



BUSHWACKER

VOL. 18, No. 6

(Awards Ballot Enclosed)

JUNE 1989

This is the 209th consecutive issue of BUSHWACKER, a Postal Diplomacy* zine dedicated to the play and reporting of Variant games, hobby news, and anything else I happen to think of. Edited by: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043. Phone: (301) 461-1885. Phone calls accepted between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m., Eastern Time, except between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. We prefer receiving your orders by mail, but please phone promptly if you spot an adjudication error.

*Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Md. "Bushwacker" is the name of my comic strip character, created in 1941, before most of you were born. That's his picture on the masthead. I've been advised that in the Marvel Comics directory, there is an evil character also named "Bushwacker," without the "H". Humph! Where's my lawyer? At least, I knew somebody else doesn't know how to spell!

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GAME FEES: \$9.00 Flat Fee for newcomers. \$8.00 for current readers. STANDBY FEES: \$5.00 for newcomers. \$4.00 for everyone else. Note that a standby signs up for a specific game of his choice. For your money, you receive copies of the rules/maps for your game(s) and BUSH for the duration of your game, providing you don't drop out. Players and standbys don't have to worry about their subs expiring. Mensa Diplomacy SIG members receive an additional \$1.00 discount on these fees. However, he who NMR's twice in a row is out of his game, and BUSH stops coming unless you decide to sign up for another game or subscribe.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for non-players are 12 issues for \$6.00. OVERSEAS SUBS are \$8.00 for 12 issues, by sea mail. SAMPLE copies are 50¢. We also TRADE with many other zines on an all-for-all basis.

This issue contains reports on VACATION DIP III (1985R rm39), CHARACTER DIP (1987AF rm49) and ATLANTICA III (1988AR oa01).

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THE 1989 AWARDS BALLOT is included with this issue. For the past several years, this Award has been presented annually to the person determined to have performed the most outstanding service for the hobby (the Miller Award) and "for outstanding literary achievement" (the Walker Award). For the past three years, there has also been a Best Player Award (the Koning Award). The Miller Award winners are ineligible to be nominated again for two years following their receipt of the award. As this is the most prestigious award presented within the North American Hobby, it was felt that there should be no repeats within a short time period. There are no such restrictions on winning the Walker or Koning Awards.

This year, we have seven nominations for the Miller Award. Several were nominated by more than one person. I was one of the nominators for several of these people. We have only four nominees for the Literary Award. I had made one nomination in this category, but it was excluded on the technicality it was not printed until January 1989 (Bruce McIntyre's article on his "Auto Accident" in the Jan EXCELSIOR. Oh, well, I'll nominate it again next year.) And there are five players nominated for the Koning Award.

~~There are many, many highly qualified nominees to select from. As I see it, there is~~

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Dan told me that my pre-gun control letter, which I'd sent to him as a private missive, would be published in VERTIGO, with my permission. We both expect that some of the gun levers will respond hot and heavy to my comments. Their fear of losing their guns can only be compared to the male Freudian fear of emasculation. It is far more than a coincidence that the term "gun" has a double meaning. Don't worry, boys, the only "guns" we want to ban are military assault rifles and cheap handguns. As long as the deer have no natural enemies, we understand that the herds have to be thinned out by hunters in order for any of them to survive. Personally, I'd prefer to see the mountain lions reintroduced to establish an ecological balance, but I doubt that's going to happen. The deer are threatening the stability of some areas because of their great numbers. But if you need a 30-round banana clip to hit one, you must be a leousy shot!

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"GOODBYE, OLD PAINT"

Our old Dodge Aires has been on its last legs since last September, when it broke down in the Amish country in Lancaster, Pa. I was holding on to it until my son, Kevin, completed his driver's training, so he'd have a clunker to practice on. Also, I still had my Social Security parking lot bumper stickers on her. Well, Kevin got his driver's license on May 8th, and SSA voided the old bumper stickers on May 20th, after a life of some 8 years. So, it was time to start shopping.

We looked at several cars, including the new GEO Prizm, but we wound up buying a Toyota Corolla sedan. I felt unpatriotic buying a foreign car, but Inge has had absolutely no trouble with her '87 Toyota hatchback, even after 30,000 miles, and everybody says that Toyota is the best car in its price range, so we went with the best. I was already somewhat used to the Toyota dashboard and control system from driving Inge's car. It's too bad that every carmaker has to set up its controls differently. I'm going to miss having "three on the tree," as I've had on every car I've owned since we bought our first car in January 1963. I don't like having to look down to shift gears, but I guess eventually I'll get to the point where I won't have to look.

Anyway, it's a beautiful light blue car. First car I've ever owned with power steering. Unlike some of the other cars we tested, the Toyota power steering does not throw you all over the road when you touch the wheel. And the stereo system is marvelous. It's always sad to say goodbye to an old car which has served you so faithfully, but it's also nice to feel as though you're rich with a new car. This one arrived on May 30th, just in time for my birthday on June 1st.

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CORRECTION. Last month, I said that the Robert Sacks group was putting in a bid to host the 1990 DipGen as part of the ORIGINS Con in Atlanta, Georgia. I've since learned that this is only one of three proposed sites. The other two are at AtlantiCon, which is always held here in Baltimore in July; and Phrelicon, which is to be held somewhere in New Jersey. (The latter is a combination SF & Gaming con, being held this year in Mt. Laurel, N.J., the same weekend as DipGen (July 28-30)).

It is my understanding that the DipGen Society Committee has asked Sacks to narrow down his bid to one of these three sites. Traditionally, the hobby has voted to hold DipGen in a particular city, rather than hosted by a particular group. Sacks has apparently refused to do so, and has fired back his usual charges that the Establishment is Plotting Against Him, plus a personal attack on Larry Peery. Regardless of the pros and cons of the two main bidders, methinks it's a bit difficult to support one group when you don't know whether their con is going to be held in Atlanta or Baltimore. Naturally, my own

ATLANTICON 89 NOTICE IS OUT

The Atlanticon flyer provides all the needed information on this year's Con, which will be held in the Baltimore Convention Center and adjacent Sheraton-Inner Harbor Hotel. The dates are Friday, July 21 thru Sunday, July 23rd. Advance registration, by 7/1, is \$14 for the entire weekend. You can get a copy of this flyer by writing to: Atlanticon 89, P.O. Box 15405, Baltimore, Md. 21207.

FYI, the convention will include a Pax Britannica Tournament at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, and a Balkan Wars Diplomacy Variant game on Friday night at 7 p.m. The latter will be GM'd by Brad Wilson. I don't know which Mark of Balkan Wars this will be. Hey, Brad, is this Reinsel's original version, the "III" we played here in BUSH, the "IV" version I offered as an improvement, or a new one? Please send me a copy if it's new.

The Diplomacy Tournament proper will begin at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, and will be a two-round event. Entry fee is \$3. Robert Sacks and Tom Swider will be the GM's. Round 2 will be at 9:00 a.m. Sunday. Entries are limited to 64 people. That's 9 Beards, and, I guess, one standby.

There will also be seminars, demonstrations, and, of course, many dealers will set up booths and have games for sale. I regret that I will be in Ocean City, Md., with my family for the entire week from July 18th thru the 24th, so I won't see you there. We had to make our beach reservations back in February to get what we wanted, and it's too late to change things now. If you come, I'm sure you'll enjoy the facilities.

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THE 1989 LIFER AWARDS WINNERS

Twenty one people voted this year, a 110% increase over 1988. Perhaps some of you used the ballot provided in BUSHWACKER. This makes the outcome worthy of consideration.

The Best Zine for Hobby News award was a Tie between DIPLOMACY WORLD and LIFE OF MONTY, with 4 votes each. BUSHWACKER, HOL and the late PRAXIS each received three votes. Best Letter Column Award went to HIGH INERTIA, the subzine of REBEL, with 10 votes. PRAXIS came in second with 7 votes.

Biggest Hobby Personality: Melinda Ann Holley - 6 votes. Bruce Linsey and Alan Stewart tied for second place with 3 votes apiece.

True Hobby Genius: A Tie, with 3 votes each, between Don Del Grande and (blush) Fred Davis. John Boardman, Steve Langley, Ken Peel and Rod Walker each received two votes.

Larry Peery and Melinda Holley were elected to the True Hobby Masters Society, joining Kathy Caruso and Bruce Linsey in that exclusive organization.

I'd also rated D.W. Best News Zine, with E.C.U. second, BUSH 3rd, and LOM 4th. No question about HIGH INERTIA having the best letter column, but my second and third votes went to PENGUIN DIP and the late COSTAGUANA (which had not yet folded at the time I cast my ballot). I did not vote for PRAXIS since I'd assumed it had folded at voting time, as I usually do not vote for folded zines. I also gave Hobby Personality votes to Linsey, Doug Acheson, Kathy Caruso and Conrad vonMetzke. The latter three all received 2 votes each.

I was very glad to see Larry Peery finally entering the True Hobby Master Society, as I'd been voting for him for years. My ballot for Hobby Genius included votes for Ken Peel, Ron Brown and Rod Walker. If there were a vote for Computer Genius, Brown would win hands down.

Anyway, my thanks to everyone who voted for me or BUSHWACKER.

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AUSTRIA AGAIN MISSES HIS MOVES. TURKS ALSO STAY PUT. ENGLAND AND FRANCE HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH LITTLE OPPOSITION. IS END OF WAR NEAR?

ENGLAND (Baty): 6A Kiel-Livonia. 1F Baltic Sea (C) 6A Kiel-Livonia. 2F Finland-Gulf of Bothnia (Hits Mine, annihilated). 4F Prussia (S) 6A Kiel-Livonia. 4A Berlin (S) 4F Prussia. 3A Bohemia-Galicia. 1A Silesia CASSES AUSTRIAN 5A Warsaw (per Card #10). 3F Heaven-Rumania. 5A Yorkshire-Norway. 5F North Sea (C) 5A Yorkshire-Norway. 7F Clyde(H). 8A St. Pete-Moscow. 7A Holland-Kiel-Denmark (per Card #4, double move).

FRANCE (Acheson): 2A Heaven-Portugal. 2F Rome-Naples. 3A Tuscany-Rome. 4A Gascony-Spain. 5A Paris-Gascony. 3F Tyrr-Ionian (searching, but does not find anything). 4F Gofflyons-Western Med. 1A Switz. (S) AUSTRIAN 8A Vienna-Tyrol (NSO).

AUSTRIA (Suchard): NMR! 6A Norway, 1A Smyrna, 8A Vienna, 10A Heaven, 2A Venice, 3F Adriatic, 4A Sev and 2Amp Trieste all (H). 5A Warsaw (H) (Goes into C.D. for two turns dues to Gas Attack by 1A Silesia. Warsaw SC deactivated for 1908.)

RUSSIA (Bargender): 2F Greece-Bulgaria(sc).

TURKEY (Cheek) (1): NMR. 1F Ankara (H).

PRESS:

FRANCE to Austria: So, you intend to fellow through with your threat of suiciding to England, eh?

FRANCE to England: Well, I think he's picked his target. Good luck.

FRANCE to Turkey: Keep shooting so that I know you're not dead.

BUSHWACKER: Hey, where is everybody?

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, CHARACTER DIP, WINTER 1907: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

ENGLAND:	3 Home, Belg, Berlin, Den, Hol, Kiel, Munich, St. Pete, Sweden, MOSCOW, RUM, BULG , NORWAY	13 (—), Build 1 (1 annihilated)
FRANCE:	3 Home, Naples, Port, Rome, Spain, Turis, VENICE	8 (-1), No change (was 1 unit short)
AUSTRIA:	3 Home, Con, Greece, Serb, Sev, NORWAY, SMYRNA, VENICE, MOSCOW , RUMANIA , (WARSAW - deactivated)	10 (—), Build 1 (1 annihilated)
RUSSIA:	BULGARIA, SMYRNA	1 (—), No change
TURKEY:	Ankara	1 (—), No change

There will be only 33 active SC's in 1907. I held off on adjudicating this game in the hope that someone might phone in moves on the deadline day, but this didn't happen. I won't call for a Standby right away, since we're only going to play Winter. But, if I don't receive a build from Jeff Suchard, I will call on John Galt for standby orders for Austria for Spring 1908. If Turkey NMR's, he will go into Civil Disorder.

Excuse the enthusiastic headline. I wrote it before counting SC's. I thought France was staying even and England was going up one as I pushed the pins around, as I'd overlooked a few minor details.

DEADLINE for WINTER 1907 adjustments will be THURSDAY, July 6, 1989. Phone deadline is Wed., July 5th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Hey, Jeff and Robert, please let me know you haven't fallen into the Pacific.

NEW UNITS RAISED.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: George Kilmer (GERMANY), 610 West Ave., Holdrege, Nebraska 68949, effective June 12, 1989.

		<u>Current Strength</u>
ENGLAND (Wilson):	Build F Edi	6 (+1)
FRANCE (Galt):	No change (1 annihilated)	4 (-1)
GERMANY (Kilmer):	No change	7 (-)
ITALY (Kendter):	Build A Naples, A Venice, F Rome	9 (+3)
CANADA (S. Smith):	No change	6 (-)
U.S.A. (R. Brown):	Build F Boston	10 (-) (Was 1 short)
C.S.A. (Palter):	Build F Jacksonville	4 (+1)

I have tentative orders on hand for England, U.S.A. and C.S.A. for October 1870.

PRESS

ENGLAND to C.S.A.: Why not become the C.S.C. - Confederate States of the Caribbean?

DEADLINE for OCTOBER 1870 is THURSDAY, July 6, 1989. Telephone deadline will be 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Wed., July 5th. Last month, it seems we wrote "1970" instead of "1870" on our report. Sorry about that. "No," to the party who asked for a nuclear sub if we'd jumped a time warp to 1970. However, even in 1870, you might be able to contact a certain Captain Nemo...

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RECOUNT ON SEVEN-WAY DRAW SHOWS IT FAILS TO PASS. SO THE BEAT GOES ON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Bill Young, GERMANY, 507 E. High St., Ebensburg, Pa. 15931. I should have mentioned this last month. Bill merely closed his POB.

		<u>Current Strength</u>	
		<u>SC's</u>	<u>Vac Units</u>
AUSTRIA (Reges):	No room to build. 2 units short.	2 (+1)	2 (-)
ENGLAND (Chang):	Build A London	11 (+1)	0 (-1)
FRANCE (B. Wilson):	No change	0 (-)	1 (+1)
GERMANY (Young):	A Mars. (R) Burgundy, A Mos (R) St. Pete, A Munich (R) Kiel, Remove A/F (1 annihil)	8 (-2)	0 (-)
	(Amphib) North Sea		
ITALY (Bargender):	No change. Was 1 short.	2 (-1)	0 (-)
RUSSIA (Cheek):	No change	0 (-)	1 (-1)
TURKEY (Kenny):	Build A Smyrna	17 (+1)	0 (-)

I thank Eric Brosius for his backup orders for Germany, which were not needed. Bill Young is back in the game to stay.

We had a majority vote for a 7-way Draw, but more than one "No" vote opposed. We have a new proposal on the floor, for an E-G-T three-way Draw. We'll take a vote on this along with the SPRING 1918 orders. Players are reminded that if no other agreement can be reached before Fall 1920, this game will end in a draw among all players still owning SC's, per Rule 5, so I hope you all put your thinking caps on for your diploming.

DEADLINE for SPRING 1918 orders and Votes will be THURSDAY, July 6, 1989. Phone deadline is Wed., July 5th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. I have tentative orders on hand from England, France and Turkey, which may, of course, be amended.

115 VARIANT GAMESTARTS IN 1988

(115)

For the first time in Postal Dip history, there were more Variant games than Regular games started in 1988. Only 101 Regular games began in North America last year, down from 131 in 1987. However, the total no. of gamestarts rose from 182 to 216.

The main reason for this increase in Variant gamestarts is the great number of Gunboat games, which is the current hobby craze. Over 50% of the 1988 variants were Gunboat types. I suppose the popularity of Gunboat is that you don't have to write any letters to the other players. It has been called "Diplomacy without diplomacy." Still, there are a good number of other games starting as well. To compile these figures, it was necessary for the Miller No. Custodian, Randy Grigsby, to add both the games to which he had assigned MN's directly, and those which had received numbers from the alternate source. This is just one example of why there should be a central repository for such data, instead of two separate and competing sources.

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SPEAKING OF GAME OPENINGS, we have five people signed up and raring to go in a Regular Mensa SIG game, and seem to be having some problem getting two more players. Some of them have been waiting quite some time for the game to fill. To expedite matters, I will take one outside player for this game in order to get it started. Craig Reges will be the GM, but if you're interested, please contact me directly, as I coordinate the setting up of the Mensa games. I'll be happy to send you a sample copy of DIPLOMAG and a Mensa brochure if you sign up. Send no money. The GM's set their own fees.

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FOLLOW-UPS: 1. The name of the new British zine covering all aspects of variants, including statistics and games openings, is MOONLIGHTING. The price is 50 p (about 75¢) per issue. Available from Richard Jackson, 10 Stanshalls Dr., Felton, Bristol BS18 7UW, ENGLAND. This is a merger of the former WHITE PAPER and TAKE A LOOK.

They took a survey of peoples' top three choices in Dip variants. 43 people voted for a total of 49 games. The winner was Chaos II, the 34-man game, which garnered 25 votes. Other top favorites among these mostly British voters were: Downfall (all Marks), Somewhat Demiurgic Dip, Aberration III, Rather Silly Dip, Stab, World Domination, Abstraction and Atlantica III (the last two by me), in descending order. Several other American designs also made the list, including my Woolworth II-D and Character Dip, and Calhamer's "Original (1958) Dip," showing that the postal hobby is becoming more international in character, as Variant designs fly both ways across the ocean.

2. Last month, I said that a copy of the bilingual Waddington's Diplomacy flyer could be obtained from "Doug Williams." Sorry. The CDO Coordinator's correct name is Douglas William Acheson, and his address is: 95 Dundonald St., Barrie, Ont., CANADA L4M 3T4. That's what happens when you type something up at the last minute. This flyer now appears in every Diplomacy set sold in Canada. It refers players to the CDO, which in turn will send inquirers information about current zines and a Novice Packet. Obviously, it is easier for a Canadian novice to make his first contacts within the bounds of the Canadian postal and monetary systems. Within a comparatively short time, many Canadian players also develop contacts with "South of the Border" zines.

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(Please tear me out and mail me in. There's nothing on the other side except your mailing label and a bit of miscellany.)

1989 AWARDS BALLOT

Once again it is time for the Diplomacy hobby to recognize its finest contributions for 1988. The following individuals have been nominated for the given awards. Ballots must be signed and returned to Larry Peery, Box 8399, San Diego, CA 92102, USA by 27 July, 1989. Recipients will be announced at DIPCON. Each winner will receive an individual plaque and custody of the perpetual award plaque for the coming year. Donations to help defray awards expenses are appreciated and checks should be made payable to Fred Davis and included with your ballot. Publishers are encouraged to reprint this ballot in their publications.

DON MILLER MEMORIAL AWARD — "for outstanding service to the hobby."

- _____ DOUG ACHESON, for his work with the Canadian Diplomacy Organization.
- _____ DON DEL GRANDE, for his work with the International Diplomacy Ratings System.
- _____ STEVE HEINOWSKI, for his service as Boardman Number Custodian.
- _____ MELINDA ANN HOLLEY, for her work as EVERYTHING publisher, and gamemaster.
- _____ REX MARTIN, for his work in promoting the game and hobby.
- _____ KEN PEEL, for his work as publisher of THE ZINE REGISTER.
- _____ ROBERT SACKS, for his work as publisher of KNOWN GAME OPENINGS.

ROD WALKER AWARD — "for outstanding literary achievement."

- _____ KEN HAGER, ERIC LAWSON, BRUCE LINSEY, and REX MARTIN, for the DIPLOMACY feature issue of The GENERAL, Vol. 24, No. 3.
- _____ NELSON HEINTZMAN, for his skills as a diplomacy negotiator in 1986AI.
- _____ ROBERT GREIER, for his "A Novice Publisher's Point of View on Publishing," in KATHY'S KORNER/WHITESTONIA.
- _____ ROBERT SACKS, aka Karl Alaric, for his "Darkside Analysis," in KGO.

JOHN KONING MEMORIAL AWARD — "for outstanding play of DIPLOMACY in any venue."

- _____ GARY BEHNN, for his play in 1987CK (Perelandra).
- _____ MELINDA ANN HOLLEY, for her many games and occasional victories.
- _____ MARC PETERS, CANCON '88 Winner, DIPCON '88 Third Place.
- _____ MIKE PETTY, for his victory in 1985AV (Not New York).
- _____ DAN SELLERS, DIPCON '88 Winner

NAME
(Print or write clearly)

HOBBY AFFILIATION

BEIJING. TWO WEEKS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

No matter what happens next, China will never again be the same. The battle of Tiananmen Square may go down as China's equivalent of the storming of the Bastille, or of the Winter Palace. Seeing the events unfold practically live on TV was an especially chilling thing. One wonders what the effect of television coverage might have been on the events in Petrograd in 1917. Of those events, we only have some black & white photos, books like Ten Days That Shook the World, and paintings done many years later. Would things have turned out differently if TV cameras had been present?

I hardly know which was more incredible, the shots from Beijing, or the shots from the Soviet Congress, being carried live to all the peoples of the world. I don't know what we're going to call this new era, but the Cold War is certainly over. All the old-line Marxist-Leninist-Maoist stereotypes are being thrown out the window. Who knows what will follow? We only know that the "sleeping giants" of China and Russia are waking up.

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JUST for the record, I see someone has objected to my use of the term "illegal" for the practice of setting up a duplicate and unnecessary service for awarding designators to Postal Variant games. The party in question seemed to think that "illegal" was a synonym for "felony." The term "illegal," of course, has many uses in the fields of games and sports besides that of "felony." You've surely heard of an "illegal club" in golf, or of an illegal move in almost any game. And, if someone should set up an alternate rating system for Chess or Bridge players, you can bet your boots that many people would be crying out that this was "illegal." 'Nuff said.

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