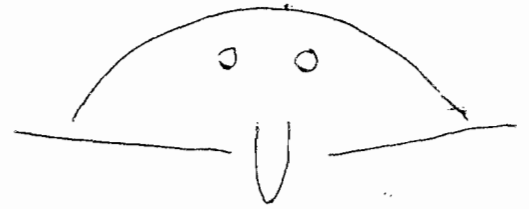




COSTA  
GUANA



Volume IX, Number 5

15 June 1984

This is COSTAGUANA (it says so right up there at the top), a journal of postal Diplomacy and gallons of white-out, published strictly as a public service by Conrad von Metzke, P.O. Box 27273, San Diego, CA 92128. Telephones: Home (619) 276-2937, office (619) 487-6384. The latter is best but either is fine. Subscriptions 10/\$2. Trades: All-for-all. Game fees: \$7 to new recipients, \$3 to anyone already getting the rag. Fees include all issues pertaining to your game all the way to the end, unless you drop without notice.

Standby policy: I take two standby players for each game. Such people get a free sub while they're doing their duty, and in addition get a free game the next time I start one. Unless, of course, they drop without notice....

Obviously I'm not in this for the money.

LAST ISSUE'S SILLY apparently cheered a few of you up. Jim Stevens got every last one of the damned things right, and I hereby award him his free game with a bow of deep respect. And nobody missed more than three.

The answers: (2) 7 wonders of the ancient world; (3) 1001 Arabian Nights; (4) 12 signs of the zodiac; (5) 54 cards in a deck, with the jokers; (6) 9 planets in the solar system; (7) 88 piano keys; (8) 13 stripes on the American flag; (9) 32 degrees Fahrenheit at which water freezes; (10) 18 holes on a golf course; (11) 90 degrees in a right angle; (12) 200 dollars for passing GO in Monopoly; (13) 8 sides on a stop sign; (14) 3 blind mice - see how they run; (15) 4 quarts in a gallon; (16) 24 hours in a day; (17) 1 wheel on a unicycle; (18) 5 digits in a ZIP code; (19) 57 Heinz varieties; (20) 11 players on a football team; (21) 1000 words that a picture is worth; (22) 29 days in February in a leap year; (23) 64 squares on a chessboard; (24) 40 days and nights of the Great Flood.

Some were, of course, patently obvious - 3, 8, 16, etc. Others required thought but were within reach of anyone. A few were a bit tricky, being based on facts that some people don't have - e.g. 7. And a few were VERY TOUGH!

I can almost forgive anyone who missed #21; the answer twists the cliché in a way that many people won't catch. In case you care, the two I never did figure out were 21 and 23.

READY? SET? This issue's silly struck me as even more fun, perhaps because the pictograph format seemed so much more clever. I think this one may actually be easier, overall, than the last, but play around and see what you get. I will forgive any failure to decipher #23 because it is so sloppily drawn.

Next issue, I have another one like this one - only it is a whole lot tougher....and I do not have an answer sheet!

ON THE WAY HOME from work today, I passed a commercial truck with the following identifying legend on the side:

DR. BRONNER'S 18-in-1  
PURE CASTILE SOAP  
HELPS KEEP THE HUMAN RACE TOGETHER  
Escondido, California

On arrival home, I happened to mention this to a neighbor friend. She immediately ran in the house and brought out a bottle of the stuff! As she puts it, "He's crazy, but he makes good soap!"

The neighbor has pledged to give me the bottle when it's empty. When she does, I plan to print excerpts from the label; it is one of the most curious documents I've ever seen. As a foretaste, the "18-in-1" refers to the number of uses the good Doctor claims for his product. They include pest killer, spot remover and birth control! (For the latter, you are to add one teaspoon of squeezed lemon rind....)

MY OTHER HOBBY, in addition to collecting the stamps of Nepal, Austria, Hungary and Brunei, is classical music. Other Diplomacy magazines regularly publish "listening suggestions" of music, but their taste is patently trash. Here is my current listening list:

Joseph Martin Kraus: Funeral Cantata for Gustavus III of Sweden  
Prince Louis Ferdinand von Hohenzollern: Octet for Piano, Winds and Strings

Ferenc Erkel: Hunyadi Lazslo (opera)

Anton Filz (a.k.a. Filtz, Fils, Filts, Filć): Concerto in B-Flat for Bassoon, Strings and Timpani.

Franz Peter Schubert: Any of over 400 songs, performed in flawless private recordings by that internationally-recognized bass-baritone, Conrad von Metzke (Ilana Mysior, piano)

That last one is no joke. Did I ever mention that, in addition to listening to classical music, I also sing it - and I am good!? I've had a great deal of training, and even won a prize at the local Metropolitan Opera competition a few years ago. Currently, I am engaged in a project with my accompanist to record the entire song output of Schubert (less those few that are specifically for women) - that's about 550 songs! Actually, the "over 400" is a lie. Last week we taped our 355th.... with about 60 ready to go, at the rate of ten a week....

THE JAMES H. STEVENS ANNOUNCEMENT: In the same letter that contained his builds and his winning "quiz" paper, Jim Stevens announced that he and his wife are expecting their first child in a few months. And the most exciting part of the letter was the fact that, judging from Jim's words, he was drunk when he wrote it - drunk with the thrill of the event, that is. That is nice - I've seen too many unwanted children in this world, and as the proud papa of two fantastic young men, I get very thrilled when I hear of someone who is about to have the same huge joy that I've had - and likes the idea! So, from COSTAGUANA (and its editor) to the Stevens clan-to-be...heartiest congratulations, and here are a few comments from one who has been there to two who haven't:

1. The standard cliché these days is, "I don't care if it's a boy or a girl as long as it's healthy." The truth is that everybody has a secret preference, however slight. Do not worry about this; go ahead and prefer one sex to the other if you wish. It won't harm a thing, because the instant the doctor tells you what "it" is, that's what you will have wanted all along.

2. Mrs. Stevens, ma'am, you are not fat and you are not ugly and people are not staring at you and giggling. As time goes on you will swear I'm a liar, but I promise you, you are wrong. (The only exceptions are people less than four years or so of age; but you can live with this, because some day yours will be doing the same thing.) Now, it is true that some people are staring at you, but they are not chuckling; they are admiring you, and in their vicarious way sharing your joy, and maybe occasionally being a bit jealous. Buy yourself a T-shirt that says "under construction" or some such; you'll feel better about yourself.

And Jim - my reassurance that she's not fat and ugly is worthless, because she doesn't know me from Adam. Your reassurance, on the other hand, will be very much needed; give it to her. It may seem a tad silly to you; after all, you know as well as I do she isn't ugly, right?

Tell her so.

3. Save your receipts, you'll get a million duplicates at the showers.

4. If you are in a position to provide the baby with a room of its own, and plan to decorate it, do as much of the actual decorating work as you possibly can yourselves. Accepting advice and help from friends is fine, but do not contract it out even if you're an inveterate slob with wallpaper. Get involved; make a mess if you are as inept as I, but do it anyway. There is somehow nothing quite so certain to put you in touch with the new baby as standing back and looking at the wall you personally painted for it.

5. No baby on earth needs sixty-seven Teddy bears. You may be proud parents-to-be, but settle for maybe one or two bears and a bunny, and save the rest of the money for diapers. You'll need it.

6. If you are lucky enough to have your parents in the area, or an extremely trusted friend with experience, arrange - when the baby is 2-3 weeks old - to get out of the house together for a time. Lunch and a movie is plenty; we're not talking hours on end here. But believe me, you'll need it, and despite your fears the little twerp will be just fine!

7. If you decide to try the Lamaze system, the teacher is not exaggerating anything. All of it may turn out to be true. And when you are told to work at it, WORK AT IT!!!!

8. The greatest devices ever invented are: (a) wind-up musical plust toys; (b) infant mobiles, and (c) wind-up cradles - later to be converted to swing chairs. If you don't get them at the showers (you'll probably get a mobile; the others are uncommon), invest. Some day you will thank me.

9. The kid is due late Jan.-early Feb., eh? Well, please note that my birthday is February 2. If you match that date, a prize awaits you. But if you have a boy, you will not, on pain of death, name him Conrad; is that clear?

WELCOME to our new - and first Canadian - subscriber, Ralph Morton (an old friend). Years ago I published a Diplomacy magazine called SAGUENAY, designed exclusively for players resident in Canada. Ralph was a mainstay of that enterprise, and I heartily welcome him back to my list of subscribers and friends.

BACK TO THE QUIZ: Today (Thurs.) I got another perfect-score entry, from Matt Johnston. Having made no statement about "earliest postmark," or whatever, I hereby award Matt an equivalent prize in the new game. That, plus a check from David Pierce, brings us to five players and one standby. Maybe next issue?

Mr. Johnston also sent six more 'quiz' questions, to which I have added a few of my own. If others have some, send 'em in and we'll make up another one - a composite of our ideas - and publish the whole thing shortly.

ONE OF THE LEAST RECOGNIZED YET BEST BARITONES IN THE BUSINESS IS THE HOLLANDER MAX VANEGMOND

1983AC - Winter 1903

MOROCCO (18 October 1903): A source, well-placed within the Italian Foreign Legion, was cornered by this reporter in the bazaar after the recent Italian setbacks.

REPORTER: What do you....

ITALIAN FOREIGN LEGION: Can't our domestic troops do anything right? If the Legion was on the continent, this never would have happened, you know.

REPORTER: Well, why....

I.F.L.: We've captured all of the Dark Continent, and with a year or two on the mainland, we'd leave our footprints everywhere.

REPORTER: Okay, but how....

I.F.L.: We were the ones to lay out the plans for the defeat of Turkey. The Austrian doesn't have enough imagination to come up with a concerted plan for anyone's demise. Just look; he attacks Italy, yet he alone can't defeat her. He just attacks targets of opportunity. If you could ask him what he's going to do next year, all you'd get would be a blank stare.

REPORTER: That's fine, but who....

I.F.L.: You can bet I wasn't for supporting France into Munich. I told them to go for Trieste, but noooooooo...who ever listens to a Legionnaire?

Hey, you seem to be the trustworthy sort. Just between you and me - I've got a plan for the Tsar and Sultan to get back together and kick some butt. Maybe if you're on the continent, you might mention it to them. Of course, anything like that has to be cleared with those dopes back home.

AUSTRIA (Robson): a rum /r/ bud. Build a vie, a tri. Has: a's vie, tri, bud, war, rom, ser; f gre (7).

ENGLAND (Pustilnik): Build f lon. Has: a stp; f's lon, swe, lvp, nat, nwg (6).

FRANCE (Johnston): Has: a's bur, bel, ruh, mun; f's bre, eng, iri (7). (NOTE:

For some obscure reason I neglected to mention that France had one build.)

GERMANY (Fleming): a mun /r/ sil. Build a ber. Has: a's kie, sil, ber; f hol (4)

ITALY (Stevens): f ion /r/ otb. Build f nap. Has: a's naf, tyo; f nap (3).

RUSSIA (Walker): GM removes f aeg. Has: a's sev, ukr (2).

TURKEY (Walters): Has: a's bul, con, rum; f's bla, smy (5).

Spring 1904 moves must be in to me by FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1984.

I vaguely recall announcing once that 'phone moves would only be taken until the night before the deadline. New Policy: The deadline for moves is 9 p.m. Pacific time on the date specified. How you get them here is your business....

And I think I can guarantee that Rod won't miss again, so no standbys.

¡HASTA LA PRÓXIMA!

# COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM



SCORE

1 Sand	2 Man Board	3 Stand 1	4  R E A D I N G
5 WEAR LONG	6 R ROAD A D	7 T O W N	8 CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE
9 LE VEL	10 O M.D. Ph. D. B.S.	11 Knee Lights	12 11 000 00
13 CHAIR	14 DICE DICE	15 T O U C H	16 Ground Feet feet Feet Feet Feet Feet
17 MIND MATTER	18 HE'S/HIMSELF	19 ECNALG	20 DEATH/LIFE
21 G.I. CCC CC C	22 Program	23 B L O O D	24 YOU J O S T ME

NAME: