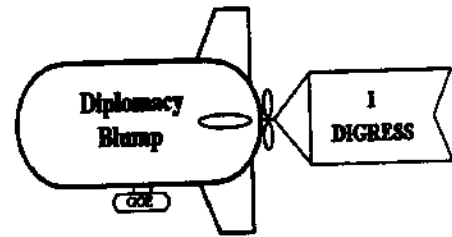


BRIDGE ISSUE



Scott Morris 12110 Shelbyville Rd, Louisville Ky. 40243. Email Scottm221@aol.com. The Zine that always tries to do the right thing, after it's tried everything else. \$1.50 domestic, \$2.00 over the pond per issue. My home number (502) 893-8260.

JUNE 30TH, 2000

OK Look we have a tight turn around this issue. So read this sucker and get your orders in! The reason? Is Scott motivated to be the super publisher? Naw, I just want to show the zine off at WDC and take a bunch of extra issues. This means a few things. If you NMR you NMR in front of the world. Secondly, if you send in an article or a witticism you become way cool.

FOUR SPOTS OPEN FOR A REGULAR DIP GAME, FOUR SPOTS OPEN FOR JUNTA – as Stan Lee used to say, NUFF SAID. – SUPER BONUS ROUND FOR BRAIN DRAIN AND BPD. Free issue for this issue winner.

This is the "Bridge" Issue because lots of changes are taking place. I have fired my printer. In other words my bullshit Lexmark 5700 blew up and cost me a few precious days of deadline time. It always happens when your under the gun doesn't it? It never would have blown up while printing Aunt Sally's crappy emails for my mother. HELL NO! It happens while I am getting out another blasting, Mega issue of TFES. The zine that cares.

Please read the Plug section. Edi sent in WDC news and Jamie McQuinn is hosting his house zine. I will attend both and you better support me into Serbia. PUNK! Rubicon Rocks. Jamie is a great host and he hardly ever repossess your bed sheets at 3 am. - **IN THIS ISSUE**

Page 3 2000 Olympics
Page 4 Mailbag
Page 13 Subber Spotlight – Eric Grinnell
Page 20 Scott Speak
Page 21 PLUGS – WDC and Rubicon games
Page 23 Chris Surprenant
Page 28 I Digress

CHECK OUT PAGE 9 HOBBY AWARDS BALLOT. TFES SUBBERS

Eric Grinnell, Edi Birsan, Mark Fassio, and Sara (FAKE NAME) Reichert (see mail bag)

Eric was nominated for his article in this here zine. Right in your hands as I type.
AND THIS IS THE OFFICAL WELCOME OF SUPPER DIPPERS Edi and Colin to TFES.

WINNERS ISSUE #18

Brain Drain – Goz – 7 Points

By Popular Demand – Goz – 58 Points – sheesh someone stop the man!!

I digress quiz – Your ever lovin Editor with 8. Goz this whole thing stinks of FLX! :)



GAME LISTINGS

If any game is listed under Warren Goesle as an "I Digress" production please send answers to him. All addresses in the back! 1900 goes to Baron Powell.

REGULAR DIPLOMACY – NEED Four – To be named later. (B. Slosser, D. Williams, P. Reynolds)

JUNTA – NEED Four – humorous name to be given later. Must have email access. (W. Narhi, M. Kinny, P. Reynolds)

WARLOCK DIPLOMACY – Page 24 – "Smoke and Mirrors" **FULL** – DEADLINE JULY 30th

BRAIN DRAIN – PAGE 12 – ENTER ANYTIME, LATE COMERS TAKE OVER THE CURRENT LOWEST SCORE. DEADLINE JULY 30TH

BY POPULAR DEMAND – PAGE 26 – ENTER ANYTIME, LATE COMERS TAKE OVER THE CURRENT LOWEST SCORE. DEADLINE JULY 30TH

COLONIAL DIPLOMACY – PAGE 10 – "Red Light District" **FULL** – DEADLINE JULY 30TH

2000 TFES OLYMPICS – PAGE 3 – Go for the gold. DEADLINE JULY 30TH

REGULAR DIPLOMACY – PAGE 31 – "Ambrosia" **FULL** – DEADLINE JULY 30TH– Contact Warren Goesle GM – "I Digress" production.

GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY – PAGE 34 – "Nasty Stuff" **FULL** – DEADLINE JULY 30TH– Contact Warren Goesle GM – "I Digress" production.

REGULAR DIPLOMACY – PAGE 35 – "Blood Sweat & Tears" **FULL** – DEADLINE JULY 30TH– Contact Warren Goesle GM – "I Digress" production.

SEA OF DESPAIR & BREAKING AWAY– PAGE 37 – Contact Warren Goesle – "I Digress" production. DEADLINE JULY 30TH

MIGRAINE DIPLOMACY – PAGE 32 – **FULL**– DEADLINE JULY 30TH– Contact Warren Goesle GM. – "I Digress" production.

1900 Variant DIPLOMACY – PAGE 17 – **FULL** – Contact Baron Powell a "1900" production DEADLINE JULY 30TH

2000 TFES Olympics

This year we are going to have the TFES Olympics. Every issue we will have a contest that awards points. One point for sending one in, 3 additional points to first, 2 to second, 1 to third.

PRIZE – 20 Reliquary points and the CD from the motion picture soundtrack, "Ever After" starring Drew Barrymore. Now, I don't want to scare people away from playing in this game, but it has to get out of the house! Think of it as a mercy kill.

ROUND FIVE TELL ME THE NAMES OF THESE SPOTS ON THE DIP BOARD.
The clues will lead to loose approximations of the actual names.

- #1 – Criminal + ____ Kellett + gem
- #2 – Food + Swim
- #3 – Conflict + Cut
- #4 – Equal + Reading Room
- #5 – Steals a base + Donkey + Lech Walensa
- #6 – Urine + ____ Carlisle
- #7 – A Drink + Dear God This is ____
- #8 – Inject + relaxing sound
- #9 – 36DDD
- #10 – unpleasant place + Chinese game + soil + lots of watts
- #11 – Goofy + simple
- #12 – Hey + Obnoxious person + Sauce
- #13 – Heart beating + Position + Scared sound
- #14 – Enlightenment + Fly
- #15 – Gross + rail conveyance
- #16 – Elder + and + eyes
- #17 – Attempt + Aged + vowels
- #18 – Gas + tasty



ROUND FOUR – POST CARDS

Goz sent in a picture of a cow with the caption "Enjoying the "Dairy Air" in Wisconsin.
Kevin sent in a picture of a giant spider attacking an elf. He wrote on the back "a non tacky post card except you're an arachnaphobic. Hey good enough for second!
Barno gets one point for his attempt at glory with his "Cyber post card" It got you in the door big guy!!

SCORING

- 1 – Warren Goesle
- 2 – John Wilman
- 3 – Ward Narhi
- 4 – Mike Barno
- 5 – Chris Suprenant
- 6 – Tom Howell
- 6 – Brenden Whyte
- 6 – Mike McGinnis
- 6 – Dave Partridge
- 10 – Eric Grinnell
- 10 – Steve Koehler

- 12 points (Round one 3rd, Round two 1st, Round three 1st, Round four 1st)
- 8 points (Round one 1st, Round three 1pt, Round four 2nd)
- 7 points (Round one 2nd, Round two 3rd, Round three 1st)
- 7 points (Round one 1pt, Round two 2nd, Round three 1st, Round four 1 pt)
- 4 points (Round one 1pt, Round two 1pt, Round three 1st)
- 2 points (Round one 3rd)
- 2 points (Round one 1pt, Round two 1pt)
- 2 points (Round one 1pt, Round two 1pt)
- 2 points (Round three 1st)
- 1 point (Round two 1pt)
- 1 point (Round two 1pt)

MAIL BAG



A CALL FOR ARTICLES -

Ok people I want some Diplomacy stuff written for next issue. I am taking 40 extra issues to WDC to pass around. You want glory? COME AND GET IT. Don't sit at home and whine that you are a misunderstood genius. Put it down on paper. If that is too much, I at least want a few snide remarks. Narhi? O'kelly? Boyum? DO YOUR WORST!!

>Paul Hardy> Here's a quote for you all to ponder. Think of the implications if it's true (which does seem to be the case).

"The intelligence of the planet is constant, and the population is growing" Arthur C. Clarke

>Scott> Especially in this presidential election year I feel the truth of these words. And now that you mention it ever since I had that second kid, I do feel stoopider.

>Jim O'Kelley> Scott:

Just got issue 18 and of course was pleased to read the fabulous subber spotlight.

You mentioned that my answers would anger your readers. I hope I don't generate too much hate mail. After all, I figure I only offended:

- * Car Drivers.
- * Suburbanites.
- * Anyone associated with the Moose.
- * Longtime hobby greats (by calling Don Williams one).
- * And Harold Zarr.

Could have been much worse. So, as I mentioned in my witty, insightful prose, I'm in the market for a car. Can you give me a good deal?

>Scott> Duuuuuuuude. Yes I have gotten TONS, bags full of, or hardly any response at all on the last Subber spotlight. I for one, enjoyed it thoroughly and I commend you sir! Also I did not know you were a member of the "I kicked Harold Zarr out of a game club" I will have to give you the secret hand shake next time I see you.

You have not gotten back to me regarding the car. <sniff> I bet you bought elsewhere. :)

MAIL BAG CONT.

The one center stab !



Dear Stupid People of the Flat Earth Society:

I suppose you ignorant fools still think that the Earth is also the center of creation and the universe revolves around it!!! Let me ask you something!!! What about the moon and the planets, the sun and the stars? Do you think they are flat? I think you stupid idiots have been brainwashed by some ignoramus living in the olden times!!! I will do whatever I can to put an end to your society, because I don't want to live in a world were people are driven by your beliefs so that we all go back to the dark ages!!! I don't want to live in a world were people are cast away for not being

Christian!!! I don't want to live in a world were people are killed for telling the truth about the universe!!! Plus, I will show all of it's brainwashed members the light and they will know the Earth in spherical!!! Heed my word because I will do my best to pull you away from your dark aged society!!!

From the Smart Kid
Steven Bensics

>Stan Kellet responds to Steven>

Dear Steven,
have you read the zine? It is just a diplomacy zine for people to play the game of diplomacy. The title is just what the creator Scott Morris has given it.

Have you ever played diplomacy?

>Goz responds to Steven>

Mr. Bensics,

"The Flat Earth Society" is the name of a hobby magazine dedicated to multi-player games, most often the game of Diplomacy (copyrighted by Hasbro). Most multi-player games are played on a board, and in the case of Diplomacy that board contains a map of Europe. We find it useful to have that board; our world if you will, flat to keep the pieces from sliding off.

Should you develop a globe large enough to hold the pieces, and come up with a way to keep the pieces from falling off, I'm sure that the Diplomacy world will beat a path to your door and purchase your version.

Until then I suggest that you put your head, with its' narrow little mind, back up your ass from whence it came, and don't bother us any more.

Warren Goesle
Publisher of "I Digress", a subzine to "The Flat Earth Society"

>Scott responds to Steven>

Flat Brothers Goz and Stan please press your nose to the rod of flatness to purge your soul for trying to hide our group. SHAME on you for tingeing our beliefs with that "Diplomacy Game" red herring. I think

MAIL BAG CONT.

it's time we tried to help the infidels.

WE MUST COME OUT!

<<> Dear Stupid People of the Flat Earth Society:

I can't argue with you there. Your off to a good start.

> I suppose you ignorant fools still think that the Earth is also the center of creation and the universe revolves around it!!!

DOH! you were on a roll and **RUINED IT.** Well **DUH!** of course the Earth is the center of creation. The "Sun" and "Stars" as you call them have been proven to be a black shroud that the Russian President Putin put pin pricks in to make it appear that things are sparkling at us. The sun is just a bigger hole. **SHEESH.** It's all a communist plot. The plot began with the process of "floridization" of our drinking water. The communist wished to compromise our precious bodily fluids, thus making us deny our "essence" to super models.

And don't get me starting by saying Russia is not longer communist. We've all been down that road, he Comrade Stalin??

What about the moon and the planets, the sun and the stars? Do you think they are flat? I think you stupid idiots have been brainwashed by some ignoramus living in the olden times!!!

Actually it's all Goz's fault. we were sitting around in our cave and he finished his beer and grunted the world **FLAT**, and a uproar ensued and after much debate, we did come to the factual conclusion that not only is the Earth Flat, but people are as well. Three dimensions are just an illusion that will be discussed in the next newsletter.

I will do whatever I can to put an end to your society, because I don't want to live in a world were people are driven by your beliefs so that we all go back to the dark ages!!!

I like a man with a mission! Shall I put you on the mailing list? Total destruction of our zine is a fine way to spend your life. Just let us know if you need any help. If we nod off a gentle prod will be sufficient to renew our interest.

I don't want to live in a world were people are cast away for not being Christian!!!

UGH, you mean your aren't Christian? **MY LORD!** I need to check with elders to see if It's ok to even be talking with you.

I don't want to live in a world were people are killed for telling the truth about the universe!!!

We would never kill you for saying the world is flat, **HOWEVER** if you continue with these viscous lies about curves, well buddy, we may just have to give you a noogie, **AND WE MEAN IT!**

Plus, I will show all of it's brainwashed members the light they will know the Earth in spherical!!!! Heed my word because I will do my best to pull you away from your dark aged society!!!

HERETIC! YOU ARE WITH THE TRIANGLES, I can smell out the likes of you. A pox on thee non-Christian rounder!

Steven as a quick fun game to increase your intelligence please go look up the words
sarcasm - You'll need this as you grow older. Fun at parties too.

sardonic - these two are really close in the dictionary so it will be easy.

title - The thingy people put on the top of publications

literature - obviously we are using this term loosely

Regards,

Grand Flat Earth Poomba,

Defender of two dimensions,

Slayer of non-Christians,

Scott

MAIL BAG CONT.

GET ON THE BUS GUIDO!



>John Wilman>

Someone else will have to win the Olympics this time. I have some REALLY tacky postcards somewhere but I can't find them. When I do, you'll get one. Instead I will send you one that won't get me arrested (just in case no-one else enters).

>Scott> Received the post card. It was good enough for second. I love the old Steven Wright joke. "My friend sent me a post card with a picture of the Earth on it. It said, "Wish you were here."

>Mike Barnes>

Let's see...Still looking for a tacky enough postcard to earn at least one Olympic point. If I were still visiting Jackson Hole and West Yellowstone, this would be easy. Issue 18 p. 1: "The Cerebral Zine"?? I would be more inclined to say "Cerebellal" or even "Medulla Oblongata" zine. Raw, reptilian brain-stem roots-rock like "GET BACK GUIDO!" Stuff like this developed long before opposable thumbs or the wheel. Oh, I'm about to owe you a sub fee. Will send by snailmail.

>Scott> Ok your probably right, but this zine is trying to aspire to more than it is. Just because TFES is wallowing in the dirt, in it's own filth, fat, drunk, and stupid. DOES NOT mean that we can't keep our feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars!

And thank you for your continued support.

Sara Reichert exposed

Dear GM:

About half an hour ago, I was honored by a personal visit from Jim Burgess and Don Williams. As a result of that visit, I need to change my name and sex. In the future, please send THE FLAT EARTH SOCIETY (with I DIGRESS) to Harry Andruschak at 20805 Margaret Street, Carson, CA 90745-1224. Yes, Sara was a hoax. Sorry about that, but it is all Kathy Caruso's fault. Feel free to call me if you want the sordid details.

>Scott> Ok fair enough. I think the zine deserves an explanation though.

Below is what I wrote for Jim Burgess, who blew the hoax. Jim searched the internet to find out that Sara did NOT have a social security number. And Don Williams used his position in the Santa Clarita government to find out that Sara did NOT have a drivers liscence.

IT'S ALL KATHY CARUSO'S FAULT, BLAME HER!

So there I was in 1994, barely alive. Now I know most people do not like to read or hear the sordid details of somebody else's health problems, so let me just say that had I belonged to an HMO, I'd probably be dead now. Blue Cross/Blue Shield to the rescue, but, by the time I was well enough to write again, I had NMRed all my games and had a lot of subscriptions to Diplomacy zines had run out.

"For Idle Minds and Idle Hands, The Devil Finds a Work To Do". Such as re-reading the beginner's pamphlet MASTERS OF DECEIT and re-reading Kathy Caruso's article titled "Diplomacy—A Man's Hobby". Go re-read

MAIL BAG CONT.

it yourself now before continuing with this article. PLEASE remember that all this was six years ago, and my mind was fogged with drugs, so I am not sure just what my mental processes were at that time. At first I found it hard to believe Kathy's basic premise of how gullible males can be around women players. Being of a scientific nature, somewhere in all this I wondered about an experiment. And so was born Sara Reichert.

Most people knew of my PO BOX address. Few knew that I actually lived at 20805 Margaret, renting a room from a lady with the very real name of Patricia Reichert. So my landlady suddenly had a new daughter, age 16. And things ran away from me. Boy, did they run away.

For example, here is what Kathy had to say about starting out: "As a female novice you can use the 'dumb broad' routine by playing helpless and stupid. You can write and ask some 'macho' man if he can help you because you are so confused. You'd be surprised how many knights in shining armor play DIPLOMACY." Such as Eric Ozog in Sara's very first game in the zine CHEESECAKE, where she was France, Eric was Germany, and Sara went on to an 18 center win after stabbing her sweetie Eric for Munich and rolling over him to victory.

Now read Kathy's next paragraph, and that is how Sara won her second game. And in the paragraph after that, Kathy has another paragraph about flirting, which explains why Sara's third game was a 2 way A/I draw with her as Austria. After that, the word was out that Sara had brains. No more easy wins or draws. The hoax continued more out of inertia than any real need. Simple as that.

Did I mention that Sara Reichert has her own credit card....Windjammer Barefoot Cruises, Inc. VISA?

Kathy Caruso had it right the first time...men can be taken in by novice female players

Counterpoint:
A Dismal State of Affairs
by Colin Merritt
(catknight@aol.com)

Chris writes that he is frightened by the lack of knowledge possessed by younger generations. He has a right to be, but this leads us to a more broad question: What is the purpose of our educational system?

In my extensive wanderings to find some cohesion in this life, I've looked into many different philosophies and beliefs, seeking how others answered the question of life, the universe and everything (besides 42). During one of these epic quests, I wandered across the Bushido Code, and found some very interesting details.

They weren't bloodthirsty murderers, these samurai. They loved justice and honor, courage and loyalty and even compassion. There was a time for perfection, there was a time for action, and you never let your lord, family or friends down.

They learned that in school. Their school systems dealt with the physical because - well - they were warriors. They dealt with the intellectual to serve the needs of the student's soul, not as an end in and of itself. Thus, a samurai wouldn't have read Homer (if he had access) because he was some poet that lived a long time ago, but because the Iliad is a brilliant example of a siege (useful to have), there are enough heroes to keep a boy's ideals high for years, and Odysseus taught that you never, ever gave up.

In short, they concentrated on the spirit. Our systems don't. This is a serious mistake.

I'm not suggesting, nor would I agree, that religion has a place in school. We have far too many faiths running around in this country, and diversity is one of the hallmarks of our civilization.

However, some virtues transcend religion. The Bushido Code and Chivalric Code follow each other almost down the line, despite being based in two different religions. Judaism, Islam, Amerindian totems and pretty much every other major, responsible system of behavior follow each other once you adjust for culture and time. So do nationalistic ideals. Any responsible, intelligent, reasonably sane society values justice and compassion, the value of honor in dealing with others and fealty to the family, law and nation. They value courage and self reliance, but understand sometimes you have to swallow your pride and call for help. There is a time to 'turn the other cheek' and a time to draw a line in the sand and say no more. Theft is unacceptable, and no one who calls themselves a man (or woman) allows the strong to bully the weak without an argument.

2000 HOBBY AWARDS BALLOT

Don Miller Award (Meritorious Service)

- ☐ Stephen Agar (Diplomatic Archives/Postal Section of the Diplomatic Pouch)
- ☐ Edi Birsan (Starting the Diplomatic Corps web page & organization)
- ☐ Manus Hand (Running the Diplomatic Pouch as Overall Editor)
- ☐ Doug Massey (Designing & Running the JDPR Diplomatic Rating System)
- ☐ Conrad von Metzke (BNC & Publisher of Costaguana)

Red Walker Award (Literature)

- ☐ David Cohen (Diplomacy & the Way of the Warrior, A Book of 5 Rings: The Teachings of Miyamoto Shinman Musashi from The Diplomatic Pouch Fall 1999)
- ☐ Eric Grenoux (A Call to Arms from Flat Earth Society Issue #10)
- ☐ Brent McKee (Canadian Naval History from Making Love In A Canoe)
- ☐ Tom Potocki (Are You Man Enough? The Virtues that Make A True General The Diplomatic Pouch Spring 1999 Movement Issue)
- ☐ Paul Windsor (Geography is Destiny: How the Standard Map Dictates Fortunes & Strategies from The Diplomatic Pouch Fall 1999 Retreat Issue)

John Koning Award (Player Performance)

- ☐ Jamie Dreier
- ☐ Mark Fassio
- ☐ Robert Paquin
- ☐ Sara Reichert
- ☐ Cal White

Fred Hyatt Award (GM Performance)

- ☐ Michael Lowrey (Carolina Command & Commentary)
- ☐ Brent McKee (Making Love in a Canoe)
- ☐ Tim Miller (Email GM)
- ☐ Tim Richardson (Email GM)
- ☐ Conrad von Metzke (Costaguana)

VOTERS!!! - PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME LEGIBLY BELOW

Again, the Committee is soliciting a \$1.00 donation per vote to defray costs of the awards themselves. This is a voluntary donation and does not affect your vote in any way. We plan on continuing to send the winners plaques. The Committee currently consists of myself (Chairperson), Fred Davis (Treasurer), Gary Behnen, Jim Burgess, Paul Kenny, and Robert Lesco. The voting deadline is Sept. 2, 2000. Please send votes, contributions, and comments to: Melinda Holley, 1823 Enslow Blvd., Huntington WV 25701 (Rebel8954@aol.com). Thank you for your participation.

Colonial Diplomacy "Red Light District"

TURKEY (John Willman)

A (Arm) s A (Tab) - Baku ——— CUT
 A (Tab) - Baku ——— BOUNCE, DISLODGED
 A (Bag) - Tab ——— BOUNCE

RUSSIA (Joe Carl)

Egy S RS - Med
 Egy gives permission RE - Med
 RS - Med
 Sud S Egy
 Ang - Arm ——— BOUNCE
 Baku S Per - Tab
 Mos - Amsk ——— STOPS AT PERM
 Ore - Akm ——— FAILS, DISLODGED

CHINA (Stan Kellett)

A sik - kag ——— HOLDS, ordered twice
 A OMS S A AKM - ore
 A akm - ore
 A sem - akm
 A kra - uru
 A sik - tib ——— HOLDS, ordered twice
 A irk S A mac
 A pek S A mac
 F ECS - nan
 A can S F ECS - nan
 A mac S F sha ——— CUT
 F Sha HOLDS ——— UNORDERED
 A Tas HOLDS ——— UNORDERED, DISLODGED

FRANCE (Chris Surprenant)

F Scs - Ton
 A Ton - May
 F Gos - Scs
 F Ls S F For
 F For S Jap F Kyu-ECS
 F Sun - Sul
 F As - Mal
 F Gom - Mad ——— BOUNCE
 A Bok - Tas
 A AFG S A Bok - Tas
 A Per - Tab
 A Kar - Pun
 A Syr - Bag ——— BOUNCE
 F Nan S Jap F YS - Sha ——— CUT, DESTROYED

JAPAN (Phil Reynolds)

F YS-Sha ——— BOUNCE
 F Fus-YS ——— BOUNCE
 A Seo-Mac ——— BOUNCE
 F Par S A Seo-Mac
 A Via S A Seo-Mac
 F OS S A Via
 F Kyo-Soj
 F Kyu-Ecs
 F UP S F Kyu-Ecs

HOLLAND (Warren Goeble)

a Aby - Eri
 a Ara - Mec
 f Mec - RS
 f Aden s f Mec - RS
 f GoA c a Java - Som
 f Ara.S hold
 f WIO c a Java - Som
 a Mad hold
 f SIO c a Java - Som
 a Sum hold
 f JS hold
 a Java - Som
 f MP s f For hold

1900 WINTER & SPRING RESULTS

RULES RECAP

Suez Canal Rule in effect. Permission MUST be granted in a separate order for the Suez to be allowed. No implied permission.

**Trans Siberian R.R. — For Russia only
 Land Bridge between Ota and Sak**

24 Supply Centers to win

Addresses for the players at the end of TFES.

Three red light bulbs to the winner.

France builds A Ton
 Turkey Disbands F PG

Russian A Ore retreats Mos, Bok, OTB
 Chinese A Tas retreats Kir, Kag, OTB
 Turkish A Tab retreats Shi, OTB

SUPPLY CENTERS

Turkey (3)(E) Bag, Tab, Shi,

Britain Out 1896

Russia (7)(E) Mos, Ode, Rum, Con, Ang, Egy, Sudan

China (12)(E) Pek, Can, Sik, Sha, Mac, Mon, Kag,
 Chu, Ass, Kam., Tas, Omsk

France (14)(E) Ton, Coc, Ann, Ban, Ran, May, Ubur, Ben,
 Mal, HK, For, Del, Kar, Per

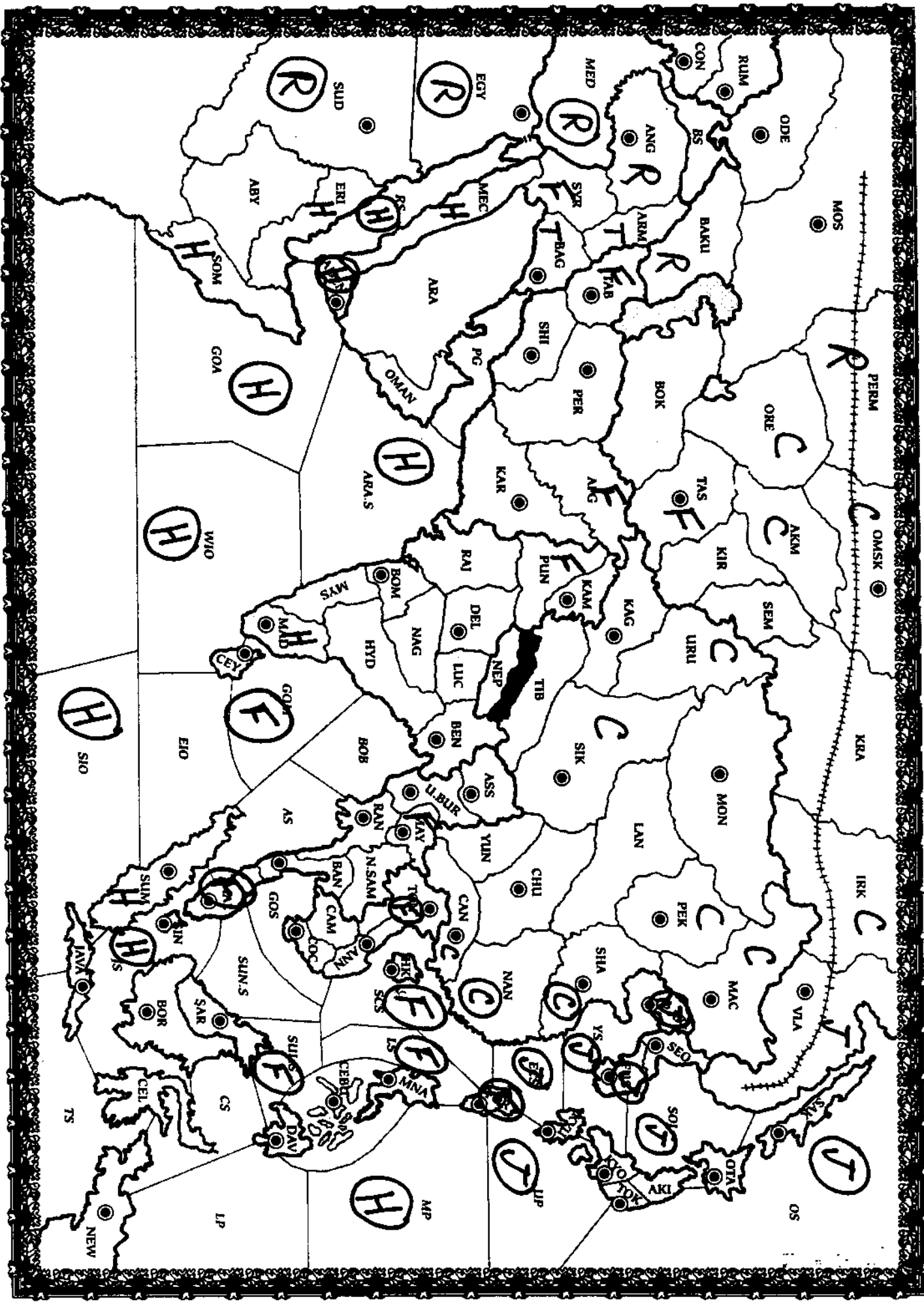
Japan (9)(E) Tok, Kyu, Ota, Kyo, Sak, Seo, Vlad, Fus, P.A.

Holland (13)(E) Bor, Sum, Java, Sar, New, Cebu, Dav, Sin,
 Cey, Mad, Bom, Mna, Aden

**SEND IN 1902 Fall MOVES NEXT ISSUE. MOVES
 CAN BE CONDITIONAL ON RETREATS**

JAPAN TO GM: Damn you! This new guy playing France comes along and keeps me from just sitting around and supporting myself again. What are you trying to do to me, Scott, turn me into a winner?
 >gm> I know neoooothink.

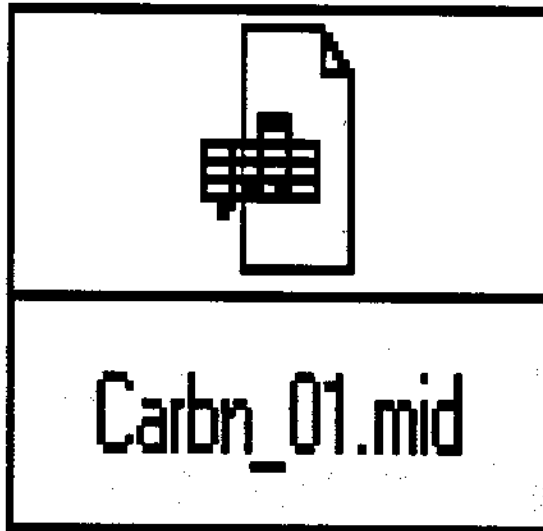
JAPAN TO CHINA: The devil ... well, no, actually, France ... made me do it. You had your chance to tempt me, but you didn't put enough effort into it.



Colonial Diplomacy 1900

LAST ROUND

BRAIN DRAIN



Brain Drain is a game designed to show up that bullshit game Jeopardy. No need to answer the questions in question form.

We don't need no stinkin' gimmick. Brain Drain is the real deal. Brain Drain has 6 questions. For each question you get correct you get 1 point. Get all 6 correct and you get a bonus point.

Last Round

AUTO RACE CARD

ROUND FIVE ANSWERS - GAME #3

1 - How many times does the digit 3 appear between 1 and 50? *15 Times (3, 13, 23, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 43)* (B.Powell, C.Hosler, W. Narhi, W. Goz, J. Carl, K Wilson, S. McGinnis, C. Merritt)

2 - What do you break by saying it's name? *Silence* (B.Powell, C.Hosler, E. Birsan, W. Narhi, W. Goz, C. Surprenat, J. Carl, K Wilson, C. Merritt)

3 - Which is true? One statement here is false? Two statements here are false? Three statements here are false? *Two statements here are false.Silence* (B.Powell, W. Narhi, W. Goz, C. Surprenat, J. Carl, K Wilson, C. Merritt)

4 - I've got seven children. Exactly one third of them are boys. How? *The other two-thirds are also boys.Silence* (E. Birsan, W. Goz)

5 - How can you say that October should really be in August? *Because it was the eighth month (as its name suggests) in the early Roman republican calendar.Silence* (B.Powel, E. Birsan, W. Goz, C. Surprenat, J. Carl, C. Merritt)

6 - If you write ten letters and place them into envelopes at random, how many letters, on average would end up in the right envelopes? *One. It is far more likely that one will end up in it's envelope than that all ten will be in the wrong envelopes.Silence* (W. Goz, J. Carl, K Wilson)

Brain Drain Scores

* - Did not send in answers given the lowest score

This Round Total

1) Warren Goesle	7	30 - This race is all but over. 20 req points to Baron unless he NMR's
2) Joe Carl	5	24 - Joe will grab 10 points if he hangs on to second.
3) Baron Powell	4	*20 - Baron, OH BARON, can you keep your 6 req points?
4) John Fitzgerald	1*	20 - Where art thou John. You could have won!
4) Kevin Wilson	4	20 - 2nd wtihin reach!!
6) Ward Narhi	3	18 - Well you still have BPD and 6th still gets you one point!
7) Brenden Whyte	1*	17 - Kiss buddha for me.
7) Monty Carlisle	1*	17 - Monty your name came in handy!
9) Stan Kellett	1*	15 - Stan YOUR name can in handy.
10) Scott McGinnis	1	14 - Scott your name ROCKS!
10) Chris Surprenant	3	14 - Chris your name is hard to spell.
12) Colin Merritt	4	13 - COLIN! Joins the fray. What a trooper. Top 9 score points.
12) Mike McGinnis	1*	13 - Mike, Warlock dude!
13) Steve Koehler	1*	12 - The waiting is the hardest part.
13) Edi Birsan	3	12 - Edi!! You are THE man, but your paranoia cost you.
15) Berry Renken	1*	11 - Y2 busted. The post busted too??
15) Cathy Hosler	2	11 - SHE'S back and she is really female.

*Baron wins any tie

BRAIN DRAIN ROUND #6

#1 - Speaking of her beloved pets, Jessica reports, "he weighs exactly twice as much as she does and together they weight 27 pounds." She also notes that her dogs weight is an odd number. Which weighs what?

#2 - Bernie never sorts his socks. He just chucks the clean ones in a drawer. Ten red socks and ten green socks are jumbled together. The 20 socks are exactly alike except for their color. If Bernie closes his eyes and pulls out socks without peeking, what is the smallest number he can take out and still be sure to have a matching pair of each color.

#3 - Bob and Kathy race for 100 yards. Katy wins by ten yards. Bob is a typical male so he demands a second race, but this time Kathy spots Bob a handicap - she begins ten yards behind the starting line. Assuming they both run the same speed as before, who will win?

#4 - Mr. T.D. Snite spends most of his time looking for holes and filling them up. Can you rearrange the letters of his name so that they spell the name of his profession?

#5 - The Green Valley Farm folks brought some organic melons to the Farmers market. They sold half of them plus half a melon, and found that they had one whole melon left. So how many melons did the hippies bring to market?

#6 - Take the total number of pages of TFES and times it by 346. Then divide by 23 1/2. Add the issue number of TFES and deduct the issue number of "I Digress." Add 4, Spit in the air and then take the square root. Finally add the sum of the numbers on Andy Lischett's address.

Subber Spotlight

Eric Grinnell

#1 - You just got nominated for the Rod Walker "Literature Award" Tell us about your article and thoughts

Diplomacy isn't a game. A game is something you play for an hour or two, declare a winner, put it away in the box. . . . and maybe you'll play it again sometime before Christmas —or maybe you won't. Obviously, Diplomacy is therefore not a "game." It's a hobby. Or, as the case may be, an avocation. However, it has changed allot. When it was originally written by Alan Calhamer email hadn't even been invented. Play by mail didn't take long at all to develop, but the hobby has really taken off mostly in the past fifteen or so years, since Email has become more universal.

But my question to you is, "Is that enough?" As computers and their abilities have exploded, has it affected how we play the game? Now, we can get online, and in five minutes have a brand new email address that can be completely anonymous. We can meet in a chat room, and play a REAL face to face game. (Without having to buy a plane ticket and go to a Con and without having to plan a month in advance, yet STILL have real competition with skilled players.) The software we could write to facilitate play has progressed FAR beyond the Judges. (P.S. Hasbro's CD-ROM was a big let-down. Thanks for the A.I. and the easy interface between multiple players, guys.) In addition to that, every year we have an ever-increasing number of serious hobbyists, and the depths of their understanding of the game gets deeper and more ingenious. But, mostly we're still playing the same old PBEM games, be they hand-adjudicated, or on a Judge.

We could write software that would randomly generate maps, with crucial elements like balance and stalemates programmed into the game as a parameter. We could run Web-Based real-time simulations of history. Or, to be brief and summary, we could use the framework of the Diplomacy concept —that is to say, it's simplicity, it's absolute non-reliance on luck as a game element, and the simultaneous balance of military strategy with diplomatic finagling— to create a game that is far more in depth than mere Diplomacy.

Men like Baron, who use the Diplomacy concept to create their own variants, are close to the sentiment I am trying to convey. But not entirely. Maybe I'm fanatical, maybe Dip panders too directly to my Napoleon Complex, but what I want is to use the full advantage that the internet and computers makes available to us, to take Diplomacy to as high a level as it possibly could be.

I think these ideas first came to me after reading a book by Science Fiction writer Orson Scott Card. The book, named Worthing Saga, takes place in a future world. In the book, there is an accomplished politician named Ragna Doon, and as a hobby Ragna plays something called "The Game." "The Game" is a real-time recreation of history, and players make bids to take control of certain countries during certain periods of time. The goal, of course, is to conquer the world. (sound Familiar?) The passage in Worthing Saga that deals with "The Game" is actually a separate short story named "Breaking the Game," so you can look it up and check it out, if you want, without having to read the whole book. However, to bring it all back together in a way that's relevant to the Zine, I think that the core community of serious Diplomacy players could create a game similar to this: Web-based, on-going, real-time, and a bit more all-encompassing of what it really takes to run a country/empire. It could easily be interesting enough that literally thousands of people would hit the site, just to watch how the game was going. I mean, hell, real political finagling is more sultry than soap operas, more violent than pro-football, more interesting than the news, and more intellectually arousing than the same eleven things said over and over again all day on CNN. With a more in depth game-plan to give it a bit of detail, a splash of panache, along with a good marketing campaign — and Diplomacy could become a major spectator sport.

#2 - You tend to fly off the handle in Diplomacy Email games. Can you trace this flaw back to your childhood?

If I tried hard enough, almost certainly. Generally, though, I find it preferable to blame other people, and attack them mercilessly for it.

Seriously though, and in all honesty, a good portion of it is grandstanding. I would refer you to another article I wrote —and I personally believe to be much better than "A Call to Arms." That Article, "Asshole Dip," pointed to the potential advantages of positioning yourself antagonistically. If you know for certain that you have at least one other ally secured, come hell or highwater, somewhere else. . . you may gain an advantage from being a bully. I'd say that at least 70% of the time, my flying off the handle is just an excessively played out episode of grandstanding. Sometimes, it may go beyond the point of no return. That's unfortunate, but when it happens, all you can do is ride the wave. If you have a tiger by the tail, you can't let him go.

Another reason for it, and for me this is more of a past tense thing, is that I've always believed that in a Dip game, the GM is "in play." Particularly in PBEM Dip, the rules are at best a grey framework, from which

SUBBER SPOTLIGHT CONT.

the game is to be run. So much of the game is left to GM discretion, and so many "by case" situations come up. . . Letting the GM know way ahead of time that handling these matters in a way that is detrimental to my particular country's position will cause both a delay and a ruckus. . . is at times effective. I've found over the past couple of years, though, that the advantage is transitory, while the negative repercussions haunt me for years. (Isn't that right Baron?) Anyway, this is much less a part of my present playing style, than it is of my past.

And the third and final reason: I really am, at times, 100% asshole. I even enjoy it, most of the time. In question #1, I referred to my Napoleon complex. I really have one. I hit my growth spurt VERY late, and as late as 21 years old, I only weighed 135 pounds. I dealt with this badly while growing up, and it has had an enduring effect on my self-perception. Or, anyway, that's what my shrink says. But what the hell does she know, anyway? Hell, she told the Navy I'm sane, so you KNOW she's completely unreliable.

Oh. One last thing. For the record, when I through the chair across the room at WorldDipCon two years ago, it was NOT because Melissa Holly had just stabbed me. It was because I misordered (Fleet Tunis to AEGEAN, for gods' sake.), and it cost me my stalemate line. Nothing pisses me off like poor play — especially when it's my own.

#3 - What is your favorite game besides Diplomacy and why?

Diplomacy isn't a game, so I'm not sure I can answer you 100% correctly. However, my favorite game is on the computer. It's called Worms Armageddon, and WOOOOO!!!! Does it rock!!!!!!!!!!!! Funny little computer game, for one to four players, sold by Micropose. In it, you General a team of crack commandoes trained to kill, maim, and destroy any enemy hapless enough to get in your way. The only catch: They have no hands. Or eyes. Or brains, for that matter. As the name implies, they are worms. But that doesn't stop them from killing each other in the most gory of ways: with Machine guns, baseball bats, and less conventional weapons like garden statues, exploding old ladies, or bombs made from bananas. Good, senseless fun, awesome animation and sound bites, and it appeals to the more basic of male impulses. Also, you can get on the net and play people from all over the world. Not that you need real oponents for a good game, though; Unlike Micropose' weak attempt when writing the code for Diplomacy, with Worms Armageddon they made the AI damn impressive.

#4 - What is your favorite book and Movie of all time?

Favorite Book?? Definitely Atlas Shrugged, by Ayn Rand. Those who recognize it will need no further explanation. Those who don't, all I can say is you must buy and read this book. That's all I'll say on the issue for now, however. There's been enough philosophical and doctrinal drumbeating in your 'Zine lately to last a year or two. No one needs or wants to hear my opinions on morality and ethical codes. The only morality that will ever really mean anything to you is the morality you arrive at yourself, through logic and reason, anyway. Cathy: PLEASE PLEASE buy and read this book.

Movie???? Empire of the Sun. It's a Steven Spielberg film, and one that actually didn't make me vomit. It's about a young British Boy trapped in Japanese Occupied China during World War 2. Follows him all the way from being a spoiled and pampered Diplomat's Son, to being homeless and abandoned and alone on the empty streets of Port Arthur, to being a POW in camp, to being a Post-War orphan, hoping against hope that someone from his family will come back for him.

It's one of those movies that makes you wonder. At times, you stare into the Pit, and wonder how much Hell a person can go through and still be human, and other times the feelings of hope are overwhelming. I'm not an emotional guy, in case you all didn't know, but this movie put me through the gammut. I recommend it to everyone.

Movies that ALMOST made the list. Matrix, but that one needs a few years, to see if I like it as much after the newness wears off. The other one is Red Dawn. But I left that one off, because I didn't want you all to know I was gun-toting militia-joining wacko.

#5 - If you had to play Dip with six famous people of all time who would they be?

Hard Choice. You want to pick Six damn impressive people, but you also want to make sure you win. (C'mon. . . Think of the bragging rights!!!!!!!!) 1) Ayn Rand — Anyone I quote more often than Christ has to

make this particular list, don't they? 2) Lieutenant General George S. Patton --- He'd pout like a baby when he lost, and wouldn't that be fun to watch??? Actually, might be better to get him earlier in his career, like when he was a Colonel. Can't you just imagine???? The man must have been a REAL pain in the ass, back before his station caught up with his ego. 3) Sun Tzu --- Not sure how much Diplomacy I'd be able to do with him, since I'm pretty sure he didn't speak English (Grin), but I bet I'd learn things just from watching him. 4) Mahommed --- I'd be the only guy at the board who could talk to him, so I know for sure I'd have an ally. This will be my pocket man, guaranteeing I actually win. Besides which, he DID prove himself to be one hell of a military commander, and a fairly capable diplomat, too. Most important thing, make sure that when it's time to bow to Mecca and pray, he's nowhere near the board. If he knocks over those pieces, you'll NEVER get them all back in the right places. 5) Napoleon --- Be good to learn some French, so that next year when I go to Worlds, all the French won't gang up on me, and kick me out of the game. Plus, it would be dramatic irony to give him France as his country and watch him plunge desperately into the heart of Russia, just to watch him fail and flounder. 6) Scott Morris --- Hey. . .SOMEBODY has to help me make fun of these guys, right?

#6 - Why is TFES such a great zine?

I was going to leave this question out, Scott, but the check cleared today so I guess I'm contractually obligated. Honestly, though, I think that TFES really IS a great Zine. You get some interesting chains of thought going on, all the theology aside, and they're fun to follow. Your subbers seem mostly to be pretty intellectual people, and very witty to boot. I also like the fact that you and I have talked about my vision for the future of Diplomacy, and you actually listen. (Yes, that's a very big plus.) By giving Baron a stage, you prove that you are interested in Variant Play, and continuing the future development of the hobby. And, of course, I can't thank you enough for letting me run Mission Improbable in your Zine. I'm sure that it's going to go over extremely well, and once it does TFES will only be that much better.

#7 - Since I can tell you are itching to tell us about it, what is your all time favorite stab?

Favorite stab. . . . Odd that you ask, but it WAS a real beauty. We were on a security detail in Peru, and a local civilian pulled a knife when we wouldn't let him into a restricted area. He stuck it into my partner between the fourth and fifth rib. It went right through the soft tissue, never touched the bone, and sliced his lung open. I had to immobilize and stabilize immediately to keep his lung from collapsing, and I didn't have any funky hypodermic with a pressure valve, like George Clooney in Three Kings. I had to seal him up with a Frito's Bag, and electrical tape, while I waited for the EMS to get there. . . all the while listening to the guy tell me how embarrassed he was that he'd wet his pants, and please don't let his wife find out. So, for those of you that think that being in Naval Intelligence would be fun. . . well, more power to you. I've got a recruiter's number, if you want it.

Ohhhhhh. . . . you meant Dip, didn't you? Well, naturally, it's one of my own. I went from 14 to 21 in one year, to get a solo as Italy in 1906. It had to be a spring stab to get that many, obviously, but it was worth it. An over-trusting to the point of stupidity Germany made it possible. I gave up one center to Russia, and pulled completely off my eastern front. This gave me the units I needed to gut my German and Turkish "allies." Turkey HAD been at four, but ended the game at one. Germany went from 10 to six, while gaining one from Russia. I got as far east as Smyrna, as far West as Liverpool, and as far north as Edinburgh. But, really now, what's that compared to a guy pissing his pants, and his lung collapsing?

THIS is where our educational system has failed. THIS is where we, as a people and a society, have failed. Historical data is all well and good, and quite useful, but this is minor to the bigger question. Who do our young go for examples? A president that, at absolute best, is a liar? A congress that, absolute best, is extremely corrupt? Ball players that seem to have a remarkable habit of getting into drugs or jails? Models that are often bulimic and give unrealistic examples of a human body? Our young people get a rather warped impression of the world, for various reasons and with too many people to blame to make it worthwhile. Our educational system could repair the damage by showing that people in all times and places are fairly similar, and that these questions of morals, philosophy and life are thousands of years old - and maybe some people found some decent answers along the way.

Issue 18 p. 16: While I agree with a lot of what Edi says, I'll point out (writing this on Flag Day) that the Stars and Stripes has flown over much more slavery, more wars of aggression and expansion, more internal oppression, and more violations of its own laws than did the Stars and Bars, or any other Confederate battle flag or government flag. I'm not sure I would make an exception even if the argument were restricted to the current 50-star/13-stripe version. Under the 48-star/13-stripe flag that might have flown when Edi was born, there were racial concentration camps holding American citizens of Japanese ancestry, there was censorship among many dictatorial "emergency powers", there was repeated nuking of enemy cities and friendly tropical islands, there were lynchings and burnings and massacres that went unpunished because of racist officials. Of course there also have been many wonderful things under American flags in 224 years, not least of which is the experiment in self-government. I also noted the anachronism of Edi charging the CSA with "direct opposition to the oath that speaks of one nation indivisible" when that pledge was not even in existence at that time.

see ya in victory circle, Mike

1900: a Diplomacy Variant by B.M. Powell

Winter '01 Adjustments and Spring '02 Moves

PLAYERS:

Austria-Hungary: Ward Narhi
Britain: John Fitzgerald
France: Berry Renken (Drop Spring '00)
Chris Surprenant (Join Fall '00)

Germany: Dave Partridge
Italy: Frank Martin
Russia: Stan Kellett
Turkey: Warren Ball

HEADLINES:

- o PARTITIONING OF DUAL MONARCHY BEGINS...ITALY AND RUSSIA FIRST AT TABLE
- o CRISIS IN BRITAIN...WORKERS ON STRIKE...GOVERNMENT PARALYZED
- o FRENCH, GERMANS, AND ITALIANS ALL STRIKE AT ALBION
- o GERMANS MOVE WEST EVEN AS RUSSIANS INVADE FROM EAST
- o ITALIANS AND TURKS FIGHT TO DRAW IN MEDITERRANEAN
- o RUSSIAN NAVY DOCKS AT CONSTANTINOPLE...HOW LONG WILL IT STAY?

PRESS:

Italy to Britain: Sire, if you did not move to the Western Med, then the army will retreat from Spain in the fall. If you did move to the Western Med, please take the time to remove me, as I build fleets to come fight you.

Italy to Germany: We have broken the peace in Austria. Hopefully, more good than bad will come of it.

WINTER '01 ADJUSTMENTS:

Austria-Hungary: no adjustments required
Britain: NBR (plays two units short)
France: builds A Paris
Germany: builds F Kiel and A Munich
Italy: builds A Milan
Russia: builds A Warsaw
Turkey: no adjustments required

SPRING '02 MOVES:

Austria-Hungary:

A Vienna S A Budapest (Cut, Dislodged,
Destroyed)
A Serbia S A Budapest (Cut)
A Budapest S A Serbia (Cut, Dislodged,
Destroyed)
A Trieste S A Serbia

Britain: NMR

F Brest H (Dislodged)
F Norway H
F Portugal H
F Spain(ec) H (Dislodged)
F North Sea H

France:

A Paris-Brest
A Gascony S IT A Marseilles-Spain
A Morocco H

Germany:

A Munich H
A Switzerland-Tyrolia
A Bohemia S IT A Tyrolia-Vienna
A Picardy S FR A Paris-Brest
A Burgundy-Paris
F Kiel-Netherlands
A Belgium S F Kiel-Netherlands
F Baltic Sea-Denmark
F Sweden S F Baltic Sea-Denmark

SPRING '02 MOVES (cont.):

Italy:

A Milan-Venetia
A Tyrolia-Vienna
F Tripolitania-Cyrenacia (Fails)
F Ionian Sea S F Tripolitania-Cyrenacia
A Marseilles-Spain

Russia:

F Black Sea-Constantinople
A Galicia-Budapest
A Rumania S A Galicia-Budapest

Russia (cont.):

A Bulgaria-Serbia (Fails)
A Warsaw-Silesia
F Gulf of Bothnia-St. Petersburg(sc)

Turkey:

A Macedonia S RU A Bulgaria-Serbia
A Greece S A Macedonia
F Aegean Sea-Eastern Mediterranean
A Cyrenacia S F Egypt (Cut)
F Egypt S A Cyrenacia

SPRING '02 RETREATS:

Britain: F Brest to English Channel or Mid-Atlantic Ocean

Britain: F Spain(ec) to Gulf of Lyon, Western Mediterranean, or Gibraltar

CURRENT UNIT POSITIONS:

Austria-Hungary: A Serbia, A Trieste

Britain: F ???, F Norway, F Portugal, F ???, F North Sea

France: A Gascony, A Morocco, A Brest

Germany: A Bohemia, A Belgium, F Sweden, A Paris, A Tyrolia, A Picardy, F Denmark, F

Netherlands, A Munich

Italy: A Spain, A Vienna, F Tripolitania, F Ionian Sea, A Venetia

Russia: F St. Petersburg(sc), A Bulgaria, F Constantinople, A Rumania, A Budapest, A Silesia

Turkey: A Greece, F Eastern Mediterranean, A Cyrenacia, A Macedonia, F Egypt

SUPPLY CENTERS (as of Fall '01):

Austria-Hungary (4): Vienna, Budapest, Trieste, Serbia

Britain (7): London, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Brest, Norway, Portugal, Spain

France (3): Paris, Algeria, Morocco

Germany (9): Berlin, Cologne, Kiel, Munich, Denmark, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden

Italy (5): Rome, Milan, Naples, Marseilles, Tripolitania

Russia (6): St. Petersburg, Moscow, Sevastapol, Warsaw, Rumania, Bulgaria

Turkey (5): Constantinople, Ankara, Damascus, Egypt, Greece

DUE NEXT: Spring '02 retreats and Fall '02 moves.

COMMENTS FROM THE GM:

What has to be every Archduke's nightmare has finally come to pass. All four of its neighbors decided to carve up the Habsburg Empire between themselves. The Italians took Vienna with German help, while the Russians marched into Budapest. Now Austria-Hungary is left with only two units and a very difficult position (to say the least!). I would judge its situation to be dire at best.

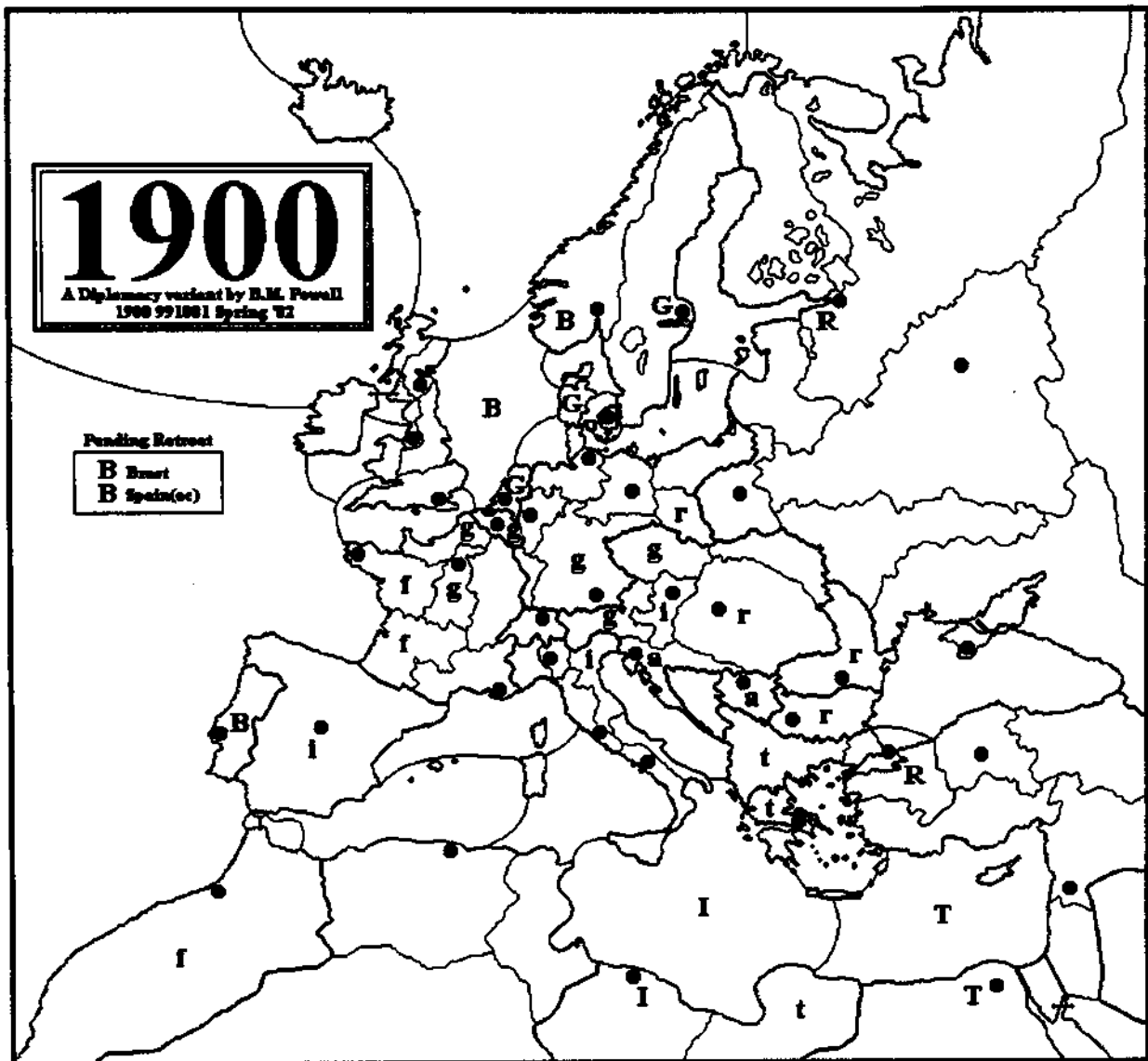
Britain's NBR/NMR is both a surprise and a disappointment. JPFIDY has been a regular in my games for a long time now. Over this period, he has been one of the best players to ever participate in a 1900 game, as his two victories in earlier games (as Austria-Hungary and Turkey) attest. I can only assume that the situation at his workplace that he mentioned last time is not yet fully under control. While this turn of events hurts Britain's position, Britain's inherent strength is shown by the fact that Albion is far from finished even after an F/G/I has apparently formed against it. Of course, Britain will need a functioning government if it is to have any hope. I'll take steps to ensure this is the case one way or the other.

Certainly, the Prime Minister has to take heart at the Russian move into Silesia and the continuing battles between Italy and Turkey in the Mediterranean. Though the Tsar could hurt Turkey badly if F Constantinople holds in the Fall, it seems just as likely given the push into Germany that F Constantinople will move to the Aegean Sea in the Fall and help the Ottomans take on Italy. If R/T is in place, it will provide just the distraction to G/I that Britain (and France?) needs to recover.

Speaking of France, what are we to make of its prospects? It looked doomed just a year ago. Now, it seems to have options. Perhaps a comeback is in the making. This should be worth watching.

Happy Stabbing,

Baron



ΣΧΟΤΤ ΣΠΕΑΚ

I am in love with Pat Buchanan. Never mind my liberal voting record. I feel like a smitten schoolgirl who can't take her eyes off the letterman athlete. Ok, maybe that's taking the analogy too far. Pat is pretty ugly but, sniff, I just can't help myself. He's the only one out there doing all the dirty work that needs to be done. Politics is a warped, twisted, ugly world. Pat knows that better than anyone. He can no longer get his rocks off spouting venom on "Crossfire" he needs a bigger stage. His Ego has grown so immense that only a good old fashioned presidential election will soothe that barking dog lying in his soul. With every step he gets closer to my heart.

Where is the thin, obscure line where zealotry turns the bloody knife on itself? I am sure Ahab would have been appreciative of a little insight. Maybe Lyle Alzado could have seen the forest from the tree's if he had not been so cranked up on steroids. It's the classic showdown, the kid on the school yard knows the fight is going to hurt, but now that everyone is watching he can't back down.

Old Pat does not back down when calls the Government "gutless" because it won't defend it's borders against illegal immigrants. His supporters call themselves the Pitchfork Army and shout "Stick 'em" when they approve of his rhetoric. Believe me, he's not taking any votes away from Gore when he does this. Buchanan hammers away at nationalistic themes and takes every chance he gets to mock George Bush. He is the perfect cancer for the Republican party. Don't fear for the end of fascism while Pat is on the loose.

It was especially touching when his supporters yelled "Lock and load" over and over again to drown out an elderly lady who was protesting his platform at a recent California convention. You just can't buy this kind of insanity. Only a real nut case would continue like this against certain defeat. The only thing that would make my wet dream any better would be if he chose Alan Keyes as his running mate. MY GOD dare to dream. Ooops, sorry for taking the Lord's name in vain.

The bottom line is that if Pat gets around 4% of the vote "W" can kiss any chance he has against Gore. Currently Pat is polling around 2%. Once he is on the ballot in all fifty states and has the Reform party nomination in hand, he can easily reach those numbers. And the beauty of it all is that he probably believes the stuff he is popping off about, but with every sentence he hurts his chances of getting something close to his ideology in the White House.

In other news I am really enjoying the TV made for itself spectacle, "Survivor." It's contrived, it's not really a test of survival, it brings out the basest parts of humanity, its incredible! What they have produced is a Diplomacy game!

If you have had your head in the sand, two tribes of 8 people are marooned on a tropical island. Each episode they compete in some kind of contest and the losing tribe has to vote off one of its members. The only thing keeping their butts on the island is their persuasive skills and ability to create a coalition.

Get enough allies to push the weak guy out. Sounds like our hobby to me!!!!

The last person on the island gets one million dollars. I checked out the web sight, they each signed a contract giving up 5 million of they make any money pacts on splitting the pot. The producers thought of that ploy. When it gets down to two players the previous 7 people kicked off vote for the winner. GENIUS. You have to vote people off and still manage to get them to like for you.

Gee, since your dying you wouldn't mind giving me Serbia would you? I mean...It's not like it will help you!!

I have already begun to fill out my application for Survivor II. What the hell. Looks like fun.

If you want to join me log on to WWW.CBS.com and print out the application. Remember, I won't vote you off, if you won't vote me off! ☺

♠♣♦♦ ♠*□□□✕♦


PLUGS

WORLD DIPCON NEWS

World DipCon 'X' is scheduled to run August 4-6 within the longer running World Boardgaming Championship August 1-6 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The boardgame side will feature a host of quality games such as Squad Leader, Settlers of Catan, Path of Glory and others for more information see: (www.boardgamers.org)

Allan B. Calhamer, the inventor of Diplomacy and thus the creator of our hobby will be making a rare appearance to both play and talk to the hobby.

If there is only one convention that you can attend this summer, then this is the one to go to.

The following are just some of the Diplomacy hobby's World Class stars that are planning on attending:

Christian Dreyer (Sweden-Current World Champion)
 Chris Martin (USA-ADR Champion and former World Champion)
 JeanLouis DeLattre (Belgium-Top Board WDC 97, Director WDC 99)
 Leif Bergman (Sweden-Top Board WDC 99, Director WDC 97)
 Simon Bouton (UK-current European Champion)
 Brandon Clarke (NZ-Australia-New Zealand Champion)
 Gihan Bandaranake (UK-Euro-DipCon 99 Top Board)
 David Norman (UK MasterCon Top Board, Team Champ WDC 98)
 Gordon Aicken (UK Team Champion WDC 8)
 Vic Hall (UK MasterCon Champion)
 Chetan Radia (UK Intimate Diplomacy Champion)
 Brian Dennehy (Ireland Tournament Director)
 Fearhal Donnau (Ireland MasterCon Top board)
 Nicklas Perez (Swedish Player)
 Gunnar Brading (Swedish Player)
 Shlomi Yaakovovich (Israeli Player)
 Vince Mous (Danish-Top Board WDC 99, Team Champion WDC98)
 Craig Sedgewick (Australia DAANZ leader)
 Andrew Geoff (Australia Top Board)
 Yann Coulet (France-Player)
 Steaphane Degrement (France-Player)
 Cal White (Canada-former Canadian Champion)
 Robert Vollman (Canada-current Canadian Champion)
 Mike Hall (Canada-Best France BPA 99, Top Board Armada Denver 2000)
 John Smythe (USA-first ever DipCon champion)
 Tom Pasko (USA-current BPA Champion)
 Tom Kobrin (USA-former AvalonCon Champion)
 Bruce Reiff (USA-former AvalonCon Champion)
 Edi Birsan (USA-former DipCon Champion)
 Manus Hand (USA-Pouch Publisher/Armada Director, Team Cham WDC 98)
 David Hood (USA-former DipCon Champ Director WDC 98)
 Larry Peery (USA-Team Champion WDC 97)
 Dan Mathias (USA-Director WDC 96)
 Brian Ecton (USA-AvalonCon Colonial Champion)
 Phil Reynolds (USA-Zine publisher/GM)
 Mike Barno (USA-Webmeister Extraordinaire)
 Matt Shields (USA-Portland PiggyBack Top Board)
 Scott Morris (USA-GM) - I think Edi put my name here to make me feel cool!
 Ray Setzer (USA-GM)
 Buz Eddy (USA-ADR director)
 Jim Burgess (USA-GM)
 Mark Fasio (USA-WDC 98 top board, WDC 98 Best Austria)

TFES SUBBERS GOING

Mike Barno
Edi Birsan
Jim Burgess
Joe Carl
Monty Carlisle
Buz Eddy
Faz
Eric Ginnell - ???
Manus Hand
Steve Koehler
Jim O'kelley
Dave Partridge

If I missed anyone please let me know!!

PLUGS cont.

boardgamers.org www.DiplomaticCorps.org

For more information see the web sites: www.

Edi Birsan

At long last, I am ready to announce:

Rubicon Games IV

July 21-23, 2000

Friday 7:00pm till Sunday 7:00pm 48 hours of gaming!

Crash space available for out-of-towners!

At the home of Jamie McQuinn:
1629 Shroyer Rd
Dayton, OH 45419
(937) 298-0836

Go to MapQuest
for directions.

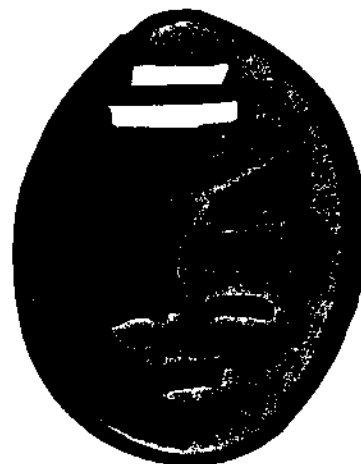
If you attended Rubicon Games II or III, please note that I have moved to the house next door. I am now at the corner of Shroyer and Aberdeen.

All boardgamers are welcome. (It's true! I'm going!!)-ed
If possible, please let me know you are coming.

What will we play? Whatever you want!

Here are some of the games that have been played previous years:

Diplomacy
Colonial Diplomacy
History of the World
Shogun
Settlers of Cataan
Cheapass Card Games
Kremlin
Civilization
Murphy's Magic Island
Robo Rally
Detroit Cleveland Grand Prix
Manhattan
Go
Wizard
Backgammon
....and more!



Questions? Comments?
RSVP?

jmcquinn@delphi.com



A Dismal State of Affairs

Chris Surprenant

IceQuakeX@aol.com

The lack of knowledge possessed by the younger generations in America is frightening. As a member of this younger generation, I am astounded by the attitude that my generation has to obtaining knowledge, learning for the sake of knowing. However, what is even more astounding is the lack of knowledge that those who claim to have it possess.

A few days ago, a friend of mine persuaded me to try a new MUD (for those of you who don't know, this is a text based role playing game played over Telnet or a similar program) that she has recently been playing on. Since she asked me so nicely, I said I would give it a try.

I connected to the server and in under a minute I had created my character and was ready to go. Some of you may know that I am a science person and, because of this, I chose my name accordingly. I decided on the handle Cesium; if you are familiar with chemistry, you know that the element Cesium's abbreviation is Cs., which also happens to be the initials of my name. After reading through the list of movement, fight and extra commands, I started.

Five minutes into the game, on the public chat channel, someone comments, "Wow, I love your name Cesium!" Following this, another "higher-level" player comments, "It might be a good name, but it is illegal. It is not medieval." I nearly went ballistic. Here is a person named Shyne telling me that *my name* was not medieval? However, Shyne was not the only person who told me this. People with the names of Asuka, Khali and Sandros were also telling me that *my name* was illegal because it was not medieval. Luckily, my friend who introduced me to this game is not one of them, she has a vast knowledge of history. However, while she was one of the two people playing that knew the difference between a fantasy and medieval name, it is the other thirteen people playing that concerns me the most.

What is happening to our society? Are people these days so caught up in "fantasy" books that they have now begun to apply the names, traits and events to the history of medieval Europe? It seems that the most important thing that the schools should be teaching our children, not that I have any yet, is a knowledge rooted in Classical/European history as well as an in depth knowledge of science. What is astounding is that many students go through their years of primary education without learning the roots of western civilization. This should be a corner stone of a student's education.

Now, mention the name Homer to a student and they are twenty times more likely to associate this name with Homer Simpson rather than the epic poems written by the poet we call Homer. With the television generation quickly rising in our society, the generation of educators are quickly giving way to these up and coming "professionals." One must wonder if the knowledge of the roots of Western civilization will even be consider, or will we make room in our schools for technology programs, leaving behind this knowledge from the past.

As America slips into a technical enlightenment and a historical dark ages, the only place left for this valuable information will be in the back rooms of the university libraries, collecting dust.

WARLOCK DIPLOMACY SPRING 1901

REMAINING SPELLS - EMAIL Scott FOR LIST OF WHAT THEY ALL DO.

	A	E	F	G	I	R	T
VAPORIZE							
MOVE A HOME SC							
DOUBLE ORDER					501	501	
DOUBLE ORDER							
ADD 1 SUPPORT							
ADD 2 SUPPORTS							
EXTRA BUILD							
CUT SUPPORT							
CUT 2 SUPPORTS							
POWER IMPERVIOUS							
MAKE UNIT INVISIBLE							
SPIN THE BOTTLE					501		
CATASTROPHE							
WALK ON WATER					501		
SWIM IN LAND							
ILLUSIONIST							
UNDEAD							
DISCORD							
BALLOON							

AUSTRIA (Mike McGinnis)

F Tri-Alb
A Vie-Tri
A Bud-Ser

ENGLAND (Mike Lively)

A Liverpool to Yorkshire
F Edinburgh to Norwegian Sea
F London to North Sea

FRANCE (Kevin Wilson)

F Bre - MAO
A Par - Gas
A Mar h

GERMANY (Joe Carl)

F Kie - Den
A Ber - Kie
A Mun - Ruh

Press:

Dateline Rome: Rumors of Italian intelligence are greatly exaggerated. The Italian government has chosen to expand its sphere of influence into Greece

Simply Because IT HAS NO AIR.
Better To Do.

ITALY (Adam Silverman)

CAST Spin the Bottle
CAST DOUBLE MOVE on F Nap
CAST WALK ON WATER on A Rom

F Nap - Ion - Gre
A Rom - Tyn
A Ven H

RUSSIA (Stan Kellett)

double order F St.P

F StP - Fin - sweden
A war - gal
A mos - StP
F sev - rum

TURKEY (Ward Narhi)

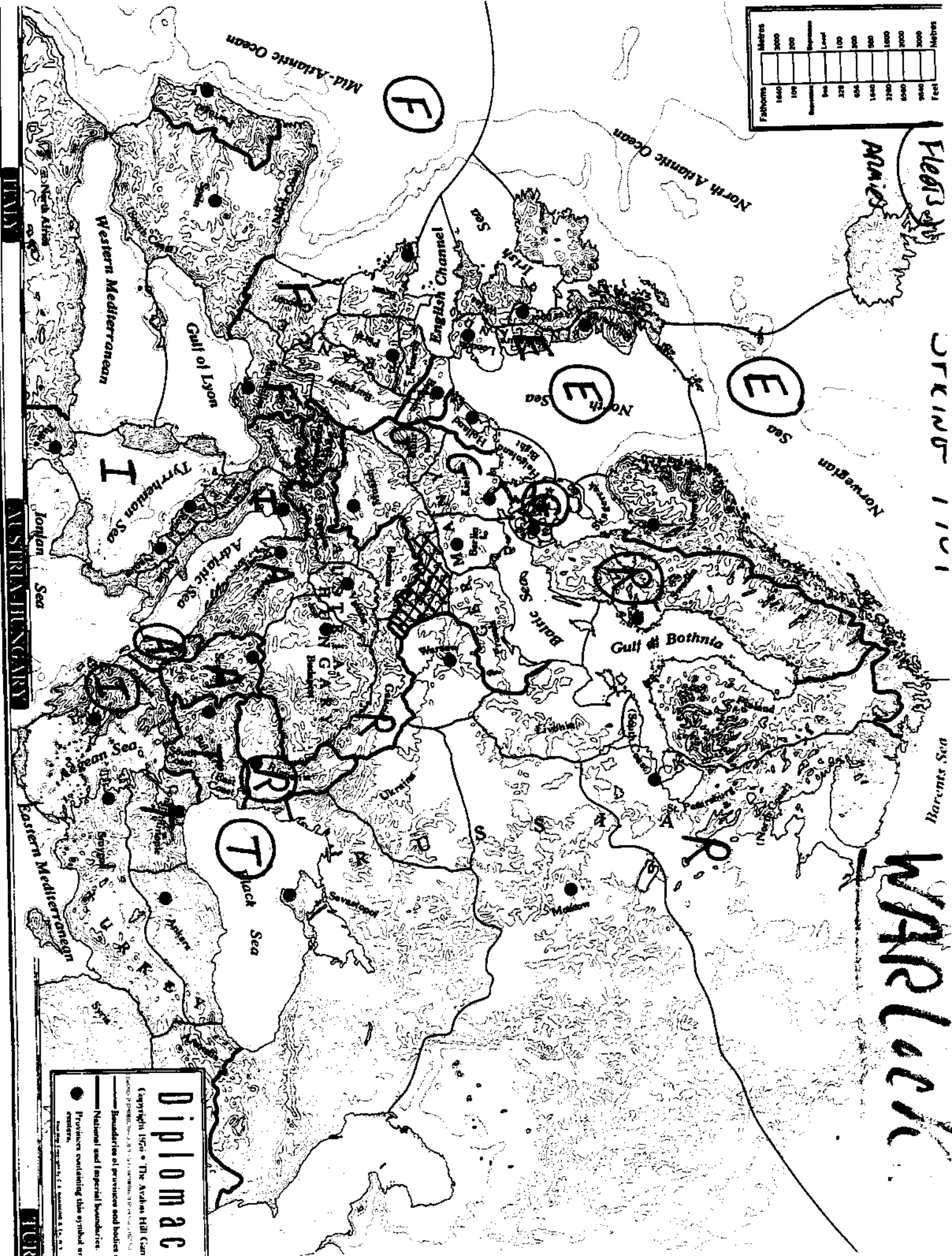
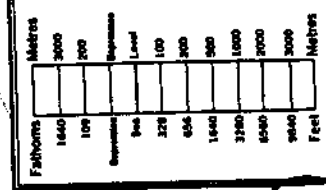
f ank-bla
a con-bul
a smy-con

PRIZE FOR THE WINNER

A Tachometer for a 1993 Audi 90 CS. Pristine condition!

SILESIA HIT
Impossible
NEXT
TURN.

SA!
weeeeT.



Fleet 100
 ORING 1001
 MAIES

WAPLOCK
 HARTS SEN

Diplomac
 Copyright 1980 • The Avalon Hill Game
 Company
 1000 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022
 Printed in the U.S.A.
 National and Imperial boundaries
 Provinces containing the symbol are
 asterisks.

ITALY

ASTRAKHAN

TIOR

LAST ROUND OF BPD BONUS ROUND!

BY POPULAR DEMAND !

Simply think of an answer for the question. It can start with any letter.

- Eight categories per turn
- For each answer to a question a player will score an amount equal to the amount of players giving the same answer for that question. (including your answer, so you'll always score at least 1 point for your answer)
- The object of the game becomes to give the answer that you think most other players will give. Collusion is not allowed.
- Eight Turns
- Anyone may join in at anytime, regardless of which round we are in.
- The CD by Sting "Ten Summoner's Tales" to the winner. (used, my wife and I both had a copy when we got married. I have been looking at the second one on my shelf for 3 years now.)



ROUND EIGHT

- 1 - A Tree
- 2 - A Bug
- 3 - A Type of Weather
- 4 - Pick one Stab, Slash, Razer
- 5 - A Metal
- 6 - A letter in the name of the inventor of Diplomacy
- 7 - A good age to get married
- 8 - Something on your face

- 1 - A Children's TV show - Sesame Street (8), Teletubbies (3), Simpsons (1), Mr. Rodgers (1), Barney (1), Interview with George Bush (1)
- 2 - A Brand of tire - Goodyear (9), Michelin (2), Firestone (2), Dunlop (1), Hoosier (1)
- 3 - A Tropical island - Hawaii (7), Tahiti (3), Bermuda (1), Giligans (1), St. John (1), Bahamas (1), Eniwetok (1)
- 4 - A Type of Alcohol - Beer (5), Rum (2), Pure Grain (2), Vodka (2), Bourbon (2), Rubbing (1), Wine (1)
- 5 - A Suit of cards - Spades (7), Hearts (5), Clubs (1), Swords (1), Whatever (1)
- 6 - A tooth - Molar (8), Wisdom (3), Incisor (2), Canine (1), Front (1)
- 7 - A Constellation - Big Dipper (10), Orion (4), B-29 (1)
- 8 - An Airline - United (6), American (4), Delta (2), TWA (1), USAir (1), Alakan Airlines (1)

My personal favorite

Bye Bye BPD, blink blink boo hoo

By Popular Demand (Cont.)

* - Did not send in answers given the lowest score

SCORES

	<u>This Round</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1) Ward Narhi	44	423 -
2) Warren Goesle	58	417 -
3) Michael Bottorff	51	404 -
4) Yvette Morris	55	387 -
5) Joe Carl	40	379 -
6) Chris Surprenant	46	376 -
7) Elissa Narhi	34	364 -
8) Jean Goesle	34	346 -
9) Monty Carlisle	16*	338 -
10) Brady Boyd	16*	333 -
11) Baron Powell	37	331 -
12) Dave Partridge	16*	323 -
13) Brenden Whyte	16*	311 -
14) Scott McGinnis	16*	305 -
15) John Fitzgerald	16*	300 -
16) Berry Renken	16*	297 -
17) Doug Ware	44	290 -
18) Mike Barno	16	287 -
19) Mike McGinnis	16*	281 -
20) John Wilman	26	277 -
21) Steve Kohler	16*	271 -
22) Cathy Hosler	46	259 -
23) Kevin Wilson	39	258 -
24) Eric Grinnell	16*	256 -
25) Don Dewsnap	16*	251 -
26) Sara Reichert	16*	247 -
27) Stan Kellett	16*	235 -
28) Robert Dowery	16*	231 -
29) Colin Merritt	36	220 -
30) Scott Munson	16*	200 -

Let me tell you , it was starting to become a bitch to think up these questions that were not redundant and still had just the number of options to create a high score.

So with that comment we say goodbye to BPD.

As a special bonus the winner this round will get one Req point and a free issue on top of anything else they win.

After 3 games of this I am impressed by Goz, Mike Bottorff and Berry Renken's ability to always be near the top. (Berry vanished but was a contender until then.

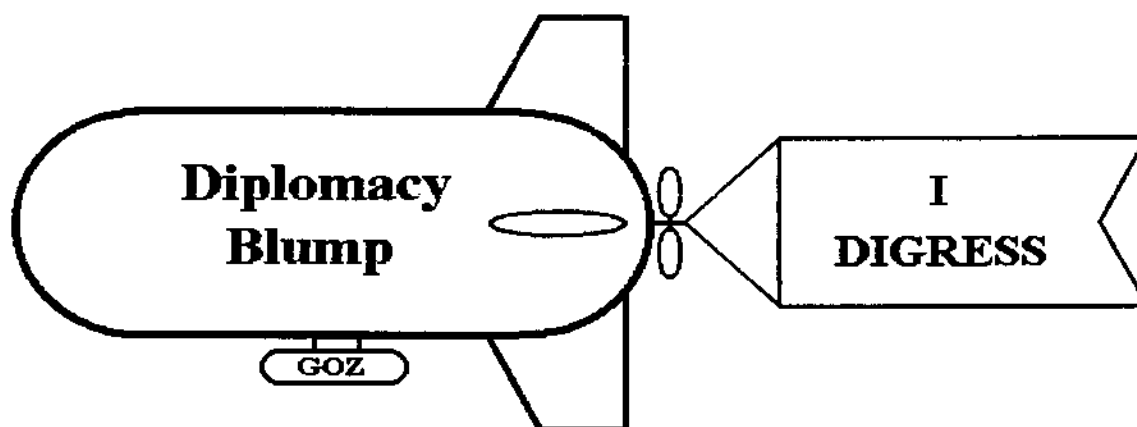
Joe Carl, Ward Narhi, and Brady Boyd also show great promise.

Maybe next year well have a battle of everyone who ever finished 9th or better.

What the hell, Jeopardy milks their "past champions show": when they run out of ideas.

So anyone down below can shoot for 9th or better or simply the best score this round and CASH IN!!





You are currently reading issue #015 of "I Digress", the classically understated and nonchalant subzine to "The Flat Earth Society". "I Digress" is published by the Goz Publishing Co., a subsidiary of Goz & Co., Inc., and is intended to raise enough money to afford a good enough lawyer to get Cindy Crawford to remove the restraining order, as well as be a celebration of all things Diplomacy related. The Diplomacy Blump is provided courtesy of the Goz Aerodynamics Institute, a subsidiary of Goz & Co., Inc. Goz is brought to you by The Procrastination Society. Don't forget to vote in our upcoming 1967 elections.

Pertinent info to get in touch with me is as follows:

Warren Goesle

Email address: gozcorp@iquet.net

Website for my games: <http://www.users.waitrose.com/~kelletts/fes>

Snail mail address: 3907 Cedar Ridge Rd. #1B, Indianapolis, IN 46235

Phone: 317-891-1261 before 9pm Eastern time please, as I'm an early riser. If you get the answering machine, it will tell you that "Goz is off working on his backswing", or some such. That's me.

Issue #015. This one was tough to put together with my vacations coming on top of one another, but hopefully you'll like what you read. Feel free to send in more opinions as to what "I Digress" should have in it. I'm still working on the centerfold Ward. At the last minute I filled the Gunboat game. See the Games' Section for details. First orders due next issue.

Can we all get our orders in on time, please? Thanks. In fact, since many people feel rushed at deadline time, you might want to send in preliminary orders early, like **RIGHT NOW! DO IT BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE!** You can always change them later. Please help your GM out here. Since Scott keeps changing things the next orders are due on whatever date Scott lists for me on page 2, at Noon EST. **Orders for Ambrosia, Sea of Despair, Othello II, Nasty Stuff, Priority One, Road to Ruin and Blood, Sweat and Tears go to me, not Scott.**

Scott and I have agreed that if anyone earns 5 Goz Points they will have an extra issue of "TFES" added to their subscription. I will be getting in touch with anyone in that situation to ask if that's what they would like, or if there is some other deal that they would like instead.

"...Comin' in slowly, engines are blown,
Barely clearin' the treetops, this boy's almost home.
I don't know why I left you, just don't understand,
But watch the skies tonight baby, for your low flying man..."
— Henry Lee Summer, "Low Flying Man"

Since I've worked with the Military for almost 20 years I'm well aware of the importance of training and training missions. Military personnel get to test new weaponry, get to try new tactics, and learn better how to do their jobs.

On 24 May 2000 an Italian elite unit, somewhat akin to the US Navy Seals, was on a joint NATO training mission. They were to do an amphibious assault on a town named "Kristiansand" and link up with other NATO units. Unfortunately that didn't happen. They wound up assaulting a town named "Kristianstad" instead. I'm certain that they were confused and annoyed when they didn't find their Belgian and French counterparts, who were about 250 miles away at the time, but probably not as confused and annoyed as the good people of Kristianstad.

Kristiansand is in Norway.

Kristianstad is in Sweden.

Norway is a NATO member. Sweden isn't.

I'm guessing that map reading will be a part of the next training session of that unit.

Commentary:

Warning, the following paragraphs contain opinions that might make you think, and might even make you want to write to agree or disagree with them. That's the point.

Some of you were probably expecting an editorial about Diplomacy and ethics. That one isn't going to happen, at least not this time. Sorry. Instead I'm going to switch to domestic politics. Here is what I'm recommending to George W. Bush as the first thing he ought to do this coming January 20th if he is sworn in as the next U.S. President:

Pardon Bill Clinton for all crimes that he's committed, both before he entered office and while in office (he's on his own from here on though).

I'm serious. First off, it's magnanimous, and it might actually get a President Bush some bi-partisan cooperation, at least for a while. So if there's something on his agenda that he's really concerned about he might have a better chance of getting it through Congress, no matter what the party lines are. Second, it would be completely unexpected, and actually start him on his way to becoming an activist statesman, which is something that his Dad had to have Saddam Hussein do for him. But third, and most importantly, no good can come of any trial with a former President involved. That's locking the barn door well after the horse has escaped.

Note that a President Gore couldn't get away with this. It would just seem politically motivated, and perhaps some kind of "deal" in exchange for Clinton's continued silence on matters like missing emails, campaign contribution chicanery, and the fact that Gore only invented the internet so that Clinton could surf nympho.com to find interns. If a President Bush does it then all the Congressional inquiries go away. Can that be a bad thing?

We can then let Bill Clinton live on whatever he makes on the rubber chicken circuit, or whatever (one wonders if he actually has any marketable skills if he's out of office). Hillary, Senator or no, would hate it of course, since she'd either have to worry what's going on back in New York or have him underfoot all the time.

That can't be a bad thing either.

No letters this time. Do I have to write about the President's sex life again?

Well, I've finally run out of The Evil Overlord List. Fortunately (or not, depending on your point of view), Steve Mauris has sent me another list. Without further ado, here are Steve Mauris' "Great Diplomacy Truths":

Great Diplomacy Truths

These are a collection of sayings, observations and information I have amassed after playing the game (Diplomacy) and watching the profession (diplomacy). Although the context might exclude one or the other, the meanings are interchangeable.

21. Mutual distrust is a professional courtesy.
22. No one can have a higher opinion of him than I do, and I think he's a disgusting, treacherous reptile.
23. Harsh words may wound feelings, but flattering words are often fatal.
24. "Hey, you have the rifle, you go first."
"Wait a minute! I have the rifle, YOU go first!"
25. Lies, like weeds, spring up everywhere and are hard to kill off. And they even have pretty flowers to make you like them and want to keep them around.
26. Which is deadlier- the stone or the knife? The stone, because the knife is sharp and known to be dangerous, and hence, avoided. No one suspects they might ever be stoned to death by their friend.
27. "Nothing personal, Tim. I had to stab you; it was there."
28. "Whoops! How did my army get there?" (Ike Porter)
29. "That was a cold, calculating, dirty thing to do to your ally. I wish I had done that."
30. How to tell when your opponent is no longer an active threat: he is dead.

Thanks to Steve for the list. Hopefully someone will send me another one someday.

Games Section

"Let me speak to you honestly, frankly, openheartedly. You are a liar."
- Le Duc Tho (Vietnamese ambassador) to Henry Kissinger, 1972.
(Quoted in Steven Ambrose, Rise to Globalism, p. 308.)

"A liar should have a good memory." - Quintilian

Diplomacy is copyrighted by Hasbro. Everyone should go out and buy a copy. I have 4.

GAMESTART!!!

At the last minute I filled up my Gunboat Dip game. If you think you're signed up and haven't received your country assignment let me know. The game will be called, "Priority One". Spring 1901 orders are due on whatever date Scott puts on Page 2 at Noon EST. **Orders for Priority One go to me, not Scott.**

The battle lines are drawn over German and Italian soil. England goes nowhere this time. Where does he go in the future?

Ambrosia, Boardman Number 1998S, Autumn 1905 retreats, Winter 1905 adjustments, Spring 1906 moves:

Austria (Peter Boyum): build a Bud; build a Tri; a Ven - Pie; a Tri - Ven; f Adr s a Tri - Ven;
a War s Turkey a Gal - Sil; a Boh s a Tyr - Mun; a Tyr - Mun (bounce); a Bud - Gal; a Vie - Tyr (bounce);
England (Phil Reynolds): a Lon - Nwy (bounce); f Nth c a Lon - Nwy; f Bar s a Lon - Nwy;
a StP s a Lon - Nwy; f Nwy - Swe (bounce);
France (Eric Grinnell): build f Mar; build a Par; f Mar - GoL; f Bel s f Hol hold; f Hol s a Mun - Kie;
a Ber s a Mun - Kie; a Ruh s a Bur - Mun; a Bur - Mun (bounce); a Par - Bur (bounce); a Mun - Kie;
f Tun - TyS (bounce); a Rom s f TyS - Nap; f TyS - Nap (bounce);
Germany (Andy Lischett): retreat f Nwy - Ska; remove a Sil; remove f GoB; f Ska s France f Hol - Nth
(NSO);
a Den - Swe (bounce); a Kie - Den (bounce, destroyed);
Turkey (Jeff Prichard): build a Ank; a Ank - Arm; a Gal - Sil; a Mos hold;

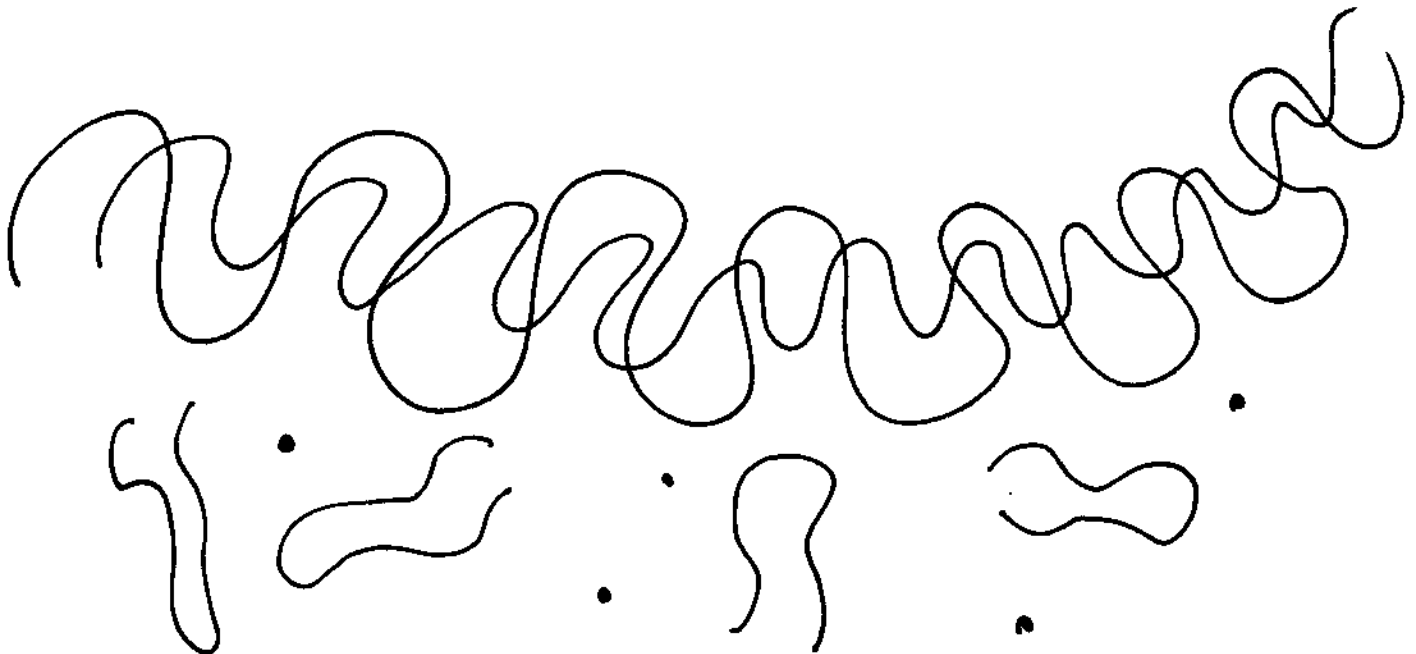
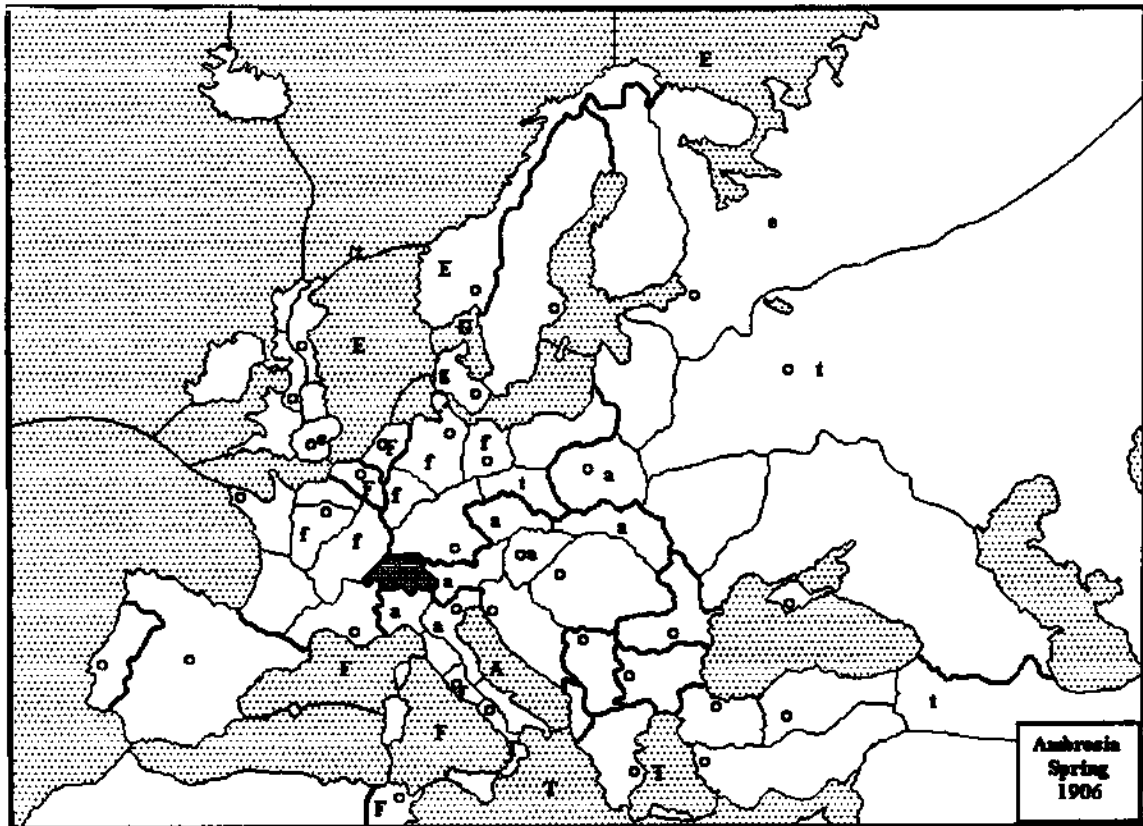
f Nap s Austria a Ven - Rom (NSO, cut); f Ion s f Nap hold; f Aeg s f Ion hold;

Press:

Germany to Turkey: I guess you didn't try too hard.

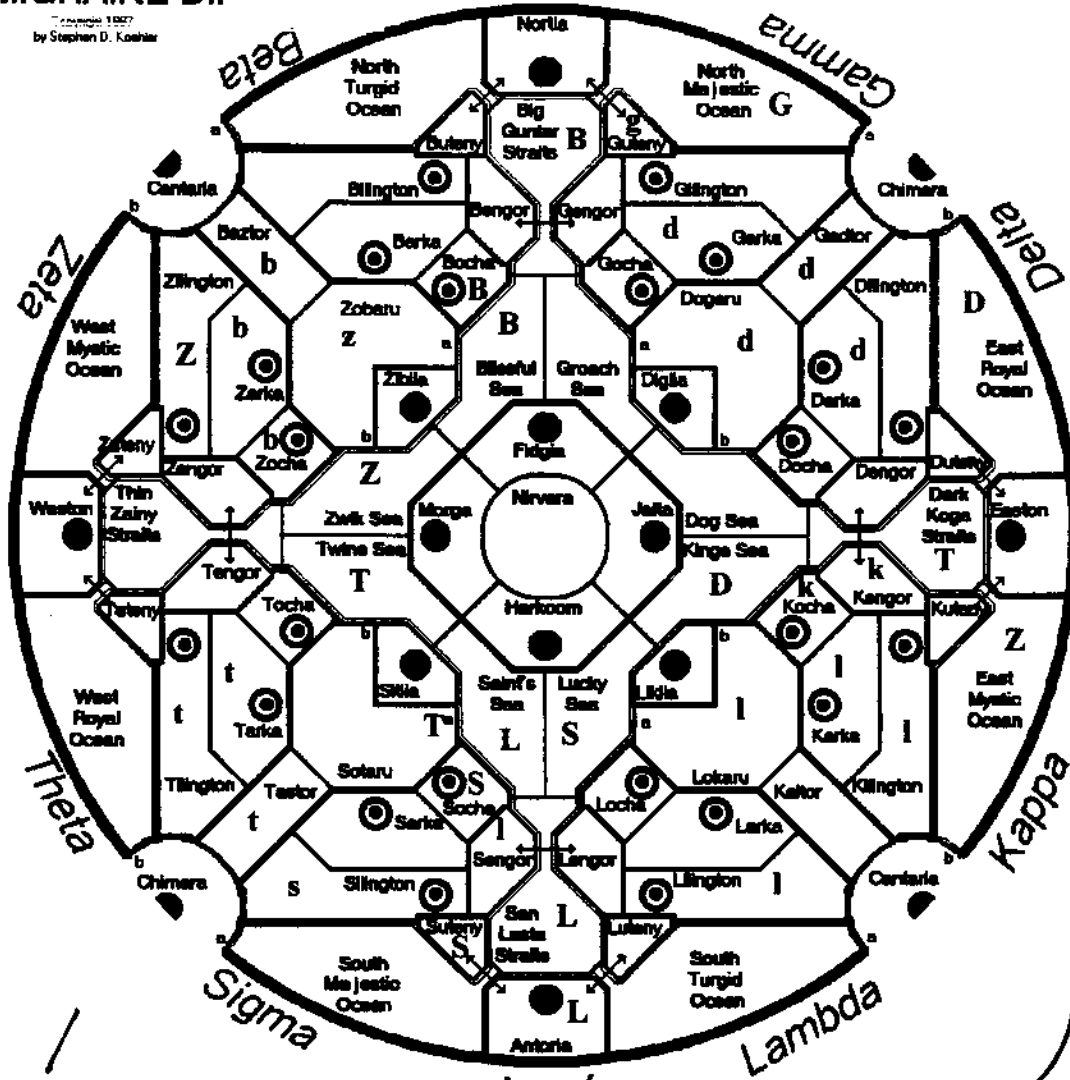
France: I may be the biggest, but I'm not the best. I think A/T is gonna hand me my ass this year.

The Germany army in Kiel is destroyed. No retreats due. I need Fall 1906 orders from everyone by Noon EST on whatever date Scott lists on page 2. **Remember, orders for Ambrosia go to me, not Scott.**



MIGRAINE DIP

Copyright 1997
by Stephen D. Koehler



Where is
the flow?

"Othello II", Migraine Diplomacy, White Press only, Winter 1902 adjustments/Spring 1903 moves:

Gamma (Roe): f BGS retreat OTB; a Gil - Gut; f NMO - Chi(a) (bounce);
Delta (Morris): f KS - Koc (bounce); f Chi(b) - ERO; a Gad - Chi (bounce); a Dig - Dog;
a Gar s a Dar - Gad; a Dar - Gad (bounce);
Kappa (Prichard): disband f Jal; disband f ERO; a Ken - Kar (bounce); a Koc s a Ken - Kar (cut);
Lambda (Carl): build a Lar; build a Lil; build f Loc; f Loc - SLS; f Ant s Loc - SLS; a Len - Sen;
f LS - SS; a Lar - Lok; a Lil - Can (bounce); a Kar s Delta f KS - Koc (cut); a Kil - Ken (bounce);
Sigma (Kellett): disband a Sar; f Soc s a Sar - Sot (NSU); f Har - LS; a Sil - Tas (bounce);
f Sut - SLS (bounce);
Theta (Koehler): build f Toc; f Toc - TS; a Til s a Sot - Tas; a Tar s a Sot - Tas; a Sot - Tas; f Sit - Sot(a);
f Eas - DKS;
Zeta (Batterton): disband f Mor; f ZS s a Zib - Zob; f WMO - EMO; a Zib - Zob; f Zil - Can(b) (bounce);
Beta (Narhi): build a Bil; build f Boc; a Bil - Baz; a Zob - Zoc; a Zar s a Zob - Zoc; f Fid - BS;
f Boc - Zob(a) (bounce); f Goc - BGS;

Othello II Press:

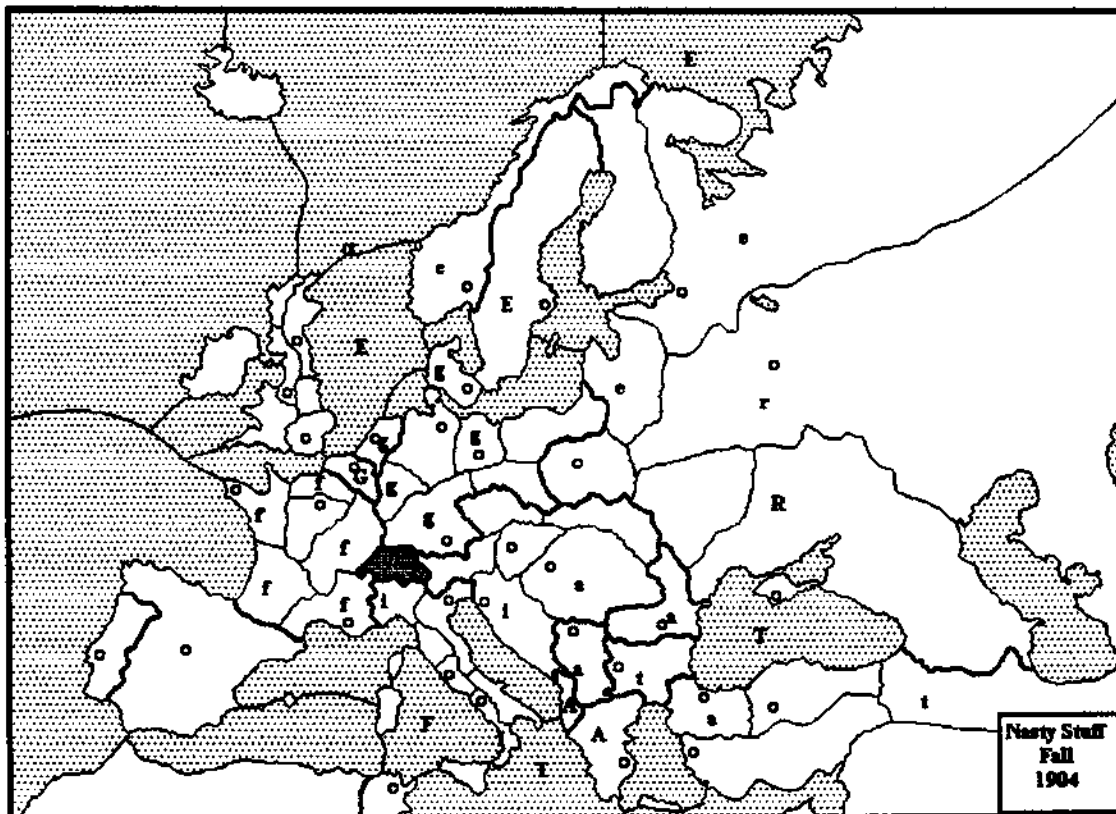
Silly Gilly - Acorn Mold and Sillymarin Herb Press - Russ Gamma, King of all of the Gamma Rays, cast his aspergions [relative to aspergum] over the landscape, and the water as well. What, might I ask, did he see? He saw his own past. He saw his 36 plus odd [very odd] years of playing this game and always keeping his word, and he saw only a field, by and large, of liars and stabbers, as well as some thumb suckers coming at him from the mirror, mirror on the wall. So, he ordered his fleet to launch immediately into hyperspace so that he could once and for all be gone from such a bunch. We bid you goodbye, and fair thee well. But, then, no one fairs well when they are bleeding to death from the knife wounds. Now, that said, let me be clear about what I did say. Monty Carlisle, I would play in a game with you any day. Scott, don't even send me your zine since some of the "stuff" might well rub off on me. Gosh, Russ, was that kind? Na!

Feel free to check me here, as this is tough to adjudicate. No retreats, so I need Fall 1903 orders from everyone by Noon EST on whatever date Scott publishes on page 2 of the zine. Remember, orders go to me, not Scott.

England heads for Russia. The Rhine holds, but the battle lines break in the Balkans. Turkey in a hurt, Italy gets back to 4. Good stuff here. Gunboat Dip as it is supposed to go.

"Nasty Stuff", Standard Gunboat Diplomacy, no press. Miller Number 1999Brb32. Fall 1904 moves:

Austria: a Gal - Rum; a Bud s a Gal - Rum; a Ser s a Gal - Rum; f Alb s f Ion - Gre; a Bul - Con; f Ion - Gre;
England: f Bar s a Nwy - StP; f GoB - Swe; f Nth c a Yor - Nwy; a Nwy - StP; a StP - Lvn; a Yor - Nwy;
France: a Pic s a Bur hold; a Bur s a Pic hold (cut); a Bre s a Pic hold; a Gas s a Bur hold; a Mar hold;
f Tun - TyS;
Germany: a Hol s f Bel hold; f Bel s England f Nth - Eng (NSO); a Ruh - Bur (bounce); a Mun s a Ruh - Bur;
a Den hold; a Kie - Ber;
Italy: a Ven - Tri; a Pie - Mar (bounce); f Ion - Nap;
Russia: f Sev hold; a Mos s f Sev hold;
Turkey: f Bla S a Arm - Sev; a Rum s a Arm - Sev (cut, dislodged, retreat to Ukr, OTB);
a Arm - Sev (bounce); a Gre - Bul; f Aeg - Ion



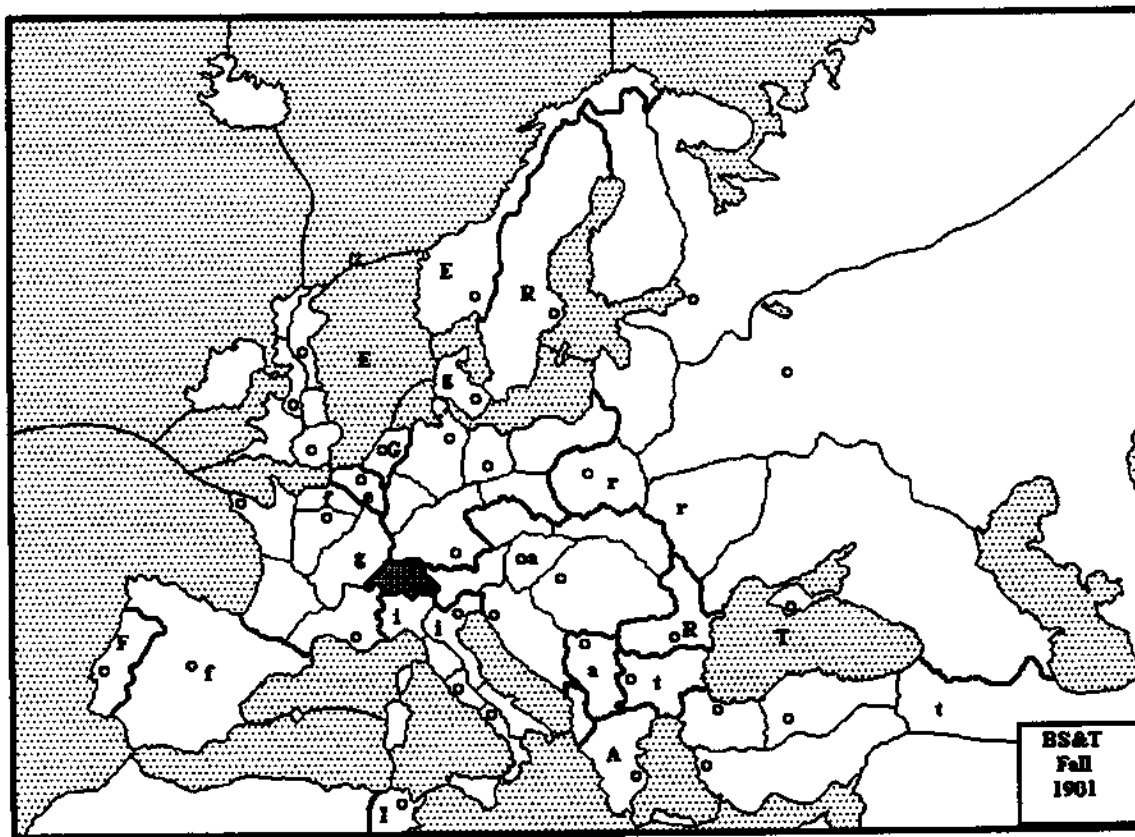
Supply Center ownership, "Nasty Stuff":

Austria: Bud, Con, Gre, Rum, Ser, Vie, War (7) build 1
 England: Edi, Lvp, Lon, Nwy, StP, Swe (6) even
 France: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, Tun (6) even
 Germany: Bel, Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun (6) even
 Italy: Nap, Rom, Tri, Ven (4) build 1
 Russia: Mos, Sev (2) even
 Turkey: Ank, Bul, Smy (3) remove 2 or remove 1

I need an Autumn retreat from Turkey, Winter 1904 adjustments from Austria, Italy and Turkey, and Spring 1905 moves from everyone on whatever date Scott puts on page 2, at Noon EST. Orders go to me, not Scott.

Blood, Sweat and Tears, Standard Dip, White Press Only, Boardman Number 2000B, Fall 1901:

Austria (Steve Koehler): a Ser s Russia f Sev - Rum; f Alb - Gre; a Vie - Gal (*bounce*);
 England (Don Williams): f Nwg - Nwy; a Yor - Bel; f Nth c a Yor - Bel;
 France (Stan Kellett): a Pic - Bur (*bounce*); a Spa - Mar (*bounce*); f MAO - Por;
 Germany (Mark Fassio): f Hol s a Bur - Bel (*NSO*); a Bur s Italy a Pie - Mar (*cut*); a Kie - Den;
 Italy (Peter Boyum): a Pie - Mar (*bounce*); a Ven - Pie (*bounce*); f TyS - Tun;
 Russia (Phil Reynolds): f Bot - Swe; f Sev - Rum; a Ukr - Sev (*bounce*); a War - Gal (*bounce*);
 Turkey (Ward Narhi): a Arm - Sev (*bounce*); f Ank - Bla; a Bul s Austria a Ser - Rum (*NSO*);



France hangs on to everything, but with 2 builds and 3 enemies, for how long? Does Turkey have a friend? This one won't be for the squeamish.

Supply Center Ownership, "Blood Sweat and Tears":

Austria: Bud, Gre, Ser, Tri, Vie (5) build 2
 England: Bel, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy (5) build 2
 France: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa (5) build 2
 Germany: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun (5) build 2
 Italy: Nap, Rom, Tun, Ven (4) build 1
 Russia: Mos, Rum, Sev, StP, Swe, War (6) build 2
 Turkey: Ank, Bul, Con, Smy (4) build 1
 Neutral: (0)

Press:

LONDON to INDIANAPOLIS: We thank you, indeed, for the fond remembrances brought to our peace-loving nation by your use of the grand words of our once and future leader, words used to guide us to emerge victorious from beneath the hideous dark clouds of war. Churchill's words, Churchill's opening ... I feel a Pax Britannica coming on ...

YORK to BERLIN: Pax Romana. Pax Britannica. Pax Americana. Could it be coincidence that there is no such thing known as "Pax Germanica"? I think not.

ENGLAND to FRANCE: Next time the Hun wants wine, tell him to buy it at the 7-11 like the rest of us. The Kaiser; he's either at your throat or at your feet.

E to R: I have a cunning plan ...

Berlin: In an effort to prove that the Kaiser is not the self-serving, opportunistic dirtbag that some (all?) of the others would believe, von Fazdorf has decided on an altruistic policy for 1901. Passing up a

50-50 shot at Paris, we Germans have decided to try and aid our friends (?) the Italians, while also making nice toward the English. We can only hope Perfidious Albion isn't, and that the turncoat Italians aren't.

FlashJoke: Saw this passed among military jokesters in Europe, reference NATO: Heaven is where the police are British, the cooks French, the mechanics German, the lovers Italian and it's all organized by the Swiss. Hell is where the police are German, the mechanics French, the cooks British, the lovers Swiss and it's all organized by the Italians. <grin>

Faz to Stan: I'm "two strikes and out" in my relations with you, I realize. But I've already made enemies of my other neighbors in previous matches; I should be an equal-opportunity agitator and wretch toward all, so let's give this a shot and see what happens. En garde!

Ger to Rus: All quiet on our Eastern Front?

Munich Muckraker: Today's press reports on the exciting activities in the Balkans, where three powers for supremacy among the lesser nations of the region. All Germany watches the outcome with interest.

The MTV, oops, F-A-Z "Real World": Retirement from the military proceeds. Should be out in Feb, but working by Dec. Got a job in a north central Kentucky school, and one of our realtor's names is (no kidding) "Billy Bob." Hey, isn't that the "Deliverance" kid with his banjo over there?

RUSSIA TO TURKEY: I guess you're letting your moves speak for you, since you're not speaking otherwise.

RUSSIA TO AUSTRIA: The others are doubting our friendship. Hope you made a clear demonstration this turn.

RUSSIA TO ENGLAND: How you take Nwy will say much about how we get along.

RUSSIA TO GERMANY: Your not posing any threat to Swe speaks volumes – thanks.

RUSSIA TO FRANCE: Bet you'll cover Bur next time you're France, huh!

RUSSIA TO ITALY: I expect you'll be joining Germany in kicking France while he's down.

Italy to All: My apologies gentle folk. My computer went to its great reward a fortnight ago. While that may not bring a tear to your eye, it has caused me a great deal of consternation. I had no records on paper. Every last bit of friendship and treachery in this fine sport we call Diplomacy evaporated with my dear departed computer. In short, I don't know who of you are my friends and which of you blackhearts are my enemies. I am in rather an awkward position as a result. Please communicate with me and let me know what I may have promised or threatened since I haven't a clue. My new computer is working fine but with a clean slate.

I propose to you, my merry knaves, that you shake the sawdust from your loin cloths, that you wipe the spittle from your mouths, and that you don your pork pie hats. We are off and running!

Press Ministry The Berlin Bombastic, the most-read daily of Europe's newspapers, reports a shortage of ink around the capitals of Europe. It cites Kaiser Fazdorf as saying, "In this game we get an average of two

notes per turn, generally from the same two people...if we're lucky. It must be, then, that there is a paper and/or ink shortage. Otherwise, those with vital interests and Germanic dealings would be writing, would they not?" The paper then announces the following subheaders for this topic:

- "Does Turkey Really Exist, or is Ward Narhi just a cover name?"
- "Austria or Australia; who writes the most to Germany?"
- "No Bull from John Bull"
- "France: The Ward Narhi of the West?"
- "Italy: Follows the Tubes' song, 'Talk to Ya Later'"
- "No 'Russian' to Get Mail to the Germans, it Seems"

Winter 1901 builds and Spring 1902 orders are due from everyone on whatever date Scott puts on page 2, by Noon EST. Orders go to me, not Scott.

GAME OPENINGS:

None currently. I'll open up another Standard Dip game when Scott's fills.

Remember folks, this is a Diplomacy zine first and foremost. If I get 10 or 12 games going at once that's the way it should be. As far as I'm concerned, Conrad von Metzke and Lee Kendter, the Boardman and

Miller Number Custodians, need to be much busier than they've been the last few years (although don't bite off more than you can diplomate either).

We're looking for standbys. Please let us know what kinds of Dip games that you will offer to standby for. Repeat: PLEASE tell us if you will standby for any Dip games! It saves me trying to chase people down.

I have offered to run pretty much any Dip game that folks want, short of Colonial or Modern. Scott will also be GM'ing some. Let us know what you'd like to have. This is the purpose of a Diplomacy zine. We want to see bloodshed!

Breaking Away is published by Fiendish Games and designed by John Harrington of the UK.

Road to Ruin, Turn 2:

Square	Rider(s)	Replacement Card
15	Zip	3
14	Muffin'; Dah	4
13	Reed; Shaivalamabad	6
12	Strappe; Bonny; Dipenagrawaal; Puffin'; Dover; Chuffin'	8
11	von Dyke; Muhurashtinganja; Cobbham	14
10	FES; Listbutt; Baily; Idee	15
9	Gears; Stuffin'	15
8	Carrie	15
7	Appleton; Do	15
6	Dodger	15

Zip zips to the lead, however temporary, but the pack is still all together. I think I have all the riders listed on their squares in order of the tiebreaks, with the exception being Strappe and Bonny, who are exactly tied. A big logjam at 12, but that doesn't matter anymore. Olympus scores a perfect 60 on replacements cards. Listed below are the teams. The first column is the rider level, next is the card played, then the riders' name, then the cards in the players' hands. The replacement card is underlined in bold. Orders for everyone are due by Noon EST on whatever date Scott puts on page 2 of the zine. Press is welcome. Remember, orders go to me, not Scott.

Dykes on bykes Brendan Whyte

Points: 0

A	3	Ms Muffin'	10	9	<u>4</u>
B	3	Ms Puffin'	8	8	<u>8</u>
C	3	Ms Chuffin'	8	3	<u>8</u>
D	3	Ms Stuffin'	5	5	<u>15</u>

Olympus Tom Howell

Points: 0

Team Manager: Zeus

A	4	Appleton	15	8	13	<u>15</u>
B	7	Baily	15	13	<u>15</u>	
C	2	Carrie	12	3	<u>15</u>	
D	5	Dodger	10	15	<u>15</u>	

Bonne Vivants Joe Carl

Points: 0

A	7	Jacque Strappe	15	10	<u>8</u>
B	9	Cal Listbutt	15	15	<u>15</u>
C	10	Ben Dover	8	15	<u>8</u>
D	3	Louis Gears	7	3	<u>15</u>

The Pirates Sara Reichert

Points: 0

A	7	Anne Bonny	15	10	<u>8</u>
B	6	Mary Reed	10	8	<u>6</u>
C	7	Jost van Dyke	9	10	<u>14</u>
D	4	Maria Cobbham	5	6	<u>14</u>

Team 7-11 Ward Narhi

Points: 0

A	4	FES	10	10	3	<u>15</u>
B	7	Dipenagrawaal	10	10	<u>8</u>	

C	6	Shaivalamabad		7	6	6
D	7	Muhurashtiganja	5	10	<u>14</u>	

My oh my Dave Partridge

Points: 0

A	14	Zip	15	15	<u>3</u>
B	2	Idee	15	5	<u>15</u>
C	4	Do	13	13	<u>15</u>
D	10	Dah	11	1	<u>4</u>

Dykes on Bikes: "Yikes! Dykes on bikes play their trikes, and hope, for the likes of mikes, to get larger replacements this time. But it's nice to see the girls in the lead. But then, you boys always like to come in behind, don't you? Actually, am surprised we are leading at this point. My information is that the guys normally like to come first.... so thank you for letting us girls do so for a change. Sisters are doing it to...ur... FOR themselves!"

Dodger - Zip: Gotta big mountain to climb. Let's get peddling!

My oh my: Zip Idee Do Dah, Zip Idee Day

My oh my what a wonderful play

I look around me and what do I see

Dykes on Bykes all getting three!

Sea of Despair, turn 12 orders. No more to join in now. The rules as of turn 12 (this round) have been changed. At this point you will only be able to take 1 point off of yourself instead of 2, and take 2 points off of someone else instead of 3. You are still able to distribute 5 points to the masses of course, and at 21 you are overboard. Remember that the top 6 get Goz Points. Jamie and Yvette go over the side this turn. Kinda dull press this turn. No Goz Points awarded, but Joe and Botto get Honorable Mentions. Anyone with an asterisk by their name didn't submit anything and was given 7 points by the GM (that would be me). **[GM comments in bold.]**

J McQuinn 24* Y Morris 23 -- Start swimming!!!

D Dewsnap	19*	J Fitzgerald	8	J Carl	7	B Whyte	5
S Reichert	18	D Ware	8	J Goesle	6	R Dowrey	5
J Prichard	10	M Barno	8	M Botorff	5		

Baron Powell: (wanted his shot from over the side) OOOOoooooOOOOooooo!!!! This is the spirit of VonPowell calling to you from his watery grave. It's rather cold and wet down here on the ocean bottom. Not a nice place at all really.

My thanks to those true friends who kept their promises and helped ensure that McQuinn was taught a sharp lesson and his prophet, Morris the Slasher, was thrown to the sharks.

To those mean-spirited souls who tormented me in my final moments, rest assured that justice is forthcoming. To the treacherous Silverman who repaid kindness with cruelty, to the backstabbing Lively who attacked without provocation, and, most of all, to the black-hearted Jean Goesle who laughed as I begged for help, rest assured that a terrible punishment awaits. It will be punishment so frightening, so horrible, so excruciating that I dare not mention it aloud since it would cause women to faint and strong men to weep. Oh, it's bad, trust me! It's simply a matter of time and vengeance will be mine. BWAH! HA! HA! HA!

Well, that's it from the spirit-world. Have a nice day. OOOOoooooOOOOooooo!!!!!!
[You get to chat with Adam and Mike while you're down there. You'll have to wait a bit for Jean, but maybe that fits into your plans...]

Brendan Whyte: all points on y morris. In the immortal words of Tom Jones:
y,y,y,...y morris, lah-lalalalalalalah [I'm kinda glad that the tune really didn't come out to me via email...]

Sara Reichert: I am, of course, quite saddened that Yvette Morris chose to give me 5 points, so I guess I must reluctantly give her 5 points in return. Also, I am sending a copy of this to others who play SEA OF DISPAIR asking them to place 5 point on Yvette Morris if they are so inclined to help me out. The sooner we get rid of her, the better, right? Thank you very much. **[Ah, a conspiracy. We need more of that around here.]**

John Fitzgerald: Since I did say that I was only giving a dying Baron his final wishes....please help out my darling Sara and put 5 points on Yvette Morris. **[Looks like another Morris bites the dust.]**

Joe Carl: All 5 of mine on J Prichard. I follow the principle of tit-for-tat. You tattled me now I'm titting you. **[TEAT paints an ugly picture.]** Do it again and expect more of the same. who will join me in ousting this bully? Do I see a hand waving in this distance, my mistake that's just Scott going down for the last time. **[Scott says, "Blub".]**

Mike Barno: The fearsome Barno monster smites the following: Yvonne Morris for one because somebody asked me to. Jeff Prichard and Rob Dowrey for two each because they

share my score after turn 11. [Ok, but you might double-check the first name of the "lady of the 'zine".]

Rob Dowrey: I really don't know any of these folks in the boat, however, I do know that twice now Mike Barno has seen fit to toss some points my way. In the words of the immortal Yosemite Sam "Varmit, you'll pay for this!" Please give Mr. Barno 5 of your very best points with my compliments. [Actually, he's done it 3 times now.]

Scott Morris (from the deep): Unlike Ward I won't come back to the game bitching about how the others aren't playing it right. I am happy up here in heaven sitting at the right hand of Jamie drinking my biblical brew and hanging out with nubile young nymphs. It seems that the anti-Jamie Baron has belched up from the recesses of his insane realm a new grotesque warrior. Don is now doing the bidding of the dark one. I only ask that you save your own souls and mete out the justice his so richly deserves. REPENT.....repent..... DoH! gotta run, the keg's empty again. [Can't add anything to that...]

Doug Ware: 2 points off of Jamie. Period. No witticisms. [Gee, and I was \$000 looking forward to one.]

Mike Bottorff: Scott bought me a beer and told me to put 5 points on Don Dewsnap. [I guess we see what your price is.]

Yvette Morris: 5 more on Sara reichert. She is near the back and I am trying to avoid retaliation. [Too late.]

Jean Gosale: Ok. Let's see. Who has the most points. Ah, ha! Five points to McQuinn. [From one librarian to another...]

Jeff Prichard: Put 5 points on J. Carl [Ok.]

Last time I gave a two-part quiz.

Part 1: As Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage". Unfortunately, human beings being what we are, we forget our lines from time to time. So your job in this part was to figure out who SHOULD have said the following quotes but didn't, and what year they should have been said (approximately). Some of the non-speakers don't have specific names, so I'll take a general idea for those answers. The answers and the scores:

1. Young lady, put your skirt back down and get back to the typing pool! **Bill Clinton, 1995**
2. No, I will NOT sell out the people of the Sudetenland. **Neville Chamberlain, 1938**
3. No Scott, I won't write a subzine for you. **Goz, 1998**
4. Cut it back to half-speed and watch out for icebergs. **Titanic Captain, 1912**
5. Rosemary takes good enough notes. We don't need to tape-record our conversations. **Richard Nixon, 1969**
6. Sorry Nicole, I can't bring your sunglasses by tonight. **Ron Goldman, 1994**
7. Karl, you don't really believe this "worker's paradise" stuff, do you? **Freidrich Engles, 1848**
8. Could those be Japanese planes? **Hawaiian radar operator, 1941**

Scott Morris -- 8 correct -- 2 Goz points

John Wilman -- 7 correct -- 1 Goz point

Mike Barno -- 7 correct -- 1 Goz point

Rob Dowrey -- 7 correct -- 1 Goz point

Colin Merritt -- 4 correct

Part 2: Ok, now that you've got the idea from Part 1, come up with one of your own. Include the quote, the non-speaker, and the year. Multiple entries encouraged. This one was too tough to call, so I'm giving Scott and Mike each 2 Goz points and John, Rob, and Colin 1 each, for the following:

From Scott: "I am here to return this B-B-Q sauce, I won't need it." **J.Dalhmer**

From Scott: "Lets screw pomp and circumstance and throw the men all the damn ammunition they need!" **British Ammo Sgt. vs. Zulu Tribe**

From Scott: "Wait a second, I'm a world famous rich movie star, maybe I don't have to pay for a hummer from some low rent hooker after all." - **Hugh Grant**

From Mike: "But what if German forces went around the Maginot Line's north end through Belgium?" - **French military high command, 1914 and 1940.**

From Mike: "We'll get sunburned if we ride in the convertible. Let's take the armored limo." - **Jacqueline Kennedy, 1963.**

From Mike: "I'm joining an order of nuns that take a vow of silence." - Celine Dion, around 1990.
From John: "good advice, kind sir, I'll plead a headache and go home" (Caesar to the soothsayer, 51 BC)
From Rob: "Not tonight Lancelot. . . I have a headache." -- Guinevere many legends ago.
From Colin: "Gee, maybe I shouldn't get America into an unwinnable war." Kennedy (Johnson acceptable) 1963-68

A little History quiz this time, since I'm pressed for time and it's easy. Goz points up for grabs.

1. In the Nixon question above, what was "Rosemary's" last name?
 2. What country other than Germany invaded Poland in September 1939?
 3. What Roman emperor forbade citizens from laughing or bathing after one of his sister-wives died?
 4. What French explorer was murdered by his crew after he spent two years failing to locate the mouth of the Mississippi River?
 5. What US President committed an unpardonable sin by kissing the Queen Mother on the lips?
 6. What was 11th-century Spanish military leader Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar better known as?
 7. What church did Henry VIII create when the Pope refused to give him a divorce in 1534?
 8. What fighter pilot flew World War I missions with his Great Dane "Moritz" next to him in the cockpit?
 9. What was the most infamous "Black September" operation, in 1972?
 10. What future Soviet dictator was training to be a priest when he got turned on to Marxism?
 11. What 1848 document did Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels say would "do for history what Darwin's theory has done for biology"?
 12. What war lasted from June 5, 1967 to June 10, 1967?
 13. What Russian revolutionary was sent to Kazakhstan in 1929, deported to Turkey and killed in Mexico?
 14. What 10-year-old began earning his bad reputation by throwing puppies off the Kremlin walls in 1540?
 15. What did Hormel's president give Boris Yeltsin a can of, after a 1992 plant tour?
-

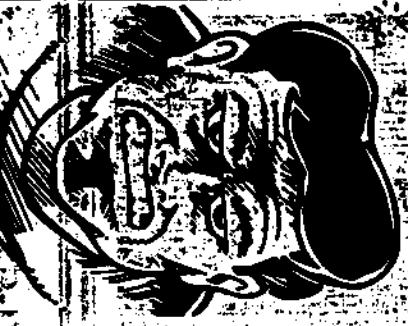
That's all from the East side of Indianapolis,

Goz

Any connections between your reality and mine are purely coincidental.

Don't look here

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TARUS
HEARING VOICES AND SEEING SPIDERS ARE ON TAP FOR THIS WEEK. DON'T FIGHT 'EM. JOIN 'EM. IF YOUR TELEVISION TELLS YOU WHO YOUR ENEMIES ARE AND YOU ARE CONSTANTLY CRAWLING WITH ARACHNIDS, PEOPLE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO LEAVE YOU ALONE - AND THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, NOW, ISN'T IT?

GE/NI/
YOU WILL BELIEVE THE MILK & BREAKFAST CEREAL INDIVIDUAL SERVING COMBO TO BE THE GREATEST IDEA EVER. UNTIL YOU DISCOVER THE CHILI & FRITOS INDIVIDUAL SERVING COMBO. THEN YOU SEE THE ANNUAL CRACKERS & CHOCOLATE FROSTING INDIVIDUAL SERVING PACKAGE.

CANCER
TODAY IS THE DAY TO TRY TO BEAT YOUR PERSONAL RECORD FOR MOST PICKLES EATEN IN SIXTYSECONDS. IF YOU DON'T BEAT IT THE FIRST TIME, KEEP TRYING. TRUST ME. GO FOR THE GOLD BABY!

LEO
THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS WILL FOCUS ON GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS GASPING ABOUT THINGS THAT THEY DON'T LIKE. THE ISSUES WILL EITHER BE UNIMPORTANT OR THEIR MEWS WILL BE OBVIOUSLY WRONG.

VIRGO
THIS WEEK YOU WILL FINALLY REALIZE YOUR LIFELONG DREAM TO BUILD A WOMAN ENTIRELY OUT OF LEGOS. DISSATISFACTION WITH THE FINAL PRODUCT LEADS TO YOUR LAUNCHING A LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN TO GET 'FLESH COLORED' BLOCKS.

LIBRA
DURING SOME UNSEASONABLY WARM WEATHER, SOMEONE WILL COMMENT THAT IT FEELS LIKE SUMMER ALREADY. YOU WILL PUNCH THAT PERSON REALLY, REALLY HARD IN THE LEFT KIDNEY.

SCORPIO
PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO TALK ABOUT YOU. APPARENTLY, BATHING ISN'T WORKING, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE IT UP ALTOGETHER?

SAGITTARIUS
YOU STRUGGLE WITH THIS PARADOX: DAVID LETTERMAN'S TALK SHOW IS STILL ON TELEVISION, YET HE SEEMS TO HAVE RETIRED YEARS AGO. A PHYSICAL IMPOSSIBILITY - YET IT HAPPENS FIVE NIGHTS A WEEK!

CAPRICORN
ON YOUR NEXT BLIND DATE, SPEND THE EVENING IMITATING THE VOICE AND BODY LANGUAGE OF HERMAN MUNSTER. IF YOUR DATE JOINS IN, MATRIMONY WILL NOT BE FAR OFF.

AQUARIUS
IF A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE U.S. CENSUS COMES TO YOUR HOME, FLING OPEN THE DOOR, FLAIL YOUR ARMS AND SHOUT 'ONE!' YOU'LL SCREW UP THEIR COUNT AND THEY'LL HAVE TO START COUNTING ALL OVER AGAIN.

PISCES
YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU BID HIGH ON THAT *EGGY* JUNK. REMEMBER, THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING THOSE PEOPLE FROM TOUCHING THAT STUFF ALL OVER BEFORE THEY PACK IT UP. DO THEY WASH THEIR HANDS REGULARLY? YOU DON'T KNOW, DO YOU? THAT'S WHAT THE HANDLING IS IN THE 'SHIPPING AND HANDLING.' YOU PAY SIX BUCKS EXTRA FOR IT!

WARNING: NOT TO BE CONSIDERED REAL ADVICE OR SOME DAMN WEIRD PREDICTION OF THE FUTURE. IF I COULD SO THAT I IMAGINE MY FATHER WOULD BE PROUD OF ME. RIGHT NOW, HE THINKS I GIVE PEOPLE FIVE DOLLAR MESSAGES AT FLEA MARKETS AND CRAFT FAIRS.

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SAMPLES

- Scott Bokan
- Melinda Holley

Warren Bull (19)
3919 W. Sevilla St
Tampa, FL 33629
(wbull@exchange.mil.com)

Mike Burns (26)
634 Dawson Hill Road
Spencer, NY 14883
(mepharm@highlink.com)

Rob Battarson (50)
1130 Edgewood Road
Redwood City, CA 94062
(Ac3man@aol.com)

Edi Birson (27)
950 Alfa Ave
Concord CA, 94519
(edi@angrow.com)

John Boardman (T)
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11226

Michael Bottorff (17)
514 Belgrave Ct.
Louisville, Ky. 40208
(mbottorff@earthlink.net)

Brady Boyd (\$\$)
1221 W. 25th St.
Independence, MO 64052
(Vingmol@aol.com)

Peter Boyum (24)
720 Sunrise Ave #36
Roseville, CA 95661
(pchoyus@redshift.com)

Jim Burgess (T)
644 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908-4327
(burgess@world.und.com)

Joe Carl (24)
362 34th St.
NW Canton, OH 44709
(jcarl@msa.iron.com)

Monty Carlisle (34)
528 Stafford Ave.
Newark, DE 19711
(CarlisleM@aol.com)

Don Downap (26)
4 Washington St.
Hyde Park, MA 02136
(Dddwds@aol.com)

Robert Dowrey (23)
181 Sunset Terrace
Orchard Park, NY 14127
(Aardvark6rsmk@aol.com)

Bus Eddy (22)
7500 212th St. SW #207
Edmond, WA 98026
(Buseddy@aol.com)

Mark "Fas" Fassio (28)
4814 Harrell Court, Unit C
Fort Meade MD 20755-1992
(fafas@juno.com)

John Fitzgerald (27)
217 Mayflower Dr.
Middletown, RI 02842
(jpfiddy@aol.com)

Jean Gault (29)
729 Edison St; Second Floor
Geneva, IL 60134
(jotars@hotmail.com)

Warren Gault (He Digresses)
3907 Cedar Ridge Rd. #1B
Indianapolis, IN 46235
(gawcwp@quest.net)

Eric Grinnell (\$\$)
P.O. Box 99417
Troy, MI 48069
(ESGrinnell@aol.com)

Manus Hood (T)
18722 Jordan Ct
Parker, CO 80134
(manus@starship.kypart.net)

Dirk & Cathy Haster (25)
12501 Silver Fox Ln #8
Anchorage, AK 99515
(Akhusus1@aol.com)
(MrsAKNEKUS@aol.com)

Tom Howell (T)
1811 West 18th Street #1
Port Angeles, WA 98263-7413
(off-the-shelf@stympos.net)

Stan Kellott (WEB)
3 Lattimer Birch Hill
Beckwith, Yorkshire
England UK RG127LG
(skellott@networld.com)

Mark Kinney (T)
4820 Westmar Terrace #6
Louisville KY 40222
(alberich@iglon.com)

Steve Koehler (T)
418 Lyndeborn Lane
Mathews, NC 28105
(Steve_Koehler@prodigy.com)

Randy Lee (21)
1416 Regency Cir
Harrisburg, PA 17110-3827

Andy Lischett (T)
2402 Ridgeland Ave.
Berwyn, IL 60402

Mike Liverty (26)
3141 Martha Street
Highland, IN 46322
(Soul669@aol.com)

Michael Lowrey (T)
6903 Kentucky Derby Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28215
(mlowrey@charlotte.iff.net)

Frank Martin (51)
7915 Olive Leaf Lane
Granite Bay, CA 94746
(exboyceest@ipa.net)

Celia Merritt (28)
140 Greenwood St. 3 Fl
New Britain CT 06052
(Calknight@aol.com)

Brock McGinnis (20)
Mike McGinnis
Scott McGinnis
123 Fife Road
Guelph, ON Canada N1H 6Y1
(Broncog@aol.com)
(Gillmaneg@aol.com)
(Seemcg@aol.com)

Jamie McQuinn (20)
1619 Shroyer Rd
Dayton, OH 45419
(jmcquinn@delphi.com)

Scott Munson (\$\$)
P.O. Box 1842
Gardiner, MT 59630

Ward Nuchi (21)
521 Marbury
Akron, OH 44320
(wnuchi@netnet.com)

Jim O'Kelley (19)
664 W. Irving Park Road #1 - 6
Chicago, IL 60613
(jimot3@concentric.net)

Dave Partridge (19)
15 Woodland Drive
Breakside, NH 03633
(vubobob@rockwellmail.com)

Baron Powell (21)
3013 New Lawrence Rd.
Leavenworth, KS 66048
(Vempowell@aol.com)

Jeffrey Prichard (23)
1165 Pilgrim Road
Greenwood, IN 46142
(pricharj@ix.netcom.com)

Harry Andruschak (27)
28065 Margaret Street
Carson, CA 90745-1224
(aararichart@aol.com)

Berry Ranken (T)
Van Nottenstraat 6
7981 DG Diver
The Netherlands
(blum@chot.ys4.nl.nl)

Phil Reynolds (T)
2894 Oak Street,
Sarasota FL 34237
(Preyns@yahoo.com)

Russell R. Roe (22)
9607 Canady at Barnly Court
Village of Spotsylvania Courthouse
VA 22553-1953
(russellroe@satellite.prim.com)

Jim Sayers (25)
15 Eldsworth Street
Woolahra 2025 Australia
(100233.513@compuserve.com)

Robert J. Slesar, Jr. (27)
14 Buck Hill Road
Huntington, Ct. 06484
(bshslm@tinet.net)

Adam Silverman (26)
155 Bay State Rd.
Boston, MA 02215
(agsam@MIT.EDU)

Chris Surprenant (36)
1453 Sonnet St.
New Orleans, LA 70115
(lceQuakeX@aol.com)

Doug Ware (20)
4505 Tina Dr.
Crestwood, Ky. 40014
(Fudog@aol.com)

Brendan Whyte (T)
Geography Dept
University of Melbourne
Parkville 3052 Australia
(b.whyte@ppgnet.melb.edu.au)

Don Williams (28)
27505 Arline Drive
Sanger, CA 91350-2193
(williamsfuty@earthlink.net)

John Wilson (T)
26, Fowrie Place
Dundee DD1 2PQ, Scotland, UK
(jwilson@tineline.net)

Kevin Wilson (30)
373 Galsford Dr.
Burlwin, MO 63021
(chevior@aol.com)