



DIPLOMAG

VOL. II, No. 2

December 1, 1980

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in playing the game, Diplomacy, and its many variants, by mail. Dues are \$2.00 per year. Send all funds to the Chairman.

Chairman & Publisher: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207
Senior Commissioner: Bill Young, P.O. Box 907, Clearfield, Pa. 16830
Junior Commissioner: Edward C. Bapple, 4531 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60630

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ELECTION RESULTS

Since I was the only person nominated for Chairman (SIG Coordinator), I was automatically re-elected. Election Commissioner Steve Greenberg reports the following results in the election held for the Junior Commissioner post:

Ed Bapple	- 11	(Ballots were mailed to the 65 people who were eligible to vote in August. Obviously, this election was not a burning issue.)
Stanley Dunn	- 4	
"No" vote	- 3	
Total vote	- 18	

As of November 1st, Don Horton stepped down as Sr. Commissioner, and Bill Young stepped up to that post. (Senior and Junior refer to seniority, as in the U.S. Senate.) Ed Bapple, GM for Mensa #12 game, became the new Jr. Commissioner as of 11-1-80.

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NEW MENSA PUBLISHER

We have a new member, who has also been a zine publisher for about seven months. He is Glenn Overby, II, 23016 Tawas, Hazel Park, Mich. 48030, publisher of JIHAD. Glenn will run the All-Mensa Regular Game #14 in JIHAD. (M's wishing to play in Mensa #14 should route their requests through me, but send no money). Glenn is also offering openings in several variant games in JIHAD. These include:

CRYPTO-DIPLOMACY: A 6-man limited intelligence game in which orders are published in seven secret codes - one for each country. Players may try to break the codes.

MACHIAVELLI; 6-player 1513 scenario. Advanced Game, with many options.

MERCATOR III, without the air option. A 13-player global variant from Great Britain, which adds China, India, Japan, Argentina, Brazil and USA as Great Powers.

NORTH AMERICA 2000: A 7-player game designed by Glenn, set after the earthquake has washed California into the sea, Quebec has seceded from Canada, and Texas and Dixie have gone their own ways. The Powers differ markedly in starting strength, with a

"Mordor-like" USA with 10 Home Centers. However, I've been advised that playtesting has found that the game is not quite as unbalanced as it appears at first glance.

To sign up for any of these games, send a \$2.00 Game Fee and \$6.00 for a 12-issue sub directly to Glenn at the address shown above. The Game Fee for Mercator is \$3.00. I believe the games will be run on monthly deadlines.

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THE MENSA #13 GAME has been filled. This will be run by Chip Charnley, U.S. Navfac Keflavik, Box 7, FPO New York 09571. Chip is physically located in Iceland. He advises that the mail service is now much improved there, and ought to remain so, barring a crisis in some other part of the world which might cause the withdrawal of some transport planes. (In which case, perhaps a kindly old gentleman who owns some reindeer might be persuaded to accept a mail contract).

SIG members are reminded that all three of the new Mensa Games, #11, #12 and 13, can use more stand-by players. This is good experience for a novice. For #11, you may write directly to Ronald J. Brown, R.R. 2, Maniwaki, Quebec, CANADA J9E 3A9. For #12, contact Ed Bapple at the address shown on the masthead. Also, anyone who just wants to follow any of these games can probably make arrangements to sub for copies. Ron's series on the various provinces on the Board makes a sub to SNAFU worthwhile for anyone.

NORTHERN GAME SUGGESTED

Ron Brown would like to start a "Northern Mensa" game as a second game in his SNAFU zine. It would be limited to players living either in Canada or a State bordering on the Great Lakes, or any Northeastern State north of the Potomac River. I have suggested that even though we've reached our quota of 70 SIG members, we would let any Canadian M's who are interested participate in this game. If you live in Canada or the area between Maine, Minnesota and Maryland, and would be interested in playing in such a "Northern" game, please let me hear from you.

Incidentally, there is another Ron Brown in Bakersfield, California, who is also a publisher (MUR'DRING MINISTERS), but is not an M. To avoid confusion, I'll try to refer to "our" Brown as "Ronald" the first time I mention him in each issue. But I don't think anyone will confuse Quebec with California.

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DIPLONAGY GAME SCHEDULED FOR MARYLAND RG

On Saturday, February 21, 1981, the Diplomacy SIG will run a FTF Diplomacy game at the Maryland RG. This RG will be held at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel in Downtown Baltimore from Friday thru Sunday, February 20-22. (This RG will also give you a chance to meet the members of the ANG, who will hold their Quarterly Business Meeting in conjunction with the festivities). I'm sure details on Registration fees and hotel rooms will be published shortly in the BULLETIN. If you want to sign up for the game in advance, please contact Steven Ralston, 222 St. Paul St., Apt. 1905, Baltimore, Md. 21202. Steve will be running this game, as it so happens that we will be in Florida at that time. (We had no choice. Baltimore County schools will be closed for the third week in February instead of the traditional Easter week).

This is an opportunity for Mid-Atlantic Diplo-Mats to get together. A reduced rate may be available if you just want to attend for the day. There is parking available right at the Baltimore Hilton, which is on Fayette St. near the Charles Center. I expect to be arriving home about 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22nd. If you're still in Baltimore at that time, feel free to phone me. (747-7248).

1981 DUES WILL REMAIN AT \$2.00

Despite creeping inflation, we have enough resources on hand to hold the line on dues. (We'll publish our annual financial statement in the next issue). Members are asked to send in their \$2.00 in dues for 1981 now. May I ask those of you for whom it is convenient to send me cash rather than a check. It's not that I'm trying to evade any income taxes, but handling 70 separate checks for \$2.00 each is becoming quite a chore, and one that my bank may not appreciate. Canadian M's should send either a M.O. for \$2.00 in U.S. funds, or \$2.50 in Canadian currency. Please make out all checks to "Fred C. Davis, Jr." and not to "Diplomacy SIG." Cash or check, I'd appreciate having your dues by January 15, 1981. Then, I can produce a new Membership List for inclusion in the February DIPLOMAG.

In prior years, I've sent follow-ups to a few people who were active in the hobby who were late in getting in their dues, but the SIG has reached such a size that this is no longer possible. So, except for very unusual circumstances, this is the only notice that "Dues is Due" that you'll get. Why not respond today?

All zine publishers and others GM'ing All-II games are excused from dues payments, providing they send me copies of their publications (which they all do). Persons performing special services for the SIG, or functioning under special circumstances, are also excused. For 1981, the list of excused people consists of:

Bapple, Baumeister, Brown, Charnley, Greenberg, Horton, Montgomery, Overby and Wilson.

In addition, the following members have already paid their dues for 1981:

Anderson, Baty, Bowers, Granatstein, Johnson, Kenesson, Miller, Trainer, Weintraub.

Everyone else is requested to pay 1981 dues.

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THE NOVICE PLAYER PACKAGE IS NOW AVAILABLE. This 35-page opus, aka SUPERNOVA, is a must for all Diplomacy novices, and well worth reading by all players. It has been edited by Bruce Linsey, publisher of VOICE OF DOOM. Eighteen authors have contributed articles, including many hobby leaders and Old Timers. As such, it represents the best collaboration effort in the history of the Postal hobby. While Bruce has had some disputes with certain other parties in the hobby, the Novice Package is absolutely neutral (except for warning all novices of the one zine in which they should not play). There is an article on playing each country, an article on Belgium by Bob Sergeant, on Press by Dick Martin, even the original "Lepanto Opening" in the words of Edi Birsan. Both Konrad Baumeister and I have contributed to the gore. I strongly urge everyone to buy a copy. The price is reportedly free to total novices and 75¢ to everybody else, but I'm sure none of us are too poor to send 75¢ to: Bruce Linsey, Bldg. 11, Apt. 21, Leisureville, Watervliet, N.Y. 12189, when you ask for your copy.

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NEW MEMBERS

William Bred Anderson, 1158 Harriet Ave., Campbell, Calif. 95008
Edgar R. Bowers, Rt. 6, Box 629, Harriman, Tenn. 37748. (615) 882-6473
Joe Miller, 5701 - 53rd Ave., Kenosha, Wis. 53142. (414) 654-6446
Glenn Overby, II, 23069 Tawas, Hazel Park, Mich. 48030. (Publisher of JIHAD)

JUST A REMINDER that Mensa Variant Game #3, Gusher Diplomacy, is now running in my BUSHWACKER. Players and stand-bys in that game, as well as all SIG officers and pub-

lishers, receive every copy of BUSHWACKER. Other SIG members will receive only alternate copies of BUSH, along with their DIPLMAGS. Because of weight limitations, these will frequently come by Third Class Mail, to non-participants in the games. It is hoped that glimpses at the BUSHWACKER variant games will induce some of you to accept stand-by positions in the ongoing games, or starting slots in the new ones as they are offered.

IS OUR FACE RED DEPT.

There were a few minor errors in the last set of SIG Autobiographies printed here. In the first place, Ed Bapple is not 72 years old, although he says he sometimes feels like it. His correct date of birth is June 24, 1938. Also, Darryl Phillips is single, not married. He says he wouldn't mind being married, but as he's only 16 some other people might not approve. (Darryl is our youngest member). So, outside of committing one member to the Old Folks Home and getting another in trouble with Juvenile Court, our listing was accurate.

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FOR THE RECORD. I've just been advised by the Miller No. Custodian that our All-M Variant Game #2, Swiss Diplomacy II, has been assigned the MN 1978Vjc. This is the game which was won by a Rulebook Victory by Frank Kenesson (ENGLAND) in Fall 1908, in October 1980. Also, "Gusher Diplomacy," Mensa Variant Game #3, has been assigned Miller No. 1980Mjj. (Regular games get Boardman Nos. Variants get Miller Nos.).

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AS A SPACE FILLER, we particularly liked these derivations of Murphy's Law, as printed in CHIME (newsltr. of Chicago Mensa) in August 1980:

DEVRIES DILEMMA: If you hit two keys on the typewriter, the one you don't want hits the paper.

ETORRE'S OBSERVATION: The other line moves faster.

CUNNINGHAM'S COMPUTER LAW: When you're one minute late, the train arrives on time.

FROBISHER'S PRINCIPLE: Whenever you buy something at the regular price, it goes on sale the next week.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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