

GRAUSTARK

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

#779

2002D, "Winter 1912"; 2004C, "Spring 1908"; 2006A, "Fall 1902"

30 June 2007

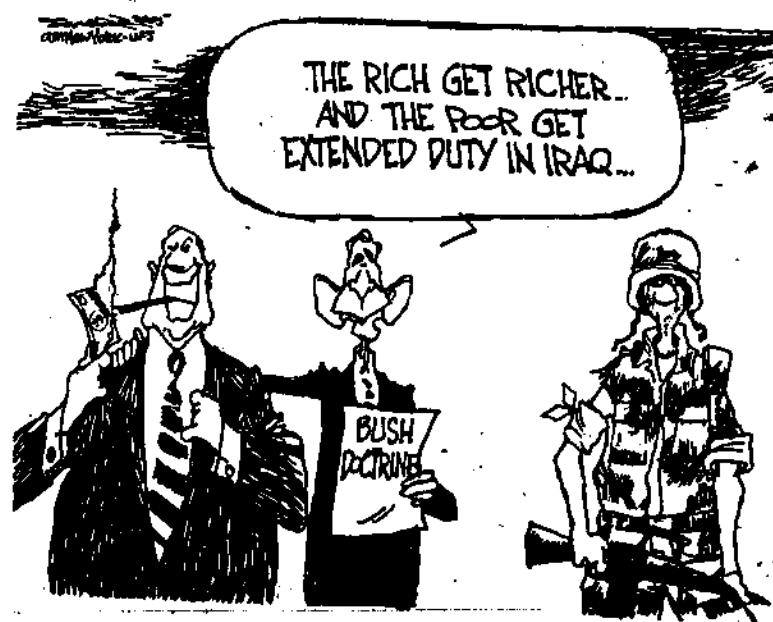
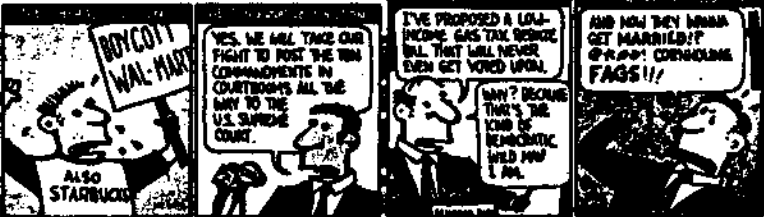
SEARCH AND DESTROY By Ted Rall

LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS

SOARING REAL ESTATE PRICES PUT THE DREAM OF HOME OWNERSHIP OUT OF REACH OF YOUNG AMERICANS. PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD DOCTORS' VISITS OR MEDICATIONS WHEN THEY GET SICK.



GLOBALIZATION IS MAKING IT HARDER TO FIND A GOOD JOB. GAS PRICES KEEP RISING TO NEW HIGHS.



Lioness in summer

Re "Texas @ Hillary" by Kristen Lombardi (August 3-8): Through each of the worst assaults by the Bush administration on rights, civilian bodies, and simple decency, Senator Clinton has generally been on board. She was there for Bush on the resolution to use force against Iraq and insists she has no regrets; she endorsed the Patriot Act's shredding of basic civil liberties. Like John Kerry, she has been helpfully silent on the issue of torture, occupying herself instead with the critical business of hidden porn in video games. She shares the president's enthusiasm for so-called "free trade" and endorses the substance, if not the style, of his opposition to gay marriage. Rumor has it she is prepared in votes in favor of Bush's nominee to the Supreme Court, John Roberts. Given all this, it's certainly no surprise that Clinton finds support among the business and political elite of Texas. The far bigger mystery is why any New

Yorker, let alone a reader of the Voice, would regard her rising star with anything but disgust and dread. And please, calling this most undistinguished of right-leaning centrists the "lioness of liberalism" is just gross. It demeans both lions and liberals.

Michael McFadden
Park Slope



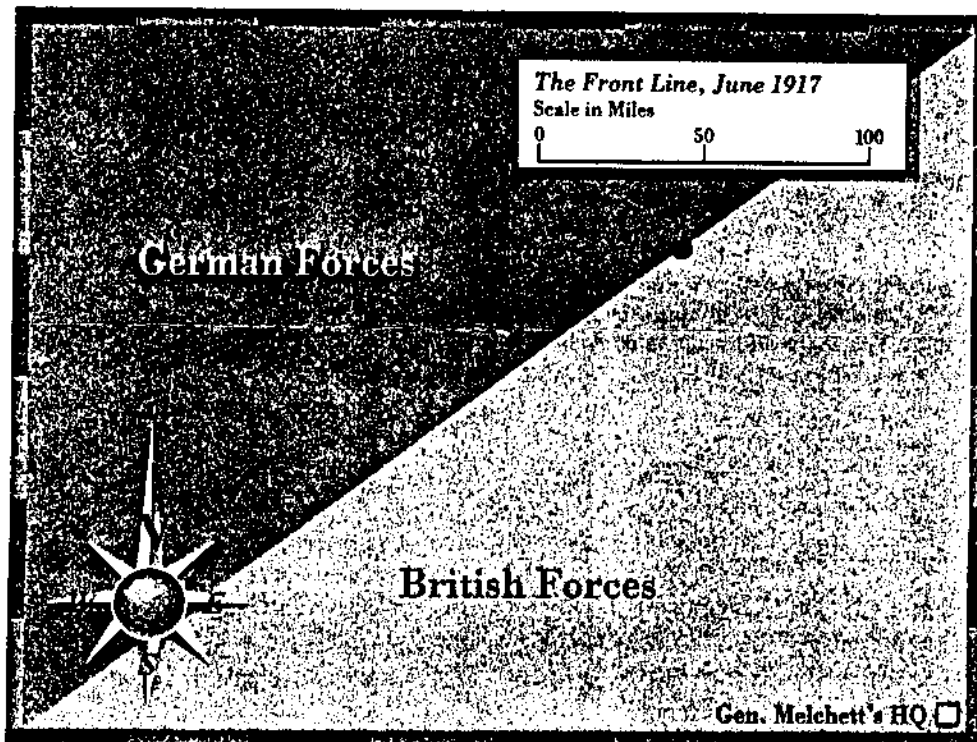
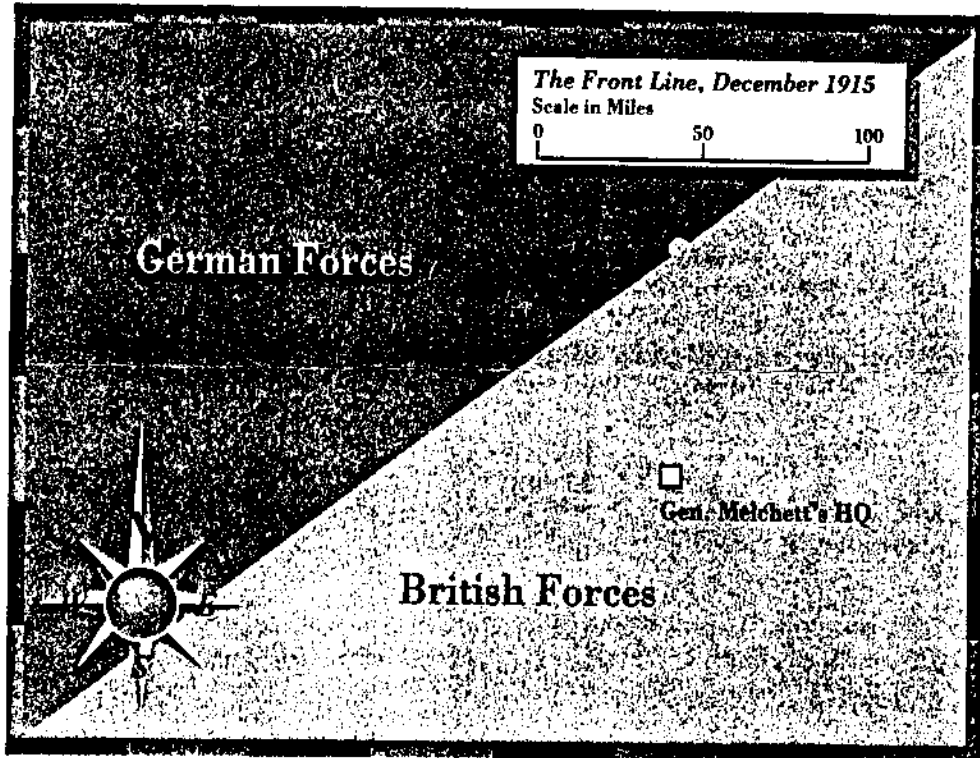
LINE 22: 'HOPES FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WERE RAISED AGAIN TODAY...'

No to Hillary

As a liberal, I certainly support the efforts of the Republican Party to defeat Hillary Clinton in the 2008 U.S. Senate race. Clinton has been one of President Bush's most loyal supporters in the Senate, voting for the war in Iraq, the misnamed Patriot Act, and many of Bush's appointed officials. Getting rid of Hillary would make it possible for a liberal and Bush opponent like Barbara Boxer to run for the presidency in 2008. We need Democratic candidates who oppose Republicans, not ones who try to imitate them.

Tom Hobbins, Manhattan

The Great War: A Graphic Illustration of the Front Line
 December 1915 and June 1917



For the convenience of players of *Diplomacy*, a game modeled on World War I, here is a map of the western front, as described in *Blackadder: The Whole Damn Dynasty 1482-1917*, the scripts of the hilarious BBC series about the adventures of the members of this somewhat aristocratic English family. For further details see p. 8.

2006A

"Fall 1902"

WHAT WAS THAT ORDER?

Following "Spring 1902" moves, Austria-Hungary retreated A Ser-Gre and Turkey retreated F Aeg-Con; all players were informed.

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): A Pic-Bre; F Iri-Mid; F Nth-Nwy; F Eng S A Pic-Bre.

FRANCE (Schmit): F Por-Mid; A Bre-Par; A Gas-Mar.

GERMANY (Jordan): F Den-Swe; A Bur-Mar; A Mun-Bur; A Hol holds.

ITALY (Burgess): A Boh-Gal; A Tun-Alb; F Ion C A Tun-Alb; F Tyr holds.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Williams): A Bud-Gre[sic]; A Gre S A Bud-Gre[sic]; F Aeg-Bul(s.c.); A Gal-Rum; F Alb-Tri.

RUSSIA (Biehl): F Swe S F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; A Rum-Ank; F Bla C A Rum-Ank; A War-Gal; F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; A Ukr-Rum.

TURKEY (Quirk): A Ser S RUSSIAN A Rum-Bud[sic]; A Bul-Ser; F Con-Smy; F Eas-Smy.

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

ENGLAND: Bel, Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon. (5)	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Gre, Tri, Vie. (4)
FRANCE: Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (4)	RUSSIA: Ank, Mos, Rum, St.P, Sev, Swe, War. (7)
GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun. (5)	TURKEY: Bul, Con, Ser, Smy. (4)
ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tun, Ven. (4)	

England, France, Germany, and Russia may each build one unit, and Austria-Hungary must remove one. The deadline for these "Winter 1902" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 27 JULY 2007. Don Williams' new telephone number is 661-305-8535

2002D

"Winter 1912"

E PUR SI MUOVE

Following "Fall 1912" moves, France retreated F Ion-Tun. "Winter 1912" builds and removals are:

FRANCE: Builds A Mar.

ITALY: Removes A Alb

GERMANY: Builds A Ber, A Mun.

The deadline for "Spring 1913" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 27 JULY 2007.

Since it has been some time since the positions for this game have been published, they are repeated here:

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): A Mos, A St.P, F Bar, F Nwy, F Nrg, F Lon.

FRANCE (Lischett): F Tun, A Mar, A Tri, F Adr, F Nap, F Apu, F-Tyr, A Rom, A Tyr, A Pie, A Par.

GERMANY (Quirk): A Bur, A Mun, A War, A Sil, F Bal, F Bot, A Vie, A Boh.

ITALY (Verheiden): F Aeg, F Gre, A Bud.

RUSSIA (Jordan): F Ion, F Eas, A Ser, A Gal, A Ukr, A Sev.

The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Mos, Nwy, St.P. (6)

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Nap, Par, Por, Rom, Spa, Tri, Tun, Ven. (11)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun, Swe, Vie, War. (8)

ITALY: Bud, Bul, Gre. (3)

RUSSIA: Ank, Con, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy. (6)

GERMANY INVADES FRANCE AND AUSTRIA

In the report of the "Fall 1907" moves in Graustark #778, the Russian order "A War-Mos" was incorrectly underlined as failing. Actually it succeeded.

FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): A Lon-Wal; A Bur-Mun; A Pie-Mar; F Tyr-Wes; F Tun-Naf;
F Wes-Spa(s.c.).

GERMANY (Mathias): A Yor holds; A St.P-Mos; A War S A St.P-Mos; A Pru & A Liv S A War;
F Bre-Mid; A Tyr-Vie; A Boh S A Tyr-Vie; A Mun-Bur; A Bel S A Mun-Bur; F Kie-Hol;
F Ber-Kie; A Sil-Gal.

ITALY (Mooney): A Tri-Tyr; A Vie & A Ven S A Tri-Tyr; F Rom-Tyr; A Bud S TURKISH A Gal;
F Rom-Tyr; F Ion holds; F Tus-Lyo.

RUSSIA (Biehl): A Mos holds.

TURKEY (Bruce): A Gal S ITALIAN A Vie; A Rum S A Gal; A Ukr & A Sev S RUSSIAN A Mos;
F Aeg & F Alb S ITALIAN F Ion; F Bla holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy retreats A Vie-Tri. France must retreat A Bur-Pic, -Par, or -Gas, or remove this unit. The direction of this retreat should be sent in by IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL or telephone, so that it arrives by FRIDAY 13 JULY 2007. All players will be informed. The deadline for "Fall 1908" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 27 JULY 2007.

As of "Fall 1907" the High Combatant Powers control the following supply centers:

FRANCE: Lon, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, Tun. (6)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Bre, Den, Edi, Hol, Kie, Liv, Mun, Nwy, St.P, Swe, War. (13)

ITALY: Bud, Gre, Nap, Rom, Tri, Ven, Vie. (7)

RUSSIA: Mos. (1)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy. (7)

API-RUSSIAN FRONT: It has been reported that "Dimitri and Sergei" is a secret code name for the last pitiful remaining Russian underground. Their leaders are rumored to be hiding in the Carpathian Mountains in the western border of Galicia. The Turkish forces there have sworn they are diligently searching for these dissident rebels. The Kaiser has graciously allowed some small measure of Royal Deutschland Troops to assist in the mountainous search along the borders, so these poor, misled, and starving people may finally find comfort and peace.

Heard echoing from somewhere in the southwestern Black Forest: "I'm fullllllllllll!"

PARIS to BERLIN: This game was yours to win, but now I will not rest until I get Brest back.

THOSE NEW POSTAL RATES

With its usual bad management, the U. S. Postal "Service" introduced on 14 May 2007 a new and hopelessly complicated set of postal rates. So far, the only information I have been able to pry loose from postal clerks is an inadequate pamphlet entitled "New Postage Prices: What You Need to Know" (Publication 620). Now the rates for first-class mail take into account not only the weight of a piece of mail, but also its size and thickness. We are not told how large or thick a piece of mail must be in order to require the payment of a "large envelope" rate. For those people on the Internet, the address <usps.com> allegedly provides more information.

An ordinary letter is 41c for the first ounce, and 17c for each additional ounce. However, this rate is valid only for letters which weigh less than 3½ ounces. Anything heavier, no matter its size, must go at the "large envelope" rate. This is 80c for the first ounce, and 17c for each additional ounce. However, this "large envelope" rate is valid only for mail weighing less than 13 ounces. Anything between 13 and 16 ounces must go at a "Priority Mail" rate of \$4.60. Since 13 ounces cost "only" \$2.84, it will

PATRIOTISM - LIII

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the fear that the United States of America is in imminent danger of a nuclear attack from a decrepit, half-starved Communist monarchy called "North Korea", which is about one bread riot away from a revolution.

PATRIOTISM is the touching belief that, despite her frequently expressed support for Bush War II and the USA PATRIOT Act, Killery Clinton can somehow be persuaded to oppose them.

PATRIOTISM was the belief that the United States was in imminent danger of being overthrown by a Communistic revolution.

PATRIOTISM is the belief that the United States is in imminent danger of being overthrown by an Islamic revolution.

PATRIOTISM is a refusal to consider how ridiculous either of these beliefs is.

PATRIOTISM is the rejection of President John Quincy Adams' view that "We have no commission from God to police the world."

PATRIOTISM is an inability to explain why President Adams was wrong.

PATRIOTISM is ejecting six high-ranking Muslim clergymen from a U. S. Airways passenger plane on the complaint of one passenger that their prayers somehow were dangerous.

PATRIOTISM is the belief of Governor Schwarzenhemder (R-CA) and other politicians, all of them Republicans, that a fence has to be built to keep foreigners out of America.

PATRIOTISM is the belief that, thousands of years from now, tourists will come from all over the world to see the Great Wall of America.

PATRIOTISM is referring to American mercenary soldiers in Iraq as "civilian security contractors", and getting very indignant if any of them are killed, wounded, or taken prisoner.

PATRIOTISM is considering terrorist attacks such as those of 11 September 2001 as a war, and therefore getting nowhere with its prosecution, rather than treating such attacks as crimes, as several European nations and the Philippines have done, and getting indictments, trials, and convictions.

PATRIOTISM is the belief that war is a civil liberty, and that therefore it is wrong to argue against, prevent, or punish advocating, planning, and engaging in war.

PATRIOTISM is the belief of President Woodrow Wilson and most of his successors, that whenever a war breaks out, anywhere in the world, the United States must get involved in it.

PATRIOTISM is support of NATO, which is a button located in the Pentagon. Whenever that button is pressed, troops are mobilized in most European nations, and they phone Washington to ask where to send them.

PATRIOTISM is the statement of an unreconstructed Cold Warrior named Bret Stephens, who is of course an editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, that Russia is *still* America's greatest enemy.

PATRIOTISM is, according to a presidential spokesman who insisted on anonymity, the claim that the president is "the final arbiter on torture" under the provisions of the Military Commissions Act of 2006. (Nat Hentoff, *Village Voice*, 1 November 2006)

PATRIOTISM is the torture of Jose Padilla, accused by Bush the Son of being an "enemy combatant", during 3½ years of internment. (*Newsday*, 2 November 2006)

PATRIOTISM is ordering Lt. Commander Charles Swift, an attorney for the U. S. Navy's judge advocate general's corps, to represent an illiterate Arab detainee "for the purposes of obtaining a guilty plea", and then firing him for successfully defending his client's constitutional rights before the U. S. Supreme Court. (Bob Drury, *New York Daily News*, 5 November 2006)

PATRIOTISM is the curious approach to freedom of speech taken by a *New York Daily News* editorial of 6 October 2006, which praises Columbia University for canceling an on-campus speech by the President of Iran and yet condemns the Columbia students who howled down a speech by a leader of a racist, immigrant-bashing gunnie group called "the Minutemen". (Should that be pronounced "My Nyoot Men"?)

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

The long delay in the publication of this issue of Graustark has been due to numerous recent pressures on my time. Perdita is suffering from an illness which is loosely and misleadingly classified as "dementia", but seems to me to be an intensification of the memory loss and absent-mindedness which has plagued her all her life. This has made her much less independent than she has traditionally been, and requires that I spend much time in her company.

I will make an effort to get Graustark back on its usually four-week schedule from now on. The column "Dungeons & Christians", about attempts to ban Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) and other role-playing games (RPGs) will resume in the next issue. In the meantime, you can get information on these matters by subscribing to CAR-PGa Newsletter, 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.

*

Today's Terrorism Alert Color Code is way up in the gamma ray portion of the electromagnetic spectrum, in honor of the Bush Regime's silly attempts to make it appear as if the United States is in immediate danger of being attacked with nuclear weapons by Iraq - no, scratch that for Iran - or by North Korea. (No, that is not a misprint.) For this panic credit David Frum, inventor of the notion later enunciated by Bush the Son as the "axis of evil" in a preposterous attempt to somehow tie the present world situation to World War II.

*

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 80 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. Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579. An answering machine is attached to this phone.

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.

*

The jury duty, which forced a postponement in the deadlines for this present issue, was settled out after a mere two weeks. It was interesting to watch the positions of us jurors, which at first had seem badly divided, work out into a generally accepted compromise after two sessions of negotiation.

Compromise is the wisest way to settle differences of opinion, a matter of general experience which sometimes blinds us to the fact that the very important issues cannot be handled this way. Consider the most bitterly disputed issue that ever divided Americans. The finest political minds of the time worked out one carefully considered

compromise after another. It was felt that one side might accept a plan that it did not like, in order to get another plan which it wanted badly. And yet every one of those compromises collapsed, because the issue simply could not be compromised. And in the end it was not compromised, but settle with the words "Henceforward and forever free."

*

The English gamesmaster Paul Evans, for whose postal gaming 'zine I trade Graustark, writes that he did not get a copy of the forged issue of Graustark. ("#773a", significantly dated "1 April 2006".) Apparently the forger did not send copies of his creation to foreign readers. This may be due to the fact that whenever domestic postal rates rise, foreign rates rise at a much higher rate. Or it may be that, insofar as any sense can be made out of the forger's motives, he was feebly trying to satirize my belief that peace is preferable to war. And nobody in Europe is going to buy that. From the beginnings of the American invasion of Iraq, there has been a notable lack of enthusiasm in Europe for this increasingly bloody and futile campaign. Many nations refused to get involved at all. Chief among them was France, which led Congress to take the supremely silly step of decreeing that French fried potatoes must henceforth be called "freedom fries". And some nations that did send troops have thought better of it; Great Britain and Denmark are now pulling out of the mess. All Latin American nations except El Salvador either refused to send troops, or have withdrawn the troops they did send.

Meanwhile, nobody in Washington seems to comprehend what experiences Europe may have had, that would make most Europeans reluctant to get involved in a war. This of course excepts the Balkans, whose peoples seem eager to go to war to avenge what Evil Them did to Innocent Us in 1389. And they have been fighting these wars of revenge on their own soil, not in the Muddle East.

As for "freedom fries", I am reminded of a World War II slogan promoted by Katz's, New York City's most famous kosher delicatessen. To counteract unfamiliar army food, Katz's urged its customers to "Send a salami to your boy in the army." Now it can be "Send freedom potatoes to your boy on the Euphrates."

*

Political commentators of several different opinions have been complaining about allegedly slanderous words uttered by Senator John Kerry (D-MA). These words, spoken to students in California, were:

"Do you know where you end up if you don't study, if you aren't smart, if you're intellectually lazy? You wind up getting stuck in a war in Iraq."

I have read and re-read these words, and I cannot figure out what is supposed to be wrong with them. And they certainly seem to be supported by the statistics, as reported by Craig Gordon in *Newsday* (2 November 2006). Only 4% of enlisted military personnel have graduated from college, compared with 25.2% of the civilian population over 18. The proportion of enlisted personnel who have had any college training is 11.4%, compared with 52.4% for the civilian population.

*

I want to repeat my recommendation that every American should have a passport. The complete inability of the present all-volunteer U. S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan to suppress resistance to American occupation makes the imposition of a military draft more likely. A bill to this effect has already been introduced by Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY). It would draft both men and woman, of ages 18 through 42. Flight to Canada or some other foreign country would be necessitated by such a draft; indeed, close to 200 U. S. troops have already fled to Canada in search of political asylum.

From 7 January 2007, passports are required for all air or sea travel to other western hemisphere nations. By 1 January 2008 this requirement will be extended to land travel as well. (*Park Slope Courier*, 30 October 2006) For information on how to get a passport, ask at the nearest post office, telephone 1-800-ASK-USPS, or log on to <www.usps.com> and click on the government links page.

This should be done at once, because the new regulations on passport use are sure to produce a great many new applications. Also, if a draft is planned, the government may decide that it should not be as easy as it now is, to get a passport.

In fact, so many applications have come in that a great backlog has developed, and anyone who has influence with a government official is desperately trying to get the application expedited. As a result, the government has postponed some deadline dates, and may postpone more.

The new passport regulations, when they finally go into effect, will be particularly bothersome on parts of the border where many people commute daily to work. For example, thousands of people live in Windsor, Ontario, and commute to jobs in Detroit, Michigan, or vice versa. Stopping commuter buses, and inspecting every passenger's passport every work day, will be strongly resented, and may in practice prove to be impossible.

Additionally, passports have recently been thoroughly re-designed, complete with interior illustrations. The government may be planning to eventually invalidate the familiar dark blue passports, thus making it possible to introduce new restrictions on the issuance of the new passports.

*

The Democratic victory in the 2006 elections should lead no one to believe that it would mean an end to the American attempt to conquer and annex Iraq. Many Democrats, including the two Senators from New York, support war and voted for the infamous "USA PATRIOT Act". As I went to vote in the primary election, I was approached by a political hack who tried to solicit my vote for Killery Clinton. I asked him why he wanted to send 80,000 more troops to Iraq. He professed ignorance, so I told him that this was one of his candidate's proposals. Then I asked him whether he was going to be one of the 80,000. He said he wasn't. So I told him that if he wasn't going to take her seriously, why should I? And to that, of course, he did not have an answer.

*

News telecasts frequently show North Korean troops, and those of several other nations, goose-stepping in formal parades. Presumably such nations believe that this shows military ardor, efficiency, and determination. Older Americans remember films of German troops goose-stepping under the Nazi regime. Actually, goose-stepping originated in the British army as a punishment drill for drunkenness. It is no wonder that the residents of English-speaking nations regard this marching step as a display which is at best silly and at worst stupid.

*

From 1983 to 1988, BBC-TV broadcast a hilarious series of four dramas about four members of the Blackadder family during four critical moments in English history. Four gentlemen - and I use the term very loosely - named Edmund Blackadder were featured, along with their slob servants all named Baldrick, and other recurring characters, including "Lord Percy Percy". The first Blackadder was a pretender to the throne - but in the 15th century, who wasn't? The second was a lord at the court of Queen Elizabeth I. The third was butler to the Prince Regent in the early 19th century, thus demolishing a period which was once popular with historical romance novelists. The last, in "Blackadder Goes Forth", was a captain on the western front during World War I, and thus of interest to Diplomacy players. (Note the Blackadder family's steady downward progression in society.) The adventures were written by Rowan Atkinson, who played the Blackadders on television, and by Richard Curtis and Ben Elton.

In my opinion, "Blackadder Goes Forth" is the best of the lot. This is how World War I, for which a map is reprinted on p. 2 of this 'zine, is explained:

"Blackadder: ...[T]he real reason for the whole thing was that it was just too much effort not to have a war...in order to prevent a war in Europe, two super blocs developed: us, the French, and the Russians on one side, and the Germans and Austro-Hungary on the other. The idea was to have two vast opposing armies, each acting as the other's deterrent. That way there could never be a war.

"Baldrick: Except, well, this is a sort of war, isn't it?

"Blackadder: That's right, there was one tiny flaw in the plan.

"George: Oh, what was that?

"Blackadder: It was bollocks."

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE

A review by Joseph T. Major, reprinted from FOSFAX #213, published by Timothy Lane

Michael Kurland, *The Empress of India: A Professor Moriarty Novel* (2006, St. Martin's Minotaur, New York; \$25)

If you had read William S. Baring-Gould's *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street* (1962) it would seem that the relationship of Sherlock Holmes and "the Napoleon of Crime", Professor James Moriarty, was far more complex and extensive than could be deduced from a mere reading of the Canon. Far from being strangers, they seem to have been very well acquainted, back from those old days on the Holmes estate in Norfolk when the squire hired a tutor to plant some knowledge in his sons' heads.

In a sense, Kurland has taken this a step further. It seems that like student, like tutor; Moriarty has developed and employed the whole art of detection: making deductions and using them in the criminal world. As a consulting criminal, that is; drafting plans and providing equipment for spectacular break-ins, swindles, and the like. In three previous novels, *The Infernal Device* (1978), *Death by Gaslight* (1982), and *The Great Game* (2003), while doing his best to promote the spread of human knowledge, the Professor has dealt with activities both illegal and otherwise, providing advice to those on both sides of the law. When a certain meddling unofficial person doesn't try to pin every outrage in London on him, some of which he actually wasn't connected with.

Such as this one. The ship *Empress of India* is bringing a cargo of gold bullion to London, where it will serve as the backing for an issue of Indian currency; thus stimulating the economy, encouraging commerce, and the like. If it disappears en route, therefore, it's obvious that that infamous consulting criminal James Moriarty is responsible.

Particularly because he was on the *Empress of India* and was carrying out a criminal plan. Just not this one. This puts Moriarty in the extremely inconvenient position of having to solve one crime to cover up another. In fact, there are several other criminals in the area, including one very suspicious gang leader.

Oh and did I mention that while inspecting the area around the vault where the gold would be stored, Sherlock Holmes vanished? The first scene of the book, in fact, recounts an invasion of the Moriarty Home by coppers both official (Inspectors Lestrade and Gregson) and otherwise (Dr. Watson and Mycroft Holmes) to protest this matter.

Several of the recurring character of the series appear, primarily Mr. Maws the ex-boxer and butler and Mummer Tolliver, the man of all trades, some even honest, but also a number of the more colorful characters of the London underworld. Not to mention Colonel Sebastian "Tiger Jack" Moran, the other perpetrator of the crime in question. However, Benjamin Barnett, the journalist who was a significant character on the other works, and the talented and notable Cecily Perrine (later Barrett) do not appear here. (But then, neither does Harry Flashman.)

The story is set in 1890, thus predating both *The Great Game* and "The Final Problem". One wonders how Kurland will deal with the case of John Douglas of Birlstone...

THOSE NEW POSTAL RATES (continued from p. 4)

obviously be cheaper to mail large bundles at the 13 ounce rate.

Domestic postcards cost 26c to mail, in addition to 2c for the card itself. The rates for mail sent out of the country are concealed in Stygian darkness. We are only told that they "vary by destination" and are "69c and up". I am apparently going to have to present such mail, piece by piece, to a postal clerk until he or she decides that it will be easier to give me one of their tightly guarded rate listings.

Obviously, these new postal rates will be so cumbersome to deal with, that the USP"S" will have to work out something that will be easier for us to use and for them to administer. They will probably try to work yet another rate increase into these

(continued on p. 12)

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 a substitute player. (E. g., "2006A-R" or "2002D-FS".) Paying subscribers will be indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

C: complimentary copy for a gamer

N: entrant in the next Graustark postal Diplomacy game

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

T: trade copy

U: uncomplimentary copy

This directory is accurate to the date of 7 October 2006. 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), 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 (2004C-R, 2006A-R), #8, 11530 84th Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 2M1, CANADA;
604-816-0460; <jrb@dccnet.com>
- Mark Blackman (C), Apt. 4A, 1745 E. 18th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229
- Paul Bolduc (U), 203 Devon Court, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-3110; 850-863-9081;
<prbolduc@aol.com>; <bolduc@eglin.af.com>
- Anne Braude (R), 5313 W. Acapulco Lane, Glendale, AZ 85306-3416
- Colin Bruce (2004C-T+6), 22 Alliance Court, Hills Avenue, Cambridge CB1 7XE, ENGLAND
- Jim Burgess (2006A-I, T), 664 Smith St., Providence, RI 02908-4327; 401-351-0287;
<burgess@world.std.com>; web page <<http://devel.diplom.org/DipPouch/Postal/Zines/TAP/index.html>>
- 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
- Columbia Games Inc. (C), P. O. Box 3457, Blaine, WA 98231
- Jim Dapkus (779), W6575 Dakota Ave., Westfield, WI 53964
- Jim Dunnigan (C), 328 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011
- Paul Evans (T), 180 Aylsham Dr., Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 8UF, ENGLAND
- Mark Fassio (U), 276 Yates Lane, Pendleton, KY 40055-7751
- Sue Feder (R), Historical Mystery Appreciation Society, 3 Goucher Woods Court, Towson, MD 21286; fax 410-847-9303; <monkshould@home.com>; <<http://members.home.net/monkshould>>
- Mike Fisher (780), #2, 43 W. Manheim St., Philadelphia, PA 19144-2942
- 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 (2002D-RS, 2006A-G), 109 Sunnyside Dr., Rochester, NY 14623; 585-475-9832
- Susan Keaveny (R), 1030 Tyrus Court, North Merrick, NY 11566-1035
- Paul Koch (2004C), 24920 Fairmount Dr., Dearborn, MI 48124; 313-274-6579
- Timothy Lane (R), P. O. Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281
- Robert Lesco (T), 49 Parkside Drive, Brampton, Ontario L6Y 2H1, CANADA; 905-452-6304;
<rlesco@yahoo.com>

Andy Lischett (2002D-FS, T), 2402 Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402; 708-788-1507
 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;
 <mlowrey@infionline.net>
 Joseph T. Major (C), 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY 40204-2040
 Harry Manogg (C), Apt. 608, 108 Kilmarnock St., Boston, MA 02215
 Brad Martin (C), 180 Peninsula Road, Maylands 6051, Western Australia, AUSTRALIA;
 <Westfront@hotmail.com>
 Dan Mathias (2004C-G), 509 Bayview Drive, Lusby, MD 20657; 410-326-2568;
 <dcmathias@comcast.net>
 David Milliams (C), Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307-1666;
 404-377-0032 fax; <milliams.david@paideiaschool.org>; <www.paideiaschool.org>;
 <www.krause.com/static/comics.htm>
 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 (780), Apt. 809, 2355 Austin Hwy., San Antonio, TX 78218-5905
 Albert A. Nofi (C), 3506 Duval Street, Austin, TX 78705; <anofi@aol.com>
 Keith Wm. Ogchman (U), Riverside Christian School, Lost Creek, KY 41348
 Michael P. Quirk (2002D-GS, 2006A-T), Apt. 10, 2750 Brittany Terrace, Manhattan, KS
 66502; 785-587-0872
 Roberta Rogow (R), 1755-A Manor Drive, Irvington, NJ 07111
 Karl Schmit (2006A-F), 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
 Gary Tesser (R), #5-A, 2455 Haring St., Brooklyn, NY 11235
 Eric Verheiden (2002D-IS, 787), 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>
 Stephen T. Whitmore (C), 350 Old Paper Mill Road, Newark, DE 19711; 302-368-1127
 Fred Wiedemeyer (2002D-ES, 2004C-F, 2006A-E), Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton,
 Alberta T6T 1N1, CANADA; 780-465-6432; cell 780-497-8283; <wiedem@planet.eon.net>
 Don Williams (2006A-A), 27505 Artine Dr., Saugus, CA 91350-2193; 661-305-8535;
 <dwilliams@fontana.org>
 W. Andrew York (797), P. O. Box 201117, Austin, TX 78720-1117; <wandrew@compuserve.com>
 William E. Young (N), 2304 James Buchanan Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022; 717-361-5768

Since it has been several months since this directory was last published, Graustark readers should make certain that I have any subsequent changes of address and/or phone numbers. In particular, I am not certain that I have the correct phone number for Don Williams.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 8)

*

In recent weeks, several politicians have announced that they are candidates for the presidency. Are they ever going to be surprised when they discover that there isn't going to be an election this year!

*

I recommend to the dwindling number of war-lovers in this country that they take half a day off when Cindi Sheehan's birthday is. It is eventually going to become a national holiday. After all, when Martin Luther King came out against the American invasion of Viet Nam, how many people knew that his birthday would become a national holiday? takenhan's birth... In an earlier issue I had given a different date, World the 2005 World Almanac. But that date proved to be a misprint. In the 2006 it is given as 10 July.

*

Joseph T. Major's book review on p. 9 cites Professor Moriarty as a man with Sherlock Holmes's deductive abilities. Certainly these abilities would be of use to a criminal as well as to a detective. Or so I discovered when reading the *Brenna Njal Saga*, the greatest of the Icelandic *sögur*, set in the early 11th century. The intellectual abilities of Mord Valgardsson are introduced when he solves a burglary, using deductive arguments of which Sherlock Holmes would be proud. And yet Mord is the saga's villain, so much so that his name is not now given to boys in Iceland.

Incidentally, William S. Baring-Gould and several other Holmes fans would have it that the events described in Doyle's "The Final Problem" are not Holmes's first contact with Moriarty. They have hypothesized that Holmes's father once hired the young graduate student James Moriarty to tutor his sons. This hypothesis sometimes has Sherlock Holmes witnessing what Freudians call a "primal scene" involving Moriarty and Holmes's mother.

*

It now seems obvious that what Muslims want to do, more than anything else, is to kill other Muslims. It would therefore make sense to withdraw all foreign troops from Iraq, and let them get on with it. Eventually we will see some such news report as this:

"LAST MUSLIM DIES OF INJURIES (BAGHPOP, November 31, 2051, URRP): Ali Khat, seriously wounded three days ago in a firefight on Lower La'illa Street, died today in Osama Ben Laden Memorial Hospital. Ali Khat was the last guerrilla fighter of the Wubbagubba sect of Islam. In the firefight he killed Abu Huhu, the last guerrilla fighter of the Gubbawubba sect, whom he characterized on his deathbed as "a perverted heretic who distorted the truth of Islam."

The United Nations Office of Sects and Violence has concluded that, with these deaths, there are now no Muslims left."

THOSE NEW POSTAL RATES (continued from p. 9)

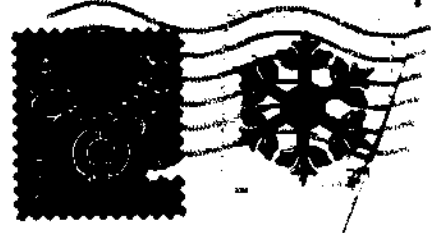
changes. After all, the 39c rate was less than two years old when they abandoned it. It is claimed that, as more people abandon the USP"S" for e-mail, postal income goes down, and higher rates must compensate for this. The USP"S" clearly has not thought through the implications of this claim.

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Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302



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