

GRAUSTARK

The first 'zine for the postal play of Diplomacy, a game of negotiation and conflict designed by Allan B. Calhamer and published by Hasbro

#756 2002A, "Fall 1908"; 2002D, "Fall 1904"; 2001Bea04, "1918"

YOU MAY REMEMBER PAT TILLMAN, THE NEW PRO WHO ENLISTED IN THE ARMY RATHER THAN ACCEPT A \$30 MILLION FOOTBALL CONTRACT

ARMY. Who looks like they're into the game?

NEVER MIND THE FINE PRINT. WILL I GET TO KILL ARMS?

TILLMAN, WHO EARNED \$18,000, FALSELY BELIEVED BUSH'S WARS AGAINST IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIM

WE'RE RETAKING AFGHANISTAN TO GET AL QAEDA, WHICH IS BASED IN PAKISTAN AND FUNDED BY SAUDI ARABIA, AND ARAB TO GET AL QAEDA, WHICH KILLS SAUDI MUSLIMS.

WANCE SPOKE

WELCOME, CLASS TO THE COURSE, "OCCUPYING COUNTRIES 101."

PRINCIPLE ONE: PEOPLE DON'T LIKE FOREIGNERS WITH GUNS TELLING THEM WHAT TO DO.

ACTUALLY, HE WAS A COG IN A LOW-BENT OCCUPATION ARMY THAT SHOT MORE INNOCENT CIVILIANS THAN REPORTS TO PROP UP PIPET RULERS AND EXPLOIT GAS AND OIL RESOURCES

MUSINGS? LET 'EM BURST! GET DOWN TO BUSINESS AND REPAIR THAT PIPELINE!

SO WHEN TILLMAN GOT KILLED BY THE AFGHANI RESISTANCE, ONE WORD NATURALLY CAME TO MIND

UH-IDIOT?

SAD?

DUDE! NEW HERO!

CERTIFICATES OF COURSE COMPLETION WILL ARRIVE IN THE MAIL.

...THIS PENCIL WE FOUND IN IRAQ COULD'VE BEEN USED TO CREATE A ROUGH SKETCH OF A MISSILE...

MR. HANCOCKSTAN *remotely*

SOUP TO NUTZ

Hey, Andrew. Let's play Outposts and Indians!

Ok. I'll be right back!

I Got to be GANDHI...

...WE CONTINUE TO UNCOVER IRAQI WMD RELATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES...

STATE OF THE UNION

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS GOING ON IN THE WORLD YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT

AND LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY

THE EVOLUTION OF WAR

TO ARMS! THEY'RE INVADING!

REACTIVE

THEY HATE US AND THEY'RE ARMED TO THE TEETH. BOMBS AWAY!

PREMPTIVE

THEY'RE MASSING AT THE BORDER.

LET'S HIT 'EM FIRST!

IF THEY WANTED TO, THEY COULD DEVELOP WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. THEORETICALLY.

DEFCON 4? KILL 'EM ALL!!

IMAGINARY

THE SQUEEZE IS ON

BRITAIN (Watkins): A Yun S JAPANESE A Mon-Sik; A May holds; A Ass-Tib; A U.Bur S DUTCH A Ran-Ben.

FRANCE (Neal): No move received. F HK dislodged and annihilated.

HOLLAND (Floyd): F WIO holds; F GOM & F Cey S F WIO; F EIO-SIO; A Ran-Ben; F BOB C A Ran-Ben; F AS-EIO; A Ran-Ran.

JAPAN (Biehl): A Mon-Sik; A Chu & A Lan S A Mon-Sik; A Nan-Can; F Can-HK; F SCS S F Can-HK; A Ton-N.Sam; A Pek-Mon; A Irk & A Mac S A Pek-Mon; A Sha-Pek; A Vla-Sha; F SOJ & F YS S A Vla-Sha; F ECS C A Kyu-Nan; F OS-UP; F Ann-GOS; F GOS-Sun.S; F Coc-Cam; F SIO-TS; A Kyu-Nan; A Kyo holds.

RUSSIA (Quirk): A Uru & A Kag A Sik; A Kra S A Uru; A Sik holds; A Omsk S A Kra; A Mos-Ore.

TURKEY (Mooney): A Mys & A Hyd S F Mad; F GOA-WIO; F Mad & F Ara.S S F GOA-WIO; A Bag-Kar; F PG C A Bag-Kar; A Ben & A Tib S RUSSIAN A Sik-Ass; A Luc & A Nep S A Ben; F RS-GOA; A Bom & A Nag S A Hyd; A Raj-Pun ((sic; no such unit exists)); F Mec-Aden ((sic; no such unit exists)); F Aden & A Del not ordered, hold.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Russian A Sik is dislodged and annihilated, and France is eliminated. The deadline for "1920" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 20 AUGUST 2004.

There is a proposal before us to concede the game to Japan. Players should send in their votes on this proposal with the "1920" orders. A unanimous vote is required to make the concession effective. Abstentions will be counted as negative votes.

TOKYO (Apr. 1, 1918): Minister of Foreign Relations, Kido Takayoshi, remarked: "We would ask Russia to surrender except that Czar Michael has already done so to his historic southern adversary."

HANDICAPPING THE ELECTION

(but not as much as the candidates have already done)

Whether you accept or reject Allan B. Calhamer's 36-year cycles, or my hypothesis of 72-year cycles, this is allegedly going to be one of the most climactic and significant presidential elections in American history. (See Graustarks ##748-749 for comments by Calhamer and myself on these ideas.) The beginning of each new 36-year cycle invariably sees the defeat of the party that at the time controls the presidency, as in 1860, 1896, 1932, and 1968. And every 72 years we get a new president whose party also has working majorities in Congress, and who sets the nation in a new and much more desirable political and social direction.

At this point I do not see the slightest indication that John Kerry will eventually stand in our national pantheon next to George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. But the increasingly desperate tone of the Republican campaign, plus a brief look at recent elections, suggest that John Kerry will be elected.

This tone includes Republican bumper stickers which proclaim that "Kerry is Osama bin Laden's candidate; Bush is mine." But this, by itself, is little more significant than the 1944 claim, by some enthusiastic Democrat, that Hitler wanted to see Dewey defeat Roosevelt. It is more instructive to look at the returns of the last three presidential elections. Twenty "blue" states and DC voted Democratic in all three of those elections, are unlikely to change this year, and have a total of 260 electoral votes. Only ten more would be necessary to elect Kerry, and Democrats are organizing to ensure that every Floridian who wants to vote can, and that every vote cast will be counted. And if Governor Bush prevents this from happening, there are always the

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SO WHAT HAPPENED ALREADY?

It's complicated. The delay in publication of this issue of Graustark is due in part to problems with my copier (now, it is to be hoped, repaired at last), partly due to attending various gaming and science-fiction conventions, partly due to family visits, partly due to a legal problem with an inheritance (now, also, settled to the general satisfaction of me, my brothers, and the state of California), and partly due to the enervating humidity.

Now things are back in order. You will find that in the three current games, the deadline for the next orders is given as NOON, FRIDAY 20 AUGUST 2004. At need this can be stretched a little, though I would like to get Graustark #757 into the mail before we leave for the World Science Fiction Convention in Boston over Labor Day weekend.

(We lucked out this summer. During the Democratic National Convention in Boston, we were in New York, and during the Republican National Convention in New York we will be in Boston.)

And now, the good news. At long last we have a full board of seven players for the next postal Diplomacy game in Graustark. I signed up the last two at Origins 2004. They are:

Paul Koch, 24920 Fairmount Drive, Dearborn, MI 48124; 313-274-6579

Dan Mathias, 509 Bayview Drive, Lusby, MD 20657; 410-326-2568; <dcmathias@erols.com>

(The other players in this new game are listed in the Graustark Directory on pp. 10-11.) Dan Mathias very competently ran the Diplomacy tournament at Origins 2004 in June. Two of the seven players have yet to send in their game fees and country preference lists. When they do this, I will send out the country assignments and set a deadline for the "Spring 1901" moves, which will probably be NOON, FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2004, for publication in Graustark #758 on 18 September. Any player who needs a copy of the postal rules for Diplomacy should let me know right away. They were last published in Graustark #749.

I expect to put into the next Graustark a report on Origins 2004. However, there are a few items I'd like to get out to readers now. I finally found an up-to-date address for Interactivities Ink, publisher of the ingenious game Hamlet, reviewed in Graustark #748. The game was designed by Mike Young, Interactivities Ink, 1639 Irvin Street, Vienna, VA 22182. And the *Games Quarterly Catalog*, the extremely useful guide to the contemporary gaming scene which I scene cited in my report on Origins 2003, is no longer being given away free at Origins 2004. So, upon returning from the convention, I ordered it (\$16.95 from Matthews Simmons Marketing, Suite 16, 80 Garden Center, Broomfield, CO 80020).

HANDICAPPING THE ELECTION (continued from p. 2)

increasingly unemployed "Rust Belt" voters in Ohio, which was carried by Bush in 2000.

There are 16 "red" states that have gone Republican not just in the last three, but in the last six presidential elections. But they have a total of only 135 electoral votes. As a John Dos Passos hero said, sometime around 1930, "All right we are two nations."

Also, there is a definite regional division here. The "blue states" are concentrated in two regions: the states bordering the Pacific Ocean (except for Alaska) and the states that lie north of the Potomac and east of the Missouri (except for Indiana and maybe New Hampshire). Indiana was the largest northern state carried by Dole in 1996, and the second largest (next to Ohio) carried by Bush the Son in 2000.

As in 2000, the key to this election will be not how many voters support each candidate, but where they are located. Kerry could get small majorities in the "blue states" cited above, and be ignominiously defeated in the "red states", and still get a majority of the electoral votes.

The allegedly horrendous consequences of a Kerry victory, which are being dramati-

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NO CHANGE NOWHERE NO HOW

FRANCE (Street): F Mid-Iri; F NAT S F Mid-Iri; F Bre-Eng; A Pic-Bel; A Gas-Bur; A Par & A Mar S A Gas-Bur; F Lon-Wal.

GERMANY (Bourgeois): A Liv-Wal; F Yor-Lon; A Mun-Boh; A Bur-Mun; A Bel-Pic; A Sil-Gal; A Kie S A Bur-Mun; F Iri-Wal.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Watkins): A Tyr-Mun; A Ven-Tyr; A Boh S TURKISH A Gal-Sil; F Gre holds; A Vie S A Boh; A Bud-Gal; A Ukr-War.

RUSSIA (McKinsey): No moves received. F Nth, A War, A Mos, A St.P, and A Livonia hold.

TURKEY (Jordan): A Sev-Mos; F Bla S A Sev((sic)); F Con-Aeg; F Tyr-Wes; F Wes-Mid; A Gal-Sil.

Underlined moves are not possible. The German F Iri is dislodged and annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers, the same ones that they did after "1907":

FRANCE: Bre, Lon, Mar, Par, Por, Rom, Spa, Tun. (8)	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Gre, Ser, Tri, Ven, Vie. (7)
GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Den, Edi, Hol, Kie, Liv, Mun. (8)	RUSSIA: Mos, Nwy, St.P, Swe, War. (5)
	TURKEY: Ank, Con, Nap, Rum, Sev, Smy. (6)

The only "Winter 1908" order is one by Germany. The deadline for "Spring 1909" orders, which may be made conditional on the German build, is NOON, FRIDAY 20 AUGUST 2004. Stand-by orders for Russia should be sent in by Michael Neal, whose address is on p. 11.

HANDICAPPING THE ELECTION (continued from p. 3)

cally declared to us by Republicans in the current campaign, may bring us closer to the December when an incumbent president, defeated for re-election, proclaims something like:

"I have taken an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the United States of America. I would be untrue to that oath if I were to allow my opponent to take office. Therefore I have ordered our nation's Armed Forces to take the following steps..."

(I don't think that "President Bush" would make any such statement. One of those sentences contains a subjunctive clause, and I don't believe that he is up to any such thing.)

*

For my own part, I shall approach this election as I did the Great Farce of 2000. We now know that if you go to the polls there is no certainty that you will be allowed to vote, and if you can vote there is no certainty that your vote will be counted. So vote for the most amusing candidate. If we can get nothing else out of this election, we can get a few laughs from it.

*

This year, both members of the Democratic ticket have the same given name, but this is not the first time that has happened. Indeed, in 1916 this was true of both major party tickets. The Republicans nominated Charles Evan Hughes and Charles Fairbanks, while the Democrats nominated Thomas Woodrow Wilson and Thomas Marshall. If you are looking for omens, that was one of the closest elections in American history, decided only by a late count in California that spread clouds of suspicion behind it. And while the victorious Democratic candidate had waffled about World War I during the campaign, six weeks after his inauguration he leaped enthusiastically into it, causing damage to our traditional civil liberties that took years to repair.

*

If your limited appetite for presidential trivia has not been sated by this infor-

PATRIOTISM - XXX

- PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.
- PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.
- PATRIOTISM is the suggestion by Alan Dershowitz, that judges should issue "torture warrants" to get information from suspected terrorists by torture.
- PATRIOTISM is the efforts of the U. S. Army to follow this suggestion, without the formality of warrants.
- PATRIOTISM is American soldiers' photographs of torture victims in Iraq, joyously taken and saved as souvenirs.
- PATRIOTISM is an Internet advertisement, by a contractor for the U. S. Army, for interrogators to serve in Iraq.
- PATRIOTISM is the vicious attacks, including death threats, against University of Massachusetts student René Gonzalez, for making the following altogether unexceptionable statement about the death of the football player and soldier Pat Tillman in Afghanistan: "This was a 'GI Joe' guy who got what was coming to him. That was not heroism. That was prophetic idiocy."
- PATRIOTISM is the similar reaction to the Ted Rall cartoon about Pat Tillman, depicted on the cover of this issue.
- PATRIOTISM is the blistering attacks by Representative Peter King (R-NY) and William Donahue, head of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, against the Pope and his spokesmen for criticizing the torture of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison.
- PATRIOTISM is the claim by Representative King that 85% of American mosques have "extremist leadership" and that their members are unwilling to report anti-American plans. By an odd coincidence, this is the plot line of King's new novel *Vale of Tears*.
- PATRIOTISM is all those souvenir photos and videotapes of the torture of Iraqi prisoners, which will presumably be sent home to stand on the shelf next to the Japanese skull that grandpa sent home from Okinawa, and the ears that daddy sent home from Vietnam.
- PATRIOTISM is airlines bullying potential passengers to the extent that many of them are instead using their cars for business trips, finding that they prefer it, and driving those airlines yet closer to bankruptcy.
- PATRIOTISM is the official opinion by Albert Gonzalez, Counsel to the President, that the United States does not need to obey the Geneva Conventions in dealing with prisoners taken in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- PATRIOTISM is calling in an air strike on a wedding party in Iraq, killing 45 people including many women and children, and then defending this as an attack on a legitimate military target.
- PATRIOTISM is the refusal of the U. S. Army to allow leave to a soldier in Iraq merely because his mother is dying of cancer.
- PATRIOTISM is a photograph sent home from Iraq for the Web by Lance Corporal Ted J. Boudreaux Jr., which shows him posing with two Iraqi boys one of whom carries a sign proclaiming "Lcpl Boudreaux killed my Dad, then he knocked up my sister."
- PATRIOTISM is a nation which has weapons of mass destruction (such as the United States of America) being invaded, and not using those weapons but instead quickly hiding or destroying them.
- PATRIOTISM is seven attempts to destroy a mosque under construction in Toms River, NJ.
- PATRIOTISM is the editorial demand of the *New York Times* for "President" Bush to "authorize" a real long-term increase in the force in Iraq." (25 April 2004)
- PATRIOTISM is the Pentagon plan "to stay in Iraq at least until the end of 2006." (*New York Times*, 25 April 2004)
- PATRIOTISM is "President" Bush's call for yet another \$25,000,000,000 beyond the \$87,000,000,000 already appropriated by Congress for military operations in Iraq.
- PATRIOTISM is the call by Senators Kerry (D-MA) and McCain (R-AZ) for sending still more U. S. troops to Iraq.
- PATRIOTISM is trying to persuade yourself that hiring out to kill people for George W. Bush is somehow different from hiring out to kill people for Peter Gotti.
- PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Today's terror alert code is black and blue. Samples can be provided by the U. S. troops stationed at Abu Ghraib prison.

*

Graustark is the Very First bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy. It is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302. Diplomacy is a board game of negotiation and conflict for the period of World War I. It was designed by Allan B. Calhamer, and is now published by Hasbro, which bought out Avalon Hill in 1998. A new postal Diplomacy game is now being organized at a game fee of \$35. (For Canadian and Mexican addresses the game fee is \$50, and for other foreign addresses it is \$100.) This game fee includes a subscription to Graustark for as long as the game lasts, whether or not you are eliminated. With your game fee send in a list of the countries that you'd like to play, in your order of preference, and I'll try to put you as close to the top of that list as I can. If you do not already have the postal rules for Diplomacy, let me know when you send in your game fee and I'll send you a copy.

This is

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves

#2092

Graustark subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$15 for U. S. addresses, and 10 issues for \$40 for foreign addresses. Back issues from the beginning of 2001 are 10 issues for \$5 for U. S. addresses. To foreign addresses, back issues have the same cost as foreign subscriptions.

Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579. There is also an answering machine which can take your moves if I'm out, at 718-951-5808, extension 2.

We now have six entries for the next postal Diplomacy game in Graustark, four of whom have already sent in their game fees. Anyone wishing to play in it should enroll right away.

*

I want to again remind players that the U. S. Postal "Service" is not capable of reliably getting mail here in less than a week. Please take this into account in sending in your moves. If, a few times, your moves have taken less than a week to get here, do not assume that this will always be the case.

*

Graustark readers who are interested in postal games which don't run here, are invited to write to the publishers of 'zines with which I trade, and ask what game openings they have. For their addresses, see all the readers indicated by "(T)" for "trade" in the Graustark Directory on pp. 10-11. Several of these publishers run a wide variety of postal games.

*

Regrettably, there are a few postal game players who seem to enter games only to disrupt them. This was particularly a problem in games such as Empires of the Middle Ages or Pax Britannica, where a position cannot be eliminated but remains no matter what its player does or fails to do. Also, several players over the years have shown a distressing habit of dropping out of games without formally resigning, making it necessary to search for a replacement player.

Pursuant to this policy, I am no longer accepting entries from players who have dropped out of three games without formally resigning. I recommend that other 'zines also ban these players. At present the three-time losers are Steven Brooks, Mark Edmondson, and Brad Wilson. Those who have dropped out twice are Warren K. Ball, Scott Bloom, Stan Johnson, James McClure Jr., John Rigley, David Stone, Mark Weseman, and Brian Zimmet. Then there are three special cases. It is Dan Palter's habit to play Pax Britannica in such a way as to bring the game to a premature end, thus destroying it for the other players. About one third of the way into the last game of Empires of the Middle Ages in these pages, Rich Goranson dropped out of sight without explanation, and I never was able to find a substitute; the game ended with only two players. And Chris Trent never sent in any moves for Britain in the current Colonial Diplomacy game, which messed up the British position badly.

*

I wonder how many readers noticed a minor detail about the cartoon which was

reprinted in the upper right corner of the collage cover of Graustark #755. It satirized attempts by the U. S. government to control the oil fields of the Middle East, in the light of what it had historically done to oil fields under the lands of the original Americans. The artist was Osbert Lancaster, a British political cartoonist who generally supported the Conservative Party. And the date of the cartoon was 1 February 1957, indicating that this is by no means a new issue. The Eisenhower Administration also smelled strongly of oil, though not to the extent that the present one does.

*

Around the fringes of the controversies over the American invasion of Vietnam, and subsequent military actions, has circulated the claim that more than twice as many American veterans of the war with Vietnam have committed suicide since the end of that war, than died during it. I cited this claim in a recent issue of Dagon, to which Bill Watkins responded that this claim is an invention, and that the suicide rate of Vietnam veterans has been lower than that of the general population. He promises a follow-up with details.

Whatever is the truth about this claim, there is little chance that there will be a high suicide rate among veterans of the American conquest of Iraq. People commit suicide out of a sense of shame or despondency, and people who are ashamed or despondent do not proudly take souvenir photographs and videotapes of their actions in places like Abu Ghraib prison. Look at the poses and attitudes of the American soldiers in those photographs. These are the same attitudes that you see in photographs of sportsmen standing next to twelve-point bucks or ten-foot marlins.

There can be little doubt that, for many decades to come, such photographs and videotapes will be proudly shown at family gatherings, and in American Legion halls, as souvenirs of this triumphant campaign. The soldier who videotaped the rape of a screaming Iraqi boy by a U. S. Army interpreter will have a story to dine out on for the rest of her life. And who then will dare say that there is no place for homosexuals in the U. S. armed forces?

*

Meanwhile I have a suggestion for those people who, by supporting American troops in Iraq, are necessarily supporting their play-time activities as displayed all over the media in photographs and videotapes. You torture fans are invited to instead see Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* three or four times. This ought to satisfy your appetite for torture without affecting anything in the real world. After all, this film also displays the horrific torture of an innocent inhabitant of the Middle East by the soldiers of a foreign army of occupation.

*

Last year I expressed some concern over a computer game called "America's Army", which was produced by the U. S. Army at a cost of \$6,000,000 taxpayers' dollars in order to stimulate enlistments by giving players the opportunity to be first-person shooters. There were some 2,700,000 disks given away, and over 6,000,000 free downloads of this game. The army ran a tournament of it at Origins 2003.

On 23 May 2004, WNYC-AM broadcast an interview with a teen-ager from Harlem who is thoroughly acquainted with violent videogames, and who tried out America's Army and reported on it. He said that it is extremely difficult even to load this game. And, once you have it loaded, you are likely to get killed over a dozen times for each skill level for which you qualify. He also pointed out that players of first-person-shooter games habitually try to shoot everything in sight, and that this game is unlikely to change that habit. In short, the game did not produce in him the desire to rush right out and enlist. More generally, the army has released no figures about how many men might have been inspired by this game to actually enlist.

Perhaps Major Bret Wilson, who designed the game, might want to include in its next edition all those lovely opportunities for rape, torture, and cool souvenirs.

*

The custom of referring to things by their initials may produce some difficulties. For twenty years, in the Graustark column "Dungeons & Christians", I have been referring to "role-playing games" as "RPGs", as have many other gamers in their 'zines. Now, in news bulletins from Iraq, we find that "RPG" means "rocket-propelled grenade". However, of one thing you may be sure. None of the media are going to refer to John Forbes Kerry as "JFK".

*

However, there may be other ways they'll refer to Kerry. It is now fairly widely known that Senator Kerry's paternal grandfather, Fritz Kohn, born a subject of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was a Bohemian Jew who changed his name and his religion (to Roman Catholic), but not his initials, when he emigrated to the United States. This struck a light in my mind, since (as always in wartime) I am currently re-reading the greatest war novel ever written, Jaroslav Hašek's *Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války* (1923), excellently translated by Sir Cecil Parrott as *The Adventures of the Good Soldier Švejk in the Great War*. ("Švejk" rhymes with "shake". Avoid Paul Selver's earlier translation. It is poorly done and severely abridged.)

At the outbreak of World War I Josef Švejk, a Prague dealer in stolen dogs with forged pedigrees, enlists out of patriotic enthusiasm in His Imperial and Royal Majesty's 91st Deserters. (Some of his experiences roughly parallel Hašek's own; Hašek "served", if you can call it that, in that regiment as what we would call a warrant officer.)

In one episode, Švejk becomes the orderly of the regimental chaplain, a baptized Jew named Otto Katz who is an awful lush. Hašek makes it quite clear that Chaplain Katz enlisted, converted, and became a priest not out of conviction but out of sheer ambition. After the war, we are told in an afterword, he leaves the priesthood and goes back to the world of commerce, without changing his character in the least. As the great Christian scholar Erasmus said of another such case 400 years earlier, "A Jewish criminal became a Christian criminal." However, I know nothing of Fritz Kohn's reasons for converting.

In a footnote, Hašek cites the case of a real-life Theodor Kohn, a man of Jewish ancestry who became Archbishop of Olomouc despite criticism from bigots about his Jewish roots. It is my belief that Hašek considered Archbishop Kohn to be nothing but an ambitious opportunist, and created Chaplain Katz as a satire on him. "Kohn" and "Katz" are related Hebrew words, and mean "priest".

Hašek, whose biography *The Bad Bohemian* by Sir Cecil I commend to your attention, would have understood very well our present situation in the United States. Not only was he a scathing critic of fashionable patriotism, but he also satirized politicians who profess a love for reform but really want no meaningful changes in society. (Think of our self-styled "New Democrats" of the "Democratic Leadership Council".) For the Austrian parliamentary elections of 1911 he founded, and ran as a candidate of, "The Party of Moderate and Peaceful Progress Within the Limits of Law". Its "campaign rallies" were actually drinking bouts in a Prague tavern.

Nor was Hašek unacquainted with the mentality that has given us the "USA Patriot Act", those severe and patently unconstitutional restrictions on our traditional civil liberties that were endorsed by Senators John Kerry (D-MA), Hillary CLyndon (D-NY), and many other "New Democrats". Hašek put it this way:

"...[P]olitical prisoners...were in a special class; eighty percent of them were utterly innocent, and of these ninety-nine percent were sentenced.

"The whole establishment of the office of the judge advocate was magnificent. Every state on the brink of total political, economic and moral collapse has an establishment like this. The aura of past power and glory clings to its courts, police, gendarmerie and venal pack of informers."

Meanwhile, we can unfortunately expect Senator Kerry's ancestry to become a factor in the attacks that are certain to be made against him from the slimy underworld of American politics.

*

To the best of my knowledge, the late mythologist Joseph Campbell never commented on the true inner meaning of the tale of Chicken Little. However, it now appears that Chicken Little was born, or rather hatched, long before his proper time. Nowadays he

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2002D

WESTERN ALLIES ADVANCE; SO DOES RUSSIA

~~Vie-Tyr~~
Ven-Tri
Tyr-Vie

- ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): F Nwy-Nrg; F St.P(n.c.) holds; F Bar-Nwy; F Iri-Eng.
- FRANCE (Lischett): A Bur-Mar; A Mar-Pie; F Naf-Tun; F Wes S F Naf-Tun; F Mid-Spa(s.c.); F Lyo-Tus.
- GERMANY (Quirk): A Hol-Kie; F Swe holds; A Liv-Mos; F Bal S A Ber-Pru; A Ber-Pru; A Mun-Sil.
- ITALY (Verheiden): A Alb-Gre; A Tri-Tyr; F Ion S A Alb-Gre; F Tyr-Wes.
- RUSSIA (Grose): A Gal-War; A Ser-Bul; A Rum S A Ser-Bul; F Bla-Con; A Arm-Smy; A Ank S A Arm-Smy; A War-Mos.
- TURKEY (Alme): No moves received. F Con & F Tun hold; A Bul, F Gre, and A Smy dislodged and annihilated.

Underlined moves are not possible. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

- ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, St.P. (5)
- FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (6)
- GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun, Swe. (6)
- ITALY: Gre, Nap, Rom, Tri, Ven. (5)
- RUSSIA: Ank, Bud, Bul, Mos, Rum, Sev, Smy, Vie, War. (9)
- TURKEY: Con, Ser, Tun. (3)

Russia may build two new units, and Italy and England may each build one. Turkey would have a build but no home supply center is available for it. The deadline for these "Winter 1904" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 20 AUGUST 2004. The deadline for "Spring 1905" orders will probably be NOON, FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2004. Stand-by "Spring 1905" orders should be sent in by Gary Floyd, whose address is on p. 10.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 8)

would be a successful and well-paid consultant on falling skies, in demand by governments all over the world for advice on how to fight terrorism. He would wear a fox-fur coat and, as an adult rooster, would now be known as "Cock Big".

When "President" Bush organized his "Coalition of the Willing" against terrorism, he plainly envisaged a world-wide "Crusade" (as he actually called it) against the nations which his publicist David Frum called an "Axis of Evil". Three years later, not only has Frum bailed out of this "Crusade", but several nations have pulled or are pulling their troops out of Iraq. Some of them probably expected the United States to pay their expenses in what was really a "Coalition of the Billing", while other governments sent troops against the clearly expressed will of their populations, and were accordingly voted out of office at the next elections.

Let's call the roll. The Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Spain have already pulled out their forces, and New Zealand, Norway, Thailand, and Ukraine are now in the process of doing so. All individual Czech soldiers who wanted to go home have already done so. The British and Italian troops will certainly be withdrawn as soon as the next elections in those countries give their voters the opportunity to express their opinions about their present governments.

Unfortunately, this year's U. S. elections will give us no opportunity to do the same. Senator Kerry has already urged sending 40,000 more U. S. troops into Iraq.

The Republican Party has just discovered, to its great surprise and shock, that John Kerry and John Edwards are lawyers. They obviously hope that the voters will be equally horrified by this revelation. However, this is unlikely to happen, because most voters are aware that our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln, was a highly successful lawyer whose courtroom techniques are still taught in law schools. And, as I mentioned on page 3, my brothers and I have just settled satisfactorily some annoying legal business by hiring a lawyer who took care of the matter.

GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY

Players in the current postal Diplomacy games, and the postal Colonial Diplomacy game, are indicated by its Boardman Number or Miller Number, with the initial of the country being played, and with "S" indicating an active stand-by player. (E. g., "2002A-G" or "2001Bea04-TS") Paying subscribers will be indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

N: entrant in the new postal Diplomacy game now being organized in Graustark.

T: trade copy

C: complimentary copy for a gamer

R: complimentary copy for a non-gamer interested in the mystery novel reviews

U: uncomplimentary copy

This directory is accurate to the date of 23 May 2004. Please let me know of any corrections or additions that need to be made, particularly if you want your nine-digit ZIP code, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address added to your listing. This is particularly important for electronic addresses, which seem to change more frequently than do postal addresses.

- Stephen Agar (T), 4 Cedar Gardens, Brighton BN1 6YD, ENGLAND; 01273-562430;
<stephen@stephenagar.com>
- Hank Alme (2002D-TS, N), 506 Paige Loop, Los Alamos, NM 87544; 503-672-0883;
<almehj@alummi.rice.edu>
- Thom Anderson (R), #5-D, 10 Park Terrace East, New York, NY 10034
- Ruth Berman (R), 2809 Drew Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4209
- John R. Biehl (2001Bea04-J, N), #8, 11530 84th Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 2M1, CANADA
- Mark Blackman (R), Apt. 4A, 1745 E. 18th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229
- Paul & Meg Bolduc (T), 203 Devon Court, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-3110; 850-863-9081;
<Prbolduc@aol.com>; <bolduc@eglin.af.com>
- Richard Bourgeois (2002A-G), 786 Myrtle Avenue, Albany, NY 12208-2659; 518-437-9917
- Anne Braude (R), 5316 W. Port au Prince Lane, Glendale, AZ 85306-3440
- Colin Bruce (763, N), 22 Alliance Court, Hills Avenue, Cambridge CB1 7XE, ENGLAND
- Jim Burgess (T), 664 Smith St., Providence, RI 02908-4327; 401-351-5287; <burgess@world.
std.com>; web page <<http://devel.diplom.org/DipPouch/Postal/Zines/TAP/index.html>>
- Brian Burley (C), 23 Reynolds Place, Harrison, NJ 07029
- Allan B. Calhamer (C), 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, IL 60525-5523
- Paul Cardwell Jr. (C), 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418-2913; 903-583-9296
- David Charlton (C), 150 The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington 6002, NEW ZEALAND
- Columbia Games Inc. (C), P. O. Box 3457, Blaine, WA 98231
- Jim Dapkus (760), W6575 Dakota Ave., Westfield, WI 53964
- Jim Dunnigan (C), 328 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011
- Paul Evans (T), 180 Aylsham Dr., Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 8UF, ENGLAND
- Mark Fassio (U), 276 Yates Lane, Pendleton, KY 40055-7751
- Sue Feder (R), Historical Mystery Appreciation Society, 3 Goucher Woods Court, Towson,
MD 21286; fax 410-847-9303; <monkshould@home.com>; <<http://members.home.net/monkshould>>
- Mike Fisher (755), #2, 43 W. Manheim St., Philadelphia, PA 19144-2942; <mikefisher65
@yahoo.com>
- Gary Floyd (2001Bea04-H), 60 Gaston Street, Medford, MA 02155; 781-391-2658
- Jim Grose (2002D-R, 757), Apt. 210, 110 Forward Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4S9, CANADA;
613-728-8493; <JimGr@aol.com>
- Chris Hassler (T), 2000 S. Armour Court, La Habra, CA 90631; 562-690-7827; fax 562-
690-7827; <chassler@adelphia.com>
- Sharon Heap (C), P. O. Box 7002, Endicott, NY 13761-7002
- Raymond & Faith Heuer (C), 2nd floor, 9 Beacon Terrace, Keansburg, NJ 07734-1914
- Tom Howell (T), 365 Storm King Road, Port Angeles, WA 98363; 360-928-9698;
<off-the-shelf@olympus.net>; 360-928-9698
- Harley Jordan (2002A-T), 109 Sunnyside Dr., Rochester, NY 14623; 585-475-9832;
- Susan Keaveny (R), 1030 Tyrus Court, North Merrick, NY 11566-1035
- Paul D. Kenny (T), 23 E. Coulter Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108-1208; 856-869-3160;
<<http://www.net-gate.com/~pdKenny>>; <pdkenny@net-gate.com>

Andy Lischett (2002D-FS, T), 2402 Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402
 Rick Loomis (C), Flying Buffalo, Inc., P. O. Box 1467, Scottsdale, AZ 85252
 Michael Lowrey (C), 6903 Kentucky Derby Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215-6507; 704-569-4269
 Joseph T. Major (C), 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY 40204-2040
 Harry Manogg (C), Apt. 608, 108 Kilmarnock St., Boston, MA 02215
 Brad Martin (T), 2/14 Joseph Street, Maylands, 6051, Western Australia, AUSTRALIA;
 <Westfront@hotmail.com>
 Brent McKee (T), 901 Avenue T South, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S71 3B9, CANADA;
 306-382-0710; <ad013@sfn.saskatoon.sk.ca>; <bmckee@the.link.ca>
 Dan McKinsey (2002A-R), 33 Belmont St., Hamden, CT 06517; 203-288-2736;
 <daniel.mckinsey@yale.edu>
 Paul J. Milewski (757), 7 Mallard Drive, Amelia, OH 45102-2148; 513-752-2411
 David Millians (T), Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307
 Maggie Montgomery (R), Apt. 819, 325 W. 45th St., New York, NY 10036
 Brendan Mooney (2001Bea04-TS, N), 423 Lenox Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090; 908-654-0527;
 <bkmoooney@comcast.net>
 Scott Morris (T), 12110 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, KY 40243; <Scottm221@aol.com>
 Michael Neal (2001Bea04-F), P. O. Box 52071, New Orleans, LA 70152-2071;
 <MDNEAL79@hotmail.com>
 Albert A. Nofi (C), #321, 66 Girard Avenue, Newport, RI 02840; <anofi@aol.com>
 Keith Wm. Oschman (U), Riverside Christian School, Lost Creek, KY 41348
 Joel Peacher (758), 507 E. 2nd St., Rolla, MO 65401
 Michael P. Quirk (2001Bea04-R; 2002D-GS), Apt. 10, 2750 Brittany Terrace, Manhattan, KS
 66502; 785-587-0872
 Phil Reynolds (T), 2896 Oak St., Sarasota, FL 34237; 813-953-6952; <preyno@yahoo.com>
 Roberta Rogow (R), 1755-A Manor Drive, Irvington, NJ 07111
 Bruce Schneier (C), Counterpane Systems, 101 E. Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55419
 Greg Stafford (C), Chaosium Inc., #423, 895 B Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5107; 510-583-
 1000; fax 510-583-1101
 David Stone (2002A), 154 Cardinal Drive CSL, North Vernon, IN 47265
 Sigourney Street (2002A-F), P. O. Box 1235, Boston, MA 02130-0011
 Gary Tesser (R), #5-A, 2455 Haring St., Brooklyn, NY 11235
 Eric Verheiden (2002D-IS, 757), 1805 Vista del Oro, Fullerton, CA 92831-1331; <everheid
 @adelphia.net>
 Brenton Verploeg (799), 1980 Tigertail Ave., Coconut Grove, FL 33133
 Conrad von Metzke (C), 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA 92117-3813; 858-270-8313;
 <metzke@san.rr.com>
 William Watkins (2001Bea04-BS, 2002A-A), 918 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661;
 201-265-9194; <watkins.bill@verizon.net>
 Stephen T. Whitmore (C), 350 Old Paper Mill Road, Newark, DE 19711; 302-368-1127
 Fred Wiedemeyer (2002A, 2002D-ES, N), Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton, Alberta T6T
 1N1, CANADA; 780-465-6432; cell 780-497-8283; <wiedem@planet.eon.net>
 W. Andrew York (757), P. O. Box 201117, Austin, TX 78720-1117; <wandrew@compuserve.com>

PLEASE STAND BY

I am willing to take over games that have been abandoned by their gamesmasters. So if you are a postal gamesmaster who is no longer able to publish, or if you are a player in a postal Diplomacy or Colonial Diplomacy game that has gone for two or three months without a move being published, please get in touch with the Orphan Games Director, Michael Lowrey. (See p. 11 for his address.) If the game is to continue in Graustark, I would need the addresses of the players, the current position, and who owns which supply centers. If subscription money can be passed along to me, fine. Otherwise I will ask players to join a new game in Graustark, or to subscribe to Graustark if they do not already do so. Players who resign or drop out can be replaced by Graustark stand-by players.

Stand-by players are always needed for postal games in Graustark. If you volunteer as a stand-by, you may be called upon whenever a current player misses a move. If you send in moves for that country for the next turn, and the present player does not, you will take over play of that position. No game fee will be asked, though you

should keep your subscription current, or enroll in a new Graustark game. No stand-by will be called on in a game in which he or she has already played.

Stand-by volunteers who are willing to take on additional games of postal Diplomacy are listed below. A stand-by player who is already playing in a Graustark game is indicated by "*". A stand-by player who has just been called upon for moves is indicated by "#". If you wish your name added to or removed from this list, please let me know.

Hank Alme*	Paul Milewski (CD)	Michael Quirk*
John R. Biehl	Brendan Mooney (CD)*	Eric Verheiden*
Gary Floyd#	Michael Neal#	Fred Wiedemeyer*

"(CD)" indicates a stand-by for the Colonial Diplomacy game.

WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The subscriptions of the following readers expire with the indicated issues of Graustark. For information on extending your subscription, see p. 6.

757 - Jim Grose	758 - Joel Peacher
Paul Milewski	760 - Jim Dapkus
Eric Verheiden	763 - Colin Bruce
W. Andrew York	799 - Brenton Verploeg

HANDICAPPING THE ELECTION (continued from p. 4)

mation, then be informed that from 14 July 2003 until Ronald Reagan's death, the U. S. had for the first time two living nonagenarian ex-Presidents. And, if Gerald Ford can hold out until the fall of 2006, he will be the longest-lived ex-President in U. S. history.

*

And of course there is always the possibility that "President" Bush will present us with what used to be called a "roorback" but now is an "October surprise". There are persistent rumors that the U. S. government knows where Osama Ben Laden is, and will pick him up just before Election Day. Or there may be panic about "terrorism" alerts to counteract the boost that John Kerry got from the Democratic Convention. Or New York's Republican governor and mayor may ban "legal" peace demonstrations, crush the resulting "illegal" demonstrations, and then portray themselves as the defenders of the nation against sinister revolutionary Pacifists.

GRAUSTARK #756

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302

- () - You may be interested in an item on p. ____.
- () - Sample copy.
- () - For your new game, see p. 3.
- () - Your subscription expires with the next issue.
- () - You missed your most recent move in ____.
See p. ____.
- () - A stand-by move is needed from you in ____.
See p. ____.

SO WHAT HAPPENED? SEE p. 3.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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