

LDNS

Lies, Deceit & Nefarious Schemes

Vol 1 No. 8

January 7, 1978

LDNS is dedicated to the promotion of Postal Diplomacy*, its variants, offshoots, war games, chess, females, how to make money, how to meet girls, football, baseball, politics, and a whole lot more. Unfortunately I haven't had the room for the stuff other than Diplomacy but if the postal rates ever go down I will include some of the other items. (Don't hold your breath!)

Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhmer and copyrighted by Avalon Hill (4317 Harford Rd.; Baltimore, MD 21214.) Who happen to be the same people who said, and I quote, "...the desert warfare game we're working on will not utilize the Panzer Leader System." General Jun 75. and then said, "...the long awaited Arab-Israeli Wars...utilizes an improved version of the Panzer Leader game system..." General Feb 77. That sounds like some of the Diplomacy letters I receive.

THE NEWS DESK:

For all you publishers that are new to this game or if you plan on starting a zine in the near future be forewarned that if you mail to Canada and your zine isn't closed on all four sides, like this one, you may get it back. It seems that every so often a Canadian mail clerk gets picky and rejects the zine. (An ex-player no doubt.) By the way, for you Canadians, don't blame me about it being a Canadian postal clerk who rejects them, that's what a US postal clerk told me.

ORCCON--For all of you So. Cal Dippy players (or you rich East Coast publishers) there is a convention for wargames January 13,14,15 at Cal State Fullerton. The Diplomacy tourney is Sunday at 9 o'clock. If I can get away I may be down there myself.

BIG NEWS--I got a job. ecch!

Tony Watson, the publisher of Ruritania, wishes to announce that contrary to popular belief Ruritania is not dead. There have been rumors to the fact that he was folding his zine but according to Tony it is alive and well and pushing a new subscriber drive. I have seen but a few issues of Ruri and they appear to me to be very well done. If you're into SF game Tony is the person to talk to because he seems to be the most informed person I've talked to about it. In case you're interested Tony's address is 201 Minnesota; Las Vegas, NV 89107.

DipCon XI--To be held this year in conjunction with GLASC III at California State University at Northridge on June 23,24 and 25. I'll be there, I'll be the one in the LDNS Is Still the One T-Shirt.

For all of you publishers that didn't get Everything 35, you should have. The confusion over whether or not Cal was going to Trade for Everything is inside Everything. Yes, he will trade for Everything but not for his zine EGB. ((By the way Cal, you really made me sound like a dummy in your last issue of EGB. I sent you that letter BEFORE I received Everything!--JHJ))-

IDA-NA For those of you who have sent in money but have not heard anything the reason now is simple. Bob Hartwig has taken the treasury from Steve Brooks and he has your checks but he can't deposit them until the the Bank account is transferred into his name. Hang tough, he's still working at it and you should hear from him very soon.

Everything you didn't want to know about the questionnaire and didn't care to ask.

To begin with the winner of Five, yes count 'em five, free issue is... Not yet, read on.

As it turned out, 21 of you turned out, there were less students than I had anticipated subscribing to LDNS. We have a teacher with beautiful penmanship, a Dentist, a legal ass't, a lawyer, a florist (I should have known!), an auto worker, an ass't Credit manager (boo!), an Intern in family practice (the last of a dying breed), an electrician, a general construction worker, lots of editors, and some thing I don't care to print. We've got a History, Business, Biology, and an English major (This one was a real surprise to me. He is a zine publisher and he doesn't have a lot of articles in his zine. I'm not saying that that is wrong but I figured that an English major couldn't write enough. I guess though that after doing it all day one wouldn't want to spend his weekends doing it too.)

The ages of players were about average over all three spaces. The majority were 18-25 or over 30 with the 25-30 age group the smallest. Which is logical for that is about the time where you tend to give up on the things of your youth and after 30 you try to get them back. I don't care, I enjoy it, DIPLOMACY POWER! Again the time in Diplomacy was split about the same. A lot under one year, then 1-2 years tapers off and over 2 years is the strongest.

Now averaging everything out you should be 24 years old, in Diplomacy about 1.5 years, subscribe to 5 zines (or 19 trades), currently be in 7 games and have completed 3.5 (1.5 if I don't count one player who has completed 50 games.)

OK, The winner is, wait before I tell you that the results on the IDA-NA section showed that exactly 50% of you are members of the IDA-NA (don't ask how I can get 50% out of 21 people.) Most of you would like to see a census but noone has used the Ombudsman, except a publisher but he wasn't the one who called upon the Ombudsman. Interesting,

By the way all of the complaints and/or suggestions that were written down will be forwarded to Bob Hartwig. And to Bob G. let me know how much the IDA-NA owes you for that booklet or if you still want it. (The same thing happened to me so I may as well get your money at the same time I get mine.)

I was really shocked to read that almost all of you are really concerned with ethics. I am at the point where almost anything that isn't covered in the rules is OK. The few exceptions being "Black Press", Karma-style leagues, lying to GM, or asking for a favor in one game in return for assistance in another. Should anyone do the latter let me know and I will be happy to print the culprits name and what he did for certain things are wrong in Postal Dippy that are not covered by the rules and cannot be stopped but that practice can be with a little cooperation.

Oh, yes the five free issues go to Mr. Shoot I almost forgot, you're waiting to hear which was the best and worst country to play. As far as the favorite France was the fav with Ger and Russia a close second. NO ONE picked Turkey as thier favorite. As for the worst to play it was a tie with all of the countries except Russia. No one minded playing Russia.

What was the best zine you ask? I thought you were curious to see who won the free issues, I was going to tell you but since you want to know who took the prize it was...LDNS of course. Hey that was nice but you guys weren't just stroking me?? Just remember that in the spring when there is supposed to be a zine survey. No. 2 was Claw and Fang. As for the worst zine I'm not going into that. There was one that got more voter response than the others but not bad enough to say anything. Actually you seemed to hate two things in a zine, the primary one being lateness. There weren't very many questionnaires that did not complain about a zine being late. One thing that I found out that I thought was very interesting and which ties in to something that Doug Beyerlein said. Doug said that the only problem with LDNS was that I was trying to be all things to all people.

(Cont on page 4)

1977-HW
"The West Coast Game"
Spr '03

NOTHING VENTURED NOTHING GAINED. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED...NOTHING.

- AUS (T. Sherwood) A Gal-Ukr; A Rum S A Gal-Ukr; A Vie-Gal; A Tri S A Bud-Ser;
F Gre S ITA F Eas-Aeg(nso)
- ENG (D. Fugihara) F Gas-Bre; F Nwy-Nth; F Lon S F Nwy-Nth; A Pic-Par
- FRA (D. Brownell) A Bre-Par; F Eng-Bre; F MAO S F Eng-Bre; A Mar-Bur; A Spa-Gas
- GER (C. Spiekerman) F Swe-Both; F Ber-Bal; A Mun-Sil; A Kie H; A Bur-Par;
A Bel-Bur; A Ruh S A Bel-Bur; A War S A Mun-Sil /d/ ret Pru, Mos or OTB.
- ITA (D. Ditter) A Rom-Ven; A Tun-Syr; F Ion & F EMed C A Tun-Syr.
- RUS (W. Hoylman) A Ukr-War; A Lvn S A Ukr-War
- TUR (D. Hard) F Con-Aeg; F Smy S F Con-Aeg; F Blk-Con; A Bul S AUS A Rum;
A Sev S AUS A Gal-Ukr

Ger retreat and Fall '03 due to me noon Saturday January 28th.

No Press.

1977-IA
Winter '02

SEPARATION OF SEASONS WAS CALLED FOR AND GRANTED. I CAN'T THINK OF A SINGLE THING TO SAY SO LET'S SKIP IT.

- AUS (A. Tomcufcik) Builds F TRI Mas F Gre, Tri A Gal, Tyr, Ser (5)
- ENG (R. Bermingham) Removes A Lon Has F Nwg Nth Ska A Swe (4)
- FRA (J. Morris) Builds F Bre Has F Bre Eng A Bel Bur Pic Mar (6)
- GER (J. Diehl) No change Has FDen Hel Bal A Kiel Hol (5)
- ITA (J. Rogowski) Builds A Ven Has F Tyrr EMed A Ven, Tun (4)
- RUS (J. Poore) No change Has F Sev Both A Ukr Nwy Sil (5)
- TUR (C. Reges) Builds F Smy Has F Smy Blk Aeg A Rum Bul (5)

Press withheld until Spring '03
Orders on file for Italy, Tur, Eng
Fall '03 is due noon Saturday January 28th.

1977-KX PRESS:

PARIS: C'mon, Kaiser, those moves you proposed were absolutely ridiculous!
You're not talking to some novice at this game, you know.
Somewhere in the MidAtlantic Ocean, aboard the Francaise: The mighty French Empire declares war on the puny Portugese because we know we can beat the snot out of them.
Roman Northern Provinces will be protected; even tho doing so may appear to be aggressive.

LONDON: The King is a very odd fellow. Out of hatred of habits and unnecessary customs, he is stranding his only army in the North. "We will learn those morons a thing or three about the Royal Navy" quoth he.

PASADENA TO Rome: Yes, but I got over it last week. (Dallas is my second favorite team. ((8 points over Denver)

1977-IS

The Publisher's Game
Fall '02

Summer '02 Eng F Bel ret Eng

FRANCE COMPLAINS OF PASTA PRICES AND SAILS TO ITALY TO FIND OUT THE PROBLEM.
ENGLAND COMPLAINS OF PASTA PRICES TOO AND SAILS TO RUSSIA (This would be a
great place for an ethnic joke!:) TURKEY, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA COMPLAIN BECAUSE
THEY WEREN'T MENTIONED IN THIS HEADING.

AUS (Bumpas-Liberterrean) A Tri-Tyr; F Gre-Bul(sc); A Rum & A Ser S F Gre-Bul(sc)
ENG (Bunke-The 9th Circle) A Nwy-Swe; F Nwg-Nwy; F Bar-StP(nc); F Nth-Ska;
F Eng-Nth
FRA (Agosta-Command) F Lyon-Tyrr; A Gas-Mar; A Par H; F Spa(sc)-WMed; F Mao-NAF
GER (Hartwig) A Sil-War; A Ruhr S A Bel; A Bel S A Ruhr; F Den S ENG A Nwy-Swe;
F Bal S ENG A Nwy-Swe.
ITA (Cook-Suicide) A Pied-Mar; A Bul S RUS F Blk-Con(nso)/aānih/; F Aeg-Gre;
F Tyrr-Tun.
RUS (Ditter, Dave) A Mos-War; A Fin S A Swe; F Both S A Swe; F Blk-Sev;
A Swe S ENG A Nwy(nso)
TUR (Beardsley-Brouhaha) F Con S AUS F Gre-Bul(sc); A Arm-Smy; F Ank S F Con

Supply Center Chart

	has	adj.
AUS Home, Rum, SER, BUL	6	+2
ENG Home, Nwy, StP , STP	5	0
FRA Home, Spa, Por	5	0
GER Home, Hol, Den, BEL	6	+1
ITA Home, StP , GRE, TUN	5	+2
RUS StP , War, Mos, Sev, Swe	4	-1
TUR Home, StP	3	0

Press:

ANKARA: Wanted: One ally willing to work with me. Must be kind, trustworthy
and intelligent enough to see there are bigger fishes to be had.

No Dateline: The tri-weekly meeting of the Get Bob Beardsley Club was held as
usual last week. Topics discussed were "How", "When" and "Where". It was
decided that the answers were "With everything", "Now" and "all over". This
week the first meeting of the "Get Everyone Who's Getting Bob Beardsley Club"
was held. The GBB club is not yet recognizing the GEWGBB club as legitimate as
yet. They've decided to wait until it's too late!

MOSCOW: I am suffering from a serious identity crisis. What the hell, I might
as well go to school in Austria-Hungary.

King Robert began preparations for his Fox hunt.

"Where would be the best place for my Fox hunt?" asked Robert at a meeting with
his servants and staff.

Chuck Erman shifted uneasily. Lord Hartwig noticed the movement and called on
him. "Well, what is it Erman?" A pause hung ominously in the air. "Well,
Erman? Spiek Erman, Spiek!"

"Well sir, I have a friend in Bermingham, England. His name's Roger. Maybe
he'll know of a good place."

"Get ahold of your friend immediately!"

"But sir, how are you going to get there?"

"Bey Er Lein (By Air Line), of course!"

((After that I have sworn off puns. If I ever make another pun may I drown in
the Polma Sea--JHJ))

1977-IS Press con't:

ROME: The insane Brouhahaglini today tried to attempt a prison break, but as he was climbing the wall headed for the freedom of the outside world, he felt a sudden pain in the back. He turned, and there was the Archduke, who was Commandant of the prison holding an Italian knife in his back.

PIEDMONT: A husband and wife team?

PIEDMONT: Today a great battle took place outside the borders of our great nation. The great Frack lead an army of 100,000 against a traitor named Agosta. It was the Legions of Rome meeting the Barbarians of the West again in battle.

Winter '02 and Spring '03 due noon Saturday January 28th.

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A Personal Profile: Jim Bumpas

I'm 34 years old. Born Dallas, TX at Baylor hospital. I went to law school to dodge the draft, and hold the world's record for student deferments under the old Selective Service Law. It allowed only 4, but I received 7. After law school ended in 1968 I tried for 4 years to get honest employment. Found I had to work too hard for too long for too little money, so I took and passed the bar exam in 1972. Since then I find I can work 2 or 3 hours a day to earn enough to live and enjoy myself. I've been playing Diplomacy since 1961 when I encountered it as a freshman in college. Only learned about pbm in 1973. I play and enjoy tactical Civil War and WW2 and modern armored games, in addition to Diplomacy. I'm a history buff, and enjoy reading and camping. I liked Mississippi when I was there, and have lived in Georgia, and liked that very much. I also like country music (in addition to other types). I also saw one Rose Parade in person (a bunch of us went over from Verdugo Hills High School in my senior year and camped out on Colorado Blvd. all night to get a curb seat). I drive a 1966 Volvo with over 200,000 miles put on it by myself and Linda. My low level of consumerism allows me to enjoy life more (with fewer things: so-called "timesaving devices" require you to spend more time working to buy & keep them in repair than you save by having them). Anyway, that's my opinion of consumerism; you're entitled to your own opinion.

((Thanx Jim. I can't believe that you don't even have an electric carrot peeler!!!))

A Personal Profile: Gary Kilbride

It seems that Jerry and I have a similar background. I watch, listen or whatever I can do re: Sat, Sun, Mon night football games. I am a bit older then him though. I was an Aviation Fire Control Tech. I was out of work (11 mos.) I have a lovely wife, Barbara and a future Dippy team, Pat (PJ), Tina, Kathleen and Maureen. Pat is ___ (I was 28 when Pat was born) and is a good Dippy, Kingmaker & a few more games player, but his school work must come first. I play war games of all kinds, collect stamps to a small degree, I too enjoy those close intimate times with my women, Barb too. I spent some time in Cal, OK, Tenn, Fla, So Europe, No Africa & Western Asia--(I can remember which was worse-sorry but Cal takes the prize!)

I enjoy all kinds of music-CW included. I've lived in the Virgin Islands for the better part of 20 years and have never seen the synagoge-supposedly one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. We leave things like that for the tourists

My wife is a legal sec'y but I've been unable to convince her of the need

Con't

for a Dictaphone, mag card typewriter, etc. She uses the old fashioned short hand method. She won't do it for my letters, only for those 4 lawyers that work for her, (research, court appearances, etc.) Legal Sec'y's of America unite! She doesn't like my suggestions. She says for a part time stenographic assistant our budget can't afford it. I think it might be something else. Dippy Widows of America unite!!

Barbara loves to receive letters--her address is the same as mine if any of you Dippy widows out there would like to share thru the mails whatever Dippy Widows talk about FTF. Besides the Beyerlein's and the Buchanan's are there any other Husband-Wife Dippy players?

((Thank th you too, Gary. I have a letter that I hope to get off to you before the week is out. I really enjoyed your whole letter and there are some questions I have for you.--JHJ))

OK, whose next???

I should be closing this up but I have too much to say in this issue so I'm going to continue and pay out the extra postage. What the hell, I just got a job!

I never thought of it before but I sure hope that nobody minds this kind of casual approach to this zine. I like it this way, it's not so stanch and stoic as some zines I've seen.

Oh, I almost forgot, Gary Kilbride in his profile intentionally omitted his son's and his own age and he mentions something about a prize for the person guessing closest to his age. He never mentioned what the prize was but he did sent a pamphlet of the Virgin Isles; so maybe the prize is a free trip?? (I'll betcha the prize is the pamphlet.)

No John, I didn't forget you it's just that I'm having my problems with this format.

THE FEAR
by John Caruso

What do we all think about in this game? Not supply centers, not strategic location, not alliances, not honesty and not Diplomacy. The one thing we think about in the depths of our minds while playing Diplomacy is the fear. And what is the fear? It's the gut feeling and anticipation that a stab is near. We all live with it. That's what this game is all about. We all fall prey to it. There is no way to avoid it. Some players try to avoid it by not writing, or by making 6 allies. But neither ever works. Somewhere, sometime, someone will stab, and "the fear" will be a reality. When it does come, all we can do is hold our head up high and say "The worst is over, I fear no more."

((Thank a lot John, John has written a couple of articles for LDNS and we really appreciate his efforts. Anyone else who is interested is more then welcomed to write something. John will get a gift certificate redeemable in LDNS subs, games or merchandise.

Some of you may have noted that there have never been any "How To Play" articles in LDNS. The reason is simple, I don't feel qualified enough to write one so maybe one of you vets will write us an article. I know that its all been said before but some of us have never had the chance to see it.--JHJ))

1977-KC
Spr '02

AUSTRIA SHIELDS HERSELF FROM ATTACK WHILE ENGLAND DIEHLS A BLOW TO FRANCE.
GERMANY REGES OUT TO RUSSIA TO FEED HER ARMIES BUT THE ONLY THING OPEN TODAY
IS THE EICHEL BERGER STAND.

AUS (S. Shields) A Ser-Bul; F Gre S A Ser-Bul; A Vie-Tyr; A Tri-Tyr; A Bud-Ser
ENG (J. Diehl) F Nth-Eng; F Lon S F Nth-Eng; F Nwy-Nth; A Yor-Wal
FRA (J. Caruso) F Bre-Eng; F Por-MAO; A Mar-Spa; A Bur-Mar
GER (C. Reges) A Ber-Pru; A Mun-Sil; F Kie-Bal; F Den S F Kiel-Bal; A Hol-Ruhr;
A Bel S A Hol-Ruhr
ITA (D. Mueth) A Ven-Tyr; A Pied S A Ven-Tyr; F Tun-WMed; F Nap-Tyrr
RUS (C. Eichelberger) F Both-StP(sc); A StP-Mos; A Ukr-Sev; F Rum S F Sev-Blk;
F Sev-Blk
TUR (J. Machir) A Bul S F Blk-Rum/annih/; F Blk-Rum/d/ ret Ank or OTB; A Ank-Arm

Press:

ROME--Aspirat primo fortuna labori.

Paris to Ankara--The President accepts the apologies of the Sultan and wishes
to extend his own public apology for such a degrading remark as calling the
Sultan an invalid.

PARIS--The foreign ministry wants to know what the Turkish governments wants
done with the head of Ibin Post Agedue? His head ain't worth two cents.

Paris to Rome--I could care less where Piedmont stands geographically. You agreed
to neutrality. By making me garrison Mar, you doom yourself to eventually
a two front war. Foolish move and suicidal. Besides, the peasants of Piedmont
await annexation now. Withdraw unconditionally and we will see.

~~CRETE~~ M&M's are cheap and stale. They don't even go together.

~~CYPRES~~ Word from informed sources said that Chicken of the Sea is about to
get water logged. Save the bird before he drowns.

Views From Vienna-- The opinions expressed by CRETE do not necessarily reflect
those of its management.

PASADENA---JOHN, I let it slip by before by accident but I will not allow anyone
to write press with a dateline other than that of a country that they presently
own. Absolutely NO black press!!! My apologies to Austria and any inconvenience
it may have caused. Note: all previous press dated Crete & Cypres were of
French origin.

Fall '02 due noon Saturday January 28th.

LDNS-5 to be known now as 1977-KX
Spring '01

AUS (D. HARD) F Tri-Alb; A Vie-Bud; A Bud-Ser
ENG (L. Harmon) A Lvp-Edi; F Edi-Nwy(imp); F Lon-Nth
FRA (C. Reges) A Par-Bur; A Mar S A Par-Bur
GER (K. Peterson) A Mun-Bur; F Kiel-Hol; A Ber-Kiel
ITA (J. Diehl) A Ven-Pied; A Rom-Ven; F Nap-Ion
RUS (G. Kilbride) F StP(sc)-Both; A War-Gal; A Mos-Ukr; F Sev-Blk
TUR (T. Long) A Con-Bul; A Smy-Con; F Ank-Blk

Press at bottom of page 3
Fall '01 due noon Saturday January 28th.

Oh, what else am I forgetting? Oh, yes.

ZINE RATINGS (EDITORIAL)

The trend lately has been the talk about zine ratings. I am in favor of zine ratings. I think that LDNS will fair well in open competition. But I am afraid that that is what it will become. A good, unbiased zine rating would have its merits. It might keep the publishers on their toes and it would give the players a chance to compare zines before they subscribe to one.

Before we talk about a rating system we must touch upon what motivates a person to give up his weekend to do this. For the most part publishing a zine is like playing Diplomacy, its a hobby. I doubt if any of the pubs. make any money at this, I know I sure don't, so it must be a labor of love and a hobby. So does a pub really owe anything to his subscriber? Yes and No. While its true you did spend good money for it I can assure you that the pub is spending more, but he did promise you a service so the answer is yes and no. So we can't really criticize a pub for doing a bad job because it's not a job but there is room for a listing of how good he is at his hobby leastwise you don't get into something you don't want.

Andy Cook in his zine "Suicide" has a zine ratings in his last issue. LDNS scored in a tie for first place but that is not what caught my eye first. What did was the fact that I didn't get a perfect score for promptness. So while Andy was complimenting me I was feeling slighted. But in any zine rating worth its salt it will have to have something on promptness. But promptness is a complex matter. Bob Beardsley suggests that a listing of how many zines were published in a six mo. period. That is a good idea but it must go further then that. Along with how often it comes out is how close to the deadline does it come out. I can think of quite a few monthly zines that are received weeks after the deadline but the next deadline is exactly one month from the last one so in reality you may have to send the following moves right after you get the zine with no time for Diplomacizing. Even in LDNS there is barely enough time for you even though you get it right after the deadline. So promptness is a many sided subject.

I think that the manner that the GM handles his games should also be in th rating. What happens when he errors? Does he try to contact the players involved, does he delay the game an issue or how does he do it? How do you put that into a rating? As a player I feel cheated when a game is delayed. I've waited a long time for the zine and when it comes I will have to wait again. Am I compensated for it? No. I still have to pay for the issue anyway. As a pub I say, hey, I'm not perfect and it costs me money to publish this zine and all I am asking is for a little understanding in return. They both are right but how do you show that in a rating system?

Other things in a rating would be simple to list: Types of games, how many games, cost of zine and games, how produced, length, how long its been around, etc. That would be the easy part. But just who does it? Who is going to sub to all of the zine? We could have a committee do it and they could get the zines from trades with their own zines. (Which brings me to a sore subject with me. I don't mind a publisher who trades on a "scale" basis. That is basically his zine costs \$4 for 10 issues and mine is \$3.50 for 10 issues so I owe him 50¢. I'm not happy with it but I can live with it but what I do hate is a pub that only sends every other issue to me. I send him all of mine why can't I get the same courtesy in return? As of right now I am cancelling all trades with zines who do that.)

Back on the ratings what I think would be a good idea would be a three phase rating system. 1 being a listing of of the main facts of the zine as outlined above. 2 would be a fun sort of thing that would have no real meaning.

Con't

