

LIFE OF MONTY

#89

JANUARY 14, 1989

20 PAGES

DIP GAME START 60c

The guy that wins the hobby's "Dwayne Wayne award for getting 800 in the math section of the SAT" (okay, it was back in October of 1979) and then defines a square root by describing how to determine a *square* brings you this 89th edition of *Life Of Monty* (although I am considering changing the title) - the one and only (thank (fill in the blank) for that) Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, USA, phone (415) 461-2692, but only between 5 PM and 11 PM Pacific time, except maybe a little later on Friday and Saturday nights.

But no waiting until later for:

MONTY'S NEWS AND COMMENT is brought to you by the 1989 DIPCON BEAUTY PAGEANT AND CHILI COOKOFF - no, there's no such thing, but it's a harrowing thought, isn't it?

Well, *Time* has announced that Planet Earth has been awarded the "Planet of the Year" award for 1989, forsaking its usual Man/Woman of the Year. Personally, I didn't see anybody really stand out, but I would have selected both George Bush and Michael Dukakis for showing the world that what we really need in a President is the ability to show, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, that everybody else in the world can't get the job done.

In the latest *House of Lords* (Julie Martin, 17601 Lisa Drive, Rockville, MD 20855-1319), Julie made a comment (which I read as a complaint) about the fact that only those persons at DIPCON this July in San Diego can vote on the WORLD DIP CON 1990 site. This sounds fine by me, and not just because I will be there to vote. If this is the procedure to decide the DIPCON sites, why should the rules be changed when it's our turn to host WORLD DIP CON? I can see input from overseas persons interested in attending being

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Also - I misplaced the DIPCON flyer - could you send me another one?

taken into consideration, since what makes WORLD DIP CON what it's expected to be is the overseas participation. We don't need what would amount to nothing more than a second DIPCON. (Why can't WORLD DIP CON be held in conjunction with DIPCON?)

Anyway, if you have any objections to the announcement of "must be there to vote", contact Larry Peery, Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102, and let him know.

WANTED: A new Boardman Number Custodian - you know, the one that passes out those alphanumeric IDs to Diplomacy games and writes *Everything*. (Actually, Melinda Ann Holley has agreed to stay on in her current post as its publisher, if necessary.) If you want to be considered, contact the current BNC, Steve Heinowski, 860 Colorado Avenue #2A, Lorain, OH 44052).

The last time the position was open, I considered taking it - but decided against applying when I found out Steve, with his hobby experience and stature (i.e. someone that was just who we needed for a post like this) was applying. This time, I'm not overly interested.

Ran Ben-Israel (RR 2, 571 Sunnidale Road, Barrie, Ontario L4M 4S4, CANADA) is the new Miller Number Custodian, taking over from Fred Hyatt. Julie Martin remains the "other" MNC. (Personally, I lean toward the "Whitestonia Convention" which recognizes the chain of succession leading to Ben-Israel as MNC, although I do not disassociate the "Covenant" numbers; indeed, I once applied to both sets of MNCs for Miller Numbers for "Stab of the Century".)

CLARIFICATION: The phrase "Whitestonia Convention" is my creation, and is not the idea of John (or Kathy) Caruso; it's based on John's original stand that the MNC should be allowed to select his/her own successor without anybody having to abide by a "covenant".

And now for the moment you've all been waiting for - a look at the 1988 PREDICTION RESULTS.

First, I said that the USA would win one gold medal in Calgary. I was close; USA won two, and Canada won none, now becoming the only country to host both summer and winter Olympics and not win any golds when they hosted. I also said that Canada would win the hockey gold, didn't I?

Second, apparently John Thompson did *not* know that a decent three-point shooter would make the difference, and USA did *not* win the gold in basketball at Seoul.

The California case concerning requiring parents' or a judge's permission to have an abortion has not made it to

the Supreme Court, so Antony Kennedy has yet to make his "deciding vote" known.

I may be right about an argument over where WORLD DIP CON will be held in 1990, and the argument may be over the site selection procedure . . .

Now for the NOT-THE-LIFERS awards for 1988:

The SUGGESTION OF THE YEAR goes to Bruce Linsey for suggesting that, in the future, some of the money raised in the hobby's "alliance against AIDS" (run in conjunction with the Runestone Poll) be used for (unspecified?) expenses, forgetting that Bruce isn't in charge of the fund-raising effort. I have heard that he has dropped the idea.

The RULES TECHNICALITY OF THE YEAR was in Calgary at the 1988 Winter Olympics. In the "long program" (the final night) of Men's Figure Skating, Canada's Brian Orser would have beaten Brian Boitano *if* it was as simple as "adding up the scores" or even taking the "middle five scores" as is done in professional competitions. What happened: four judges gave Orser higher scores, three Boitano, and two had them even - but both of these judges had Boitano with higher "technical merit" scores - that's five votes for Boitano and four for Orser, and that's what counts.

Meanwhile, Canadian skater Elizabeth Manley gets the LUCKY BREAK OF 1988 award. Going into the final night of the ladies' competition in Calgary, German Democratic Republic skater Katerina Witt "eased back", hoping that her only competition for the gold, Debi Thomas, wouldn't do well. Debi didn't - but this allowed Elizabeth to outskate Katerina that night.

PSYCHIC PREDICTION OF THE YEAR: Yes, *Life of Monty* accepts the honor - for being (I presume) the first (and only?) 'zine to print a Runestone Poll ballot that included the subzine *Shadowplay*, which was inadvertantly left off the subzine list, probably because it appears in a 'zine which, I am almost certain, the publishers wouldn't send to the pollster even if he wanted to sub?

QUOTE OF THE YEAR: "Did you know your kid is dead?" - *Robert Sacks, to a man whose girlfriend had just had an abortion.*

BAD NEWS ABOUT BUSH'S VICTORY: Having to listen to John Boardman's anti-Bush remarks for four years. Try printing anti-Ortega remarks in "free" Nicaragua.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: I have just received the five hundred and fifty-ninth issue of *Graustark* (John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302), in which there is what appears to be an attack on *liberals*. Not just Mike Dukakis, either - there's a *JFK-bash* in there somewhere.

ON TOP OF THAT, there is now proof that, for some strange reason, John has actually started *reading* this 'zine that I've been sending him for who knows how long now. (Okay, I don't exactly read *every* page of *every* issue of *Empire*, although I never miss "Dungeons & Christians", the reports on the latest attempts of bible-belted brimstone-preachers to prove that role-playing games of the D&D ilk are the devil's own tools (mainly because (a) it causes kids to commit suicide, despite absolute proof to the contrary, and (b) it teaches kids to cast REAL spells and conjure REAL demons - sure, and the Doctor Who RPG tells you how to build a REAL time machine so you can go back and shut these people up before they can open their mouths).

Last but not least, John has finally gotten around to capitalizing the "D" at the beginning of my last name. (The first person that says "Don't you mean 'G'?" will be forced to sign up for my next three game starts, regardless of what games they're in.)

GAME OPENINGS

DIPLOMACY: --- FILLED --- but I can always use some standbys as *I don't have any at the moment*

KINGMAKER: Anderson, Ozog, Nixon, Moore signed up. Need 2 more. *NMR deposit will be charged when the game begins.* As soon as I do the PBM map for the new board, PBM house rules will be available.

1830: Goode, Pierce, von Metzke signed up. Need at least one more. *NMR deposit will be charged when the game begins.*

KREMLIN: Anderson, Carrier signed up. Need at least two more. *NMR deposit will be charged.*

TALISMAN: Dorneman, Pierce signed up. Basic rules will be used. *NMR deposit will be charged.*

MEETING OF MINDS #24

This is the 24th *Meeting of Minds*, the subzine of International Diplomacy Tournament Ratings (IDTR), written and published by its one-and-only-member - er, uh, the International Chairman, Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, USA. (When I say "only member", I do depend on, and am very thankful for the help of, the organizing committees of the various tournaments.)

I've just received a letter from John Cain, publisher of *Victoria*, one of the major 'zines in the Australian hobby. John informs me that there are, in fact, *four* major tournaments in Australia, of which *Cancon* (not, I have been told, "Can-Con", which is what Canada calls their tournament) in Canberra and the New South Wales Championships in Sydney are the "major" cons, with the Victoria (in Melbourne) and South Australia Championships at a slightly lower level but expected to gain popularity. The reason that the NSW and Victoria Championships haven't been considered for IDTR sanctioning (until now) is that this is the first time I've heard of them . . .

Beginning in 1989, the New South Wales Diplomacy Championships is an IDTR sanctioned tournament (this is an addition to the "official 1989 list"). However, if the Victoria Championships were to be added, there would be three tournaments within too close of an area, so, being the smallest of the three, it isn't sanctioned. (One of the sanctioning policies is that if three tournaments are too close to each other, it might give people who live in that area too much of an advantage over players who didn't have three "local" tournaments.) The South Australian Championships are in Adelaide, which is about 600 miles from Canberra and slightly farther from Sydney, so this tournament is far enough away to allow it to remain as an IDTR tournament.

ALSO, John has mentioned that Australia is willing to host the 1992 WORLD DIP CON, and that the most likely host would be the Victorian Championships in Melbourne as a "combined Victoria / Australia / World Championships". In order to get more people to show up, John has mentioned the possibility of free housing. More on this as it develops. I, for one, am glad to see that there really is a WORLD for WORLD DIP CON.

AS FOR THE 1988 WORLD TOURNAMENT DIPLOMACY CHAMPION - I'll let you know when SOMEBODY BOTHERS TO SEND ME THE *MIDCON* RESULTS . . .

1989 IDTR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS (revised list)

(Australian) **CANCON** - Sometime near Australia Day (January 26) in Canberra. *Luke Clutterbuck, 16/353A Old South Head Road, Bondi Beach, NSW, 2026, AUSTRALIA*

DIXIECON - late April, in North Carolina (I think it's at UNC in Chapel Hill). *Try contacting David Hood, 15-F Estes Park, Carrboro, NC 27510, for more details*

NEW SOUTH WALES CHAMPIONSHIPS - mid-June in Sydney, Australia. This is currently the "number two" tournament (to CANCON) in Australia.

ORIGINS - June 29 - July 2 at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton. This is, of course, the "national adventure gaming convention", with many wargaming and role-playing events besides Diplomacy, and no additional "event fees".

ORIGINS, P.O. Box 8399, Long Beach, CA 90808.

ATLANTICON - either the same weekend or the weekend after ORIGINS, in Baltimore. Robert Sacks runs this tournament and also has a "hobby meeting" similar to the one at DIPCON. Like ORIGINS, this is a large, multi-event convention. *ATLANTICON, P.O. Box 15405, Baltimore, MD 21220*

MANORCON - mid-July in Birmingham, England. This is usually the world's largest tournament, with over 150 people competing. (This is also, usually, the tournament worth the most IDTR points.)

DIPCON - July 28-30 in San Diego. This is the national Diplomacy tournament (although The Avalon Hill Game Company is thinking of having its own national championship Dip tournament in the future), complete with hobby meeting, special guests, and voting for next year's DIPCON. Also, the site of WORLD DIP CON 1990 will be selected. *Larry Peery, Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102.*

(Canadian) **CAN-CON** - mid-August in Toronto, Canada. This is the second year for Canada's major tournament. *Doug Acheson, 95 Dundonald Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 3T4, CANADA.*

PACIFICON - September 1-3 in San Mateo, CA. (This returns after being replaced by STRATEGICON last year.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP - October in Adelaide, Australia.

MIDCON - Late October in Birmingham, England. The British National Championship and last IDTR tournament of the year.

DIPLOMACY GAME START

Will wonders never cease? Seven people have signed up for this game. Here are the assignments:

AUSTRIA: Melinda Ann Holley
P.O. Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727

ENGLAND: Michael Hopcroft
2190 W. Burnside #108, Portland, OR 97210

FRANCE: Brian Bajuk
217 Holy Cross Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

GERMANY: Edward Allen
3925 W. 188th Street, Torrance, CA 90504

ITALY: Thomasine Bowen
989 Morningview, Akron, OH 44305

RUSSIA: Tom Slaughter
1545 Northcliff Trace, Roswell, GA 30076

TURKEY: Stephen Dorneman
94 Eastern Avenue #1, Malden, MA 02148

I wonder if I should mention that, while Melinda lives in West Virginia, Brian is currently a student at Notre Dame?

SPRING 1901 DEADLINE is FEBRUARY 17

STANDBYS NEEDED - DIPLOMACY

I have NO STANDBYS on my current list - if you want the chance to pick up FREE ISSUES of this *or any other 'zine of your choice*, you can join the Standby List. You get:

- 50 cents credit for your first set of orders
- 50 cents credit for your second set of orders
- 1 dollar credit for completing the position

This credit can be applied to *the 'zine of your choice*, subject to that 'zine's publisher's approval.

PRE-SIDEDENTIAL POLITICS 2, ELECTION TURN 2 -
 Democrats' Simone twins act goes over well in East, while
 independent #2 gets head start in West

	REP	DEM	IND
MID-ATLANTIC			
SIGs			
BUS	50	0	0
CON	1	0	0
ECO	1	1	0
ELD	1	1	0
FARM	1	1	0
LAB	0	1	100
MIL	1	1	0
N/W	1	55	0
POOR	0	55	0
URB	1	55	0
Business, Labor, Non-White, Poor, and Urban SIGs give votes			
VOTES	1770	2086	1913

NEW ENGLAND			
BUS	50	0	0
CON, ECO, ELD, FARM, MIL, N/W, URB (each)			
	1	0	0
LAB	0	0	45
Business and Labor SIGs receive votes			
VOTES	524	184	519

EAST NORTH CENTRAL			
BUS	60	0	0
CON	1	0	0
ECO	1	1	0
ELD	1	1	0
FARM	1	1	0
LAB	0	1	115
MIL	1	1	0
N/W	1	55	0
POOR	0	55	0
URB	1	55	0
Business, Labor, Military, Non-White, and Poor SIGs give votes			
VOTES	1234	1467	1489

In case you didn't know, the parties are: Republican (Stephen Wilcon and Greg Ellis), Democratic (Dave Anderson and Melinda Ann Holley), and independent (Jake Halverstadt and Cathy Ozog).

	REP	DEM	IND
WEST NORTH CENTRAL			
BUS	60	0	0
CON,ECO,ELD,FARM,MIL,N/W,URB (each)	1	0	0
Only Business SIG give votes			
VOTES	412	72	175

EAST SOUTH CENTRAL			
BUS	50	0	0
CON,ECO,ELD,FARM,MIL,N/W,URB (each)	1	0	0
Only Business SIG gives votes			
VOTES	247	43	105

SOUTH ATLANTIC			
BUS	60	0	0
CON	1	0	0
ECO	1	1	0
ELD	1	1	0
FARM	1	1	0
LAB	0	1	0
MIL	1	1	0
N/W	1	55	0
POOR	0	55	0
URB	1	55	0
Business, Non-White, Poor, and Urban SIGs give votes			
VOTES	812	1044	962

WEST SOUTH CENTRAL			
BUS	50	0	0
CON,ECO,ELD,FARM,MIL,N/W,URB (each)	1	0	0
Only Business SIG gives votes			
VOTES	412	72	175

ROCKY MOUNTAINS			
BUS	60	0	0
CON,ECO,ELD,FARM,MIL,N/W,URB (each)	1	0	0
Only Business SIG gives votes			
VOTES	342	60	145

NEW STANDS
REPUBLICAN: 55 ? / 57 -- / 58 + / 63 +
INDEPENDENT: 54 - / 58 ? / 59 + / 60 + / 61 + / 63 ?

	REP	DEM	IND
PACIFIC			
BUS	50	0	0
CON & CO, ELD, FARM, MIL, N/W, URB (each)			
	1	0	0
Only Business SIG gives votes			
VOTES	247	43	105

CALIFORNIA			
BUS	50	0	0
CON	1	0	0
ECO	1	1	0
ELD	1	1	0
FARM	1	0	0
LAB	0	1	0
MIL	1	1	0
N/W	1	55	0
POOR	0	55	0
URB	1	55	0
Business, Non-White, Poor, and Urban SIGs give votes			
VOTES	1127	1406	1119

TRAVEL	ANDERSON (D)	HALVERSTADT (I)
WILCOX (R)		
New York	Atlanta	Chicago
New York	Atlanta	Chicago
New York	Washington	Chicago
New York	Washington	Detroit
New York	Washington	Pittsburgh
New York	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
New York	Philadelphia	New York
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	New York
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	New York
Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Nassau

ELLIS (R)	HOLLEY (D)	OZOG (I)
New Orleans	Atlanta	Seattle
Houston	Atlanta	Seattle
Dallas	Washington	Tacoma
Boston	Washington	Spokane
Boston	Washington	Los Angeles
Hartford	Philadelphia	Los Angeles
St. Louis	Philadelphia	Los Angeles
St. Louis	Philadelphia	Los Angeles
Kansas City	Philadelphia	Los Angeles
Minneapolis	Philadelphia	Los Angeles

	REP SW	GE	DEM DA	MAH	IND JH	CO
ORGANIZERS						
Mid-Atl	20	0	70	20	24	0
New Eng	0	0	0	0	11	0
ENC	40	0	0	0	28	0
WNC	0	0	0	0	0	25
ESC	0	0	0	0	11	0
South Atl	50	0	70	20	26	0
WSC	0	0	0	0	0	25
Rocky	30	0	0	0	0	30
Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	10
Calif	0	0	0	0	0	30

By the way, Melinda does have 40 organizers; I said both 40 and 20 in the last issue, didn't I?

SPENDING

START	2529	1986	1465
SIGs	610	679	260
Travel	44	32	44
TOTAL	1875	1275	1161

Based on SIG votes, electoral vote totals are 236 for the Republicans, 212 for the Democrats, and 90 for the Independents.

ORDERS for ELECTION TURN 3:
ISSUE SPENDING in all regions
TRAVEL
ORGANIZERS

DEADLINE is FEBRUARY 11

There's some extra room, so here are the full issue stands:

REPUBLICAN: 53 -- / 54 -- / 55 ? / 56 -- / 57 -- /
58 + / 59 - / 60 ++ / 61 ++ / 62 ++ / 63 + / 64 -

DEMOCRATIC: 53 + / 54 + / 55 - / 56 + / 57 ++ /
58 -- / 59 - / 60 - / 61 -- / 62 ++ / 63 ++ / 64 +

INDEPENDENT: 53 ++ / 54 - / 55 ++ / 56 ++ / 57 ++ /
58 ? / 59 + / 60 + / 61 + / 62 ++ / 63 ? / 64 --

My life has gotten a bit frantic lately. That sounds like a good excuse for missing a LOM or two. Actually, I had been extremely busy keeping up with real life. A full life is a good thing most of the time. It is always nice to have a little spare time. But that doesn't seem to be my fate this time around.

Actually, my life has taken a turn for something different. It is difficult to say right now if it is better or worse. Domino's Pizza decided they could do without me. My employment was terminated on Jan. 24. Merry Christmas, Derwood. I had been asked to take over the management of a store in Shaker Heights which was really fouled up. After a month there, the store was still a mess. They decided that I should have done better, so they let me go.

The reason I say my life has taken a turn for something different is that I have a friend who owns his own pizza business. He has tried to get me to come to work for him for about two years. Well, now I am. This requires me to relocate to Roanoke, Virginia. Moving has never been a big deal to me and since I went to Roanoke College, I am familiar with the area. It will be interesting for my wife, seeing as how she has never lived out of state.

As a career move, I am going to work for a young business that has lots of room to grow. Presuming that I can help the business significantly, I can be a large part of the success, both personally and financially. That is the reasoning. I went down to Virginia and talked to the owners about what I saw and what I believe I can accomplish. We all are excited about the prospects of building up this business.

As a result of these developments, SW has suffered. Oh well. Things must take their place in life. I did want to share Fred's letter with all of you, and also give some kind of explanation as to why I hadn't sent anything in for a while. Hence, you are seeing this.

Dip has produced its share of junk of late. I seem to see the usual crap and the usual mass mailings. I ignore most of it. Rod Walker seems to be investigating Linseed's handling of the Runestone Poll. Who cares? I don't care if he decided how each zine should finish and manufactured the results. The poll has no influence over anything at all, so far as I know. And folks, if you don't like the way he does it, run your own. There is nothing in the whole world that says that the Runestone Poll has to be the one poll graced by God. Bruce has done a couple of things with the poll that I disagree with, but nothing that I would really get too excited about. He can have the darn thing as far as I am concerned.

How about the number custodians? I don't care about them, either. I subscribe to the BNC, and use numbers for all my games. I have never run a variant, but if I ever do I will try and find out who to get a number from. If it turns out to be too much of a mess, tough. I will run without. I can't see how not having a Miller number will effect the players and myself from enjoying a game. For the ratings-conscious players a Boardman number has some meaning. Since I am not a ratings player, that doesn't phase me at all.

I have seen some stuff in print about two people claiming to be MNC. Now isn't that a pretty pickle. Maybe I should run a variant and get a number from both people. Then I could have numbers on top of numbers. Controversy is generated by people finding stuff important. Diplomacy isn't important. It is a hobby. And don't you forget it.

KINGMAKER "ME AND MY GAL" - Endgame Statement
from the White Duchess (Cathy Ozog)

I think the first question I would ask is, "What went wrong?" Maybe Buckingham asked this question as he stood with water up to his knees and his rebellion at an end. His death by Richard III soon followed.

Everything was going right. I had a strong ally. We had parliament and I split the powers between us. I started with nothing and suddenly I had power. I had church power as well - Archbishop of York. Then no one wanted to play anymore. Except me of course - I was winning - I was. I had Edmund and Edward of March. Both Richards were dead. I just killed George. The house of York was mine! And then Dave Anderson took the position of my once ally.

What was the first blow was the death of Berkeley, Archbishop of York. I was all set to crown Edward when Don pulled that rotten event card. The only thing I could do then was hope to kill Anderson's clerical power as well. From this point, however, things went from bad to worst. Perhaps this is what Warwick the Kingmaker felt like. My power kept getting weaker and weaker. Dave wanted an open fight, but my hope still rested in killing his clerical power.

It never was to be, but Dave - Margaret as Queen! No proper Plantagenet blood at all. And thanks, Don, for running this one until the end.

RAILWAY RIVALS "STOP THE WORLD, I WANT TO GET OFF" - ROUND 5 - Conrad, is there another British strike?

GREEN (Goode): (A 56) - M 17, (M 11) - L 10; (L 10) - L 9;
(N 16) - N 18, (L 9) - K 9
-2 to Brown (M 17, N 18)

GOERS (Brown): (G 7) - Bolton, (A 48) - B 47,
(Derby) - B 54; (B 54) - C 54, (I 8) - I 6;
(Coventry) - A 64 - B 64, (A 63) - N 23, (F 7) - E 8
-1 to Holley (B 47), -1 to Watts (C 54), -1 to Longstaff
(B 64), +2 from Goode (M 17, N 18), +2 from Holley
(B 54)

NUT (Von Metzke): (H 62) - K 64; (K 64) - L 64 - L 66;
(L 66) - L 71

No payments made or received

SEX (Holley): (L 55) - 1 55; (I 55) - H 54 - F 55,
(F 55) - Nottingham - C 55 - B 54 - Derby
-3 to Watts (C 55), -2 to Brown (B 54), +1 from Brown
(B 47)

E.C.U. (Longstaff) NMR
+1 from Brown (B 64)

COSALT (Watts): NMR
+1 from Brown (C 54), +3 from Holley (C 55)

TOTALS AT END OF TURN 5

GREEN: 57 - 2 = 55

GOERS: 41 + 1 = 42

NUT: 40

SEX: 42 - 4 = 38

E.C.U.: 40 + 1 = 41

COSALT: 38 + 4 = 42

Note that mail to and from Britain has been quite slow recently - some late December holiday, probably. Nevertheless, if either Brian's or David's orders arrive in the next few days and were clearly postmarked far enough before the deadline so that, in my opinion, the orders should have arrived here in time, a new set of results will be mailed separately.

TURN 6 BUILDS: 4 - 5 - 4

ROUND 6 DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16

DIP WARZ

Here's the latest part of the story: an attack on the *Linoleum Falcon* by Lord Sacks Fifthavenue's ship with a bad paint job so that everybody will

know that it was him trying to disguise his ship was deflected at the last second by Baldo Calberchian removing his hat. The resulting glare caused the ultra-sensitive attack guidance system to redirect the shot at the Diplomatic Bad Boys' ship, *Dear Mother*, causing it to explode into countless pieces (and the entire cost of all of the attempts to count the pieces has been estimated as just slightly more than Lord Sacks' last election campaign), resulting in a handful of planetary holidays, increase in various museum

exhibits featuring "the end of the Diplomatic Bad Boys", and there was one planet that went so far as to make a hyper-video spectacular on the ship's demise that was so exciting, so star-studded, so ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE that MORE PEOPLE WATCHED IT THAN *A Different World*, although *The Cosby Show* still finished on top that week. Anyway, THE BOURSE fell (or whatever the word for being attracted by n -dimensional gravitational forces is) through a BOURSE-sized black hole, followed closely by the *Linoleum Falcon*. Well, the hole was big enough for *some* of the ship to get through, but the part that made it didn't detach itself from the part that didn't, and - well, Princess Luscious has worked it all out:

"We're stuck".

On top of that, Lord Sacks Fifthavenue has the stationary *Linoleum Falcon* in its sights.

"This time," His Everythingness proclaims, "we will NOT miss. Take no chances - load IT into the firing tubes,"

"You don't mean-" Fortunately for the person that was about to say "You don't mean IT, do you?", he stopped himself in time.

(ZOT) "Thanks for telling me that. Just knowing that he was going to say that is bad enough. Anyway, what does the new weapons guy have to say?"

"Loading IT into the firing tubes . . . targeting mechanisms are taking possible unexpected bright flashes into account - target sighted and weapons locked onto it. Ready to fire on your very whim."

At this time, Lord Sacks Fifthavenue gives one of those grins you'd expect from somebody who is about to totally eliminate, thoroughly eradicate, completely annihilate, and absolutely exterminate - well, you know those things that fly around inside your house despite the fact that all of your doors and windows have been closed all day so for the life of it you can't figure out how it got in?

"No time like the present - IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY ME!"

"IT launched - right on target - impact in 32 seconds."

About 22 seconds later, 1LOM announces aboard the *Linoleum Falcon*: "Attack form approaching - impact in about nine seconds."

"Tell Calberchian to get his hat ready," responds Oboe-1 Caruso

"WARNING - PREPARE FOR IMPACT BY MASSED CONCENTRATION OF 1830, RAILWAY RIVALS, 1829 (northern AND southern editions), EMPIRE BUILDER, AND BRITISH RAILS GAME OPENINGS!"

"Doesn't that violate the Diplomatic Empire Unified Treaty Banning Railroad Game Openings?" asks Rod Seaparter. "If I ever get to be EMPEROR again, I'll bring that up."

"It could be worse," adds Princess Luscious.

"OH, AND RAIL BARONS AS WELL."

"Can't you keep that big trap of yours shut?" was the last thing John Pole-O said before impact. (Okay, the person who said "Don't forget about her *mouth, tod*" has to face the usual penalty - you have to listen to me talk about the upcoming England - New Zealand cricket matches for a full five minutes. IF you SURVIVE the full time...)

Yes, IT made contact with FULL FORCE - it was a DIRECT hit - there were NO pages wide of the mark - every drop of ink COUNTED - ABSOLUTELY - POSITIVELY - ABSOTIVELY - POSILUTELY - TIBSOAVELY - LUTESIPOVELY - ABTIVLUTPOS -

"WE GET THE IDEA II"

Just making sure there was no doubt about it, Oboe-1. Wait a minute - you SURVIVED - HOW?

1LOM reports: "The hit was located right on the radial symmetry point perpendicular to the location of the hole. The resulting blast SQUEEZED the *Linoleum Falcon* into the universe containing THE BOURSE. True, the ship is now slightly THINNER than it was, but there's a body shop planet at coordinates 62.0004, -32.6558, 112.7170."

"John Pole-O, set coordinates," orders Oboe-1, "and WARP OUT!"

"HOLD IT - structural sensors indicate that entering a warp status at this point will (WHIRRRRR) result in decreased retrograde propulsion (WHOOOOSH) abilities resulting in decreased orbital abilities."

"In English?" requests Princess Luscious.

"The shape of the craft will result in its diving head first and having its nose sticking right into the planet."

"Prepare for a crash landing - Pole-O, what are you doing on Princess Luscious?"

"She can use me to absorb the hit."

Just then - BOOM SCRUNCH PLOP. Well, the ship isn't exactly THIN any more...

DIP WARZ is being interrupted to bring you news of the SECOND BRITISH INVASION - first it was Simon Jones (Arthur Dent in *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* in all its forms) on *Tattenger's*, and now, wasn't that *Shoestring's* Trevor Eve as Ricky on *Dear John*?

THE LIFERS - 1989

Once again, it's time to decide who deserve to have the honor and the glory of *THE LIFERS* bestowed upon them. (I will admit, however, that none of the seven great powers is quivering with anticipation over which one will be selected as "Hardest To Play In *Diplomacy*".)

This year, the rules are slightly different: instead of listing the top five items for any category, you can list as many (or as few) items for a category that you feel deserve the award. The person, 'zine, or whatever applies, appearing on the most ballots wins the award. There are two exceptions:

(1) HARDEST COUNTRY TO PLAY IN DIP - please list the seven countries in order from hardest to easiest. "Hardest" is left up to you to decide.

(2) TRUE HOBBY MASTERS SOCIETY - currently, the two members are Kathy Caruso and Bruce Linsey (any votes for them will be ignored; any ballots with just one or both of these names is considered a vote for "NONE"). If you don't want to add anyone to the society, vote for "NONE". If you don't really care, leave it blank. The person (or persons, in case of a tie) on the most ballots will be entered into the True Hobby Masters Society *unless* (a) nobody is on 20 percent of the non-blank ballots, or (b) "None" receives at least as many votes as the highest person(s).

THE CATEGORIES:

HOBBY GENIUS - the person in the hobby most likely to win
on Jeopardy!

BEST 'ZINE FOR HOBBY NEWS

'ZINE/SUBZINE WITH THE BEST LETTER COLUMN - if
you vote for a subzine, specify in which 'zine it
appears

HARDEST COUNTRY TO PLAY IN DIP (see rules above)

BIGGEST HOBBY PERSONALITY - the person you would
most like to see at the next "hobby gathering"

TRUE HOBBY MASTERS SOCIETY

Note there is no "Most Improved 'Zine" or "Best Game Other Than Dip or Variants" this year, as everyone has different ideas.

MAIL YOUR BALLOT (or write votes on a slip of paper and mail it) TO: Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339. DEADLINE is APRIL 28.

PUBBERS - PLEASE ADVERTISE?

THE LIFER & - 1989 BALLOT

HOBBY GENIUS	BEST 'ZINE FOR HOBBY NEWS								
'ZINE/SUBZINE WITH THE BEST LETTER COLUMN	BIGGEST HOBBY PERSONALITY								
<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1232 883 1356">HARDEST COUNTRY TO PLAY IN DIPLOMACY</td> <td data-bbox="883 1232 1511 1789" rowspan="8"> TRUE HOBBY MASTERS SOCIETY (Kathy Caruso and Bruce, Linsey are already members) </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1356 883 1419">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1419 883 1482">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1482 883 1545">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1545 883 1608">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1608 883 1671">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1671 883 1734">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="261 1734 883 1789">7</td> </tr> </table>	HARDEST COUNTRY TO PLAY IN DIPLOMACY	TRUE HOBBY MASTERS SOCIETY (Kathy Caruso and Bruce, Linsey are already members)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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1									
2									
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5									
6									
7									

List as many (or as few) persons/'zines/whatever that you feel deserve the title in question. For HARDEST COUNTRY, list all seven countries from hardest (1) to easiest (7). For TRUE HOBBY MASTERS, vote "NONE" if you want no new persons added to the society.

DON DEL GRANDE
142 ELISEO DRIVE
GREENBRAE, CA 94904-1339

LARRY PEERY
BOX 8416
SAN DIEGO, CA 92102

FIRST CLASS MAIL