

DIPLOMAG - MENSA DIPLOMACY SIG NEWS

NUMBER 18

July 10, 1977

A bimonthly newsletter of the American Postal Diplomacy SIG. Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game Copyright by the Avalon Hill Game Co., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

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Senior Committeeman: Don Horton, 16 Jordan Ct., Sacramento, Calif. 95826  
Junior Committeeman: (New) Bill Young, P.O. Box 907, Clearfield, Pa. 16830

Paul Hightower has dropped out of Mensa; therefore, he has resigned as Junior Committeeman of the SIG. Paul writes that both he and Scott have let their memberships lapse, but they plan to continue in the Diplomacy hobby on a lesser scale. Accordingly, I have appointed Bill Young to fill the unexpired four months of this term. You will recall that Bill ran the first Mensa Diplomacy Tournament at the Valley Forge AG in '76.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR YOUR CHAIRMAN: We have bought a house, and expect to move on July 29th. Our new address will be: 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207. Please send all mail to our new address effective July 29th. But not earlier! The other people will be living there until about the 27th. We will be moving to Baltimore County, about one-half mile from the City Line, and about 1½ miles from my job at Social Security Hqs. In a pinch, I could walk or hitch-hike to work. Whether or not home ownership will cut deeply into my Diplomacy time is something that only time will tell. The house is in such good shape that I'm not too worried. And I'm going to put wife and child to work cutting grass and shovelling snow.

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This is the official announcement that we will hold an election in September for a new two-year term for the Junior Commissioner post, starting November 1, 1977. People may nominate others, or nominate themselves. Bill Young has advised me that he will run to serve a full term as Jr. Commissioner.

Please send all nominations to the Election Commissioner, Christopher Pike, 72 Berteau Ave., St. John's, Nfld., CANADA A1A 1V8. Qualifications for Office, as stated in Item 7 of our By-Laws: "All Officers must be current members of American or Canadian Mensa. Candidates for Chairman must have been members of the SIG for at least six months prior to the election." Deadline for nominations is Wednesday, Aug. 24th. If more than one candidate is nominated, the Election Commissioner will prepare and mail out ballots to the membership, and they will have 30 days from the date of mailing to mark and return said ballots to him. The Commissioner will then count the ballots and announce the results. If only one person is nominated, the Commissioner will declare him elected by acclamation.

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MENSA GAMES 5, 6 and 7 are proceeding in the pages of CLAW AND FANG, being GM'd under the tender mercies of the Fangmaster, Don Horton. 1975HG has reached Fall-1908, with 5 countries still alive (Russia and Germany are gone). No one has gotten out in front yet. Arndid Vagts (France) and Sid Jolly (Italy) both have 8 Centers, with Dave Reynolds (England) and Don Dewsnap (Turkey) right on their heels with 7 apiece. 1976BN (Mensa #6) has only reached Fall 1905, but Rollie Straton's Russia already has 10 Centers. Germany (Vagts) and Turkey (Bill Young) are second, with 7 each. Austria is gone, and France (Carawan) is dying, with a single unit. Mensa #7, 1977CY, has just started, with some of our newer members getting into their first all-Mensa game.

As soon as The Old Fogies' Game I'm currently in (by invitation) in RUNESTONE has ended, I guess I'll have to get into another all-M game, and get slaughtered again. Nobody expressed any interest in GM'ing, so I guess that all Regular Mensa games will continue to be in CLAW & FANG for the time being.

While the Diplomacy hobby as a whole has seen the loss of several esteemed publishers in 1977, the Diplomacy SIG continues to prosper. The SIG now has members on 4 continents. A lot more inquiries have come in, but I'm only reporting those people who've actually come up with their SIG dues and said they want to belong.

To be honest, the U.S. branch of the hobby did not grow in 1976 in terms of gamestarts or publishers. There were several reasons for this. One was the strife between the two groups trying to control the International Diplomacy Assn. between July '76 and March '77. This turned off some people who perhaps didn't realize that this situation would not last forever. Another was that several people just happened to "burn out" around the same time.

However, according to Boardman No. Custodian Doug Beyerlein, we've already turned the corner on new game starts. 1977 should show an all-time record number of new Regular games starting in the U.S. (The number of gamestarts had continued to increase in the U.K. and Europe throughout 1976, to the point where almost as many games began in the U.K. as in the U.S.). This recent improvement here is probably due, in part, to the increased sales of Dippy sets under the aegis of Avalon Hill. It's also due, hopefully, to the end of the IDA Battle (in which, I confess, I was one of the partisans). I'd also like to think that the spread of Diplomacy throughout Mensaland has had some small effect on aiding the hobby's growth. I had tried to get G.R.I. to advertise the game in the MENSAL BULLETIN, and have suggested the same thing to Avalon Hill. They're missing a bet in overlooking the 24,000 potential Mensa customers.

The newest members of our SIG are:

S/Sgt. Mark D. Giddens, 500th MI Gp., APO San Francisco 96343. (In Japan)  
Jeff Winsor, 6010 S. 27th St., Apt. 25, Milwaukee, Wis. 53221.

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You're probably wondering how come there isn't any report on the 1977 AG Diplomacy Game in this issue. Regretfully, there wasn't any official 1977 Dippy game. Don Dewsnap, who was to have been in charge of our SIG promotion, was unable to go to San Diego at the last minute. Dave Blank also reportedly cancelled out, so we had no official representation. Oh well, there's always the Washington Regional Gathering, September 16/17. If any of you plan to show up, please drop me a line. I'll be there, and will be happy to lug along my Diplomacy set if anyone's interested in a game.

\* \* \* \* \*

DON'T FORGET DIPCON X, held in conjunction with Gen Con, P.O. Box 756, Lake Geneva, Wis. 53147, August 18-21, 1977. Pre-registration fee, \$10. for all 4 days. Register early if you want to get a room at the Playboy. They're very expensive; \$41/night single, \$46 double, \$56 triple, \$66 quadruple. And bunnies are extra! I won't be there, so please plug the Mensa SIG if you attend.

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