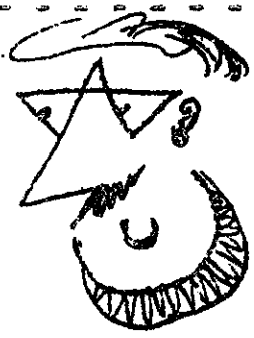


"WHY, YES, MR. TOLKIEN, I AM A GOOD FAERIE, BUT THIS IS NOT MIDDLE-EARTH.  
NO, THIS IS

EREWON 98  "A" 

1 August 1976




Bill, you won't believe the Diplomacy game I was in last night. We had my friend from out Cawdor way, Macbeth, and his wife, and Duncan macAngus (who's a big cheese in Scotland), and good old Banquo and his kid Fleance, and Duncan's boy Malcolm. Anyway, right off Mrs. Macbeth talks ner old man into stabbin' Duncan, and after that he stabs Banquo and me, and then she suicides, and guess what? Fleance wins! Man, what a great play you could write, Bill...give ya somethin' to do when nights are cold down at Stratford.

THE EREWON PARTY  
Announces its Kitchen Cabinet

President . . . . .	. Rod Walker
Vice-President . . . . .	. Conrad von Metzke
Secretary of State . . . . .	. Gordon Anderson
Secretary of the Treasury . . . . .	. <del>Richard Nixon</del> John Beshar
Secretary of the Interior . . . . .	. C. Arnholt Smith
Attorney-General . . . . .	. Robert Sacks
Postmaster-General . . . . .	. Peggy Gemignani
Secretary of Defense . . . . .	. Edi BirSauron
Secretary of Health, Education, & Welfare . . . . .	. Lucrezia Borgia
Secretary of Urban Affairs . . . . .	. Spiro Agnew
Secretary of Labor . . . . .	. Lew Pulsipher
Secretary to the President . . . . .	. Randy Agnew

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"Gerry - what do you mean, you want me to endorse Reagan??"

INSIDE

Is Robert Sacks really a schlepper of a schlemiel? Is Len Lakofka really OK? Benito Mussolini plays Diplomacy with Winston Churchill. Can you play "Le Marseillaise" on bagpipes (1975CY)? See Germany BLOAT (1976BR). Sherlock Holmes takes on a new client. Fred Davis shoots from the hip. Linear separators abound. Um, Linear separators abound. That's better.

NOTE TO PLAYERS IN 1976BR: From 12 to 29 August, Fred Winter will be virtually incommunicado. Temporary (but not too dependable) address: GENERAL DELIVERY, St. Mary MT 59417. He will pick up mail there on the 17th and on the 25th only.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 \*\*\*\*\*

This is EREHWON, a monthly (hahahahahaha) journal of postal Diplomacy and other Bicentennial hijinks. Subscriptions are 5/\$1; however, you may sub at 8/\$1 if you are a postal Diplomacy publisher, and I have refused to trade for your 'zine, and you are not a member of "TDA". Game fee is \$8.50 (\$4.00 if we trade).

Back issues available: 45, 51-97. They are 20¢ each; sent 3rd class they are: 10¢ each in batches of 2-11; 12 issues for \$1, with 8¢ for each additional issue.

ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY OR STAMPS.

This is Alcala Publication #663, edited and published by Rod Walker, "Alcala", 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024; (714) 753-7657.

GIMMEANLGIMMIEANLIGIMMEANLINGIMMEANLINEGIMMEANLINEAGIMMEANLINEARLINEARLINEAI

NOTICE

I will cease trading with any publication which prints advertisements, nominations, ballots, or results for the so-called "Gemignani" "Awards". Termination of trade for that reason will not qualify the publisher of that 'zine for my special subscription rate.

My reasons for so doing are numerous. In fine, I object to the snide-ly negativistic attitude of these so-called "awards". They are not in the least constructive, nor are they humorous; this leaves them utterly without redeeming social content. They are further managed in such a way as to be self-seeking.

Furthermore, despite the fact that Ms. Gemignani has written several letters objecting to the use of her name in this unwholesome project, Bob Sacks persists in using it...and in denying that Peggy is objecting. I have printed her objections in this 'zine and she has personally written Sacks to request he cease using her name.

On this ground alone, that Peggy Gemignani's name is being used with- out her permission and over her strenuous objections, all 'zines in the hobby should deny access to their pages for Sacks' particularly noxious form of hatemongering.

LINEARRAHRRAHRAHGIMMEANSGIMMEANSEGINMEANSEPGIMMEANSEPPASIMMEANSEPARGINMEAN

MEA CULPA

Last issue, when I reviewed 'zines, I neglected to list LIAISONS DANGEREUSES as a bargain. Len Lakofka has...heatedly, but with due re- straint (you figure it out)...called this to my attention.

I do indeed recommend LD, and consider it well worth the subscrip- tion price. Please reread my review lastish. There is always something worthwhile in LD, especially if hobby stats are your bag.

SEPARAGIMMEANSEPARATGIIMMEANSEPARATOGIMMEANSEPARATORLINEARSEPARATORRAHRAHRAH

THE HEAVENLY DIPLOMACY GAME  
 A Logic Puzzle



The following logic puzzle is of my own design, and is not too dif- ficult. If anyone solves it, please send me the answer. I'd be inter- ested in knowing how long it took you to get the solution. Have fun!

Several of the inhabitants of heaven got up a postal Diplomacy game. The participants, in alphabetical order, were: Konrad Adenauer, Kemal Atatürk, Napoleon Bonaparte, Winston Churchill, Franz-Josef Hapsburg, Benito Mussolini, and Sergei Prokofiev. The game was published in ELYSIUM, of which Doug Beyerlein managed to get a few copies. Unfortunately, what he got was just a tangled mess of information which was hard to unscramble. He did learn the following facts:

1. Each player spoke only his native language and English.
2. Turkey won the game in Winter 1909.
3. Each player had a different playing style: "good ally", "win only", "strong second", "stab-happy", "cartel", "puppy-dog ally", and "bare less".
4. One of the players negotiated by telephone; the others wrote, each with a different implement: magic marker, pen, pencil, quill, crayon, typewriter.
5. The player who finished 2nd was the "puppy-dog ally" and wrote with a crayon.
6. The German player spoke it with an accent.
7. The "good ally" did better than the "win only" player.
8. Each player drew a country which was not his native country (no tricks here; just be obvious).
9. The colors also got mixed up so that no country had pieces of the color the Rulebook says it is supposed to have.
10. The "cartel" player had black pieces and wrote on parchment.
11. When the game ended, only two players had been eliminated.
12. Churchill woke 3 other players up in the middle of the night.
13. The red player took Portugal in 1901. At the end of the game, he was left with that supply center only and no units, and thus survived.
14. Hapsburg did better than Adenauer, the player with blue pieces, and the "strong second" player, in that order.
15. The color of the Russian pieces is not found on the flags of Luxembourg nor the Netherlands.
16. Mussolini captured Budapest and Rumania in 1901.
17. The player who typed allied in 1901 with the player who wrote with a magic marker and they attacked the player who wrote with a pencil. This plan worked: but while neither of the allies was eliminated, neither of them won.
18. The player with light blue pieces attacked his ally in 1902, another ally in 1904, yet another in 1905, and two allies in 1909.
19. Bonaparte did better than the player with yellow pieces, the player who wrote with a quill, and Germany, in that order.
20. Each of one pair of players drew the other's native country. These two had the yellow and black pieces.
21. The oldest player had 15 units on the board after Winter 1909. (Oldest in terms of birth date.)
22. The player who could care less did care enough to protest being stuck with pieces of "the hated color of the despised Bourbon tyrants".
23. They used the 1971 Rulebook with no changes.

NOW: Who wrote with a pen (name and country)?

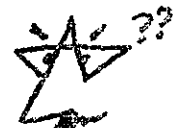
Who had green pieces (name and country)?

The answers will be published nextish.

HOWCOMEMYLINEARSEPARATORSSEEMTOCOMESOCLOSETOTHEVERYBOTTOMOFTHEPAGEIWONDER

#### A SHORT NOTE ON GAME LENGTH

Len Lakofka sends along a very interesting graph which I am going to reproduce on the next page. It shows the number of games which end in



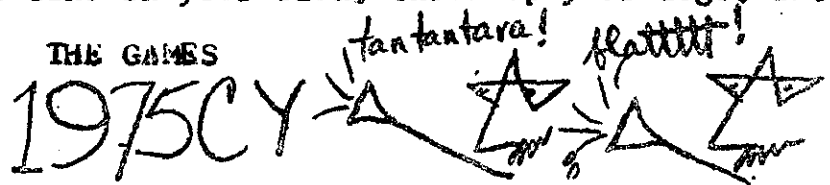
No. Games	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70
Game-Year														
04														
05														
06														
07														
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24														

wins draws

each game-year, broken down by wins and draws. It takes into account 452 games, of which 352 are wins (of these, two games ending in 1926 and 1928 have been left off). Len notes that the average game is won in 13.09 game-years; the median, in 10. I have long based my calculations for game costs and such things on an assumed average length of 11 game-years...not too far off...and will now have to revise same.

**MYTHATISTHESLOPPIESTCOLORINGJOBIVEEVERSEENBUTTHENIFLUNKEDKINDERGARTEN**

"Look, honey," said the Good Fairy of Postal Diplomacy to the hunky Marine, "it's real easy. You just like on your back, throw up your legs, and you get



**RUSSIA MOVES DECIEVIVELY WEST BUT FLUBS IN THE SOUTH. FRENCH MARINES LAND ON THE SCOTTISH COAST. WHERE'S ITALY??**

Spring 1903: I have no more s/b players for this one, so I'll hope that Brad Payne just slipped up.... Anyway, that French F Eng was F Bre.

AUSTRIA (Watson): F Tri-Adr, A Ser /h/, A Bud-Tri, A Vie-Irl, A Bul-Con, F Gre-Aeg.

ENGLAND (Lakofka): F Lpl-Nat, F Eng-Iri, F Ska-Nwy, F Nth S GERMAN, A Hol-Bel /nso/.

FRANCE (Schliekerbernd): F Bre-Eng, A Bel S GERMAN A Hol, A Pic S A Bel, A Gas-Cly C by F Mid & F Nat.

GERMANY (Leeder): A Ruh-Kie S by A Mun, A Hol H, F Den-Bal.

ITALY (Payne)(?): F Rom, F Nap, A Tun, A Tri /h/, NMR.

RUSSIA (Ulanov): A Sev-Arm, A War-Sil S by A Ber, A Rum /h/, A Ukr-War, F Swe-Nwy S by A StP, F Ank S A Bul-Con (no RUS A Bul...see HR 7c).

TURKEY (Gemignani): A Con-Bul S by F Aeg.

FALL 1903 ORDERS are due on Friday, 3 Sept. ~~August~~ 1976.

**BOULOGNE:** The mansion wasn't what you'd call gloomy. Not exactly. No one might have said that a Lovecraftian miasma of eldritch terror hovered over it like an evil fog. That would be going too far.

What the old building did have was an air of discretion, like a lady who keeps her secrets. A lady of "a certain age", mind you, well-kept but showing the inevitable traces of the tap-dance which time's stiletto heels had performed upon her; a lady reticent, proper, but hinting of a past un-cloistered, unhampered by the rectitude now clutched about her like a fading shawl.

That was the mansion, like a lady. Its inhabitants, also ladies, contrasted. All were young; some were beautiful; some were elegant; all showed too plainly the ravages of the temporal terpsichorea only hinted at in their opulent setting. And the dance went on.

Yes, the dance went on, choreographed by a gentleman whose tight control of the measures was barely noticed by the public, to whom he was known mainly for his ability to profane in mingled Micmac and Montréalais; a gentleman who, unbeknownst to them, pined for the loss of something he never had, and kept in his boathouse a 25-foot birchbark canoe.

The dance went on. The ladies at first were partnered by the young bucks of Boulogne; then its more sedate, dignified, wealthy, and jaded older citizens; then, as fame spread, the connoisseurs of Paris and further afield. All came to explore the secrets of the ladies within; none plunged into the veiled depths of the mansion herself.

Then came two, from off the Paris-Boulogne express, but in reality from a distance unmeasurable in leagues, or years. Two came.

**BARAD CREST:** Well, with all those ladies and everything, I should hope so!

**BERLIN:** Below, in the square before the Reichstag, torches burned, shouts echoed; thousands of people milled about, gazing skyward. Above, in the hovering Heisenberg, cremen, Captain, advisers, and Lone Junker peered over the rail in trepidation, straining to fathom the mood and meaning of the crowd. At this tense moment, paper bags were poised for dropping (Capt. Boyle had instituted a unique method of conserving ammunition and recycling human waste). The feelings of uncertainty were intensified by the ominous sight of a huge scaffold reared above the murmuring multitude.

Suddenly, a figure appeared at the top of the scaffold, a figure clearly discernable, even at that distance, as wearing a blindfold in addition to the uniform of a German Chief of Staff. The crowd hushed. The figure plummeted, jerked to a halt, swung lazily as a cheer was wrenched from thousands of throats. A huge banner unfurled.

It read, "WELCOME LONE JUNKER".

THATWASALLBYJOHNLEEDERWHOSPLENDIDLITTLEZINERUNESTONEYOUSHOULDONLYSUBSCRIBE

 1976BR RRRRRR 

RUSSIA OUTGUESSES AUSTRIANS AND TURKS AS EYTES TARANTELLA INTO TRIESTE. MEANWHILE, PARIS IS BURNING AND ENGLAND PRESERVES BELGIAN NEUTRALITY BY...

Fall 1901: Um, seeing as how I don't have a s/b player for this game, we will all hope Bob Keathley is still with us. Well, I know he is, actually, but he forgets sometimes. So....

AUSTRIA (Lakofka): F Alb-Gre, A Ser-Rum, A Gal-Ukr. Owns: Bud, III, Vie, Gre, Ser (4). Build 1.

ENGLAND (Happel): F Nwg-Nwy, F Nth-Bel, A Yot H. Owns: Edi, Lgl, Lon, Bel, Nwy (5). Build 2.  
 FRANCE (Keathley?) (by GOs): F Mid-Por, A Gas-Mar, A Spa-Mar. Owns: Bre, Mar, ~~Par~~, Por, Spa (4). Build 1.  
 GERMANY (Baillie): A Bur-Par, F Hol H, A Kie-Den. Owns: Ber, Kie, Wan, Den, Hol, Par (6). Build 3.  
 ITALY (Winter): A Pie-Tri, A Ven-Tri, F Tyn-Tup. Owns: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tri, Tup (5). Build 2.  
 RUSSIA (Johnson): F Bot-Swe, F Rum-Bla, A Sev H, A Ukr-War. Owns: Mos, StP, Sev, War, Rum, Swe (6). Build 2.  
 TURKEY (Wan): A Bul-Rum, A Arm-Sev S by F Bla. Owns: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul (4). Build 1.

Winter 1901 adjustments are due on Friday, ~~7~~ <sup>3</sup> ~~August~~ <sup>Sept</sup> 1976

LONDON:

~~WINTER~~  
 THE ADVENTURE OF THE NERVOUS CLIENT  
 Part I

Of all the cases in which I have been privileged to assist (if I may flatter myself) the famous detective Sherlock Holmes, the one I am about to relate was without a doubt the most perplexing at the start, and yet at its conclusion, the most childishly simple. Although our hours of business usually ended just before tea, this case had its beginning at eight-thirty in the evening on the second of March last year. Holmes and I were in the parlor, he indulging in a 2% solution of cocaine while I played my violin. There was a knocking at our door.

"Would you be so good as to answer that, Watson?" Holmes said, covering his eyes with his long hand. "I'm afraid I haven't the energy."

I did answer the door, and there before me stood the lady who will be of primary significance in this singular tale. So diminutive was she that at first I mistook her for a girl of fifteen, but when the mature depth of her eyes and her experienced stature had made their impressions, I realized that she must actually be in her middle twenties. Her eyes, indeed, were a remarkably sheer grey. It was an extreme feat of will with which I disengaged my stare from them, only to find myself again transfixed by the moist expectancy of her lips.

"Come in," I said at last, taking her overcoat and observing that she wore nothing beneath it. I thought it rather peculiar that she had worn an overcoat in particular, since the elements had been unseasonably docile the entire week. Holmes had apparently noticed this irregularity also, as his drugged eyes had grown to cantaloupe proportions.

"Sit down, Miss..." probed Holmes demurely, recovering his poise.

Our visitor chose a plush, high-backed chair and gripped both of the arms. "M-Missy," she shivered with a voice amazingly even smaller than herself. Holmes resumed the interview.

"Miss Missy? What an odd name!"

"N-not Miss Missy! Just Missy."

"Ma. But you are not married."

The young lady was carefully indignant. "I m-might have removed my wedding band before c-coming here."

"Nonsense," quipped the hawk-eyed detective. "Either you are unmarried or your husband is a very frustrated man."

"Oh," Missy blushed, folding her hands upon her lap.

FOR THE EXCITING CONCLUSION [it says here], BE SURE TO READ THE NEXT ISSUE OF EREHWON!

St. Peter's (4 July 1901): Commenting on the slowness with which the Italian government entered into relations with the other great powers at the beginning of this recent European crisis, and particularly to reports that he was dissatisfied with Comando Supremo mobilization of Italy's armed forces, Pope Phrederick II today commented: "While it is usually true that if you ask a busy person to do something, you'll have the answer on your desk tomorrow, while a person who has time on his hands won't get it done for a week, and then only if you've reminded him several times; it is also true that this statement has no relevance to the Italian government, because it is busy, all right, it also does not believe in general truisms, and does its best to keep everyone guessing."

**IGUESSWEAREDONEWITHTHEGAMESFORTHISISSUEWHICHLAVESMEWITHNOWHERETOGOEXCEPT  
THE STATUS OF THE OTHER NEW GAME  
Plus Some Editorial Comment...**

It would appear that I have 5 people registered for the other new game, with game-fees (but not necessarily preference lists) in. That is all well and good, except that the game is moving much more slowly than I had anticipated.

The problem is this: I am becoming really strapped for time. I have just resigned from all the games (and they weren't many) I was playing in. I have also indicated to a couple of people that I might quit publishing, either in whole or in part.

I was really down at that time, and things are looking up. I just feel that I have got to keep my commitments to a minimum. I may make some changes in how I run things. The one extra game in EREHWON will not change the situation at all, so I am going ahead with it, despite my original intention just to cancel out and refund game fees.

As an alternative measure, I will probably have to curtail severely my trade agreements and send trade copies by 3rd class mail. The chances are also pretty good that, although the games will continue with my usual deadlines, EREHWON itself will appear irregularly. A lot depends on my time. I have a lot of writing that needs to be done, including a screenplay, possibly two, plus working 15 hours a day, so what I can get squeezed in, I'll squeeze.

Another problem may be money, if the County manages to cut my salary by 10% as is presently being contemplated. We are having collective bargaining problems here, and the employees are, as usual, in the middle.

So, bear with me and we will do our best on this end. In any event, I promise that the games will proceed more or less on schedule. If it becomes necessary for me to quit GMing, I guarantee to find good homes for the games and to compensate fully the new GM. There is going to be no disappearing act.

VE

**I WILL ALSO PUBLISH MORE OFTEN THAN CHRIS SCHLEICHER WHO SET TWICE A YEAR ROUTINE LIST DAPP**

**THE GAMES AGAIN**

On 4 July 1976, EREHWON 97A was published and sent to the players, the Hobby Archivist, and the Boardman Number Custodian. It contained results from the two games. I will repeat those here for the record.

**1976BR**

**Spring 1901.** Fred Winter is now at P.O. Box 604, Madison WI 53701. Doug Happel is at 9113 Cox Ct., #5, Louisville KY 40222.

**AUSTRIA (Lakofka):** F Tri-Alb, A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Gal.

**ENGLAND (Happel):** F Edi-Nrg, F Lon Nth, A Lpl-Yor.

**FRANCE (Keathley):** F Bre-Mid, A Par-Gas, A Mar-Spa.

GERMANY (Baillie): A Man-Bur, F Kie-dol, A Ber-Kie.  
 ITALY (Winter): A Ven-Pie, A Rom-Ven, F Nap-Tyn.  
 RUSSIA (Johnson): F StP(sc)-Bot, F Sev'Irum, A Mos-Sev, A War-Ukr.  
 TURKEY (Wan): A Con-Bul, A Smy-Arm, F Ank-Bla.

1975CY

Winter 1902: AUSTRIA: Build F Tri. ENGLAND: Build F Lpl.  
 FRANCE: No change. GERMANY: No change. ITALY: Build F Rom.  
 RUSSIA: Build A Sev, A StP. TURKEY: Disband F Ion.

WELLITWASJUSTFORTHERECORDWECANTHAVESCINTILLATINGORIGINALITYEVERYPAGEYOUKNOW

HELP!!

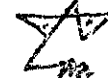
HELP!! is right. I need stand-by players very badly. I need them for 1975CY and 1976BR in this zine, as well as the new game which is just forming.

I also need s/b players in THE DIPLOMAT, both for the regular game and for the variant, "2001". There are, or are going to be, some immediate openings in "2001", in two rather good positions. The rules/maps for "2001" are \$1, but that is reapplied to to your subscription if you become a player.

For non-players, T.D.subs at \$1 for 10, sent 2 or more, 3rd class. For players it is 20¢ a season for one game, 25¢ a season if you're in both games.

Help!???

help!! 

 please?

WEHAVEAPAGEANDAHALFLEFTSOWHATWILLWEDOWEWILLLEAFTHROUGHCORRESPONDENCEANDAHA!

GIVING ROBERT THE SACK

DipCon IX is over and already the aftershocks are filtering in. The biggie of the season is a letter from Fred Davis to IDA Pres. Len Lakofka, dated 28 July. Those of you who know Fred will also know that he is one of the cooler heads in the hobby, and disinclined to get overly upset about much.

I suppose that it is no secret that many of the major names in the variant side of the hobby have been unhappy in varying degrees with the antics of the present Miller Number Custodian, Robert Sacks. Sacks combines a singular lack of common sense with a taste for Rube Goldberg administrative mechanisms and a flair for paranoia unseen in the hobby since Charlie Reinsel took his marbles home. Those whom I have heard or seen express some degree of antipathy with Sacks include Fred Davis, Dick Vedder, Lew Pulsipher, and Walter Luc Haas. I'm sure the list could be extended without difficulty.

The upshot of Fred's 28 July letter is that he no longer accepts Sacks as Miller Number Custodian because "it is my considered opinion that [he] is neither mentally nor morally qualified to serve" in that capacity. Fred is hoping to find some method of removing Sacks and finding a replacement. (Fred is not, incidentally, in the least interested in the position, and I hope it is unnecessary for me to add that I'm not, either.)

I wish I knew what to do. It is clear that Sacks is not the boy for the job, but on the other hand, there is no removal procedure because it has always been felt that the MNC, like the BNC, should be insulated from the vagaries of hobby politics, feuds, personality conflicts, and so on. It is hard to know what to do when the MNC turns out to be one of the most politically oriented, feud-happy, and obnoxious personalities in the hobby.

The basic problem is that if we get ourselves a new MNC, this time one with mental stability, and Sacks persists, many games will get two Miller Numbers, and I doubt the resultant confusion will be very salutary.



There is a possible solution (short of Sacks actually being sensible and resigning). The MNC has two functions, and two functions only: one is to assign Miller Numbers to new variant postal games. The other is to keep, prepare, and publish records of such games when they are completed or otherwise terminated. All other functions performed by Robert Sacks are not part of the office of MNC.

It should be fairly simple to get a new Chairman for the DVC or to replace that cumbersome debating society with something else (as Jeremy Maiden apparently proposes to do). It should also be fairly simple to get others to take over other non-MNC functions, leaving Sacks with the basic clerical function...and that's all the MNC is...for as long as he wants it.

Of course we have to face up to the fact that he will fuck up that part of the job, too. He assigned Millers to a bunch of 2-man games, for instance. At the time I felt that was nothing more than a cheap shot to screw as much money out of the IDA as possible. I still feel that.

In addition, he has recently announced a policy which apparently means he intends to assign Miller Numbers to any regular game which strikes his fancy. The hobby can do without negativistic whimsy of that sort.

In fine, it would appear that the hobby would be better off with a new MNC altogether. But barring that, Sacks can do the least damage to the hobby by being restricted to the purely bookkeeping functions of the MNC. It is possible that without the big bag of toys he has made for himself, he will get out of the manger voluntarily.

Certainly a little public pressure won't hurt. If Fred Davis (or anyone else) wants to circulate a potition for Sacks to do something constructive (like resign as MNC) for a change, I'll be glad to help.

[Side note: At DipCon IX, Len Lakofka refused to allow Sacks to use the IDA General Meeting to air his various personal feuds with half the postal hobby. When the meeting was adjourned, Sacks issued a preëmpatory call for a DVC meeting, presumably because as Chairman he could then give vent to his private tantrums ad libidum.

[Fred Davis refused to go. "But how can you do that when you've just been appointed Vice-Chairman?" asked Ray Heuer when Fred told him he was resigning from DVC. Fred replied that "Sacks could go and stick his head in a bucket of wet cement." I second the motion.]

ARENTEFEUDSWONDERFULDIVINEFANTASTICTHRILLINGICKYPOOHYSTERICALBOOPBOOPDEBOOP

DON'T FORGET

DINKICON III, Sunday, 22 August 1976, at Holmby Park in Los Angeles. I plan to be there. I understand that people will be down from as far away as Seattle. There will hopefully be a Master's Game, the traditional feast of hot dogs and potato salad, Eric Verheiden and his strings, Tweedleschlickbernd and Tweedlelagerson, the Fangmaster and his teeth, and all the other traditional accoutrements we have come to know and vomit at the very thought of.

It'll be fun.

If details are not available from Don Horton, 16 Jordan Ct., Sacramento CA 95826, I'm a yellow-breasted tom tit.

Tit-willow....

LOOKITSALMOSTTHEENDOFTHELASTPAGEANDIONLYNEEDACUPLEINCHESFILLERMAYBEICOULD DOITALLINLINEARSEPARATORSANDDRIVEYOUALLUPATREENOTHATWONTWORKLETSJUSTSIGNOFF

thirty



## HOLD THE PRESS!

I have just received an open letter signed by Lew Pulsipher, John Boyer, Doug Beyerlein, Edi Birsan, Walt Buchanan, John Baker, Marie Beyerlein, Cal White, Len Lakofka, Brad Hessel, Mike Rocamora: all of them leading lights of the hobby, plus a few lesser personalities. It is attached to a new IDA Charter which is a vast improvement over the old one.

In essence, this new Charter embodies the suggestion I made in the latest DIPLOMACY WORLD: namely, that there be a very small elective body to oversee and coordinate hobby activities, while hobby services be provided by a set of relatively autonomous bodies and individuals. (The only one who needs real supervision is the current Miller Number Custodian, and he needs a keeper.)

The new Charter has only five officers: President, Treasurer, Ombudsman, Editor, and Special Projects Editor. Marvelous! Maybe now the IDA Council can stop being a debating society and spend its time on useful work! This will be IDA/NA, part of a federation of 2 or more regional groups coordinating postal Diplomacy over the globe.

I could not be more in favor of this change. I hope all IDA members will vote in favor of it. As John Baker points out in IMPASSABLE 68, the IDA is the only organization in the hobby working for the hobby's benefit and not for its own special interests. We need a healthy, streamlined IDA to continue the job. This revision is so necessary, so obvious, that even Robert Sacks (who generally hates good ideas on principle) signed the open letter urging its acceptance. [This came as a surprise to me, since he went to the DipCon with an incredibly dopey proposal for a change which would include more officers, a "bicameral legislature" yet, and God knows what other useless folderol.]

If you are not a member of IDA, it is more sensible now than ever to join. Send \$2 to Len Lakofka, 644 W. Briar Pl., Chicago IL 60657. If you are already a member, let me join Len, Walt Buchanan, John Boyer, Doug Beyerlein, Cal White, and, yes, even Bob Lipton and Bob Sacks, in urging you to vote for the new IDA Charter.

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