

Politesse

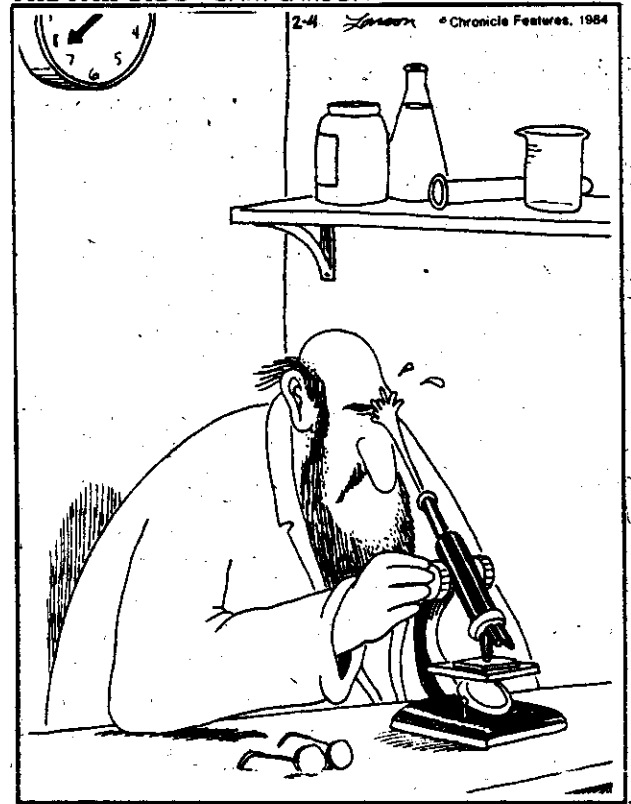
The Official Publication of the Washington Area Retinue of
Tacitly Highly-Organized Gamesters and Dale City Journal of
Paramecium Humor and Generative PoliPlayer NonHexagonal Mayhem

March, 1984

Greetings

Welcome to the christening/circumcision of the Washington Area Retinue of Tacitly Highly-Organized Gamesters (WARTHOG)! PoliSubbers living within a 100 mile radius of the House of Representatives office building are incorporated as members in good standing. Those outside the DC area as defined above have associate member standing. Thus it is more important than ever to keep your fully adjustable poliSub from becoming unduly adjusted, for your WARTHOG membership will also be jeopardized! Serving as WARTHOG's first premier is Ken Peel. Premier Peel has appointed poliEd Wrobel First Vice Premier. Games announced in Politesse will henceforth be official WARTHOG events. The vice premier has been authorized to seek affiliation with the People's Diplomacy Organization.

THE FAR SIDE GARY LARSON



Paramecium humor

Readers of Tom Mainardi's Bersaglieri (1403 Lawrence road, Havertown, PA 19083) will already be aware of our appointment as Director of the Bureau of Retirements, a division of the Retirements, Elections and Treasury Service of the People's Diplomacy Organization. As BoR director, we will process applications for retirement from DipDom. We are also empowered to review, on our own motion, the status of individuals currently active in the Hobby and direct retirement or continued participation. All Dippers will be invited to comment on Own Motion Reviews and decisions will be rendered with due regard for public comment. To date two candidates have been selected for Own Motion Review: Bruce Linsey, neanderthal gamesmaster and editor of innocent correspondence, and Robert Sacks, hobby parliamentarian sub-committee propagator. DipDomites should send their comments on these proposed retirements within 60 days to Ed Wrobel, Director, Bureau of Retirements, P.O. Box 3463, Arlington, VA 22203.

HavaGame

Jim Alves, 370 Yoakum Pkwy. Bldg. 3 Apt. 1822, Alexandria, VA 22304, 370-8148, will host a Dip game beginning at noon, Sunday, March 4. Some of you were notified by postcard that this game would be held on Saturday. Jim had to change the date to Sunday. He

has already lined up several of the teledippers for the game but may still have a slot or two open. Ken Peel, 8708 First Avenue, #T-2, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 495-2799, wants to host a World Dip game. WD is a long game, probably not playable in one session. Ken will host two sessions or GM the conclusion as a telephone game. Dates negotiable.

HadaGame

At 4:59 a.m., Saturday, February 11, the past and future emperor of Rome, master of the Mediterranean and scion of Dale City, opened a leary eye to the sounds of tasteless pop music emanating from the clock-radio. His mind snapped to attention with the ruthless precision of a steel trap. "I know--the secrets that you keep" sang the radio with incessant blandness. "You know nothing!" the emperor snarled, as he leapt from the bed and began to hum a slightly off-key "Purple Haze." He completed his toilette quickly. In the guest room, the elder Vessey had already arisen, explaining that he missed his morning cat. "I'll be damned if he gets Jaspur, that pervert," thought the emperor. "Where are my new clothes, anyway..."

Royally bedecked and sufficiently caffeinated, the intrepid duo greeted the very punctual younger Eric at the door, and plunged south into the dawn, Mrs. Vessey's words still ringing in their ears: "You guys are crazy!"

Crazy? Perhaps, yes- not for driving 250+ miles to play Civilization, but for daring one of south Virginia's rip-off convenience stores. Fortunately, the locals, festooned in baseball caps, flannel shirts and dirty nails, were too busy wooing the cashier to harass 3 sleep-deprived yankees. Unfortunately, Mr. Vessey, the Younger, his testosterone level and sense of mischief having overpowered his instinct for survival, accosted the lady with "Whut time dew yew git off, darlin'?" This astonishingly boorish comment caught the attention of Eric's rivals and the three carpetbaggers were induced to depart in an expeditious manner, for the more hospitable climes of Carolina.

The game itself was relatively bloodless. There was a degree of conflict over the fertile Sahara and in the area just east of the Danube. Egypt and Babylon traded earthquakes in the Near East but their skirmish did not escalate to spears and rocks. Trading was quite spirited throughout the game. A 7-minute limit, strictly enforced by an oven timer, kept the game moving without stifling the free exchange of goods and calamities. Italy enjoyed a profit margin sufficient to acquire Pottery and Coinage very early. The acquisition of Engineering, Medicine and Literacy in one turn was especially fortuitous, well worth the undesirable attention it drew from lesser civilizations. Crucial to Italian success was the avoidance of Civil War through a combination of luck, watching for red and counting cards and cities. The chart below shows Civilization cards in order of purchase and calamities.

Babylon	Crete	Italy	Egypt	Assyria	Africa
<u>S. Vessey</u>	<u>E. Vessey</u>	<u>Wrobel</u>	<u>Woodson</u>	<u>Cole</u>	<u>Burnette</u>
Architecture		Pot/Coin	Mysticism	Pottery	Pottery
Pot/Cloth	Lit/Agric	Mysticism (Famine, Flood, Civil War)	Literacy	Metal (Epidemic)	Mysticism
Law/Agric	Cloth/Coin	Engineer/ Med/Literacy	Coinage	Agricult	Agriculture (Civil War)
Medicine	Law/Metal (Civil War)	Met/Astron	Astronomy	Astronomy (Epidemic)	Cloth/Metal
Engineer (Civil Disorder)	Music	Law	Music/Eng (Famine, Earthquake)	Engineer (Flood)	Astro/Coin (Iconoclasm & Heresy)
Literacy (Earthquak Famine) (Earthquake)	Democracy (Piracy) Philosophy	Democracy (Flood)	Medicine	Literacy (Flood) (Famine)	Music/Medicine (Civil War) (Civil Disorder) (Civil War)
Philosophy (Earthquake)			Law/Drama		

"You guys are nuts!"
-Mrs. Woodson



FIRST MINIMARYCON A SUCCESS!

On January 28 and 29, Mary Washington College sponsored the first MiniMaryCon. The game was Jim Verkey's World War IIIb, a massive 15-player global Dip variant. The players were an interesting mix of Fredburgers, Baltimoreans and expatriat Californians. To drop a few names, Mark Stegeman, inventor of World Dip, was there; Bill Thompson, winner of MaryCon83, was there; Greg Byrd, the slimmest Fredburger of all, was there; MaryGameMaster and GameMistress Martin, of course, were there; and how can we forget, Ken Peel, guest postal editor of Politesse and Voice of Doom correspondent; and Dick Warner, father of MaryCon. The game was declared a DIAS draw, everybody with a piece of the glory, on the insistence of two highly-influential one-center powers holding out in the tundra of central Canada. Several reasonable powers offered to relieve the recalcitrant Martins of their barren holdings but the boys from Balto had to go. There simply was not sufficient time to teach the Martins the folly of DIAS once and for all.

The very stylish Julie and Dick Martin arrive at MiniMaryCon, ready to negotiate.

	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03
Canada (Charles Perez, Julie Martin)	5	6	6	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
USA (Ken Peel)	5	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0				
Peru (Andy Clemens)	5	6	6	6	8	9	9	8	5	5	3	4	2	0
Brazil (Greg Byrd, Dick Martin)	5	5	7	8	8	7	5	5	7	5	5	5	3	1
European Economic Community (Robert Harvey)	5	5	7	9	12	11	10	10	10	12	12	14	15	17
Warsaw Pact (Mark Stegeman)	6	6	7	8	10	12	14	15	16	17	16	19	16	19
Egypt (Tom Andahl)	6	6	6	5	4	3	0							
West Africa (Rob Doe, Dick Warner)	6	5	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0		
South Africa (Jim Verkey)	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	14	13	14	11	14	11
USSR (Brian Greene)	5	6	6	5	4	3	3	2	0					
India (Dick Warner)	6	6	5	4	2	2	1	1	0					
China (Matt Kelly)	6	6	5	4	1	1	1	0						
Japan (Bill Thompson)	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	10	10	9	10	10	12
Australia (Ed Wrobel)	5	7	8	9	12	12	13	15	16	15	17	15	17	15
Argentina (Mike Kelly)	5	6	6	6	6	6	8	8	8	10	11	10	10	12

What a chart! Now on to the endgame statements...

Game end statement: Warsaw Pact

After a giddy triumph over Russia the Warsaw Pact was a major power but was surrounded by the other four major powers. I survived because my neighbors built fleets, but caution was essential until someone took charge of South America. Unfortunately that took the whole game.

An opening plan to attack the EC with Canada and the U.S. fell through when Canada stabbed the U.S. instead. After I beat an embarrassed retreat from Italy and West Germany the EC was generous enough to turn South, and Russia's Eastern neighbors harassed her just enough to allow me to advance steadily. The struggles across the rest of Asia were beyond my comprehension, but the inability of China and India to resolve their differences seemed to prove decisive. Soon Australia, Japan, and I controlled most of Asia, while South Africa swallowed up East and much of West Africa. Units in the New World engaged indecisively.

The EC was wide open, but it made no sense to stab my only ally when South Africa and others would get most of the spoils. It made more sense after Australia agreed to attack South Africa, but Japan squashed that idea by stabbing Australia.

Since a strong Australia was better for me than a strong Japan I sided with my ride home and picked up three centers in that short-lived conflict. A major campaign became possible when Argentina finally rose to the top in South America, and so I moved against Australia in the final year. I did not know whether Argentina would attack Australia, but it seemed likely that he and the EC and I would form an alliance and advance overall, with or without the help of Japan.

Through much of the game South Africa^{an} waged a pathetic struggle for Egypt and Saudi Arabia. My advance was stymied by numerous tactical errors by myself and my allies, the most spectacular occurring when South Africa sailed a fleet from the Red Sea into the Eastern Mediterranean, right "through" my fleet in Egypt. The rule that permits this seems very strange and might be worth changing.

-MS

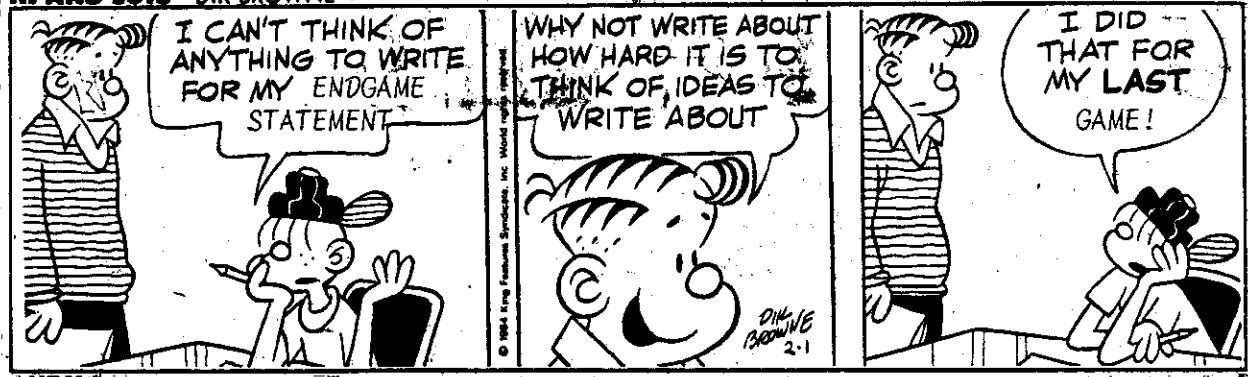
BRAZIL (standby)

I had a good time at MiniMaryCon, even though WW IIIb is not my favorite game. Too many players, too many units, and canal rules that make no sense. I prefer World dip, when Mr. Peel remembers to bring the map.

After being stabbed brutally by Peru and Argentina, my sole goal became the elimination of Peru. Andy proved a worthy foe, but eventually succumbed. Is it a sound stab if it leads to your own elimination?

My thanks to Dick Warner, who was an excellent host. Now I'm really looking forward to MaryCon.

-DM



USA

WW IIIb was an interesting game...say, for about the first four moves. At the start of the game the New World was fairly bizarrely played. The 3 South American countries- Argentina, Brazil and Peru- made peace with each other, as did and the USA in North America. What is more, I supposedly had worked out a peaceful division of Central America and the Carribean with Brazil and Peru. Canada and I were to go after the EEC, and the 3 South American countries- well, who could tell? In the spring of the third year, Peru decided to stab me for a one-center gain instead of moving to draw back the two single pieces we had facing each other, as we had negotiated. Then the next move, in a totally unrelated decision, Canada stabbed me massively out of boredom with the ongoing campaign against Europe.

Clearly, my ship of state was sunk, but I did manage my own retaliation* against the nincompoopish tormentors to my north and south. With the resources I still possessed, I first co-operated with Peru in the reduction of Canada to a one-center power, and then with Brazil in the unraveling of Peru. These great deeds accomplished, the EEC finally put out of its misery my last lonely outpost in Quebec's west coast.

In retrospect, all of the New World was palyed thusly: Canada weakened USA, then Peru and USA did in Canada, then Brazil and USA did in Peru, then Argentina did in Brazil. When the game was called the second day due to exhaustion, a New World power (Argentina)- cannibalistic activity no longer possible- finally threatened to become a part of the game.

-KP *a paid advertisement (where's my bucks? -ed.) for Dick & Julie Martin, illustrious game-master & mistress of MaryCon84 (June 1-3)

AUSTRALIA

I was delighted to have drawn Australia, the closest thing to a corner in a cylindrical world. There were all those lovely dots in Oceana, a Russian fleet, a co-operative China and a cowed Japan. The conspiracy to blitz Nippon fell through when China built armies and attacked India (Warner has a reputation that begs to be attacked), but that opened other opportunities. Regrettably Japan proved perfidious upon completion of the China campaign. Fortunately, no support materialized from South Africa or South America and the Japanese attack was stymied. Australia survived as a major power but could not make additional gains. The Warsaw Pact began to assume our Chinese protectorate and the Argentines were rude enough to end our adventures in South America. The last indignity was the insistence of the one-center Martins on inclusion in the draw. There oughta be a law!!



-EW

SEX APPEEL

 Sex Appeel is the nonSubzine reporting the World Diplomacy poliDemonstration Game. Guest postal editor: Ken Peel. Guest gamesmaster: Mark Stegeman.

DEMO WORLD DIP BEGINS!!!

BOURSE PLAYERS SOLICITED!!

BOURSE ORDERS MUST BE POSTMARKED
 BY MARCH 14, 1984!



<u>Nation</u>	<u>Currency</u>	<u>Player</u>
USA	Dollars	Jake Halverstadt
South America	Cruzeira	Ed Wrobel
Western Europe	Francs	Terry Tallman
Arab Block	Riyals	Tim Hillis
Black Africa	Rands	Francis Small
USSR	Rubles	Ken Ecklund
China	Yuan	Doug Brown
Australia	Australian Dollars	R. Bradley Wilson

PROFIT from the treachery of others!
 PROVE that WAR IS GOOD BUSINESS!!
 SPECULATE on the fortunes of poliEd Wrobel, Terry Sealth Tallgeorge, Brad "Toast of the Retal Clones" Wilson, High Gonzo Jake Halverstadt and a host of players unknown to Dick Martin!!!

It's simple to play Bourse. There's no registration or game fee. Just send your transactions to Mark Stegeman, 15 Dartmouth #2, Somerville, MA 02145, postmarked by March 14, 1984. You start with 1000 units of each nation's currency. Each month's Politesse will report game results and state the POSTMARK deadline for Bourse transactions. Your transactions will be reported in the next month's Politesse. A sample transaction might be: "Buy 1000 yuan; sell 300 dollars and 500 francs." Transactions must satisfy four conditions: First, you must buy and sell in even numbers of currency units, not fractions; Second, you must not sell more than 500 units of any one currency in any one turn; third, you must not sell more of any currency than you have; fourth, your transactions must balance (except that you can carry over 500 SDRs, a neutral currency, from turn to turn). To tell whether your transactions balance, you must refer to the current price of each currency in terms of SDRs. These prices will be reported in Politesse. For example, if a yuan costs 0.8 SDR and dollars and francs each cost 1.0 SDR, then the sample transaction above balances. Prices change each season according to how much of each currency has been bought and sold. At the end of the game each currency is worth points according to how many supply centers the country has. The Bourser with the most points is the winner. See the February Politesse for complete rules and the January issue for the WD starting positions.

A tardy addition to our Fibwinter report of last issue...

VESSEYCON RAIL BARON

At VESSEYCON rail games were voted in and a four man game of RAIL BARON chugged off into the night. The participants and home cities were Louis (Salt Lake City), Ken (El Paso), Sean (Dallas), and Eric (Portland).

Louis (the author of this treatise) initially got a trip east and immediately bought the Pennsylvania and only left himself with two thousand dollars. Since the Pennsylvania is the best railroad in the game and worth dying for, it was worth the risk. Fortunately, he got not only a short trip on the next turn, but a series of very short trips. So if you get short trips, buy short railroads, and Louis ended up with every little (under \$10,000) railroad in the game: WP, D&RG, NYNH&H, B&M, RF&P. While remaining on the edge of bankruptcy, a few long trips afforded the opportunity to pick up the L&N, the CB&Q, and the Union Pacific. At this point, he had his favorite system in hand and the enmity of Ken who had found that every railroad he was on was being bought up. Ken tried tactics suitable to Diplomacy or Illuminati to prevent this insult and swore never to ride these lines again (a hollow threat as it turns out). Lucky Lou kept getting paid and was able to pick up the N&W, MP, and SL&SF (the last one left) to add to his formidable system.

Ken played an overly conservative game early and saved too much money. He had the nucleus of a good system with the SAL, NYC, and AT&SF. However, the Milwaukee Road was desperately needed with this grouping, and also a connecting railroad to the SAL in the Southeast. Many games have been won with the AT&SF, CMStP&P, one of (PR, NYC, B&O), and a connecting Southeast railroad. However, poor Ken paid for his system early by consistently getting Philadelphia or Baltimore in the Northeast. He could either go bankrupt or take his NYC to New York and pay the Pennsy. He paid for it late too by visiting Seattle at great expense.

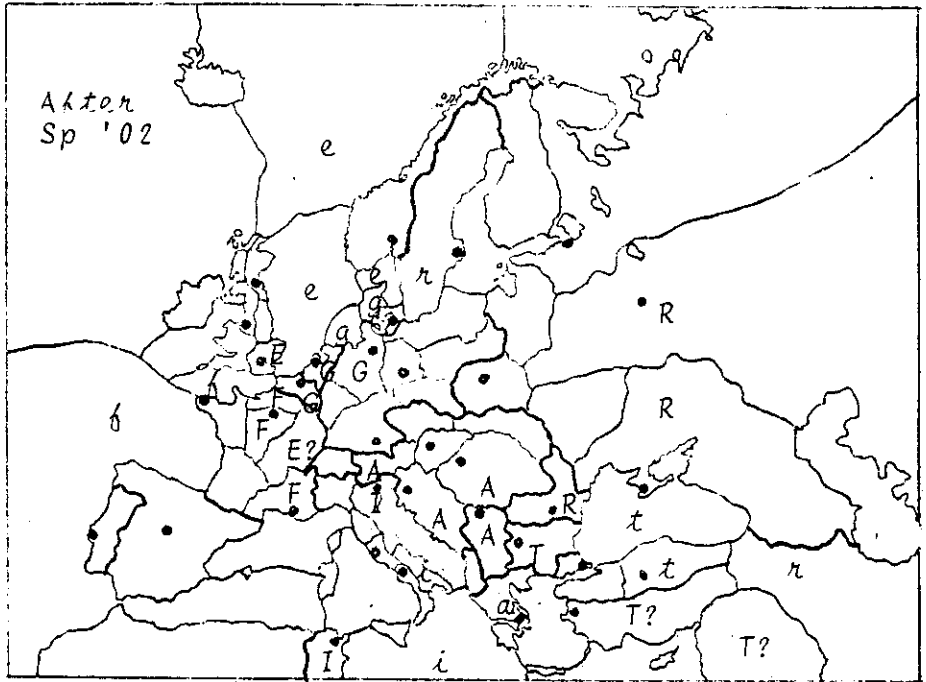
Sean did well. He got long trips early, picked out good railroads, got paid often by other barons, and assembled a strong, coherent system of the B&O, T&P (Dallas), IC, C&NW, NP, SOU, SP, and even the CMStP&P. His system was a good example of planning a system early and then picking up one of the big three western railroads to complete it.

Eric bought every losing railroad in the game. His system was initially composed of the C&O, CRI&P, ACL, GM&O, GN. These railroads go places and they are connected, but so what. No one ever wants to pay someone with an longer route twice when they can pay someone else once. The Rock Island went bankrupt because it went everywhere in the Midwest a railroad should go but always with the worst routing. The C&O doesn't get to the three high probability cities in the Northeast. Besides, one must be able to get to Los Angeles and San Francisco to win. As it turns out, Eric just kept going back and forth between Atlanta and Philadelphia or Baltimore, and was soon impoverished. Of course, poor starving people get sent to California, and that was the end.

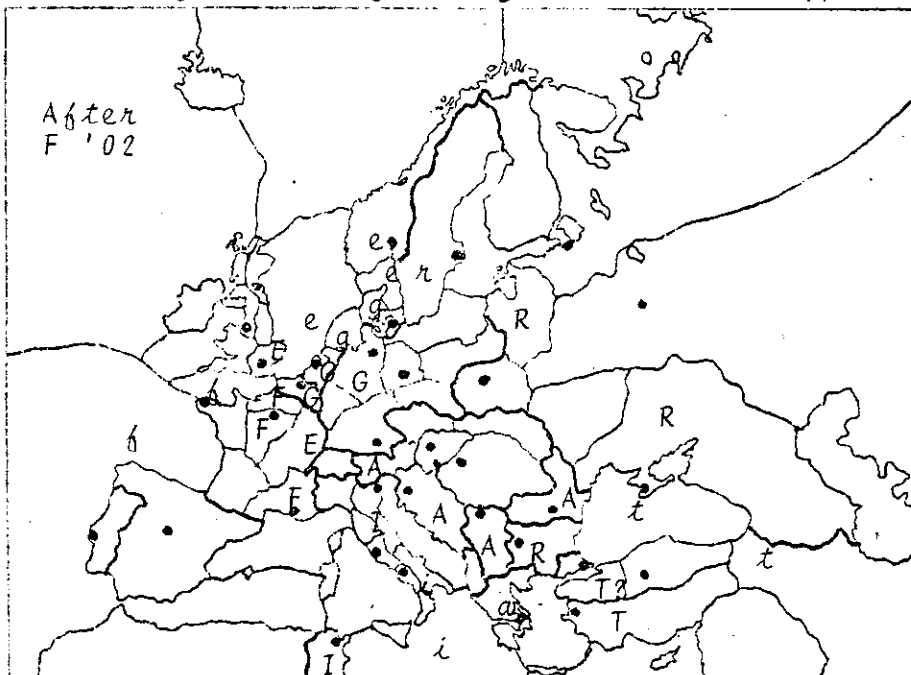
As the game progressed, Ken auctioned the SAL to Sean who paid a civilized price for it. Eric had to sell off the ACL and GM&O to Sean as well. Ken then picked up the C&O cheap from Eric. Louis wandered back and forth across the board picking up money slowly. Sean became richer more rapidly due to tribute from his fellow barons for his fine system, but also spent about \$45,000 on his new railroads and purchased a Super Chief. Late in the game, he had to visit the Louis monopoly in Salt Lake City, could not get close enough to Dallas with the requisite funding, and ended up in New Orleans with \$185,000. Louis drew his own region, selected the Southwest, was sent to San Francisco, and declared. He made a mad dash through the Feather River canyon, across the desert with Eric one stop behind, and arrived triumphantly in Salt Lake City with \$245,000.

Teletesse

In Sp '02, Aus and Rus continued to press Tur, although the Moslem still held the Black Sea and out-numbered the transcaucasoid Russian navy 2 to 1. This advantage was to prove decisive in the fall. The Ital-Turks failed to capture Greece when the Turk wrote support for F Ion rather than A Tun. The success of this attack would have resulted in an Austrian fleet in the Aegean so it may have been just as well from a Turkish point of view. Austria turned on Italy, gaining the Tyrol but failing to slip into Venice; Italy brought the new navy up to Apulia, giving the appearance of mutual unfriendliness. Russia depended on Austrian support to take Rumania and saved the southern navy for a turn. In the west, England found a French fleet in the Channel and a German army in Belgium. The Royal Navy swooped into the Skaggerak to teach the Bosch a lesson and the BEF retreated to French wine country, threatening Munich.



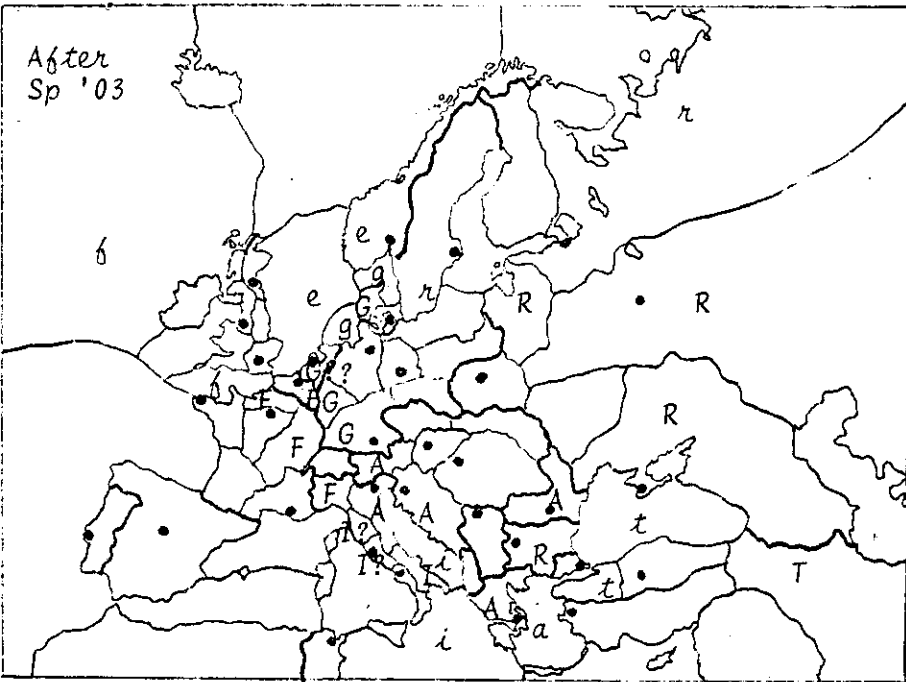
In the fall, the French channel fleet proved friendly by attempting to convoy A Lon-Bel, but failed when F North attacked Helgoland rather than Holland. Russia supported the English F Nth-Den, an order never given, as the attack came from Skaggerak. The Russian A Mos-Lvn demonstrated some interest in the north, straddling the fence between German and Russian targets. The '02 builds would clarify Russian intentions. Turkey reclaimed Armenia but lost Bulgaria to the relentless Austro-Russian machine. The convoy to Greece failed again, as A Bul's support was cut. France contributed



to the stabilization of the Austro-Italian frontier by bouncing A Tyrol's move to Piedmont.

A separation of W '02 was requested and granted. The game's first late submission resulted in the disbandment of the Turkish army dislodged from Bulgaria. Russia built F StP(nc), A Mos; Austria, A Bud; Germany, A Mun; England removed A Lon to retain the BEF. With French support, the BEF restored Belgian neutrality in Sp '03 and halted German consumption of Flemish infants. The Royal Navy in the Skaggerak was surrounded and destroyed.

After
Sp '03

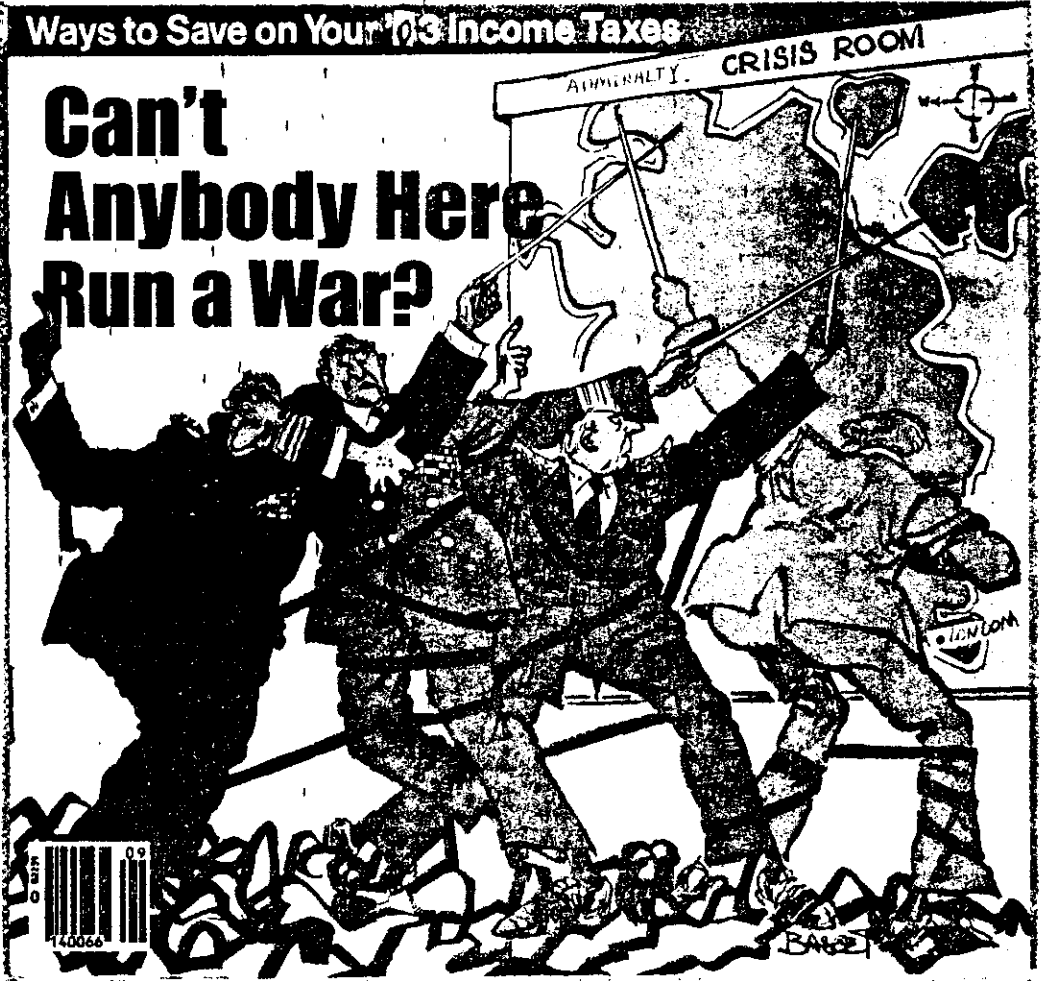


The English had greater success keeping the Russian hordes near the Arctic circle ice-bound. Germany was happy to find a friend in the Tsar as prospects in the Lowlands appeared decidedly Anglo-French. In the Med, Venice fell to the Austrians, the French occupied Piedmont and the Italians brought the boys home from North Africa. Turkey, reduced to 3 units, consolidated his defensive line against an advancing Austrian.

FRENCH PRESS HEADLINES SPRING 1903

- PARIS (AP) FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY DENIES REPORT OF GERMAN SPYS CAPTURE
- LONDON (AP) FRENCH & ENGLISH ADMIRALS FIGHT IN PUB AS ONLOOKERS GAWK
- ST. NAZEERE (UPI) SUBMARINE COMMANDER ADMITS WATCHING SKAGERRAK ATTACK
- TOUJOURS (UPI) BULGERDIAN TROOPS REFUSE TO FIRE ON GERMAN PATROLS
- PARIS (AP) PRESIDENT DENIES HE IS AWAITING A BETTER OFFER
- ROME (AP) RIOTERS STORM FRENCH EMBASSY
- PARIS (AP) FOREIGN POLICY NOT CONTROLLED BY LON, ROM, OR ST. P MINISTER DECLARES
- LA HARVE (UPI) RUMORS OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR IRISH REBEL DENIED

The photograph, right, was submitted by the French intelligence agency, Chez Vessey. It shows a top secret planning session of HRH's Admiralty, just prior to the loss of the Skaggerakian fleet.



"You look like a geriatric hippy."
-Educating Rita

A Case of Arrested Development?



Maggie Loebach)	Order of certiar
)	
v.)	cum wifo
)	
Edward Wrobel)	in vintriculo

Be it so decreed,

That complainant, having shown a just and rightful cause worthy of civil action,

And,

Having endured various indignities, including, but not limited to,

the preparation of monthly issues of Politesse since November of 1982, on the order of 60 to 90 copies, and, of late, spanning 12 pages, and requiring collation, addressing, stamping, folding and stapling;

numerous hours of reading, sorting and shredding amateur gaming publications, and gnashing teeth;

innumerable face-to-face gaming sessions upon the premises of the mutual residence of the parties;

the absence of defendant on these occasions:

one MaryCon on or about the first weekend of June, 1983;

one Dipcon in July, 1983;

one KaneKon in August, 1983;

one ByrneCon in November, 1983;

one miniMaryCon in January, 1984;

one Civilization game held in Raleigh, NC;

and many other acts of mental cruelty too unspeakable to be set forth in a public document,

Is hereby entitled to and granted such relief as may be due, to wit,

Defendant is henceforth enjoined from,

perusing gaming materials during meals;

typing of any material between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am;

receipt of mail in excess of 3 pieces per day;

writing or editing any game-related material during certain evenings in which spousal community is sought by complainant.

The Hobby Column

¶ MaryCon84 will be held June 1, 2 & 3 this year. A variant tourney, with gamemasters Fred Davis and Tom Swider, is scheduled for June 1. Swider's Final Conflict will be played, as will a variant of Davis' choosing. Next issue will include brief descriptions of the variants Fred has proposed and readers will be invited to comment. Awards will be presented for each variant game. The scoring system for the regular Dip tourney (June 2 & 3) will probably be the same as last year, pending commentary and proposals from you, the poliReadership. On Saturday night there will be a beer bash to benefit the Hobby Services, strictly voluntary in the best PDO tradition. Registration info will appear next month in our special annual MaryCon issue.

¶ Those unfounded rumors you heard about Origins and Dipcon changing dates were located by Al Pearson. Dipcon will be held in association with Origins at the Dallas Market Hall Regency Hotel June 21-24. A variant tourney is scheduled for Friday, probably "1939," and a panel discussion is being planned for Saturday morning. Round one of the regular Dip tourney will start at 1 p.m. Saturday with random pairings; round two will begin 8:30 a.m. Sunday and will be seeded. Dipcon Society meeting will be 9 p.m. Saturday at the same location as the tourney. Those interested in bidding on the site for the 1985 Dipcon should contact Al Pearson, Box 898, Charlestown, WV 25414 for a copy of the bidder's packet. Anyone with suggestions for the 1984 scoring system should write to Ed Wrobel c/o this publication. The Origins people have advised that registration info will be mailed in April.

¶ If you want a copy of the latest DipDom Census, featuring the names and addresses of 800+ Diplomacy enthusiasts nationwide, send \$1.00 to Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way North, Rockville, MD 20854.

¶ There's still time to vote in the Freshman Zine Poll. Scott Hanson extended the deadline to March 14. Rate new zines (including Politesse!) from 0 (awful) to 10 (poliPerfect) and send your opinion to 233 Oak Grove #306, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

¶ The People's Diplomacy Organization is sponsoring another Relief Auction to benefit hobby services, such as the Boardman and Miller Number custodians, Orphan Service and Pontevedria. If you would like to donate an item to be auctioned (anything that a Dip player might pay for) write to Michael Mills, Grand Kommissar, PDORA, 26 Laurel Road, Sloatsburg, NY 10974 before March 17, 1984.

¶AND...

**If you're looking for a bargain,
you might as well get
something good.**

like, for example, membership in the Washington Area Retinue of Tacitly Highly-Organized Gamesters, which includes all the rights and privileges attaching thereto and Politesse, not the favorite zine of Rod Walker, Mark Berch or Bruce Linsey (or Maggie Loebach, for that matter), but highly thought of by Ed Wrobel. Memberships are fully adjustable: send any amount you consider fair and you're in. See our address elsewhere this issue.

"You could spend an hour and a half each evening just reading your mail!" -ML

"Laughing and crying: it's the same release..." -Joni Mitchell

GOTALLETTER

Sorry to see the start of another Diplomacy feud. (Sigh!)

-Fred Davis
Baltimore, MD

Hopefully, your feud does not become too severe. They can be quite counter-productive.

-Dick Martin
Rockville, MD



Politesse is pleased to receive this sound advice from two veterans of various Dip wars. We shall endeavor to avoid explicit reference to anyone's sexual arrangements or drinking habits, whether they live without benefit of clergy in Flushing or regularly get pickled in Memphis. It appears, however, that we have inadvertantly and nearly single-handedly driven Mike Barno from DipDom. Some might consider this quite an accomplishment for a mere face-to-face announcement zine but we will genuinely miss Mike. He was one of the Hobby's few caring, sensitive human beings who held reasonably sane political views. We have already sent him a personal reply with our plea that he remain active in Diplomacy. Come back, MP!

Friend Ed,

How delighted I was, upon receipt of your recent mass-mailing, to note your recognition of certain past exploits of mine, viz., a year-old letter which contained some unfortunate comments about one Julia K. (Julie) Martin. I felt honored that you would use this renowned document in an argument with a well-known editor, and yet more honored to receive a complimentary copy of your missive to that editor, putting me in the exclusive company of just one hundred twenty-six other recipients (including the letter's addressee).

Please allow me to refer you to the enclosed piece of computer output, which documents some effects of the letter containing the remark to which you referred. As we, the hobbyists of postal Diplomacy, are preparing to celebrate the first anniversary of the appearance of that now-famed letter, the publicity given by your campaign is most welcome. I offer you my gratitude.

In passing, let me observe how troublesome it can be to decide how to respond properly to communications emanating from one whose tongue is encheeked. I hope that you will indulge a hobby veteran's reminiscence.... Several years ago, RETALIATION was the site of a debate involving the North and South of the United States and their relative merits. In response to an article penned by one Brad "Bozo" Wilson, Jack Masters took issue with Wilson's definition of the Mason-Dixon Line, and went so far as to publish a two-page "fake" of RETALIATION (insulting Wilson and others with hot verbiage) and to distribute it to the magazine's entire readership. Masters' reputation for clear thinking and reasonable discussion of problems is well-known in our hobby. Those who fail to learn from the past are doomed, it is said, to repeat its errors. I encourage you to avoid such mistakes; mankind has quite a tendency to overreact.

In politeness, or a delicatessan, or whatever,

MP Barno
MP Barno



"Here's the last entry in Carlson's journal: Having won their confidence, tomorrow I shall test the humor of these giant but gentle primates with a simple joy-buzzer handshake."

Let me share my thought processes with you, reconstructed as closely as possible to what I really thought as I read your last two letters to Bruce:

First letter, printed in VD: "This is rather strange for Ed Wrobel. It isn't particularly smooth or clever, and I doubt a person who resigned from a game would ever admit he was wrong. Especially not if he was getting a lot of mileage out of the argument. Wait, what's this at the top? Oh! Brux chopped this letter all up." This conclusion was reached without the aid of ever having seen a copy of Politesse.

Second letter, addressed to Bruce, yet strangely in my envelope: "This is even stranger. It has the style and vocabulary of Ed, but the content is completely wrong. Maybe, it's a joke. Nope, he says it isn't. Even if it was, it wouldn't be very funny. So now nobody is being funny. Wonderful."

As clearly as I can recall, those were my exact thoughts. Obviously you felt justified, or you wouldn't have done it. But I don't feel it was necessary. When you suggest that I can't tell the difference between your excellent writing and Bruce's butchered bastardization of it, you insult my intelligence. More importantly, you have degraded yourself more than you could have hurt Bruce.

Had all this occurred in the pages of either one of your zines I would not have cared less about it, and never would have commented. Since you sent me a copy directly, then I feel obligated to you to let you know the effect it had. Bruce was wrong; you were wrong. Is this going to turn into a contest? If so, don't include me in any future mailings.

-Gregory M. Ellis
Houston, TX

The writer is referred to the upcoming issue of Konrad Baumeister's Give Me a Weapon (Box 6039 Henle, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057) for an excellent literary analysis of the Second Letter. Mr. Ellis' letter included some additional praise of our skill in manipulating the written word which we omit to print in hopes of differentiating ourselves from Mark Berch and Bruce Linsey. -ed.

I'm writing to acknowledge receipt of my courtesy copy of the Linsey letter. I am impressed by your effort, as it must have taken \$20 in postage or so alone. That and the letter's tone show your determined stance, but speaking as an outside observer, I'm not sure it was wholly necessary. Please let me explain.

I've been a long-time subscriber of VD, and it is still welcomed here, tho not as much as the "old" more free-swinging VD. I have a different GMing style (and preference) than Bruce, and do not really recommend VD for general play; however, it does often have good reading. Lately, not as good as in the past, it seems to me, but perhaps that's the onset of either hobby burnout, or old age, if not both. In any case, I wanted to say that I for one never read "your" letter there. The new VD is too voluminous to inspire me, and frankly, I often just scan it for references to myself, and let the rest pass. Not that it was always so-- in fact, the Barno remark you mentioned is a good example of what I read lettercols for. I mean, it's great (I guess) to have Rod Walker write 3 pages as to why the Assyrians were a greater colonizing influence on the mideast than the Hashemites were, but honestly, I'd really

prefer to read who would sleep with who today, than who built the Tower of Ashuelot, or why Coastal Creep is a good idea. My point is, while it's fine to defend yourself against landers, there probably aren't as many misguided or fooled readers as it seems at first. A lot of folks who did read the letter, probably couldn't tell you who it was purportedly written by when they laid the issue; and maybe some couldn't tell you who after turning to the next page. I'm not saying you should not have responded; I am saying you really weren't damaged as much as it might at first appear. Hell, even in the "Barno" remark you mention: I take it as a compliment (in retrospect) to the appeal of Konrad and Julie individually, more than as any kind of slur. It's a good thing I do, of course; in view of the things John Caruso ascribes to me, but his attitude is understandable in view of the high rating the BNC gives to Bob Olsen and I over Caruso. And then too, don't forget that there's more than one publisher in this hobby who would sleep with Konrad, not even mentioning Woody's name. But I digress.

A final note: there is an "Extrom" often mentioned in Kathy's Korner (Whitestonia) who is apparently a fictional joke character used as the butt of jokes there, kind of like "Bill Highfield" or "Robert Sacks." Tell your wife not to worry. Kathy, Betty Daly, Judy Winsome, and Dixie Gray are the only real women in the postal hobby.

-John Michalski
Moore, OK

If Ellis and Michalski are representative, then doomees either read very closely or not at all. We suspect that a few of those 125 doomed souls lie somewhere in between. -ed.

My 1983 Census Records show there is a real person named Joan Extrom, whose address is RR 1 Box 26W, Philomath, OR 97370.

-Fred Davis

Do we have a difference of opinion here? -ed.

In case Brux didn't tell you, I was aware ahead of time that he would edit your letter. He called and said that you had edited a letter from him to completely change its meaning and he intended to do the same to your letter. He then read your letter as he planned to print it and asked if I would be offended. I said no, so you might as well be upset with me, too, for giving him permission. I had no idea so much confusion would occur, and I apologize for my part in the situation.

-Joan Extrom
Philomath, OR

Well, "the sauce thickens," as Fred Davis might edit Ken Peel's press. Non-readers of Mr. Linsey's creative letter should be informed that he ascribed to me the statement, "Ms. Extrom and I are sexual mates." We assume that Mr. Michalski now is impressed with the individual appeal of Ms. Extrom and ourself, insofar as "ourself" may be said to appeal individually. It is noteworthy that Mr. Linsey refers to his prank as a dose of "your own medicine" but also admits that he should have altered his treatment to show his intent (such as we did with his letter?). It would seem that Mr. Linsey dished out a rather different variety of poison altogether, not a teaspoonful of bitter medicine. -ed.

Before I close, I would like to request that the last paragraph be NFP, recognizing that that leaves open the possibility of giving that sentiment public air at some point in the future if this argument escalates and you find yourself in need of support.

-Steve Knight
Reston, VA

Thanks but our holding units are providing sufficient support just now. -ed.

"There's got to be a better song to sing."
-Educating Rita

Not for print.

-Eric Ozog
Chicago, IL

Not for print. Off the record. Private.

-Fred Davis

There seems to be a lot of this going around. -ed.

Also I am enclosing a letter that I received about a week ago from you. The envelope was addressed to me, but the letter itself seems to be for Bruce Linsey. Hmmm...I've met Bruce, We don't look very much alike, Ed...have you seen an optometrist lately?

-Pat Pakel
Endicott, NY 13760

Politesse regrets the error. -ed.

Enclosed herein you will find the copy of an action I decided to take unprompted and of my own volition. Should you choose to unilaterally extend my subscription to Politesse, I guess I would have no recourse but to accept. Some in a position that I now find myself might go so far as to request a special mention in your header as guest postal editor, but I would find such a request gauche, and lacking in....*well, you catch my drift.

-Ken Peel
Silver Spring, MD

*ellipse in original

We are certain that we have caught no drifts of any kind from our guest postal editor who will receive a complimentary subscription for the duration of the World Diplomacy game, or until Bruce Linsey admits that he is wrong. -ed.

There is no truth to the rumor that the Wrobel v. Linsey dispute is a hoax designed to enhance the hobby status of the two participants and generate copy for their floundering zines.

-Doug Byrnes
Baltimore, MD

Mr. Byrnes should know. At this season's Fibwinter Games, we attempted to portray Mr. Linsey as a harmless prankster and a fellow Ribtickler but we did not fool the very alert Douglas P. Byrnes. -ed.

Politesse a household word? I walked into my local game store, and saw the latest issue pinned prominently to the wall. While I felt that the neon was a bit tacky, the colored spotlight was a nice effect. Does Dream Wizards have a fully adjustable poliSub?

Peery lost only \$3000? I spent almost \$6000 on a car to drive me to the printers with side trips to Flushing. I marvel that Larry shows such true fiscal restraint. Forget Reagan, I'll vote for Peery in '84.

You editor, you! I see that once again you have needlessly ruined one of my endgame statements. You'll get yours; they always do.

-Dick Martin
Rockville, MD

Politesse can be found in finer mailboxes throughout the nation. Was the neon really tacky?? We suggest that you and Peery declare yourselves an international nonprofit institution. Your statement required a little polish, that's all. -ed.

Is your change of address an indication of a change in lifestyle? One can never tell for sure with your writing. May I be so bold as to jest whether it was a failure to hold and support? I am sorry for the bitter fruitions of my apathy. Had I only known! I cannot apologize for the failings and lack of understanding seemingly inherent in the fairer sex, but I can express my wishes for the best in the future.

--Mark Luedi
Bloomington, IN

Well, that'll teach you to vote in the next poliPoll! -ed.

I hope that your hospitality is not causally related to any unanticipated acceleration in the rate of depreciation of your marital assets.

--Mark Stegeman
Boston, MA

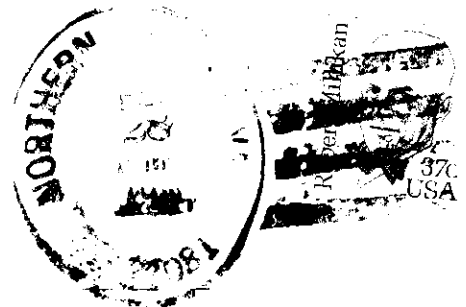
We don't think so. -ed.

What- your girlfriend boots you out and you DON'T give us the gory details? And you call yourself a DipPublisher? Feh!!

--Mark Berch
Alexandria, VA

We understand that "feh" is a semitic obscenity loosely translated as "May you serve on the DipCon Admin Committee with Robert Sacks and Bernie Oaklyn for 3 consecutive years and have a camel spit in your mother's ear!" We will thank Mr. Berch to leave our mother out of DipDom altogether. Although the union of Loebach & Wrobel exists without benefit of clergy, it was sanctified by the government of Howard County, MD thus entitling each partner to the status of spouse.

POLITESSE
P.O. Box 3463
Arlington, VA 22203



TO:

Rod Walker
1273 Crest Dr.
Encinitas, CA 92024

Fremton Press Come
England F 01

A Edinburgh - Norway
F Norwegian Sea C. A
Edinburgh - Norway
F North Sea - Belgium

-Ed Wrobel

Free Money!
Dancing Chickens!