsideration of the issue and since the Cooperative was in minority that day, we won. The Cooperative supporters came to the session later and saw their proposal lost. Now in majority, they called for reconsideration and pushed their version through. Then we tried again, and so it went.

When the bill was approved by the subcommittees, incorporating many minority postulates of the Cooperative, we expected another prolonged battle in the full Committee. But after three months of subcommittee discussions, everyone was so tired that the bill was accepted by the Committee after two days of debating. The Parliament voted on it and passed it in 2 hours.

When Lis was celebrating his victory - passing of the bill - his biggest defeat was already brewing. About a week before the Committee plenary session I learned that Lis was *not* considered for a ministerial position in the new government. I went to Wielowieyski, to Geremek, to Balcerowicz and to many more whom I don't remember. I told them that the team which made the privatization bill would disintegrate without Lis. They all believed me but at the same time the politics were such that Lis could not be named minister, because he was too abrasive. Waldemar Kuczynski, with whom I spoke as well, told me that Lis had antagonized everybody around him. The privatization process itself caused and would continue to cause a lot of conflicts, and of all things the minister should not aggravate them.

Capital privatization is based on a transformation of a company, with a single deed, into a one-person partnership owned by the Treasury

Kuczynski was at that time the main advisor to Prime Minister Mazowiecki. On the second floor of the Ministerial Council there was a large, window- lined hall. On the right there was a regal office of the Prime Minister, and on the left, equally grand, was Kuczynski's office. He was an office-holder of highest grade because he had his own bathroom, with an entry directly from his office. Once, when I was going to see him, I saw waiters carrying food for the Prime Minister. I saw the waiter with a tray, and I couldn't believe my eyes: he didn't walk, he levitated. I can honestly say that the waiters did not touch the floor when walking. When one enters Kuczynski's office, the impression is unbelievable. On the horizon of the 75 foot (25 m) long, 25 foot (8 m) high office there is a desk, and behind it sits the little, bearded chief of the advisor team, the eye and ear of the prime minister, Waldemar Kuczynski. And Kuczynski declared that Lis could not be a minister.

One day I was summoned to Kuczynski who received me in his grandiose office and said: "I will be your minister. Mazowiecki told me that privatization is a very important cause and he needs somebody he can trust. I am surprised by this as much as you are." I told him, "If you won't assure support of Lis, you are lost." Kuczynski replied. "I do not intend to fire anybody. I have proposed Lis the position of *Sekretarz stanu*. Lis agreed. Kuczynski appeared on Mysia St., in the offices of the former Bureau of Censorship, where we moved in the meantime. I got the office of the former vice-director of Censorship. I was named a department director, responsible for selecting large companies for privatization. Assigned to help me was a brilliant young man, Krzys Stupnicki.

Kuczynski did not have much of an idea of privatization, but he was intelligent and understood the workings of economy very well. He served as some kind of umbrella over Lis and his team, who could then continue their work. Lis headed two departments: one to select companies, and the other to privatize them. Chwedoruk did the privatization, I took care of the selections. It was decided at that time that the companies would be "commercialized," i.e., transformed into one-person partnerships of the Treasury[1], and this became my job.

The story of "commercialization" is very illuminating. Balcerowicz was becoming more and more disappointed with the results of our efforts, but was still hopeful that the economy could be privatized in a short time. Around June 1990 he realized that quick privatization could not be done. Therefore, since Lis could not or would not privatize a significant number of companies within a year, Balcerowicz wanted to do something else to make them react better to the signals of the market. Commercialization was supposed to be this "wunderwaffe." The idea was quite simple. Since a stock company is in principle healthy, and the structure of the Polish enterprise was basically sick, the transformation of such company into a joint stock company, even if wholly owned by the government, was already a step in the right direction. The companies do not function well now because of the unfortunate split between the director and the worker's committee. The director is incapacitated: if he were to begin reforming the company to adapt it to the demands of the market, he would probably have to fire some people, move others, change the organizational structure, etc. This would certainly infringe on the interests of some employee groups. The stock company structure is free of such inconsistency, and could therefore reform easier. Such was Balcerowicz's thinking.

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Lis, on the other hand, was strongly convinced that this was a gross misunderstanding. The artificial formation of the board of directors and liquidation of the workers' councils wouldn't change anything. He tried to convince Balcerowicz about it, which was an extremely difficult task, since Balcerowicz was rather stubborn.

Privatization was an untested and very complex process, and many people in the government did not realize this.

One has to grant Balcerowicz, however, what he deserves: he is an outstanding mind with broad horizons and excellent ideas. He did a Herculanean task, and without his apodictic personality he could not have achieved it all. As long as his ideas work, he is very effective. But when he is wrong, problems begin. At the meeting of the government we learned that the main opponents of privatization were the employees and office-holders in the privatization ministry. Such statements were causing a lot of bad blood. This strange situation stemmed partly from the fact that privatization was an untested and very complex process, and many people in the government did not realize this.

Finally, the mass commercialization was to be performed. The commercialization is in principle a simple process. However, if it is to give company a chance and initiate a self-repairing process, one needs a group of people, devoted and knowledgeable, who will start these processes and keep them under control. The selection of people for the board of directors is absolutely crucial. Sterniczuk began the wholesale schooling of the candidates for the boards. The courses were hard, expensive at 5 million apiece, they lasted 2 weeks at 12 hours a day and ended with difficult exams. All in all, only some 30 percent passed. Later, I was completing the boards for various companies from the graduates of the courses. Everything was done helter-skelter and soon the inevitable questions were raised, such as why is this person in this board and that in the other. It was a frontier period. I had 7 or 8 people working 12 hours a day, without much preparation for the job. I knew that in order for the boards to function, people would have to earn decent salaries. I prepared a decree on their wages, with complex formulas. Later it turned out, that I too was politically unacceptable as the commercialization man.

Later Lewandowski became the minister. He certainly understood privatization better than Kuczynski, and we began the **mass privatization**. This was the next blind alley. Walesa promised everybody 100 million zloty, and Balcerowicz concurred. It meant that every

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citizen would obtain certain number of coupons, later to be exchanged for shares. Sounds simple and exciting. But technically it was a nightmare. First, one would need a census of Polish citizens; there is none now, and there is not much of a chance of getting one soon. Next problem: can the coupons be freely traded? If so, then sharks will quickly buy the good companies dirt cheap, for half a liter of vodka, which would be politically unacceptable. So one cannot trade the coupons. But how to enforce the ban? Again, in the present situation it seemed hopeless; there are always ways to evade the law.

Another problem was what to give? One could not distribute shares of companies, because before it could happen, the enterprises had to priced and publicly offered for sale. The public offering, professionally prepared, costs an arm and a leg and lasts four to six months. And we had to find enough companies of significant value so that people could feel that they got something. If everybody were to get a coupon worth 500 zloty, it would be a joke. Let us assume that everybody gets half a million which, multiplied by 38 million Poles gives 20 thousand billion zloty (20x10e12). A large company which can be publicly offered for sale, can be worth 80 to 200 billion (x10e9). One cannot give com-

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panies which do not fulfill conditions for public offering, since it would cause a capital black market, fraud and other negative consequences. No foreign investors would invest in such a business; the international financial institutions would not accept it. The only solution was to form intermediaries: mutual funds which would own companies, and in turn the shares of the funds would be distributed to each citizen. The next question: should the whole packet of company shares go to the mutual fund? Well, no - it would be a catastrophe. Only some 20 to 30 percent of the company value would go to the fund. If we want to distribute 20 thousand billion zloty (20x10e12), we need companies valued at 60. I had prepared a program of mass privatization which assumed that we had unlimited resources, and that we would find enough investment banks in the world to select those 500 or so companies, together worth 60 thousand billion. On paper it looked beautiful, in practice it was absurd.

The mass privatization program broke down not because of lack of demand, but due to indolence and lack of experience of the bureaucracy, which was faced with an extremely difficult process. It was initially limited to mass-privatization of only 200 companies. If you want to distribute 200 companies to 40 million people, everybody gets close to nothing, not even this 500 thousand zloty and a far cry from the promised 100 million. The whole mass privatization turns into a joke. I wrote a report where I had listed conditions necessary for the mass privatization to be successful, in accordance with the existing stock exchange laws. Nobody could fulfill those conditions then. But nobody had the guts to tell the decision- makers that it is impossible either.

Lewandowski wanted to accelerate the process - after all it was his baby. If by using traditional methods, privatization would last 100 years, let's take a shortcut. Let us give the companies away whole, lock, stock and

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barrel, with the idea that if the enterprise's owner changes, privatization would have taken place. But that is not true. If, instead of the state, the company would have 40 million owners, it would have no real owner as before, and the 'de facto' owner is still the government bureaucrat. There has to be a strategic investor in a company, one who will make the key decisions. This is where the idea of free distribution of only 20 or 30 percent of the company comes in. Ten percent would go to the employees and 60% to the strategic investor. The problem is, of course, that it is very difficult to find an investor who would buy this control packet of shares. Polish companies, especially the larger ones, ar not particularly attractive for investors. Some parts of the company may be of interest, though. I am the chairman of the board of the Krosno Glassworks. It is a joint stock company privatized by way of public offering, without a strategic investor. The government owns 30 percent of stock, and until now I was responsible for this 30% of ownership. In its six mills Krosno Glassworks makes virtually all possible types of glass with the exception of sheet glass. We couldn't find a foreign investor who would buy Krosno stock. However, a number of them were interested in a joint venture, where Krosno would give one of its mills and the investor would provide capital. One of them was interested in hand-blown glass, the other in stained glass or in wine-glasses, but none in all of Krosno Glassworks. To make a deal, one has to split the company into parts. Capital privatization has given way to liquidation privatization.

Here we get to the gist of the matter, where the whole privatization went astray. The privatization process, as I said before, was originally thought up as a process with two different possible avenues: capital privatization and liquidation privatization. The latter was thought of as a last resort solution. In practice, though, it turned out to be the main route to privatization. One could say that Lis's genius was in thinking up liquidation privatization possibility, and in including it in the bill, although his favorite idea was capital privatization. Lis left, his favorite idea fizzled out, but the bill still works fine.

In practice, though, [*liquidation privatization*] turned out to be the main route to privatization

To do the mass privatization Lewandowski hired Jurek Thieme. Thieme was given an impossible task. At the beginning he even had some money, but the source soon dried up. He hired foreign advisors and in June or July of 1990 the mass privatization was announced with big fanfare. It sounded nice to laymen, but it was all a big cheat. Half a year of hard work by Thieme and the Worsburg bank gave, in my opinion, rather meager results. Initially, Balcerowicz planned to transform 1000 companies. Later that number diminished to only 400. Those four hundred were selected and Thieme became the administrator of those companies. Thieme's team consisted of his 18-year old son and another 3 young men and 2 young women. What a wealth of resources to administer 400 companies! Of course those companies had to agree to be privatized first. They agreed without knowing what was involved. In the process, personal conflicts, affairs etc. begun and Thieme alone could not deal with it. Some companies realized that they had been had, and scrambled to get out. Some already had an interested investor, or at least they thought they did. Anyway, some 200 companies managed to get out. The ones that were left were the least effective, with the least initiative. And this cream of Polish industry was going to be given to Polish citizens. Not all 40 million (Thieme wrote off this idea) but all Polish adults were to be endowed with the unusual present of two hundred shoddy companies.

At the same time capital privatization was in agony. There were to be a lot of sales but only few materialized. After the first five companies were sold in the public offering, which turned out to be a great success, no other sales came. Now, there is talk that they were selected poorly - most were in bad shape after a year of "independence." The error was that we did not try to find the strategic investor. We thought that if they were sound companies, they would manage on their own. Those were not just our own mistakes. The very best British investment banks advised us to do so. Those banks based their advice on their experience in developed economies, where the best companies to be privatized were sold to many small investors. Now I know that one cannot blindly transplant such rules to our situation. But a year ago we didn't even have anyone with whom to discuss it. There was no one knowledgeable enough to understand what were we talking about.

After the first five companies were sold in the public offering, which turned out to be a great success, no other sales came.

Foreign investment banks could provide us with only limited help, since they came with ready solutions worked out in Western market economies. Also, the formal requirements for (e.g.) public offerings, were not applicable in Poland. Some of the banks didn't even want to take responsibility for such deals. Others compromised. Some banks worked out well in this situation, the others did not. The banks had to learn everything: the accounting and reporting systems, how to negotiate with workers' councils in order to convince them of the need for privatization, etc. There was no organized stock market either: everything had to be built from scratch.

When we succeeded with the first sales, we thought we knew how to privatize; in reality we knew nothing. The public offering, selling a company to small investors, is a very specific kind of deal. Most companies were being sold to strategic investors. For this to happen one needs very different skills and a large pool of funds. One has to hire an appraiser to have some sense of whether the company is saleable at all. The exact ownership of many firms' assets were very muddled. The company may not have owned the ground on which it was situated, nor the buildings. In such a case, there was nothing to sell. But we did not know this beforehand!

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We were walking on a mine field and only when somebody was blown out, we knew that we couldn't go that way.

Now the question was which one of us would negotiate with the investor? Thomson wanted to buy Polcolor and ABB wanted the Lodz Elta. There was no money to hire an advisor, so Chwedoruk went to negotiate. I told him "Mister Jacek, you have no chance in negotiating with those old foxes. First of all, you have no experience. Second, you have a hundred and fifty problems to solve at the same time. You could spend two hours a week on talking and they have the whole team which was working only on this." Chwedoruk did negotiate, because they came with an offer and there was a constant pressure to sell something. When Chwedoruk left, ABB came to finalize the talks. When they came to me (I became the new department director) they nearly got apoplectic fits. They came with documents ready to sign and I told them "Gentlemen, I don't know what you are talking about. I can't negotiate. I have to find a financial advisor and then we will talk." Their jaws dropped and they started to argue that it was not professional. "And is it professional for me to negotiate if I don't even know what Elta is?" I asked. "Then we will explain everything to you," they said. "Gentlemen, let us be serious," I replied, "you will tell me in half an hour about the company you want to buy, and based on this knowledge I will sign a deal?"

On a frontier one needs people with the cowboy mentality, who would not care much for the intricacies of the law, but in need pull out a gun and fight

We made many mistakes, but it was inevitable. We were in undiscovered country and we could not predict which idea would work in practice. On a frontier one needs people with the cowboy mentality, who would not care much for the intricacies of the law, but in need pull out a gun and fight. If there was no pioneer period, there would be no traders, judges, farmers to come after. Lis formed such team of frontiersmen, people with some knowledge who were not afraid of risk. They worked with strong personal commitment and sometimes they simply did not realize how big the risk was. If this task were given to bureaucrats, there would be no privatization. We didn't even think that eventually NIK[2] would come and try to square up with us. I was talking to the NIK people, who were asking me where the documents, reports, filled forms etc. were. Before one can make a reporting procedure, the merit procedures have to be established. One cannot create forms and questionaires according to a scheme, if the scheme does not exist yet. It was like a blind man speaking with a deaf man. NIK was right on their own terms, and I was right in mine.

We were asked to privatize the Polish industry quickly, without money, equipment and with poorly paid people.

We were asked to privatize the Polish industry quickly, without money, equipment and with poorly paid people. The simplest way of generating funds would be to channel part of the proceeds from the sales. In our system the budget of the ministry is set a year ahead, and there is no way to clear this obstacle. Capital privatization died from lack of funds. All the competent people left. Just recently, I read a ministerial circular saying that you cannot use your private car for business purposes, because in that case you should get reimbursed, and the ministry has no money. Another circular was about "prudent" use of telephones etc. I was talking to the representatives of the World Bank who said "you have an open credit of $300 million for privatization, why don't you use this money?" I went to the Ministry and asked my successor about it. He replied that they cannot take the credit because they have no money to pay the 8% interest. Privatization is indeed profitable, but all the profit was funneled to the general budget, and the ministry had nothing. To change it, one would have to change the budget statute and include discretionary funding decisions. The Finance Ministry wouldn't agree, because it smelled too much like Communism. And so the story went...

Such were the roads and pathless tracks of the pioneering period of Polish privatization.

Jacek Kwasniewski

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[1]"jedno-osobowa spolka skarbu Panstwa."

[2]NIK is "Naczelna Izba kontroli," or the High Chamber of Control, is the investigative arm of the Parliament, roughly equivalent to the US General Accounting Office.

Transcribed and prepared by Marek Cypryk based on an interview with Jacek Kwasniewski in January 1992. Translated by Marek Zielinski

NETWORK RESOURCES

Computer networks not only serve as efficient means of communication, but have grown to become a world-wide database. Information on any imaginable topic, collected and organized by institutions or individual afficionados, has increasingly become available on the network. If only one knew, how to find it...

The following two articles address this question. This September, Rick Gates posted an "Internet Hunt", a challenge to Internet users to find in The Net answers to a series of questions. The "Hunt" was received enthusiastically and is becoming a regular, monthly network feature. The article below reports on its results, showing how to extract information from the networks. The next article is a first part of a meta-guide to the network resources. We hope both will encourage our readers to begin exploring the Cyberspace on their own.

Network Resources

By Rick Gates

The First Internet Info Hunt

The first Internet Hunt is officially closed. And the winner is Hope N. Tillman of Babson College, who submitted an entry scoring 46 points on Friday Sept 4, at 03:22 GMT.

If you want to look for evidence of the 'information explosion' you need go no further than that dynamic mass of data, images, discussion, advice, complaints, software, and ideas known collectively as the Internet. How will we manage this ever growing, constantly changing 'thing' that we've created? My answer is: we won't. Because we can't.

Rather than attempting to fit the Net into a rigid, deterministic box of our (someone's?), own design I think we're better served by learning how to navigate it's framework. We need to teach ourselves how to use what some have called cyberspace. How will we use the Net in the future? Will librarians provide electronic information services? Will researchers access information directly, or will they use others as intermediaries? Who will these 'others' be? In order to get a better feel for how we'll use the Net in the future, I think it's critical to understand how we use the Internet today.

I think many Net users, particularly many in libraries, view the Internet as a path to secondary tools that can lead us to the primary information that resides in print. While this 'finding aid' function of the Internet is certainly a major one, I am discovering that more and more primary information is available.

This lead me to my challenge to Internet users. I have designed a contest that I term the Internet Hunt. The Hunt consists of 10 questions on a variety of subjects, *all* of which can be answered using the tools of the Internet. Most of the information asked for is primary information.

From the answers and comments I have learned that there's a lot of interest in knowing how the players arrived at their answers. So along with the answers, I'm also giving the winner's methods, and any other methods that seem useful. Almost all players stated that they found the Hunt fun. I guess this should come as no surprise as those who find this sort of mining of the networks fun were the most likely to try their hand at the Hunt. Checking every answer for validity is very time- consuming, so I gave preference to those answers that provided information now, without intemediary subscription or registration requests. Not everyone used the same methods as myself for answering these questions. This was expected (and should be quite obvious to anyone who regularly navigates the Net). In scoring the results I rewarded those who had explained how they'd found the answers.

Thanks to all who commented, and especially the players. As I've said before, the only way to learn to navigate the Nets is to unfurl the sails, and heave ho. Try these methods of access, and let me know if you think you learn more than reading about it in a book.

The Questions and the Answers

Each question carries a number in parentheses. This number is my best guess on how tough that question is to answer. The scale is 1 (easy), to 10 (hard). The number by the answer is the score. My comments, if any, are in square brackets after the entry.

1. I'm leaving for Japan tomorrow. Approximately how many yen can I get for my dollar, give or take a few yen ? (4p)

Winner's Answer:

(4) 126.23 (an end of August figure)
Via Gopher access to Hermes.Merit.Edu
to UM-Ulibrary and
to the menu soc-sci, then
ec bulletin board, then
monetary stats.

Other Answers:

(3) 123.01 on 9/1/92, according to "USA TODAY: Headline
"Business News" on the Cleveland Freenet
(telnet to freenet-in-a.cwru.edu, then access "The Business and Industrial Park.")
[*USA Today on Cleveland Freenet does not always carry exchange rates.*]

(3) CIA World Factbook
telnet info.cern.ch
Search under Japan
[*Need to do a large text search*]

(2) Usenet group soc.culture.japan
[*This info is infrequent.]*

2. A hurricane just blew in! Where can I find satellite photos of it's progress? (7p)

Winner's Answer:

(6) For satellite photos,
ftp to vmd.cso.uiuc.edu.
The files are .gif files.
[*The directory for these files /wx]*

Other Answers:

(6) ftp unidata.ucar.edu
[*Not as current.*]

3. I'm taking a job as a social studies teacher at a high school in Denver, Co. Where can I find a list of local environmental organizations that could come speak to my classes? (6p)

Winner's Answer:

(6) Access CARL (pac.carl.org). The Directory of Environmental Education Resources (DEER) is a joint project of Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) and Colorado Dept. of Education, as a service from Pikes Peak Library District. At Pikes Peak Lib. District menu go to #3 for Encyclopedias, Business and Reference (sources including DEER). DEER is 26. If you browse by title you will see an alphabetical list of programs focused on environmental ed.

Other Answers:

Suggested asking at various Usenet groups such as K12.net, talk.environment.

4. My wife just got a job at the University of North Carolina. My specialty is computer/data processing work. Where can I find a list of jobs in that area of the state? (4p)

Winner's answer:

(4) North Carolina State University's CWIS, "Happenings," has a menu item, "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs," which contains the listings of vacancies posted by the North Carolina Office of State Personnel Vacancies. Category #5 is entitled "Data Processing." Beyond that, the CWISes of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, at Chapel Hill, at Greensboro, and at Wilmington also provide job listings. One of my difficulties for this question is that I haven't a clue at which University of North Carolina site your wife got a job. That's why I decided to give you all the possible UNC sites. For the state listings the NCSU's Happenings is the best source.

Other Answers

(4) telnet to info.acs.unc.edu,
login: info, and
select #6 "Human Resources (faculty/staff)"

5. How many copies of "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" does the University of Nevada at Las Vegas hold? (2p)

Winner's Answer:

(1) There are two copies in special collections at the Univ. of Nevada at Las Vegas. I couldn't get in through UNLV but did get in through Reno and found access to Southern Nevada which enabled me to look up Las Vegas.
[*We need the telnet address (IP) for full points here.*]

6.. Bill Clinton made a speech somewhere on Earth day this year. Where can I find the text of it? (6p)

Winner's Answer:

(6) Via WAIS (quake.think.com), I searched Clinton speeches at sunsite.unc.edu. - clinton-speechess. Bill Clinton spoke at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA on Earth Day in April 22, 1992.

Other Answers: [*There were many good answers. Here are a few...*]

(6) Cleveland Free-Net.
go campaign.
Select 3.
Article 48

(6) ftp sunsite.unc.edu
/pub/docs/speeches

(6) ftp to ftp.uu.net
cd doc/papers/democrats/clinton
get enviro.text

(6) The text of the speech can also be found on cobalt.cco.caltech.edu in
/pub/bjmccall/Clinton2/enviro.txt

(6) FTP to nptn.org (192.55.234.52)
under /pub/campaign.92.
The filename is called c46.txt.

(6) ftp from ftp.uu.net in directory
/doc/literary/obi/USElection/President/Clinton
as enviro.txt.Z.

(5) LDBASE search of the archives at CLINTON@MARIST
[*need to subscribe to search these archives.*]

7. I just read an interesting paper by a Bradley Smith in the Chemistry Department at the University of Western Australia. Is it possible to get an email address for him? (7p)

Winner's Answer

(7) Yes, his address is: bjs@crystal.uwa.oz.au Using the Internet Gopher X500 gateway, phonebooks directory, you can narrow to country, to Australia, to university, and then to Chemistry department.

Other Answers

(7) Netfind at the University of Colorado. (Telnet bruno.cs.colorado.edu and login as netfind. Search for Smith Western Australia)

(7) whois -h uniwa.uwa.oz.au smith

(7) I found his address by first anonymous FTP-ing the whois-servers.list from sipb.mit.edu (cd /pub/whois). The list told me that there is a whois server at uwa.edu.au, so I used Fetch to FTP to the site. I got the file "directories" from the server (cd /pub/aarnet/resource-guide/directories), which told me that the University of Western Australia's whois information could be retrieved with the command "whois -h uwa.oz.au name", which was Smith. I got a list of everyone named Smith who was associated with the University of Western Australia.

(7) whois -h uwa.edu.au smith

8. Someone told me that there's a collection of software specifically for libraries stored somewhere in Canada called libsoft. How do I get ahold of this software? (2p)

Winner's Answer:

(2) You can FTP to hydra.uwo.edu, directory libsoft. (I know this because a file of mine is in this directory.) [*Most people suggested searching archie or doing an archive search of pacs-l at uhupvm1.*)

9. Where can I find news, discussions, and perhaps eyewitness reports out of what used to be Yugoslavia? (4p)

Winner's Answer:

(4) A good mailing list is the listserv SOC.CULTURE.YUGOSLAVIA.

Other Answers:

(3) The e-conference MidEur-L@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU (subscribe by sending mail to listserv@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU with the contents "SUB MIDEUR-L yourfirstname yourlastname"), or
Slovak-L@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU, subscribeable in the same fashion. [*Might provide better information in the long run. I'm looking for information right now. See above.*]

10. Could you tell me how I can find the Washington address for the congressman from my district? (6p)

Winner's Answer

(6) Via WAIS I identified the Congress file from pit.mit.edu, and identified Robert J. Lagomarsino as the Rep from District including Santa Barbara. His Washington address is:
2332 Rayburn
Washington DC 20515

Other Answers:

(6) telnet to info.umd.edu
/Government/US/Congress/sens+reps-detail

(5) ftp pit-manager.mit.edu
cd pub/activism/congress
get the two letter code for your state.
[this involves downloading and searching text]

(4) ftp from pit-manager.mit.edu:
pub/wais-indices/congress.doc
[*This involves downloading and searching even more text*]

One final note. Since the comments that I **did** get were so positive, I've decided to try making the Hunt a monthly occurrance. If you want to participate, subscribe to one of several discussion groups that will carry the hunt. One of them is INFONETS at DEARN (sent mail to LISTSERV@DEARN with a message SUBSCRIBE INFONETS Your_Name)

Rick Gates

Network Resources By Marek Zielinski

A Guide To Network Resources

***Internet, Bitnet (Earn) and Fidonet, the most popular computer networks in Poland, are part of* The Matrix*. This term was first used by science fiction writer William Gibson (in "Count Zero", where the all-Earth database "Cyberspace Matrix" suddenly becomes sentient), and was popularized by John S. Quarterman in his pioneering book on networks under the same title.* The Matrix *is now used to represent all those networks that can talk to each other, exchanging either mail or news. The networks which do not allow mail contact (like Prodigy in the US) do not belong to* The Matrix. Worldnet, *a subset of* The Matrix, *is the set of research, academic and generally non-for-profit intercommunicating networks. Networks in Poland, with very few exeptions, belong to* Worldnet.**

The Internet may have now 3 or 5 million users, the whole *Matrix* is much larger and is growing very fast. It has many resources, but few guides. Probably the only way to learn and benefit from its resources is to continously keep exploring it. This guide is written to help the uninitiated and the beginners explore the vast areas of the *Cyberspace.*

This guide to network resources is a meta-guide, a guide to other guides, lists and pointers to sources of information. Most of this information is available from the network itself, some are still distributed in the old-fashioned, paper-and-ink form. The guide is divided roughly into three sections. The first part, presented below, is the *LOL*, a recursive acronym meaning List Of *LOL*'s. It includes information on where and how to find various lists and lists-of-lists, like the Internet Resource Guide, list of Discussion Lists etc. The second part will include databases and interactive services (Listservs, Netlibs, Archies, Gophers, Wais's etc.) and the third part - a short bibliography of traditional guides to everything on the network.

How to obtain files from the network

The information usually exists in form of files. There are two main methods of retrieving them: you can do it manually yourself (which in this case means *anonymous ftp*) or ask some automaton to mail it to you.

The anonymous ftp belongs to the Internet part of the network; if you have it, usually you can find a ftp manual as well on your local computer (*man ftp* or *help ftp* work on most systems). In most cases to initiate the ftp connection you type *ftp host*, where host is the domain name of the computer from which you want to retrieve a file. After getting a connection, login as *anonymous* and give your complete E-mail address as password (unless instructed otherwise). The commands you will need are *cd* or *chdir* to change the directory on the host, *ls* or *dir* to obtain a listing of its content and *get* or *mget* to retrieve single or multiple files.

The file distribution automata come in many kinds. Bitnet has LISTSERV and NETSERV, Internet has a larger variety. In general, you write a letter, addressed to one of those servers, and in the letter body (rarely in the *subject* field) you put **commands**. The *help* **command** works almost universally, resulting in a manual being sent to you. The **command** to send a file is very often *send* <*filename*> and usually *get* <*filename*> works equally well.

The resources listed below are often available both by ftp and by mail. For ftp the host name, directory, and name of the file is listed; for mail the commands to retrieve the file follow the E-address of the server.

What to do if the file is available only by ftp, and you do not have it? There are two automata which will perform the ftp retrieval for you by mail. On Bitnet use BITFTP@PUCC, on Internet mail you request to ftpmail@decwrl.dec.com. As usual the word *help* in the letter will get you detailed instructions. The basic commands are *connect hostname* for ftpmail and *ftp hostname* for bitftp, *cd* or *chdir* to change directory, *ls* or *dir* to obtain listing and *get* <*filename*> to have the file <filename> sent to you.

Part 1. LOL (Lists and Directories)

This is a rather arbitrary list of other lists, in turn pointing to information on various resources available on the network. They refer both to network and non-network functions (finding somebody's E-mail address is a network function; doing a literature search is not). The information in LOL's often overlap, but chances are that you will find a pointer to needed resource in at least one of them.

Internet Resource Guide

The most comprehensive guide to resources available on Internet. Maintained by the National Science Foundation Network Service Center (NNSC). Organized in chapters, which can be retrieved as individual files

1. Computational resources
2. Library catalogs
3. Data archives
4. White pages
5. Networks and E-mail gateways
6. Network information centers

M. Miscellaneous resources

ftp:	nnsc.nsf.net	mail:	info-server@nnsc.nsf.net
dir:	resource-guide		request: info
file:	front-matter		topic: help
file:	chapter.1.txt		request: resource-guide
...			topic: front-matter
			topic: chapter.1.txt
			...

Scott Yaloff's Special Internet Connections

A concise listing of useful Internet services, updated bi-weekly by Scott Yaloff of University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. From Agricultural Info to World-Wide Web, including Archie, Gopher, Wais, Stock Market reports, Weather and more.

ftp: csd4.csd.uwm.edu
dir: pub
file: inet.services.txt

Libraries

Many libraries have made their catalogs and other resources available on Internet. For example, to search the catalog of the enormous University of California library, telnet to melvyl.ucop.edu and follow the instructions. There are two major listings:

The St. George Directory

Coauthored by Art St. George and Ron Larsen the "Internet - Accessible Library Catalogs & Databases" gives information on library catalogs, databases and other academic reasources. It is organized in sections:

1. Catalogs & Databases Accessible Without Charge
2. Catalogs & Databases Accessible For a Charge
3. International Catalogs
4. Dial-Up Libraries and Catalogs
5. Other Online Resources
6. Campus-Wide Information Systems
7. Published Resource Directories

ftp: nic.cerf.net
dir: cerfnet/cerfnet_info/library_catalog
file: internet-catalogs

The Barrons Directory

By Billy Barron, limited to library catalogs, but gives useful practical information in uniform format for all the libraries: the login sequence, how to perform searches, how to log out etc.

ftp: ftp.unt.edu
dir: library
file: libraries.txt

Interest Groups

Also called Discussion Lists and Listserv Lists. POLAND-L and PLEARN-L are examples of such lists, which are (moderated or unmoderated) discussions on various topics, generally distributed by mail. There are thousands of them and they cover almost all imaginable subjects. Although reachable from any network, they are the offspring of BITNET. There is a paralell system, born on the Unix machines, called Usenet News, with their *newsgroups*; FidoNet has its own *Echo-Mail conferences*. Lists and News are often cross-posted. One of the most popular feature of The Matrix. The list of all interest groups (>1 Mb) can be found:

ftp: ftp.nisc.sri.com
dir: netinfo
file: interest-groups

mail: mail-server@nisc.sri.com
send interest-groups

mail: info-server@nnsc.nsf.net
request: info
topic: interest-groups

mail: LISTSERV@BITNIC
sendme interest package

Electronic Journals

The "Directory of Electronic Journals and Newsletters" is compiled by Michael Strangelove from the Department of Religious Studies, University of Ottawa. Sections 1 and 2 are in file ejournl1, section 3 is in ejournl2:

1: Information
- Introduction
- How to Retrieve This Directory From Networked Sources
- Networked Resources for Electronic Publication
- Electronic Serials and Related Topics: A Brief Bibliography
- How to Submit an Entry to the Directory
- Getting an ISSN for an Electronic Journal
- How to Start an E-Newsletter
- PACS-L Review Special Issue on Networked Based E-Serials Section

2: Electronic Journals Section
3: Electronic Newsletters

mail: listserv@UOTTAWA or listserv@acadvm1.uottawa.edu
send ejournl1 directry
send ejournl2 directry

mail: comserve@RPIECS or comserve@vm.ecs.rpi.edu
send ejournl1 sources
send ejournl2 sources

Polish Interest Listing

The "Mother of All Eastern European Lists" is maintained by Zbigniew Jan Pasek from the University of Michigan. The list "*provides information about various on-line (electronic) resources related (sometimes weakly, I have to admit :-) to the Eastern-European issues or run from the EE networks*", including interest groups, E-periodicals, ftp sites archiving related material etc.

ftp: tirana.berkeley.edu
dir: pub/VARIA/polish/dir_varia
(Note: Case sensitive!)
file: EE_Superlist.all

Sending Mail To Other Networks

There is a number of networks in The Matrix, nonprofit and commercial, and many of them have unigue way of expressing E-addressess. John J. Chew of University of Toronto maintains a list of all known interconnected networks, with detailed instructions how to send mail from one to another. Useful if your correspondent is on some exotic network.

ftp: ftp.msstate.edu
dir: ftp/pub/docs
file: internetwork-mail-guide

mail: listserv@unmvma or listserv@unmvm.unm.edu
get network guide

ftp: ariel.unm.edu
dir: ftp/library
file: network.guide

to be continued

Marek Zielinski

POLAND *Electronic Contacts*

25 November 92 updated by Marek Zielinski and Rafal Maszkowski

EARN/BITNET *nodes*

NODE, status, **Institution**, Machine, Operating System, Internet address, *Contact person*

BIALYSTOK

PLBIAL11 a **Bialystok Technical University, Computation Centre of Bialystok Academic Community** BASF 7/38 VM
Alicja Modrzejewska op. 885 224-111 x630 <amodrze@plbial11>

KATOWICE

PLKTAE11 a **Academy of Economics, Computing Center** IBM4341 VM
Henryk Laburda op. 832 588-606 <laburda@plktae11>

PLKTUS11 a **Silesian University, Computing Center** IBM4341 VM
Kasia Stephan, adm. 832 588-211 w.623 <u065@plktus11>
Krzysztof Kurczynski, op. 832 588-211 w.623 <u017@plktus11>

KRAKOW

PLKRCY11 a **Academic Computing Center "Cyfronet"** IBM4381
Witek Witkowski, adm. 12 341-724 w.37 <yawitkow@plkrcy11>
Zdzislaw Pliszka op. 12 341-724 w.15 <ykpliszka@plkrcy11>

PLKAGH11 a **University of Mining & Metallurgy, Comp. Center** IBM4361 VM
Janusz Pilch adm. 12 338-100 <pilch@plkagh11>
Tomek Polonczyk adm. 12 338-100 w.2885 <polon@plkagh11>
Adressable also as plagh11.uci.agh.adu.pl

LODZ

PLUNLO51 a **University of Lodz** VAX3300 VMS
Marian Bieniecki, adm. 42 784-176 <mbieniec@plunlo51>

LUBLIN

PLUMCS11 a **Uniwersytet Marii Curie Sklodowskiej** IBM4381 VM
Andrzej Resztak adm. 81 376-240 <resztak@plumcs11>
Jarek Korzen op. 81 376-192 <korzen@plumcs11>

POZNAN

PLPUAM11 a **Adam Mickiewicz University, Informatics Center** IBM4381
Andrzej Szymczak op. 061 662-492 <as11@plpuam11>
Dariusz Smoczynski adm. 061 662-492 <ds11@plpuam11>

PLPOTU51 a **Poznan Polytechnic, Computing Center** VAX VMS
R. Jezierski op. 061 782-726 <jezierski@plpotu51>
Z. Borowiec adm. 061 782-726 <njeman@plpotu51>

SZCZECIN

PLSZUS11 a **University of Szczecin, Informatics Center** IBM4341 **VM**
J. Kolasinski op. 91 788-65 <kolasinsk@plszus11>
Irena Winiarska adm. 91 788-65 <winiarsk@plszus11>

TORUN

PLTUMK11 a **Uniwersytet Mikolaja Kopernika (Nicolaus Copernicus University), Academic Computing Center** IBM4381 VM
Zbigniew Szewczak adm. 856 260-17 w.70 <szewczak@pltumk11>
On Internet as vm.cc.torun.edu.pl [159.75.1.15]

WARSZAWA

PLWMEN21 0 **Ministry of Education, Computing Center** IBM4341
Wladyslaw Latak op. 22 297-241 w.410 <zwsl@plwmen21>
Slawomir Zaleski adm. 22 297-241 w. 565 <zssz@plwmen21>

PLANIF61 a **Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Physics** SUN 4/75 Sparc-2
Piotr Bialokoziewicz 22 437-001 w.259 <bialo@planif61> PLCAMK61 a

PLCAMK61 a **Polish Academy of Sciences, Nicholaus Copernicus Astronomical Observatory**
Maciej Kozlowski adm. 22 411-086 <earn@plcamk61>

PLWATU21 a **Warsaw Technical University, Informatics Center** IBM4341
Janusz Pelc op. 22 217-1512 <ted@plwatu21>
Tadeusz Englert adm. 22 217-1512 <ted@plwatu21>

PLWATU22 a **Warsaw Technical University, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Computer Method Center** IBM4341
Andrzej Piaskowski op. 22 257-508 <#ap@plwatu22>
Krzysztof Guterman adm. 22 257-540 <hardware@plwatu22>

PLEARN a **Warsaw University, Informatics Center** IBM3090 VM
Central Polish EARN node
On Internet as plearn.edu.pl [148.81.18.1]
Andrzej Smereczynski adm. 22 200-381 <oek05@plearn>
Tadeusz Wegrzynowski dir. 22 263-345 <oak01@plearn>
Danuta Burzynska postmaster <danutab@plearn>
Malgosia Grabowska postmaster <ruda@plearn>

PLWAUW61 a **Warsaw University, Astronomical Observatory** SUN SparcStation SunOS
Andrzej Udalski adm. 22 294-011 <udalski@plwauw61>
Michal Szymanski op. 22 294-011 <msz@plwauw61>

WROCLAW

PLWRAE51 a **Wroclaw Academy of Economy, Computer Center** K-1840 (VAX)
Stefan Zajac dir. 71 681-155 w.486 <stefzaj@plwrae51>
Wieslaw Borowski adm. <borowski@plwrae51>

PLWRUW11 a **Wroclaw University, Informatics Institute** IBM4341
Bogdan Bromirski adm. 71 402-300 <mst-adm@plwruw11>
Marek Stajszczyk op. 71 255-081 w.77 <mst@plwruw11>

PLWRTU11 a **Wroclaw Technical University, Informatics Center** IBM4341 VM
PLWRTU51 0 **Wroclaw Technical University, Informatics Center**
VAX VMS
Jarek Kurowski adm. 71 211-018 <jk1@plwrtu11>
Jozef Janyszek op. 71 211-018 <joejancc@plwrtu11>

Node status: a = active, 0 = non-active. Contact persons: adm. = node administrator op. = node operator. In all EARN nodes there is a postmaster address POSTMAST@NODE where one can direct inquiries.

Internet *addresses*

The number of computers connected to the Polish branch of Internet is about 800 now, which makes its list too unwieldy to publish here. There are tools and databases which allow one to find any particular address. Using the "nslookup" function you can look-up the IP addresses. A full listing of all known Polish Internet nodes, updated monthly, can be obtained by anonymous ftp from <whois.ripe.net>, directory ripe/hostcount, file pl.output. The table below was designed as an aid in locating E-mail contacts, providing a listing of institutions with Internet connections, names and addresses of contact persons, and information how to address mail. In some cases the electronic address is common for the whole domain, in others one has to send mail to a particular machine. The publicly accesible machines (anonymous ftp, telnet, Bulletin Boards) are listed as well.

The Internet domain names are organized in a tree (see figure p. 16). The *fully qualified domain name* is obtained by travelling along the branches of the tree, from the end-point back to the root. For example <halina> with the IP address 153.19.1.254 is known to the world as <halina.univ.gda.pl>. The symbols in parentheses refer to the domains described below.

Institution, domain, *Contact person*, name, publicly accessible machines.

BYDGOSZCZ

Academy of Technology and Agriculture,

Institute of Mathematics and Physics
Zbyszek Szewczak <zssz@cc.ncu.edu.pl>
Krzysztof Sobiecki <atrb00@pltumk11.bitnet>

(BY01) Domain: atr.byd.edu.pl
Mail: routbyd.atr.by.edu.pl - i86 KA9Q/MS-DOS

GDANSK

Gdansk University

Marek Karkowski (58)-41-52-41 x.276
<marek@halina.univ.gda.pl>

Domain: gda.pl

(GD01) Domain: univ.gda.pl
Mail: halina.univ.gda.pl

GLIWICE

Silesian Technical University

Computer Center
<postmaster@gleto3.gliwice.edu.pl>

(GL01) Domain: gliwice.edu.pl
Warning: previous domain gliwice.pl is being changed to gliwice.edu.pl; try the other if first doesn't work.

Mail: jacek.gliwice.edu.pl, oeto.edu.gliwice.pl, gleto3.gliwice.edu.pl

Computer Center

Domain: eto.gliwice.edu.pl

Informatics Institute

Domain: iinf.gliwice.edu.pl

KATOWICE

Silesian University

Maciek Uhlig <muhlig@usctoux1.cto.us.edu.pl>

Domain: us.edu.pl

The Polish Internet Domain

```
pl ─┬─ com ─────┬─ atm ──────── (WA01)
    │           └─ nask ─────── (WA02)
    ├─ gov ─────┬─ cup ──────── (WA26)
    │           ├─ cyf ──────── (OT01)
    │           ├─ icso ─────── (PO07)
    │           ├─ impan ────── (WA28)
    │           ├─ ippt ─────── (WA03)
    │           └─ poz ──────── (PO01)
    ├─ org ─────── nask ─────── (WA02)
    ├─ gda ─────── univ ─────── (GD01)
    ├─ lublin ──── umcs ─────── (LU01)
    ├─ pwr ──────────────────── (WR01)
    └─ edu ─────┬─ agh ─────┬─ ftj ──────── (KR08)
                │           ├─ ia ───────── (KR09)
                │           ├─ ics ──────── (KR06)
                │           ├─ metal ────── (KR10)
                │           └─ uci ──────── (KR07)
                ├─ astrouw ──────────────── (WA09)
                ├─ byd ─────── atr ──────── (BY01)
                ├─ camk ─────────────────── (WA09)
                ├─ cyfr-kr ──────────────── (KR01)
                ├─ fuw ──────────────────── (WA07)
                ├─ gliwice ──────────────── (GL01)
                ├─ ichf ─────────────────── (WA04)
                ├─ ifj ──────────────────── (KR04)
                ├─ ifpan ────────────────── (WA05)
                ├─ lod ─────── p ────────── (LO01)
                ├─ mimuw ───┬────────────── (WA10)
                │           └─ appli ────── (WA19)
                ├─ ncu ──────────────────── (TO01)
                ├─ pk ───────────────────── (KR12)
                ├─ poz ─────┬────────────── (PO01)
                │           ├─ ae ───────── (PO06)
                │           ├─ ieittp ───── (PO03)
                │           ├─ ikwn ─────── (PO05)
                │           ├─ ionov ────── (PO02)
                │           ├─ pol ──────── (PO02)
                │           └─ tu ───────── (PO04)
                │
                ├─ pw ──────┬─ ca ───────── (WA20)
                │           ├─ ch ───────── (WA21)
                │           ├─ coi ──────── (WA11)
                │           ├─ gik ──────── (WA11)
                │           ├─ ia ───────┬─ (WA12)
                │           │            └─ yp
                │           ├─ if ───────── (WA16)
                │           ├─ ii ───────── (WA15)
                │           ├─ il ───────── (WA17)
                │           ├─ imio ─────── (WA25)
                │           ├─ ipe ──────── (WA14)
                │           ├─ ire ──────── (WA23)
                │           ├─ it ───────── (WA18)
                │           ├─ meil ─────── (WA24)
                │           └─ tele ─────── (WA13)
                ├─ torun ───┬─ cc ───────── (TO01)
                │           └─ mat ──────── (TO02)
                ├─ tup ──────────────────── (PO01)
                ├─ uj ──────┬─ oa ───────── (KR11)
                │           ├─ if ───────── (KR02)
                │           └─ ii ───────── (KR03)
                ├─ us ──────┬─ cto ──────── (KA01)
                │           └─ ich ──────── (KA02)
                └─ uw ──────┬────────────── (WA08)
                            ├─ biogeo       (WA30)
                            └─ psych        (WA29)
```

Computer Center

(KA01) Domain: cto.us.edu.pl

Mail: apollo.cto.us.edu.pl, atena.cto.us.edu.pl, herkules.cto.us.edu.pl, hermes.cto.us.edu.pl, mars.cto.us.edu.pl, zeus.cto.us.edu.pl

Institute of Chemistry

(KA02) Domain: ich.us.edu.pl

Mail: tc.ich.us.edu.pl

KRAKOW

Academic Computer Center Cyfronet-Cracow

Jerzy Pawlus <yppawlus@cyf-kr.edu.pl>
Krzysztof Gawel <yskgawel@cyf-kr.edu.pl>
Adam Krzyzek <ypkrzyze@cyf-kr.edu.pl>

(KR01) Domain, mail: cyf-kr.edu.pl

Jagiellonian University

<postmast@*.uj.edu.pl>, * = if,ii,oa

Domain: uj.edu.pl

Institute of Physics
Krzysztof Heller <heller@if.uj.edu.pl>

(KR02) Domain, mail: if.uj.edu.pl
Mail: ztc386a.if.uj.edu.pl, trisc.if.uj.edu.pl - Teoretical Phys.
pkpf.if.uj.edu.pl, agnes.if.uj.edu.pl - General Physics
zfs.if.uj.edu.pl - Solid State Physics

Informatics Institute
Krzysztof Heller <heller@ii.uj.edu.pl>

(KR03) Domain, mail: ii.uj.edu.pl

Astronomical Observatory

(KR11) Domain: oa.uj.edu.pl

Nuclear Physics Institute
Andrzej Sobala <sobala@vsk01.ifj.edu.pl>

(KR04) Domain: ifj.edu.pl
Mail: chopin.ifj.edu.pl, kuba.ifj.edu.pl,
vsk01.ifj.edu.pl to vsk07.ifj.edu.pl, vsb02.ifj.edu.pl to
vsb04.ifj.edu.pl

University of Mining and Metallurgy

Domain: agh.edu.pl
Szymon Sokol <szymon@uci.agh.edu.pl>

Institute of Computer Science
Andrzej Krol <genda@lily.ics.agh.edu.pl>

(KR06) Domain: ics.agh.edu.pl
Mail: crocus.ics.agh.edu.pl, daisy.ics.agh.edu.pl,
lily.ics.agh.edu.pl, rose.ics.agh.edu.pl,
tulip.ics.agh.edu.pl

University Computer Center
Szymon Sokol <szymon@uci.agh.edu.pl>

(KR07) Domain, mail: uci.agh.edu.pl
plkagh11.uci.agh.edu.pl = another address of
PLKAGH11.bitnet, mail only

Faculty of Physics and Nuclear Techiques
Marek Ciechanowski <marek@ftj.agh.edu.pl>

(KR08) Domain, mail: ftj.agh.edu.pl

Automatics Institute
Wojciech Chmiel <wch@earth.ia.agh.edu.pl>

(KR09) Domain: ia.agh.edu.pl
Mail: earth.ia.agh.edu.pl, biocyb.ia.agh.edu.pl

Metalurgy Institute
Krzysztof Wilk <wilk@metal.agh.edu.pl>

(KR10) Domain, mail: metal.agh.edu.pl

Kracow Technical University

<hostmaster@cyf-kr.edu.pl>

(KR12) Domain: pk.edu.pl - not working yet (92.11)

LODZ

Lodz Technical University

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TRAVELOG By Jurek Klimkowski

The Messengers

It was late into the night. There, in a small palace located in a corner of a large city park, the lights were dim. Even those in the study of Number One were just flickering.

He was sitting in a large armchair and was looking through the window. Down, behind an oval courtyard and a wrought-iron gate, the City was going to sleep.

The inhabitants of the City, like most citizens of the Land, finished their chores for the day. The messy spectacle of the III Republic would resume the next day and once again Mortals will be squeezed into rickety, tin-like busybody delivery systems. Some Mortals would fill their daily quota of desk time, others would be riveting steel sheets of some obsolete machinery, many would spend their day trading in some shoddy, foreign made goods. All would be gloomy, nameless, perhaps... insignificant. What more could be said of the Inhabitants suspended in an economic vacuum and political miasma?

Just a couple of years before their Land had become full of elected politicians doing un-delectable things, consequently, un-delectable spectacle substituted for an elective politics, so that delectable, political fools elected selective things as a substitute for politics and finally, a dull lull filled fools with delectable substitutes. The way things were going, there would be plenty of guilt to spread around.

Number One was disillusioned with the way things turned out in the Land. For almost twenty years He was dreaming of a glorious state, the one that would reflect His own personality and secure His place in History. So why was the splendor of events that brought him to this palace so much belittled by the somber reality of the afteryears? Why, why, ... why?

Unable to find any answer Number One turned His eyes to the dark sky and quietly prayed for the divine inspiration or a messenger to right the wrong, to inspire the dispirited, ... and he was about to get a plenty of both.

*

The noise in the downstairs hall, that late in the night, was unusual. Some visitors made their way past heavily armed palace guards. How could that be? Why did it all sound as if thousands of horseshoes clattered against the marble floors regent Nicholas had once installed at a considerable expense? The murmur of the voices was nevertheless non-threatening, in some ways respectful, so Number One put on his night gown and headed to the entrance door.

There was a quiet knock and the curved-oak door of the study flung open. A crowd of creatures streamed in. They had heads, trunks and arms of men but the bodies and legs of horses. They filled the spacious room, so all its resident could do was to take a seat at the desk Novosiltsev brought from Kuban and wait for some explanation.

“My name is Chiron Kentauropoulos, these here are: Enapoulos, Diopoulos, ...Dekaenapoulos, Dekadiopoulos, Dekatriapoulos, ..., Diodekapoulos,... Triadekapoulos, and the small one at the very back is Micropoulos. We are the messengers you’ve asked for.”

“So there is no Christian God? Is that your message?”

The Centaurs shivered as if a cold wind blew over their naked bodies.

They exchanged very frightened looks between themselves. In a halting voice Dekadiopoulos answered for all of them:

“We didn’t say that, you did.”

“I was just teasing you. My faith and the Guidance I received never failed me.”

“Why is that one, at the very back, so small?”, Number One asked in order to gain some time.

“Oh, it is his own fault” responded Chiron smiling, “He shouldn’t have poked fun at the rain dance of aborigine shamans.”

“He, he,” reacted Number One, “I’m not very tall, either, but of course, the reasons are quite different.”

The Centaurs stumbled as if some invisible load was thrown on their muscular bodies. Sweat appeared on their foreheads. Some started breathing heavily like people who are about to take on some physically strenuous exercise, others kept shaking their heads left and right like a person trying to chase away a bad thought.

"We were told that there's a party somewhere in this palace" said Enapoulos trying to figure out a way of carrying the mission the Centaurs were charged with.

"He, he", Number One smiled to himself as if some secret formula, known only to Him, was about to be revealed to the ignorant populace.

"Look around you, Mister. So many things to do, so much to improve. There's enough work for everyone, and rather than wait for these educated eggheads to get to the business of cleaning this mess, Number One will form His own party and get things done in a minute."

The Centaurs shivered as if some icy breeze blew over their spines. They all realized that this was the kind of a party they were ordered to join. No girls, no retsina, here! The immense task they were charged with was slowly hitting home.

"It is little bit odd that you, the Centaurs were sent to me" wondered Number One aloud. "On the other hand, you are just like the Lajkoniks[1] so popular among the Southern Mortals, so, I guess, you'll do just fine."

The visitors started transpiring profusely. They were now leaning against walls, breathing heavily. Most foamed from their mouths and their eyes were turning glassy. Trying to cover the bad impression they were making Chiron spoke, next:

"We were actually the second choice. The offer initially went to the Nibelungs, but they are now in recovery. You see, these poor creatures were moved from the Rhine river bed to Elbe, Spree and Havel watershed. Needless to say they adamantly refused even to take a short dip in the Oder river. Nevertheless, even in the Elbe-Spree-Havel system waters were shallow, extremely muddy and poorly PH balanced. It resulted in strains on Nibelung's gills and a need for recovery."

"I see." said Number One. "How about Skarbek[2] or Kinga[3]?"

"Skarbek won't have anything to do with coal anymore and Kinga took to brown coal and will be sent to Zittau," replied the Centaurs in unison.

"Well, but how are my ratings? How do I do in eyes of your bosses?" asked Number One looking triumphantly at Chiron Kentauropoulos.

"Not too good" replied Chiron.

Number One looked at Chiron with irony, smiled to himself, nodded in self-approval and replied: "Mr. Kentauropoulos, as I said so many times before, I don't need this job. I may even be the worst choice for it, but nothing positive will ever happen unless Mortals listen to what Number One has to say. Unfortunately, they don't listen, not right away, in any case. Only after things go wrong, while they put the blame on me, I tell them: 'Number One told you so' and for a while they remember. In short time, however, they go right back to what they were doing before. Many times these so-called "educated intelligentsia" get things the wrong way and mess things up, so that Number One has to correct them, and then Mortals say I am a dictator ...if this keeps going on, I will just go back to my profession and leave them to their own folly...."

"Sorry!" interrupted Diodekapoulos. "No more openings in industry. Only light industrial-temporary, word processing, at least 48 wpm, plus Lotus 1-2-3 required and FOA. Some jobs may require rudimentary knowledge of German, basic secretarial skills and at least three reference letters from previous employers, preferably from Western European Companies doing business in the Land. It is a policy of most employers to hire at the lowest possible wage necessary to fill any given position. In fact, sick, parental or emergency leaves, retirement, health and/or other benefits are out of question, because they are considered above-market values."

"What do you know?" Number One was getting gloomy. "Never heard of Providence? I am sure we will find our way and show the World what we can do!"

Chiron took a breath of air and said: "That brings us to the message we were to convey."

"What is it?"

"Stop teasing the Gods!"

Jurek Klimkowski

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[1]Lajkonik (laay-conic) - a mock Tatar rider figure used at country fairs since XIII century to commemorate the relief of siege of Cracow.

[2]Skarbek (scaahrbeck) - a mythical guardian of mining minerals of Silesia.

[3]Kinga (kingh-aa) - actually Kunegunde, German-born queen of Poland, during the feudal divisions of XII and XIII centuries, saint patron of miners, historically the first developer of industrial policy.

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