



# BUSHWACKER

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This is the 233rd consecutive issue of BUSHWACKER, running down to a fold with our last game, ANCIENT EMPIRES III (1989IR ac10). Presented by: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043. Phone: (301) 461-1885. Phone calls accepted daily between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m., Eastern Time, but players should submit their orders by mail, except in emergencies.

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## ANCIENT EMPIRES III - 1989IR ac10

WINTER 258 B.C.

GAME ENDS IN TWO-WAY DRAW BETWEEN EGYPT AND NEW CARTHAGE.

Three of the four remaining players voted "Yes" on the Two-Way Draw. The other player, Alan Bergender (MACEDONIA) did not submit orders by the deadline. As per my House Rules, an NMR counts as a "Yes" vote. For the record, the following adjustments were made in Winter 258:

	Current Strength
ANTIGONUS (York): F Aegean (R) OTB.	4 (-2) (1 Annihilated)
EGYPT (Baty): Build A Sinai, A Thebes, F Alex.	13 (+3)
MACEDONIA (Bergender): NMR. GM Removes /d/ A Thrace	4 (-1)
NEW CARTHAGE (Cheek): Build A Nova Carthago, A Lusit.	11 (+1) (Still 1 unit short)

## FINAL SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, ANCIENT EMPIRES:

	264	263	262	261	260	259	258	
ANTIGONUS (Chris Pankosky) <sup>1</sup> .	4	4	5	5	6	6	4	Survived (tie, 3rd)
(Andy York):								
CARTHAGE (Brad Wilson):	3	4	1	0	-			
EGYPT (Ralph Baty):	5	5	6	9	9	10	13	Drew
MACEDONIA (Alan Bergender):	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	Survived (tie, 3rd)
NEW CARTHAGE (Robt. Cheek):	5	5	7	7	6	10**	11*	Drew
ROME (Tom Nash) <sup>2</sup> .	5	5	6	6	7*	1	0	
SELEUCUS (David Perlmutter):	3	3	2	0	-			

1. Pankosky NMR'd out, Fall 259. Andy York took over, W. 259
2. Nash NMR'd out, W. 259. Rome went into C.D., Spring 258, as only had 1 unit.

I would like to have End-game statements from both of the winners, plus any and all of the other players, including those who've been eliminated. Everybody who was in this game will receive a copy of this report. Please type any lengthy statements for ease of reproduction.

## GM'S COMMENTS

This game started on Nov. 28, 1989, so it lasted approximately 20 months. We only lost two players, which is pretty good for the course. I was disappointed that only one attempt was made to move into Barbarian country, and that was incorrectly done.

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I was surprised to see Seleucus eliminated so swiftly. With its corner position, I thought it would be a major factor in the game. However, Ralph Baty's Egypt arranged a very effective two-pronged attack on Seleucus, with the help of Antigonus, and the Persians were soon gone. I missed Perlmutter's press. Carthage brought about its own disaster with two NMR's. I know how busy Brad Wilson is in the Real World, so I can sympathize with him, but, hey, if you're that busy, maybe you shouldn't sign up for so many games. The same thing's happened to Brad in other games.

Neither Egypt nor New Carthage ever missed a move. I've learned that no matter what the scenario of a variant, it's the NMR's that kill you, not the technicalities of the design. Once Italy NMR'd, New Carthage (Cheek) just came down and absorbed him. So, New Carthage had an easier time than Egypt, in that his gains were made against ineffective Roman and Carthaginian forces. Egypt had some heavy battles vs. Persian and Greek units, but also got in on mopping up Carthage. In any event, they both wound up with dominant positions by 259. A Two-Way Draw was a sensible decision. Another year would have seen a complete crushing of the two smaller powers.

DEADLINE for your End-game statements will be THURSDAY, August 29, 1991. We will be away from the 21st thru the 28th of August, so no point in making an earlier deadline. No point in having a phone deadline, but if you want to call just to say hello and goodbye, you may do so.

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SO, THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE THE LAST BUSHWACKER.

I have duplicate copies of nearly every issue of BUSH from June 1982 to the present. That is, I have one complete duplicate set of these 103 issues, which collectively weigh about five pounds. If anyone has an urge to own these, I'll sell them to you for \$12.00, postpaid. My earlier duplicate issues were sent to Larry Peery's Diplomacy Archives around 1984.

I've been toying with the idea of making photocopies of some of the better articles and selling this as The Best of Bushwacker. I'd set a price of around \$5.00. Would anyone be interested in such an assemblage?

It's possible that I may eventually decide to run another Variant game, aside from the one I continue to run in DIPLOMAG. If the spirit moves me to do so, I'll contact all of the old BUSH players for whom I still have addresses and let you know. The Postal hobby is not running many 9-man games these days, so maybe it will soon be time to offer a game of Cline 9 or my own "1885-III." Do you have a favorite that no one seems to be running these days?

\* \* \* \* \*

I have a few news items, so this is going to be a 4-page issue. To begin with, the Mensa Diplomacy SIG's bimonthly newsltr., DIPLOMAG, celebrated its 100th issue in July. If anyone wants a copy, please send me \$1.00. It included an insert giving a review of the first 94 issues of DIPLOMAG.

I attended the Diplomacy events at ORIGINS over the July 5-7 weekend. We played the Balkan Wars VI version of a game which once ran in BUSH. "VI" is Brad Wilson's revision. It has only six players, Italy being eliminated. Four boards were played. I don't have the winners' names yet. If you'd like a copy of the ORIGINS report I wrote for DIPLOMAG, just send me a SASE and I'll make you a copy.

I have the winners' names in the Hobby Awards, but you'll either have to come to DipCon in Toronto or wait till next month to find out who they are. Small donations for the cost of the wooden plaques are appreciated. The Treasury is down to zero.

EARLY RUNESTONE POLL RESULTS: (Reprinted from DIPLOMAG, July 1991)

Here is a news bulletin showing the top finishers on the 1991 Runestone Poll.

Rank	Top Zines	Publisher	Score	Change from 1990 (Rank)	Note: Changes of from one to 5 places from the 1990 stand- ings are not signifi- cant.
1.	Northern Flame	Cal White	9.173	—	
2.	Perelandra	Pete Gaughan	9.002	+ 2	
3.	fast trax	Dick Martin	8.882	(new) #	
4.	Upstart	Garret Schenck	8.787	- 2	
5.	Wht House Mania	Bruce Linsey	8.569	+ 6 #	
6.	Kathy's Korner	Kathy Caruso	8.335	—	
7.	Maniac's Paradise	Doug Kent	8.183	+14	
8.	Diplomacy World	David Hood	8.132	+45!	
9.	Ark	Eric Brosius	8.019	+ 1 #	
10.	Boob Report	Jim Burgess	8.015	- 1	
11.	Cheesecake	Andy Lischett	7.750	+ 8	
12.	DMZ	Jeff Suchard	7.711	(new)	
13.	Penguin Dip	Stephen Dorneman	7.681	- 8	
18.	Car. Command	Michael Lowery	7.241	- 5	

Rank	Top GM's	Zines	Score	Change from 1990
1.	Eric Brosius	Ark	8.923	(new) #
2.	Bruce Linsey	Wht. House Mania	8.829	(new) #
3.	Jim Burgess	Boob Report	8.742	+ 4
4.	Andy Lischett	Cheesecake	8.688	- 1
5.	Fred Hyatt	The Home Office	8.579	+ 7
6.	Garret Schenck	Upstart	8.528	+ 1
7.	Scott Cameron	Protozoan	8.483	(new)
8.	Kathy Caruso	Kathy's Korner	8.464	- 6
9.	Lee Kendler, Sr.	Why Me?	8.429	(new)
10.	Jeff McKee	MetaDiplomat	8.177	+22!
11.	David Hood	Diplomacy World	8.091	+ 2
12.	Pete Gaughan	Perelandra	8.080	+ 3
17.	Fred Davis	Diplomag	7.613	- 9
18.	Cal White	Northern Flame	7.454	+15

# = Not a Diplomacy Zine.

In Subzines, one named DIDOES, with which I'm not familiar, came in first with a score of 8.750. My own "Fred's Column," which appears in Bruce McIntyre's EXCELSIOR, finished second with a score of 8.143. Thanks, guys.

There were 73 zines on the main list, 22 subzines, and 60 GM's who were ranked. Eric Brosius has sent detailed statistics to most publishers, so you may get to see a Top Half Listing, or the complete figures, in some other zines.

Most of the Mensa SIG zines and GM's did not make the main lists. However, DIPLOMAG finished 52nd, with a score of 5.339, Eric Young's TACTFUL ASSASSIN was 51st, with a 5.366 score, and THE ASSASSIN'S BLADE, by John Galt was 58th, scoring 4.699.

"New" means new to the Main List. A zine has to get 10 votes to make the main list. A GM has to have 5. Some of the "new" zines and GM's were in the Postal hobby in 1990. This year, zines carrying no Diplomacy games were allowed to run for the first time. Mostly these were Railroad games zines, but White House Mania runs only games of "Campaign Trail," a Presidential election PBH game. If you're a Diplomacy purist, you may wish to discount them, which is why I gave you the first 13 zines and the top 12 GM's, instead of just the Top Ten. I also included CCC under zines, since it's always been one of my favorites. And, I thought you'd be interested in seeing the contrast in Cal White coming in first with his zine, NORTHERN FLAME, but in being ranked only 18th as a GM. Oh, and I somehow stayed on the list with 6 votes, thanks to votes from players in DIPLOMAG plus the last game in BUSH.

Congratulations to Cal White for N.F. winning the zine poll two years in a row. Almost all of these zines can be recommended as good places for Postal play. I am surprised to see the "choc choc" games and their GM's so highly rated.

I spoke with Tom Shaw of Avalon Hill at the company's booth at ORIGINS. I was hoping they might have an advance copy of the new Diplomacy set on display, but it is not yet ready. Hopefully, it will be available by Christmas. Meanwhile, I suppose there are still some of the old sets available on the store shelves. If you have trouble locating a copy in your area, remember that you can phone Avalon Hill to purchase a set by credit card. Call 1-800-638-9292 to order any A-H game. \$25.00 + m & h.

GAMES FOR SALE: CIVILIZATION, UP FRONT, VENTURE, DOWN WITH THE KING and IMPERIUM ROMANUM II, all with punched counters. BANZAI, FREEDOM IN THE GALAXY, MACHIAVELLI and WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN, all new with unpunched counters. Contact:

Sam Polak, 2764 Natta Blvd., Bellmore, N.Y. 11710. Sam will sell the entire lot for \$110, or will take the best offer for each game. MACHIAVELLI is out of print. Don't know about some of the others. Might be a good investment.

HAS ANYBODY HEARD anything more about the 1991 Peoples' Diplomacy Relief Auction? In other years, the Catalog was out way before this. Some hobby services depend on a shot in the arm from the Auction funds to keep going. I've heard a rumor that John Caruso is retiring from the hobby, but don't know if that was supposed to be before or after this year's Auction. John hasn't replied to my inquiry. If anyone has any information on this, please advise me.

I'LL BE SEEING SOME OF YOU at DipCon XXIV, in Toronto, August 2-4, 1991. Remember, to vote on the site selection for the 1992 Con, you have to be present at this year's meeting. I'm told that bids will be made by groups in Madison, Wis. and in Marshall, Missouri, as it's the Midwest's turn to bid. Also, we have to ratify the new rotation arrangement for the DipCon sites in North America. The revised rotation procedure was overwhelmingly approved at Chapel Hill in 1990, but the DipCon Charter requires that all amendments must be approved by two consecutive DipCons to go into effect. The new arrangement is circular rather than linear, providing a better rotation pattern. It also eliminates the moribund Central Region, where there is very little Dip activity, and replaces it with a Southern Region running from North Carolina to Texas.

Thus endeth the next-to-last issue of North America's oldest Dipzine publisher.

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