An amateur zine for the play of Diplomacy, its variants and other games, as well as the exchange of different views. Published by Phil Reynolds, 2896 Oak St., Sarasota, FL 34237-7344. e-Mail: ishkibibble\_zine@yahoo.com. Phone: 941-953-6952. Mailed subscriptions: \$1 per issue in USA, \$1.25 per issue to Canada. Free issues are available as PDF files at The Diplomatic Pouch: http://devel.diplom.org/Postal/Zines/ishkibibble

LAST ISSUE, SEND MONEY! SAMPLE TRADE GAME START STANDBY SEE PAGE

The near-six-month-long, brutal West Central Florida summer is in the homestretch, which means I'll start kayaking again on weekends — when I can rip myself away from the TV and watching **NFL** games! (*Woo-HOO!*) Yes, it's that time of the year again, when pro football dominates my spare waking moments. There are a record number of people participating in this zine's Simple Fantasy Football and Final Standings Prognostication contests, and the Survivor Pool is still drawing interest. (I need people's \$10 or \$20 entry fees for the latter by noon EDT on Saturday, Sept. 6.)

As you'll see, I made some pretty unusual predictions when compared to others in the Standings contest. Like many people, I think the Bucs are still the best team and, thus, the team to beat in the Super Bowl. However, in this NFL age of salary caps, free agency and parity, I think there are a lot of up-and-coming teams that will surprise many people — high-scoring teams like Kansas City, Buffalo and Seattle, which improved greatly last year, made defensive improvements in the off-season and, particularly in the case of the Seahawks and Chiefs, face very easy schedules. Also, some longstanding favorites such as the Jets, 49ers and Raiders are likely to fade due to injuries, player or coach losses, or age.

A few weeks ago, I would have put Tennessee in the Super Bowl with the Bucs, but now that the Titans have cut good QB backup Neil O'Donnell, I'm going out on something of a limb and picking **Tampa Bay over Kansas City in the Super Bowl**. (Hey, it took Dick Vermeil three years to get the Eagles and Rams to the Super Bowl, and he's in his third year coaching the Chiefs!)

- Virus Stuff: In case you've been unsuccessful in sending e-mails to me, I've been getting a flood of e-mail spam with 100K attachments clogging up my inbox since around Aug. 25. Dave Partridge said he got an infected message from me, but I just scanned my home computer's system, and nothing's amiss with it, so I'm concluding it's other people's fault. Any ideas or suggestions on what I can or should do to combat this problem?
- TV Talk: The summer is ending, and so are a lot of TV shows I have enjoyed watching, particularly HBO's "Project Greenlight," "Sex and the City" and "The Wire," ESPN's "Beg, Borrow and Deal" and "The 2003 World Series of Poker," CBS' "The Amazing Race" and "Big Brother," and ABC's "The Family." But now I can look forward to the fall season and the return of shows like NBC's "Boomtown" (easily the best drama on TV) CBS's "Survivor" and HBO's new series, "Carnivale" (which co-stars the creepy midget from "Twin Peaks")....

And perhaps the continuation of Spike TV's "Most Extreme Elimination Challenge," a hilarious set of physical contests taken from a Japanese series but given randy American voice-overs. The events range from contestants swinging from a rope and trying to stick onto a Velcro-coated wall to traversing a series of large rollers without slipping off and banging various parts of their bodies. Yet another great reality show that makes fun of others' misfortunes!

• Music Update: I've been heavily feeding my esoteric appetite for progressive rock lately, ordering more than a dozen CDs from GFT Cyclops and more than that via Amazon.com and other online sellers. Favorite albums from this batch: The Book of Dreams by Mangala Vallis, an early Genesis-like Italian group with different English vocalists sometimes reminiscent of Peter Gabriel or Fish; and The Gates of Omega by Moongarden, another Italian group with English vocals, but more instrumental and quiet at times.

#### • Movie Reviews:

"Chicago" (A): A wonderful movie, well-deserving of the Best Picture Oscar. Great musical numbers, choreography and acting. "All That Jazz" has been my second-favorite movie for a long time ("Monty Python and the Holy Grail" being first, of course!), so it's no surprise that I enjoyed another one based on a Bob Fosse play.

"The Man from Elysian Fields" (A): A very moving drama starring Andy Garcia as a frustrated novelist who reluctantly joins a refined Mick Jagger's (!) male escort service to make ends meet (no pun intended). Julianna Margulies is quite good as Garcia's wife.

"Equilibrium" (B+): Christian Bale stars in a "Minority Report"-esque cautionary tale set in the near future, in which citizens must regularly take injections to control emotional extremes. Bale plays a "graviton cleric" who roots out sense offenders hiding with their books and art outside the metropolis, but an encounter with offender Emily Watson sets him down the road toward rebellion. Features a lot of neat "Matrix"-style action sequences.

"Poolhall Junkies" (B+): A surprisingly charming comedy of a talented but frustrated pool player who turns hustler instead of professional. Starring Chazz Palminteri and Christopher Walken, it is a project directed and cowritten by Mars Callahan, a 20-something pool player who ultimately cast himself in the lead role after a production company failed to get it underway.

"Bounce" (B): Ben Affleck and Gwyneth Paltrow in a touching romance with well-intentioned deception.

"Laurel Canyon" (B): Uptight Christian Bale and his naive, Continued on Page 6

# ishkibibble

**September 2003 – #43** 

## Game Openings

Diplomacy (Tim Snyder, Fred Wiedemeyer, Don Williams; need 4 more players): Preference lists are welcome.

African Diplomacy (Cary Nichols, Kevin Wilson; need 4 more players): Designed by yours truly. Players pretend Africa is armed to the hilt and turning on itself. Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Libya, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Zaire compete. Preference lists are welcome. Rules and map available.

Ard-Ri Diplomacy (Marc Ellinger, Steve Mayers, Karl Schmit; need 3 more players): Six powers — Connacht, Laigin, Midhe, Muma, Ulaid and the Vikings — battle for dominance of a small island circa 379 A.D. The first five powers already inhabit the island; the Vikings start off-board and are looking to find a new home there! A neat, not-well-known, cutthroat variant. Preference lists are welcome. Rules and map available.

Balkan Wars Diplomacy VI (Paul Dowden, Kevin Wilson; need 4 more players): The great, cutthroat classic featuring Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, Serbia and Turkey. Preference lists are welcome. Rules and map available.

**Middle Eastern Diplomacy** (Paul Dowden: need 6 more players): Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey fight to decide who rules the area. Yet another cutthroat variant, and designed by me. Preference lists are welcome. Rules and map available.

Mitotic Diplomacy (Cary Nichols, Dave Partridge, Gerry Paulson, Karl Schmit; need 3 more players): Another variant designed by me. Set on the regular map, the main rule change is that new units are not necessarily built in home supply centers,

but rather existing units are duplicated. (Think cell division.) Thus, two units can occupy the same space after winter adjustments. Preference lists are welcome. Rules available.

**HellRail** (Karl Schmit; need 2-3 more players): A simple choochoo card game with a devilish twist! Players draw cards representing both loads of sinners that must be taken to appropriate circles of Hell as well as rails that can be played to forge the routes to get there. Trains entering circles may use randomly assigned effects to rotate or remove rail cards, steal or derail loads, or acquire boatmen to cross over empty spaces between circles or rail cards, for example. Rules and photocopies of all cards and counters available.

**Monopoly** (Karl Muller (?), Cary Nichols; need 2-4 more players): The classic game played with simultaneous movement and tournament rules. Last player with a fistful of money wins! Rules and photocopied board available.

**Nuclear War** (Karl Schmit; need 3-5 more players): "Do you have change for 25 million people?" That's what you might say during play of this hilarious card game of missiles, bombers, killer satellites, top secrets, spies, propaganda, the "Super Germ" and final retaliation! Can your people survive the nuclear holocaust to come? Rules and card list available.

**Snowball Fighting** (Steve Mayers, Dave Partridge, Bill Scharf; Karl Schmit; need 1-4 more players): Take your best shots in this backyard melee. Players have several attacks and defenses, like throwing a snowman's head and hiding under trees. A simple game that everyone who plays it seems to love. Rules and map available.

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## "Is There Anybody Out There?" Fog of War Diplomacy, Fall 1907

\* England is all talk — but any action?

AUSTRIA (Graham Wilson) ENGLAND (Pat Conlon) FRANCE (Dave Partridge) GERMANY (Tim Snyder) ITALY (Joel Struebing) RUSSIA (Steve Mayers) TURKEY (Cary Nichols)

Units you must retreat:

Units you see retreating:

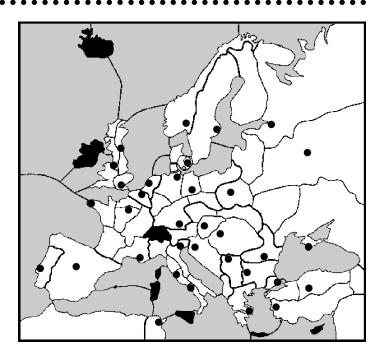
Your Supply Center Status:

The deadline for Winter 1907 and Spring 1908 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Oct. 4. These seasons will be separated on a sufficient number of requests.

ENG TO FRA: Revenge is a dish best served cold, and now I shall finally have mine against you for the sacking of London.

ENG TO ITA: Let's meet on the streets of Paree for some carnage and pillage.

RUSSIA TO ITALY: Et tu (too), Decius Brutus? (Note: The role of Marcus Brutus is played by England.)



ENG TO AUS: We've had so little to talk about. Hopefully, that will change, and we can both profit from our increasing areas of mutual interest.

ENG TO TUR: Thanks for the letter. You're right, all is not lost. You still can play a deciding role in this game. You will have my continued support. I believe in remaining loyal to my allies.

## "Wide Open Spaces," Colonial Diplomacy, Winter 1871

- \* Western front armed to the hilt as Russia, Turkey muster five units there.
- \* France commissions second fleet to combat British presence in Hong Kong.
- \* Holland, Japan bolster navies while China raises more armies.

**BRITAIN** (Cary Nichols): Build A Del, F Ade, F Mad, F Sin; also has A Ben, A Pun, F Egy, F HK, F Kar, F Mal

**CHINA** (Gerry Paulson): Build A Pek, A Sik; also has A Ass, A Can, A Kag, A Mon, A Sha

**FRANCE** (Graham Wilson): Build F Ton; also has A Cam, A May, F Ann

**HOLLAND** (Steve Mayers): Build F Bor, F Jav, F Sum; also has A Sar, F New, F Ran

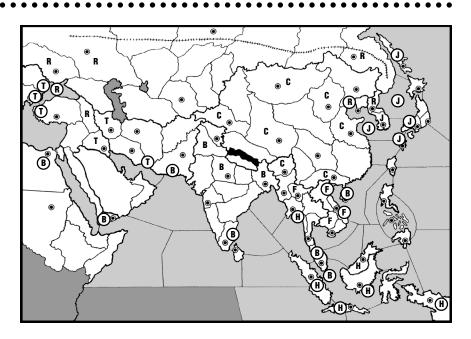
JAPAN (John Quigley): Build F Kyo, F Kyu; also has A Fus, F Sak, F SOJ, F Yel

**RUSSIA** (Paul Risner): Build A Mod, A Ode; also has A Arm, A Seo, A Vla, F Bla, F Mac

**TURKEY** (Peter Boyum): Build A Bag, F Ang, F Con; also has A Tab, F Per, F Rum

*Notes:* Remember that the victory condition is to control 16 supply centers.

The deadline for Spring 1872 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Oct. 4.



HOLLAND TO ENGLAND: I don't believe I've ever seen England go from six to 10 in the first build phase! Of course, I've never played Colonial Diplomacy before!

BRER PHIL TO HOLLAND: That's not the kind of thing I would brag about (unless you win, of course)!

## "Deja Vu," Power, Turn 13

\* Blue Boys storm Goobers home base and capture flag!

**BLUE BOY MARK** (Cary Nichols): X 3 PU-T (Res), F (P2)-P6, H (G5)-G3-G0, R (G5)-G3-G0, F (G5)-G3-G0; also has D (B0), F (B0), R (B0), R (B5); Gains 1 PU (has 3 PU total)

**GREEN GOOBERS** (Andy Lischett): *NMR!* Loses 1 PU; Has D (G3), D (E), F (G0), F (B2), F (B4), T (G2), T (G2); Gains 1 PU (has 7 PU total)

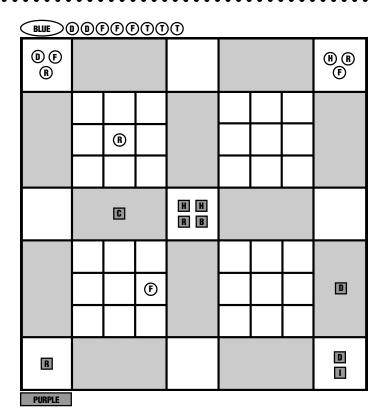
**PURPLE-PLUMED SCOUTS** (Steve Mayers): C (C8)-C6, H (P5)-P3-X, H (P5)-P3-X, R (P5)-P3-X, B (R0)-R9-R5-R1-X; also has D (C10), D (R0), I (R0), R (P0); Gains 0 PU (has 12 PU total)

*Notes: NMR!* = no moves received. Blue wins the battle vs. Green in G0, 55-5, capturing Green's flag, units (which go into Blue's Reserve) and PU.

The deadline for Turn 14 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Sept. 27.

PURPLE-PLUMED SCOUTS TO GREEN GOOBERS: Looks as though your peas and collards are about to be devoured by Blue Boy!

BRER PHIL TO SCOUTS: And they were mighty tasty, I'd bet! Looks like Blue Boy has fattened up more than you!



## "Question Authority," Shift-Right Diplomacy (White Press), Fall 1907

- \* English empire shrinkage mitigated by sack of Denmark.
- \* Turkey supports Russian invasion of Budapest.
- \* Germany, Russia show their support for Turkish fleet in Norway.

**AUSTRIA** (Joe Carl): A Alb-Ser, A Tri H, A Vie S A Tri, F Tys-Nap

ENGLAND (Peter Boyum): A Spa H, F Por S A Spa, F Lon-Yor, F Nws-Edi, F Nth-Den

**GERMANY** (Don Scheifler): Retreat F Nth-Edi; <u>A Mar-Spa</u>, A Bur-Par, A Gas S A Bur-Par, A Swe S TURKISH F Nwy, F Edi H, F Bel-Eng, F Pic S F Bel-Eng, F Hol-Bel

**ITALY** (Adam Silverman): A Bre H, <u>A Gre H</u> [r-> Alb?], A Ven-Rom, F Adr-Ven

**RUSSIA** (Graham Wilson): A Gal-Bud, A Ukr S A Sev, A Sev S A Ukr, F Stp(nc) S TURKISH F Nwy

**TURKEY** (Dave Partridge): A Rum S RUSSIAN A Gal-Bud, A Bul S F Aeg-Gre, F Aeg-Gre, F Bla S A Rum, F Nwy H

#### Adjustments:

AUSTRIA (4): Tri, Vie; Ser, Nap, Bud ... 0

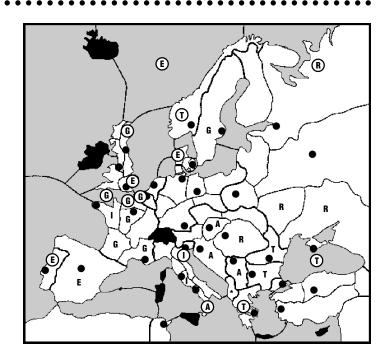
ENGLAND (5): Lon, Lvp; Por, Spa, Den, Bre, Nap, Par ... 0 GERMANY (9): Home; Bel, Hol, Mar, Swe, Edi, Par, Den,

ITALY (3): Rom, Ven; Bre, Edi, Gre ... -1

**RUSSIA** (5): Home; **Bud** ... +1

TURKEY (7): Home; Bul, Nwy, Gre, Rum ... +2

NEUTRAL (1): Tun



*Notes:* [r->] = retreat to.

The deadline for Winter 1907 and Spring 1908 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Sept. 27. These seasons will be separated on three requests.

## "Fly Like an Eagle," Sopwith, Turn 9

\* Eddie starts catching up with Von Pup as Captain Snoopy goes on autopilot.

<u>Pilot</u> Captain Snoopy D Von Pup Eddie Rickenbacker	<u>Start</u> K11 P16 O19	Facing W W NE	<u>A</u> 8 4 10	<u><b>D</b></u> 11 11 9	<b>P</b> 0 0 0
Pilot C (Tim DeForest) D (Paul Risner) E (Dave Partridge)	End H8 M14 O17	Facing W W NW	<u>A</u> 8 1 10	<u><b>D</b></u> 11 11 8	<b>P</b> 0 0 0

*Notes:* Eddie takes one point of damage from flying through a cloud hex. The standby for Captain Snoopy is Cary Nichols.

The deadline for Turn 10 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Sept. 27.

ACE TO GM: If a kamikaze is what it takes to cleanly take down two enemy planes (without any other pilot's assistance), then call me one every time. However, how could I be a kamikaze, since a true one dies after crashing into an opponent and therefore could only be credited with one kill, not two such as yours truly has achieved?

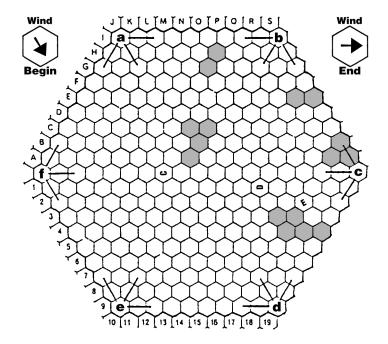
BRER PHIL TO ACE: Hey, if you want to take others out by taking yourself out, go right ahead — I'm sure the pilots that are still flying will thank you! However, I know from experience that a player can shoot down another plane without getting shot down (or even shot) himself, if he plans his maneuvering better.

#### Phase 1 • Phase 2 • Phase 3

NMR! Ahead • Ahead • Ahead

Ahead • Ahead • Left Slip, Fire R, L, A (0, 0, 0)

Ahead • Left Turn • Left Slip



## "Come Sail Away," Viking Diplomacy II, Fall 955

\* Sweden seizes last Danish home center as Norway crushes French fleet in Wales, completing occupation of England.

**DENMARK** (Karl Muller): <u>A Dan H</u> [r-> Sax?], <u>A Rog H</u> [r-> Pal, Sax?]

**FRANCE** (Pat Conlon): Retreat F Iri-Sao; A Par S SWEDISH A Pol-Rog, <u>F Wal-Yor(wc)</u> [a], F Fla-Nmd, F Fri S F Eng, F Eng S F Sao, F Sao H [u]

NORWAY (Kevin Wilson): A Wes S F Iri-Wal, A Nid-Ski, F Ski-Nth [sdp], F Str S F Ski-Nth, F Nth-Yor(ec),

F Noch-Iri, F Wao S F Noch-Iri, F Iri-Wal, F Lon S A Wes

**SWEDEN** (Graham Wilson): A Pol-Rog, A Pom S A Pol-Rog, A Jut-Dan, A Hed S A Jut-Dan, F Lit H, F Zea-Sbs, F Kat-Jut, F Ska S F Kat-Jut

#### Adjustments:

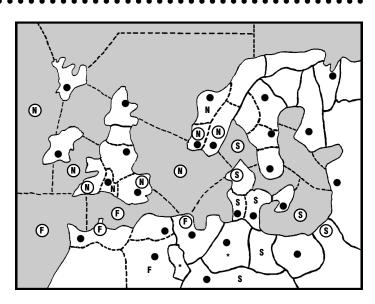
**DENMARK** (0/1): **Sax?**, <u>Dan</u>, <u>Rog</u> ... *OUT!/-*1 **FRANCE** (5/4): Home; Fri, <u>Sax?</u>, <u>Wes</u> ... 0/-1

NORWAY (10): Home; Ark, Ice, Ire, Lon, Sco, Yor, Wes ... 0 SWEDEN (10): Home; Fnl, Hed, Nov, Pol, Zea, Dan, Rog ... +2

*Notes:* [a] = annihilated, [r->] = retreat to, [sdp] = self-dislodgement prohibited, [u] = unordered.

The deadline for Winter 955 and Spring 956 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Oct. 4. These seasons will be separated on two requests.

DENMARK TO FRANCE: If you don't play nice, I'm going to suicide to Sweden!



DENMARK TO SWEDEN: If you don't play nice, I'm going to suicide to France!

ENGLAND TO DENMARK: I'll be glad to support you next turn, too!

FRA TO DEN: You are unneeded and unwanted. Your mewlings to the Swedes are laughed at. You are dying a coward, without honor or respect, and Paris remains as liberated and libated as always.

BRER PHIL TO ALL: The weak picking on the weaker. How sad.

## "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap," Machiavelli: Empire and Invaders, Spring 1054

- \* Venetian retreats hurt Byzantines and Holy Romans, but fleet fails to escape famine.
- \* Papacy threatens Bari as Byzantines move north.
- \* Normans make gift to Muslims; Pisa donates to Venice.

BYZANTINES (Paul Risner): Build A Rag, <u>A Dal</u> [imp], maintain all other units; <u>A Dal S A Bos-Cro</u> [nsu], <u>A Bos-Cro</u>, A Rag-Her, A Aqu-Anc, F Anc-Urb, <u>F UA S F Anc-Urb</u>

HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE (Cary Nichols): Build A Cre, <u>G Cre</u>, <u>A Tur</u> [imp], maintain A Mon; <u>A Tur-Com</u> [nsu], <u>A Mon-For</u>, <u>A Cre S A Pav-Mil</u> [nso], <u>G Cre c-> A Cre</u> [nsu]

MUSLIMS (Kevin Wilson): Build F Mes, maintain all other units; A Sal-Nap [nsu], A Nap H [u], F Gon S A Sal-Nap, F TS S A Sal-Nap, F Sar S F TS, F WM-CM, F Mes H

NORMANS (Brendan Whyte): Maintain G Nap; <u>G Nap c-> A Nap;</u> Give d to Muslims

PAPACY (Mike Scott): Retreat A Nap-Cap; Build G Per, maintain all other units; Famine Relief Rom; <u>A Man-Cre</u>, A Cap-Aqu, A Spo S A Cap-Aqu, A Rom S A Per-Pat, A Per-Pat, G Per c-> A Per

**PISA** (Steve Mayers): Build A Luc, A Pisa; Give d to Venice; A Par-For, A Gen S A Par-For, F Mod c-> G Mod [imp], A Luc-Mod, A Mil-Com, A Pisa-Sie, F LS-Pio, F Cor-LS

VENICE (Dave Partridge): Retreat A Mil-Pav, F UA-Dal; Build A Trev, maintain all other units; <u>A Trev-Pad</u>, <u>A Fer-Pad</u>, A Pav S PISAN A Mil-Com, <u>F Cro S F Dal-UA</u>, <u>F Dal-UA</u> AUTONOMOUS GARRISON: G Tren

Your Treasury:

Famine: Poor Year = Column 4: Bol, Cro, Otr, Rom, Sar, Ven

*Units killed by Famine:* Venetian F Cro *Plague:* Good year — no natural disaster

Outstanding Loans:

Saturday, Oct. 4.

VENICE: 5d borrowed Fall 1053; 6d due Fall 1054 PISA: 4d borrowed Summer 1053; 6d due Summer 1055

*Notes*: [imp] = impossible, [nso] = no such order, [nsu] = no such unit, [u] = unordered. A player may not build two units in the same area (Cre). Dal and Tur are not home cities, so the Byzantines and Holy Romans, respectively, may not build in them.

A fleet may convert to a garrison only in a port fortified city, which Mod is not. (What a bunch of sloppy orders!)

The deadline for Summer 1054 orders is noon EDT on

PISA TO HRE: Welcome to "the web!" said the spider to the fly.

BRER PHIL TO PISA: There's a new fly in the ointment now! NORMANS TO WHOEMVER CAN HEAR THEM ABOVE THE DIN OF MUSLIMS HACKING CATHOLICS TO DEATH: Saved, saved by a bunch of bearded, fwock-weawing ethnics. I would kiss oo, but oo didn't wash your beards. Now that oo have wescued me, I can fwolick in the lower-shin area of Italy and enjoy my newfound fweedom, weturning to a Norm-al life.

BRER PHIL TO NORMANS: The Muslims stopped; must be a Saturday.

NORMANS TO PAPACY: Take that, fowl hewetic. Your pwevious sins have weturned to haunt oo. And unto the seventh genewation....

## Editorial Ramblings (Continued from Page 1)

bookish fiancee Kate Beckinsale spend a summer staying at the house of his hippie-like record producer mom, played by Frances McDormand. Written and directed by the same woman who did "High Art," but not as good as the latter.

"Phone Booth" (B): Colin Farrell runs the gamut of emotions (sometimes overly so) as he's held captive by psycho sniper Kiefer Sutherland.

"Walking and Talking" (B): Catherine Keener stars in this very talky but interesting story of four sisters coping with everyday life.

"In the Mouth of Madness" (B-): Sam Neill plays an investigator trying to locate the suddenly missing Sutter Cane, a Stephen King-like horror writer whose stories are simultaneously altering reality and turning fanatic readers insane. Interesting premise, but a bit over the top in execution.

"Dark Blue" (C+): Disappointing cop drama starring Kurt Russell (one of my favorite B actors). "Training Day" is a much better movie about a corrupt cop trying to get a rookie to follow in his footsteps.

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## "King of Pain," Kingmaker, Turn 3

- \* Belligerent Stafford stops Mowbray fleeing Cardigan with George, but bad weather thwarts battle for royal heir.
- \* The California Connection marches on Windsor to capture King Henry but too late.
- \* Percy ventures south from Carlisle with Richard of Gloucester as Howard forgets where he is.

Crown Cards in play at end of Turn 2:

**THE MAD HUNGARIANS** (Bob Dowrey): **Percy** [100], Lieutenant of Ireland [(2)50], Archbishop of York [(30)], Bishop of Durham [(30)], Burgundian Crossbowmen [30], Carisbrooke, Northampton [(20)]

THE CALIFORNIA CONNECTION (Mike Scott): Pole [30], Chancellor of England [50]; Scrope [10], Earl of Wiltshire [30], Chancellor of Cornwall [(1)50], Swansea [(20)], Leicester [(20)]; Holland [20]

**KNIGHTS OF THE PRIVY POT** (Paul Dowden): **Mowbray** [50], Treasurer of England [50], Bishop of Carlisle [(30)], Burgundian Crossbowmen [30], Le Swan, Lancaster [(20)]; **Hastings** [10]

**THE STAFFORDSHIRE QUARTERSTAFFS** (Steve Mayers): **Stafford** [30], Chamberlain of Chester [(2)50], Scots Archers [20], Le Lucas, Nottingham [(20)]

**SHANGHAI KNIGHTS** (Paul Risner): **Howard** [10], Duke of Exeter [20], Archbishop of Canterbury, Le Rose, Coventry [(20)]; **Clifford** [10], Earl of Worcester [30]

Locations at end of Turn 2:

NOBLES: Clifford @ Coventry, Hastings @ Tutbury, Holland @ Bath, Howard @ Coventry, Mowbray @ Cardigan, Percy @ Carlisle, Pole @ Bath, Scrope @ Bath, Stafford @ Cardigan(c)

SHIPS: Le Lucas @ S3, Le Rose @ Plymouth, Le Swan @ S9

HEIRS: King Henry @ Windsor, Margaret @ Newark, Edward of Wales @ Kenilworth, Richard of York @ Fotheringhay, Edward of March @ Carisbrooke, Edmund of Rutland @ Beaumaris, George @ Cardigan w/ Mowbray, Richard of Gloucester @ Carlisle w/ Percy

#### Actions:

TSQ plays Audley @ Tickhill, Neville @ Ogmore SK plays Bristol on Howard

Event Cards:

CARD to The Mad Hungarians

REVOLT IN WALES (#55): Talbot to Ludlow

PARLIAMENT (#23): May be Summoned by the Chancellor (no effect)

CARD to The Staffordshire Quarterstaffs

PLAGUE (#77): Kingston, York

#### Movement:

Audley @ Tickhill-Mk-Nq-Ni-Nf-Nd

Clifford @ Coventry-Jg-Hl-Gk-Bristol

Holland @ Bath-Ec-Ed-Ee-Windsor

Howard @ Coventry-Ed-Fi-Fh-Fg-Bristol [imp]

Mowbray w/ George @ Cardigan-Hb-Milford Haven

Neville @ Ogmore-Ge-He-Hd-Cardigan(c)

Percy w/ Richard @ Carlisle-Qf-Pg-Pk-Ok-Ol

Pole @ Bath-Ec-Ed-Ee-Windsor

Scrope @ Bath-Ec-Ed-Ee-Windsor

Le Lucas @ S3-S2-S1-S13-S16

Le Rose @ Plymouth-S2-S1-S14-Bristol [png]

Le Swan @ S9-S3-S2-S1-S13-S16

#### Combat:

**Stafford** [320] & **Neville** [50] battle **Mowbray** [130] w/ **George** @ Cardigan(c): Odds = 2:1; Card drawn: Peasant Revolt (#44): Bad Weather Delays Attack

Your Crown Card draw:

Event Cards for Turn 4:

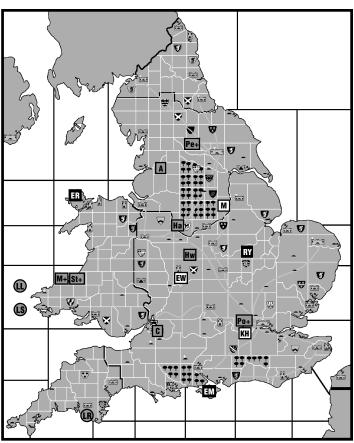
EMBASSY FROM THE POPE (#38): King to Rochester CARD to The California Connection: TREACHERY (#126): Remove 1 Card from Hand: Beaufort CARD to Knights of the Privy Pot: PLAGUE (#76): Colchester, Ipswich CARD to Shanghai Knights:

Event Card deck is reshuffled

Notes: [imp] = impossible, [png] = permission not granted. Unoccupied ships cannot be belligerent; only nobles (including those on ships) can be. Also, all previously mailed and e-mailed house rules are now posted on the ishkibibble Web site.

The deadline for Turn 4 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Oct. 4.

TSQ TO MOWBRAY: The Quarterstaffs offer quarter if you turn over George!



## "Us and Them," Diplomacy, Fall 1901

- \* Brest falls to English convoy as Germans keep French from Belgium.
- \* Austria supports Turkish strike into Rumania while Russia invades Galicia.
- \* Italy paralyzed by indecision.

AUSTRIA (Hank Alme): A Ser S TURKISH A Bul-Rum, A Vie-Gal, F Alb-Gre

**ENGLAND** (Karl Schmit): A Wal-Bre, F Eng C A Wal-Bre, F Nth-Nwy

FRANCE (Marc Ellinger): A Bur-Bel, A Mar-Spa, F Mid-Iri GERMANY (John Power): A Ruh-Bel, A Kie-Hol, F Den H ITALY (Adam Hopkins; see below): NMR! Has A Apu, A Ven,

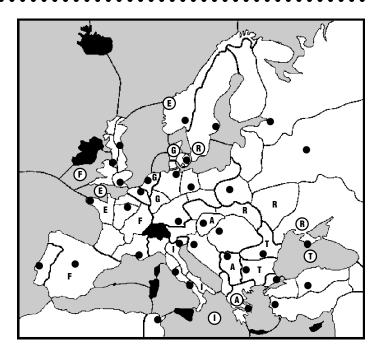
RUSSIA (Fred Wiedemeyer): A War-Gal, A Ukr S A War-Gal, F Sev-Rum, F Bot-Swe

TURKEY (Paul Boymel): A Bul-Rum, A Con-Bul, F Ank-Bla

#### Adjustments:

AUSTRIA (5): Home; Gre, Ser ... +2 **ENGLAND** (5): Home; **Bre**, Nwy ... +2 FRANCE (3): Mar, Par; Spa, Bre ... 0 GERMANY (5): Home; Den, Hol ... +2 **ITALY** (3): Home ... 0 **RUSSIA** (5): Home; **Swe** ... +1 **TURKEY** (5): Home; **Bul**, **Rum** ... +2 NEUTRAL (3): Bel, Por, Tun

Notes: NMR! = no moves received. The standby for Italy is Tim Snyder.



The deadline for Winter 1901 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Oct. 4.

FRANCE TO ENGLAND: Didn't you say we should bounce in the Irish sea?

FRANCE TO GERMANY: You get Edinburgh, I'll take Liverpool and we'll flip the Brit for London.

## "Remote Control," Gunboat Diplomacy (No Press), Winter 1905 / Spring 1906

- \* France bumps Germany from Burgundy, safeguards Spain from English assault with smoke and mirrors.
- \* Austria leaves Vienna and Warsaw, threatens Berlin, Munich.
- \* Turkey sets up to retake Sevastopol as Russians move out.

AUSTRIA: A Rom-Nap, A Vie-Boh, A War-Sil

**ENGLAND**: Retreat F Bre-Mid, F Swe-Bal; Disband F Bal; A Stp-Mos, F Nwy-Swe, F Nth S F Eng, F Eng S F Nth, F Mid-Spa [amb]

FRANCE: A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur, A Gas S A Par-Bur, A Bre-Pic, F Pic-Eng

GERMANY: Build F Kie; A Den H, A Bel H, A Ruh S A Bel, A Bur-Pic [r-> Mun?], F Kie-Hel, F Hol S F Kie-Hel

ITALY: Retreat F Ion-Tys; A Ven-Rom, F Tys S A Ven-Rom, F Apu-Nap

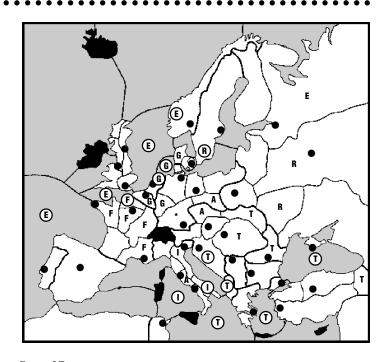
RUSSIA: A Sev-Ukr, A Mos S A Sev-Ukr, F Swe S TURKISH A Rum-Gal [imp]

TURKEY: Retreat F Sev-Bla; Build A Smy; A Bud S A Rum-Gal, A Rum-Gal, A Ser-Rum, A Smy-Arm, F Bla S A Smy-Arm, F Ion-Tys, F Aeg-Ion, F Gre-Alb, F Tri H

*Notes*: [amb] = ambiguous, [imp] = impossible, [r->] = retreat

The deadline for Fall 1906 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Sept. 27.

to. The proposed separation of seasons failed to pass.



## "Misty Mountain Hop," Hardbop Downfall of the Lord of the Rings Diplomacy, Afteryule I 3019

- \* Gondor, Umbar move out to meet Mordor's double armies.
- \* Dwarves, Elves march toward Mordor's northernmost army.
- \* Saruman demonstrates his fascination with the Ents.

**DWARVES** (Jim Dapkus): A Blu-Fch, A Erb-Esg, <u>A Iro-Nrh</u> **ELVES** (Karl Schmit): A Lor-Gla, A Ekh-Beo, A Iml-Ett, F Gha-Har, Fellowship Shi

GONDOR (Karl Muller): A Mti-Ano, A Leb-Sit, A Bel-Los, A Lam H, Gandalf, Ranger Bre, Faramir Mti

MORDOR (Kevin Wilson): Sauron Bar-Oro, 2A Bar-Oro, 2A Udu-Nit, 2A Mmo-Osg, 2A Nrn-Knd, EA OB H, EA OB-Nrn, EA OB-Nrh, A Srh S EA OB-Nrh, A Dol-Adn, A Gun-Ang, Nasgul

**ROHAN** (Bill Scharf): A Hde H, C Dhu-Eem-Wol, C Edo-Dhw-Ano

**SARUMAN** (Steve Mayers): Saruman leads A Ise-Fan, A Ise-Fan, A Kdu-Hol, A Dld-Cad

UMBAR (Cary Nichols): A Hum-Hdw, A Hrd-Sgo, P Cit-Bay

*Notes:* OB = off-board.

The deadline for Afteryule II 3019 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Oct. 4.

GONDOR TO ROHAN: What's all this fuss about a Ring? Our city has seven of them!

SAURON TO SARUMAN: Do you realize that if you turn Evil and your Uruk Hai join forces with all those Easterlings I've got coming to the party, we can clean this town up fast? Give it some thought. Otherwise, you're next. OK, after Rohan, but definitely third. Oops, forgot those Elves. OK, fourth.

SARUMAN: Saruman does not intend to let the Ents ruin his picnic!

BRER PHIL TO SARUMAN: You need to get your ears checked.

ENTS TO SARUMAN: Have you seen the Entwives? Perhaps we'll look in Isengard.

BRER PHIL TO ENTS: Saruman seems more interested in you than your wives. I think he's a bit fey.

SAURON TO THE DWARVES: Nobody wants you Dwarf maidens anyway, so stay in your holes and don't involve yourself with matters that don't concern you. I'd had to have to add you to the list.

ELVES TO ALL: Any powers voting to concede victory to the Elves gets a weekend with Arwen. This offer good only for a limited time.

GANDALF TO ELVES: One lousy archer? I ask for Elven legions, and I get one guy with a bow? Strider, can that girlfriend of yours help?

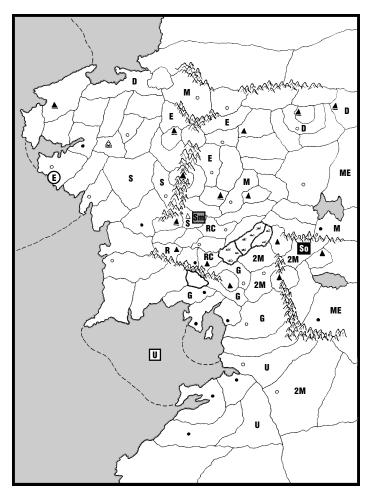
BRER PHIL TO GANDALF: If she looks like Liv Tyler, then the answer is, yes — but not for what you have in mind!

SAURON TO THE ELVES: 'Nuff said. Put 'em up.

UMBAR TO MORDOR: I'd prefer you take an alternate route. I'm not your enemy.

SAURON TO UMBAR: Hey, if you want some friendly advice, don't do anything that will get you on the list, too.

SAURON TO GANDALF, THE FELLOWSHIP, FARAMIR AND STRIDER: Just keep to Eriador or some such area and I'm sure we can all coexist without a problem. Come this way instead



and, WHAM, you're on the list, too.

SAURON TO THE REST: The Eye sees all, knows all. Despair, Middle-Earth. The Age comes to an end, and Sauron will rule. OK, enough seriousness. Here's the deal: First person to find the Ring and get it home will win a lifetime supply of Krispy Kreme Donuts. The heirloom rightly belongs here at Barad-Dur, and you wouldn't want to deprive me of what is rightfully mine, now would you? But I advise you, don't put the Ring on if you find it. The cheap metal will turn your finger green, and it is almost impossible to wash off.

SAURON TO GONER: You didn't see your name in that list above because you're first! Ready or not, here I come.

GONDOR TO MORDOR: Look, I know we're at war and all, but we can be civilized about it. That Mount Oreo or whatever is a major pollutant, and a good breeze covers Minas Tirith in ash like you wouldn't believe.

BRER PHIL TO SAURON AND GONDOR: All this talk about Krispy Kremes and Oreos is making me hungry!

SAURON TO ROHAN: I bet you thought I had forgotten about you didn't you? Nope, I'm just not worried enough about you to spend the time putting letters together to make a coherent sentence. But I guess this is a couple, so there. Feel better?

SAURON TO PHIL: If my list gets too long, you'll help me keep it straight, right?

BRER PHIL TO SAURON: Why don't you use your spare Easterling army to do it, since it isn't doing anything else!

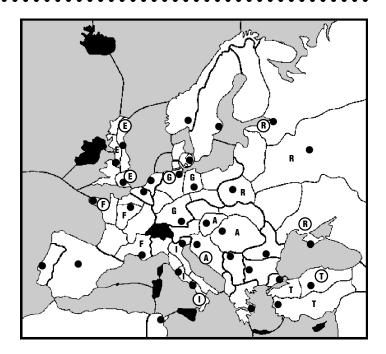
## "We Are the Champions," Diplomacy, Game Start!

\* Let the war of the Diplomacy titans begin!

AUSTRIA (Dave Partridge): Has A Bud, A Vie, F Tri ENGLAND (Graham Wilson): Has A Lvp, F Edi, F Lon FRANCE (Fred Wiedemeyer): Has A Mar, A Par, F Bre GERMANY (Kevin Wilson): Has A Ber, A Mun, F Kie ITALY (Paul Boymel): Has A Rom, A Ven, F Nap RUSSIA (Paul Risner): Has A Mos, A War, F Sev, F Stp(sc) TURKEY (Marc Ellinger): Has A Con, A Smy, F Ank

Welcome, all! I had the idea of putting together a game featuring the best Diplomacy players playing in ishkibibble, either based on their experiences here or elsewhere that I witnessed as a fellow player. I think all of the invited players have demonstrated a unique ability to do well in most circumstances, so it will be interesting and fun to see how each one fares against the others. (There shouldn't be any NMRs here!) Countries were assigned randomly, so you can blame my 8-sided die for any peculiarities.

The deadline for Spring 1901 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Oct. 4. Let's get it on!



## "Games People Play," NFL 2003 Simple Fantasy Football, Game Start!

\* Defending Super Bowl champs a popular choice among players, but only one gets them!

<u>Player</u> (<u>Preference lists; drafted teams in **bold italics**)</u>

**Paul Boymel** TB, OAK, PHI, GB, MIA, PIT, NYJ, NE, DEN, TEN, STL, SF, BAL, KC, NYG, IND TB, PHI, PIT, OAK, TEN, GB, NE, STL, ATL, NYG, BUF, IND, SF, SEA, MIA, NO **Steve Mayers** GB, TB, NYG, TEN, SF, OAK, PIT, IND, MIA, PHI, SEA, BAL, NE, NO, ATL, STL Karl Muller **Cary Nichols** GB, MIA, IND, PIT, ATL, STL, TB, PHI, NYG, KC, SEA, SF, TEN, OAK, NE, CLE NE, PHI, OAK, GB, STL, TB, MIA, NO, TEN, MIN, ATL, PIT, KC, SF, DEN, BUF **Dave Partridge Karl Schmit** TB, PHI, PIT, NYJ, OAK, ATL, MIN, GB, IND, TEN, KC, SEA, BAL, BUF, SF, MIA **Kevin Wilson** STL, TB, PHI, OAK, NO, SF, GB, TEN, NE, PIT, KC, MIA, MIN, CHI, ATL, BAL TB, TEN, KC, BUF, PHI, STL, OAK, SEA, PIT, GB, NYG, ATL, IND, NE, MIA, MIN **Brer Phil** 

Tiebreaks (randomly determined; +1 modifer for losing a tiebreak; -1 modifier for winning a tiebreak)

Phil beats Paul, Steve and Karl S. for TB

Karl S. (+2) beats Paul (+1) for NYJ

Karl M. beats Cary for GB

Steve (+1) beats Karl S. (+1) for PHI

The draft worked out pretty well, because everyone's two drafted teams were in their top 10: Karl M. and I made out best, getting our 1st and 3rd choices; Paul made out worst, getting his 2nd and 9th choices.

An explanation about the draft process. As with Diplomacy preference lists, a player automatically drafted his first choice if nobody else had it as a first choice. Ties initially were broken randomly. However, if a player lost a tiebreak, he received a +1 modifier for the next tiebreak involving him. (Each player started with a 0 modifier.) Similarly, if a player won a tiebreak, he received a -1 modifier. This process was used until everyone had drafted a first team. Once all of the first round's drafted teams were crossed off everyone's lists, then the second round began using the same process, with modifiers carrying over. For example, I beat Steve in our first tiebreak, but because of this, he beat me in our second tiebreak. I have used this method the past two seasons of Simple

Karl S. (+2) beats Paul (+1) for NYJ Steve beats Phil (-1) for TEN Dave beats Kevin for NO

Fantasy Football, and everyone seems to like the balancing effect it has, so that no one player gets an unusual advantage over the others.

The contest is divided into four quarters, the first three ending at noon ET on the following days: Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Nov. 26. At any time, you may notify me that you are dropping one of your teams and picking up an unclaimed team, or making a one-forone team trade with another player. (Both players must order this.) However, you may not get rid of a team that you just acquired in the same quarter. Changes won't affect scoring until the next quarter begins. I will notify all players via e-mail (except for Cary, by mail) when a transaction has occurred.

Finally, each player scores one point each time one of his teams wins a game, so you can sit back and do nothing for the rest of the season, if you want — your two drafted teams are yours to live and die with; you're under no obligations to make any changes.

## NFL 2003 Final Standings Prognostication Contest

\* Tampa Bay, Green Bay and Pittsburgh are near-consensus picks for division winners, while no one likes the Cards.

	PB	ME	DK	KM	CN	DP	KS	KW	BP
AFC East	MIA	NE	MIA	MIA	MIA	NE	NYJ	NYJ	BUF
	NYJ	NYJ	NYJ	NE	BUF	MIA	BUF	NE	NE
	NE	MIA	BUF	BUF	NE	NYJ	MIA	MIA	MIA
	BUF	BUF	NE	NYJ	NYJ	BUF	NE	BUF	NYJ
AFC North	PIT	PIT	CLE	PIT	PIT	PIT	PIT	PIT	PIT
	BAL	CLE	CIN	BAL	CLE	CLE	BAL	BAL	BAL
	CLE	CIN	PIT	CLE	BAL	BAL	CLE	CLE	CLE
	CIN	BAL	BAL	CIN	CIN	CIN	CIN	CIN	CIN
AFC South	TEN	IND	IND	TEN	IND	TEN	IND	TEN	TEN
	IND	TEN	TEN	IND	TEN	IND	TEN	IND	IND
	JAX	JAX	HOU	HOU	JAX	JAX	JAX	JAX	JAX
	HOU	HOU	JAX	JAX	HOU	HOU	HOU	HOU	HOU
AFC West	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	KC	OAK	OAK	OAK	KC
	DEN	DEN	SD	KC	OAK	KC	KC	KC	OAK
	KC	SD	KC	DEN	SD	DEN	SD	DEN	DEN
	SD	KC	DEN	SD	DEN	SD	DEN	SD	SD
NFC East	PHI	PHI	PHI	NYG	NYG	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI
	NYG	WAS	NYG	PHI	PHI	NYG	DAL	NYG	NYG
	WAS	NYG	WAS	WAS	DAL	WAS	NY	WAS	WAS
	DAL	DAL	DAL	DAL	WAS	DAL	WAS	DAL	DAL
NFC North	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB	GB	MIN	GB	GB
	MIN	CHI	CHI	MIN	MIN	MIN	GB	CHI	MIN
	CHI	MIN	DET	DET	CHI	CHI	CHI	MIN	DET
NTDG G . I	DET	DET	MIN	CHI	DET	DET	DET	DET	<u>CHI</u>
NFC South	TB	TB	TB	TB	ATL	TB	TB	TB	TB
	ATL	NO	ATL	NO	TB	NO	ATL	NO	ATL
	NO	ATL	NO	ATL	NO	ATL	CAR	ATL	CAR
NIEG IV.	CAR	CAR	CAR	CAR	CAR	CAR	NO	CAR	NO
NFC West	STL	STL	SF	SF	STL	STL	SEA	STL	STL
	SF	SEA	SEA	SEA	SEA	SF	SF	SF	SEA
	SEA	SF	STL	STL	SF	SEA	STL	SEA	SF
	ARI								

PB = Paul Boymel, ME = Marc Ellinger, DK = Doug Kent, KM = Karl Muller, CN = Cary Nichols, DP = Dave Partridge, KS = Karl Schmit, KW = Kevin Wilson, BP = Brer Phil

## "Lucky Number," Raj, Turn 3

<u>Player</u> <u>Tokens Owned</u> <u>Cards Remaining</u>

Dave Partridge10 = 10 pts.15,13,12,11,10,9,8,7,5,4,2,1Steve Mayers9 = 9 pts.14,13,12,11,10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3Kevin Wilson3 = 3 pts.15,13,12,10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2

**Bill Scharf** 0 = 0 pts. 15,12,12,13,5,5,7,5,5,7,5,5,13,2

\*\*\* NEXT TOKEN FOR BID: -2

**Tokens Remaining:** 8,7,6,5,4,2,1,-1,-3,-4,-5

*Notes*: Steve's 15 is just good enough to beat Kevin's 14, while Bill's 7 and Dave's 3 round out the bids.

## "Lucky Number," Raj, Turn 4

PlayerTokens OwnedCards RemainingSteve Mayers9 = 9 pts.14,13,12,11,10,9,7,6,5,4,3Dave Partridge10,-2 = 8 pts.15,13,12,11,10,9,8,7,5,4,1Kevin Wilson3 = 3 pts.15,13,12,10,8,7,6,5,4,3,2Bill Scharf0 = 0 pts.15,14,13,12,11,10,9,6,4,3,2

**Tokens Remaining:** 8,7,6,4,2,1,-1,-3,-4,-5

*Notes:* Dave's 2 was easily lower than Bill's 5, Steve's 8 and Kevin's 9, so the low man gets the low -2 token.

The deadline for Turn 5 orders is noon EDT on Saturday, Sept. 27.

\*\*\* NEXT TOKEN FOR BID: 5

<sup>\*</sup> And the winner of the 9 token by a nose is ... Steve!

<sup>\*</sup> Dave bites the bullet — and the negative token.

## "Question," Mastermind, Turn 5

\* Many surprise reactions assured as answer continues to elude solving!

There is a secret code of seven colors (Blue, Green, Orange, Purple, Red, White and Yellow) that players must attempt to guess correctly using deduction from previous guesses. Each turn, a player may submit one guess. If any player correctly guesses the secret code, then he wins, otherwise I will pick one guess at random and score it as follows: a ● if the player correctly guesses the color and position of a part of the code, and a O if the player correctly guesses the color but not the position of a part of the code. For example, if the secret code were "B G O P R R" and a player guessed "R Y P P B R", then his score would be "● ● O O".

*Notes:* Playing this turn: Paul Boymel, Tom Howell, Steve Mayers, Dave Partridge, Karl Schmit, Tim Snyder and Kevin Wilson.

The deadline for Turn 6 guesses is noon EDT on Saturday, Sept. 27.

## *Standbys*

If you would like to get on or off this list, please let me know. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Paul Boymel, Pasquale Giovine, Andy Lischett, Steve Mayers, Cary Nichols, Dave Partridge, John Power, Paul Risner, Bill Scharf, Mike Scott, Tim Snyder, Graham Wilson.

	ANSWER	?	?	?	?	?	?	PLAYER
10.								
9.								
8.								
7.								
6.								
5.	••00	0	P	P	G	G	G	Schmit
4.	•000	P	G	P	В	В	G	Schmit
3.	0	В	R	Y	0	0	0	Mayers
2.	•0	В	0	P	w	w	w	K. Wilson
1.	•00	В	G	0	P	R	Y	Howell

Phil Reynolds 2896 Oak St. Sarasota, FL 34237-7344