



Black Frog

56

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Diplomacy is the registered trade mark of a multi-player world-war 1 game invented by Allen Calhamer and currently owned by Avalon Hill, Inc.

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In this issue you will find the most recent update of the percentile rankings for Black Frog games. The trophy game should start soon (see page 12). Mike Conner, James Townsend, Dan Kuszynski, Bill Schiwautz and Thom Burnett have all qualified. Al Pearson is being asked to take the French position (although he is a replacement player for the qualifying slot). Nobody really qualified for Austria. I am asking Ron Brown (who won as Austria in 1977HG--the first game concluded in BF) to take this position. I would appreciate it if these seven players would confirm right away if they will play in this game.

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2ND CHANCE GAME

Bernie Sampson, Bill Quinn and Al Giddings have all asked me to start a "2nd chance" game for all who have done poorly in their first BF game or who have been eliminated. OK your on! Sampson, Giddings and Quinn are all in. Bob Osuch, who has asked to have a BF game start, can have the 4th spot if he wants it. The fifth, sixth and seventh spots are available to the first three of the following eligible persons who contact me: J. Lanning Myers, Kevin Mooney, Kerry Blant, Peter Ashley, Gary Coughlan, Clark Reynolds, Tom Swider, Jay Shufeldt, Al Rodriguez, Vern

Schaller, Douglas Landon, Jack Fleming or Mary Beck. If there is a very large response, two games may be started.

There will be no game fee for this game. Countries will be assigned by random draw (as in all BF games) except that no person will play the same country that he has previously played in a BF game. This game, and the trophy game, will be carried in East of Eden.

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1979HK has just ended in Dragon and the Lamb and I have gained my 4th postal win. All four wins have come in a period of less than three months, and it is becoming a bit embarrassing to record them.

1979HK is my first win for a country other than France (I was Germany in this one) and is probably my best played game to date. The game started poorly. I misordered in F'01 and wound up with but one 1901 build (which for Germany is not too good). In F'02, France, England and Russia were all going against me and the situation was bleak to say the least. The break came when Chris Ward, who was England, resigned from the game and was replaced by Keith Mercer. Keith allied with me and, while we had two of the weakest countries on the board at the time (I had five units and Keith had three) we came back by working together. Ultimately I stabbed Keith to take the win in 1912. The stab, which is the first major stab of a long term ally that I have ever undertaken, had all the flair of a classic "Kathy Byrne stab" and I went from 13 to 19 centers in 1912.

The conclusion of this game leaves me with but four games in progress. 1980KZ (Murd'ring Ministers) is the only of these that has any promise (I should get some sort of a draw out of it). 1980AN (Why Me?) and 1981L (the Snake Pit) are almost hopeless causes. 1981C (Jihad!) is a very interesting game, but I have no high expectations for it. I resigned from 1979KG (the "R3" game in Retaliation) where I was in the game as a standby only. "R3" was a very unpleasant game to be in and I feel sorry for the individual who will take over in my stead.

I may start a few more postal games, but only a few more. I am in the process of phasing out my commitment to the postal hobby.

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FOOTBALL NOTES

The biggest football story of the 1981 "pro" season is the parity that has finally been reached between the AFC and NFC. After games of November 15th the two conferences are dead even, but the NFC was ahead for one brief week after Chicago upset Kansas City on the 8th and Dallas bested Buffalo on the 9th. The AFC has enjoyed a wide win margin over the NFC for the past ten seasons.

The Los Angeles Rams are ruining the "pro" season for me. I never particularly cared much for the Rams, but this year they are a particularly lousy team to watch on the tube and their season is going nowhere to boot. They are not selling out Anaheim stadium, but the local NFC affiliate TV channel (#2) is buying up all the excess seats to bring the game over the tube. If it wasn't for this, the game would be blacked out locally and a good game from some other part of the country could be televised instead. The AFC affiliate (channel #4) has opted not to schedule another game opposite the Rams game and instead of bringing us an AFC "game of the week" we get an old Shirley Temple movie instead. Thus, if you live in LA (or the area served by it's TV stations--I am 35 miles from LA) your only good TV games are on Monday night.

With five weeks to go in the pro season. Four NFC teams virtually have the play-off berths sewn up. Dallas, Philadelphia, Minnesota and San Francisco are sure bets to be in the play-offs. Six other teams are contending for the 2nd wild-card slot. Atlanta, Los Angeles, New York (Giants), Detroit, Green Bay, Tampa and Washington (that is seven not six) all have 5-6 records. But one of them will be in the play-offs. An 8-8 record will probably be good enough to make it. In 1979 the Rams were 5-6 at this same point in the year and went on to appear in the super bowl. But don't expect this to happen this year. This year the Rams will be rather lucky to finish at 7-9.

In the AFC only Cincinnati appears to have a play-off slot assured. Denver, the surprise team of the year next to San Francisco, has a way to go before winning in their division (Kansas City and San Diego are breathing down their necks) but must be an odds on favorite to end up with one of the wild-card slots at worst. The New York Jets are making a real push in the east and could end up surprising a lot of people before it is all over.

The best news in the college football world was Missouri beating Oklahoma 19-14 last Saturday. The win gave Nebraska the Big Eight championship, with Oklahoma

yet to be played. Nebraska (who will be in the Orange Bowl) is the first team to cinch a major bowl bid.

The Big Eight, which is the only conference ever to carry off a "hat trick" (When Oklahoma, Nebraska and Colorado finished 1-2-3 in the polls) went one week this season with no member in the top ten of either poll (the first time ever). The conference stands in jeopardy of ending the season with no team in the top ten (especially if Oklahoma beats Nebraska next Saturday), although three teams should make bowl appearances and be in the top 20 (Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma).

Could you believe an Iowa vs Washington State Rose Bowl? At the time of this writing it is quite possible. Washington State has to beat Washington and Iowa has to beat Michigan State while Ohio State beats Michigan. Even if Iowa and Washington State don't make it-- Southern California and Ohio State won't either. Other teams in contention are UCLA and Michigan, along with Washington. Like the Big Eight is no longer dominated by Oklahoma/Nebraska, the Big Ten is showing signs of ending the domination of Michigan/Ohio State. Washington State could end a very long domination of the PAC 10 by SC, UCLA and Washington. Now if only the southwest could do something on a more permanent basis about Texas and the southeast something about Alabama--next years college season could be quite interesting.

By the way the real bright spot of the 1981 football season is my Alma Mater (William Jewell College of Liberty, Missouri). WJC has completed their regular season with a 10-0 record and is the number 2 rated NAIA Division II team. NAIA are real small colleges with enrollments of less than most high schools here in California. William Jewell has always fielded a very good football team, but this is there 2nd (I think) undefeated season. They will go to an NAIA bowl game.

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VOLLEYBALL NOTES

My wife's high school volleyball team has finished the season and won another league championship. She has gone into the record books as the only team to win three straight league championships twice. Having done it in 1974-75-76 and 1979-80-81. All in the Golden League. Her Golden League record (League games only) is:

1974:	12 - 0
1975:	12 - 0
1976:	12 - 0
1977:	(did not coach)
1978:	7 - 5
1979:	11 - 1
1980:	12 - 0
1981:	12 - 0

TOTAL	78 - 6
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78 - 6 is 92.9% which is a heck of a good record for a seven year span. The last three years her team has been in C.I.F. (California Interscholastic Federation) tournaments featuring the 32 or so top teams. There are over 400 high school teams in southern California. They have not done so well, losing in the quarter-finals all three years. This year they lost a tough match to San Gabriel 15-13; 17-15 and 15-12, after being ahead in all three matches. This was last Saturday.

Canyon High (where she teaches and coaches) is 15 miles NE of Valencia. It is a desert community and volleyball is not a big activity. Some of the highschoools from LA beach areas are hard to compete with. They have enrollments three or four times as great as Canyon's and volleyball is a major sport there.

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ACE IN THE HOLE FOLDS--THANKS TO FRED DAVIS

Not too long ago, I reprinted a bunch of cartoon adaptations that Al Pearson had published in Just Among Friends. My thirteen year old step-son, David, saw these and was interested in them. Asked me first if I had drawn them. I said no, I had taken them from Al Pearson's JAF. "Did Al draw them?" No, he takes them from magazines, puts new titles on them and puts them in his 'zine. David thought this was kinda neat and wondered if he could do the same thing.

Sure, he could. Ace-in-the-Hole was born. I helped David find cartoons (mostly from New Yorker) and helped him dream up captions. The two issues of A-it-H were run as subzines in BF's #51 and 52. I was happy about this, I was bringing a member of my family into the hobby (a feat that is not easy to do) and I thought the BF readers

would like A-it-H. David was delighted with putting out the subzine. Took copies to school to show his friends and teachers.

David also enjoyed getting a few responses to his effort. Several subbers appended notes to their orders, etc. commenting to David on A-it-H--all favorable comments. Mike Conner published a nice short review of A-it-H in Lone Star Diplomat. Gary Coughlan wants to re-use one of the cartoons in Europa Express. Great! Not quite, along comes Fred Davis who sent David the postcard on the facing page. In addition Fred printed a very critical item regarding David's contribution in Bushwacker.

Well David is crushed. His mother is more than a little upset. Ardyce cannot understand why I would remain in a hobby with all kinds of petty crap like this going on. I am getting all kinds of increased family pressure to get out of the hobby. My other stepson, Kevin, wants to resign from his game (81AW).

How do I explain to David, that Al Pearson can adapt cartoons without anybody caring. Mike Conner, Dave Carter, Gary Coughlan, John Michalski, Bob Arnett, Dave Manuel, etc. all pirate cartoons from the public media from their 'zines--and Fred Davis doesn't give a damn.

.....
Oct. 20, 1981

Dear David:.....

Re: FACE IN THE HOLE. I don't know whether you're really producing this, or this is one of your Dad's jokes, so it's really addressed to both of you. A bit of advice. At least three, and possibly all, of these cartoons are copied from the NEW YORKER magazine. In the interest of honesty and accuracy, you should acknowledge this in your publication. I'm old enough to remember seeing these cartoons the 1st time around, or in a book which reprinted them, but some of the younger readers may be taken in and think that they are original. Also, if any of them are less than 18 years old, the copyright date should be shown. You wouldn't want a lawyer from NEW YORKER bothering you. It would also have been fairer to have left in the artists' names. The GUARDO cartoon is from the "Dreams of Glory" series by Ed Hoff, but I can't name the others.

Regards, Jack Davis (Old Grizz)

Well Fred David (Old Geezer) are you going to send postcards to Mike Conner? To Al Pearson? What about Gary Coughlan if he reprints the Mary Beck cartoon? Or, Fred, do you only pick on thirteen-year-old boys?? If you feel up to taking on a 14-year-old boy, you could try Dave Manuel. He takes editorial cartoons out of the Santa Ana Register and puts them in The Chamber, without even altering the captions. For shame, for sure, but maybe a 14-year-old would be too much for you.

Or, Fred Davis (Old Geezer) are you simply picking on David because he is my stepson and because your good "friend" Bruce Linsey is carrying on a feud with me.

Oh yes, Fred Davis (Old Geezer) attacking people who disagree with Bruce Linsey has long been one of your trade marks. Do you remember the time you wrote me and told me what a "slut" and a "whore" Kathy Byrne was? Is it not true that you decided that Kathy was a "slut" and "whore" about the same time that she and John (Caruso) were having a feud with Bruce Linsey?

I am well aware that few if any BF readers take much stock in the opinions of Fred Davis. But he did crush a thirteen-year-old boy with his assinine remarks and, David will not publish A-it-H again. The losers are those of you that enjoyed A-it-H. Sorry about that.

If you want to write Fred Davis and tell him what a real ass-hole you think he is (or to praise him for bringing out the real truth behind A-it-H) write: Fred Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Road, Baltimore, MD. 21207.

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The above article was written a couple of weeks ago and publication delayed for lack of room. Since it was written both Gary Coughlan have come out with nice reviews of Ace-in-the-Hole. Thanks fellows!

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1981CD Winter 1902 is delayed until November 19th, 1981. All players please note!

80CD

FRENCH AND TURKISH TROOPS ADVANCE AS THREE NATIONS FAIL TO SEND IN ORDERS!

AUST (Olsen) A Gal-VIE; A Ser-TRI; A BUD(s) A Ser-Tri.
 FRAN (Brown) A Arm-SMY; F ALB-Adr; A GRE-Alb; A Rum-UKR;
 A SEV(s) A Rum-Ukr; F Bla-CON; F AEG(s) A Arm-Smy.
 GERM (Pilant) NMR! Neutral orders by Apple Computer.
 A YOR(h); A MUN(s) F Kie; F KIE(s) A Ber; A BER(s)
 A Mun. (There was an error last winter; the German
 A London retreated to Yorkshire and not Liverpool!)
 ITAL (Mainardi) NMR! Neutral orders by Apple Computer.
 F EAS(s) F Ion; F ION(s) F Eas; A Boh-TYO; A Tri(s) A
Boh-Tyo/dislodged and must retreat to Vienna or OTB/;
F ADR(s) A Tri.
 RUSS (Wells) NMR! Neutral orders by Apple Computer.
 F EDI(h); F SWE(h); A STP(s) A Mos; A LIV(s) A War;
 A WAR(s) A Mos; A MOS(s) A War.
 TURK (Arnett) A Arm-SMY; F ALB-Adr; A GRE-Alb; A Rum-UKR;
 A SEV(s) A Rum-Ukr; F Bla-CON; F AEG(s) A Arm-Smy.

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 Fall 1906 orders are due on Tuesday December 8th
 at 12:00 noon, PST.

Press:

ENGLAND IN EXILE to KILLER FROG: So you had to lie to me
 again, you wouldn't even let me survive as a one
 center puppet! Oh well, it's only a game. It's only
 a game. It's only a game. Aaarghhh

ENGLAND IN EXILE to FROG KILLER: A French fleet in
 Clyde? I wonder why? Betcha you can kiss Edinburgh
 goodbye in '06!

ENGLAND IN EXILE to CRUEL WORLD: Why delay the inevit-
 able? As my final act, I propose a concession to
 France. He's outlied (oops, I mean outplayed!) you
 all, and there's no way any of you could stop him now,
 even if you were inclined to--which you aren't. So
 vote for the French concession and give Ron the well
 deserved point. Fye.

ATARI to APPLE: Worthless chowdercircuit! How dare you insult my moves! Listen, chump, so what if they didn't work? At least Olsen is going out with flair, with a certain flamboyance! He's not going to have all his units mindlessly support each other like you, you swarmpit! Too bad you can't grasp the nuances of the game, you ... you ... you ... abacus!!!

AUSTRIA: What a game! Now even the computers are writing vituperative press!

AUSTRIA to RUSSIA: What a sorehead! Okay, have it your way, be mad, see if I care. But what does it get you? Why not cultivate patience and respect for your fellow-players? Let me give you an example

AUSTRIA to ITALY: Dear Tom, I was slightly disappointed to find that you've decided to attack me after all. On the other hand, I do congratulate you for a well-handled attack and wish you the best of luck in the rest of the game. Ron is a fine fellow and I'd rather do his dirty work than anybody else's in the whole hobby. I might, if I were inclined, have wished for a little more communication from you in the game, but, hey, we each have our own style and I'm not criticizing. I could even be that there are some laws against writing letters I don't know about. But so it goes. Make it quick, will you? Faced with an opponent of your formidable talents, I know the end is inevitable. Your friend and admirer, Bob.

AUSTRIA to RUSSIA: There, see? Was that so hard?

BOB to BLACK JACK: Oh, Jack (blubber) (sniff) that's such a wonderful thing for you to say! But you shouldn't have, you really shouldn't...especially since, as you well know, if I'd had my way and Gary had had his act together, we would have crushed you like an insect.

AUSTRIA to RUSSIA: This may be my last season, but I just wanted you to know that I still think you are a teddy bare.

BOBO to BOBA: Looks like it's the two of us, loathesome slimepits that we are, against the world. I think Mainardi put one over on you, ally old buddy.

KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY to BLACK JACK: Just for your information, the epicenter of that quake was in Massachusetts. That's right! Allen's chewing gum again!

BLACK JACK to PUDGE: I hope you don't mind my correcting your spelling. You had "quake" spelled "quack".

BLACK FROG PERCENTILE RANKINGS:

Position	Player	game	1901 perc	1902 perc	1903 perc	1904 perc	1905 perc	1906 perc	1907 perc	Average	Notes!
AUSTRIA	Olsen	80KJ	51	56	57	45	47	--	--	51	
"	J. Townsend	81CD	40	26	--	--	--	--	--	33	
"	Lew	80HS	63	41	38	35	20	13	17	32	
"	Quinn	81K	22	22	24	--	--	--	--	23	
"	Cusack	80ID	11	18	38	35	20	13		23	finished!
"	Schaller	80HR	33	22	07	05	08	13	--	15	
"	Giddings	80HU	02	18	14	15	08	13	--	12	
.....											
ENGLAND	Arnott	81K	82	79	72	--	--	--	--	78	
"	J. Townsend	80HU	41	62	53	62	37	41	--	49	*
"	Beck	81CD	59	37	--	--	--	--	--	48	
"	Grabar	80ID	68	37	35	25	29	41		39	finished!
"	Perlmutter	80HR	41	37	03	07	08	06	--	17	
"	Colombo	80HS	24	15	08	15	08	06	07	14	
"	Sampson	80KJ	01	04	08	07	08	--	--	06	
.....											
FRANCE	Pearson	80HR	62	75	95	92	86	86	--	83	* **
"	Gallagher	80HU	99	66	83	70	86	90	--	82	
"	Albrecht	80HS	45	75	83	84	91	80	80	77	
"	Langley	81CD	75	75	--	--	--	--	--	75	
"	Brown	80KJ	92	88	63	70	86	--	--	80	***
"	Guajardo	80ID	82	75	39	29	27	28		47	finished!
"	Beck	81K	45	42	21	--	--	--	--	36	
.....											
GERMANY	Albrecht	81CD	80	93	--	--	--	--	--	87	
"	Kuszyński	80HS	54	72	81	73	86	90	94	79	*
"	Stafford	81K	54	72	94	--	--	--	--	73	

Position	Player	game	1901 perc	1902 perc	1903 perc	1904 perc	1905 perc	1906 perc	1907 perc	Average	Notes!
GERMANY	Carter	80HR	70	50	57	58	74	72	--	64	
"	Mercer	80ID	87	50	30	33	42	37		47	finished!
"	Pilant	80KJ	35	50	42	46	42	--	--	43	
"	Rodriguez	80HU	09	07	13	17	23	22	--	15	
.....											
ITALY	Schiwautz	80ID	70	91	95	97	98	98		92	* finished!
"	Sherwood	81CD	95	78	--	--	--	--	--	87	
"	Langley	80HU	89	78	81	83	79	82	--	82	****
"	Hanson	80HR	48	63	81	57	62	69	--	63	
"	Mainardi	80KJ	12	31	62	57	62	--	--	45	
"	de Vries	80HS	28	31	62	41	37	44	47	41	
"	F.Townsend	81K	28	31	36	--	--	--	--	32	
.....											
RUSSIA	Wells	80KJ	100	88	72	57	61	--	--	76	
"	Conner	80HU	82	56	83	79	79	73	--	75	*
"	Shufeldt	80ID	49	43	72	79	86	90	--	70	
"	Tilley	80HR	82	56	72	57	43	21	--	55	
"	Manuel	80HS	70	56	43	57	61	52	46	55	*****
"	Landon	81K	70	33	30	--	--	--	--	44	
"	Manuel	81CD	14	06	--	--	--	--	--	10	
.....											
TURKEY	Gallagher	81CD	66	89	--	--	--	--	--	78	
"	Burnett	80HR	51	65	70	79	79	89	--	72	*
"	Stephens	81K	27	89	70	--	--	--	--	65	
"	Hart	80HS	27	42	53	50	60	59	60	50	
"	Brown	80HU	51	42	53	50	50	43	--	48	*****
"	Arnett	80KJ	01	28	37	79	69	--	--	43	
"	Mooney	80ID	74	42	21	39	32	28		39	finished!

Top twelve average percentiles (not including 1981CD)

{ 1.}	B. Schiwautz	Italy	80ID	92
{ 2.}	A. Pearson **	France	80HR	83
{ 3.}	S. Langley ****	Italy	80HU	82
{ 4.}	J. Gallagher	France	80HU	82
{ 5.}	R. Brown	France	80KJ	80
{ 6.}	D. Kuszynski	Germany	80HS	79
{ 7.}	D. Arnott	England	81K	78
{ 8.}	J. Albrecht	France	80HS	77
{ 9.}	A. Wells	Russia	80KJ	76
{ 10.}	M. Conner	Russia	80HU	75
{ 11.}	D. Stafford	Germany	80K	73
{ 12.}	T. Burnett	Turkey	80HR	72

Notations:

* Has qualified for trophy game!

** Al Pearson is a replacement player for Gary Carson in 1980HR.

*** Out of order, should be in third position.

**** Steve Langley is a replacement player for Norm Schwartz in 1980HU.

***** Dave Manual is a replacement player for Jennifer King in 1980HS.

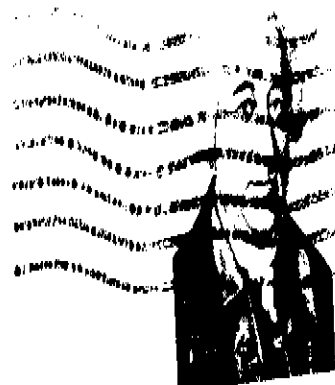
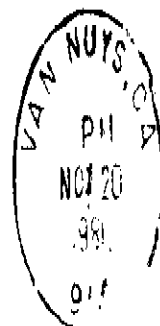
***** Ron Brown is a replacement player for Mike Hartman in 1980HU.

THE BLACK FROG TROPHY GAME

Bill Schiwautz, D. Kuszynski, M. Conner, T. Burnett, J. Townsend, and A. Pearson have qualified for the trophy game. Al Pearson is a replacement player and I am a bit reluctant to put him in the game. The alternative would be to put the French runner-up, Joe Gallagher, in. But this would provide three players from 1980HU--which would not be too desirable. Thus I would like to have Al take the position. The Austrian position is harder to fill. No Austrian player (from the four-horsemen game series really qualifies. I am asking Ron Brown (who won as Austria in 1977HZ--the first game completed in Black Frog) to take the Austrian position in the trophy game.

There will be no game fee for the game and the winner will indeed get a trophy. If you qualify, please let me know ~~wight~~ right away if you intend to participate.

John H. Masters
25711 No. Vista Fwys. Dr.
Valencia, CA 91355



John Hanson
President Continental Congress
USA 20c

- () Sample
- () Please plug
- () See page _____

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Doug

Doug Beyerlein
640 College Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025

For the last few
the number of data is
highly variable. I am
not a statistician but I
would like to see the data
and see if it is really
as variable as it seems.