

Politesse

The Dale City newsletter of FTF Diplomacy serving Mid-Atlantis for
one-third of a revolution 'round the sun Issue Four February 1983

GREETINGS

Politesse is a network print vehicle providing interface services to FTF Diplomacy enthusiasts. We carry reports of games, announcements of upcoming games, names and addresses of those hoping to join a game and other items of interest to Dip aficionados. The first three issues were mailed gratis to about 75 players in Maryland, Virginia and the District. As your postman will confirm, there are no free rides. Indeed, your extravagant editor has invested a not insignificant portion of his after-tax income into this project. Said editor would like to reduce the rate of increase of Politesse's deficit (we harbor no delusion of balancing the budget) while ensuring that those who receive Politesse are those who want it and at the same time maintain a reasonable level of circulation. We won't allow anyone to fall through the PoliNet, either. To accomplish such a feat, the incredible, self-adjusting PoliSub is being introduced. It works like public television but is less tedious. To wit, you can subscribe to Politesse for whatever you think it's worth. Simply send a check made out to Ed Wrobel and specify the number of issues you expect for your money. You can still receive Politesse for free, however- not by telling us it's worth nothing but by sending a postcard with your name and address and the word "PoliNet" written on it. Anyone who has had any contact with Politesse in the past will continue to receive the newsletter regardless. (We expect those interested, dedicated souls to be the first to rush a check to the P.O., though.) If you haven't contacted us in the past and don't do so now, you will probably be dropped from the mailing list- not because we don't wish to serve you but because we assume you aren't interested. Next month's issue will be a special mailing, devoted entirely to MaryCon and going out to over 300 players from New York to Florida to Tennessee to Fredericksburg and to pubbers nationwide. Hey, this would be a good place for a

MARYCON UPDATE

We were privileged to tour the convention facilities at Mary Washington College recently and to take part in the facility playtest game. The physical lay-out is just about perfect for a convention. An entire floor of Monroe Hall will be available, including six classrooms, a lounge and a lecture hall for registration. The halls make up a fine labyrinth for negotiations; there is access for the handicapped; and in the event of a huge turn-out, conventioners can overflow upstairs. The dining hall is right across the quadrangle. Meals will be available to commuters as well as to those staying overnight at the dorm. Fees have not been finalized but every effort is being made to minimize costs. Refreshments will be available (java and malt at appropriate times). And some interesting awards are being planned. This is shaping up to be a great con; don't miss it. Watch your mailbox in March!

Ed Wrobel

WHADJAGET?

A tourney needs a scoring system and everyone is invited to comment on MaryCon's system. The following is hereby run up the flagpole.

Winner (no strong second)	34
Winner with strong second	24
Two-way draw	17 (each)
Three-way draw	11 (each)
Strong-second	10
Each survivor (including winners/drawers)	0.1 per supply center

At least ten centers are necessary to qualify for a textbook strong-second. A concession to win/strong-second can be made but must be unanimous, same as a draw. There will be some limitations on who can be voted win/strong-second, to avoid concessions to weak powers, e.g., the two together must have 18 centers, or some such variation. Questions: Is the win without strong-second overvalued relative to the draws? Well, the symmetry is attractive and wins should be encouraged. Is the strong-second provision a good idea or is it a bribe? It will make the 34-point win more dear, perhaps impossible to obtain. It does provide an alternative to a 2-way draw among unequal allies. It may be too easy for the losing coalition to choose their own second-place finisher and turn over enough centers to make ten. What do you think? Please point out any glitches you foresee. There will also be awards for achievements other than point accumulation, probably best countries and even individual game performance. Comments?

HADAGAME

The MaryCon Facility Playtest Game was held February 10 at Monroe Hall, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA. The game was completed just before the blizzard began. Full report next issue.

GOTTALETTER

Obviously we didn't make it to your face-to-face game. Too bad. I think I went to high school with Don Pfanz and I was just in Fredericksburg (or was that Williamsburg?) (I remember, it was both). Coincidences, coincidences...

I like the idea of a DC area con- it has potential. There are surely enough players around here. However, I think summer may be a bad time for a small con. With Origins and probably another large east coast con also this summer they'll probably cut into your attendance. Late April may be a better time (you could call it Taxrefundcon), but then you run into possible problems with promotion and facility availability. Also, if you'd like to draw heavily from both DC, Baltimore and maybe Philly, a site just north of DC would probably be better for sheer attendance. The University of Maryland, College Park as a possible site? I know they have an active Diplomacy/wargame club and I've played in a small tourney there (4 boards) before. They may be willing to co-sponsor. I really couldn't say. My idea of an "ideal" tournament would be 3 six-hour rounds, with an extra hour (maximum) for initial organization and Q/A time. I figure with three rounds going to 1910 each, you could get a definite winner. If you want an "official" GM, I'm willing to tentatively offer my services. I'd have to know

more about how the tourney will be run schedule-wise and of course it'd be contingent on your acceptance.

Where's Dale City?

I don't play much face-to-face any more due to my crazy schedule and a lack of ready/willing opponents. Given the opportunity, I'd love to drop in on one of your little stabfests. I'm also not nearly as good a player as I once was- I've become too fair and trustworthy!! I don't don't get away with half the stuff I used to. Oh, crisis! I usually survive, but nobody trusts me anymore-

Politesse is basically a postal zeeen for a FTF group and the two don't seem to intersect very well. Keep circulating, play a game a month and dno't knock yourself out. Maybe you can last it out and it'll eventually catch on. It is an interesting concept, I just don't know of a perceived need for it. You may gather more interest by running a local phone or by mail game, but I don't know if you want to run games. Maybe making it into more of a "standard" postal zeeen would make it more attractive.

Dick Martin
Rockville, MD

Dick, at this point we are committed to June 4 and 5 in Fredericksburg. Other dates offered by the college were in July, too close to Dipcon. Granted Fredburg is a few miles from BaltoWash (actually only 50 miles from the Potomac) but it's well worth the trip. Very nice campus, less institutional-appearing than UM at College Park or UMBC (site of Dipcon XV). You don't know where Dale City is?? Are you from Mars? It's west of the Mid-Atlantic, about 25 miles south from the hamlet of Washington on Route 95. It is hoped that publishing your tentative offer to GM doesn't dissuade you. Anyone wishing to encourage Dick should send a persuasive letter to "Draft Dick Martin" c/o Politesse. If any readers are familiar with Dick's playing style, they are welcome to comment on that fair and trustworthy contention. Sounds suspicious.

You may be quite correct about there being little need or interest in Politesse's services. Few people have availed themselves of WANNAGAME or HAVAGAME. Yet you yourself referred to a lack of ready/willing opponents. That must be a problem for many players. The next few months will critical to the newsletter's survival. There's the sub initiative this month, the big mailing next month and the convention in June. We've also gotten a plug in Fred Davis' variant postal zine, Bushwacker (1427 Cairidge Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207) and perhaps other publishers will follow suit. (Ahem.)

HAVAGAME

The first Fools' Game will be held Saturday, April 2, commencing at noon in Dale City. We hope to recruit seven players for this game so that your editor can act as GM and reporter. Thus, some of the behind-the-scenes action can be recorded and added to the supply center chart and end-game statements. The Fools' Game will be an annual Dale City event, held as near to April 1 as possible each year.

WANNAGAME

Rather ~~than~~ repeat the same three names, these files are being purged to ~~keep~~ current. If you are looking for a FTF game, send your name, address, time and geographical preferences and you will make the next big mailing in March.

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OLD BUSINESS

Is our face red!! ("Our face"? Sometimes the editorial we is a bit embarrassing.) With all the bellyaching and grousing about no endgame statements last time, a letter on the very day of publication from Don Pfanz, the Turkwinner of 1/83B. One of the losers also submitted a misconception.

Shakespeare once said; "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." As commander of the imperial forces of Turkey, I can accede only to the latter. A propitious start in seizing Sevastopol, a breakdown of the Austro-Russian alliance, and happy diversions in the Mediterranean and Baltic theaters by Italy and England could have but one result- hegemony of the east by Turkey. The king of England would delude himself into thinking the yellow tide could be stemmed. Was he not able to see what was plain to his own people? Was he not aware of the run^oveils and turbans in the markets of his own land? Thus was the scourge of Alexander avenged!

Don Sultan Pfanz
Turkey

Easy on the Arab culture, eh? Unleaded is still over a dollar in my neighborhood. Can anyone name the one, true author of Don's amusing misquote?

--EW

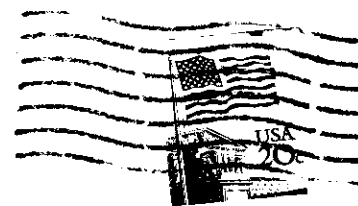
I had not been aware how subservient you had been to England prior to seeing your comments. Things are not often what seem.

David Lilley

Indeed they are not! Sir, you have mistaken sighted fealty for blind allegiance. Germany bowed the knee to no sovereign. We fought bravely, honorably against overwhelming odds. Beseiged by Russian swine, English dogs and French fries, our armies embarked upon the conquest of Napoleon's heirs. We nearly succeeded...and our glory will live forever.

--EW

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