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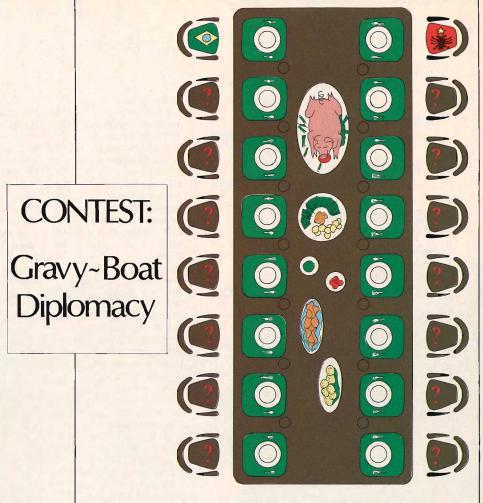
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Have you been yearning to get out of the house and see the world? Well, here's the chance of a lifetime—we're giving you an ambassadorial post! Congratulations, and may you serve your country well. As of today, you are the ambassador to Albania. Your first official duty is hosting a dinner party for the faculty of the International Academy of Computer Arts and Sciences, which convenes in Albania for two weeks each May.

An hour before the guests arrive, your aide confesses that he has lost the seating arrangements for the evening. Fine, you say, just seat them boy-girl-boy-girl. Your aide pales and tells you that it isn't that easy-you have to consider protocol. First, many faculty members are bringing their spouses, and protocol says that no one may sit across from his or her spouse. Second, to facilitate conversation, each person must sit across the table from a person who knows a common human spoken language. And third, no man may sit next to another man.

You must reseat the guests. The table is rectangular, there are sixteen places, and no one sits at the head or the foot. Also, the four persons sitting at the ends can be considered to sit next to only one person. The protocol and the information you have from the dossier on each guest are your only means to make arrangements that will keep each guest happy.

The Professor from Albania The Professor from Brazil The Professor from Czechoslovakia The Professor from Egypt

The Professor from Finland The Professor from France The Professor from Germany The Professor from Mexico The Professor from Nepal The Professor from Portugal

They all will attend. Seven of the professors will be accompanied by their spouses. Including yourself, sixteen people will attend.

You have a bit more information in the dossiers in your diplomatic pouch. You know that each person knows the language of his or her native country. You also know that each person knows the same language as his or her spouse. Each of the professors is of the same nationality as his or her spouse, except for two.

For security reasons, you must sit between the professors of Czechoslovakia and Finland.

The professor of Floating Point Basic will not sit next to or across from the professor of Integer Basic. The professor of Pascal will not sit next to or across from either of them.

The spouse of the professor from France is jealous and must sit next to the professor—and furthermore will not let the professor sit across from a person of the opposite sex.

The spouse of the professor from Brazil and the spouse of the professor from Albania are best friends and like to sit across from one another.

Four professors do not know Albanian. Four spouses do not know Albanian. The professor from Portugal knows Italian.

The professors of Assembly Language,

Illustration by Dan Winkle