

GRAUSTARK

#766 2002A, "Spring 1912"; 2002D, "Winter 1907"; 2004C, "Winter 1903" 6 August 2005

SUTTON IMPACT By Ward Sutton

SUTTON IMPACT **the REPUBLICAN CULTURE GAP** by WARD "GRAND (OLD PARTY) LANTON" SUTTON

 <p>TOBY KEITH SMITCRICK WORLD TOUR RIGHT WITH LIBERTY for dummys</p>	<p>THINKS THE LONDON BOMBINGS PRESENT A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO INVADGE IRAN</p> <p>WANTS A SUPREME COURT JUDGE WHO'S AGAINST ABORTION</p> <p>FOOLISHLY BELIEVES THAT BUSH ADMINISTRATION POLICIES ACTUALLY BENEFIT HIM</p> <p>DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL</p> <p>POLLUTES NATURE WITH HIS OBNOXIOUS USE OF SNOWMOBILES, JET SKIS, AND LEAF-BLOWERS.</p> <p>SEES BAYS AS A THREAT</p> <p>LOST JOB</p> <p>JUSTIFIES HIS POSITIONS ON ISSUES WITH MISGUIDED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE BIBLE</p> <p>STILL HAS A HANKERIN' FOR "FREEDOM FRIES"</p> <p>VOTED FOR BUSH WHILE PUMPING HIS FIST INTO THE AIR AND SHOUTING "WOO-HOO"</p>	<p>THINKS THE LONDON BOMBINGS PRESENT A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN COMPANIES THAT REBUILD SUBWAY SYSTEMS</p> <p>WANTS A SUPREME COURT JUDGE WHO'S MAINLY HOLDING CORPORATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR LITTLE THINGS LIKE TOXIC WASTE SPILLS</p> <p>KNOWINGLY CALCULATES HOW MUCH BUSH ADMINISTRATION POLICIES BENEFIT HIM ... TO THE PENNY</p> <p>DROPPED INTO HIGH SCHOOL TO PROMOTE THEIR LEAD-UP-PROGRAM WITH HIS UNWELCOMELY FAST-FOOD FRANCHISES</p> <p>POLLUTES NATURE WITH HIS OBNOXIOUS LEADERSHIP OF MULTINATIONAL CONGLOMERATES</p> <p>SEES BAYS AS AN UNTAPPED DEMOGRAPHIC TO MARKET TO</p> <p>OUTSOURCED JOBS</p> <p>JUSTIFIES HIS POSITIONS ON ISSUES WITH MISGUIDED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MARKET</p> <p>FREQUENTLY FLIES TO FRANCE ... FOR LUNCH</p> <p>VOTED FOR BUSH WHILE CLUTCHING HIS WALLET AND HOLDING HIS NOSE</p>
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THIS MODERN WORLD By Tom Tomorrow

IT'S APPALLING THAT THE LEFT SUPPORTED THE REMOVAL OF TEAR'S FEEDING TUBE! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU LIBERALS HATE LIFE SO MUCH!

ER, YES, WELL...YOUR NEWFOUND REVERENCE FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE IN ALL ITS MYRIAD FORMS IS CERTAINLY TOUCHING...

...BUT, IF YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR BRINGING UP THE OBVIOUS, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF IT EXTENDS TO THE UNTOLD YEARS OF THOUSANDS OF IRAQI CIVILIANS--POSSIBLY AS MANY AS ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND--KILLED AS A RESULT OF GEORGE BUSH'S LITTLE WAR...

...MOST OF WHOM PRESUMABLY HAD ACTUAL LIVES, NOT TO MENTION FUNCTIONING BRAINS...

IT'S APPALLING THAT THE LEFT WOULD TRY TO POLITICALIZE A LITTLE COLLATERAL DAMAGE! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU LIBERALS HATE FREEDOM SO MUCH!

AND ROUND AND ROUND WE GO.

STILL THINKS HE'S PRESIDENT OF IRAQ

SADDAM

STILL THINKS HE'S WINNING IN IRAQ

SEARCH AND DESTROY By Ted Rall

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW CLUELESS ORPHANS

THE RECRUITER THOUGHT HE'D CAPTURED HIS PREY.

YOU'RE SURE I'LL BE SENT TO TORTURE MUSLIMS?

SIGN THERE AND YOU'LL BE SOOOOMIZING IN NO TIME!

TCBY EXPRESS

THEN, REGRETTABLY:

MOM!!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

NO!

HE ATTEMPTS TO REGROUP.

THIS YOUNG MAN IS AN ADULT! HE DOESN'T NEED PERMISSION TO ENJUST.

IGNORE HIM, SON! HE PROMISED YOU TORTURE BUT THEY'LL ASSIGN YOU TO KP!

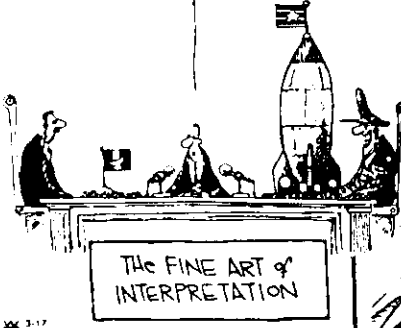
IS THIS TRUE?

IF THIS WERE IRAQ, I'D KILL YOU. BUT I'D TORTURE YOU FIRST... ER, HE'D TORTURE YOU.



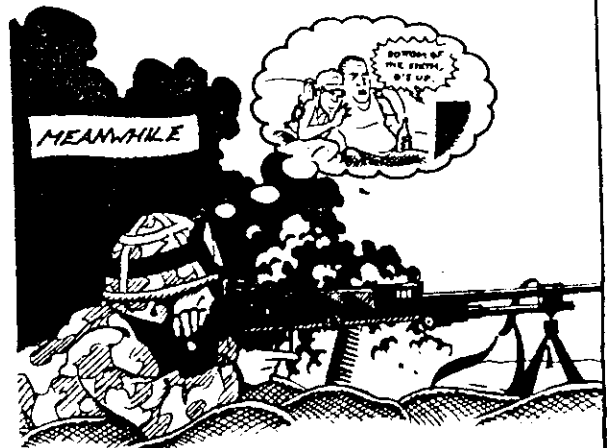
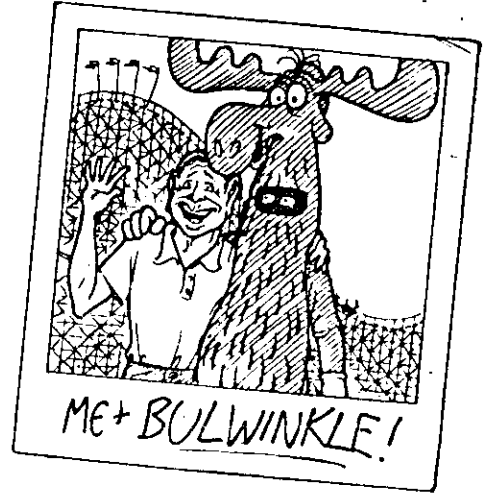
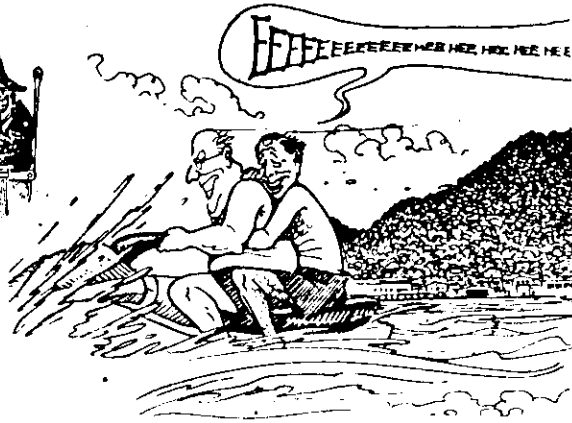
George's Vacation

HE GAVE YOUR COUNTRY
16 BAD FENG SHUI
AND GENEROUSLY OFFERS
TO REARRANGE IT



Another Successful Vagina Monologues Showing by V-Day

Three Sold-Out Shows
Spotlight Women in Iraq
as Less Free Since 2003



Take her easy, George!

SUTTON IMPACT By Ward Sutton

SHAM WARS

DESPITE THE LAUGHABLE, POORLY-WRITTEN DIALOGUE...
"IMMINENT THREAT" "SADDAM AND AL QAEDA" "COALITION OF THE WILLING" "GREETED WITH FLOWERS" "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED"

...AND THE REALLY BAD ACTING...
"OH, THIS IS, OH, A MATTER OF OH - NATIONAL SECURITY, WE MUST USE THE MILITARY FORCE!"

...AND THE IDIOTIC CHARACTER WHO WAS BROUGHT BACK EVEN THOUGH AUDIENCES DESPISE HIM...
"MEESA MISUNDERESTIMATED!" "4 MORE YEARS"

...AND SPOILERS THAT COULD REVEAL SO MUCH...
"THE BRITISH DISCLOSED A MEMO THAT PROVES BUSH MANIPULATED PREMIA INTELLIGENCE..." "I CAN'T HEAR YOU. LA-LA-LA!"

...GEEKS REMAIN DEVOTED TO THE ONGOING FANTASY.
"WE'RE NOBLE LIBERATORS IN THE BATTLE OF GOOD VS. EVIL!" "SOUVENIRS" "I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT EPISODE: 'THE EMPIRE STRIKES IRAQ!'"

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS SAGA HAS NO END IN SIGHT.
"WHO CARES ABOUT THE 'EXTRAS'? MAY THE FORCE BE WITH US!" "MORE DEATHS IN IRAQ"

THIS MODERN WORLD By Tom Tomorrow

HOW LOW CAN WE GO?

THE DISTURBINGLY BRIEF JOURNEY FROM UNTHINKABLE TO MUNDANE

AT FIRST, THE ISSUE SEEMS UN-AMBIGUOUS, EXCISE ME--WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE FOR TORTURE--OR AGAINST IT?

OH, DEFINITELY AGAINST!

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT!

BUT UNFORTUNATE REVELATIONS FORCE MANY CONSERVATIVES TO ADOPT A MORE NUANCED STANCE.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN REALLY DEFINE SOONER WITH A LIGHTSTICK AS TORTURE!

IT SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER HARMLESS FRATERNITY PRANK TO ME!

REASONABLE PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES DEBATING THINGS WHICH REALLY SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO DEBATE.

I JUST DON'T THINK SOONER WITH LIGHTSTICKS REFLECTS WELL ON US AS A NATION!

WHAT--DOES IT FAIL A GLOBAL TEST?

SNICKER! ARE YOU AFRAID THE SUR-RENDER MONKEYS WILL DISAPPROVE?

EVENUALLY IT BECOMES AN ACT OF JINGULAR COURAGE FOR A CON-SERVATIVE TO STATE THE OBVIOUS.

I MAY BE GOING WYD OUT ON A LIMB HERE--BUT GOSH DARN IT, TORTURE IS WRONG!

OH, LISTEN TO MICHAEL MOORE AND ENGELS AGAIN, HAVE YOU?

BEEN READ-ING MARK AND ENGELS AGAIN, HAVE YOU?

AND THE BAR IS LOWERED JUST A LITTLE, BUT FURTHER FOR NEXT TIME.

I THINK WE SHOULD STRAP DETAINEES DOWN AND FORCE THEM TO EAT THEIR OWN LIVERS!

MET--WHAT-EVER IT TAKES... TO DEFEND OUR FUNDA-MENTAL AMERICAN VALUES!?

2002A

"Spring 1912"

TSAR TSUNK

FRANCE (Street): F Hel S A Yor-Den; A Yor-Den; F Mid-Spa(s.c.); F Nrg S TURKISH
 F Bar-Nwy; A Hol S A Ruh; F Nth C A Yor-Den; A Ruh S A Hol; A Bur S A Mar;
 F Bre-Eng; A Mar S F Mid-Spa(s.c.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Watkins): A Sil-Ber; A Kie & A Mun S A Sil-Ber; A Gal-War; A Boh-Sil;
 A Ven-Pie; A Nwy-Fin; A Vie-Tyr; A Bud & F Ion hold..

RUSSIA (Biehl): A Swe-Nwy; A Fin S A Swe-Nwy; A War-Ukr; F Den-Ska.

TURKEY (Jordan): A Con-Bul; A St.P S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Nwy-Fin; A Mos & A Pru S
 AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Gal-War; F Ska-Swe; F Bar-Nwy; A Sev-Ukr; F Bla, F Tun, &
 F Aeg hold.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Russian A Fin is dislodged and annihilated, and Russia retreats F Den-Bal. The deadline for "Fall 1912" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2005.

FINLAND (Apr. 1, 1912): Grand Duke Ivan looked furtively about, fully expecting a charge of Austrian cavalry or Turkish janissaries to appear at any moment. His war chest was rapidly depleting as was his army, the number of deserters increasing daily. Ivan wondered if his forces would even hold out till the fall. The only course open to the Russian cause, the Grand Duke realized, was to reach Siberia and to carry on the struggle there.

2004C

"Winter 1903"

Following "Fall 1903" moves, England removed the dislodged F Nth. However, the English player did not send in a "Winter 1903" build.

ENGLAND (Koch): No build received. AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Alme): Removes A Vie &
 FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): Builds A Par. A Alb.
 GERMANY (Mathias): Builds A Kie & A Ber. RUSSIA (Biehl): Builds A Mos & A War.

The deadline for "Spring 1904" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2005.

SEVASTOPOL (Dec. 1, 1903): Czar Ivan VII scowled at his head chef, "Have you ever served 'Me' salmon?! The Kaiser raves about it! Why don't you cook 'Me' some?!" "Your Inestimable Imperialness, I crave forgiveness but I cannot procure any. The German fishing fleet has a monopoly on salmon and the prices, 'mon dieu', they have simply gone through the roof!" "What!? Your French!?" exclaimed Ivan. "Oui, mon..." "Silence! Guards! Take this cretin and throw him out immediately! I want a Russian head chef from this moment forward. If there is anything I despise it's the French! A pox on all their machinations!" Ivan screamed.

Thoroughly enraged, Ivan scanned his dining hall and proceeded to smash everything even remotely resembling the French style (which was pretty much everything). Finally, exhausted, Ivan paused and, upon some reflection, thought, "If the Kaiser stuffs himself with salmon what would he probably want next? Something light and sweet and delicate, some kind of pastry perhaps. I must search for some gastronomic delight with which to sate the Kaiser's palate."

BERLIN BUCKET: The Palace Chef has been serving Salmon all month, since the Kaiser's Gala. All the palace staff are rumored to be sneaking out to fast food restaurants on a regular basis. Even the Kaiser was heard to ask for roast beef last night, and mutton next Tuesday. Increased shipments of ale from Heidelberg are expected for the foreseeable future.

RESILIENT SPRINGS, SKANDALUTZ (URRP): Life in this quiet resort town by the side of Loch Mess was enlivened by a report that the Loch Mess Monster had been sighted. Private Jan Nepomuk Baloun, a deserter from the Austro-Hungarian army, claimed that the monster had raised its head out of the lake and snatched a bottle of wine from his hand. "And I still had almost half a case left!" he told a bored lifeguard, who later said that such claims were regularly made by tourists.

CYMRIC COMPLICATIONS

"The brutal Saxon invaders drove the Britons westward into Wales and compelled them to become Welsh; it is now considered doubtful whether this was a Good Thing." - W. C. Sellar and R. J. Yeatman, *1066 and All That* (1931)

Sharon Kay Penman, *Dragon's Lair* (2003, Putnam, NY; \$14 tpb) For reviews of the two previous books in this series, *The Queen's Man* and *Cruel as the Grave*, see #670 and #699 respectively

The history of relations between the English and the Cymry (Welsh) is long, complicated, and tangled. It was only in the 20th century that a mutually satisfactory solution was reached. The English now respect the language and culture of Wales rather than trying to suppress them, and a Welshman can now rise in the Parliament in London and make a speech in the ancient language of his people - though, if he wishes his thoughts to be generally understood, he will see to it that copies in English are distributed.

The complications of the reign of King Richard I, and the factional strife between his mother and his brother, provide the background for the murder mysteries solved by Justin de Quincy, "the Queen's man", in this series of first-rate crime novels by Sharon Kay Penman. It is still 1193, and *Dragon's Lair* takes place immediately after the events of the two previous novels, as evidenced by the fact that the Queen's companion Lady Claudine is still awaiting the birth of her and Justin's child - who will, like Justin himself, be born out of wedlock.

The conflict which serves as context for these political and personal intrigues was set in motion in distant Austria, where King Richard I, on his way home from the Third Crusade, was taken prisoner by his old enemy the Holy Roman Emperor, and is being held for a ruinous ransom of 100,000 marks, over 23 metric tons of silver. (Actually, there was probably not that much coined silver in all of Europe, and most of the ransom would be paid in jewels, silks, furs, wool, and other merchandise.) The king's mother Queen Eleanor is hard at work trying to accumulate this ransom, while his brother Prince John is secretly plotting with the King of France about how to keep their mutual enemy King Richard in captivity. This puts the Queen Mother and Prince John at odds with each other even as they maintain an outward appearance of unity and cordiality. In the two previous books we learned that Lady Claudine is really a spy for Prince John, planted in his mother's entourage, which leaves Justin wondering what other services she has been performing for the prince. And Prince John's henchman Durand de Curzon, though he and Justin are on ill terms with each other, is actually the Queen's agent among Prince John's trusted men.

Much documentation has survived about the efforts made to raise the ransom money, which has given us a picture of the economic situation of England in those years. But a hitch has developed in the collection of these goods. Davydd ap Owain, Prince of Gwynedd, who claims to be a loyal Welsh vassal of the English crown, reports that his contribution to the ransom has been hijacked by an outlaw named Llewelyn ap Iorwerth. The Queen sends Justin to see what force can be mustered on the Welsh frontier to get this merchandise back.

It turns out that Prince Davydd has not been altogether accurate in describing his loss. Llewelyn is no bandit chieftain, but Davydd's nephew, and his rival for control of Gwynedd. Indeed, in later years Llewelyn made good his claim on Gwynedd, and is known to history as "Llewelyn the Great".

So Justin must go to Davydd's castle at Rhuddlan, and hope to use it as his base of operations in this investigation. On the way he has a tense conversation with Prince John and Durand, sees to leaving Lady Claudine at a nunnery, and visits Chester to confer with the Earl and the Bishop. This is another uncomfortable moment, since the Bishop of Chester is Justin's father and they have not exactly been on good terms with each other since Justin discovered this fact. And the Earl of Chester, who had virtually royal powers in the north of England, loans Justin the services of one of his

PATRIOTISM - XL

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is replacing a dictator who won't follow President Bush's orders, with a dictator who will, and calling it "democracy".

PATRIOTISM is reacting to the proposed closings of several military bases as if this were Osama bin Laden's big opportunity.

PATRIOTISM is reacting to the planned closure of a nearby military base with a claim that your neighborhood has the right to leech off our taxes forever.

PATRIOTISM is not letting that state of panic interfere for plans for building a third golf course at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington. (Well, do we want to have a lot of unhappy generals on our hands?)

PATRIOTISM is a state of national panic over the student pilot with outdated maps, who was on a single-engine Cessna within 5 kilometers of the White House, causing a "Red Alert" and the hasty evacuation of the White House, the Capitol, and the Supreme Court, but not the Pentagon, where they presumably knew what was going on.

PATRIOTISM is the claim by Vice President Cheney that Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, is a Communist terrorist.

PATRIOTISM is the Pentagon's attempt at "damage control" by denying that American interrogators ever flushed a copy of the Koran down a toilet to demean Muslim prisoners, and requiring the media to publish this "denial".

PATRIOTISM is the realization that we now live in a nation whose president can order a magazine to retract a report, and be promptly obeyed.

PATRIOTISM is softening up prisoners for interrogation by photographing them in their underwear. (Why wasn't this done with Hermann Goering? He'd have looked a lot more ridiculous than Saddam Hussein.)

PATRIOTISM is allowing General Karpinski, responsible for many of the acts of brutality against Arab prisoners at Abu Ghraib, to escape legal responsibility for these acts and to retire on a colonel's pension.

PATRIOTISM is dismissing all charges against Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano, USMC, who shot two unarmed and kneeling Iraqi prisoners in the back because (he claimed) they were "about to attack him", firing 50 or 60 bullets at them from his M-16A4 rifle, pausing once to reload. (The boys take care of the boys.)

PATRIOTISM is the demand of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) that the border with Mexico be closed, to prevent further immigration.

PATRIOTISM is American Gold Star Mothers denying membership to Mrs. Ligaya Lagman, whose son was killed in Afghanistan, because she is not an American citizen.

PATRIOTISM is the plan of the Department of Education to require all American colleges and universities to submit to them "every student's name and Social Security number, along with sex; date of birth; home address; race; ethnicity; names of every college course begun and completed; attendance records; and financial aid information." (Michael Janofsky, *New York Times*, 27 May 2005)

PATRIOTISM is detaining, interrogating, frisking, photographing, and forcibly fingerprinting 38 American citizens, some of them children, as they returned from a Toronto conference on "Reviving the Islamic Spirit".

PATRIOTISM is Section 215 of the "USA PATRIOT Act", which allows the FBI to issue "National Security Orders" to seize medical, library, and business records, and provides criminal penalties for people who reveal - even to a lawyer - that they have been served with such orders.

PATRIOTISM is the statement by Tom Bethell, a columnist for the magazine *American Spectator*, that "the Maryknoll nuns raped and murdered by an El Salvadorean death squad deserved it because they were 'bull-dyke socialists'". (*The Atlantic*, February 2002)

PATRIOTISM is regret over the fact that, after more than a quarter-century of gushing such conservative rubbish as this, *The American Spectator* was forced out of business by its own repulsive editorial policies.

PATRIOTISM is regret over the demise of the no longer marketable conservative magazine *Public Interest*.

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Today's Terror Alert Color Code is Israeli Orange, honoring the Israelis who fly orange flags to assert that their annexation of the Gaza Strip is justified by the bible, and the Americans who think that their annexation of Iraq is justified in the same way.

*

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. Another new postal Diplomacy game is now being organized in Graustark, at a game fee of \$35. (For Canadian and Mexican addresses the game fee is \$50, and for other foreign addresses it is \$100, or 85 euros in cash.) 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 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, which were last published in Graustark #749, 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 Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

Graustark subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$15 for U. S. addresses, and \$40 or 35 euros for others. Back issues as available are 10 issues for \$5 for U. S. addresses. To foreign addresses, back issues have the same price as for foreign subscriptions. # 2108

Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579 or 718-951-5808, extension 2. There are answering machines which can take your moves if I'm out. I do not have an e-mail address.

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 arrived here by mail in less than a week, 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.

*

In 2003 and 2004 I was able to attend the Origins gaming convention in Columbus on the last weekend of June, and then reported on it in Graustark. I was unable to go this year. But if any reader was there, and would like to write up his experiences and impressions of the convention, I'd be glad to print his report.

*

History buffs love to speculate about how things would have gone if some apparently minor change in the actual course of history had taken place. But two events of World War II have, to the best of my knowledge, escaped such speculation. Both involved the unexpected deaths of allied generals who would have otherwise taken command in a vital theater of the war.

In 1942, Lieutenant General William H. Gott was made commander of the British Eighth Army in North Africa. On his way there, his aircraft was attacked by a German fighter, and although it landed safely, a stray bullet had killed Gott. He was replaced by Bernard Montgomery.

In 1943, Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews of the U. S. Army was appointed to command all Allied forces in western Europe. On his way there, he was killed in an air crash in Iceland. His successor was Dwight D. Eisenhower.

I have never seen any commentary on the military abilities of Generals Gott or Andrews, or any speculation on how well they might have done in their intended commands.

*

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS - CLXXXIII

"Geology shows that fossils are of different ages. Paleontology shows a fossil sequence; the list of species represented changes through time. Taxonomy shows biological relationships among species. Evolution is the explanation that threads it all together. Creationism is the practice of squeezing one's eyes shut and wailing 'does not!' - author unknown, at least to me. Any suggestions?

After being burned so badly over Copernican astronomy, the Roman Catholic Church has said very little about evolution in the 146 years since Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species*. There was one minor dust-up in Hungary right after World War II, when the new government abandoned the traditional system whereby each religious denomination ran its own schools, and for the first time introduced uniform government-funded state education. A Catholic prelate named Josef Pehm objected to teaching evolution in these schools, and since the government was Communist, it over-reacted, accused Pehm of being an American spy, and imprisoned him. (Pehm had changed his name to "Mindszenty", by which he may be better known.)

Indeed, Pope John Paul II not only apologized for his church's treatment of Galileo, but issued a statement in which he expressed support for evolution, though asserting that god directed the whole process. But the new pope, Benedict XVI, turns out to have written articles attacking everything from evolution to Harry Potter. Cardinal Schönborn, explaining Pope Benedict's statement on evolution, dismissed the contrary statement from his predecessor as somehow mistaken or irrelevant.

It is not hard to find similarities between the outlooks of Pope Urban VIII in the 17th century, and Pope Benedict XVI in the 21st. As Cardinal Barberini, Pope Urban had belonged to the same scientific society as Galileo, and he and Cardinal Bellarmine had expressed interest in the new ideas of Copernicus as supported by Galileo's observations. But, upon becoming pope, Urban apparently felt that his church was under siege by both Protestants and scientists, and that he could not afford to yield on the slightest matter of church doctrine. Bellarmine put it this way:

"To assert that the earth revolves around the sun is as erroneous as to claim that Jesus was not born of a virgin."

Acute readers will note that in the 17th century there was apparently no such thing as sex education classes in the middle schools.

Benedict XVI clearly feels that he is in the same situation as Urban VIII was, four hundred years ago. The number of priests and nuns is diminishing, scientific beliefs that contradict church teachings are widely taught, an increasing number of nations are legalizing abortion and gay marriage, church attendance and consequently income are down, Catholic parishes and schools are being closed or merged, and the scandals about the sexual molestation of children by priests simply will not go away. So a siege mentality dominates in Rome, and not even fantasy novels about a boy in a school for wizards can be allowed to go unchallenged.

*

If you play any role-playing or board games, you have probably encountered some of the Christian fanatics who have for the past 25 years or so been attacking Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) and other role-playing games, video games, and even board games. The principal opposition to these bursts of religious fanaticism comes from the Game Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and from the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games (CAR-PGa). This column relies heavily on reports from both of these organizations. *CAR-PGa Newsletter* is published monthly by Paul Cardwell Jr., 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418 at \$12.00 a year for domestic, and \$13.50 a year for foreign, addresses. It keeps us posted on attacks on D&D and other RPGs, and provides us with arguments and strategies to be used against attempts to censor or ban games. It also lists upcoming gaming conventions.

*

Christians are currently fond of saying that there is a great spiritual awakening in America, and that their sects, particularly the more vehement and fundamentalist

ones, are growing quickly. However, if there are forces in our society that are promoting spiritual awakenings, they are operating among people of widely differing beliefs. In the *New York Times* of 28 May 2005, Eric Goldscheider reports that various Pagan sects ("self-described Druids, faeries, Dianics, Wiccans, Asatru and ceremonial magicians, as well as practitioners of Norse, Celtic, Germanic, Greco-Roman and other pre-Christian European traditions") are also growing in numbers. Since a lot of Christians believe that all these people "really" worship a figment of the Christian imagination called "Satan", we can expect a growth not only of "spirituality" but also of sectarian hostility and even violence.

For some reason, in New York City such sentiments are found in Staten Island, the most remote and least populated of the city's five boroughs. (Staten Island has been described as being "as close as you can get to leaving New York City without actually doing it.") A few years ago, some Wiccans were arrested while harmlessly conducting a solstice festival on a public beach on Staten Island. Fortunately, the case came before a Judge Brennan who was well informed about the customs of his Pagan Irish ancestors, and he dismissed all charges. But at a Gay Pride Parade on Staten Island on 4 June 2005, a bystander named Joe Alla screamed at and slapped two lesbian saxophone players. (*New York Post*, 5 June 2005) This case still awaits judicial disposition.

*

Meanwhile, what of the Christians who engage in this "spiritual awakening"? To hear them tell it, they are in peril of their livelihoods. Or so says Justice Janice Rogers Brown of the Supreme Court of California, lately appointed to a federal appeals court by President Bush. (Neil A. Lewis, *New York Times*, 18 May 2005) In attacking our "increasingly secular culture", she claims that "These are perilous times for people of faith. Not in the sense that we are going to lose our lives, but in the sense that it will cost you something if you are a person of faith who stands up for what you believe and say those things out loud."

And who is persecuting Justice Brown? Like almost everyone else who make this claim, she will not say. We are given the impression that invisible Atheists without names are somehow making life difficult for true-believing Christians and other "people of faith".

*

However, someone has claimed to identify these sinister persecutors of Christians. In a recorded 1972 conversation with President Nixon, the Rev. Billy Graham "agreed with Mr. Nixon's assertion that liberal Jews dominated the media. 'They're the ones putting out the pornographic stuff,' Mr. Graham said on the tape, and added further:

"'A lot of the Jews are great friends of mine, they swarm around me and are friendly to me because they know that I'm friendly with Israel. But they don't know how I really feel about what they are doing to this country. And I have no power, no way to handle them, but I would stand up if under proper circumstances.'" (Laurie Goodstein, *New York Times*, 12 June 2005)

It has been alleged that Graham has apologized for these remarks - which he did only after it was made public on the Nixon tapes, two or three decades after he said it. But the Rev. Jesse Jackson apologized for characterizing New York City as "Hymietown" and he still has not been let off the hook for it. Why should Graham be treated differently from his fellow preacher/politician? Nor has the apple fallen far from the tree. Graham's mentor in the evangelism business was the Rev. Mordecai Ham, a notorious anti-Semite. And in 2002, Graham's son the Rev. Franklin Graham called Islam "a very evil and wicked religion".

Since then the elder Graham threw a three-day revival meeting in a park in New York City. He claims it was his last. I hope we can count on that.

*

In August of 1011, the Icelandic chieftain Flosi Þorðarsson gathered 120 other murderers to make a Final Solution to a feud in which he and his kinsmen were engaged. After first leading his men to mass, he attacked and surrounded the home of a wise, old, widely respected man named Njal and burned him, his wife, their three sons, a grandson, and most of the rest of his household to death.

Flosi's careful attention to his religious obligations was echoed during the 1995

massacres which accompanied the partition of Yugoslavia. A gang of Serbian Orthodox Christians first received a blessing from a priest of their faith - this is recorded on videotape - and then slaughtered seven Muslims, also on videotape. (Nicholas Wood, *New York Times*, 12 June 2005)

Flosi's thugs, incidentally, did not get off the hook. Njal's son-in-law hunted down and killed many of them, before he finally made peace with Flosi and a few other survivors. You will find the details in the *Brenna Njal Saga*, the greatest literary work of the Viking Age.

*

A few days ago I visited Christian Publications Inc., a Christian bookshop on West 43rd Street in Manhattan, to see whether there are any further books written on the controversy over J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter books. A display table in the front of the store had four books about Harry Potter - two for him, and two against. The anti-Potter books were by Richard Abanes, and have been briefly described in this column in *Graustark* #764. But two other authors have since leaped into print with defenses of Rowling's books, claiming that they instruct young people how to deal with complicated conflicts between Good and Evil. (Or maybe they just believe that Christians will merely make themselves look ridiculous by condemning such popular works.) All these critical books agree that the fantasy novels of J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis are "godly fantasy" that teach Christian values, but differ over whether Rowling, R. L. Stine, and other popular authors of fantasy are also doing this.

But still further out on what I hope is merely a Christian fringe are Jack T. Chick and the Rev. Jack Brock. Chick is on record opposing the works of Tolkien and Lewis as "occult", while Brock indiscriminately cast into his "holy bonfire" books by Rowling, Tolkien, and even Shakespeare. However, for the first time I found no Chick tracts on sale at this shop. Moreover, the entire chain of Christian Publications bookshops is up for sale. Perhaps the financial malaise which is causing the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York to cut back on its operations is also functioning among Protestants.

*

I am forced to report that there has been a backlash to the statement by Professor Timothy Shortell of Brooklyn College's Department of Sociology, condemning Christian fanatics as "a violent, ugly lot. In the name of their faith, these moral retards are running around pointing fingers." (*Graustark* #765) Shortell had just been elected chair of his department by his colleagues. In principle the college's president must then approve his election, although this is usually just a formality. However, President Christoph Kimmich revoked Professor Shortell's election, and issued a statement condemning his altogether unexceptional remark.

When I retired from the faculty of Brooklyn College, Professor Kimmich was merely Provost. Since then he was advanced to the college's presidency, a development which left me glad I had retired by then. President Kimmich has thus left Brooklyn College defenseless against the inevitable demands that religious notions about science must be taught, ranging from "intelligent design" to the "young universe". I can easily imagine some religious fanatic in public office demanding to know why we teach that light takes two million years to get here from the Andromeda Galaxy, when that galaxy and the rest of the universe was "created" only a few thousand years ago. And the real fun will come when rival religions each demand that their beliefs alone should be in the curriculum, to the exclusion of all others.

Several different religious groups claim to have extracted, from the chronology of the Jewish scriptures, the date of the "creation" of the universe in terms of the Common Era. Jews claim that it happened in 3761 BCE, while many Protestants set the "creation" at 4004 BCE, and the eastern Orthodox (*pravoslavnaya*) churches have looked at the same texts and settled upon 5509 BCE. For further information on these questions of religious chronology, as well as a few other religious determinations of the date of the "creation", see Bonnie Blackburn and Leofranc Holford-Strevens, *The Oxford Companion to the Year* (Oxford University Press, 1999)

Since then, Bush the Son has come out in favor of teaching a religious doctrine variously called "creation science" or "intelligent design" in the public schools, despite numerous Supreme Court decisions that keep the public schools from engaging in religious indoctrination.

THE GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY

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

N: entrant in a new postal Diplomacy game now being organized in Graustark. (See p. 6 for details.)

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 19 July 2005. 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.

If you are already a Graustark subscriber when you decide to send in a game fee, then when the game begins, the number of issues you had coming when you joined will be added to your subscription once the game ends. After your name in the Directory will appear some such notation as "2004C-T+6".

- Stephen Agar (T), 4 Cedar Gardens, Brighton BN1 6YD, ENGLAND; 01273-562430;
<stephen@stephenagar.com>
- Hank Alme (2004C-A), 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 Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4209
- John R. Biehl (2002A-RS, 2004C-R), #8, 11530 84th Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 2M1, CANADA;
604-591-1832; <jrb@dccnet.com>.
- Mark Blackman (R), Apt. 4A, 1745 E. 17th 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), 786 Myrtle Ave., Albany, NY 12208-2659; 518-437-9917
- Anne Braude (R), 5316 W. Port au Prince Lane, Glendale, AZ 85306-3440
- Colin Bruce (2004C-T+6), 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. Calhmer (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 (766), 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; <monkshoud@home.com>; <[http://members.home.net.
/monkshoud](http://members.home.net./monkshoud)>
- Jim Grose (767), Apt. 210, 110 Forward Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4S9, CANADA;
613-728-8493; <JimGrs@aol.com>.
- Timothy R. Haffey Sr. (T), 810 53rd Ave., Oakland, CA 94601; 510-536-3513;
<trhaffey@yahoo.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), 2876 NY Route 26 South, Vestal, NY 13856
- Raymond & Faith Heuer (R), 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>

Harley Jordan (2002A-T, N), 109 Sunnyside Dr., Rochester, NY 14623; 585-475-9832
 Susan Keaveny (R), 1030 Tyrus Court, North Merrick, NY 11566-1035
 Paul Koch (2004C-E), 24920 Fairmount Dr., Dearborn, MI 48124; 313-274-6579
 Timothy Lane (R), P. O. Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281
 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>
 Dan Mathias (2004C-G), 509 Bayview Drive, Lusby, MD 20657; 410-326-2568;
 <dcmathias@comcast.net>
 Dan McKinsey (2002A), 33 Belmont St., Hamden, CT 06517; 203-288-2736;
 <Daniel.mckinsey@yale.edu>
 Paul D. Milewski (767), 7 Mallard Drive, Amelia, OH 45102-2148; 513-752-2411
 David Milliams (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 (2004C-I), 423 Lenox Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090; 908-654-0527;
 <bkmoooney@comcast.net>
 Michael Neal (2002D-RS, 770), P. O. Box 52071, New Orleans, LA 70152-2071;
 <MDNEAL79@hotmail.com>
 Albert A. Nofi (C), CNA Corp., Apt. 1605, 4825 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22311;
 <anofi@aol.com>
 Carsten Obst (C), Pechsteinstr. 13, D-24539 Neumünster, GERMANY
 Keith Wm. Oschman (U), Riverside Christian School, Lost Creek, KY 41348
 Michael P. Quirk (2002D-GS, N), Apt. 10, 2750 Brittany Terrace, Manhattan, KS 66502;
 785-587-0872
 Roberta Rogow (R), 1755-A Manor Drive, Irvington, NJ 07111
 Karl Schmit (772, N), 1509 O'Keefe Road, De Pere, WI 54115; 920-338-8402;
 <diplomacy@new.rr.com>
 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, 767), 1805 Vista del Oro, Fullerton, CA 92831-1331;
 <everheid@adelphia.net>
 Brenton Verploeg (799), 1980 Tigertail Rd., Coconut Grove, FL 33133
 Conrad von Metzke (C), 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA 92117-3813; 858-270-8313;
 <metske@san.rr.com>
 William Watkins (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, 2004C-F), Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton,
 Alberta T6T 1N1, CANADA; 780-465-6432; cell 780-497-8283; <wiedem@planet.eon.net>
 Don Williams (N), 27505 Artine Dr., Saugus, CA 91350-2193; 661-297-3947;
 <dwilliams@fontana.org>
 W. Andrew York (767), P. O. Box 201117, Austin, TX 78720-1117; <wandrew@compuserve.com>

CYMRIC COMPLICATIONS (continued from p. 4)

trusted knights, Sir Thomas de Caldecott. As they proceed towards Rhuddlan, Justin wonders just whose interests Sir Thomas will really be representing. But he ends by solving his mysterious murder.

However, the major complications of this mission center about Lady Emma of Anjou, Davydd's wife. She is the illegitimate half-sister of the late King Henry II, and therefore King Richard's aunt. In an afterword, the author relates her problems in sorting out the meager facts about this lady, so that she could be represented in the

book with reasonable accuracy.

Justin has qualifications which were almost unique in his time. He is literate in English, French, and Latin, at a time when French was the language of the English court. (From 1066 to 1327, no King of England could speak English, and the first king to have English as his native tongue did not take the throne until the *coup d'etat* of 1399.) Also, having grown up in Chester on the Welsh border, Justin also speaks enough Welsh to communicate with that proud and fractious people. Add to this his expertise in sword-play and horsemanship, and a bastard's ease at mingling convincingly with people of all levels of society, and we see that Queen Eleanor has once again exercised her expert judgment of people.

After complications so entangled that you'd best keep a list of the characters as you read this book, Justin discovers that the theft of the ransom goods did not take place as represented to the Queen by Davydd, and that people identified to him as villains are actually heroes (and vice versa).

The trade paperback edition includes not only the author's notes but also an interview with her about her historical novels set in this period, and the course that this series of crime novels has taken and will continue to take. The fourth book in this series, *Prince of Darkness*, has already appeared and will be reviewed in a future Graustark.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 6)

It is widely believed in the United States that Iraq has been conquered and occupied in order to ensure that no Iraqi dictator can jack up the price of oil and thus wreck the American economy. Both supporters and opponents of the war seem to believe this. However,

"...not even the most ruthless accountant can justify the expense. Even before the war, America's military costs in the Persian Gulf were much greater than the value of all the oil it was getting from the region, and now it's spending at least four times what the oil's worth." - John Tierney, *New York Times*, 28 May 2005

*

There is a widespread stereotype about veterans of the American invasion of Vietnam. Many people believe that they all came home with severe psychological injuries, and are likely to commit suicide, or to wake up in the middle of the night screaming that the Viet Cong are hiding in the hall closet.

Whatever the truth of this belief, or the number of Vietnam veterans it allegedly describes, we can reject allegations that veterans of Bush War II are likely to be afflicted with psychological problems. (Sally Satel, *Newsday*, 14 June 2005) Look at the photographs and videotapes which these soldiers have taken of their activities - the Iraqi prisoners humiliated by being piled up in naked heaps, or forced to stand in impossible poses, lest worse things happen to them. The American soldiers standing next to these prisoners are posed like sportsmen standing next to three-meter marlins or twelve-point bucks. They are having the time of their lives, obviously happy and proud about their conquests, and morale is clearly higher in the U. S. armed forces than it has been since the end of World War II. It is only the disillusioned and hopeless who commit suicide, and this clearly does not describe American troops in Iraq. We know that these photos and tapes will be proudly shown at family gatherings, and in American Legion and V. F. W. halls, for decades. And the American soldier who videotaped the rape of a screaming Iraqi boy by a U. S. Army translator will have a story to dine out on for the rest of her life.

*

According to the figures in the 2005 *World Almanac*, American wars fall into three easily separated categories - major, minor, and negligible. The U. S. A. has never fought a war that gave it more than 4,500 but fewer than 30,000 battle deaths. And the negligible wars aren't even listed in the *World Almanac*. These include two brief undeclared wars against France in 1798 and 1942, the 1801 campaign that left the Marines singing about the "halls of Tripoli", the Second Mexican-American War (1913-1916), the

1919 invasion of Siberia, any number of "interventions" to secure U. S. economic interests in Latin America, and of course the campaigns against this continent's original inhabitants. (Recently my daughter Deirdre downloaded for me a report from a Boardman genealogical website which confirmed my suspicions about the deaths of brothers Joseph and John Boardman in 1675. They were casualties of the war with the forces of the Wampanoag chief Metacomet, who for some reason called "King Phillip" by the colonists.)

It is interesting to watch the figures for Bush War II mount up by comparison with these earlier wars, even as Vice President Cheney claims that the Iraqi resistance is in its "last throes". Among the minor wars it has just passed the First Mexican-American War and is creeping up on the War of 1812, in which there were 2,280 battle deaths, about 300 more than the current figure for Bush War II. (However, I have a few doubts about the *World Almanac* figures. The casualty figures it gives for the Slaveholders' Rebellion differ widely from those given by James M. McPherson in *Battle Cry of Freedom*.)

Of the minor wars, the American Revolution produced the most battle deaths: 4,435. Then it's a long step upward to the next war, the American intervention into the Korean Civil War of 1950-1953. That cost 36,916 American lives, 33,667 of them in combat.

*

But *where* are those American casualties coming from? An article by Robert Cushing and Bill Bishop, in the *New York Times* of 20 July 2005, confirms my impression that most of the battle deaths are young men from rural regions. A chart shows a steady rise in death rates as we go from counties of high population to counties of low population. (For counties of over one million the death rate is 0.9; for counties of less than 25,000 it is nearly twice that.) "The armed forces," they conclude, "must be disproportionately drawn from rural communities...This is above all an economics story. Military studies consistently find that a poor economy is a boon to recruiting" - or, as it has also been put, the best recruiting officer is General Unemployment.

And, as far back as warfare goes, the best soldiers (or at least the men readiest to go to war) have been recruited from farm boys. City dwellers, even at the bottom of the economic heap, are more likely to have acquired enough worldly wisdom to know better.

*

And what do voters think of those soldiers when they return home and run for office? We recently got an example in a special election for U. S. Representative in an Ohio district whose Republican incumbent had resigned to take a federal appointment. The Democratic candidate was the first veteran of Bush War II to run for a seat in Congress. And he lost.

Look at the record. In the last four presidential elections, a combat veteran ran against a man who was not. And, in each of those elections, the combat veteran lost. Now it's happened again. Does a picture begin to shape up?

*

I must opt out of the currently fashionable practice of bashing incumbent politicians, and their children, for not going to war. I was prime military meat during the Korean War. As Vice President Cheney later put it, I had "other priorities" than military "service". Canada was not an option then, so I found it convenient to dodge around military service with educational deferments, just as Bill Clinton did during the war with Vietnam. But if they had called me up, I would have refused. In federal prison there are better food and better accommodations, you meet a better class of people, and there is less risk of getting shot.

Protecting your children is a basic biological instinct, and no one should be faulted for obeying it. Protecting your own life is almost as important. So let us have no snide comments about the avoidance of military "service" by many men now prominent in public life, or by their sons and daughters. If you have wealthy and influential relatives and friends, you call on them for help. If you do not, you take the bus to Canada.

*

Long before he became president, Lyndon Johnson was famous in Washington as a masterful political manipulator, although this ability seemed to desert him whenever he

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): Builds A Edi.
 FRANCE (Lischett): Builds A Par.
 GERMANY (Quirk): Builds A Ber & A Mun.

ITALY (Verheiden): Builds A Rom.
 RUSSIA (Neal): Removes A Arm.

The deadline for "Spring 1908" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2005.

Over the years, Graustark has taken up a number of orphaned postal Diplomacy games, but none have been so thoroughly orphaned as 2002D. It began in Paul Milewski's 'zine Yellow Pajamas, but he ceased publication in "Spring 1902". By then one player had already resigned and been replaced. Since 2002D began running in Graustark, another player resigned, and the remaining five original players have been dropped for missing moves. All were replaced, and two of the replacement players have been eliminated from the game.

WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The subscriptions of the following readers expire with the indicated issue of Graustark. This information is valid to the date of 6 August 2005. See p. 6 for information about extending your subscription.

766 - Jim Dapkus	767 - Paul Milewski	770 - Michael Neal
767 - Jim Grose	Eric Verheiden	799 - Brenton Verploeg
	W. Andrew York	

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 game of regular Diplomacy 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 all active players, the current position, and a list of 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 Diplomacy 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 upon 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 "*". If you wish your name added to or removed from this list, please let me know.

Hank Alme	Michael Quirk*
John R. Biehl*	Eric Verheiden*
Paul D. Milewski	Fred Wiedemeyer*
Michael Neal*	

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 13)

dealt with foreign policy. But when he became convinced that federal civil rights legislation was the only effective way to remedy the grievances of African-Americans oppressed by state and local laws and customs which required racial segregation, he recognized that he would be presenting the Republican Party with an opportunity to win huge majorities among people who had always shunned the party of Abraham Lincoln.

This was indeed what happened. With the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, southern white racist politicians changed their party allegiance from Democratic to Republican, often loudly and proudly. In other parts of the country, Republican politicians desperately scrambled to explain these sudden conversions to voters opposed to racism. These white southerners, they claimed, desired a stronger military policy, lower taxes, no laws regulating firearms, less interference from that mean ol' centralized federal government, or anything but the retention of white supremacy. But, beginning with General Goldwater's opposition to the Civil Rights Act, and his presidential candidacy, conservatism became more powerful in this country from 1964 on, with its greatest voting strength in the southern states. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that conservatism is principally a determination to preserve white supremacy, and that its other political positions are taken to support this central aim.

The complaints made about the federal courts in those years are still heard, and have been extended to other issues. In overruling state segregation laws the courts were "inventing new rights" (which the Ninth Amendment constitutionally authorizes them to do), they were usurping legislative privilege by "making law", and they were offending the religious beliefs of those who felt that white supremacy is authorized in the bible. The same arguments have since been heard in opposition to federal court decisions supporting legalized abortion and the civil rights of homosexuals.

It went on. Gerald Ford's Justice Department went to the Supreme Court with a plea to reverse the 1954 school desegregation decision. Ronald Reagan announced his 1980 presidential candidacy in Philadelphia, Mississippi, previously famous only as the site of the 1964 murder of three civil rights workers by America's oldest conservative organization, the Ku Klux Klan. Bush the Son has refused invitations to speak at five successive annual conventions of the NAACP, and their objections caused his Internal Revenue Service to launch an investigation of that civil rights group's tax-exempt status.

At long last, some people in the Republican Party are realizing what this policy has cost them, starting with 90% of the African-American vote and the respect of people who take the Constitution seriously. This year, Republican National Chairman Ken Mehlman *did* go to that NAACP convention, and admitted that for a generation the Republican Party had deliberately courted the racist vote. His actual words say it all:

"Some Republicans gave up on winning the African-American vote, looking the other way or trying to benefit politically from racial polarization. I am here today as the Republican chairman to tell you we were wrong." - Anne E. Kornblut, *New York Times* (15 July 2005)

We will learn in 2008 just what these words mean. In the presidential elections of 2000 and 2004, numerous African-American voters were turned away from the polls in Florida, based on specious excuses to keep them from voting. Other swing states, particularly Ohio, reported similar happenings. It is hard to avoid the impression that if everyone who set out for the polls in 2000 and 2004 had been allowed to vote, and if all those votes had then been counted, the Democratic presidential candidate would have won both elections.

The truth will probably not be revealed until after Bush the Son has left office. Then some Republican Party apparatchiks in Florida or Ohio or elsewhere will tell what they did to ensure that Democratic voters would be turned away from the polls, or that Democratic votes would not be counted. They will put forward their deeds as patriotic efforts to ensure that the American people would be spared the horrible consequences of a Democratic victory, which will be described in great detail. And they will expect to be praised for these patriotic efforts.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 will be up for renewal in 2007. *Only* Republicans are opposing its renewal.

*

Chairman Mehlman may have a little trouble persuading some southern Republicans that openly racist attitudes are now bad public relations. In 1996 Charles Davidson, a Republican state senator in Alabama, argued in a senate speech that slavery was authorized by the bible, and that "The incidence of abuse, rape, broken homes and murder are 100 times greater, today, in the housing projects than they ever were on the slave

plantations in the Old South. The truth is that nowhere on the face of the earth, in all time, were servants better treated or better loved than they were in the Old South by white, black, Hispanic, and Indian slave owners."

And this year, in Charlotte, NC, a Republican candidate named Doug Hanks dropped out of an election for city council when a local "alternative" weekly revealed that he had posted more than 4,000 approving comments on a white supremacist Internet bulletin board. (*New York Times*, 6 August 2005)

*

Jim Burgess's continuing search in *The Abyssinian Prince*, for lost players from the early years of postal Diplomacy, is now trying to locate Derek Nelson, winner of 1963A, the first postal Diplomacy game. Nelson, in the 1960s a well-known science-fiction, gaming, and motorcycling enthusiast, was also an outspoken conservative who frequently complained about oppressive regulations by an overly powerful government. Once I asked him how these regulations were infringing on his personal freedom. He responded by citing laws requiring motorcycle riders to wear protective helmets. This he regarded as a gross violation of his personal freedom.

Apparently other people not only feel this way, but were able to get legislatures to agree with them. Three years ago, the Florida legislature repealed a law requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets. Motorcycle deaths in Florida have since increased by 81%, according to a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In the three years after repeal, 61% of the 933 fatally injured motorcyclists were not wearing helmets, compared to only 9% of the 515 motorcyclists killed in crashes before the helmet law was repealed.

If Derek Nelson has not yet been turned up by readers of *The Abyssinian Prince*, I might suggest that he may also have been a victim of his attitude towards helmet laws. Or maybe, since he was a passionate supporter of the "Unionist" forces in his native Ulster, he might have returned to the land of his birth to take part in the struggle, and been dealt with appropriately by the Irish Republican Army.

GRAUSTARK #766

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

- () - You may be interested in an item on p. ____.
- () - Sample copy.
- () - Your subscription expires with this issue.
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