

GRAUSTARK

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

#767 202A, "Fall 1912"; 202D, "Spring 1908"; 2004C, "Spring 1904" 3 September 2005

SUTTON IMPACT By Ward Sutton

ME'S MADE THIS COUNTRY WHAT IT IS TODAY! HE'S ...
the GREAT AMERICAN RATIONALIZER!
 by WARD "MY, OH MY LAI" SUTTON

WHEN OUR HERO IS HIT WITH UNPLEASANT NEWS ...
 ... REVEALED TODAY THAT U.S. TROOPS HAVE TORTURED IRAQI PRISONERS THROUGH BEATING, SEXUAL HUMILIATION AND USE OF ATTACK DOGS, RESULTING AT TIMES IN DEATH ...

... HE DUTIFULLY SEEKS OUT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING.
 THESE INCIDENTS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN FRATERNITY PRANKS!

HIS UNWAVERING NATIONALISTIC PRIDE RUSHES BACK, AS DO HIS INCREDIBLE "TUFF OUT" POWERS.
 OUR LEADERS ARE HONORABLE. OUR SOLDIERS ARE SAINTLY. OUR WARS ARE JUST. ALWAYS!

MEANWHILE, THE "LIBERAL" MEDIA GETS THE MESSAGE ...
 OUR DATA SHOWS THE PUBLIC DOESN'T WANT STORIES ABOUT AMERICA BEING THE BAD GUY.

THE MORE OUR HERO IGNORES THE FACTS, THE GREATER HIS RATIONALIZATION POWERS BECOME.
 SOME PEOPLE WILL CONDUCT AND SENSATIONALIZE ANYTHING JUST TO SELL BOOKS. SHAMEFUL!

THANKS TO HIM, THE FAIRY TALE LIVES ON!
 ... MARINE TESTIFIED HIS UNIT COMMITTED ATROCITIES INCLUDING KILLING 30 UNARMED ...

BURY THIS STUFF AND STICK TO IMPORTANT ISSUES LIKE ATHLETES AND STEROIDS!

NEWS!

BOOKS

FREEDOM'S ON THE MARCH!!

THIS MODERN WORLD By Tom Tomorrow

SO IT'S YOUR CONTENTION THAT POORLY SOURCED, INACCURATE INFORMATION LED TO THE UNNECESSARY LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE... AND CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE TO OUR NATION'S CREDIBILITY?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

AND--JUST SO I'VE GOT THIS STRAIGHT--YOU'RE CRITICIZING NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE HERE?

YES, OF COURSE. WHAT ELSE COULD I POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO?

YOU GUYS MUST LAUGH YOURSELVES SILLY, COMING UP WITH THIS STUFF.

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT YOU MIGHT BE TALKING ABOUT.

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THE POINT IS SIR, WE'RE IN A FAR LESS AGGRESSIVE POSTURE IN IRAQ NOW. OUR MAIN MISSION IS PURE PROTECTION.

WHAT'S FORCE PROTECT YOU?

BASICALLY, IT'S PREVENTING THE BAD GUYS FROM KILLING OUR TROOPS.

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. WE'VE GOT 150,000 TROOPS IN IRAQ WHOSE MAIN MISSION IS TO NOT GET KILLED?

RIGHT.

OH, THEY NOT GET KILLED AT HOME?

NO, WE NEED THEM TO NOT GET KILLED THERE SO WE DON'T GET KILLED HERE.

Bush Acquired By Martian Zoo

OLYMPUS MONS—President Bush, who in 2004 announced his desire for a manned mission to Mars, was acquired by a prominent Martian zoo Monday. "The President Bush shall have every comfort of home," said an unknowable Martian intelligence whose name is unfathomable to the human mind. "He shall have his Oval Office, his baseball, and simulated humans from his natural habitat, and we shall watch him most closely, for he is adorable sitting at his desk." Zookeepers on the Red Planet hope Bush will mate with the other Earth mammal in the facility, a northern white rhino.

NEWS



Cheney Offspring Bursts From Bush's Chest

see WASHINGTON page 28

MEN, WE'RE NEVER GOING TO GET ANY BETTER UNTIL WE ANALYZE OUR BEHAVIOR DURING BATTLE...

NOW, WHAT DID WE DO WRONG TODAY?

WE LOST?

UH... BESIDES THAT?

FAMILIES IS WHERE OUR NATION FINDS HOPE. WHERE WINGS TAKE DREAM...

"I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO PUT FOOD ON YOUR FAMILY..."

"RARELY IS THE QUESTION ASKED: IS OUR CHILDREN LEARNING?..."

APPARENTLY, OUR LEADER' ISN'T.

SO WHEN CAN WE STUDY INTELLIGENT DESIGN?

IRAQ STRATEGY

How does "Intelligent Design" account for the existence of George W. Bush?

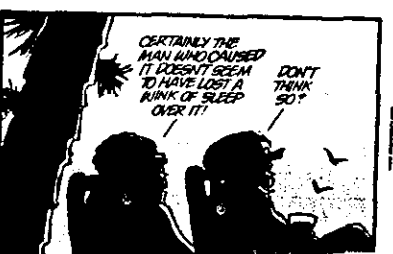


To the Editor:
 It is ironic that many of those who fight to keep Terri Schiavo alive through the wonders of modern medicine would be among the first to limit the study of science in our classrooms.
 NANCY R. TAG
 New York, March 25, 2005



Where's the Peace?

To the Editor:
 Re "For Bush, No Boasts, but a Taste of Vindication" (news analysis, March 9): President Bush's assertion that "the advance of democracy leads to peace" is challenged by this: Two years ago, the greatest democracy this world has ever known started a war with a country based on false accusations that the country harbored weapons of mass destruction and had ties with terrorists.
 This advance of democracy has claimed the lives of thousands of innocent men, women and children.
 MICHAEL CURRY
 Austin, Tex., March 9, 2005



2002A

"Fall 1912"

Following "Spring 1912" moves Russia retreated F Den-Bal, A War-Liv.

FRANCE (Street): F Hel S A Hol; A Den S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Fin-Swe; F Spa(s.c.) S A Mar; F Nrg S TURKISH F Nwy; A Hol & A Bur S A Ruh; F Nth S A Den; A Ruh & A Mar S A Bur; F Eng-Mid; F Bre-Eng[sic; no such unit exists].

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Watkins): A Fin-Swe; A Ber, A Kie, A Mun, A War, A Sil, A Pie, A Tyr, A Bud, and F Ion hold.

RUSSIA (Biehl): A Swe-Pru; A Liv S A Swe-Pru; F Bal C A Swe-Pru.

TURKEY (Jordan): A Pru-Liv; A Mos S A Pru-Liv; F Ska & F Nwy S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Fin-Swe; A Bul, A St.P, A Sev, F Bla, F Tun, & F Aeg not ordered, hold.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Russian A Livonia is dislodged and annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Den, Edi, Hol, Liv, Lon, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (11)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Ber, Bud, Gre, Kie, Mun, Rom, Ser, Swe, Tri, Ven, Vie, War. (12)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Mos, Nap, Nwy, Rum, St.P, Sev, Smy, Tun. (11)

Austria-Hungary may build two new units, and France and Turkey may each build one. The remaining Russian units are removed. The deadline for these "Winter 1912" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2005.

There is a proposal for a draw among the three surviving players. They should send in their votes on this proposal with their "Winter 1912" orders. An abstention counts as a negative vote. If this game ends with a draw on the next turn, the subscriptions of Richard Bourgeois, Dan McKinsey, David Stone, Sigourney Street, and Bill Watkins will end. For information about enrolling in another Graustark postal Diplomacy game, see p. 6.

2004C

"Spring 2004"

ENGLAND PARTITIONED!

ENGLAND (Koch): F Nrg & F Iri hold.

FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): A Pic-Lon; F Eng C A Pic-Lon; F Mid S F Eng; A Bel holds; F Spa(s.c.) S F Mid; A Par-Gas.

GERMANY (Mathias): A Hol-Yor; F Nth C A Hol-Yor; F Nwy-Nrg; A Mun-Tyr; A Boh-Vie; A Kie-Hol; A Ber-Mun.

ITALY (Mooney): A Tri-Vie; A Ser S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ukr-Rum; A Ven-Tyr; F Adr, F Ion, and F Tun hold.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Alme): A Ukr-Rum; A Bud S A Ukr-Rum.

RUSSIA (Biehl): A Ank-Con; A Rum-Bul; F Bla S A Rum-Bul; A Sev-Rum; A Mos-Ukr; A War S A Mos-Ukr.

TURKEY (Bruce): F Gre-Aeg; F Con-Ank; A Smy S F Con-Ank; A Bul S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ukr-Rum.

Underlined moves are not possible. Turkey retreats A Bul-Gre and Russia retreats A Ank-Rum. The deadline for "Fall 1904" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2005.

HEIDELBERG HERALD: The Palace Concierge has reportedly been selling North Sea Salmon on the Black Market, to deplete the supplies and make room for other foodstuffs. The Kaiser is planning for the Spring Festival and wants new delicacies to tempt the palates of his expected guests. Word of fantastic pastries being created in the south-

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS - CLXXXIII

Lately, those few Christians who recall who blessed the peacemakers have been wearing buttons that ask "Who would Jesus bomb?" Now they have their answer, from none other than the Reverend Pat Robertson. Apparently Jesus would bomb President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

Nor is Robertson's proclamation out of step with the historic traditions of Christianity. Almost every Christian declares that the Christian doctrine of a "Just War" describes every war fought by the country of which that particular Christian is a citizen, and to none of the wars fought against that country.

Suborning the murder of the leader of the currently fashionable enemy nation is an old Christian tradition. Leaving aside the pious murderers who called themselves "Crusaders", we learn that almost five centuries ago Sir Thomas More, the Lord Chancellor of England, took time out from his favorite pastime of burning "heretics" to write a book about how the ideal nation should function. In this book, entitled *Utopia* and still regarded as a classic, he tells how Utopia makes war at low cost by assassinating enemy leaders - exactly the idea proposed by Robertson.

And how did More's co-religionists respond to his proposal? He was eventually proclaimed to be a saint. Nor was this advice forgotten. During her son's presidency, Lillian Carter urged the assassination of Ayatollah Khomeini, indicating that her two sons were excellent examples of the principles of heredity.

It will do no good to protest that President Chavez was democratically elected twice by large majorities, and defeated a crack-brained attempt to recall him from office. In the last century, the United States procured the overthrow of nine democratically elected governments. (Anatol Lieven, *New York Times Book Review*, 4 September 2005) President Chavez responded to the call for his murder by formally requesting the extradition of Rev. Robertson, and of a terrorist lammister named Luis Posada Carilles, who owes Venezuela many years of prison time for blowing up an air liner. No one expects that either man will be given up by the U. S. government.

*

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.

It had been my intention to continue in this Graustark with information from CAR-PGa Newsletter about attacks on D&D, and on the attacks that have been made against the latest version of Grand Theft: Auto since the revelation about an alleged erotic content. However, the events in New Orleans have impinged even on my publication schedule. I expect to return to this topic in the next issue.

*

After so many claims that last December's Indian Ocean tsunami was an expression of the wrath of an imaginary spook up in the sky, I expected similar judgments about Hurricane Katrina. After all, New Orleans, often called "The Big Easy", has long been notorious as a center of alleged immorality, to the point where more breasts are displayed during each annual Mardi Gras celebrations than Janet Jackson ever showed at the 2004 Superbowl. But what surprised me was the direction from which came the first such condemnation of which I heard.

It started because Governor Haley Barbour (R-MS) "continues to draw criticism for opposing international protocols to reduce global warming." (Glenn Thrush, *Newsday*, 1 September 2005) Robert F. Kennedy Jr. responded that "Perhaps it was Barbour [who] caused Katrina, at the last moment, to spare New Orleans and save its worst flailings

(continued on p. 9)

PATRIOTISM - XLI

- PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.
- PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.
- PATRIOTISM is Vice President Cheney's speech before the Veterans of Foreign Wars on 26 August 2002, that "there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction" and that "there is no doubt that he is amassing them to use against our friends, our allies and against us."
- PATRIOTISM is treating prisoners of the U. S. armed forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Cuba as if the war crimes tribunal in The Hague does not exist.
- PATRIOTISM is such American officials and former officials blithely taking vacations in nations which are signatory to the treaty establishing this tribunal, and acting so surprised when they are arrested and extradited for trial in The Hague.
- PATRIOTISM is the speech of an Air Force Academy chaplain who told the cadets "to go back to their tents and tell their fellow cadets that those who are not born again will burn in the fires of hell." (*New York Daily News*, 29 May 2005)
- PATRIOTISM is dismissing a Lutheran chaplain at the Air Force Academy because she objected to the intense pressuring of cadets to join evangelical religious organizations.
- PATRIOTISM is "Rods From God", a plan by the Air Force to develop a "global strike space plane which would carry munitions halfway around the world in 45 minutes" and "hurl dense metal rods at targets on the ground with the force of a small nuclear weapon." (*New York Times*, 24 May 2005)
- PATRIOTISM is the claim by House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX) that the Columbine High School Massacre of 1999 was caused by the teaching of evolution.
- PATRIOTISM is the continuing attempt by the U. S. government to prosecute a student named Osama Awadullah for perjury after a false confession was beaten out of him by police in 2001. (Patricia Hurtado, *Newsday*, 25 May 2005)
- PATRIOTISM is the instructions given by a U. S. Army recruiter to a potential soldier on how to create a fake high school diploma. (Damien Cave, *New York Times*, 21 May 2005; the drop-out secretly recorded the recruiter's instructions)
- PATRIOTISM is Ike Boutwell, owner of the only two movie theaters in Hardin County, Kentucky, banning the new film *Monster-in-Law* (whose ratings elsewhere were second only to those of *Revenge of the Sith*) because one of its stars, Jane Fonda, believes that peace is preferable to war.
- PATRIOTISM is the announcement by the Rev. Chan Chandler, pastor of the East Waynesville (NC) Baptist Church, "cleansing" his church by expelling nine members of its congregation for supporting John Kerry for the presidency.
- PATRIOTISM is Rev. Chandler walking out with about a third of the congregation and starting a new and presumably purely Republican church, after Baptist officials forced his resignation.
- PATRIOTISM is adding to the supplementary military spending bill of 2005 provisions for money for a new baseball stadium for Washington, for repairing forest roads in California, and for giving economic assistance to Israeli Arabs. (David D. Kirkpatrick, *New York Times*, 12 April 2005)
- PATRIOTISM is a California high school recalling its yearbook and blacking out the description of one student as "most likely to assassinate President Bush".
- PATRIOTISM is a Texas high school yearbook which identified all the white members of the school's honor society by name, but identified the only black member merely as "Black Girl".
- PATRIOTISM is regret over the end of the John M. Olin Foundation, which for about 30 years has bankrolled conservative intellectual organizations and publications. (But have no fear - the Pioneer Foundation is still in business.)
- PATRIOTISM is the ability of the Bush Administration to invoke a "state secrets privilege" to keep from having to explain why it send a Canadian named Maher Arar to Syria to be tortured. (Scott Shane, *New York Times*, 29 May 2005)
- PATRIOTISM is television stations refusing to show *Schindler's List* because it shows "naked female prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp being herded to the showers." (Clyde Haberman, *New York Times*, 27 May 2005)
- PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Today's Terror Alert Color Code is Venezuelan Blood Red, acknowledging Rev. Pat Robertson's Christian warning that U. S. agents have to assassinate the President of Venezuela *right now*, before he sends an alliance of Communists and Muslims to terrorize us.

*

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 Inflamm
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. # 2110

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.

*

Paul Evans has just sent me further information about the RAF Mosquito, a light bomber used to good effect during World War II. My interest in this matter got started with my review, in Graustark #761, of Sir John Mortimer's crime novel *Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders* (2004, Viking, NY). Two of the murder victims had during the war been the pilot and tail gunner of a RAF bomber which was allegedly shot down in France, killing the third crew member, the navigator. A crew of three seemed rather small for a bomber, so I looked into a couple of history books and discovered the De Havilland Mosquito, though without any information on the size of its crew. I cited these meager findings in #765.

Paul downloaded further information from <<http://www.aviation-history.com/dehavilland/mosquito.html>>. It seems that the plane was "conceived as a bomber [but] became one of the war's most potent fighters." In all, 27 versions of the Mosquito were built during the war, and "it carried phenomenal loads over extremely long distances, performing feats out of all proportion to the specification originally envisaged by its designers...an outstanding warplane on every count." Its crew size does not appear in these specifications, but Paul recalls it as having a crew of two, seated side by side. This would have ruled out a tail gunner. The bomber cited in *Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders* must therefore have been some other type of plane, unless it is merely an invention by the author.

*

Tom Butcher writes that when he lived in Tokyo he had trouble finding opponents for over-the-board Diplomacy. "The Japanese objection," he wrote, "was that the game's

required attributes were the worst possible: deceit and treachery. As one Japanese young woman put it to me: 'Skill in Diplomacy is a sign of a very bad character.'

Of course, Diplomacy is not the only game about which this sort of thing has been said. Sherlock Holmes put it this way:

"Amberley excelled at chess - one mark, Watson, of a scheming mind."
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Adventure of the Retired Colourman"

*

Overseas Graustark readers have been asking for details about the extremely destructive hurricane which recently struck New Orleans and Gulf Coast regions of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida. While I have no relatives in that region, I have like all New Yorkers been following the horrendous news reports from the South. This was a direction from which we received much help after "9/11". Biloxi came through for us, and now we are going to come through for Biloxi. New York City is mustering rescue workers and equipment, and sending money. Rather than funding any of the charities of religious orientation, I am making a contribution through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, City Hall, New York, NY 10007, since I believe that hurricane relief is a civic obligation of New Yorkers. Checks should be made payable to the fund, with "Hurricane Katrina Relief" on the memo line. I recommend contributions to this fund to readers.

Being situated mostly below water level, New Orleans has filled up like a bathtub, and no one can even guess when it will again be habitable, or when a reasonably full death count will be available. One report called the world's fifth busiest port "an inevitable city in an impossible location". And this may well prove to be the deadliest natural disaster in U. S. history, worse than the 6,000 deaths in the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, or the 8,000 deaths in the Galveston hurricane of 1900.

*

I want to thank Mark Blackman, John R. Biehl, and Paul Cardwell Jr. for sending in some of the clippings which I have been using in collages on Graustark covers and elsewhere.

*

"Defending a conflict that critics liken to Vietnam, President Bush said yesterday that the war in Iraq was more like World War II." - *New York Daily News*, 31 August 2005

Ah yes, it's all coming back to me now - the draft, rationing, massive conversion from civilian to military production, shortages of consumer goods, Boy Scouts going from door to door collecting scrap metal and old paper, volunteer neighborhood air raid wardens, practice blackouts, and government campaigns promoting the sale of war bonds and stamps, with massive responses from the public. You *have* been seeing all this in your neighborhood, haven't you? Haven't you?

*

Figures on the expense of the American invasion of Iraq have just been published in an article in the *New York Times* of 20 August 2005. Professor Linda Bilmes of Harvard has run up a calculation which sets the amount already spent on the wars with Afghanistan and Iraq at \$258,000,000,000. (That's "billion" with a "b".) Running costs of this war over the next five years - and Bush will be in office for almost four of those years - are estimated at \$460,000,000,000. To this she adds \$315,000,000,000 in veterans' costs, \$220,000,000,000 in interest on deficit financing of these expenses, and \$119,000,000,000 as the effects of an increase in the price of oil. This totals out at \$1,372,000,000,000. (That's "trillion" with a "t".) At a conservative estimate that's \$11,300 for each household in the United States. (Could you use a new car? Or afford to put gas in it?)

And if gasoline prices rise any higher, we may soon be paying almost half as much per gallon as Europeans pay for it.

As Finley Peter Dunne's "Mr. Dooley" said about the Spanish-American War, "Th' part that ye see in th' pitcher pa-apers is over, but th' tax collector will continyoo his part iv th' war with relentless fury. Cav'lry charges are not th' only wans in a rale war."

MURDER MOST ROYAL

Margaret Frazer (pseudonym of Gail Frazer), *The Bastard's Tale* (2002, Berkley, NY; \$6.50 pb). For reviews of the eleven previous books in this series of detective adventures of the Benedictine nun Dame Frevisse, see ##673, 675, 677, 724, 729 and 737.

Margaret Frazer's *The Bastard's Tale* takes place 254 years later than Sharon Kaye Penman's *Dragon's Lair*, reviewed in the last issue, but the Welsh are still unreconciled to the English conquest, and capable of generating enormous complications in the lives of their English rulers. The bastard of the title is Arteys, the historical half-Welsh son of Prince Humphrey Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester and youngest brother of the late King Henry V. The terms of King Henry's will made Gloucester the guardian of the king's infant son and successor King Henry VI, while the only other surviving brother Prince John, Duke of Bedford, was in charge of keeping newly conquered France pacified, using methods we have seen more recently in the "pacification" of conquered nations.

But by now, after Bedford's death and the revolt led by Jeanne Darc, France is lost, and Gloucester is now the heir presumptive of his nephew, who is 26, has as yet no children, and is progressing from childhood to senility without an intervening phase of adult lucidity. In previous novels in this series, we have seen Gloucester as the leader of one of the two factions among the young king's handlers. Gloucester is a "Hawk" who favors reconquering France without regard to the cost in men and money. Gloucester's bastard uncle Cardinal Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, is a "Dove", who wants to give up the French conquests, probably so he can get hold of the money that otherwise would have been spent on war. As he is now about 70 and in very poor health, active leadership of this faction has passed to his grandnephew the Marquis of Dorset, and to the Marquis of Suffolk, third husband of Dame Frevisse's cousin Alice.

As the climax of the rivalry between Beaufort and Gloucester, a Parliament is to be held in bitterly cold weather in February 1447 at a large Benedictine abbey at Bury St. Edmunds, probably the only place other than a large city where all the notables and their entourages could be accommodated. As the book opens, Arteys, now in his middle twenties, hears his father say that he intends to attend this Parliament to which he has been summoned. But, since Gloucester lives in Wales and is popular with the Welsh, his advisers are opposed to him visiting such a nest of his enemies as Bury St. Edmunds is likely to be. However, Gloucester's wife has been imprisoned for five years on a trumped-up charge of "sorcery", and he hopes this Parliament can be induced to release her. Arteys is a member of the advance party which is to see to the duke's accommodations at the abbey.

Cardinal Beaufort frequently gets involved in the affairs of Dame Frevisse, who would, as she grows closer to her fiftieth birthday, rather continue her quiet and useful existence in a convent in Oxfordshire instead of getting involved once again in court intrigues. However, Beaufort can make claims on their kinship, since his mother was the aunt of Frevisse's late and much beloved uncle Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet. And as this book begins he asks the prioress of that convent to send Dame Frevisse to visit her cousin Alice, Chaucer's daughter, at Bury St. Edmunds, in terms that can barely be distinguished from a command. Obviously, something is afoot on which he would like to have the support of her well-known investigative talents.

At the very crowded Bury St. Edmund's, room is found for Frevisse, as a fellow Benedictine. While awaiting further instructions from Beaufort, she takes under her wing Alice's four-year-old son John de la Pole. Young John is an active and inquisitive child who has attached himself to a company of players, and will have a small part in a play which they will be performing before the king and queen and other notables of the realm. One of the members of this company introduces himself to Frevisse as "Master Noreys", but she recognizes him as her long-time friend Joliffe, a traveling actor who is in the custom of using a variety of names for his own purposes.

It is Joliffe, who seems to be involved in some freelance plotting of his own, who introduces Arteys to Frevisse. Suffolk is spreading the word that Gloucester plans to bring a small army to Bury and seize control of the king, but we recognize this as a sort of plot still practiced in our own time: X loudly claims that Y is planning to do something sinister, unlawful, or both, when X is actually planning to do this to Y. Alice senses that something is wrong, and confides to Frevisse that her husband no

longer takes her into his confidence as to his plans.

Almost as soon as Gloucester arrives, he is arrested in the king's name by the nobles of Suffolk's faction and charged with high treason. But then Arteys, making a secretive night visit to his father's cell, surprises and kills a man who is trying to suffocate Gloucester. And, although Arteys leaves the corpse in the cell next to his father, who seems now to be in a coma, it is fished out of a local river the next morning. He later proves to be a servant of Suffolk.

Soon Gloucester slips from his coma into death. (This is the author's approach to a death for which historians have never found a satisfactory explanation, and she briefly discusses the matter in an epilog.) There is an outcry of public indignation against Suffolk for allegedly procuring his murder, and Suffolk tries to cover his tracks by arresting Arteys and four other followers of Gloucester. It is Suffolk's intention to summarily sentence them to the protracted and degrading mode of execution then customary for high treason. He apparently expects people to believe that if Gloucester's followers are executed for high treason, their master must also have been guilty of it.

We are told by historians and novelists alike that Gloucester had been popular with "the common people", which probably means the people who would feel good if France were again conquered and subjugated. (Compare the attitude of the dwindling number of fire-eaters who want Iraq or Iran to get this treatment.)

Usually murder mysteries are wrapped up quickly once the detective gets to work. But this one lasts on into high summer, since it is a historical fact that Cardinal Beaufort died a few weeks after Gloucester, and that Arteys' trial and execution was to take place even later. Frevisse returns to her convent. But Suffolk plans to try his victims in London, and Alice, deeply worried about her husband's role in this matter, once more asks for Frevisse's presence. This, and Joliffe's quick wits, provide Frevisse with an opportunity to bring matters to a happy conclusion by pulling a tremendous bluff on Suffolk.

The ultimate beneficiary of all this turmoil, and inheritor of Gloucester's popularity, is the king's second cousin, the Duke of York. He is a better intriguer with a much cooler head than Gloucester, and is the next heir to the throne and the only adult, sane, male member of the royal family in England. As such he is a natural focus for anyone who resents the control which the Suffolk faction has over the king. Suffolk's faction knows this, but Frevisse and Alice would probably have been gratified by foreknowledge that in three years Suffolk himself will pay a heavy price for his plotting.

In the fullness of time, John de la Pole will marry Princess Elizabeth, daughter of the Duke of York and sister to the eventual Kings Edward IV and Richard III. Their eldest son John Earl of Lincoln will be proclaimed the heir to King Richard after the death of Richard's own son, but will be shoved out the way by the Tudor claimant, who becomes King Henry VII. The Earl of Lincoln and his younger brothers will all be killed, in battle or on the scaffold, while pursuing their claim to the throne.

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS - CLXXXIII (continued from p. 4)

for the Mississippi coast."

For over half a century the Kennedy family has been prominent in American political affairs and also, from time to time, in tabloid reports of sexual escapades. But, after gradually degenerating from the high hopes and insincere promises of the Kennedy presidency, the Kennedy legacy has apparently run out in a morass of religious fanaticism about divine punishment by hurricane for people who do not agree with the passionate but unfounded faith that global warming is caused by human activity.

And this Kennedy has acquired some rather odd allies. I don't mean just an obscurity like J. Crestwell Munnings, whose letter to the *New York Daily News* of 1 September 2005 blames Hurricane Katrina on the fact that "Man in his quest to challenge the Creator has blasted hundreds of rockets into outer space and in his arrogance has upset the balance of nature...Man needs to cease further space exploration. His failure to do so will result in his ultimate destruction." A somewhat more prominent religious fanatic named Muhammad Yousef Al-Mlafi, an official of Kuwait's Ministry of Education, claims on a website of the Middle East Media Research Institute that "The Terrorist Katrina is One of the Soldiers of Allah" and is "upset with America for its unbelievers." (*New York Sun*, 2 September 2005)

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 1 September 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@alumni.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 Raynolds 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 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>>
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- 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>
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 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 301235, 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;
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 William Watkins (2002A-A), 918 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661; 201-265-9194;
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 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,
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THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 7)

*

U. S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein has declined to make public 87 photographs and four videotapes of the torture of prisoners at the U. S. Army's Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq. (*Newsday*, 31 August 2005) This is likely to produce massive indignation among the American troops who are depicted torturing those prisoners. To judge from the attitudes of these soldiers in the pictures that have been released, they are proud and happy about their actions, and are likely to resent any attempts to hide the evidence of their triumphs from the American people. They will certainly be backed

up by Attorney General Gonzales, who supports the torture of prisoners, and by Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, under whose authority Abu Ghraib and other American prisons in Iraq were established.

Imagine how the Marines would have reacted if the government had suppressed the photographs of them erecting the U. S. flag at the summit of the highest mountain on Iwo Jima in 1945! These photographs from the American military prisons in Iraq are this war's equivalent of that moment of triumph - an emblem of military pride and a reminder to the American people of just what our armed forces are accomplishing in our name.

This refusal to display the evidence of the American victory in Iraq is likely to have portentous consequences. There was once another nation whose soldiers and veterans, after a victorious war, asked, "If our side won the war, why is the country still in such a mess?" Eventually they found a leader, marched on the capital, and seized the government. The leader's name was Benito Mussolini.

2002D

"Spring 1908"

KATRINA CALLS AN INTERMISSION

Since Michael Neal lives in New Orleans, I do not know when we can next make contact with him. I am therefore going to postpone the deadline for "Spring 1908" moves in this game to NOON, FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2005. However, if I hear from him before then, I will adjudicate the "Spring 1908" moves, send them out to all active players in this game, and set a new deadline for "Fall 1908" moves.

2004C (continued from p. 3)

east has trickled up to the north, causing northern rulers to all desire them. The Kaiser is rumored to have said "That mad Russian Czar thinks he can get those pasties before Me?! We'll see about that. We had the Salmon first, and We'll get the Arch-Duke's pasties first too. Chef told Me he got a map from his new junior butter-whipper Adolf, who came from there. Send Me My generals!"

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 3 September 2005. See p. 6 for information about extending your subscription. See p. 3 for the names of people whose subscriptions will end with the end of 2002A.

767 - Jim Grose
Paul Milewski

767 - Eric Verheiden
770 - Michael Neal

777 - W. Andrew York
799 - Brenton Verploeg

GRAUSTARK #767

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



- () - You may be interested in an item on p. ____.
- () - Sample copy.
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How to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina? See p. 7.

