

Mall of America

A puzzle extravaganza by Joshua Kosman and Rick Rubenstein

Agents Mudd and Scullery:

Our nation, and perhaps the world, is under grave threat. We have credible evidence that the United States has been invaded by extraterrestrials from a distant planet called Mallonia.

We know little of these beings or their intentions, but we fear the worst. It seems they are planning some kind of large-scale terrorist attack on malls throughout the U.S.

We have managed to intercept some of their communications. They are, to say the least, puzzling. From what we've been able to determine, each is a message between a field agent and headquarters. The agent signs off each message by giving his name and location. Unfortunately, our receivers always seem to jam just before the location is transmitted. Without this information, we've been unable to hunt down the invaders.

We suspect the Mallonians' locations could be determined from other parts of the message, if only we were able to crack the code. I've attached transcripts of the messages we've intercepted so far. See if you can make any headway. If you manage to decipher these, report back at once.

We're counting on you. Good luck.

Agent Kosmenstein