

Politesse

June 1984

Greetings

3 May 1984

The Importance
of Being
Erewhon

Dear Ed:

It grieves me to learn that there are so many vultures out there just waiting to jump on me for any slight mistake I might make. We're only human, all of us, but apparently that doesn't make any difference when you're just spoiling for a good hate session. I'm sorry that ~~it~~ it has not dawned on you (or some others) that the reappearance of one of the hobby's oldest 'zines is a very newsworthy item. I would give the same treatment to COSTAGUANA in #38 except that Conrad has specifically requested me not to. Any reanimated 'zine of such vintage would, in my opinion, merit more than a perfunctory paragraph or two. But of course, it's a lot more fun to vent your spleen than to try to understand. No wonder the hobby's in the shape it's in. No doubt we'll get a good dollop of the "luglies" from New York. If you want to get out there in the mud with them, be my guest. This latest case of Walkerbashing...like all the late XXX-bashings...is vicious and disgusting. Rod



Wart hog
(2 1/4 ft. high at
shoulder; total
length 6 ft.;
tail 1 1/4 ft.)

Vicious and disgusting, indeed, good Rodney, when the peasants challenge the powers-that-be!

Rod edits Diplomacy World, the largest circulation, semi-professional zine in all of DipDom. DW is well done and deserves a gander-- or at least a goose. The postcard reproduced above was sent in response to some mild criticism we directed at Squire Walker. In the Spring, 1984 DW, we viewed an article entitled "It Came from Sandy Ego." This article was actually a shameless endorsement of Rod's private zine, Erewhon. Nothing wrong with that, eh? If I'm selling widgets, I might as well mention it in my advertisement for rubber baby bumpers, right? Sure, but it gets a little tasteless if I also hack my widgets as nothing less than mother's milk. In the same issue of Diplomacy World, Rod criticizes the respondent to a readers' response poll for noting "It's your zine- do what you want." He protests that DW is not his own zine but a Hobby custodial project. And appeals to the readers' sense of Diplomatic patriotism to renew his subscription. Well, it looks to us as if mother's milk is spilling over onto Erewhon. It might sour there, especially if somebody notices. Be fair!! Noticing the smell does not necessarily require one to vent one's spleen. Rod has also protested that he has mentioned other zines in DW (including Politesse). That is true, but none has rated anything like the full-page-with-headline "Sandy Ego." Particularly insidious was the "hard news" approach of the article. What would you think of Dan Rather headlining the evening news with "Pepsi beats Coke in nationwide blind taste tests!" Inappropriate, right, especially if Dan owns a lot of stock in Pepsi. And what if he turned around and told you it was your spiritual duty to drink Pepsi? Not effective, not effective at all. At least here.

Politesse is the journal of truth, justice, the American Way and multiparticipational generative nonwargaming
See the editor

HadaGame

The following game was played at the home of Richard Rogers on 4/14/84, and was ably GM'ed by Ed Fahrmeier. Meyers Number is 4/84C. Russia CD'ed in fall '05. The result was a 3-way A/F/G draw.

	01	02	03	04	05
Austria (Steve Nicewarner)	5	5	6	6	8
England (Craig Bober)	4	2	1	0	
France (Jerry Taylor)	6	6	7	8	7
Germany (Doug Byrnes)	5	6	7	9	13
Italy (Garry Miller)	4	4	4	4	2
Russia (Perry Weinberg)	6	5	5	4	1
Turkey (Richard Rogers)	4	6	4	3	3

Germany (Byrnes)

Jerry and I jumped Craig from the beginning, and Richard made the mistake of helping us. The eastern powers were played by a group of old gaming buddies, so there was no problem in keeping them at each other's throats while we ground them down.

I would like to thank everyone who came to this game -especially Ed Fahrmeier for agreeing to be a standby player/GM- for I phoned no less than 24 dippers before I was able to fill this game, and that's not counting Fred Townsend and Louis Newman whose newly changed phone numbers have Chicago and Southern California exchanges, respectively, Earl Eaton and Richard Sattler who were not home when I called and Jim Yerkey whose phone line -according to Ma Bell- was "being checked for trouble." Below are the names and excuses of those who refused to come to my game.

John "Slugger" Mauck -softball practice. Jim Chatfield had to install a swimming pool, and Jim Alves was working, too. I guess some people would rather earn a living than play Diplomacy. Doug McMahon was going to Boston, Bob Bragdon to King's Dominion, and Michael Keller out of town. You're supposed to do that after the game, Mike. The following men told me they couldn't make it because they had to satisfy a female: Mark Hurwitz -fiancee arriving that day, Ken Peel -girlfriend going away the next morning (Kathy Byrne take note) and Sean Vessey, who would escort his wife to the annual American Institute of Banking banquet. Donald Sing, a library employee, was "booked up." Steve Ralston simply said, "I can't make it." period. OK steve, I can take a hint. Ed Wrobel's literary acumen was required at a SoBiG meeting. Matt Ellis and Marty Ward committed the cardinal sin of arranging to play some other game on that day. I think we need an inquisition. Nate Brown had to clean his back porch. Nate, it's more fun to clean up dots. Eric Vessey had just been hired as an AMTRAK conductor, and they were sending him to take a CPR course. Might come in handy at a Diplomacy game someday, too. Mark Sagrans had to study for the comprehensive examinations for his Masters degree. C'mon, Mark. Where are your priorities?

The above excuses are being verified by the WARTHOG Secret Police. If any are found wanting, the perpetrator will be considered for inclusion on the WARTHOG hit list. You know who you are.

D. Paul Byrnes
WARTHOG
Northern Myers Number Custodian

HavaGame

Jim Alves, Apt 1822, Bldg. 3, 370 Yoakum Pkwy, Alexandria, VA 22304, 370-8148 (h), (301)670-1611 (w) will host a Diplomacy game on Sunday, July 15, probably starting about 11:30 or noon (check with Jim). Jim's apartment complex has an excellent gaming facility with plenty of space, a snack bar and just the right ambience for betraying your neighbor. We had a rooting good time at the last WARTHOG game held there. Call or write Jim for reservations...arrive timely...don't CD...see you there!

And here-- a bit of unfinished fools' business--

AN OPEN RESPONSE TO SEAN VESSEY'S OPEN LETTER TO NUCLEAR ESCALATORS

Dear Minister of SaP,

Your attempt to deny me my glowing Nuclear Escalation victory comes about a half-life too late, for the Atomic Number Custodian has already recorded our game as regular and ratable. You could have looked up the rule when I claimed the win, but instead you just cheered along with everybody else as I gave my victory speech.

Who is this "Rules Lawyer" whose support you claim to have? Why do you refuse to identify him? Is his interpretation of the rules objective and impartial, or does he have a vested interest in the outcome? Is he your brother Eric? An invesseygation by WARTHOG Interenal Security revealed that he is. I shall graciously not call for your impeachment. Instead, I nominate a truly fair and honest human being, a veritable Solomon of an ombudsman and our immediate supervisor, Ed Wrobel, to determine what would have happened had the rules been consulted. (I believe he has a copy of the game.) I'm sure your threat to use Dale City as a cruise missile test target area won't affect his ruling. You couldn't hit the broad side of a subcontinent.

D.P. Byrne
The Baltimore Turk

Hada Secret

The mysterious Holmes' Games maintained their aura of secrecy with written statements swearing the participants to confidentiality upon pain of civil action and/or at least receiving threatening letters from Nate Brown's attorney. We can tell you that the project is not supposed to be Top Top Secret any more but no written waiver was delivered by press time so let's play it safe and not say much except that we play tested Nate's game and it has great potential but needs a bit more testing. Saturday's game was stagnated by a shortage of generative influences while Friday's game was overwhelmed by a baby boom. With a little fine-tuning and some chrome, we expect Robber Baron Brown to be rolling in it and serving caviar at his next play-test. Hush hush, for now, though!!

THE STATISTICAL TRUTH OF MARYCON84

	1	2	T		1	2	T
Poppe	0A	0G	0	Perez	0A	0I	0
Kane	°18.7E	0.2G	18.9	Mainardi	0E	0.2I	0.2
Dancause	0F	0G	0	Wrobel	°18.7F	0.4I	19.1
Bohner	18.7G	9.2F	27.9	Wilkins	0G	0I	0
Kelly, Ma.	0I	9.1F	9.1	Murray	°18.7I	9.1G	27.8
Nicholson	0R	0F	0	Scheifler	0R	°36.1G	*36.1
Kador	0T	1F	1	Jewett	0T	0.5G	0.5
Lincoln	35.4A	1E	*36.4	Verkey	0A	°35.9T	*35.9
Kelly, Mi.	0.3E	0.1A	0.4	Del Grande	12.4E	0.8T	13.2
Jones	0.2F	0.2A	0.4	Sinclair	0F	0.4T	0.4
Russell	0G	0A	0	Kendter	12.7G	9.3T	22
Berch	0.3I	9.5A	9.8	Harvey	0I	0.4T	0.4
Ferguson	°1.1R	0A	1.1	Linsey	0R	1.1T	1.1
Arnawoodian	0.1T	0.5A	0.6	Stegeman	12.2T	0.5R	12.7
Byrnes	12.4A	0.4F	12.4	Thompson	°18.5A	0R	18.5
Byrne	12.4E	18F	30.4	Caruso	18.5	0.1R	18.6
Kozlowski	0F	18E	18	Peel	0.3F	0.4R	0.7
Swider	12.3G	9.3E	21.6	Hecht	0G	9.4R	9.4
Daniel	0.4I	9.1E	9.5	Robinson	0I	0R	0
Byrd	0.4R	0E	0.4	Warner	0R	0.1I	0.1
Phillips	0.1T	--	0.1	Davis	0.1T	0I	0.1
Greene	--	0.1E	0.1				

*Trophy winners °Best country awards

The figures are points; the letters are the countries played. Results are given for the first and second rounds and in toto.

How the nations fared, game by game. Asterisks indicate winners or drawees.

A	0	14*	7*	0	0	15*	2	10*	0	5*	1	0	Thus, there were wins by Aus, Ger and Tur. Eng participated in 8 draws. Ita and Rus were each eliminated 6 times.
E	17*	3	11*	0	11*	15*	10*	6*	8*	1*	10	0	
F	0	2	0	17*	0	3	10*	6*	7*	10*	4	0	
G	17*	0	10*	0	14*	0	0	6*	2	5*	0	21*	
I	0	3	4	17*	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	1	
R	0	11	1	0	0	0	4	0	9*	5*	0	1	
T	0	1	1	0	9*	1	4	4	8*	8*	19*	11	

Death with Dignity Certificates were awarded to Tony Hecht, Bruce Poppe, Steve Arnawoodian, Kevin Kozlowski, Greg Wilkins, Robert Harvey, Frank Jones, Tom Mainardi, Carl Russell, John Ferguson and Fred Davis.

VARIMARYCON

Abstraction-- Austria, Phil Dancause (0), England, Bill Thompson (6), France, Frank Jones (17), Germany, Don Scheifler (7), Italy, Fred Davis (0), Russia, Jeff Breidenstein (0), Turkey, Jim Verkey (16)

Result: F/T draw in March, 1916

Final Conflict-- Australia, Carl Russell (8), Brazil, Tom Swider (10), China, Tony Hecht (4), Pan Arab League (11), Russia, Jeff Bohner (10), South Africa, Bruce Sinclair (0), USA, Don Del Grande (0)

Result: Bra/Pal/Rus draw in 1906

World Diplomacy-- USA, Greg Byrd (22), South America, Matt Kelly (3),
Western Europe, Rob Harvey (13), Arab Block, Mike Kelly (12)
Black Africa, Doug Byrnes (0), Russia, Ed Wrobel (0),
China, Ken Peel (23), Australia, Mark Stegeman (1)
USA/WER/ARB/CHN DRAW

Mary Quotes

This is not a definite stab. - Don Scheifler

The variations are exquisite. - John Kador

Woody told me what to do... that's the brutal irony.

- Mark Stegeman

I want revenge upon my enemies! - Ed Wrobel

Get a center and people will talk to you. - Dick Martin

Mainardi is taking the scenic tour; Europe on one
center a year. - Matt Kelly

It's you and me, Ed - the dead meat alliance ...
- Kathy Byrne

NEXT ISSUE: Personal self-promotional reflections on
MaryCon by _____ (enter your name
and send an article)

And here, AtlantiCon 84 with Diplomacy Robert Sacks
Style, an experience you will never forget. Write
↓ your poli Editor for a copy of the flyer or try
AtlantiCon 84, Po Box 139, Middleton, NJ 07748.



ATLANTICON 84 THE ANNUAL EAST COAST GAMING SHOW

TOWSON STATE UNIVERSITY
TOWSON, MD

AUGUST 3, 4, 5, 1984

GOTALETTER

What we need is a integrated management analysis to maximize total organizational flexibility. This will produce systematized monitored factors, a basis for functional reciprocal outputs, which will, in turn, act as the foundation for synchronized creative guidelines providing for balanced operational contingencies. I am positive this responsive logistical concept will result in parallel modular capability.

Comrade S. Vessey
Chairman, Committee on Shoats and Pals
Washington Area Tusk

(But let us not overlook the necessity of seeking the maximum attainable output-result confidence ratio through utilization of high priority modes of communicative discretion to avoid generating a negative feedback loop from ideologically incompatible elements, okay? -ed.)

Dear Fully Adjustable PoliEditor,

I am writing to comment, if I may, or if I may not, on a remark of yours in the May 1984 Politesse. I refer specifically to the phrase, "give us a 10, eh ducky?" used in reference to the upcoming Runestone Poll festivities. It is not my intention to represent this statement as an attempt to "fix" the Poll (though this in itself is undoubtedly a praiseworthy goal) but rather to launch into a soporifically theoretical discussion of whether your zinny, or any zinny, rates a "10."

In my long but somewhat shallow experience in Dipdom, I have never given anybody, or any zinny, a "10." In my humble opinion, inasmuch as a "10" represents perfection, the best that ever was and ever could be, the figure is and should remain a goal to be sought, not a prize to be handed to any fully adjustable zinny that comes down the pike. After all, as any reader of Diplomacy World or Erewhon knows, this hobby just hasn't been worth a damn since 1967, and no current dipzine can match the monumental attainments of Joe Blutarisky's Swiss Knife during that period. And as the Arabs have been known to remark, "Only allah is perfect"; all very fine as far as it goes, if we remember that those benighted heathens know not Berch.

It is my position likewise that no zinny in existence deserves a "0" either. Mere existence should gain a zinny at least one point. After all each and every publication has both strengths and weakness, virtues and vices, Woody and Brux (I leave it to you to determine which of the latter pair represents which of the former). An otherwise completely meretricious publication may boast nicely-turned-out address labels and adroitly licked stamps. Likewise even an otherwise flawless production such as yours suffers occasionally from such defects as typos ("been thrown your for the last few weeks," "having a good timewho appreciated" to quote from merely one line of the controversial subzinny "Woody Wants to Know") or pictures of Dick Martin eating babies.

We run into a difficulty here. Given that "10" and "0" are not possible scores, the highest and lowest possible ratings become "9" and "1." Thus the world's most perfect zinny (presumably not currently being published) could only attain a "9," and the worst, a "1." But by the same principle that disallows ratings of "10" or "0," this is not possible. Thus it is apparent that the true maximum/minimum scores are "8" and "2." But...I need hardly point out that the same problem recurs. In fact, this slightly Berchian argument shows that, not only is it impossible to give any score other than "5," but the Poll in its entirety must be abandoned. Excuse me now, I must write to Randolph Smyth to withdraw my ballot.

In politesse,
Robert Olsen, Chief Theoretician
Kansas Gaming Board

(Comrade Olsen demonstrates here the dangerous allure of petit bourgeois pseudo-intellectuality. Politically correct action requires that primacy be reserved to the desired result in the construction of a theoretical matrix. Assume, for example, that a committee of 1, 2 or 3 wishes to thwart certain New York interests and yet maintain Dipcon east of the Mississippi 5 out of 6 years, divert funds to the west coast, absorb a fourth unelected member who is skillfull in floor management, knowledgeable of Robert's Rules of Order and heedless of the will of the people. One would not look first to process and construct an end which results in paralysis. Rather, a suitably discrete method would be selected, based on the probability of securing the desired end upon implementation, irregardless of ethical consideration. For example, one might choose to attempt to discredit the opposition through a third party living in Texas- or adopt a Latin phrase such as "ex officio" to justify inclusion of an unelected individual in committee deliberation- or rehearse various scenarios in anticipation of manipulating the sympathies of those in attendance at the Dipcon Society meeting.

In regard to the actual "merit" of Politesse, may we observe that gaming publications incorporate eccentric spellings or usages in order to brand a trademark, as it were, onto the readers' consciousness. Whitestonia and Diplomacy Digest come to mind immediately. The spelling "seperate" has been used so frequently as to have passed into the realm of cliché. What Comrade Olsen so blithely characterizes as "typos" are nothing more than efforts to shock the reader into an awareness of the excellence of Politesse. It is all too easy to succumb to dull routine. Did not the "ro" or the olde English spelling of "weaknesse" in the above letter not prick the reader's consciousness? A timely "fone," dangling preposition or newly-compounded word can add just the right panache (thank you, Premier Peel) to an amateur gaming publication, leading to wide circulation, a high Runestone rating, clever letters to the editor and lots of shoats. -ed.)

Ed, I don't know what you're worth. \$5.00/10 maybe? I'm here to participate in Presidential Politics. I believe its (sic) a very good game. Politesse on the other hand looks quite warehousy with a glass of dry wine tossed in for a smirk. Be seeing you on the campaign trail. --Bill Becker, Kalamazoo, MI

(Nice try, our good midwesterner, it was very nearly clever. Would you find us supercilious to observe that smirks are usually held by school-boys who catch a glance of a bra strap and generally prefer a sweetish refreshment, not by fin de siecle types such as ourself? -ed.)

Dear Ed, Please start a Politesse subscription for me directly. I can resist no longer; I crave more of your elliptic inditement. Perchance you'll note that no funds are enclosed. Well, I'm befuddled. Should my contribution be based upon value to me, my estimate of your costs, my capacity to pay, or my assessment of the minimum you'll adjudge respectful? Should it remain constant or vary as a function of issue bulk or merit? Et cetera --Conrad Minshall, Austin, TX

(A difficult proposition, this fully adjustable business, yes? We would suggest balanced consideration of each of the factors you have listed. Some subbers have sent money but no duration and we have taken it upon ourselves to enlist the aid of our decisive feline in enforcing limits on these open-ended creatures. -ed.)

Dear Ed, Thank you for sending me the sample of Politesse. I'm sorry that I am not able to subscribe to your fine szine (sic), but, unfortunately, it includes a membership in WARTHOG and I have a strict policy against joining organizations, especially those such as yours. I am currently not a member of the East Coast Clique, in-600, West Coast clique, Madison Mob, etc. I am not at liberty to attend MaryCon either, on the off chance that while in attendance I might be tricked into joining.
--Jim-Bob Burgess, Rhode Island

(Au contraire, rebel-rebel! The tacit nature of our retinue places it squarely up your alley and in your backyard. And to prove it to you, we have entered, in your name, a free 3-month trial membership in WARTHOG. You will receive every issue of Politesse published in June, July and August, as well as, all-expense-paid invitations to every official WARTHOG event!! -ed.)

Dear Mr. Ed,
I still haven't
found a talking
horse out here.
But I did see
a few nags, your
relatives, perhaps?
Kathy

Ed Koebel
3932 N. Frostdale Ave
Dale City, Va.
22192



Loyal WARTHOGs in the Baltimore and Washington Area Tusks are requested to enter into abusive correspondence with Ms. Kathy Byrne at 160-02 43rd Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358. Ms. Byrne has repeatedly and unwarrantedly referred to your vice premier as a talking horse (Mr. Ed) and failed to respect the independent identity and dignity of the Premier himself!!

Dear Ed, As you are probably aware of, I've been having difficulties with "Mommy Dearest" Byrne. She's so bossy! She tells me what to do in our gunboat game and now says that you two went to high school together and that you're her high school buddy! Please Ed, tell her "no"! Age alone shows that you two couldn't graduate in the same year. Then again, she's so pathetic that she just might have failed 12th grade twenty-six times, making it possible for you two to graduate in the same year. But would you hang around lowlife as low as that? -Tom Swider, SUNY

(The truth can now be told. Actually it was not high school, but Oxford. Ms. Byrne and I were both visiting scholars in the early 50s, after we were blacklisted by Joe McCarthy and his associates. Contrary to the filth suggested by some, our relationship was purely professional. And remains so, to this day. -ed.)

There's Someone New
at Your House

Dear Maggie and Ed,

Since this is as yet merely a rumor I have picked up on, please do notice the non-committal nature of the card: the baby, referred to merely as "someone new" is clad in a bland, neutral color; the baby dons neither ribbon nor a baseball cap (Orioles, of course); the baby displays no obvious gaming preference

(generative negotiational nonwargaming or Scrabble). In short, I look forward with white knuckles for clarification on something which certainly should make no difference to society-at-large, but in my somewhat parodial and friend-of-the-family way, I still hope to hear: is it a boy or a girl? Congratulations to you both, and my regrets to Jaspur for having to face some pretty stiff competition. -Best, Ken, Silver Spring, MD

(Jaspur has been adequately compensated by an increase of Whitestonia's in his diet, a higher profile in Politesse and the opening of his own feud with the sub-editor of "Foot in Mouth," who dared to misname him Potato Something. We shall not acknowledge your sexist inquiry in hopes that a few more months in the Gulag Silver Spring will teach you a little equalitarian humility. -ed.)

Dear Ed, Excellent issue of Politesse, even though I only contributed indirectly. I guess you might want something for the next issue (or will that be the MaryCon extravaganza?)

The Foolish Illuminati game was interesting, though perhaps a bit slow moving. (That's a common fault with dipsters- they tend to believe that every move should be preceded by a 15 minute period of negotiations/pronouncements.) Ken had this game won about six different ways, after the dust had cleared. I'm surprised that we even thought it was close. The same was true of the lightning Rail Baron won by Mr. ChooChoo. I realize it was a "demonstration" game, but is it proper etiquette to buy half the railroads before anyone else gets a turn? Soldier King looked fun. Every time I went upstairs to look at it over the course of our Titan slugathon it looked exactly as it did the trip before. I've seen balanced games, but that's ridiculous. You neglected to mention my successful defense of my World Title in Snits Revenge. And against a grown adult, too. There is little to say about the Titan game. Of course I could have beaten Ken in that final battle. But after 15 hours, playing "to win" seems to lose its meaning. If victory couldn't be spectacular, it wasn't worth having! Somehow the mutual destruction result seemed more fitting.

I particularly enjoyed the first sentence of Caruso's final paragraph. Classic material. Take care, Dick Martin, Rockville, MD, Rockville Area Tusk Designate

(The assignment of an area tusk is a very serious matter which must be placed upon the proper agenda in the appropriate manner at just the right time. Besides which, we'll have to look into what you've done for us lately. But judging by the opinions of the people who matter most in DipDom, you should make a fine RAT.

Oh, yes, your endgame statement was late! -ed.)

Dear Mr. Wrobel, I hope I did not insult your intelligence with my thinly disguised pen initials. I should have known a master of politesse such as yourself would quickly cut through to the truth. I trust you will accept my most sincere apologies.

On May 19 I will go from being a poor high school graduate to being a poor college graduate. Hopefully the light of capitalism will shine upon me and bless me with a job. Then I will become a poliSubber (or is it a Politestical?). Perhaps I can join your staff as the resident entrapanuer (very sic -ed.)

Will you be at KaneKon this year? Any word on any other possible attendees? MaryCon looks like a good time, but after seeing the picture in the lower right-hand corner of page 10, I am wary. From the looks of things, there is a direct relationship between MaryCon and premature hair loss. How about revealing the identities of the gentlemen in the photo? I recognize you, Mr. Berch and Mr. Dancause (sic). (Ed.'s note: "sic" in original, spelling of Phil's name corrected, a few other indiscretions also smoothed over.)

In response to your request for response on the proposed retirement of Mr. Linseed from the Hobby, I must urge that this measure be defeated. Mr. Linseed performs many invaluable services, among them the Supernova packet. More importantly, he is responsible for the employment of 3 papermill workers, 1 truck driver and 2 U.S. Postal "Service" employees. To retire Mr. Linseed without a regulated scaledown would have earth-shattering effects on the economy and probably mean the end of civilization as we know it. -Kevin G. Stone, Big Flats, NY

(The required environmental impact statements are already on file. We would suggest that a place in daddy's firm would be preferable to the harsh realities of capitalism, especially in view of your unfamiliarity with patterns of male baldness. -ed.)

KANSAS GAMING BOARD
Official Communique

Dear Mr. Wrotei,

Since the KGB maintains an active interest in the doings of individuals such as Mr. Robert Sacks and Mr. Bruce Linsey, I think it is time for us to express our opinions on the retirements of these two quasi-individuals.

It is the opinion of the Kansas Gaming Board that Robert Sacks constitutes a resource of considerable significance to the Diplomacy hobby; for the following reasons; *imprimis*, that he is the only hobby member who has shown the intestinal fortitude to stand up to Steve ("Woody") Arnowoodian and courageously smash him over the head with a beer can; *secundus*, he is the only known GM who can make Bernie Oaklyn, by contrast, appear both competent and honest; and *tertius*, because many people will pay good money to aggravate Sacks, his presence offers the only hope of putting the financing of hobby services on a rational basis. I refer of course to the PDD Auction, which is staged semi-annually for the dual purposes of raising money for hobby services, and to irritate Robert Sacks. Just consider how much more agreeable it is to everyone to support this sort of dual purpose effort, rather than the proposals of a certain old slaveowner from San Diego that we groan under the iron heel of a Dixtax.

I might also mention a certain project of the KGB in this context. Although Woody remains a prominent and universally despised hobby member, life is full of uncertainties, and we must face the fact that we are a rabid hamster bite away from a Woodyless hobby. It has been my intent to groom someone to become "the next Woody" just in case, and since the Sase of San Diego appears to have failed to measure up to this challenge, I regard Sacks as a logical potential successor.

Therefore, it is the official position of the KGB that we do not favor the retirement of Robert Sacks. In fact we will go so far as to form a committee to see that this is not done!

Turning now from the "indispensable man" to Bruce Linsey we find a somewhat different situation. It's fun to pick on Sacks; it is the solemn duty of every hobby member to pick on Linsey. True, my cat Olsa has remarked, "Any man who eats cat food can't be all bad" but this is just the sort of limited insight one might expect from someone of her species. I'm sure that the consensus of opinion in the hobby would be just the opposite.

Of course I can't claim to be completely objective on this matter, given Linsey's savase Oisenbashing attacks on me (though it must be admitted he has never gone after me with a beer can). Nevertheless I can at least be objective enough to say that Brux is no damn good at all, he's scum and loathesome and all sorts of other mean, nasty, ugly things.

But, just because a man is the lowest of the low, does this mean we can effect his retirement lightly? I think not. Effectuated retirement is a high honor and privelege which should only go to the most important, prestigious individuals. Now if the matter of the retirement of Mark Berch or someone of his stature were to come up, that might be an entirely different thing.

A recent droil anecdote may illustrate the essence of Linsey. In the most recent number of his zippy, a sensationalistic front-page article announces his entry into--get this--a game of sunboat Diplomacy. Yes, it's true, when Bruce Linsey sees anonymous he wants everyone to know it! It is for this precise reason that the NCB cannot support Linsey's retirement; it's impossible for someone to leave when he's not all there to begin with!

For the people,
"Konstantin"

Robert Olsen

Dear Mr. Ed, It has come to my attention that you are considering the retirement of two Hobby personalities (?). I have vital information for you to consider before you retire either of them!

First lets take the case of Mr. Sacks. I hate to do this, but I must ask you to reconsider your decision to retire him. Mr. Sacks is an essential part of this hobby, and I can prove it- here, you must try and follow my logic (Good Luck!):

1. He is a firm believer of defending Dick (Martin -ed.) and myself from the real Hobby bullies- Berch and Walker.
2. He is my bodyguard from the growth in Phyllis' room and Woody. (Ed.'s note: Ms. Byrne's syntax makes it unclear whether the growth and Woody are separate entities or dual manifestations of the same phenomenon.) He even keeps Woody in line through the use of a mere beer can!
3. He is always good for a laugh!

Second, lets look at the case of Bruce Linsey. Again I feel it is much too early to retire him. He provides us with a unique view of diplomacy, and here again you'll have to follow (my good solid logic):

1. Where else can a novice get thrown out of a game? This is a thrilling experience for a novice, he really gets the adrenalin flowing and helps the novice towards a nervous breakdown- thereby supporting the psychiatrists of America.
2. And where else can you get a year's supply of firewood for 71¢- even his houserules serve some purpose- you can heat a mountainside with them!
3. Name one other place where a player gets to strain his brain. This is the only place where the player must outsmart the GM to get legal moves in! But just think of all the publicity you get, who cares if your position is ruined, you become famous like Sherwood, Wrobel and numerous others! -Kathy Byrne, flushing, NY

RULING OF THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF RETIREMENTS, RETIREMENT, ELECTIONS AND TREASURY SERVICE, PEOPLE'S DIPLOMACY ORGANIZATION UPON THE PROPOSED RETIREMENTS OF BRUCE LINSEY AND ROBERT SACKS, NON-ESQUIRES AND SEQUITOR AD NAUSEUM, RESPECTIVELY

Whereas, it has been determined, upon fair and impartial consideration of the facts and emotional coloring of the matters heretofore before us, that B. Linsey and R. Sacks, having retained more than a scintilla of residual entertainment value to the Hobby-at-Large, and being fully integrated into the communal conceptual framework of DipDom, are hereby directed to continue diplomatic and megadiplomatic activities, for the express purpose of the amusement of DipDom.

EW

Edward Wrobel, Director
Bureau of Retirements

D.D. Perlmutter Memorial
INSTITUTE FOR THE SOCIOCRIMINALLY DISTURBED

R.B. Wilson, Director

10 May 1984

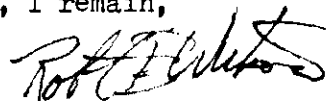
Bureau of Retirements, PDO/RETS
Mr. E. Wrobel, Director
3932 N. Forestdale Ave.
Dale City, VA 22193

Dear Sir:

It has come to our attention that your office released for publication an announcement of the "retirement" of one of our clients, one Michael P. Barno (alias Ben Arnold, Blarfo, Frump the Midget). As Mr. Barno is currently under our care, we wish to inform you of his activities as accurately as is possible. Under the guidance of our trained staff of counselors, Mr. Barno executed a reorganization of his hobby activities: a realignment that specifically did not entail retirement. Indeed, we feel that participation in this fantasy world is sound therapy in our client's program, enabling him to reconstruct his shattered id, facilitating his long and arduous climb back toward functioning in normal society.

Though the following declaration may constitute a breach of politesse, our responsibility for our client requires us to defend his public image. The State has granted our institute power-of-attorney for Mr. Barno and has charged us with protecting his legal interests. Should you fail to clear the record for the sake of our client's reputation, we may be compelled to initiate a civil suit in our nation's courts. We are certain that your organization would not find such action desirable, particularly since we employ the renowned Peel & Associates law firm.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation, I remain,



Robt. B. Wilson
Director, PMISD

RBW/jm

(The Director hastens to point out that the retirement of Mr. Blarfo was not proposed on the Director's own motion. Rather, the said Frump himself undertook to apply for retirement but failed to provide sufficient justification and, thus, was summarily directed to pursue his Hobby activities further. We are pleased to be informed that he has complied with the BoR's order. Eja)

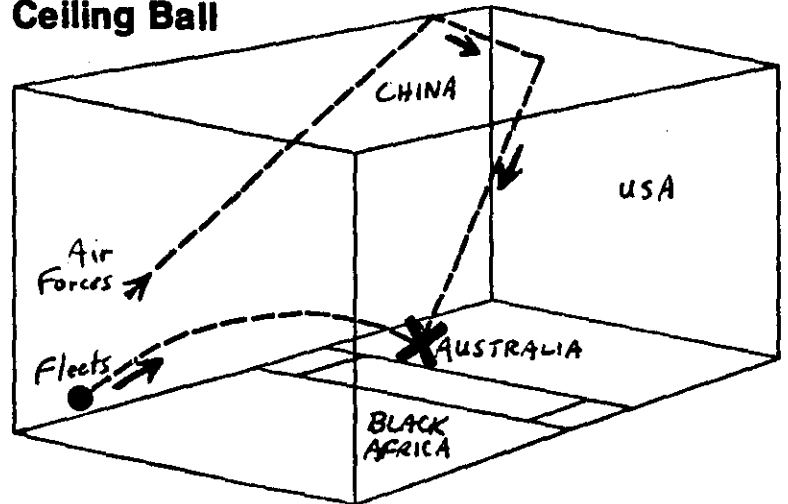
SEX

APPEAL

 The nonSabzine, last-minute
 efforts of Ken Peel and
 Mark Stegeman with a little
 help from a special friend

Tierra del Fuego - Sydney:

Ceiling Ball



WORLD DIPLOMACY (IV)

** SPRING 2002 **

RUSSIANS SEIZE IRAN, TANGLE WITH U.S. FORCE NEAR JAPAN!!!
PEACE HOLDS IN NORTH ATLANTIC. AFRICAN DROP PAMPHLETS ON MELBOURNE, MORE ON WAY!

- USA (Halverstadt): A Tor-NYO, A MEX H, F TOK-Wpac, F Ala-NPAC, F NATL H, F Haw-SPAC, F Nyo-SARG, AF HAW-W-Tok, AF NYO H.
- SAM (Wrobel): A ARG H, F Cub-CARI, F AZO S Ven-Cat1, F SATL H, F Chl-SEPA, F Ven-CATL, F LIM H, AF Ven-A-RIO, AF Bol-C-S-CAMP.
- WER (Swider): A HAM H ("A Ham-berg"), A Ven-ROM, F Ice-NORW, F Mad-WMED, F ALG-mor, F Lon-IRIS, F Par-IBER, F Rom-CMED, AF Par-IBER, AF Mar GS Mad-WMED.
- ARB (Hillis): A IST-Bal, A Bag-ARM, A Sud-LIB, A ARA S Ira, F Egy-EMED, F MOR H, F Ira H (r-PERG), AF Bag GS Bag-ARM, AF Lib-Eg-JER.
- BAF (Small): A CON S Som-Nai, A Som-NAI, F GOL H ("hold the fort"), F Roar-AUST, F MDG-Indi, F Joh-MOZ, AF Nai-M-I-SUM, AF Joh-R-A-MEL.
- RUS (Eklund): A BER H, A BAL-Ist, A GEO S Kaz-Ira, A AFG S Kaz-Ira, A Kaz-IRA, A Mos-KIE, F SWE F, F HOK-Wpac, F Kie-BLAC, AF MOS-O-B-V-O-Tok, AF KIE-B-Arm, AF Geo GS Kaz-IRA.
- CHN (Brown): A Mon-MAN, A Del-PAK, A Cal S Del-Pak, A Bei-XIA, F PHI-Cele, F SIA S Bur-Beng, F Bur-BENG, F Ind-SCHI, AF Ind-S-CELE, AF Bur-B-CEY.
- AUS (Willobt Mazzer*): F SUM S Aust-Indi, F Waus-CELE, F NGU S Waus-Cele, F Aust-INDI.

*Mike Mazzer will take over Australia. Through casual conversation with me (Ken Peel) on an unrelated matter, Brad Wilson mentioned that he intended to NMR out of the game. Some might consider an actual resignation more respectable... But who am I to say? I'm only the guest editor.

PRESS:

Arabian counsel to World: There seems to be some confusion about "invitations" to Arabia -- Land of Promise. The invitations were given by us on behalf of Russia to visit Moscow -- Land of Freedom. Now that we have that mess straightened out, everyone please change your plane reservations and head immediately for Moscow, where you can attend the "RED OLYMPICS."

Voice of America: President Halverstadt announced today that he had authorized the sending of 2500 U.S. Department of Agriculture specialists to Bolivia to help with "certain harvesting and refining techniques," and that a joint U.S.-South American naval task force was clearing sea lanes between Venezuela and Washington. "The noble Bolivians are masters of holding & supporting," Halverstadt observed, "and with what they hold, I could sure support myself!" Presidential advisor and licensed anesthetist Raoul Duke told reporters that Halverstadt was calling the aid program "Operation Blow for Liberty." "What a flake!" Duke added.

Evergreen, Co. to GM: "Dear Mark -- Just like the last time, that geek Oswald gets the glory, and I'm stuck in a fleabag flophouse. I'll punch the Aussie prime minister's ticket for you! I can be in Melbourne in 72 hours -- I'll put it on my dad's American Express card. Trying to talk Jodie into going along. It's all for her. You can keep the four bucks. Best wishes, J.H."

Yale to Evergreen, Co.: "Bug off, schmuck, I'm already on my way -- and with a REAL hit man. Why don't you buy a sling shot and play with Patty Hearst? Definitely not your, Jodie."

Rockies to World: The new premier of Western Europe has expressed fears that the United States is laying the groundwork for an attack on the Old World. No such attack is even under consideration at this time! The government of the United States is aware that the new European leadership has inherited -- for better or worse -- the problems left by the old regime. We ask the governments of the world to give the Europeans time to formulate new policy.

GM: Awwwww.

ARIES (aka WER) to GM: Sorry, ol' chap! We shouldn't say "French;" we are led by the Brits, God's chosen people.

GM: Yes, milord.

WORLD GOSSIP by Liez Smith

We won't even mention how dreamy the honeymoon of Sam and Julie Wrobel has been -- you get the papers, I'm sure. But what hasn't been in the papers is the cold shoulder that Sam's father Edoardo has been giving to Isabella, that aging but ageless Portuguese princess. Seems he testily confided to yours truly that she was "not of the old blood." What, and Julie was???

Meanwhile, Julie's mother, Rosalynn, was dismayed today to find that her much-pursued trip to the Gobi Desert to study UFOs had been cancelled. At the last moment, Chinese official cancelled her visa and confiscated her E.T.-sensing equipment, and only fast talk from a visiting Russian zoologist kept her from detention, hot lights and interrogation.

And the latest word from my favorite son Abdul is that he's sworn off women forever, and will soon enter the ranks of the Libyan equivalent of the Foreign Legion.

The details are still sketchy about the flap in the Congo, but apparently black film producer Zwanhal is outraged at the choices made by director Ahmed for both the hero and the villain of "Dirty Harry meets Tarzan." Imagine -- Mel Gibson as the villain? More as it gets whispered into my ear... ta-ta, LS

PROPAGANDA PRESS:

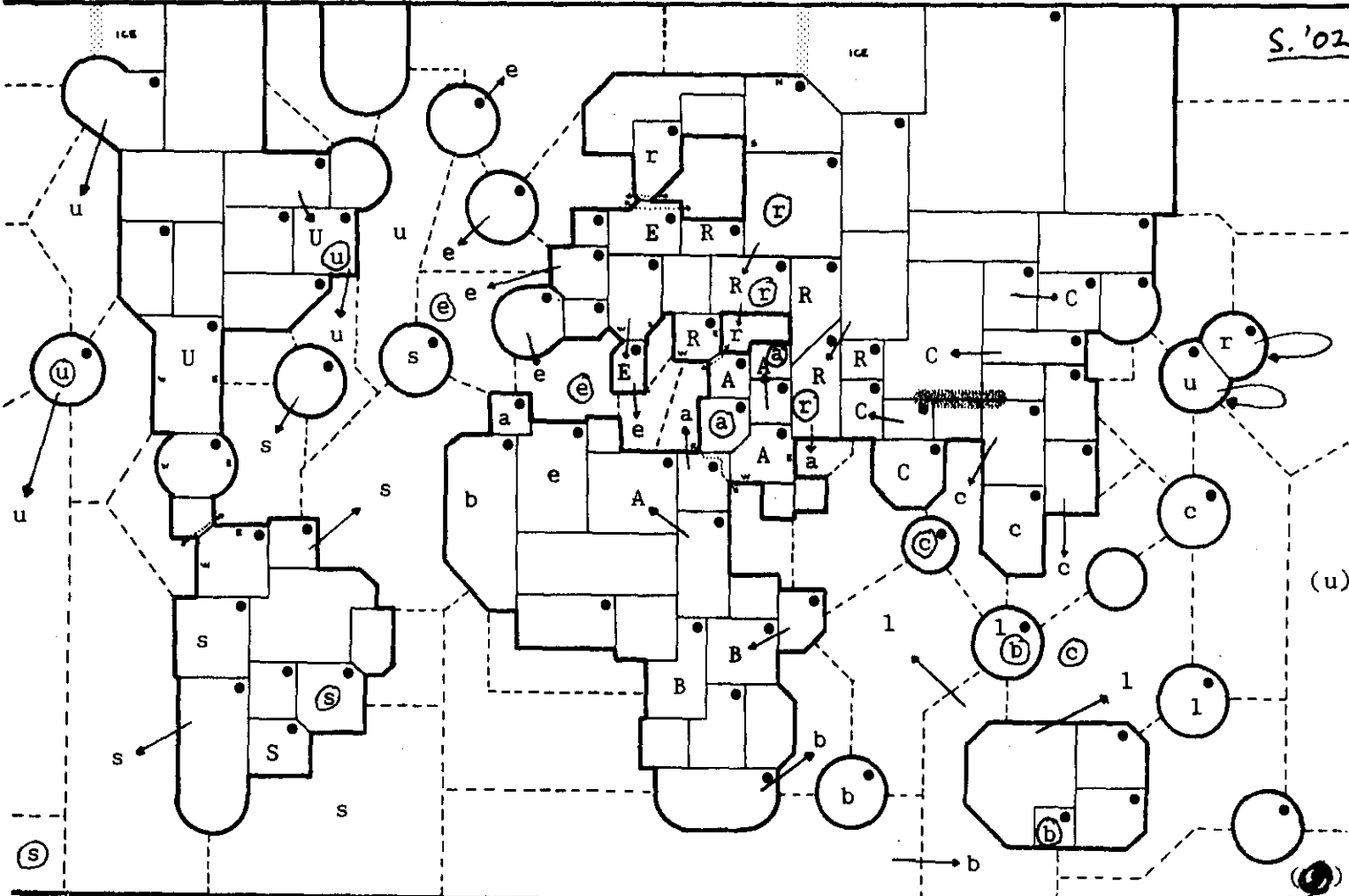
That juicy French starlet, Coquette, was seen boarding an Egyptian leer jet bound for Sydney. Known as, "The kiss of death -- but what a way to go!", Coquette blushed when confronted with questions about that sleek sheikh Abdule. She sneered, "I'd rather roll in camel dung than associate with that loser! I'm headed for Cadly Bradley, the renown fleet builder." With that, she threw kisses to the crowd and jumped her jet. ((More))

* Chinese Premier Xiang Doug, mixing languages at will, told visiting U.S. President Ronnie Halverstadt, "Leave us nukes and hasta la bye bye you big bambino! Chow and give my regards to Broadway." In an exclusive PP interview, Xiang told us, "The guy is crackers! He made no sense at all. For Christ's sake, we couldn't even translate some of the crap he was saying!"

* BAF leader Gulag Ug Small asked PP for information as to the where-abouts of the island of Elba. Apparently he heard rumors as to the sexual orgy underway between ousted WER Prime Minister T. Tallman and Donny and Marie. Read about it in the new Readers Digest. Welcome Tom Swider. We loved your TV show.

* Lastly, but not leastly, the Mediterranean was declared off limits by the United Nations today. Fearing a remote chance of disturbance in the area, the U.N. ordered the entire Med. waterway heavily radiated. Russians, Europeans and Arabs alike, take note: all units within 200 miles of the Mediterranean will certainly be destroyed.

WORLD DIPLOMACY IV Demonstration Game Name: SCREEN TEST Miller Number: 1984Igf21



A = army a = fleet (a) = air force

World Diplomacy

** BOURSE **

**AUSTRALIA IMPRESSES INVESTORS!?! RUBLES SELL LIKE RED-HOT CAKES!
CRISIS IN THE GULF UPSETS FINANCIAL MARKETS! NEW WORLD'S A YAWNER...**

Price Change	-.39	-.31	-.28	-.35	-.02	+.70	+.32	+.54	
Old Price	1.23	1.19	1.18	1.13	.92	1.04	1.08	.67	1.00
	USA	SAM	WER	ARB	BAF	RUS	CHN	AUS	SDR
Ed Hall	-500	-500	+500	-500	-500	+1581	0	0	+76
Hoosier*	-500	-499	-500	-500	+900	+600	+700	-499	+490.14
KGB	-100	-500	-500	-500	0	+2150	0	-500	-28
Eric Mathers	-500	-500	-500	-500	-500	0	+1375	+2000	0
Frost	-322	0	-322	0	0	0	-322	+1000	+453.78
Indust. Laundry	-500	+374	-500	-500	-500	+1000	+1000	-500	-.06
Roman C. Haig	-500	-500	0	0	-500	+2125	-500	0	0
(anon)	-500	-500	-500	-500	-300	-300	+1100	+2000	+425
SIN Co.	-59	-59	-59	-59	-59	-59	-59	-59	+497.96
Mario Bros.	-500	-500	-500	-500	+1100	0	0	+2000	+13

*aka Sean Vessey

EARNEST GM ENTREATY: I still require the true identity of two bourse players. These identities will be kept in the strictest of confidences, but I must know in order to be sure that no one is playing two positions in the bourse, and that no World Dip player is in the bourse.

NEXT BOURSE POSTMARK DEADLINE: June 18, 1984

PRESS:

(anon) to GM: My true name? Hah! You shall never get it! Even I am not sure what it is at times.

(anon): Last turn, Francs, this turn Austrobux. Wild speculation is the only way to go. Let's see if I can give away my big lead.

(anon) to KGB: Ah, you see Mr. Keg Board, we have your number and your number is 592 less than ours. Aha ha ha ha!

KGB to (anon): You again! Well, Mr. Man with no ~~brain~~ face, I fear you not. The People will prevail -- the Infantophagic One shall be crushed like (to coin a phrase) an insect!

KGB: Anybody who can't think of a name for himself must be, truly, a simple minded antelope. Opps, sorry for the infield chatter. I'll try to come up with something more boring next time. Just like Joe Schwartz wrote in 1967.

KGB-USSR: Is voting my heart this time, comrade! Is storming to victory with glorious Soviet Union!

Hoosier: "At the narrow passage there is no friend, no brother." -- Arab proverb.

Laundry: All hail Earth Mother Eklundinov: father of the continents, son of the seas, and dotter of the camals! O cylindrical One, I worship your Rubles.

Mathers: GM violates player anonymity. EM, Inc, threatens to release the irksome dogs of war. "We will rock the financial markets in retaliation from here to erewhon (sic.). You know my name although I have No Fixed Address."

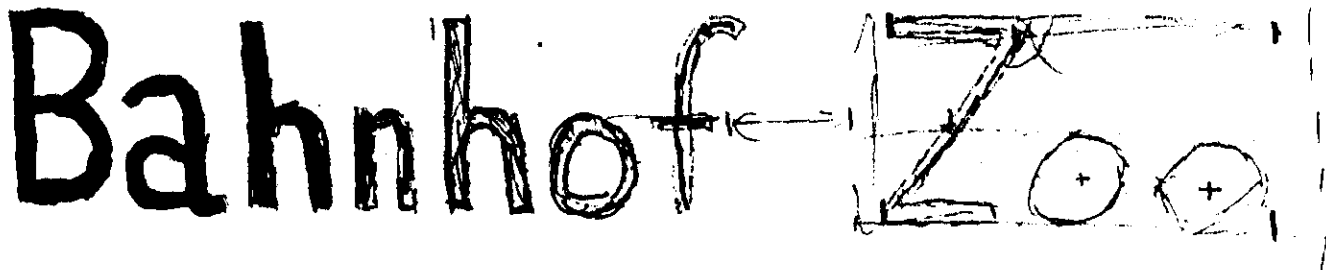
*Pol:Ed to KGB: Getting Stone to assume your identity, Evil One?
I am not so easily fooled, JOHN MICHALSKI!!!!*

Current Holdings

	\$ USA	Cr SAM	Fr WER	Ri ARB	Ra BAF	Ru RUS	Yu CHN	\$A AUS	SDR	Value
Ed Hall	1,000	1,000	1000	0	1,000	3,081	500	500	.76	11,577
Hoosier	500	565	500	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	601	490.18	10,645
KGB	500	800	600	3,300	300	3,150	300	300	28.00	10,929
Eric Mathers	1,000	1,000	--	--	600	1,100	2,275	2,900	--	10,862
Frost	478	1,500	1,278	1,500	500	1,178	1,500	500	497.78	9,081
FKC	3,000	500	1,000	1,000	500	500	500	500	500.00	7,850
Idust. Laundry	500	1,374	1,058	1,032	500	2,000	2,000	500	.40	12,239
Fruity*	1,100	1,800	--	--	1,200	1,795	1,300	900	.10	9,598
Roman C. Haig (anon)	800	700	--	--	1,000	3,496	2,500	--	.78	11,762
SIN co.	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	941	497.96	8,666
Mario Bros.	500	500	500	500	2,100	1,000	1,000	3,000	13.00	10,372
NEW PRICE	.84	.88	.90	.82	.89	1.74	1.40	1.21	1.00	

*Fruity = Friday (I tell you, some people's handwriting...)

A soon-to-be PoliRegular! Get into the game by writing the players
 you missed the train, and now you're stuck at... 8 Mai 1984



Der Anfang vom Spiel

NUMMER 0

- Deutschland Ed Wrobel, PO Box 3463, Arlington Virginia 22203 USA
- Frankreich Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Ln,
Memphis Tennessee ~~38118~~ 38118 USA
- Großbritannien Christoph Schunk, Zeughausstr. 8, 5500 Trier
Bundesrepublik Deutschland pc
- Italien Ivo Bouwman, von Heutzstraat 11, 2593^{pc} Den Haag
Nederland
- Österreich Pat Conlon, PO Box 17014, Union Station LSU,
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70893 USA
- Rußland Jaap Jacobs, Vincent van Goghlaan 16, ~~2343~~
2343 RN Degtgeest, Nederland
- Türkei Jeff Noto, 1507 NE 17 Ct, Ocala Florida 32670 USA

Your GMs: Scott Hanson and Frauke Petersen, 233 Oak Grove No. 306,
Minneapolis Minnesota 55403 USA

ZAT für "SPRING 1901" ist 3 JULI 1984

SEX! FULL FRONTAL NUDITY! THE POSTAL HOBBY EXPOSED!!!

(well, one out of three ain't bad... What follows is the first installment of my alternate-reality novice package for new postal dippers. The novice package sanctioned and supported by the kingpins of Dipdom [Supernova] explains things the way they want them understood. What follows is the straight poop.)

by Kenneth Peel

Politesse is known as the premier ftf dipzine in the Baltimore-Washington area. Indeed, as is the only zine of its kind, that regional reign can be expanded however one chooses. Politesse also has a strong postal readership, and has recently broken new ground by running postal games of its own. This seems an important juncture, and in my dual role as Postal Dip Editor and WARTHOG Premier (provisional, pending imminent elections), I will use my unique position in this unique forum to explain the postal Diplomacy hobby to simple fact-to-facers, wherever they may be. In this way, I may help to ease the entrance of ftf types into the brawny, brawling world of postal Diplomacy.

One must always remember that in the postal world of Dipdom, nothing operates on an obvious level. The surface appearance of the postal hobby is but a fabric of intricately woven myths. It will often take a novice years to overcome the strongest myth, that the primary objective of postal players is to win games of postal Diplomacy. Upon entering the regular postal hobby, I soon came to realize that the relationship between influence in the hobby and poor performance in games was more than casual. Paradoxically -- and I hope I am not shocking anyone -- in a hobby that seems to revolve around the postal play of Diplomacy, actually winning the game is unimportant. In fact, to the extent that winning a postal dip game requires a player to stab former allies, it can be counter-productive: a relationship forged in a game should not be so flippantly squandered. Annihilation, of course, serves no purpose, so one must strive to establish a strong presence in a game and survive, and aim for a constructive draw (or perhaps weaken the structure of an enemy by forcing him into a win).

When one realizes that the supposed object of the game is to be avoided, a second myth evaporates. Suddenly it is clear that nothing about the games really matters, except for their usefulness in developing alliances for other ends, and as smokescreens for obscuring the genuine pursuits of the postal hobby. With the exhilaration of sudden enlightenment, Dipdom is cast in a radically different light.

Since there is no real purpose to the postal hobby, the process is everything: one must constantly seek out and construe threats to to the hobby, and organize against them. But, while the quest for power is the basic activity of Dipdom, power can never really be possessed, and can be obtained only by opposing the attempt of others to exercise it. Organization for some greater good, of course, is the greatest threat of all, and must be organized against at all cost. No one dares admit that the Emperor wears no clothes, but since nothing really matters, the claim of working for a "greater good" is tacitly transparent, and everyone instinctively -- and or course correctly -- views every organized project as a bald power play.

Exceptions often seem to be made for advocating support for the "hobby services." Boardman numbers, Miller numbers, the orphan service, and the novice package (Supernova) are all necessary for maintaining the myth of the importance of the postal games. Giving one's time and money to support the hobby services is praiseworthy. Attempting to organize support for the hobby services, however, is dangerous. This, obviously, goes too far.

Influence and prominence in Dipdom are built in three main ways: 1) by establishing a strong alliance structure through playing in as many games as possible without winning, 2) by seeking out controversies, and 3) by publishing.

After playing in enough games in a mediocre enough fashion, and when one feels secure in his alliance structure, it is time to begin seeking out controversies. This must not be done prematurely, and must be undertaken with care. Modest beginnings are best. Just as war is the ballot box of the international system, controversies determine power relationships in Dipdom. The two most important elements in launching a successful controversy are, first, accurately gauging the relative strengths of probable coalitions on a given issue (and of course being on the winning side), and second, not caring about the issue. Perception is everything, because it goes without saying that the issue will be meaningless. Still, it is amazing how often someone, in his zeal to persuade others of the importance of his advocacy, will actually persuade himself. Absolute indifference to the issue at hand is a wise precaution for anyone launching a controversy. So often, someone will have a good feud going, only to have the weight of opinion suddenly shift against him because he went off the deep end with an earnest attempt to argue facts. This is the quickest way to lay bare the necessarily vacuous nature of any controversy.

The final element -- publishing -- is self evident, and a virtual necessity for reaching the pinnacle of influence in Dipdom. Publishing offers visibility, and provides a forum for propagating one's own views. Usually the justification for publishing is to run postal games for the benefit of one's subbers and the hobby at large. But since the games don't matter, and there is no gain in pandering to non-pubbers whose influence is necessarily slight, the real reason for publishing is to enter the inner sanctum of The Trade.

A few case histories will illustrate these points. There is a postal player -- Steve "Woody" Arnawoodian -- who is the object of ridicule in press, zines, and editorials throughout Dipdom. He has, I believe, the highest game load of any player, playing in about 50 games (even Woody isn't sure), but virtually always bombs out with his highly inept and unpredictable playing style (using the term loosely). What is more, he publishes the most hodge-podge and bizarre zine in the hobby, which he trades with virtually everyone. Even his feuds are unlike others: Woody will embrace what are clearly joke issues, and will aggravate his target unmercifully with anyone willing to look as ridiculous as himself.

But before you shake your head and feel sorry for this seemingly marginal case of postal flotsam, you should realize that despite the surface appearances, Woody is in actuality the most powerful and influential figure in Dipdom today. That such a revelation will be a surprise to even established postal players is all a part of the system. One player I mentioned this too was at first shocked, then, after careful thought and with wide fearful eyes, agreed. He then questioned with lingering hope whether Woody's star will be on the eclipse because of his plan to fold his zine (Coat of Arms) in a few months. I could not however, console this Wrobesque person (whose name will remain confidential) even on this point. Woody is the master of the dialectic. In recent months Woody had becoming overburdened, and could not keep up with his games in a purposeful mediocre fashion. He was simply getting blown away, because he was unable to keep in close enough contact with other players. Woody's stated purpose for folding his zine is to double his game load! In short order, Woody will be in 100 games, and playing several positions in every zine in the postal hobby. What is about to unfold will be an awe inspiring power play. When Woody returns to publishing in about a year and a half, he will have such a massive alliance structure, that he will come closer to total control of Dipdom than has ever before been possible.

It is hardly fair comparing others of influence in Dipdom to Woody, whose balance, skill and audacity near perfection. Still, another interesting case, of which readers of

Politesse are certainly aware, is the ongoing Linsey/Wrobel affair. It is telling that their names are so often seen connected with a slash. This is a case where an alliance and feud has merged into synergistic wholeness. Bruce Linsey (publisher of Voice of Doom) has a basic problem. He is too viscerally competitive to do well in games. He has never been able to play in scores of them at once, and has always aimed for the win. Early on, Linsey saw that he was getting nowhere fast, and concentrated his energy totally on publishing and conducting controversies. Although Linsey had some mild success in these areas, he was tragically handicapped by the frailty of his alliance structure. Because of his combatative nature, he was always taking exposed positions in controversies that were beyond his abilities. What is worse, he actually began to care deeply about their substance. He became increasingly isolated, and soon found it difficult to find anyone willing to bother feuding with him.

Ed Wrobel had different deficiencies. Although Wrobel was involved in a large number of games, his credentials both as a heavy-duty postal brawler and as a publisher were weak because of his extensive face-to-face activities. Then, Ed Wrobel entered a game in Voice of Doom. Linsey learned through Wrobel that he can influence games and form alliances better as a GM than he can a player. In return, Wrobel was lifted from obscurity. Hence, an alliance was born, which still has awesome potential. In their role as each other's "designated feuder", They have an instant and reliable resource for controversy. Since both Linsey and Wrobel recognize that they need each other desperately, they are able to keep under control the one weakness they share: the tendency to care about the content of controversies. They recognize that anything that goes on between them must not become so serious as to endanger their overall alliance. The fact that they are so often able to so successfully hide this basic fact from the rest of Dipdom is another major source of their strength.

[Next issue, I will discuss more case histories, and move on to actual game strategies. See you next month for many more surprises!]

(Editor's note: Look elsewhere for your surprises; surely Ken's excellent writing will find a suitable home. In the meantime, Premier Peel will serve some time in Gulag Silver Spring, learning a politically correct interpretation of events such as the Black Hole Affair, the Tro Affair, the meaning of draws and the exercise of longevity. We note, for example, that Mark Berch and Bruce Linsey have attacked the incredibly evil Dick Martin for daring to publish a zine for publishers. Elitist! cries Berch. Anti-SaltOfTheEarth! cries Linsey. And yet how innocuous...how many special interest magazines are there? Martin's only crime was to attempt to limit his expenses by controlling circulation. Perhaps he should have required a written, rather than monetary contribution, and just prominently touted House of Lords as a zine for pubbers. That would have guaranteed a lively audience, and who cares about a few non-pubbers if they have something to say. An editor always has the right to exercise the blue pencil. As it turns out, strident words from Berch and Linsey have persuaded Martin to forego his efforts-- a shame, but not altogether unheard of.)

WROBEL ENTERS GAME!! PROMISES TO TELL ALL!!

In a move of idolatrous self-promotion exceeded in the post-Golden Age of DipDom only by the self-interviews of Larry Peery and Mark Berch in Xenogogic and Diplomacy Digest (not to mention Mark's highly philanthropic issue devoted to his own role in the birth of his son), Politesse, the BEST, the BRIGHTEST, the most FUN zine in town, will present a new multi-national subzine, "Bahnhof Zoo"!!! BZ will carry the results of Wrobel's first international game! Boring, you say? But Wrobel will also analyze the game! So what? Berch did that...in exquisite detail...by publishing his diary of his WIN in the Dip World demo game. Because Wrobel will SCOOP THE SCOOPER by commenting on the game as it progresses with little regard for the confidential sanctity of his diplomatic pouch!!!! More next issue!

A Public Service Petition

We, the undersigned greats, near-greats and pebbles of salt of DipDom do hereby beseech, beg, plead and demand that House of Lords not fold.

Michael
K...
W...
C...
L...
D...
=

Ken Paul
Kathy Byrne
K...
B...
D...
D...
N...
C...
G...
E...
J...
P...

Mark W. Murray
Mark Kelly
Robert Harvey
Mark C. Bernd

Dick Warner
B...
Fred Davis

B...
D...
D...
D...

D...
John Fitzgerald
M...
D...

WARTHOGS are urged to send a letter describing something outside of DipDom for publication in House of Lords to: Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way North, Rockville, MD 20854.



FOOT IN MOUTH

Issue #14

May 17, 1984

When you come to a crisis of sink or swim, may you find out that you can walk to shore. All good things must come to an end, but not so with good roving subzines. They don't die, they just run out of places to appear before repeating their appearances. And so it goes with FIM, but alas weary traveller, I found yet another zine to Christen with my presence. Right here in Politesse, thanks to my good friends, Ken Wrobel and Ed Peel, and their wondercat- Potato, Potato Peel.

And who puts out this excellent product, you might ask. Why none other than me, John "Mr Wonderful" Caruso. If you care to write to me to thank me for mentioning your name, my address is 160-C2 43Ave Flushing, NY. 11358. If you are really a glutton for punishment, you can call me at 212 353-9695. Just ask for Mr John Caruso's secretary, Phyllis "Charming" Byrne. She handles all my calls, fields them for me, if you will. After screening out the undesirables, I either take the call, or feign sleep or out of town. What the hell, the caller will never know, now will he.

Speaking of calls, Bruce Linsey got me one night last week when Kathy was in Arizona visiting her relatives and Phyllis was babysitting. I had no choice but to answer the phone. It rang like 100 times and gave me a headache, so I answered it. Bruce's 1st remark was, "I didn't wake you did I?". Now that's what I call training the callers- they apologize when they get thru to you. Why would I be sleeping without Kathy around anyway. Everyone knows its more fun to sleep and dream together than to do it alone. Be that as it may, I had no choice than to accept the call.

To say that Bruce was pissed off at what I had written the previous month for print in Politesse, is an understatement. Bruce took real offense to the advice I had given Ed for his future encounters. Beats me why Bruce was so upset. It was intended as an outlandish, way out of proportion look at what him and Ed were going thru for the last few months. I've said worse stuff to and about Bruce that he took much better than this stuff. Maybe it was the timing of my piece of excellence, maybe not. Ed could have cut it out if he thought it was in poor taste- he did not. Hell, what Bruce complained about over the phone to me was not even in my letter. Brucey baby, you read a little bit more into it than was actually there. But no matter- it wasn't intended to "attack" or ridicule anyone- just to poke some fun guys.

Have you been following the ongoing investigation of Debategate? Isn't it funny that all Reagans men are have amnesia attacks! Sort of sounds like a bunch of guys we know, eh Ed?

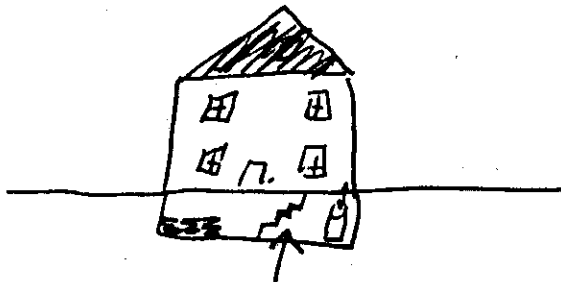
Hey Ken, I hear that Olga is taking on Potato in a feud. Is there any truth to these rumors that originated from Wichita, and are circulating far and wide around the Dipdom circles? Can we all take sides, join the posse's and get involved too? Oh boy, another feud!

Lets see, I just recently started a new policy of influence points and discredit points. My influence points are called "Boot-Licking Points". I thought of this original idea to credit those with a certain amount of "goodwill" points for those who praise me, give me centers, vote yes to wins for me, vote for me in polls, and all around worship me, and the ground I walk on. The discredit points are called "Faery Smooches", another of my original ideas, for those who do just the opposite to me. So this issue, Bruce Linsey gets a "Faery Smooch" for calling me up when nobody else was home to answer the phone. Ed Wrobel gets a "Boot-Licking Point" for allowing FIM to appear here. Kathy gets a "Faery Smooch" as does Phyllis for not being home to answer the phone.

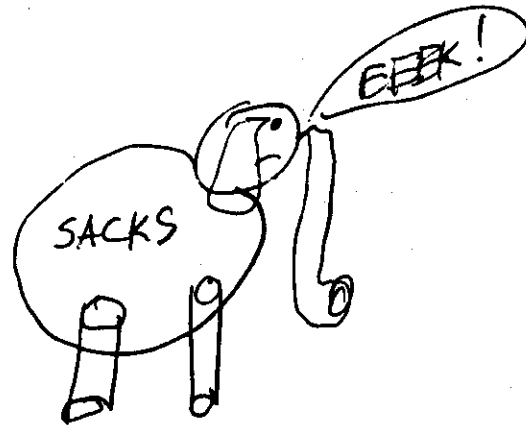
Mark Berch gets an honorary "Boot-Licking Point" for not attacking John Michalski or Dick Martin in the last issue of his zine, Diplomacy Digest. Woody gets 10 Faery Smooches, just because he is Woody. Ken Peel, Bob Olsen, Olga and Potato and Elsie are all on shaky ground.

Speaking of shaky ground, California had another earthquake. Tell me about the land of fruits, nuts and scrambled eggs. At least here in the east, when we get a quake, we don't bury the survivors.

Below are a couple of cartoons, courtesy of my resident psycho-artist Brad Wilson. By the way, Brad earns himself 1 Faery Smooch for the one on the left.



Where Caruso's sports teams
he plays on usually are
(here to set the home
team too)



You forgot the can of Bud, Brad!

John Michalski is in the news again, or should I say out of the news recently. Nobody has picked on him for months, and MES has all but folded up shop. I knew he'd wimp out on me. I'm up to issue #14 already, and have only been pubbing my roving subzine since March. John on the other hand was doing his for 18 years and only reached issue #55 or so. I guess he couldn't take the competition, what with ESAD, FIM, FKL and PP, before you know it, he will try to join the "In-6", or Woody's Possey. Now that would be desperate.

PDO Relief Auction #2 is in the news. Don't forget to pick up an item catalog from either myself, Mike Mills, or Ed Wrobel, for a SASE. The deadline for your bids is July 7. There are many interesting items for auction. I'm sure you can find one that interests you, I did.

While I'm on the subject of the PDO, I was recently instructed by the Grand Kommisar to realign the boundaries of the zones, in order to better serve the PDO. With the help of my staff, invaluable assistance I might add, I was able to expediantly do so, in a fair and just manner. My thanks to Tom Mainardi, Mark Larzelere, and Phyllis Byrne, without whose invaluable assistance, the project would not have gotten off the ground.

Contrary to what Bozo Wilson would have you believe, the Kicks and Nets gave a respectable account of themselves before being eliminated in the basketball playoffs. The Mets are still in 1st place, the Generals will win the USFL championship, and the Islanders will win the Cup in the "Drive for 5". All in all, an average year for the sports worlds best teams- the teams from NY/NJ.

I guess I'm about out of space. Before I go, don't forget to send a sub check to Woody for COA, his expanding zine, and watch the "Match D&M" game. Take care and have fun you all.....

This is, indeed, the end of Politesse as we know it, the final issue, as it were. We have finally run out of justifications; our existence is too tenuous-- it must end. Get your refunds fast. The post office box is good for several more months but we guarantee checking it only to the end of June. Your subscription is fully adjustable, of course, as always, which means that you can ask for any amount up to the sum total of our debts as your refund. We would suggest a reasonable request, however, somewhat consonant with your payment and our expenses.

As for DipDom, a suitably arrogant good-bye to Mark Berch, Rod Walker and Bruce Linsey. May you present yourselves forever with white hats to an empty forum-- only the good die young, I heard somewhere.



What am I, the Good Ferry of Postal Diplomacy, doing here, outside the confines of the New Golden Age of DipDom? Oh, yes, - I am to speculate on the validity of the above-mentioned collapse of Politesse. Could this be a hoax? A transparent ploy to shrink the ranks of WARTHOG? Or does Wrobel think he can mention the excesses of every single Hobby poobah in one issue and live to tell the tale. Hit! Remember the Tretick!

AND DON'T FORGET TO WRITE US YOUR PERSONAL VIEW OF MARYCON, SEND DICK MARTIN A NON-DIPDOM LETTER AND CONTACT JIM ALVES TO ATTEND HIS DIP GAME JULY 15!



ALWAYS
USE ZIP
CODE

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Jaspar Wrobach
says: Your sub
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the Age of
Erewhon

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