



BUSHWACKER

VOL. XIV, No. 3

(Starting Our 14th Year)

MARCH 1985

This is the 162nd consecutive issue of BUSHWACKER, a Postal Diplomacy* zine specializing in Variant games. This bit of non-reality is brought to you by Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207, U.S.A. Phone: (301) 747-7248. Phone calls accepted between 7 and 9:30 p.m. weekdays, and between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m. weekends, Eastern Time. However, all players are requested to submit their orders by mail. This zine is named after "Bushwacker," a comic strip character I invented back in the 6th grade, a looong time ago. That's his picture, dressed for combat, on the masthead. The star indicates that he was the Commanding General of the Bushwacker Army, a tough group of about 5,000 men living on their own private planetoid. He was also President of the Bushwacker Republic. (There's no "h", as we didn't know how to spell the word back in 6th grade). Someday I'll have to include a picture of his wife, Sweetie Pi. The relationship between Bush and Sweetie Pi resembled that between Maggie and Jiggs in "Bringing Up Father."

*Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by the Avalon Hill Game Co., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

GAME FEES: \$8.00 to newcomers; \$7.00 to current players or readers for a new game, or to members of the Mensa Diplomacy ISG. STANDBY FEE: \$4.00 for newcomers, \$3.00 for everyone else. Games are run on a Flat Fee basis. You receive copies of the rules/maps for your game(s), plus receipt of BUSH for the length of your game.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for non-players and non-standbys: 12 issues for \$4.50.

GAME OPENING: Supposedly, all 7 starting slots have been filled for Vacation Dip III. However, we can still use some standbys here. Send in a Standby Fee. If anybody in the Starting Seven fails to properly start the game, you'll get a starting slot. Besides, only one game in all BUSH history was ever completed without at least one player dropping out, so you're almost certain to get into it.

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This issue contains reports on ZEUS V-F (1984A gf11) and L'IMPERIALISME II-B (1984H-xm16); plus End-game statements for WOOLWORTH II-D (1983H cb19).

FUTURE FEATURE

At great expense to the management, we are going to have a two-part article on "The Battle of Guadalcanal" in BUSH in the near future. This is based on a term paper we prepared in college quite some time ago. We were going to just xerox it, but there were so many additions and corrections that we wound up retyping the entire thing. We also tried to cut it down from 18 pages to 12, but found it necessary to leave it at 14. If we throw a few maps in, this might be spread out over 3 issues. We won't have time to do this until our detail is over, but it might start next month. This article should be of interest to all naval buffs. Guadalcanal was one of the three key naval battles of the Pacific War.

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EVERYONE IS REMINDED that I am still away from home base on the "Telephone Tax" detail. This has necessitated our going to a five-week publishing schedule. The next Deadline will be on MONDAY, April 15th. We hope to be able to maintain a deadline of the 15th of the month for the next several months after that, even though there is now a possibility that our detail may last for a short time beyond April 15th. We must get our June issue out no later than June 17th, as we will be going out of town on vacation from June 19th to July 2nd.

We will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin attending the Mensa Annual Convention from June 20 thru June 23rd. Hope to see some members of the Diplomacy SIG there. We will then be in Chicago for a week, so maybe we'll see some Chicagoland players and pubbers. Drop us a line if you'd like to get together.

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DON MILLER MEMORIAL AWARD FUND APPEAL

In a short time, the list of nominees to be considered for the 1985 Miller Award will be reviewed by the Committee, and the top five names on that list will be presented to the hobby at large for voting. The Miller Award is presented each year to the person whom the hobby judges to have performed the most meritorious service in the preceding year. Within reason, this can include consideration of activities and projects which may extend before and after the start and finish of calendar 1984, but the main emphasis on this year's voting will be services performed in 1984. This is not a popularity contest. It is an objective view of services performed, with no restrictions on the type or form of those services. It is named in honor of Don Miller of Wheaton, Md., who epitomized the old-time publisher of the 1960's and early 70's, with his tremendous publishing output and advice to novice players and publishers. Don also did the first classification of variant games, for which the Miller Numbers are named.

Two plaques are presented to the winner each year, preferably at DipCon, if the winner is present. One is the Master plaque, which bears the names of each year's winner. This is passed on each year. The other is an individual plaque, which the winner gets to keep. There are expenses each year connected with the purchase of the individual plaque and the engraving of both plaques, and the mailing costs whenever they cannot be awarded in person. These funds come from voluntary contributions.

After the expenses incurred in connection with the 1984 Miller Award (which went to Lee Kendter, Sr., the MNC), the fund had dropped to a precarious low of \$28.09. I am the Treasurer for same. Fortunately, new contributions are starting to arrive. We will appreciate receiving whatever donations you would care to give. Even a dollar or two would help. As my Bank is very narrow-minded, please make out all checks to: "Fred C. Davis, Jr."

Anyone contributing at least \$5.00 may request a copy of GAMESMAN #9, the last issue of Don Miller's annual gamezine. This contains sections on chess and other games in addition to Dip, plus an article on Navies of the world. Only a very few copies of this publication are left. Be sure to state whether you want a copy.

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SPEAKING OF AWARDS, WE HAVE THE 1985 LIFERS

Don Del Grande, publisher of LIFE OF MONTY, has decided that we need a different type of award to spice things up. He says the LIFER Awards will be a cross between the "silly" awards called Rusty Bolts given in Britain, and the "typical" awards formerly presented by Mike Mills in his Eminent Awards. Anyone connected with the Postal hobby is entitled to submit nominations of up to 5 people in each of the following categories:

(cont. at bottom of Pg. 3)

MARYCON III TO BE HELD MAY 31 thru JUNE 2, IN FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

On Friday, May 31st, Vari-MaryCon will offer several boards for playing the Tolkien Variant, "Downfall of the King..." under the aegis of Tom Swider. This will be the first time that several sections of the same variant are played simultaneously, to get a better idea of how much in the way of unusually good or bad luck for the respective Powers is due to a fluke, and how much to inherent game design. (If all games wind up with the same Power(s) winning, it must be due to the game design). I have been asked to help officiate at this event. Formalities begin at 10 a.m. Games will continue to conclusion or until the last player collapses of exhaustion.

The Regular Diplomacy Tournament begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 1st. Round One will be played that day. Round Two will begin at 9 a.m. sharp on Sunday, and all games must be concluded by 5 p.m., in order to allow time for the awards ceremonies. There will also be a Gunboat contest in The Pub on Saturday evening. There will probably be a selection of other games, such as Trivial Pursuit and Rail Baron, in The Pub. Hope they'll let me into a T.P. game.

Prices have had to be raised this year, but the rooms are decent, and the food portions are generous. Send separate checks for VariMaryCon (\$35.00) and MaryCon (\$50.00). These include breakfast, lunch, dinner and lodging (meals thru lunch Sunday). It also includes free beer at The Pub on Friday & Saturday, provided you're at least 19. As a "wino" I feel discriminated against, since they don't provide wine. Maybe I should bring my own bottle. Soft drinks are also available.

Make your checks out to "MaryCon '85," and mail them to: MaryCon '85, 1309 Hanover St., Fredericksburg, Va. 22401. All rooms are double occupancy. Two people may send in a joint order, or you may specifically request a roommate of your choice. Bring your own blanket. Last year, we had a record cold wave and almost froze. The college will provide sheets and pillow cases. Lower rates apply to those not staying overnight.

To get to Mary Washington College, drive south on I-95 to Virginia Rt. 3 in the heart of Fred'burg. Go left (east) on Rt. 3 to College Ave., then left on College Ave. right to the campus main entrance on your right. Drive to Monroe Hall, which is the site of the Registration desk and most activities. You'll probably receive a campus map when you sign up. Hope to see you there. This will be THE Diplomacy event of the year for East Coast people from New York to South Carolina.

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LIFER AWARDS (cont. from Pg. 2)

Dirtiest Fold; Most Boring Topic (bet you can guess which one I nominated); Hobby Genius; Most Improved Zine ("improved" is up to you); Best Zine for Games Other Than Diplomacy; Best Zine for Hobby News; Best Game Other than Dip or its Variants; Biggest Hobby Personality; and, finally, "the big one" - True Hobby Master (the one person you believe sees all, knows all, and controls all in the hobby today).

Deadline for Nominations is April 20, 1985. The top five nominees in each category will appear on a ballot which Don will distribute in LIFE OF MONTY, and request other publishers to reprint. Send your nominations to: Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Dr., Greenbrae, Calif. 94909.

While nominations are limited to North Americans, I believe Overseas readers may submit nominations and vote. O.K., Don?

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THREE ON A MATCH

LATEST NEWS ON GALILEO

We're very pleased to report that at the insistence of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory project management team, NASA has agreed to modify the 1986 Galileo mission trajectory to include a flyby of Amphitrite, asteroid 29. The cameras and other detectors will be turned on for this once in a lifetime rendezvous. Apparently, the needed \$7 million is now committed hard and fast, and cannot be removed by the White House people now disemboweling the 1986 budget. (This is a F/U to our article in the December BUSH).

We're also happy to see that the European Space Agency is getting very active. As the U.S. program disintegrates, the Europeans are picking up the pieces. They are now proposing a Saturn Orbiter Mission with a Titan Probe; a Multiple Asteroid Orbiter; and a Mars Surface Rover Mission. The U.S. is being asked to cooperate in some of these projects. Don't bet the ranch on it with the current Administration.

"THE COSMIC QUARANTINE BARRIER..."

"...can be surmounted only by a civilization that adopts and strongly enforces ethical standards compatible with its material power, that always chooses rational thinking over brute force to solve disputes, and that always chooses long-term self-interest over short-term self-interest. That is the intelligence test facing our present civilization. ... Nuclear war is by no means inevitable. Perhaps, faced with the prospect of such an unprecedented self-inflicted catastrophe, we humans will choose to break free from the dead hand of the past and change our course."

-article by Steven Soter in THE PLANETARY REPORT, Jan/Feb 1985, discussing why an aggressive society would never make it to the interstellar travel level of technology. (The Klingons will never make it. The jury is still out on the Humans.)

THERE IS A LITTLE ASTEROID NAMED 1984QA (not to be confused with a Postal Diplomacy game) which came within four million miles of Earth in August 1983. The orbit of this one-kilometer diameter body is unstable, as it crosses the orbits of both Earth and Venus. The fun news is that "the asteroid's close planetary encounters will gradually change its orbit, so sometime during the next 10,000 years, it will either impact one of the planets or be ejected from the solar system." - ASTRONOMY, February 1985.

(Anyone want to place a bet? Last time, it was the dinosaurs that got zapped. Next time it could be us. Those of you who saw the movie, "Asteroid," will realize that maybe there was something to be said for the rocket defense idea, despite the film's stupid plot. "River, stay away from my door.")

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We should apologize for the rather confused make-up of the February BUSHWACKER. It was written in two separate installments, done about two weeks apart. By the time we wrote the second half, we'd forgotten what we'd said in the first part. This could happen again this time, so please forgive any duplications.

Please add the name of Mark Coldiron to the Honor Roll presented here last month of those publishers who support the Runestone Poll in its present form, to be run by Bruce Linsey. We regret overlooking the names of any other publishers who support the Runestone Poll. We had to rely upon the information which was furnished to us. It appears that at least 75% of the hobby's publishers are supporting the Runestone Poll.

WOOLWORTH II-D, 1983H cb19

END-GAME STATEMENTS

Ralph Baty (GERMANY/RUSSIA): I was pleased to have received these two powers in this game. However, I soon realized that the Austria/Balkan alliance existed, and could have been devastating to me, especially in alliance with Italy and Turkey. The NMR's of the A/B powers (shall I thank IBM for moving their Queen?) allowed the powerful I/T and G/R alliance to form.

Spain actually forced the formation of this alliance. One of his (Anderson's) first letters to me spoke of complete honesty between us, and he informed me that his secret power was Russia(!). That was an unfortunate choice for him. Relations with the Spanish went downhill from there. I'm sorry the French decided to side with Spain. Had France moved against the Spanish instead of my Germany, I would have been tempted to move against Italy/Turkey, with France as an ally. That might have been fun. (Nothing personal, Phil). Actually, I'm currently overbooked, so I'm glad this game has ended.

Phil Dancause (ITALY/TURKEY):



"We're of two minds about the draw. If it weren't for the peculiar play of the Italians/Turks we would have been better off."

Actually, my original intent was to blitz the Balkans. The original Austria (Paula Dodge) talked me out of it, and we had a pretty good alliance until she fell out of the game. Since the new Austria was lined up with Spain, I/T made a deal with Russia/Germany and fell back on our original plans.

David Anderson (SPAIN/ENGLAND): Whenever you see people supporting each other, it is too easy to guess whose Power belongs to who. I have no way to resolve this. Do you? I enjoyed myself, especially fighting Germany.

C.M.: Baty and Dancause were the Co-winners of the 2-way Draw here. Anderson finished third. Award certificates have been mailed to the winners. These were all the statements received. No one commented on my proposal to add a neutral "Jutland" space between Germany and the Danish SC, so as to give Scandinavia a certain build here in '01. I'll probably make this change, but will still appreciate comments from anyone on this first.

This will be the last issue going to Pierre Touchette, unless you subscribe. Lu, I presume that we will go on Trading zines, O.K.?

ZEUS V-F, 1984A gf11

FALL 1944

BRITISH MARINES MAKE SECOND ATTEMPT TO SEIZE WHITE HOUSE. BATTLE OF MOSCOW IS DRAW, BUT RUSS TAKE DENMARK. CHINESE FORCES MOVE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS IN LEND-LEASE PROGRAM. FRANCE NEUTRAL?

As you can guess, the proposal for a 3-way Draw between China, Russia and U.S.A. did not pass.

BRITAIN (Anderson): ^(nc) F West Arctic Ocean-Finland/ F Mid-Atlantic-Washington.
(3) F Edinburgh-North Atlantic.
CHINA (Kozlowski): A Sinkiang-Siberia. A Amur (S) A Sinkiang-Siberia. F Korea-
(9) Sea of Japan. A Turkey (MS) A Middle East. A Kazakh-Stalingrad.
F Tokyo (S) USA F Sendai-Sapporo. F Indian Ocean (S) USA F Egypt.
F South Pacific-Panama.
FRANCE (Trifkovic): NMR! F's English Channel, West Britain, North Sea, East Med.,
(7) Greece and Libya all (H). A Panama (H).
GERMANY (Baty): A Berlin-Hamburg. F Denmark-Hamburg/d/, (R) Helgoland (only space
(6) open). A Austria-Czecho. A Rumania-Moscow. A Hungary-Rumania.
USSR (Rauterberg): A Yugoslavia (S) A Hungary-Rumania.
(9)(8 units) F East Arctic Ocean-Finland(nc). A Sweden-Denmark. F Baltic Sea
(S) A Sweden-Denmark. F Norway-North Sea. A Poland (H). A Baltic
States (S) A Poland. A Stalingrad-Moscow. F Sapporo-Sea of Okhotsk.
U.S.A. (Cheek): A Canada-Oregon. F New York-Washington. F North Atlantic-New York.
(8) F Sendai-Sapporo. F Caroline Is.-Midway. F Okinawa-Central Pacific.
F Mid-Pacific-North Pacific. F Egypt (H).

PRESS:

BRITAIN to World: Britain votes "Yes" for the R/C/U Draw. We have lost most of our "Empire" and the commies look like they're taking over! Anybody get a feeling of deja vu?

PEKING: The Chinese have united with the United States to save Hitler...er... Germany from the Russians. This way, by 1984, when the U.S., Germany & China are nuclear powers, that power will be more evenly distributed across the globe and more representative of earth. After all, Europe should have a major nuclear power.

HAMBURG: China may want peace. He must choose between friends for his next expansion, but the rest of us are still having fun!

USA to USSR: I'll bet you didn't even see it coming!

USA to England: I hope you made the right choice.

BRITAIN to USA: As Patton once said, "The only thing that separates us is a common language." I've come over to teach you a lesson. ((Patton was quoting G.B. Shaw - F.C.D.))

CHINA to USSR: I'm stuck between USA and USSR - and you haven't written in about three months.

LONDON to Berlin: How goes the war?

LONDON to Moscow: I told you so!

LONDON to USA: Look what China did to the Russians! Are you next on his list?

USA to France: At least you'll make life interesting.

BUSHWACKER: But is France alive? Thanks for the big press war, guys.

(more)

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, WINTER 1944: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

BRITAIN:	Edi, London, EGYPT	2, Remove 1
CHINA:	3 Home, India, Indochina, Korea, Middle East, Tokyo, Turkey	9, No change
FRANCE:	3 Home, Low Count., Greece, Rome, Spain	7, No change
GERMANY:	3 Home, Rumania, Venice, YUGOSLAVIA, DENMARK	6, No change
USSR:	4 Home, Finland, Norway, Poland, DENMARK, SAPPORO, YUGOSLAVIA	8, No change (1 annihilated) (-1 in SC's)
U.S.A.:	3 Home, Canada, Midway, Okinawa, Sendai, Solomons, EGYPT, SAPPORO	10, Build 2

Because there are so few adjustments, I'd like to run both the WINTER 1944 and SPRING 1945 seasons together next turn.

Will Dan R. Wilson, 3431 Oakdale, #1614, San Antonio, Texas 78229, please submit back-up orders for FRANCE. Should Mark Trifkovik drop out, we will only play WINTER, in order to allow the new French player time to negotiate.

More standby players needed here. Any current reader may have a standby slot if you will just send me \$1 for rules/ maps plus "postage and handling." Thanks.

DEADLINE for these orders will be MONDAY, April 15, 1985. Phone deadline will be Sunday, April 14th, at 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

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L'IMPERIALISME II-B, 1984H xm16

WINTER 1913

THREE POWERS REQUEST SEPARATION OF SEASONS. ENGLAND RETURNS TO THE WARS.

		<u>Current Strength</u>
AUSTRIA (Dancouse):	Build A Vienna, A Budapest	8 (+2)
BELGIUM (Dancouse):	No change	1 (--)
ENGLAND (Hagerson):	Remove F English Channel	2 (-1)
FRANCE (Wilson):	No change	7 (-1) (1 annihilated)
GERMANY (Cheek):	F G.E.A. (R) OTB. Build A Berlin	6 (--)
IBERIA (Kozlowski):	Build A Madrid	10 (+1)
ITALY (Anderson):	Build A Naples, F Somaliland	8 (+2)
TURKEY (Baty):	Build F Mesopotamia	7 (+1)

I had forgotten to mention that in this variant, the Regular rule permitting an OTB Retreat is permitted. Thanks to Brad Wilson for submitting backup orders for England.

We have Tentative orders on hand for four Powers for Spring 1914. These may, of course, be changed. England is reminded that he has two units left; Wales and Denmark.

PRESS:

ENGLAND to All: Sorry for leaving the world as we know it, but I started up College last month, and my life was very hectic. But England is back to rule the seas (I hope).

DEADLINE for SPRING 1914 is MONDAY, April 15, 1985 (same date as the Income Tax deadline). Phone deadline will be Sunday, April 14th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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A reader [redacted] whether Halley's Comet would be visible from the northern half of the United States between November 1985 and March 1986. Yes, it will be, but it will probably be a disappointing sight without binoculars or a small telescope. The further
(cont. on Pg. 10)

THE END OF AN ERA (An item of Personal History) - by Fred Davis

In August 1939, my father's sister, Aunt Muriel, made her one and only trip to America to meet my mother and me for the first time, and to see the New York World's Fair. (That was the real World's Fair, by cracky, with the Trylon & Perisphere, GM's Futurama, Mike Todd's "Hot Mikado" and Billy Rose's "Aquacade" (starring Buster Crabbe)).

Of course, nobody had time to read newspapers while we were running around New York. So, when it came time for Aunt Muriel to go home, we casually took a taxi over to the big Cunard pier at West 50th St. for her to board the R.M.S. Aquitania. The date was August 31, 1939.

To our surprise, we were informed that sailing time had been postponed from about 1 p.m. to about 6. We all went aboard anyway, to get my Aunt's bags to her cabin and to take a look about the ship. This was my first visit to a luxury liner, and although this old four-stacker dowager was definitely long in the tooth by then, she was still a fascinating sight. I still have a dining room menu among my souvenirs. I noticed that all of the ship's portholes had been painted over with heavy black paint. I remember making jokes about submarines, and thought the whole matter was hilarious. My aunt was not amused. Dad's alert eyes had spotted the Normandie at the next pier. She was supposed to have sailed earlier in the day. He asked some minor functionary about this. Keeping up the myth that everything was normal, he blurted out, "Why, the Normandie's sailing in two hours!" (N.B. She never sailed again).*

rack.

Killing time, I picked up two brochures from a pamphlet/ One announced that the new U.S. liner America was being launched September 1st. This was the largest luxury liner ever built in the U.S. up to that time, and the brochure described her future career in glowing terms. The other pamphlet was titled, "Is there going to be a War in Europe?" It poo-pooed this ridiculous idea, pointing out that in the first seven months of 1939, there had been an all-time record number of people sailing the Atlantic on business and holidays. Besides, Mr. Chamberlain had a piece of paper guaranteeing peace in our time. So, it urged the reader to book his accommodations for a trip to Europe.

Finally, we all went back to our hotel for a late lunch. The newsstands were full of papers with the words "Poland" and "Germany" in the headlines. No mind. All we talked about was Aunt Muriel's forthcoming trip, and how glad she would be to get home again after a 5-week absence. When we returned to the pier around 5:30, guards had been placed at the gangways, and this time only passengers were being allowed to board. So, we said our goodbyes, and my Aunt went aboard by herself.

My Dad, Mother and I went to a good place on the pier to watch the ship depart. Six o'clock came and went, and nothing happened. We waited and waited. My Dad was not a patient man, and made several sarcastic comments. Finally, at about 7 p.m., Eastern Daylight time, Aquitania cast off her lines, and the great ship slowly glided out into the Hudson. People aboard and on shore waved and threw streamers in the best Hollywood fashion. In about 15 minutes, she had reached mid-river with the help of her tugs, turned, and gone downstream, accompanied by tremendous blasts from her Cunarder horn, which could be heard all over Manhattan.

About 4 hours later, at 5:35 a.m. Central European Time, September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain went to war on the 3rd. On September 4th, the liner Athenia was sunk by a U-boat, first victim of the Battle of the Atlantic. My Aunt arrived home safely on the 6th.

Since April 1939, there had been a couple of airplane flights a week between New York and Southampton, via the Azores, using lumbering flying boats like the China Clippers, but they carried only a minute percentage of transatlantic passengers. For all practical purposes, as of August 1939, the liner was still "The only way to cross." By the time World War II ended, a new age had been born. While the luxury liners did return to their berths in lesser numbers in 1946, things were never again the same. Aquitania's departure on August 31, 1939, was the last normal peacetime sailing out of New York by the old school. It was the End of an Era. And I was there to see it.

* Several years after this was written, I learned that one reason for the delay of the Aquitania's sailing was that passengers from the Normandie were transferred to Aquitania, a sure sign that Normandie was not going to sail that day. Apparently, both ships were lightly booked, probably because some people had already cancelled their trips to Europe. This transfer must have occurred while we had gone to lunch. There is an interesting story about the Normandie and her tragic 1942 fire in a magazine I picked up at a Baltimore boat show several years ago. We were not told about this in 1939.

COUNTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR VACATION DIPLOMACY III (BUSHWACKER #17, till we get a MN).

Everybody got their money in, so here's the starting lineup. We're very pleased to report that, for once, every starting player lives in a different State. Initially, we had two players from one State, but one resigned. More standbys are welcome.

AUSTRIA: David R. Rice, 1221 N.E. 51st Ave., #119, Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

ENGLAND: Russ Wallace, 4707 Balla Dr., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80918

FRANCE: Brad Wilson, Box 327, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Ill. 60045

GERMANY: Paula M. Dodge, P.O. Box 2510, Manassas, Va. 22554

ITALY: Mark Trifkovic, 9736 E. 50th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64133

RUSSIA: Robert Cheek, 14341 Franklin Ave., Tustin, Calif. 92680

TURKEY: Paul D. Kenny, 426 Alison Apts., Marlton, N.J. 08053

#1 STANDBY: Dan R. Wilson, 3431 Oakdale, #1614, San Antonio, Texas 78229

I tried to avoid giving anyone a country he was now playing or had recently played in BUSH. Since no players were near each other, it was fairly easy to make the assignments mostly by lot. If anybody does not have the complete set of rules and map (+ my House Rules), please let me know immediately. Note we will not be using the Army/Fleet module rules in this game. Because of the nature of the rules, each Winter season must be played separately, as that is when the Event cards will be distributed. (i.e. I'll send them out with the Fall reports, but they can first be used, in some cases, in the Winter season). Players are responsible for keeping track of their own Event cards. Please don't come back to me in 1904 to ask what card I gave you in 1901! I will keep records, but I'm counting on you to catch any errors.

"Winter"

Your first Event card, for/1900, will be enclosed herein. This is to be played sometime in 1901, if it is used at all. I would be willing to give the players until May 15th (two months) to negotiate. However, if everyone will submit moves by the April 15th deadline, I'll be glad to adjudicate SPRING 1901 then. If you do not want the Spring '01 deadline to be on April 15th, please drop me a postcard or call to let me know, so you won't be charged with an NMR. If anyone requests a starting delay to May 15th, I'll notify the other players by postcard. VOTE with your 1st orders on whether you want play to continue beyond 1911.

→ To Players: Your first Event Card is No. ____.

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LATE BULLETINS: Kathy Byrne has turned down the suggestion that Doug Beyerlein serve as Ombudsman to resolve her feud with Bruce Linsey. Bruce had promptly agreed to that arrangement. Konrad Baumeister reports that Kathy "has gone outside the hobby to procure legal aid in the matter, allegedly to put a stop to Linsey's harrassment (?) of her family and herself." Tragic. It looks like we are one step closer to having two separate Postal Diplomacy hobbies in the U.S.

GIVE ME A WEAPON is no more. Konrad Baumeister has folded his latest zine after 47 issues. All subscription funds are being returned, but he will finish most of his games by flyer - apparently a few of the younger games will be rehoused elsewhere. Konrad's wit will be missed. This is the second time he's folded. Let's hope that he'll "do a Von Metzke" and return again in a couple of years. My God, are all of the old-time zines folding? My Trade list has been decimated in the last 4 months.

The 1985 Runestone Zine & GM Poll

THE NINTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN ZINE POLL: You may rate any publication substantially devoted to Diplomacy of which you have seen more than two issues since April 1, 1984. Rate the series, not individual issues. Rate each zine on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Specify subzines and rate them separately from the parent zine; subzines will be listed separately. Publishers may not rate their own zines or subzines. Sign your ballot and indicate one way in which you participate in the hobby (e.g. "I sub to zine XXX", "I play in game 1984YY", "I publish zine ZZZ", etc.). All votes will be kept confidential (but please note that Pat Conlon will see all of them). Please list the zines alphabetically to make tabulation of the results easier. I reserve the right to tabulate or ignore ballots which do not follow the format outlined above.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN GAMESMASTER POLL: You may rate any GM in whose postal game or games you were a player during the year beginning April 1, 1984, and under whom you played for long enough to gain an objective assessment of his or her competence as a GM. Rate each GM on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Gamesmasters may not rate themselves. Others may not rate GMs in whose games they were not active players during the poll period. Rate each GM by NAME, not by zine. Votes which do not use the GM's name will not be tabulated. Please list the GMs in alphabetical order by SURNAME. Distinguish between Ron Brown of California and Ron Brown of Canada if you vote for either or both.

The deadline for both polls is June 29, 1985. The deadline for ballots sent to Pat Conlon is June 22, 1985. Results will be tabulated as soon after the poll deadline as possible, and will be released as they become available to anyone wishing to phone. Please rate only North American zines, subzines, and GMs; though any readers or players living outside North America are welcome to participate. Send all ballots to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226, USA or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893, USA.

HALLEY'S COMET (Cont. fr. Pg. 7)

south you go, the better it will look. (Australia and New Zealand would be ideal, as would South America). I am hoping to be in the Caribbean for one week in February '86. Look for travel agents to offer "Comet Cruises" and charter plane hops.

Incidentally, the name is pronounced "Halley as in alley;" not "Hailey, as in Bill Hailey and the Comets."

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Thanks for your letters &
comments on my seat-belt
article. A lot of you are
thinking about this problem.

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