

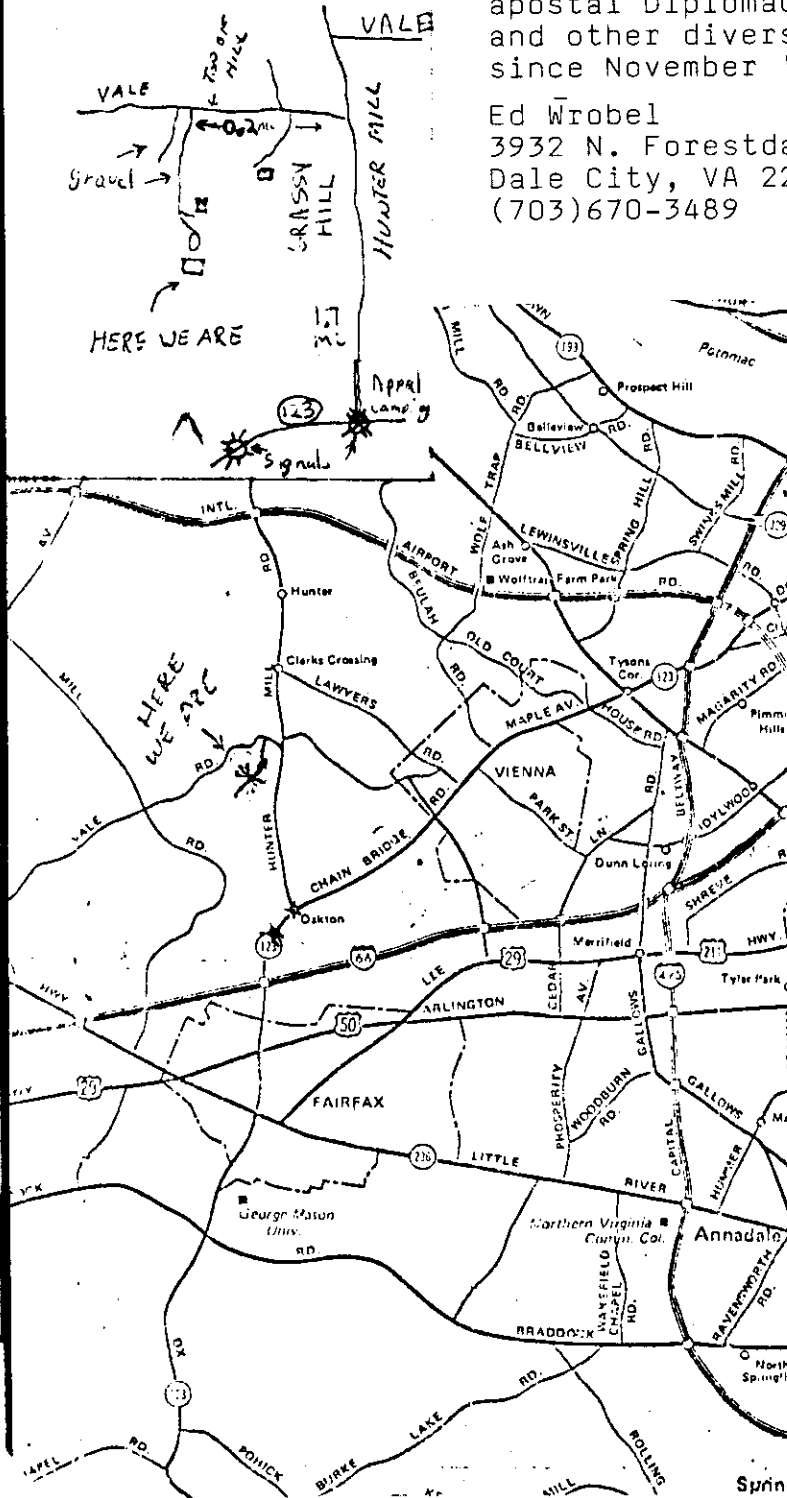
# Politesse

Serving the MidEast Coast with a feudal, apostal Diplomacy and other diversions since November '82

Ed Wrobel  
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Michela Jordan, 1983 Miss Dale City  
Congrats, Ms. Jordan!



## Hava Picnic & Game Festival

Who: Louis Newman, Chris Goesling (& Katy) (& Andy)  
What: Food, Drinks, Outdoor & Indoor Games (Pool, Table Tennis, Hockey, Soccer), Outdoor Swim Pool (?)  
When: Saturday, 8/13, Noon > ?  
Rain or Shine  
Where: 10429 Vale Road  
Oakton, VA 22124  
281-5140  
Why: Relax, Have Fun, Cry in Beer, Play Games, etc.  
Bring: Yourself, Friends, Relatives  
No: Smoking...Please

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BUY POLITESSE!! For a fully adjustable PoliSub, send any amount of money for any number of issues to PoliEditor Ed Wrobel. Let us know if you want to host a game or wish to play elsewhere. We are approved by Diplomacy World as well as the Association to Try and Keep Wrobel from Spending the Mortgage Money on this Hobby (a.k.a. PoliWife Loebach)  
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## ConUpdate/Editorial

The 1984 National DipCon Champion is Joyce Singer. Much kudos to Singer, a female, non-household name in a male-dominated hobby where egos sometimes crowd out the fun. The second through seventh finishers were Eric Ozog, Dave Kleiman, Joe Lamore, Dan Stafford, Porter Wrightman and Steve Knight. Winner of the gunboat Dip tourney was that DipiMaster himself, author of countless, extremely lengthy, very detailed articles on tactics and statistics, Virginia's own Mark Berch. Congrats all.

At the DipCon Society meeting, MaryCon offered to host the 1984 national tourney but the Society chose the Origins convention in Dallas as an alternative site. Perhaps the strongest points in favor of Dallas were preservation of geographic rotation of the site and the attractions of a general convention. We would not wish to see DipCon become an east coast captive. However, semi-automatically following Origins year after year has its drawbacks. It was brought to our attention that planning of DipCon83 was delayed significantly and nearly disrupted altogether through a lack of co-operation on the part of the host convention. Many people who requested Origins pre-registration forms, including DipCon tournament director John Caruso, never received them from MetroDetroitGamers. When your editor brought this to the attention of the gentlemen manning the Origins booth in the exhibit hall, they chuckled and said, "Well, nobody got them." So far Origins84 appears to be better-organized. But big is not necessarily better. Each round in this year's DipCon was restricted to 6 hours, not a severe limitation, but a bit short for some games. The reason behind this was a good one: to allow people time to attend other Origins events. Yet it also detracted from the significance of DipCon as a national championship. Joyce Singer's win in round 2 was vital to her first-place finish. It was a win conceded at the time limit (not a demonstrated forced win). Had her opponents been less gracious, the game would have ended as a draw for lack of time. Played out another hour or two, who knows what might have happened?

The bidders for the big DipCon stated that they hosted a Dip tournament last year which drew 18 players. Certainly many more will attend DipCon there. A number of east coast players, however, have already stated that they will not travel to Texas. If the turnout is "poor" (however that is defined), DipCon's prestige is reduced a bit more. One friend advised that he cared little about the selection of a champion. A Dip tourney is a Dip tourney. Wherever DipCon is, Origins and MaryCon will both offer diplomacy. That is the case. Perhaps more people will feel as our friend if DipCon becomes simply a couple brief games at a general convention sans players of national repute.

What is the solution? Is it possible to balance geographic interests and provide good Diplomacy as well as an opportunity to play other games? We do not know. Not too many Californians or Texans came to Detroit. It is clear that geographic rotation is important to maintain something of a national character for DipCon. (Independence is important as well.) It is our hope that many fine players from all parts of the country come to DipCon XVII in Dallas. And we will work hard on the administrative committee to make it a great tournament. Perhaps add a MaryTouch?

As for MaryCon84, it will be held June 1-3 at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA. Don't miss it!

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*"Do not seek fame. Do not make plans. Do not be absorbed by activities. Do not think that you know. Be aware of all that is and dwell in the infinite. Wander where there is no path. Be all that heaven gave you, but act as though you have received nothing. Be empty, that is all."*

—Chuang Tsu

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RoadTrip: In Search of the Big "O"

("Detroit, Detroit, got a hell of a hockey team, got a left-handed way of making a man sign up on that automotive dream...")

On Friday, July 15, at 9:18 a.m., the Martins and two of their clones, Julie Johnston and Dick Wrobel, rolled into Detroit city, unshaven, unclean, ill-fed and ready to plunge into national gaming competition. The quartet had traveled the night long, having survived an hour departure delay (D. Martin: "Any minute now. I just have to cushion the valve rattle with some cotton, put some Elmer's over the hole in the radiator and top off the crankcase with a few pounds of Crisco. I want this fine racing machine to be in perfect shape for my good friend, Konrad, who is meeting us in Detroit to buy it. We'll take two cars and all come back in the Sentra."), a frantic search for a missing turnpike ticket (J. Martin: "\$10.25 if we don't find it?? Omigod! I'm having a migraine...please don't turn on the radio while I'm having a migraine.") and breakfast at one of the Ohio turnpike's finest (Johnston: "And what is that brown stuff over there? OK, give me some of that...and a couple of those gray things, too."). Speeding past a deserted GM assembly plant, Dick hotly defended the job rights of Baltimore longshoreman. What a patriot! A few narrow-minded auto workers pelted the import with Chevette spare parts right after it crossed the Detroit city line. (Wrobel: "Why aren't these guys working? They get too much vacation time!")

Origins. DipCon. This is it. Who would win? Who would lose? Would anyone get an "O"?

The Con began inauspiciously as D. Martin was shot down in the Richtofen's War demolition derby (only after getting a few effective machinegun bursts and cannon blasts), J. Martin linked up with the New York chapter of the East Coast Clique for Mad Sunbathing under the blistering Detroit sun and Wrobel was frozen out of the Stellar Conquest tourney (10/4 is undefined in SC). Later in the day (and night and the next day), Johnston took first place in the Sleep Competition, racking up 15 consecutive hours in a Canadian dorm room. Truly a spectacular performance! The dazed Johnston actually believed it was still Friday evening when he awoke Saturday morn. ("Johnston: "Night, day...WADO I kNØ, eh?") This was Johnston's best event of the entire convention. On Saturday he was figuratively blown away in Dip, reduced to a one-center Italy in a 7way draw (not even like kissing your sister) and on Sunday he was quite literally blown away in Nuclear War. Although still a little "hot" on the drive home, he posed little threat to oncoming traffic. Sharing the backseat was another story altogether....

In first round Rail Baron play, Wrobel exposed chance as a cruel hoax by averaging 4.2 rolling two dice and 5.7 rolling three. Despite this minor handicap, he managed to assemble a

rail system consisting of (in order of purchase) NYC, ACL, GN, D&RGW, N&W, MP and UP, and nearly knocked off a prematurely-declared Tom Ockert (B&M, B&O, NYNH&H, AT&SF, L&N, C&NW). Ah, shake dem bones... Winner Dave Vigor (\$322,000 and PA, SAL, NP, RF&P, SP, IC, GM&O) successfully poor-mouthed until he reached \$150K via extensive use of his lines by just about everybody. He complained bitterly about poor destinations but won anyway. Rick Goldfarb, an attorney and certainly the wittiest of the group, demonstrated why no comedic lawyers have ever been labeled "capitalist swine." He purchased CB&Q, C&O, WP, CMSTP&P, SOU, SL-SF and T&P.

Saturday's Dip round found Wrobel playing Austria to VoD publisher Bruce Linsey's Italy. Upon an immediate invasion of Austrian soil by I/R, Wrobel offered the sun, moon, stars and Greece to Turkey in return for nothing. Russia was eliminated first and Dave Kleiman took Best Turkey for Round One. Italy, alas, survived to share in a 5way draw (probably about the same as kissing one of your students). Two vengeful Austrian armies were eliminated on Italian soil just before game's end by sniveling wops and ungrateful Moslems. In Round Two, Revenge of the Wrobeli was finally released. WredWrobe's 12center Turkey (Best Ottoman on Sunday) in a 2way draw with England was better than kissing most sisters, especially if they're wearing a habit. The highlight of this game was Steve ("No Fixed Address") Hutton's brilliant French gambit. Besieged by Italy and suspicious of his English ally, Hutton simply gave 3 centers to the greaseball. Previously a Turk toady, the Iti then felt sufficiently confident to once again flex his muscle in the Med. And France survived.

Also on Sunday, Dick "Bad Boy" Martin became the North American Snit's Revenge Champion. The average age of his opponents was 10½ but his toughest competition came from a 17-year-old who had never played the game prior to the con. Snit's Revenge honchoes wishing to take Martin down a peg are encouraged to challenge him by writing to 26 Orchard Way N., Rockville, MD 20854. Ask for a subscription to Retaliation at 20¢ an issue.




HadToBe...

The Fool's Game!!!  
Bad news for Fool's Game Fans. The vote was 67 NVRed, 1 "Yes, I looked for it. Fine job." (ruled ambiguous), 1 "Keep, I want to see what happens" and

1 "Keep, but delete the negotiations"! So apathy wins out (NoVote-Received=Don'tCare). The next specialty game will be a Halloween game, probably on the Saturday closest to H-day. We will not endeavour to record any negotiations but will play instead. Yes, you must appear in costume for this game and it will probably begin at noon as usual. In Dale City, home of Miss Dale City 1983. There's got to be a way to record negotiations efficiently. Perhaps 7 recorders are needed? Anybody have any suggestions? (Cheesh, why ask you? 67 NVRs? What's a PoliEditor to do?)

Woody wants

to know..... how to match the correct Voltarian epigram  
with the appropriate Hobbyist.



# Voltaire

## Optimism and Enlightenment

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*"The earthly paradise is  
wherever I am."*

*"Every time one draws the  
portrait of a ridiculous man,  
someone always turns up who  
resembles him."*

*"Remember, the secret of the  
Arts is to correct Nature."*

*"If God did not exist, it would be  
necessary to invent him."*

*"We are balloons that the hand of  
destiny moves about blindly and  
irresistibly. We bounce two or  
three times, sometimes on marble  
and sometimes on a manure  
pile, and then we burst forever."*

*"It was my destiny to be crushed,  
persecuted, vilified, sneered  
at—and to laugh at so being."*

*"God gave us the gift of life;  
it is up to us to give ourselves  
the gift of living well."*

—Voltaire



- a. Julie Martin
- b. Robert Sacks
- c. Bruce Linsey
- d. Mark Berch
- e. Larry Peery
- f. Gary Coughlan
- g. Konrad Baumeister

### GOTALLETTER

Your concept of life is gruesome and disgusting. I am aghast at what you print and display in your repugnant magazine. You are so filthy and dirty and you really get me angry. You shouldn't be allowed to do this junk. What's the matter with everyone? To let you exist and sicken us by your garbage is an outrage! You try to legitimize yourselves, but by your very nature you go against anything that is good. What's the matter with you creeps? You should be shot! I know that sounds irrational, but it serves the point: you should be reprimanded, disbanned, and punished!—  
Name withheld ○—

Thank you so much for taking the time to express your true feelings about us. A lot of Dipzines print nothing but flattering letters but not Politesse. We will not shirk our responsibility to give equal time to our critics, no matter how unintelligible their views. We are always seeking to improve. -ed.

## HADAGAME: First DaleCon Cookout a Success

Havagame 7/9 in Dale City was attended by six gamers- your PoliEditor, Doug Byrnes and Ed Fahrmeier out of Baltimore, and Phil Dancause, Louis Newman and Sean Vessey of Virginia. In lieu of a six-player Dip game, the participants took in an afternoon of Rail Baron, beer and hot dogs, and an evening of Illuminati. Your editor won the RB with a system of B&O, AT&SF, CMSTP&P, ACL (acquired through auction), NYNH&H and L&N (purchased with the proverbial last penny). The B&M was lost through auction. Sean Vessey came within \$1000 of winning, being a single dice roll from his home city and just short. Ed Fahrmeier also had an excellent system.

The evening's Illuminati game (by Steve Jackson Games) was a first for several players including the editor (who was inspired to obtain the game, both expansion sets and a pyramid poster at Origins). The game box provides a concise explanation:

Illuminati (n.): any of a number of groups, reputedly of ancient origins, claiming special knowledge or enlightenment; any secret or mystical society or power bloc.

Illuminati is a game of world conquest...not by guns and missiles, but by stealth and guile. Each player controls a cabal of the Illuminati-"secret masters" struggling to dominate the world. AS they take over group after group, the Illuminati expand their wealth and power. No ploy is too devious; no stratagem too low, as the Illuminati scheme and fight for ultimate control.

Louis Newman as The Network (remember "We're mad as hell and we're not gonna take it anymore!") controlled the world that evening. He graces us with the following endgame statement...

THE NETWORK turned over the CIA with glee since control would meet the victory conditions. Everything available went into the attack. The megabucks of the GNOMES OF ZURICH tried to help the CIA but 8 or less on the dice would do it; 6 it was. THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE smiled, "Nice try. You almost won. Read this card...'Murphy's Law: Your previous dice roll is retroactively changed to a 12.'" Poor NETWORK was demoralized and left to bemoan the fates. Then,...THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE re-organized the defenseless creature by controlling 3 of 4 possessions. One more loss would mean the end. Meanwhile, the SOCIETY OF ASSASSINS coveted dearly anything VIOLENT; the GNOMES became rich, and some strange group was destroying everything with low POWER. Aha! All that was necessary was the acquisition of TRANSFERABLE POWER. With the POST OFFICE firmly attached and the ability to draw two cards as special advantage, it was clear that the MEDIA is the message. Two rounds later, with the assist of 15 instant megabucks from the bank, a privileged attack was made on BT for control of the MEDIA. Success! Satisfaction! Victory to THE NETWORK. THE ORBITAL MIND CONTROL LASERS have really taken over and given the desire to rush out and possess ILLUMINATI. With WIERD, STRAIGHT, PEACEFUL, LIBERAL, FANATIC & COMMUNIST, the little black box is irresistible to those who love the Heisenberg uncertainty principle. Plus 6 for neutralization.

Mountolive felt himself coloring slightly. "In matters of business, a diplomat has no friends," he said stiffly, feeling that he spoke in the very accents of Pontius Pilate.

-Mountolive, Lawrence Durrell

TheHobbyColumn

Many of our readers may be only marginally familiar with The Postal Diplomacy Hobby (a.k.a. "The Hobby" or "Dipdom"-Hobby consumers are sometimes collectively referred to as "Fen"). As a public service, this column will attempt to keep the Poli-Readership abreast of developments in The Hobby.

There are some 1000 postal Dipsters in North America served by 50+ publications (variously known as zines, zeens, xynes, szines or subzines, generally pronounced with a long e or long i). Many of these individuals have only a casual connection to the Hobby, playing in a game or two, wholly oblivious to the great debates which fill many publications. A few are quite active. They pour money into printing and postage; they spend hours contemplating the most subtle of negotiational stratagems; they write letters.

The most intriguing letters are not of the will-you-support-me-into-Munich variety and, indeed, may have little to do with an individual game of diplomacy. Such letters constitute the very stuff of MegaDiplomacy. Of course, there could be no public debate without the zines which print these epistles.

MegaDippers are a varied lot but for the sake of discussion we can describe two sets of characteristics. Let us call the first set, Barristers, and the second, Ribticklers. Some MegaDippers exhibit behaviour associated with each set but most can be recognized as "primarily Barrister" or "mostly Ribtickler."

The archetypal Barrister may be an underpaid academic, a bored bureaucrat or a frustrated attorney. In terms of transactional analysis, his "parent" (or super-ego) dominates his "adult" and "child." He is intrigued by elaborate intellectual constructs which have little relation to reality (reference Hesse's Glass Bead Game) and is probably guilt-ridden, rigid and humorless.

The Ribtickler, on the other hand, is generally anti-intellectual and anal-repulsive. His "child" frequently runs amok and he enjoys playing practical jokes, especially on Barristers. He may display manic-depressive behaviour and usually fears commitment and routine.

One might believe that two such disparate groups could never be reconciled. And yet they get along admirably well. It is a striking example of human symbiosis. The Barrister, unable to find release, looks to the Ribtickler for a laugh or two, even at his own expense. The Ribtickler really wants to be spanked and the Barrister is only too ready to provide a good scolding in serious adult terms.

The important thing to remember is: "It's only a hobby." No one takes themselves seriously deep down inside the pages of a dipzine, whether they choose to play Barrister, Ribtickler, Social Psychologist or something in between. Hobbyists are generally mature, well-adjusted individuals who play for fun and leave the real knife in the 3piece suit at home where it belongs. To do otherwise would be foolish.

BluntByrneNewBoardmanNumberBiggee

One last bit of postal news and then NO MORE! Kathy Byrne is the new Boardman Number Custodian as you know, Condolences from the Myers Number Custodian, whom you don't know.

But then, anyone possessed by a single ruling passion presents the same picture. For most of us, life is a hobby. But she seems like a tense and exhaustive pictorial representation of nature at its most superficial, its most powerful. She is possessed- and the possessed can neither learn nor be taught.

-Mountolive, Lawrence Durrell

PHONAGAME

Still looking for 3 more Dip telephone game players from the metro Washington area. Weekly turns called into Dale City. No fee, only postage expense. Hurry before McMahon, Myers, Sagrans and Vessey lose interest! Look, this combines the best features of postal and ftf gaming...call today.

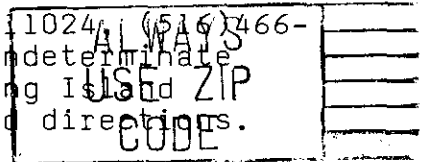
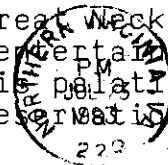
NOTHING TO DO WITH DIPLOMACY

Half of this issue could slide under this heading, eh? Nate Brown, 2807 West Glen Drive #42, Falls Church, VA 22046, (703)698-0679 is looking for playtesters for his "Governor" game of political, economic and military development in space.

KANEKON

Eric Kane, 109 Hicks Lane, Great Neck, NY 10241 (516) 466-2361, will feed, clothe, house and entertain an indeterminate number of gamers August 5-7 at his parental Long Island mansion. Don't miss it. Call for reservations and directions.

Politesse  
c/o Ed Wrobel  
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*Dale Wrobel  
1275 Oak Grove  
Gwynneth, VA 22193*

("Diplomats have no real friends," Grishkin had said bitterly, trying to wound him, to rouse him. "They use everyone." He had used, she was implying, her body and her beauty. And now that she was pregnant...) -Mountolive, L. Durrell