



137  
Kurtz  
C. J. Conway

I have just now found out why it is so wonderful to have a computer. It is because you can start on your zine at any time before your deadline and not have the fuss of getting out the typewriter and the paper and clearing off your desk. Now all I have to do is turn on the computer and put a disk in the drive and start typing my little heart out. No more fuss and pain. What a joy it is. Everyone should have one. Which brings me to the state of CR. I have decided to fold as most of you know by now. However, I will not die a low death. This will get bigger and better with every issue until the end. The reason for this? Most of it is blame on the new life in the hobby and some of it is just because I can see an end to this. The never ending line of CR's was just too much for me to deal with. I don't believe in a slow death - it makes everyone just wish it would end and be done with. Also, my idol over in Britian - one Glover Rogerson - likes Peter Gaughan best and that is too much for me to bear. So I will prove that Cathy's Ramblings can be what it use to be. By the way, this zine has been around for about ten years I found out by talking to Tommy Swider. As very few of you know or remember, CR came out of The Shogun's Sword, which was first put out by Tom Swider back in 1979 and then taken over by Mike Barno and then taken over by myself in 1983. The name was changed to Cathy's Ramblings and I tried to me as medior as I could to follow my fine beginings.

### THE STATE OF THE HOBBY

There seems to be a rebirth in the hobby that I find very exciting to see. There are more new zines and game opeings now than I have seen for a long time. This new life has not been involved in any fueds and they don't know or care about them. Thier love is simple. Playing the game. There was almost a void in 1987 and 1986. I remember getting players begging for a game opening somewhere - anywhere. Coconino was started in 1987 in answer to that void. Now there are many GM's begging for players. I wish to say one thing to the new Editors - don't expect to fill all of your game openings at once and don't expect many subs at first. These things take time. You will start with many trades and maybe a few subs. The editors you are trading with, most likely will not be able to play in the games you are offering. But don't give up due to lack of response or lack of player. If you fill two games, you are doing pretty good. Just ask Don Del Grande how long it takes him to fill a Diplomacy game, and he's been around for years. So don't give up after just a few issues and remember that it takes a long time to finish a dip game. You're going to be putting that zine out for years if you complete your games. So you should be willing to make that long term investment. I think new players and even old players get the most disillusioned when a zine goes up in smoke never to be seen again. So keep plugging guys - you are the future and it's a bright future from this old person's point of view.

### HOBBY NEWS

Of course the results are in for DipCon 1989, and I'll list the top winners here. I must say that the scoring system was not based on the Individual Diplomacy event, but based on all the events put together. The #3 player was eleminated in both rounds in the Individual event. I can't say I feel that is a fair scoring system, but Peery will claim that he was trying to get the best "overall" players of Diplomacy. So I will list the Peery results and the Don Del Grande results. Don did a final results based on only the Individual Diplomacy event.

#### PEERY RESULTS

1. Edi Birsan
2. Jeff McKee
3. John Galt
4. Eric Newhouse
5. Nick Beliaeff
6. Steve Cooley
7. Hohn Cho
8. Bill Gallagher
9. Erik Adenstedt
- 10.(tie) Eric Aldrich and Matt McVeigh

#### DEL GRANDE RESULTS

1. Hohn Cho
2. Nick Beliaeff
3. Lance Anderson
4. Steve Cooley
5. Jeff McKee
6. Edi Birsan
7. Gary 'Greedy' Behnen
8. Don Williams
9. Matt McVeigh
10. Steve Golob

Of course, the burning question is, "Where are you Cathy?" Well, you may see the last page and I was only in this to die anyway. Seriously, I could only play in one event and our team came in 3rd, but if I had only gotten the draw - a good draw, we might have won. For all the fun details - see the next pages....

## DIPCON XXII - TALE OF THE UNREADY

Actually, it wasn't DipCon that was unready, it was me. I wasn't certain that I would even be going until a week before the final event. I still hadn't put out my zine yet and that had to be done before I left. Still, I'm glad I went. Here I was going all alone to a place where I didn't even know if I would have a room for the night! It was San Diego though, and I think heaven must be in San Diego in late July. (The airlines know this - every flight is sold out.) So off I go on a last moment flight. Those always hurt the pocket book as well. (Yes, we still have seats, but you have to pay the one-way air fair. But I'm going round trip! We do not have any round trip seat available.)

So, I finally make it by taking a taxi and then sneaking around in the dark to the back of the building and hoping security doesn't find me. You see, I didn't have reservations and I didn't know where I would be sleeping that night. At last, I find the right building and creep upstairs til I hear the wonderful sounds of Dip Players in action - "You stabbed me! Now you're going to die!" I look around and I don't see any faces that I know. One guy with brown hair and glasses looks at me and smiles, but I don't have a clue who he is. So I go off in search for Larry Peery looks like, but atleast it's a start. I head towards an offical looking table and a female with medium brown hair and glasses looks at me and says, "Cathy, how did you know I was Linda? You haven't seen pictures of me have you?" Yes, it was Linda Courtemanche and Larry Peery was there with him. I begged Larry to find me a place to sleep and he quickly found me a room-mate in the form of Susan Peele Welter. Susan is great and I owe her alot for the shared room.

With a room atlast, I went back to the "stabbing" - I mean gaming room. I got to meet a few more people after Larry Introduced me to the whole room. I think I turned red. Of course, through out the whole con, people kept coming up to me and asking if I was "Kathy Bryne", when I said "No, I'm Cathy Ozog", they would say "Oh" and turn around and walk away. I wonder Kathy, how many of your fans I met and I didn't even know who they were. The highlight for me was when Clark Reynolds walk up to me and said, "You're Cathy Cuning aren't you?" Oh, someone knew me from my very first con that I ever went to. But, enough of this... I got to meet Steven Courtemanche - I think it was Steve Cooley who asked me if Steven was my husband, Fred Davis, Tim Moore - who was the one who smiled at me when I first walked in, Don Williams, David Hood, Mark Lew and of course - Vince Lutterbie. It was Vince, who asked me if I wanted to go get something to eat with him and Gary "Greedy" Behnan, and Bryan who was local and had a car. So off we go to this Mexican food joint called Albertos. Bryan swore it was the hip place to eat in San Diego. The food was good, but abit greasy and the room kept leaking on Vince! Let's see - we talked about Larry Botimer and other things. On the way back, I got the "Cardinal's Suck" lecture from Greedy and Vince. They informed me that Phoenix would be wishing they would go somewhere else in two years.

Once we got back, Vince tried to get another game together of Titan or Acquire or finally, even Gunboat, but we couldn't get 7 players. Finally, everyone started to leave and I was left with my roomie - Susan, Vince and Greedy. On the way back, I tried the water and wanted to go swimming. Vince thought that was a great ideal and convinced me to go ahead in just a tee-shirt and shorts. However, Susan came to my rescue as always and had an extra swim suit, which actually fit! You see, I am about four inches taller then Susan. We swam and talked and Vince and I kept expecting the security guards to make us get out of the pool. We thought you couldn't swim after 11:00pm or something. It was a wonderful way to end the day and to get ready for some real game playing.

We got up late the next day. My watch had stopped and Susan didn't have one. We got up just in time to have the phone ringing with some of Susan's friends, including Jeff McKee, asking if Susan was coming for breakfast. We ran out in about 20 minutes and who says females take a long time to get ready. It took a long time to get our food, finally it came. I took my danish with me and then I found out that Larry had Danishes and coffee at the event anyways! Whatever, it was time for team Dip. I was on Greg Ellis's team. Greg called us the Southwest Internationals as Matt from Great Britian and Eric from Austria was on our team. Of course, I didn't know this, but once Matt come up to me very excited and said, "You're on my team right? How are you doing we may win." Greg told me to just get a draw - but sadly this was not to be the case. I played France - which after England is one of my favorite countries. Greg was nice to me. Around me I had Eric Aldrich as England, Germany was Ken Woodruff, Russia was Jeff McKee, Italy was Vince Lutterbie, Austria was Ed Mendors and Turkey was Nick Beliaeff. I allied with England from almost the start. Germany just wouldn't talk and wouldn't commit to anything. Eric and I were doing quite well and I didn't have any problems with Vince. But as a E/F sooner or later I had to go after Italy - didn't I? When I did, Vince did what he's best at - bringing the side together against the winning side. I was being stalemated. Eric saw it too and I'm sure we were both given hints of "Stab your ally and we won't attack you". So we both stabbed each other the same year. Eric got the best of the stab and from that point it was a power struggle

which I lost in the end to a E/I/T.

Food break again. Ed, Vince and I were were to meet up, but we got our lines crossed. I did catch Ed and a friend of his. So we went to look for someplace to eat. Went to Howard J's and chated about California and Dip and stuff. Back to the Dip hall and it was time for the important event! The individual Dip round. This time I pulled Italy and just about died. I'm just not playing Italy very good these days. Now, if I was Kathy Caruso - but I'm just Cathy Ozog and I was about to have the worst game of dip! This time I was with Vince as Turkey, Eric Aldrich as Germany, Steve Cooley as France, Michael Legg as Austria, Erik Adenstedt as England and Ken Gestiehr as Russia. Now I sat there next to Steve Cooley and Steve's name tag had been crossed out and the word "Mud" was written in over it. I asked him what happened and he said that he had been eliminated in 03 in the prior game. Everyone attacked him. I thought - oh - poor guy, he must really be a poor player. Oh, silly me - it was Steve Cooley who was the deadly one. I call him my bro now, as Larry Peery said that we could be brother and sister because we look so much alike. Anyways, I allied with Austria due to this serious Turkish paranoia I have. I should have realized it was Vince as Turkey and I could trust him, but that was not the case. I also, should have known something was wrong when Eric - who stabbed me last turn - told me that he was scared of Steve and didn't trust him. All of this would have still worked my way, except for one thing - I misordered my Spring 01 units and that changed the fate of game for everyone. Germany - then made a deal with France and I tried to patch things up with Austria. Poor Erik in England was getting hit by Steve and Eric and was getting no help from us. Then I made the second biggest mistake - I actually - listened to my Bro - the deadly one - Steve Cooley and Attacked Austria with German help. Visions of F/G/I danced in my head for a brief moment. It was that moment that destroyed the game. I saw my mistake and tried to turn back against France, but I lost the position that I could have gained. Finally, Vince couldn't stand it anymore, being stuck in the back and stabbed Austria. I thought Austria was going to stab Turkey at the same time. He didn't and Turkey got the clean stab. Austria then stabbed me for his survival and I turned back to my Bro Steve and said - "You want Tyh it's yours, you want Tyr? It's yours." I let France in and Austria died. So did I, but I did try to help Vince force a draw. I know Eric must have done some talking to keep Steve from Steve Cooley from stabbing him for the win. My Bro wanted me to help him againt Vince, but I wouldn't do it. Steve said, "Well, I'm going to get the win anyways, but I'll just have to take the centers from Germany." I said, "Fine, but you won't get help from me." I remember at one point - Eric going, "Oh Shit!" and holding his hands to his face and Steve always the cool one - taking him aside and calming him down. It ended as a F/G with Vince's 12 center Turkey as not a part of the draw.

A slight break of all this tension as I grab a beer and talk to Larry Peery about the DipCon meeting and the presentations I would be doing. He gave me some additional information. Sometime as we were talking - someone - was it Mark Lew or David Hood or Vince? Came in and wanted to know if I would be interested in playing Gunboat Dip. For some reason - I said "Yes". And so starts the longest night of my life.

This was blind Gunboat - you don't even know who is playing which country. Mark Lew right away which one I was playing. No Mark - I didn't mean to let you see my orders. Mark was sitting on one side of me and Ed Menders was sitting on the other side. I also saw David Hood, Vince Lutterbie, Bob Aube and Jay Shufeldt. I pulled France and I should have done well, but I breaking all the golden Gunboat Dip rules and trusted France in 01. Basically, France played games with me and Germany started to take me apart. Italy got into the MAO and attacked Mun and so I counted Italy as my only hope. I failed to see that Russia was also putting pressure on England and Germany, but then I was having a hard enough time on my side of the board. Something happened between England and Germany. In the West, Italy was getting hit by T/A. I proposed F/E and it firmed up my relations with England. This was followed by E/F/G. It seems that just about everyone knew I was France. At one point - David or Mark said, "Hey, she got a build!" When the French build was mentioned. I didn't know who anyone was. I thought that David was Italy at one point, because he said to me, "It's ok, Cathy" when I screwed up an order against England. As it was I played a cautious game which cost Germany and Italy thier eliminations. Italy was Vince and I should have known. Germany was David Hood. I moved my forces to hold back the R/T/A and England still stuck by me. France came back from the dead and became a power, but this France was getting seriously tired. I kept proposing F/E/A/R and Russia finally took the hint and attacked Turkey. Turkey was Bob Aude, who looked at me so pitifully and asked me, "What are you doing? I'm trying to help you?" At that point, the only help I wanted was sleep. Turkey was removed leaving only FEAR. I knew that Mark Lew was England at this point. We both wanted to sleep - Ed wouldn't give a clue as to his thoughts and Austria just smiled this evil, "I've got her now!" smile. You see I was falling to sleep as I was writing orders. It was nearly 5:00 am., I wanted a part of the draw, but I wanted my bed more. Mark and I begged - "What do you want to end this game?" They accepted a R/A and Ed proceeded to yell at me. "Why didn't you help me? I stabbed my ally, why didn't you stab yours?" Yawn, "I was holding the front aginst Austria." "WITH SEVEN UNITS!?! WHO KEPT YOU ALIVE AT THE START OF THE GAME? I DID - RUSSIA WAS YOUR ALLY AND YOU DIDN'T HELP ME." Yawn, stumble, "I'm sorry." Yawn. Mark Lew, "Come on Cathy, we don't have to stick around here now - let's go to

bed." Mark grabs arm and drags a sleep Cathy back to the rooms.

Back at the rooms - Susan, "Cathy? Is that you? What time is it?" "5:00 am I think." "You're crazy - that's why I didn't play in that game." "I know, I've got to do a presentation tomorrow for next year's Dip-con site too. Great, eh? Good Night." Two hours later it's good morning - isn't gaming wonderful? Don't you wish you could do this? This is what ages a person. I have about three cups of coffee as I sit next to Steven Courtemanche and try to figure out what to say in about two hours. I ask Steve a question about one of the Dip Con sites and one Dave McCrumb introduces himself, much to my great relief. You see Dave was listed along with myself and Don Del Grande as being allowed to make one of Robert Sack's presentation. We talk and I find that Dave knows more then I do! We agree that Atlantic con is the strongest bid, with the exception of the high costs for the hotel, but it's on the east coast with a large backing of East Coast players and easy to get there from the international flights - saving money that way. I ask Dave if he will do the Atlantic Con Presentation - hoping that a male might have abit more influence over some of these hard core dip players. I mainly work on the bid for Origins in Atlanta, GE. I only wish I had known that Jason was not only going to be going, but he already had a growing group of gamers who would have helped. I went first - you know "ladies first" and then Dave and then David Hood. David had the longest period and a long listing of question and answer period. Much to my joy, Matt McViegh, from England supported the Origins bid that I made. Due to this - David agreed to change the dates of Dixicon to a week before Origins to allow anyone coming over for a gaming weekend a good reason - with both cons close together. Needless to say, Dixi con hands down. I sometimes wonder what would have happened if DipCon had been held in the east coast if Atlantic Con would have won hands down. Who's to say, the Dipcon committee was nominated in the form of David Hood, Ken Peel and Tom Nash. I was slightly upset that Simon Billenness was not allow on and Ron Cameron and Don Williams quickly came over to calm me down. Since then I have talked to Simon and actually he was happy that he wasn't elected. We both agreed to do what we could to get the word out to the other side of the oceans about WorldCon. It will be great - just know it - after all - I will be there.

After that - I had a plan to catch and couldn't stick around. I heard that I won a fur coat, but Larry It hasn't made it here yet. Other things that happened included a roast of Larry Peery that I guess was pretty good. One Big announcement is that Vince Lutterbie is taking over as Orphan director under the DUCK! I couldn't think of a nicer person to get a rotten, but most needed job. I believe that David Hood will be taking over Diplomacy world from Larry in the future. These are all the events that I recall right off the top of my head from reading other reviews. You can get the full Peery results from Diplomacy World #55, which includes pictures. "Gee, Larry, for so few woman there, there sure are alot of picture of us females? What does this mean?"

One thing about Dipcon is it brings back the life to the game again. It was wonderful meeting all the people were just names on paper and most wonderful to find that some of those names turned out to be people you will always consider to be a good friend - hello Vince! The only thing I could have wished for was more time to get to know all the people that I didn't get a chance to talk to very much like Steve and Linda Courtemanche (by the way, Linda , thanks for saving my life!), Don Williams and Tim Moore, to just name a few. Of course, it would have been nice to get a draw as well, but I'll save that for next year. Which reminds me - here's a first time plug for next year - until then - may your stabs always be clean and may you never play next to Steve Cooley face-to-face.

DIPCON XXIII - WORLDCON II - DIXICON

presented by

THE CAROLINA AMATEUR DIPLOMATS

to be held at

UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA  
Chapel Hill, NC

on

JUNE 22-24, 1990

David Hood will be putting out the first info sheet, sometime in Sept. I'll be sending copies of this sheet to anyone over in Britian, New Zealand or Austrial or gets "Cathy's Ramblings". Sorry, but the Canadians - thought I adore the lot of you, are too close and can get the information through any of their normal trades. It maybe in the middle of no where (sorry, David), but once you get there the costs will be low.

## RAMBLING LETTERS RETURNS

**TOMMY SWIDER:** I saw your little plead for computer stuff so I figured I'd let you know my two cents worth. Hardwarewise, you know pretty much what I have if you've been reading Comrades in Arms like a good sister would. The HP Deskjet printer I got is good once you learn to use it. You have to add additional font cartridges if you want really high quality letters (like this postcard) but should be able to do fine without them if you're not a perfectionist. HP has just released the HP Deskjet PLUS which has 10 built in fonts (mine only has one) for \$999. That's the price my printer originally started at but the price dropped to \$666 (after taxes).

((Does that mean it is a evil printer. We have a Panasonic KX-P1124. A low end 24-pin printer. You can get them now for about \$324 or lower if you look around. I still have alot of experimenting to do yet. By the way, your postcard can hurt the eyes!!! It was so small!!!))

**BRYAN BETTS:** Sorry about the mess - the WP is out of reach right now. Speaking of which, read up on your printer/word processor and see if you can't get a letter-quality print from it. Pages 2-6 were fine but they'll look even nicer letter quality.

((Yes, well - see above. The printer can do letter quality, but I just figured out how to get it to reduce. Don't expect the world at once. We shall keep on trying. Too bad I don't have Wallace or Doug here to show me how to get this printer going.))

**MARK LILLELEHT:** You switch to computer publishing with an eye to folding? Well, maybe the easing of production chores will alter your mindset.

((Eric keeps saying, "When I'm done with school, we can start "Ramblings by Moonlight". You just can't fold yet." I told him, "No, when we move to Washington I will be starting "Babies by Moonlight". I have set my mind on this. By the way, for those of you who don't know. Mark's Excellent The Scribblerist, has folded cleanly. Mark just couldn't keep it up. On the very messy fold side, Chris Gabel's News From Bree dissappeared without a word. A very messy fold that one. But let's change the subject. Let's talk about cons...))

**VINCE LUTTERBIE:** It was fun meeting you and the other "new" friends I made. I also enjoyed seeing some of my "old" friends, such as "Greedy" Behnen, Greg Ellis & Larry Peery. Other notables were "new" buddies; "Duck" Williams, Ron Cameron, Dave Hood, Rod Walker, Steve & Linds Courtemanche, Steve Cooley, Dave McCrumb, Susan Welter and others too numerous to mention. You have a greater recall of the games than I did, perhaps because I was crunched so often that my brain did the only decent thing & quit working. I knew fairly soon that I was not a factor this year, so I decided to have fun and meet people instead. There was one more game that I was in after you left on Sunday. Greedy & Duck won a two-way (they invited me in for a 3-way) I/T. I couldn't bring myself to stab my f & G allies (I was England), so I was glad to let them have the two-way.

Everyone should go to a Dipcon - it's worth the money & trouble, stabs, lack of sleep, arguments, fistfights, hair pulling, name calling, drugs, booze, immorality, etc., but once you get out of the airport and to the hotel, things calm down.

((Not always ...yet, it was fun. But there are more who want to talk. And Vince, I thought you did just fine at Dip. Atleast, I knew I could trust you. Hey, maybe we are playing in the wrong game. Isn't Diplomacy something about lying and backstabbing and things? Well, I'll think on it later.))

**STEVEN COURTEMANCHE:** It was good seeing you make it to Dip Con. Linda got to talk to you a lot more than I. I'm glad that one of us did. You seemed to "pig-out" on the games, so did I. Sunday, we got involved in a Titan game that was eventually a concession about 3:00am. Linda and I needed some shuteye so we could catch our plane. Our last day of vacation was spent sleeping off the trip. (12-15 hours ZZZ!)

((I remember getting off my plane and my Dad meeting me. He looked at me and said, "Did you get any sleep at all? You look like you could fall asleep right here." And I could too. Yes, Steven, I dearly wish we could have talked more. Steve Cooley should have taken me out of my game sooner or Vince - but Vince is too nice for that.))

**DAVID HOOD:** So nice to see you again at DipCon. With Eric still in Washington, I didn't have to put up with endless ranting about my stab of him at Dipcon 87... Hope to see you again next June.

((But David, You are confusing Eric with a young new Dip puppy who cares about such things. Even I remember a stab better than Eric. Eric is Deadwood - very cute deadwood with pointed ears - but still deadwood. Yes, most likely you will see me at Worldcon Dipcon. I expect, I would have gone to where ever it ended up.))

## RAMBLING LETTERS CONTINUED

**STEVEN COURTEMANCHE:** I believe Karlton Clemons can draw male figures the way you want them. He probably just finds the female form smoother, easier to draw, and more aesthetically pleasing. He doesn't have to worry about such things as body hair, defined musculature or such. I'd consider such a request as a challenge and work toward perfecting the technique. What do you say, Mr Clemons. Give the women of the hobby some beefcake!  
((Oh, Steven, now I know why you were up for the vote of woman of the year. Seriously, Karlton can do male figures. I kind of like the one on the cover this time. We'll see what he can do for us.))

**MICHAEL HOPCROFT:** Gee, where will all the international subbers go? I just talked to Simon Billiness, who is folding ECU next issue because of general hobby burnout and the press of schoolwork. And of course your zine is winding down when the games end. I wonder if you like my zine well enough to give it another plug. I would like to be able to chat with a few of your British people, and hope that they would like a good chatzine. I've already sent a sample to Pete Birks at GREATIST HITS, but I doubt he would be interested in another foreign trade. It's hard to think of who would be. Maybe you can help though. I could use a few interesting people to chat with who avoid Neanderthal views of the world.  
((Yes, well, you could try Peter Sullivan or John Dods - see below. Both, I think would like more international views. My trades, I think still trade from the good old days and are far too nice to tell me to "piss off". Most of the zines I do get have 3 times as much chat as I do. Also, I don't think many of them are interested in Trading. However, Michael does put alot of effort into his zine and needs a little response from his readers to bring it out. So here's his address: Michael Hopcroft. 3936 N Albina Ave., Portland, OR 97227.))

**NEIL KENDRICK:** I would much appreciate a plug - especially for my International list!  
((This is so embarasing. Do you know how long I've been meaning to give Neil a plug? Never mind, but this is a cheap way to slip it in, but all I have at the moment. The zine is YER TIZ and the editor is Neil Kendrick of 14, Clyde St, Ford, Plymoth, PL2 1QQ England. Neil just went reduced - the in thing to do - and the zine is half smooth like POW and half scruffy, which gives it a warm cuddly feel. Massive games and several sub-GM's. Lots of chat. Last issue had a 7 page letter column and a article by Neil telling everyone how to write a letter in the hobby. SOMETHING LOTS OF YOU OUGHT TO KNOW! Anyways, Neil is offering Internatinal Diplomacy with a 8 week deadline and needs some Amercians and Canadians to fill his game. The zine is worth it and I think Neil would be willing to trade if you're an editor. So check it out. No excuse not to.))

**ERIC KLIEN:** I get one or two responses a month. Every little bit helps. I you can think of any magazines that I have missed, let me know! (I am now hitting Smagazine with ads and have nearly 100 Players)  
((I should give a bit of background here. I asked Eric what response he had gotten to his ad in Paper Mayhem. I was wondering if there was any cross over between the commercial play by mail hobby and the Diplomany Play by mail hobby. I was first in the commercial scene and I still play some of the commercial games. Eric - I don't get any other magazines and so I don't really have a suggestion for you. But a 100 players is amazing. I know some of the new zines would love to just have 20 players - enough to fill 2 games with some stand bys. Could you give some plugs to them? Keep up the good work!))

**JOHN DODS:** The reason for this letter is to introduce myself to the readers of your magazine, as I've never seen your zine I don't know if you have a readers letters section. ... The reason I chose your zine over others was it was recommeded by Simon ((Billeness)) as one containing a few Downfall games. By the way if any of the readers know of any openings or standbys for international Downfall games, I'm your man. I am very keen on this variant. I am currently in 3 Austrailian games, plus Simons' one. Each game is so different, I've got two game openings myself, one Austrialan-NZ game and one international game (2 US Players, 2 UK players 2 Australians & 2 Kiwis), I will probably use the "Looppop"(sp?) rules (better then the definative version. If enough interest is shown I'll open a 3rd international game.  
((Next time, John will tell us about the New Zealand hobby, but I don't have time or room in this issue for it. Sorry John. Over here in North Amercia, Brian Hogan and I decided that we have our Downfall Groupies. It seems that there is a alot of cross over between players. You'll find the same ones in the Downfall games offered here. I don't see this as much in Britian, but they have a larger offering of Downfall games then we do. So while, I'm at it, I'll give John a plug too.....  
View from Another Shore John Dods PO Box 2110, Ahurir, Napier, New Zealand. The first zine I've seen from the lower side of the world. Mail is quite wonderful. Takes less time to get a letter from New Zealand then it does to get a letter from New York. figure that one out if you can. Has letters and chat and even commercial play by mail articals. I thought it would be interesting to see the same games played by different gaming companies. John, of course, loves downfall, but he is looking for a more international zine. ((Maybe so because there are so few New Zealand Players?)) Anyways subs are going at \$10.00 down and \$2.00 an issue. However, John is open to trades.



## PINECON II

This was the event of the year and I didn't even know it was going to happen. Only the very in crowd was there - it was very under the hat. Somehow, Pete Gaughan found out about it and called. He had some other excuss, but I know it was really just a cover story. There I was innocently typing up CR, until Eric had to have me get off the computer as he had a paper due on Monday. So I go into the big town of Flagstaff and to the basic stuff. I come home and there is a car in our driveway with California plates! I think, strange, who can this be? I walk into the house and there is a very tall smiling blond haired male sitting with Eric. I know he's tall when he stands up and I have to look up to him. It is Brian Hogan. He said, "Well, you said you were sorry you couldn't meet me while I was in Arizona and I had to come to pick-up my car. So Here I am." And this is the start of Pinecon II. There weren't any notices, no phone calls begging people to come, nothing, but the great new is it was only one person smaller then the First Pinecon. Of course, Brian is wonderful to have around. He smiles and says, "What games do you have?" I show him first Empire Buildings. He doesn't know the game. I teach him the game and he suddenly gets all the great runs and I'm left in the dust. No Problem, there's another game that I can play and Brian doesn't know. Let me see if the man can handle Titan. I explain again. Brian starts to attack after awhile. I say, "Brian, my stack is bigger then yours. Are you sure you want to attack me?" He says, "Sure let's try it." The problem was I had this thing about rolling anything other then "1" and "2". Brian on the other hand only seemed to be able to roll "5" and "6". Needless to say, Brian won again wiping out every stack I had just about.

But let me let Brian talk for himself. Afterall, you lot would have this sooner as this is the weekend I was finishing up CR, but how was I to know about Pinecon? It was a secret even to me! So take it away Brian.

Well, after two years spent out on the Navajo Indian Reservation 120 miles north east of Munds Park, I finally got around to meeting the famous Ozogs (what a name for people who resemble elves more than orcs!). I finally had picked up my car after its month long sojourn in the body shop from Hell and I was dreading the 11 hour drive back to San Luis Obispo, CA (my new home), so I called Eric and begged him to take me in and pass on the "Hobby Old Fart" wisdom to me. Both he and Cathy showed what wonderfully flexible people they are (or perhaps what gaming fanatics they are) by welcoming me into their home. Before long it was Pinecon II and Cathy was letting this beginner win every game (how's that for hospitality). Eric looked up from his forest studies enough times to get me hooked on "Elfquest" and his wonderful cornbread. I can't remember the last time I slept so soundly, but then I can't remember the last time I slept without a nine month old nursing baby kicking me in the small of the back. Cathy and I planned Downfall strategy and did some fine tuning on the rules of The Narnian Wars, a dip variant that I designed, that is based on the books of C.S. Lewis. Cathy will be a player in the FIRST EVER running of the game in the The Messenger, Geoff Richard's zine. There are still spaces available. (The Messenger 7240 Whispering Pines, Dallas, TX 75248.) I am going to stop now so that Eric, Cathy, and I can play another game before bedtime (don't you poor slobs wish you had come to Pinecon II?!).

Eric here. Two weeks into the semester, on a Saturday and writing a papaer that's due on Monday, and here I get this phone call from this jovial guy called Brian Hogan, asking for what John Michalski calls a "free flop." Taken by surprise while dreading the workload I still had ahead, I ~~got~~ took his offer. It's always nice to receive Dip guests, and besides, I wanted him to meet some "normal" people ~~he~~ he became exposed to all the other "normal" people of Dipdom. Brian is a nice guy, for a missionary. We talked experiences; Brian of his subversive activities with the Navajos, and my tree fascist activities out in Washington. Cathy bailed me out when she she returned from town, so I went back to the paper. So Cathy and Brian had all the fun at PineCon II. I was happy to finish the introduction to my multiresource forest management plan, (for an actual real life 6,000 acre block of ponderosa pine woods). Last year of school.

I was in Washington for the summer, working for the U.S. Forest Service on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, White River Ranger District (located on the north side of Mt. Rainier National Park). I worked mainly in Silviculture and reforestation. Hooted for spotted owls at night.

Overall I had a good experience, and I return for a six month stint next May. There's a good chance I'll be hired permanently and Cathy and I will be relocating to Washington (from dry to wet).

I drove to Washington via Salt Lake City, Boise, and Yakima: 1350 miles. I returned via Portland, Reno-Carson City, and Barstow: 1550 miles. Highlights to: southern Utah, with its sleepy villages amidst green valleys specked with grazing sheep. Baker, Orgeon, with its old-fashioned mountain country charm. The awesome majesty of Mt. Rainier. Highlights from: Mt. Shasta, California, rising out of the plains. A gambling break in Carson City. The majestic east side of the Sierra Nevada range. And- arriving home to my sweetie!



## The Postal Gamesplayers' Questionnaire for 1989

The Postal Gamesplayers' Yearbook is produced once a year. This questionnaire will provide information on you and other postal gamesplayers plus some statistics on the hobby. Should you not wish any answer to be printed put by the side DNQ (Do Not Quote). Your entry to the yearbook is FREE. The data is to be held on a computer file. Your agreement to this is a necessary condition of entry.

### Section 1: Personal Details

1. Surname \_\_\_\_\_
2. Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Age in years at 1/1/90 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sex \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 2: Address Details

1. Home Address \_\_\_\_\_
2. Home Post Code \_\_\_\_\_
4. Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_
3. Term Address \_\_\_\_\_
4. Work/Term Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3: Hobby Details

1. How long have you been playing games by post in years \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is your favourite Postal Game \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many zines do you receive \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which of the following do you consider you belong to
  - a) The Postal Gaming Hobby \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) The Postal Diplomacy Hobby \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) The Postal Sports Gaming Hobby \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 4: Conventions

1. Do you plan to go to any conventions in the next year YES / NO
2. If YES are you prepared to give a lift YES / NO / NO CAR
3. If YES to the last question:- Petrol-Sharing/ Free/ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 5: Face to Face Gaming

1. Are you interested in Face to Face gaming YES / NO
2. If YES, where would you be prepared to travel to \_\_\_\_\_
3. What type of games are you interested in playing \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 6: The Les Pimley Memorial Award for 1989

This award is given each year to the individual who has contributed most to the hobby during the past few years. As a mark of respect it is named after Les Pimley who entered the hobby in 1972 but died of a heart attack in 1976. For full details of the award, check any zine which prints hobby news or write to the address below for more details. If you wish to use the questionnaire as a voting form, list any individual you wish to vote for in preference order

\_\_\_\_\_

Only your name and sections 2, 4 & 5 will be printed. The rest will be treated confidentially and only used in statistical summary form. Please return the questionnaire to Jan Niechwiadowicz 35 Poplar Crescent, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury SY3 0QD or to any Zine Editor who is willing to forward it. The deadline is 4th November. I will be at Midcon and I will accept them there. If you would like a copy of the yearbook, please enclose a cheque/postal order for One pound Twenty. The yearbook should be available from 27th November.

GAMES

1987 IH

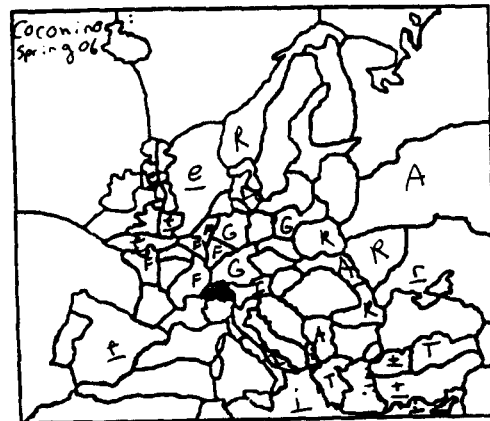
COCONINO

Winter 05/Spring 06

AUSTRIA GETS INTO RUSSIA AND E/G HURT!!!

Winter 05:

Italy: Build F Nap, A Rom  
 France: Build A Par, F Mar  
 England: Remove F MAO  
 Turkey: Remove F Gre  
 Russia: F Den Retreats Swe  
 Austria: Remove A Alb, A Bud



Spring 06:

Turkey-Acheson: A Arm-Ank, F Smy S F Bla-Con, F Bla-Con, A Bul-Gre  
 Germany-Schilling: A Mun S A Kiel, A Kie S Russ F Swe-Den, A Sil-Pru  
 England-Grigsby: F Den-Swe(Dis,ret: Ska, Hel, Bal,otb), F Nth-Lon, A Lvp H  
 Russia-Holley: A War-Gal, A Mos-Ukr, A StP-Nwy, A Ukr-Rum, F Swe-Den, F Sev S Ukr-Rum  
 France-Gavrilovic: F Iri-Eng, F Lon-Nth, A Bre H, A Par-Bur, A Bur-Ruh, A Bel S A Hol, A Hol S A Bur-Ruh, F Mar-Spa(sc)  
 Austria-Clutterbuck: A Lvn-Mos, A Rum-Ukr(dis,ret: Bud,Bul,otb) A Gal § A Rum-Ukr, A Ser-Rum  
 Italy-Vaporis: F Ion-EMed, F Nap-Ion, F Adr-Alb, A Vie-Tyr, A Rom-Apu, F Con-Sym(dis,ret: Bul, Aeg, otb)

Game Notes:

Acheson is our new Turkey. I have an endgame proposal: 1. F-E-I-G-R-A-T 2. F-G-R-I-A. No press this time! I hope the deadline isn't too close for you, but mail has been good to Australia

DEADLINE FOR FALL 1906:

OCTOBER 20, 1989

1984 Krb 32

Gunboat Dip

WINDYWOOD

Summer /Fall 1916

Egland is SO CLOSE!!!

Summer 1916:

Russia: A Tyr-Pie, A Gal-Bud

Fall 1916:

Russia: A Pie-Ven, A Bud S A Vie, A Mos § Ger A Pru-Lvn(nso), A Urk S A Mos, A Vie § A Tri(dis,ann) A Tri S A Pie-Ven, A Ser S A Tri, F Gre S FEas-Ion, F Aeg S F Eas-Ion, F Eas-Ion, F Bla-Rum  
 Germany: A Tyr S A Boh-Vie, A Boh-Vie, A War-Mos, A Pru-War, A Gal S A Boh-Vie, A Ruh-Hol  
 England: A Lvn-Mos, A StP S A Lvn-Mos, A Fin-Lvn, F GOB C A Fin-Lvn, F Bal S A Fin-Lvn, A Edi-Bel, F NTH C A Edi-Bel, F Bel-Hol, A Mar-Pie, A Bur-Mar, F MAO-WMed, F Ven S Ger A Tyr-Tri(nso), F Adr S F Ven, F Ion H, F Nap S F Ion, F Tun S F Ion



Winter 1916 Supply Center Chart:

Germany: Home, Par, War, Vie = 6, even  
 Russia: Mos, Sev, Tri, Bud, Sev, Rum, Bul, Gre, Con, Ank, Smy = 11, Build 1  
 England: Home, Nwy, Swe, Den, StP, Bel, Hol, Spa, Por, Mar, Tun, Rom, Nap, Ven, Bre = 17, Build 1

Press:

Germany-England: Since the game goes on, I presume youre interested in helping...support me to Tri and Moscow and we'll have him ((Well, he tried that this time.))

Proposal: Concession to ENGLAND

Please vote!!

Deadline: Oct 20, 1989!!!

MORE GAMES

1988 ICTs13

DARKLANDS

Solmath II

CHAOS AND THE DARDLORD WILL OVERCOME ALL!!

Pre-season:

Dwarves: A NRh-Iro  
Gondor: A Los-MTi

Solmath II:

- Gondor-Vaporis: 2A Ano-Eas, A Lam-Anf, A Bel-Lam(dis,ann), A MTi H
- Dwarves-Bergman: A Wit-NMi, A Val S A Wit-NMi, A Iro-NWa, A Car-Wit, A Ett-Bre
- Umbar-Betts: A Sit S A Len A Le S A SGO-Bel, F Tol C A SGO-Bel, F Bay S A SGO-Bel, A SGO-Bel
- Rohan-Gaughan: NMR! A Hel H, A EEm H, A Eas H (dis,ret,Edo,otb), A WEM H (dis,ret: Gap,Edo)
- Saruman-Peters: 2AWiz-WEM, A Hol-Gre, A Fan-Wol
- Elves-Billinness: A Nwa § Dwarven A Iro(otm) F FlN-WES, A Nen-Shi, A NMi § Dwarves A Val(dis,ret: Fra,otb), A Car-CMi, A Cel-And, A Gla S A Cel-And
- Mordor-Grigsby: 3A Nin-Ano, A MMo S 2A Nit, A Bro § A And, A Rru-SMi, A OTB-NRh, 2A Nit S 3A Nin-Ano, A Dol S A And, A CMI § Dwarves A Wit-NMi, 2A NRH-RRI, 2A Los-Lam Naz Nit S 3A Nin-Ano, A And § A CMI

Solmath II Supply Center Chart:

- Rohan: Hel, Edo, Dru = 3, even (most likely)
- Gondor: MTi, Eas = 2, remove 1
- Saruman: Home, Wol, Hol = 5, build 2
- Dwarves: Home, Crn, Ang, Bre, NMi = 7, build 2
- Umbar: Home, SGO, SIh, Bel, Leb = 7, Build 2
- Elves: G Ha, Gla, Lor, Car, Riv, Shi, Fdl = 7, even or Bld 1 depending on retreats
- Mordor: Home, NIh, RRU, And, Dol, Lam, 3x Easterlings Otb = 12, Build 1

Press:

Minas Tirith-Elves: The Grand Alliance?

Umbar is in bed with the evil one and thinks he is on top. We search in vain for the Riders of Rohan; they are either playing with themselves or helping the little evil one. ((I'm tempted to say the "great big evil one")

Umbar-Elves: Quite frankley, I don't know where you get these ideas from! Saruman is red, Gondor is white, Rohan is blue and the Elves are green (as cabbages...) We'll make do with yellow though.

Umbar-Rohan: Your rental frigate will be arriving in Druwaith shortly. I must remind you, however, that it will be necessary to lay on entertainments for the crew - a couple of town to sack and a few hundred maidens to ravish, say, if not properly entertained they could turn really nasty...  
The Lord of the Corsairs, Grand Admiral of the Fleets of Umbar, Heir of Eledil and Rightful King of Gondor thanks the Steward for taking care of the Kingdom while the business of succession was being dealt with. Fortunately all disputes are now settled and the men of Umbar have returned to claim thier birthright - so beat it, before it gets beaten for you!  
((He did try actually, but Mordor got there first - what now oh hier to Gondor?))

GAME NOTES:

Mar's Peters is back and due to his moves things have been in chaos for him. Thanks to John Dods for the un needed stand-by orders. I expect Pete Gaughan will be back as he called me too late, but would John Dods please standby for Rohan? I know I can count on you.

COA: Simon Billinness, 388 Richmond Terrace Apt #5L, Staten Island, NY, 10301  
Marc Peters, 370 North St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

DEADLINE FOR RETHE I

Is

OCTOBER 20, 1989



CATHY OZOG  
PO BOX 17457  
MUNDS PARK, AZ 86017



FIRST CLASS

Larry Peery  
Box 8399  
San Diego, CA  
92102

This has been Cathy's Ramblings #43. The zine that would have been almost on time, but how was I to know about Pinecon II? Anyways, next time things will be better ... I hope.

Editor: Cathy Ozog: PO Box 17457, Munds Park, AZ 86017 (602)286-9009

Game Openings: None - but see inside for plugs for other zines.

Deadline: October 20, 1989

Stand-bys: David Hood, Eric Klien, Dan Gavrilovic, Stephen Dorneman, Jim Nickel, Michael Hopcroft, Robert Acheson, Melinda Holley, John Crosby, Michael Vaporis, Randy Grigsby, (Downfall only), John Breakwell, John Dods (Downfall Only)

SUBS: They are at 70c an issue til the end, but you can earn free issues by voting me 10's in Tommie Swider's zine CIA in the Runestone Poll Dip Game

Notes to You: Larry - here's my Dipcon report - I never did get the farcoat. Did you ever send it? No big deal I guess but if you did send it - you might be worried about its non-arrival - *all*