

# REBEL

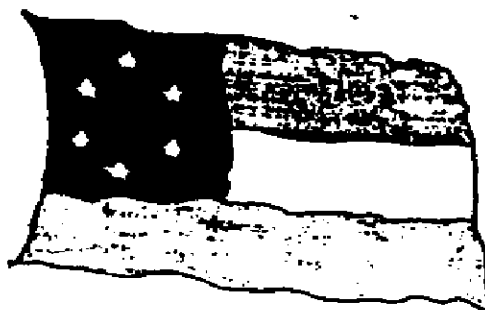
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Issue #21

Aug. 2, 1986

DEADLINE: 9/6/86

Game Fee: \$5.00  
Sub Fee: \$0.20 (not applicable if gaming)



Please note the above is my work number. And I don't work Saturdays. Phone orders taken at above number only.

Please note also that I will be on vacation from Aug 9th until Aug 17th. So if someone tries to call between those dates, I won't be there.

Steve & Linda Courtemanche would like the players of the Chocolate Game in HI to know that all players currently have orders on file & the last player bios will be printed in the next issue of HI.

If you're looking for game openings, write to either Russ Rusnak (900 N. Rohlwing Rd., Apt. 333, Addison IL 60101) or John Walker (4819 Corian Oak, San Antonio TX 78219). Both are excellent and prompt GM's. I ought to know. I've played under them (so to speak).

And, Happy Birthday to Tom Hurst. Hi, fellow Leo.

841Q (MAVERICK) ENGLAND A NO-SHOW AS AUSTRIA GOES FOR PIZZA!!

Spring 1908

Ita (Woody): A Rom-Tus, A Ven-Tyr, F Emd-Aeg

Aus (Caruso): A Boh-Sil, A Bud e Vie-Gal, A Tri-Ser, A Vie-Gal, F Ion-Nap

Rus (Cochise): A Ank-Smy, A Arm-Sev, A Lvo-Pru, A Mos-Stp, A Rum-Gal, A Sev-Ukr, A War e Rum-Gal, A War e Rum-Gal, F Bul(EC)-Rum, F Smy-Aeg

Fra (Howorth): A Mar-Pie, A Mun e Tyr, A Par-Mar (imp), A Pie-Tus, A Tyr e Mun, F Tun-Ion, F Tyhr e Tun-Ion, F Wmd-Tun

Eng (O'Donnell): NMR!! A Gal-Hold, A Liv-Hold, A Sil-Hold, F Edi-Hold, F Kie-Hold, F Lon-Hold, F Naf-Hold, F Nwg-Hold

WOULD GARY BEHNEN (13101 S. TRENTON, OLATHE KS 66062) PLEASE STAND BY FOR ENG.

PROPOSAL: A/I/E/F/R draw. Remember that NVR=yes. Please vote.

(Press)

Aus-World: After Eng & Fra screwed up the game, they NMR out & resign respectively! Thanks a lot, guys. You ruined my kill, destroyed my fun, then run off like yellow-bellied wimp-suckers. ((Yellow-bellied wimp-suckers. I like that.)) And leave me to deal with Bob "I'll always attack Caruso forever & ever" O'Donnell & Mark "You give me 5 dots & I'll think about it" Howorth. NOT to mention having the unpredictable Woody as one neighbor & Steve "I'd rather suck eggs than use my mind" Courtemanche as the other. Makes a guy wish he never played the game.

Rus-Eng: Wait a minute! You're not Ken Corbin! ((Very good, Cochise.)) What happened to my bonnie blue ally? Why didn't you answer my letter? Don't you know that the Russian leaders are a very paranoid group of people?

Redman-GM: What happened to Ken? I don't know what I'm going to do without him. ((He's still in 84A0)) This player doesn't have hi writing style, his honest face. Bring back the Mad Dog! ((Dead or alive?))

Rus-Fra: I was pretty sure about McCarthy coming back & thought England was as good as gold. One more guess like that & I will have strike 3. Interesting builds

Rus-Its: OK, shall we start cooperating or are you going to be a pain?  
 Rus-Aus: This is your chance to give me the shaft again. I hope that your ball team is doing well & that you are feeling better. Shall we negotiate?  
 Rus-Eng/Fra: You may or may not have an alliance. Only the wily Englishman ((which one?)) knows for sure.  
 SB Fra-Game: Wouldn't you like to know what I plan?  
 LL-Rus: Honey, you still haven't taken out the garbage--& it's hard to type while I'm holding my nose...((Does this mean the honeymoon's over?))  
 LL-GM: (\*Sigh\*) Cochise made me take all his press out of the garbage. ((Try holding his DIP mail as hostage.))  
 Rus-LL: Last night was wonderful. Would you like another piece of chocolate break-up? The trash has been taken out.

84IW (WOLVERINE)    DRAWS FAIL AS SEASONS SEPARATED!!

Note: Correct SC's below. Also Russia ordered A Ukr-Rum last season that I forgot to list.

Winter 1907

<u>Aus (Byrne)</u> : Home, Ser, Grø, Rom, Mar, Ven, Nap, Bul, Spa, Tun (12)	+2
<u>Eng (Burgess)</u> : Edi (1)	even
<u>Fra (Rusnak)</u> : Par, Por, Liv (3)	-2
<u>Ger (Manning)</u> : Home, Den, Bel, Hol, Bre, Lon (8)	+1
<u>Rus (Gestiehr)</u> : Home, Rum, Nwy, Ank, Swe, Con, Smy (10) (or retreat otb & +1)	even

Winter 1907

Aus (Byrne): +A Bud, +F Tri  
 Has: Armies) Gal, Bud, Bul, Mar, Ser, Spa, Vie, Tyr  
 Fleets) Ion, Aeg, Tun, Tri

Eng (Burgess): Has F Edi

Fra (Rusnak): - A Bur, -A Par  
 Has: Fleets) Cly, Nao, Por

Ger (Manning): +A Ber  
 Has: Armies) Ser, Bre, Ruh, Mun, Lon  
 Fleets) Bel, Cha, Den

Rus (Gestiehr): A Bul retreat otb, +A Sev  
 Has: Armies) Sev, Ank, Yor, Rum, Nwy, War  
 Fleets) Ble, Smy, Nwg, Nth

PROPOSALS: A/G/R

Beloved MGM appear in person at KingCon to prove she isn't just a computerized telephone answering machine. ((Consider this vetoed as NO computer could screw up as well as I do))  
 Remember, NVR = yes. Please vote.

Thanks to Don Swartz for submitting unneeded standby orders.  
 Press held because of separation.

'85' R (STARWOLF)    GAME DELAYED!!

Thanks again to the USPS, a player did not receive REBEL until a few days before the deadline. Therefore, game is delayed one issue. Fall 1906 orders are due next issue (along with votes on proposals).

85AK (SMUGGLERS BLUES)    GAME DELAYED!!

Thanks again to the USPS, a player did not receive REBEL until a few days before the deadline. Therefore, game is delayed one issue. Winter 1905/Spring 1906 orders are due next issue (along with votes on season separation & draw proposal.)

B5LR032 (GYPSY)      DRAWS FAIL!!      ENGLISH KING IN EXILE!!

SUMMER '06  
ITMAY: A Vie retreat  
Boh

Fall 1906

- Ger: A Ber-Kie, A Den-Kie, A Mun s Sil-Ber, A Sil-Ber, A Swe s Fin-Nwy (destroyed), F Fin-Nwy (imp), F Stp(NC) s Fin-Nwy
- Fra: A Bur-Hold, A Edi S Liv-Yor, A Liv-Yor, F Cha-Lon, F Cly-Nwg, F Iri-Cha, F Nth s Cha-Lon
- Rus: A Bul-Cre, A Gal s Vie, A Lvo-Stp, A Nwy-Swe, A Pru-War, A Rum-Bud, A Ser-Tri, A Smy s French gains anywhere (Hold), A Vie s Ser-Tri (destroyed), F Dal s Nwy-Swe, F Con-Aeg
- Eng: A Yor-Liv (destroyed), F Lon-Nth (retreat Wel, otb)
- Ita: A Boh s Tri-Vie, A Tri-Vie, A Tyr s Tri-Vie, F Adr-Tri, F Eng-Aeg, F Gro s Emd-Aeg, F Ion s Gre

Winter 1906

- Eng: None out
- Fra: Home, Spa, Por, Bel, Liv, Edi, Lon (9) +2
- Ger: Home, Den, Hol, Nwy, Stp (7) +1
- Ita: Home, Gre, Tun, Tri, Vie (7) even
- Rus: Mos, Sev, War, Rum, Bul, Ser, Oud, Smy, Con, Ank, Swe (11) +1

REMEMBER IT TAKES 2 REQUESTS TO SEPARATE SEASONS.

PROPOSAL: F/I/G/R      NVR=yes      Please vote.      PROPOSAL: F/I/R

(Press)

Ger-Fra: I just hope no one prods you in my direction.

Fra-Ger: In your ear, Kaiser Bill!! This month YOU are in all the draws. Let's not get catty about these things until one passes. ((Right. Then it's too late.))

Fra-Ita: While it may be true that Our Spider Eyes does not gossip, anyone willing to call Byrne an elderly dwarf could rapidly become gossip--and little else. ((So I like to live dangerously.))

Fra-Rus: You're still the largest power on the board. TALK, lest it be necessary to look for you along with Easy Eddie.

Fra-Spider Eyes: Your last caption stated "ENGLISH MONARCH RETURNS". But, with typically misplaced WV brevity, you didn't state what those returns were. Rufo is honored to reveal that, in an election called upon the death of Easy Eddie from eating imported WV cooking, over 75% of those able to reach a polling place (bottoms of 3 Welsh coal mines) favored long-overdue execution of a 14th-century agreement to combine the thrones of France & England. Chief Election Moderator Ferdy Marcos states that Parliament will set the coronation for this coming winter, to fulfill a condition apparently requiring the place where the members will meet King Rufo I to be frozen over. ((Amen))

Rus-Ger: You started this. Suggest you find a way out of it. Soon.

Rus-Fra: Who said I have anything against the English? I just find humor in the idea of a nine-centered sheltered power.

(Eng): All dressed out & nowhere to go.

Ita-Rus: Not nice. I thought Vie & Smy were mine. ((Easy mistake))

Ita-Fra/Ger: Well, I can hold Russia in the South. How about some help from the North?

MGM-Peter Parker: I hate how the saga of Sensor Girl turned out. Enhanced powers indeed!

B411Q (CRECY)      GAME DELAYED!!

Thanks again to the USPS, a player did not receive REBEL until a few days before the deadline. Therefore, game is delayed one issue. Winter 1906/Spring 1907 orders are due next issue (along with votes on season separation & draw proposals).

85C1 (TWILIGHT ZONE) SEASONS SEPARATED!!

Winter 1904

- Eng (Caruso): +F Lon  
Has: (Armies) Liv, Nwy Yor  
Fleets) Lon, Bro, Mag, Nth, Spa(SC)
- Ita (Milewski): Has: Armies) Nap  
Fleets (Aag, Tyhr
- Rus (Huret): Has: Armies) Boh, Sil, War
- Aus (Wallace): Has: Armies) Bud, Ser, Vie  
Fleets (Alb
- Ger (Botimeff): A Sil retreat Pru  
Has: Armies) Pic, Bur, Mar, Mun, Pru  
Fleet) Swe
- Tur (Davis): Has: Armies) Bul, Smy, Gre  
Fleets) Con, Ion, Rum, End
- Fra (Johnson): F Liv retreat oth, A Mar retreat oth  
Has: A Gae

PROPOSAL: E/G/T Remember, NVR=yes Please vote  
Press held due to season separation.

85QR032 (WHITE LIGHTNING) SEASONS SEPARATED AS KAISER RESIGNS!!

Winter 1903

- Aus: +A Bud  
Has: Armies) Bud, Gal, Tri, Vie, War  
Fleet) Alb
- Eng: F Cha retreat Lon  
Has: Army) Nwy  
Fleets) Lon, Nth, Nwg
- Fra: Has: Armies) Bur, Par  
Fleets) Bro, Cha, Mar
- Ger: +A Mun  
Has: Armies) Mun, Ber, Bel, Ruh, Swe  
Fleets) Den, Bal
- Ita: Has: Armies) Boh, Ven  
Fleets) Tun, Tyhr
- Rus: A Mar retreat Lvo, F Bal retreat Pru  
-A Lvo, - F Bal  
Has: (Armies) Ukr, Mos
- Tur: F Tun retreat Wnd  
Has: Armies) Ser, Sev  
Fleets) Ion, Con, End, Wnd

NEW GERMAN PLAYER IS  
Note: Thanks to original German player for resigning with class.  
Press held due to season separation.

05CZ (SCARECROW) WAR CONTINUES AS NEW CZAR APPEARS!!

Winter 1903

- Aus (Johnson): -F Alb
- Tur (Gorski): +F Con
- Rus (Walker): A Bud retreat Ser, -A Fin
- Fra (Gestiehr): +A Mar
- Eng (Heinowski): +A Lon
- Ger (Botimer): +A Ber

Spring 1904

Aus (Johnson): A Bud s Vie-Iri, A Vie-Iri  
Ita (Caruso): A Pie-Mar, A Tri-Ven, A Tyr-Mun (retreat Vie, otb), F Ion-Nap  
Tur (Gorski): A Arm-Sev, A Bul-Rum, F Bla s Bul-Rum, F Con-Dul(SC), F Gre s (I)  
F Ion (otm)  
Rus (Walker): A Rum s Ser-Bud (Retreat Gal, Ukr, otb), A Ser-Bud, F Sev s Rum  
Fra (Gestiehr): A Bur-Mar, A Mar-Tus, A Naf-Iun, F Lyo c Mar-Tus, F Mao-Wmd, F  
Tun-Tyhr  
Eng (Heinowoki): A Lon-Nwy, A Mos s Nwy-Stp, A Nwy-Stp, F Nth c Lon-Nwy, F Stp(NC)-  
Bar, F Swe s Lon-Nwy, F Wel-Unordered (Hold)  
Ger (Botimer): A Bel-Hold, A Ber-Sil, A Kie-Mun, A Mun-Tyr, A Boh s Mun-Tyr, A  
War s Ber-Sil, F Bal-Den

PROPOSAL: F/E/G E/f/G/I/T NVR=yes Please vote

Jim McCarthy has NMR'd out. New Russian player is John Walker.

(Press)

Ber-Europe: Well, I must say that this particular experiment in Diplomacy has been enjoyable. My first shot at a 3-way & it worked! Thanks to you all for an excellent learning experience. ((Don't count your draw until the votes are in.))

85HJ (MAGNUM) ENGLISH ARMY BITES THE BIG ONE!!

Spring 1903

Ita (Gorski): A Boh-Tyr, A Pie s Boh-Tyr, F Tyhr-Ion, F Wmd-Lyo

Eng (Botimer): A Pic-Bel (destroyed), F Cha-Nth, F Iri-Mao, F Mao-Naf, F Nwy s  
Cha-Nth

Fra (Bowen): A Bur-Bel, A Par-Pic, A Spa-Ges, F Dre s Par-Pic, F Mar-Spa(GC)

Ger (Hakey): A Pru-Lyo, A Ruh-Kie, A Swe-Fin, F Ber s Kie-Bal, F Kie-Bal

Aus (Boyd): A Bud s Vie, A Bul s (R) F Ank-Con, A Ser-Iri, A Iri-Tyr, A Ven-Apu,  
A Vie s Iri-Tyr, F Gre-Aeg

Rus (Graessele): A Rum-Gal, A Sev-Arm, A War-Lvo, A Ukr-War, F Ank-Con, F Bal-Pru  
(retreat Bot, Den, Swe, otb)

Tur (McKnight): A Con-Hold, A Gal-Rum

(Press)

Aus-Italian Slow: Thanks for the support. It would have been nice to have the news before the day of the deadline. I'm sorry no mail did me jump.

Aus-Writers All: If allied with me at least I monthly letter is required. Or risk a call.

Aus-Secret Pen Pal: OK as requested. Now you do your part.

Fra-Rus/Aus: Nice stabs, guys.

Fra-Tur: You had your chance to stab Russia.

Fra-Eng: Gee, it's nice to know I'm right, while you & Germany beat on me. ((At least you have the consolation of knowing you were right.))

Fra-Ger/Eng: Don't look now, but an R/A is going to come hopping on us.

Fra-Rus/Aus: I should be able to keep England busy enough so he won't be able to help Germany. Munch him quick!

Fra-Ita: Why do you want to pick on poor little ol' me? ((Easy target??)) What did I ever do to you? I see red blocks in Italy? ((Most people see Rom, Nap, etc How long have you had this condition?))

Fra-Aus: I like Turkey's idea about pizza. Make it a Domino's pizza! ((Yeah!!))

Fra-GM: Sour grapes! I just wanted everyone in the game to know that Hakey & Botimer are cross-game allies. ((Thank God I'm not playing with them in one game.))

Fra-Rus: Germany & England both told me they thought you were the best player in the game. So they cleverly attack me instead. Somebody isn't playing with a full deck. ((I don't believe Woody's in this game.))

Sultan-World: Oh no! What have I gotten myself into now?! ((No, no, you tell us!))

Sultan-Rus: OK, your plan worked. We have them fooled. Now will you give me my capitol back?

Sultan-Ger/Ita: Alright. Which one of us gets War?

Sultan-World: I will donate the services of my harem for a week to the brave man

who gets to Moscow first. ((I take it Russia's excluded from this deal?))  
Isar-Dumb Hun: I have seen many people play Ger, but you're the most confused one yet. You can't fight a 2-front war as Ger, just look to his tory for the answer to that one. In fact you're most stupid than Hitler! And as Hitler you, too, will be taught the lesson.

Isar-Turk: I'm hurt. You haven't written me since you lost 2 of your centers. ((Poor baby))

Isar-Pope: You better find yourself a direction. You're taking after the Hun. I just hope whatever you 2 have, it isn't contagious.

Isar-Hunster: So tell me, how are you going to protect all those centers you own? How are you going to stop France from marching into Bur? What am I going to shot for? You have 5 potential enemies & how many allies?

Isar-Arch Duke Boyd: Just don't catch the disease that your other central powers have. Stay true & reap the spoils of war.

86IRB32 (DOMINO) SEASONS SEPARATED AS FRANCE FORFEITS BUILDS!!

Winter 1901

Eng: +F Edi

Has: Army) Nwy  
Fleets) Edi, Nth, Bar

Ita: +F Nap

Has: Armies) Ven, Tyr  
Fleets) Ion, Nap

Aus: +A Bud, +A Vie

Has: Armies) Bud, Vie, Ser, Tri  
Fleet) Gre

Rus: +A Mos, +A Stp

Has: Armies) Mos, Stp, Sev, Ukr  
Fleets) Rum, Swe

Ger: +A Ger

Has: Armies) Ber, Kie, Ruh  
Fleet) Hol

Tur: +F Smy

Has: Armies) Bul, Arm  
Fleets) Hia, Smy

Fra: NUR!! Plays 3 short

Has: Armies) Bel, Por  
Fleet) Spa(5C)

STANDBY FOR FRANCE IS:

Press hold due to season separation.

Thanks to standby German for unneeded standby orders.

86AE (CHAPARRAL) 2ND BATTLE OF TYROLIA A DRAW!!

Fall 1901

Ita (Shreve): A Hon-Ven, A Ven-Tyr, F Ion-Iun

Eng (Hurst): A Yor-Del, F Nth c Yor-Del, F Nwg-Nwy

Rus (Botimer): A Gal-Bud, A Ukr-Rum, F Hot-Swe, F Sev s Ukr-Rum

Tur (Johnson): A Bul-Gre, A Con-Bul, F Ank-Bla

Fra (Gonsalves): A Mar-Spa, A Pic-Bel, F Mao-Por

Aus (Davis): A Ser s Alb-Gre, A Vie-Bud, F Alb-Gre

Ger (Boyd): A Kie-Hol, A Hun-Tyr, F Den-Hold

Winter 1901

Aus (Davis): Home, Ser, Gre (5) +2

Eng (Hurst): Home, Nwy (4) +1

Fra (Gonsalves): Home, Por, Spa (5) +2

<u>Ger (Boyd):</u> Home, Den, Hol (5)	+2
<u>Ita (Shreve):</u> Home, Tun(4)	+1
<u>Rus (Botimer):</u> Home, Rum, Swe (6)	+2
<u>Tur (Johnson):</u> Home, Gul (4)	+1

REMEMBER IT TAKES 2 REQUESTS TO SEPARATE SEASONS.

(Press)

(Eng): I am annoyed at whoever wrote that so-called English press last time. ((AND rightly so)) Anyone who knows me knows I never drink 2 pitchers at 1 sitting, especially if I plan on turning in moves. Also, I treat women with more respect than calling them "babes". Any women I pick up & my wife al receive respectful treatment, especially a couple of sisters I know out in Mt. Horeb. You could see the winnabagoes on those ladies.

Eng-Ulæk Press Artist: The place name in question is STOUGHTON, & is full of Norwegians that are now mad at you! UFT DA!

Eng-Ch: Stoughton is the biggest Norwegian community in the USA & they're proud of it! If he can't spell it right, he deserves what he gets! ((Hey, no argument here.))

Eng-Fra: I assume the black press artist tried to bite you, too. Don't worry. I know who he is. His letters are just as trite. As for me, you'll know my press when you see it. Everybody does. It's awfully hard to fake. So don't worry. I know the press didn't come from you.

Eng-World: The lamentable absence of press from Wisconsin is due to my severe sickness last month & my vacation thi month. Will be back in the lists again soon, though. CAVE ADSUM!

Aus-Rus: Northern strategy, eh?

Aus-Tur: Relax, threats don't become you.

Aus-Ita: Leave me alone & we can work together. Try to Tri & you'll regret it.

((He tried for 1yr & regrets it))

(Paris Free Press): IN response to the slander against the French government printed 1st season, French agents raided the residence of one Melinda Holley & retrieved a portion of the letter used in the slander. French Frogmen assisted in drawing police away by blowing up the Greenpeace ship "Rainbow Yuppie" which was engaged in saving the few remaining WV Republicans. ((We still have some for PR purposes))

(Paris Crime Lab): Chemical analysis of the letter showed traces of stale beer & cheap perfume found only in French Class D brothels & the finest establishments in Vie & Ger.

Tur-Aus: You just lost an able ally through your pointless perfidy. ((Nice turn of phrase.))

Tur-Rus: Hope I didn't fool you with tht press last time.

Tur-Ita: Let's stom Austria flatter than a stepped-on bug!

The latest edition of Dragon's Lair is out. It is edited by Stephen Wilcox (5300 W. Gulf Bank, #103, Houston TX 77008) & published by Pete Gaughan (3121 E. Park Row, #165, Arlington TX 76010). Rebel subbers who made the list are:

- Best Austria: No Rebel subbers
- Best England: Dan Stafford-#1
- Best France: Dan Stafford-#2, Bob Acheson-#4, Kathy Byrne-#5
- Best Germany-Stan Johnson #5
- Best Italy: Kathy Byrne-#1, Russ Kusnak-#4
- Best Russia: Dan Stafford-#2
- Best Turkey: Russ Kusnak-#1

Player Rankings from Dragons's Lair: Dan Stafford-#1, Kathy Byrne-#2, Russ Kusnak-#3, Bill Quinn-#63, Nelson Heintzman-#70, John Caruso-#76, Elmer Hinton-#92, Bob Olsen-#109, Melinda Holley-#110, Ben Schilling-#127, Steve Heinowski-#133, Steve Arnawoodian-#140, Stan Johnson-#141, Joe Clement-#145, Gary Couchlan-#151, Derwood Bowen-#152, Dwayne Shreve-#175, James Early-#182, Bob Acheson-#199, Ken Corbin-#220, Don (CA) Williams-#226, Tom Hurst-#230, Ed Wrobel-#236, Steve Courte manche-#243, Ken Peel-#243(tie), John walker-#247, Paul Milewski-#253, Larry

Peery-#265, Jim Burgess-#305.

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Player Reliability Ranking from Dragon's Lair: Kathy Byrne-#1, Don Schilling-#5, Paul Milewski-#15, Melinda Holley-#17, Jim Burgess-325.

Standby-Rankings from Dragon's Lair: Ken Gestiehr-#24, George Graessle-#30, Conrad Binshall-#38, Don Schilling-#46, Bill Quinn-#48, Gary Coughlan-#55, Steve Arnawoodian-#64, Jim Burgess-#82, Kathy Byrne-#95, Don (CA) Williams-#102, Dan Stafford-#116, Bob Olsen-#137, John Caruso-#139(tie), Melinda Holley-#139 (tie), Steve Heinowski-#157, Paul Milewski-#160, Derwood Bowen-#174, Ken Corbin-#186, Bob Acheson-#201, Stan Johnson-#204, Tom Hurst-#222.

Combined Player & Standby Rankings from Dragon's Lair: Dan Stafford-#4, Russ Rusnak-#15, Kathy Byrne-#16, Nelson Heintzman-#22, Bill Quinn-#40, John Caruso-#62, Don Schilling-#64, Bob Olsen-#66, Ken Gestiehr-#72, Melinda Holley-#74, Steve Arnawoodian-#77, Gary Coughlan-#80, James Early-#92, Joe Clement-#96, Ken Pecl-#97, Stan Johnson-#100, Mark Gorski-#107(tie), Steve Heinowski-#107(tie), Derwood Bowen-#110, Ed Grobel-#118, Dwayne Shreve-#119, Jim Burgess-#121, Bob Acheson-#126, Don (CA) Williams-#131, Ken Corbin-#157, Paul Milewski-#158, Tom Hurst-#175.

MaryCon results are in. Rebel subbers who distinguished themselves are: #25-Mike Gonsalves, #50-Jim McCarthy, #56-Conrad Binshall, #38-Larry Peery. John Walker won the Dot Happy Award; Dan Stafford won the John Koning Memorial Award; and Bill Jain won the Don Miller Memorial Award. Mike Gonsalves also won Best Austria and a Death with Dignity Award. Congratulations to all.

Dan Stafford's Marco Poll is out. You can get complete results from Dan (1637 Hampton Knoll, Akron OH 44315-4848). Rebel subbers making the list are: REBEL as zine #1; HIGH INTELLIA as #2 subzine; Top Writers-Job Olsen-#1, Steve Langley-#3, Don (CA) Williams-#4, Linda Courtemanche-#9, Kathy Byrne-#10; Player Poll Results: Kathy Byrne-#1, Dan Stafford-#2, Russ Rusnak-#6, Steve Langley-#7, John Caruso-#10, Don Swartz-#12, Melinda Holley-#19; and GM Poll Results-Russ Rusnak-#2; Kathy Byrne-#4.

Freshman Zine & Subzine Poll results are out. For Complete details contact Steve & Dar Langley (2202 Eden Roc Lane, #1, Sacramento CA 95825). REBEL came in #6 while HIGH INTELLIA came in #1.

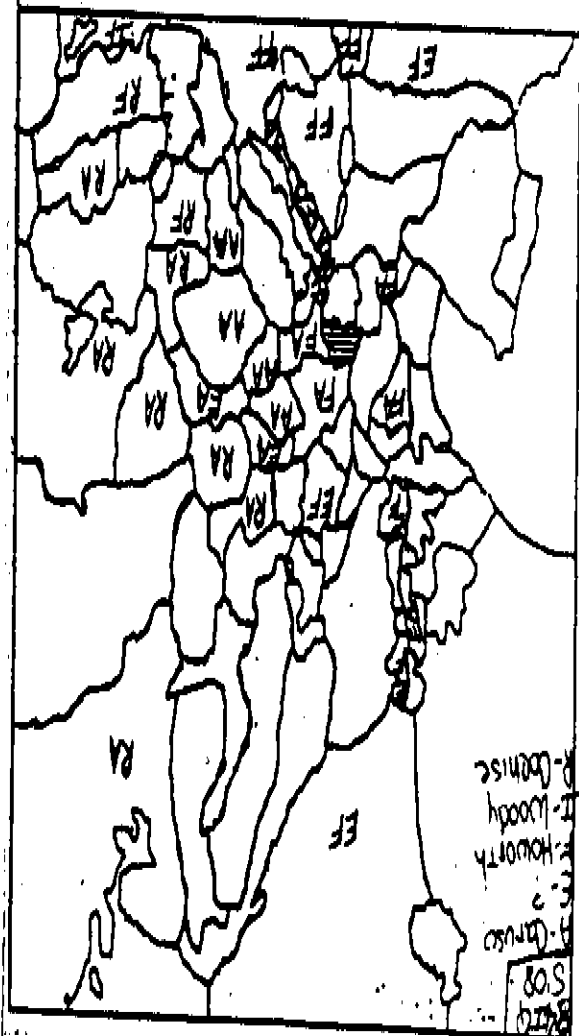
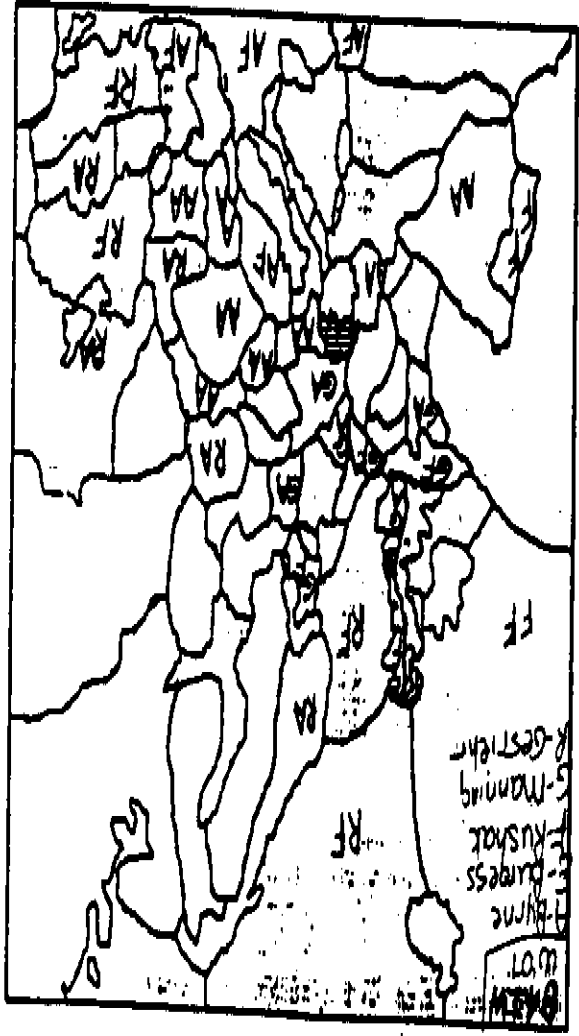
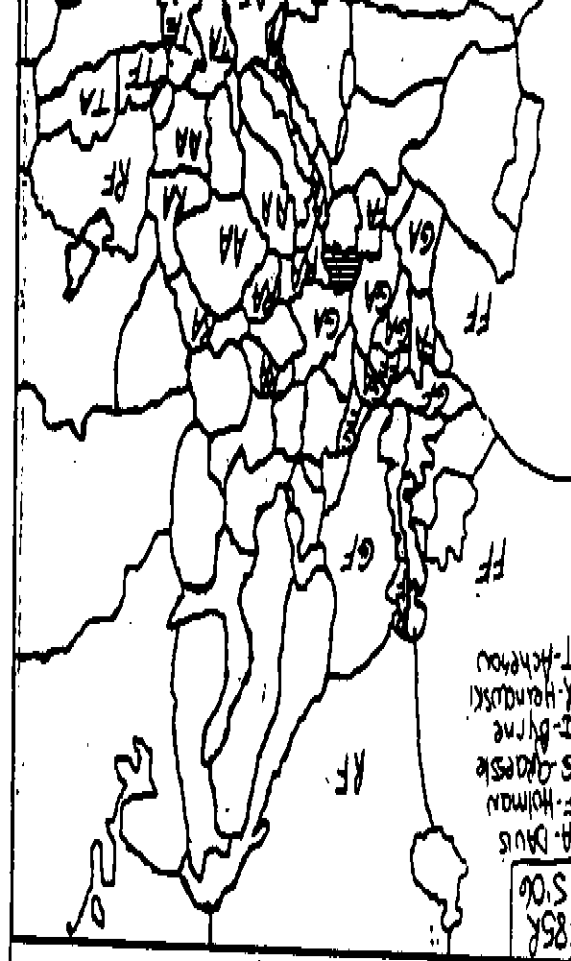
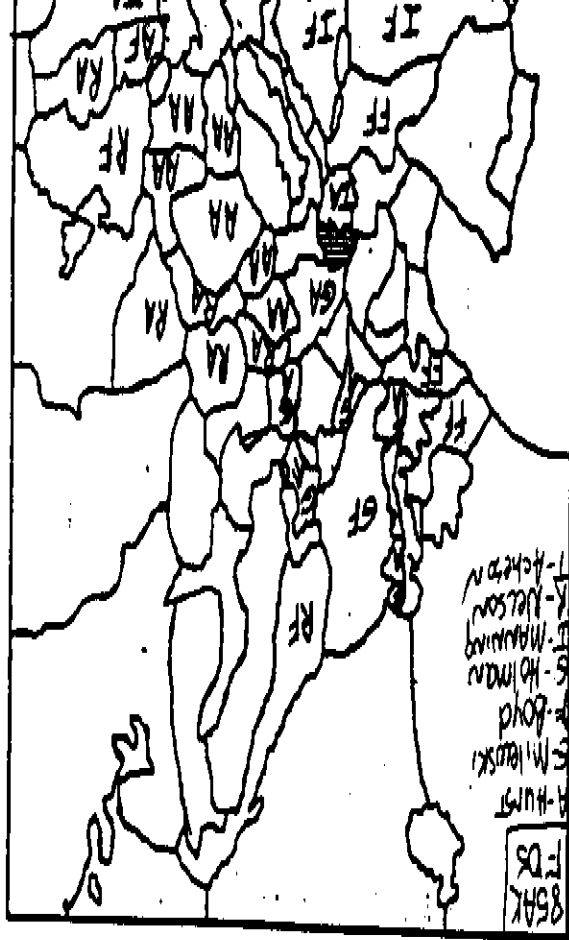
Dan Stafford's Influential Player Rankings are out. Rebel subbers making the list are: Dan Stafford-#1, Kathy Byrne-#3, Russ Rusnak-#4, Bill Quinn-#7, Don Swartz-#9, Steve Arnawoodian-#10, Stan Johnson-#11, Steve Langley-#18, Bob Acheson-#19, Bob Olsen-#35.

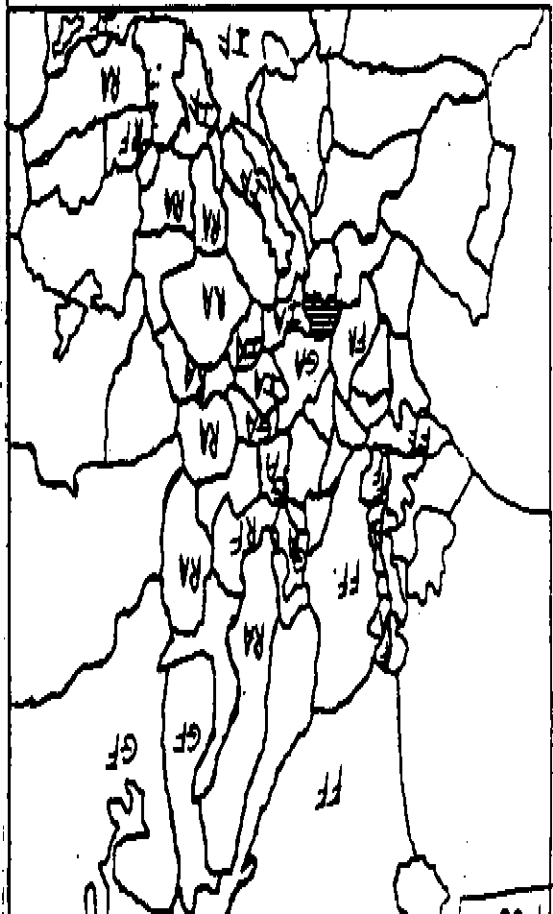
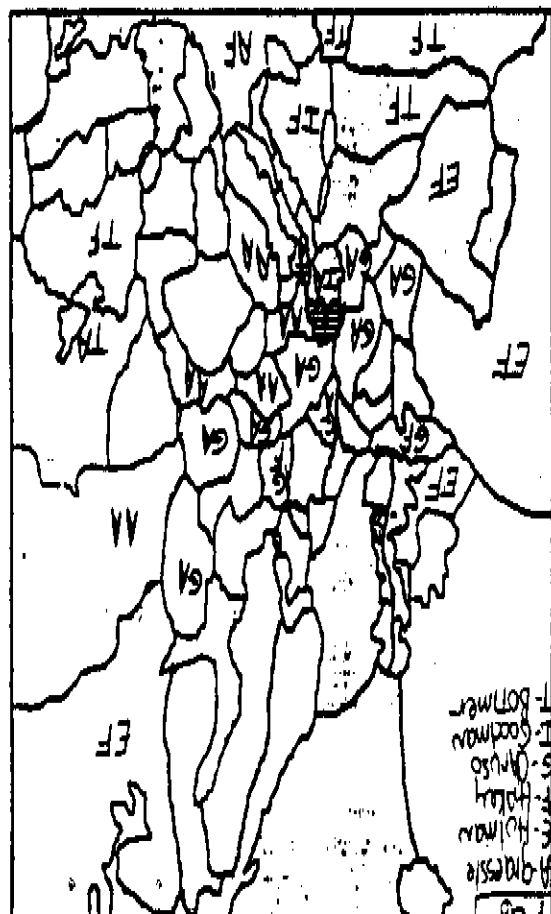
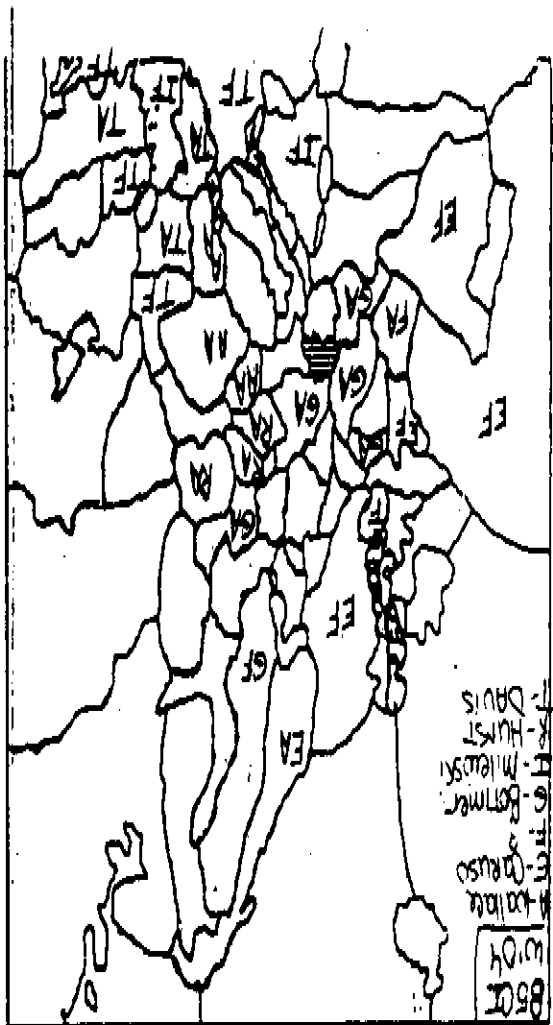
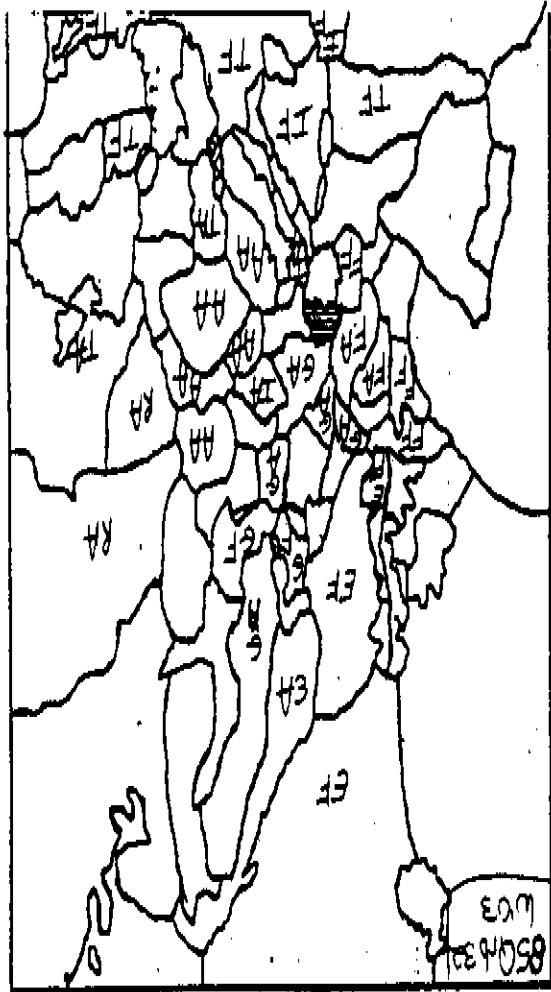
Latest issue of EVERYTHING is out. Rebel subbers getting draws were: Steve Heinowski (4-way draw in 82A); Steve Arnawoodian (4-way as Eng in 82A); Melinda Holley (2-way draw as Eng in 8211); Steve Courtemanche (2-way draw as Rus in 8211); Steve Arnawoodian (4-way draw in 8300 as Ger); Melinda Holley (4-way draw as Ita in 8300); Bob Olsen (4-way as Rus in 8300); Tom Hurst (4-way draw as Tur in 8300); Nelson Heintzman (4-way draw as Tur in 84C); John Caruso (5-way draw as Eng in 84J); Bob Olsen (5-way draw as Ger in 84J); Stan Johnson (WLN as Italy in 84C); Steve Langley (2-way draw as Eng in 84C); Kathy Byrne (2-way draw as Ger in 84C); Russ Wallace (4-way draw as Fra in 85AH); Tom Hurst (4-way draw as Ita in 85AH); Mark Gorski (4-way draw as Rus in 85AH).

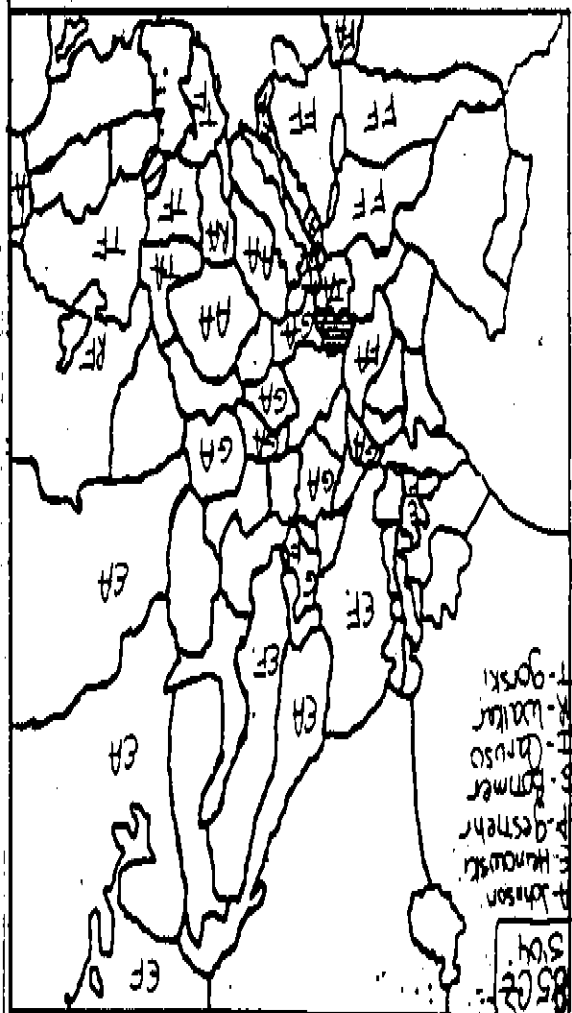
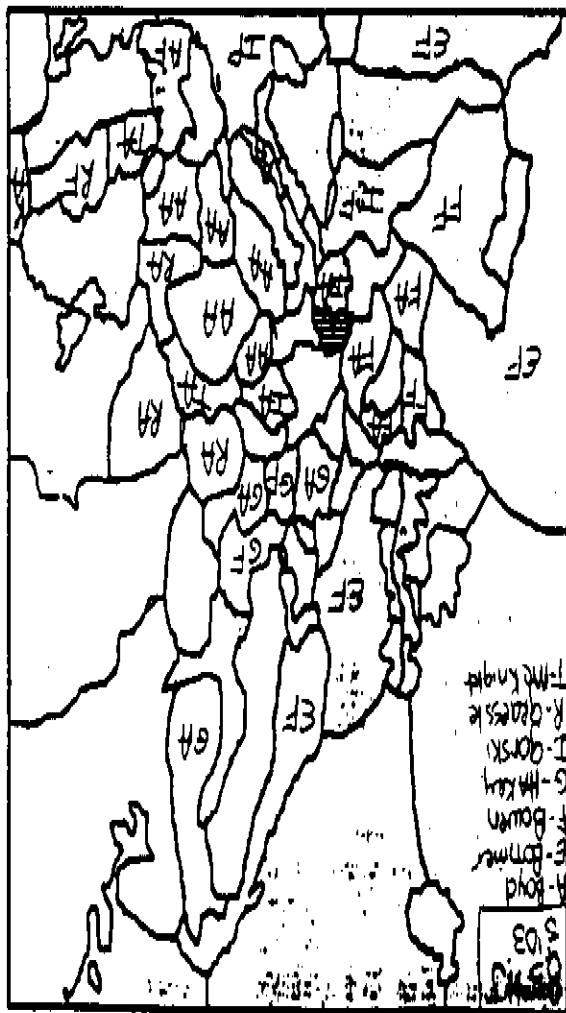
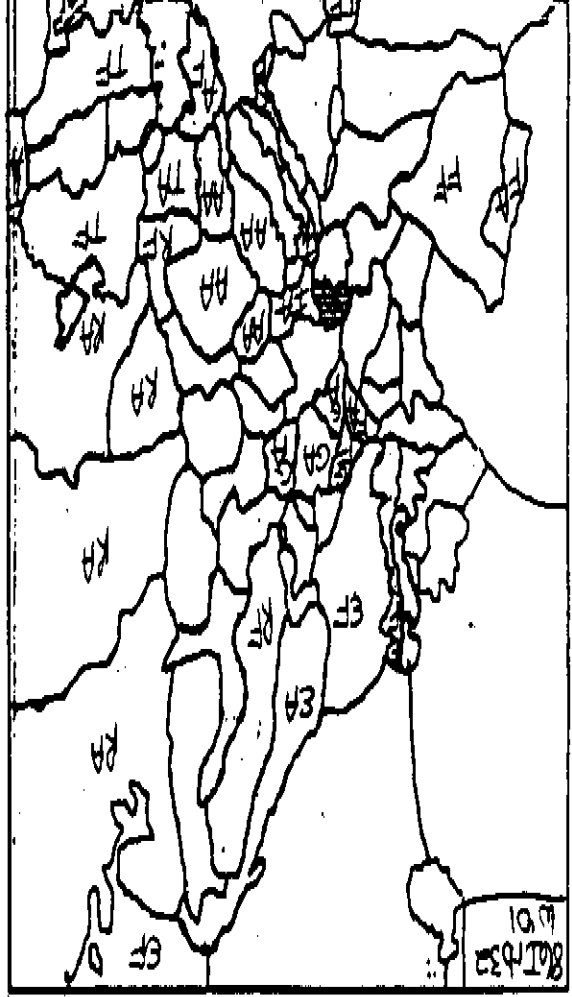
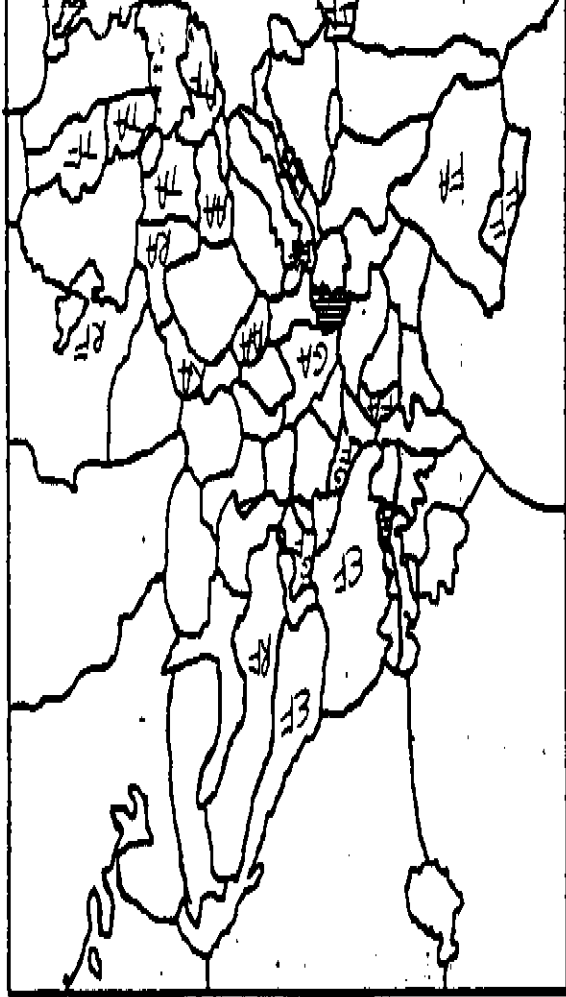
Can't believe I got all this into 24 pages. Well, if some games hadn't been delayed and seasons separated it wouldn't have so....

I'll think of you guys while I'm on vacation. KINGS ISLAND HERE I COME!!!!









\*\*\*\*\* HIGH INERTIA \*\*\*\*\*

Issue #9 Letter Rip!/Subbertime!/Contest  
Deadline: 10 Days Before REBEL's.  
"The Chocolate Game" Deadline:  
September 1st, 1986 (Spring '01).

TO: Everyone who wants to read a slightly wacky subzine!  
FROM: Linda & Steve Courtemanche.  
DATE: August 1986.  
RE: You'll just have to read this and find out...  
PUBBERS' ADDRESS: 1021 Penn Circle, Apartment E402, King of  
Prussia, PA 19406.

AVERAGE DAILY RAINFALL IN KENYA (Sorry, got carried away.)

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"A real diplomat is one who can cut  
his neighbor's throat without having  
his neighbor notice it."

-- Trygve Lie.

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The biggest news of this issue is that THF CHOCOLATE GAME is finally  
underway. Spring '01 orders will be due on September 1, 1986, so  
you'll all get to see the action soon! Let me introduce the  
Chocoholics:

- Francine Byrne.....England
- Stan Johnson.....Germany
- Mark Sheron.....Russia
- Don Williams.....France
- Mike Goodman.....Turkey
- Russ Wallace.....Austria
- Michael Gonsalves...Italy

I may be crazy, but I'm actually looking forward to this game! And  
now, some of our players have sent along a few words about themselves.

RUSS WALLACE: I'm a tired old man. (I just turned 40.) I am  
married to a lovely and understanding woman. (She puts up with my  
wargaming.) I'm an electrical estimator. (I have to do something in  
order to buy stamps and new games.)

((More from Russ on the next page...))

RUSS WALLACE (cont'd.): I have a son who is about to turn 16. (He'll probably want to give up gaming and start borrowing the car.) I'm a Sunday School teacher. (I do this to be absolved of my big sin, playing Diplomacy. It doesn't make me any more honest, or dishonest, I might add.)

MIKE GOODMAN: I am a 34-year-old lifelong resident of The Bronx, and I work as a computer programmer for a Wall Street bank. I was a chemist for 7 years before that. I like college football, country music, the N.Y. Mets, SCTV, and chocolate chip cookies. Hobbies: Chess and swimming.

MARK SHERON: My Life Story in 2 paragraphs or less: I'm a 23-year-old student at The University of Texas. I have an undergraduate degree in Finance, and I'm a little more than 1/2-way to a MBA (Finance). I decided on graduate school only after carefully considering my options and found I didn't have any. I guess that's not surprising since the most impressive thing on my resume (which fits nicely on a 4 x 6 index card) is that I'm starting my 3rd year of work as a baseball/softball umpire and football/basketball referee for UT intramurals and some of the little leagues around town.

To relax, I read a lot of books, and watch a lot of TV, although, as a general rule, I try to avoid anythin' requirin' more than a 6th grade education (except for Thursday night on NBC -- ask someone who owns a TV, Steve). I also play in a few play-by-mail games. In fact, that's how I met Steve. The two of us are dominating a game of ECI's Power together. I guess my only legitimate claim to fame is that, out of the 7 times when there was no doubt that cops were tryin' to catch me for somethin' (i.e., lights and siren on), I've only stopped 3 times. The 3 times I have stopped have resulted in, among other things, 2 hours in the Montgomery County jail (that's another story), which is why I don't like to stop. Out of the 4 times I've run, I've gotten away 4 times (100%). I guess the big problem is I don't like the idea of Feds tellin' Texans how fast to drive. Finally I just want to wish everyone (except my enemies) Good Luck!

STAN JOHNSON: I'm 33, single; started playing Dip in 1972. My first PBM game was in "          "'s; but the zine folded after Spring 1901. Then I played in Charles Rensill's Big Brother, which gave me the idea of what it's like to play Dip under an absolute dictator. My first (so far only) con was in Baltimore in 1976, where I met many of the hobby greats. I intend to keep Dipping till I drop. I enjoy seeing more women in the Hobby. My greatest thrill was meeting Kathy Byrne!

FRANCINE BYRNE: Why should I send a paragraph about myself in? The people I want to know about me, know. The other people who wanna know can ask me themselves.

((Profile of a Duck: Next page!))

DON WILLIAMS: Hello, Don here. What follows is the brief bio requested by our illustrious GM.

I'm 28 years old (29 in August), married, two children. I work as an urban planner for the City of San Bernardino, and spend most of my time up to my elbows in Environmental Impact Reports.

Hmmm, what else? I'm 6'1", 175 lbs., brown hair and blue eyes. (Rumors to the contrary, I do not sport feathers or webbed feet, nor do I waddle.)

I've been in the PBM hobby for several years now, and have a miserable record. (Really.) I prefer the eastern countries, Russia and Italy especially, and this is only my second France. (The first time, I got wiped out by 1903!)

Best wishes to all, and good luck.

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NOTE TO CHOCOHOLICS: All countries except Italy have orders on file.

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FROM CASA COURTEMANCHE:

Steve and I have had an incredibly busy, zany, and fun summer, and to top it off, we just celebrated (July 20th) our first anniversary! We celebrated the day by driving up to Allentown and enjoying a refreshing afternoon at Wildwater Kingdom, which is an amusement park featuring water-slides, a man-made surfing beach, and so on. You couldn't ask for a better way to beat the heat!

Over the 4th of July, I know a number of you had a blast at one con or another. Steve and I didn't exactly go to a con that weekend, but the atmosphere turned out to be the same! A friend of ours came to town from Boston to be in a chess-tournament in Philly. We had him over at our place the first night, and the next day, we went to see him at his hotel. We ended up running into some other friends there, and so the whole gang of us spent the weekend partying, exploring the city (something we never get around to doing because we take the area for granted now), eating out, gaming, gabbing, and telling strange jokes! We enjoyed every minute.

As for the rest of the summer (so far), it has included softball games with a church group, shopping for friends' weddings (even the younger ones are getting married now! I feel old), movies, get-togethers with local friends, and of course the usual days-at-the-office for Steve and me. Not to mention hobby stuff, like getting the apartment ready for KingCon and trying to figure out where we're going to put everyone who shows up...!!

Linda.

From time to time, I can't resist plugging something I like, in or out of the Hobby. So here are a few more plugs:

PLUG #1: The Zine Bank. To help round out my Hobby knowledge, I wrote to Simon Billenness and asked him to send me copies of a few zines (I believe I asked for 6) that I hadn't yet had the pleasure of reading. Well -- less than one week after writing to him, we got the notice to pick up a package at The Post Office. Pick it up? Heck, we could hardly LIFT the thing! The envelope was bulging with more than 20 great zines, and we enjoyed reading them. Many thanks and much applause to Simon for a superbly-run hobby service that deserves all the plugs it can get!! It is rare that I encounter speed and efficiency anywhere in this world, so I savor the excellent work of people like Simon. If you want to get samples from The Zine Bank, keep an eye out for Simon's upcoming new address; he and his wife are moving this summer, and I don't have their new address yet. (I'll print it as soon as I get it.)

PLUG #2: Aliens. This movie is just out, and it deserves to be the smash-hit of the summer. This science-fiction thriller is the sequel to 1979's Alien, and it has it all -- agonizing suspense, wonderful special effects, a sense of humor, and -- best of all -- Sigourney Weaver reprising her role as Ripley. I don't want to spoil the plot -- I'll just say Go See It! (Note: It isn't nearly as gory as the original, for those of you who are like me and keep your eyes closed when the movies get gross!!) Aliens is the perfect summer entertainment.

Now, before we jump into the letter-column, Steve and I would like to thank the readers of HIGH INERTIA for giving us a vote of confidence! Two votes, as a matter of fact... We were amazed and delighted to see that HI took high honors as the 1986 Freshman Subzine, and also came in 5th (out of a field of 39!) -- Honorable Mention -- in the Runestone '86 Poll.

Of course, later in this issue, we have some sensible comments regarding the real-world significance and prestige of hobby polls, but for now I can only remember Sally Field's exuberant gasp when she won her Best Actress Oscar: "I can't deny it -- you really like me!"

Thanks to all.

Linda & Steve

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LETTER RIP!:

I'm really pleased at the way this letter-column is working out. Already we have some good running discussions going, and it really is a lot of fun, getting to know all of you.

Now, on to the next page and LETTER RIP!

RUSS WALLACE: ((Answering a question from an earlier issue))  
Rank it from 1 - 20:

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Family.            | 11. Health.                  |
| 2. True friendship.   | 12. Sense of accomplishment. |
| 3. Mature love.       | 13. Salvation.               |
| 4. World peace.       | 14. Happiness.               |
| 5. Equality.          | 15. Pleasure.                |
| 6. Harmony.           | 16. An exciting life.        |
| 7. Freedom.           | 17. Wisdom.                  |
| 8. National security. | 18. Security.                |
| 9. A world of beauty. | 19. A comfortable life.      |
| 10. Self-respect.     | 20. Social recognition.      |

PETER MATEUNAS: Favorite book on military history. I have two. A Bridge Too Far, and Patton's biography. A Bridge Too Far gives a really good analysis of the events, the people, and the aftermath of that ill-fated campaign. Patton, on the other hand, gives a lot of insight into the man who was one of our greatest military leaders. After all, if he hadn't so adamantly pushed for tanks and demonstrated their effectiveness so thoroughly between the wars, we may well have needed another 5 years in subduing the Germans.

Why not expand the topic to include movies on military history? Again, the above two, plus "The Big Red 1" and "Tora, Tora, Tora." I also once enjoyed a book on Pearl Harbor but can't recall the title.

One more book before I seal the envelope. Fire in the Lake by Frances Fitzgerald. Less a book on military history and more directed to Vietnamese society and diplomatic relations with South Vietnam. A must for anyone who can't understand why we could win the war short of making North and South Vietnam a radioactive slag-pile. I read this one in college and am currently re-reading it for the second time.

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SUBBERTIME!

As usual, we have a few people responding to old questions:

"WHAT MAKES A GOOD CON?"

ROBERT ACHESON: Don't know, never been to one. Wine, women, rock-'n'-roll...

GARY COUGHLAN: What do you think makes a con a success or a failure? A success: lots of munchies, the ability of the host to make you feel at home, meeting people you've heard of or written to but never seen. A failure: I've never been to a con failure but I did receive a phone call at one con which upset me and the host, and interfered with my enjoyment of that part of the con. Going to a con where feuders on opposite sides would be, could make a con a failure, at least for me.

"IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY 3 PEOPLE, PAST OR PRESENT, TO DINNER, WHO WOULD THEY BE?"

ROBERT ACHESON: (A) Alexander the Great. Curious as to what motivated him to try to conquer the 'known' civilized world. (B) Sir John A. McDonald. 'Our' father of confederation; again, just curious as to what were his actual goals. Sometimes (often?), history paints a better (or worse) picture than the original. (C) (How come there aren't any famous women?) Marilyn Monroe -- why not? Why don't you ask the same question again -- on fictional characters? ((Good idea! In a few months, I'll ask it.))

GARY COUGHLAN: Benjamin Franklin, Napoleon and Kaiser Wilhelm II with dibs on Marilyn Monroe. ((Can't have her -- Acheson asked her out first!)) Franklin is one of my personal heroes, the man who did all things well, had a varied life in science, humor and diplomacy and was full of witty sayings. He was also a rake, a freethinker and ahead of his time.

Napoleon -- he himself said, "What a novel my life would make!" I would like to discuss his campaigns with him, his innovations -- like the Code Napoleon. This man made and unmade kings for almost 20 years and met some of the most fascinating people in European history. Definitely a stimulating dinner guest!

The Kaiser, so misunderstood and so interesting. He was the grandson of Queen Victoria. He dealt on a personal basis with Bismarck and Hitler. He was like a breath of fresh air in the stuff, stick-in-the-mud world of pre-World War I Europe. His letters read like letters that we Diplomacy players write to each other now. He wasn't fit to be the leader of the most powerful European nation but he made history enjoyable to read. I would choose him over Napoleon and Franklin!

GARY COUGHLAN (cont'd.): Marilyn Monroe has always captured my interest. I remember that Gloria Steinem wrote in Ms. Magazine that for her, she remembered exactly where she was when she heard the news that Marilyn had died, just the same feeling she has when she recalls where she was when she heard of President Kennedy's death. And I do too, although I was only 11 when Marilyn Monroe died!

"IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY ASPECT OF HOBBY ORGANIZATION, WHAT WOULD IT BE?"

GARY COUGHLAN: I would try to make sure that they were completely funded by the hobby so that the custodian doesn't have to take money out of his own pocket. These people work so hard for almost no reward. Their services are almost indispensable and their operating costs should be paid for by the hobby which so benefits from their efforts.

ROBERT ACHESON: Elect the custodians (if possible). Rewrite the BNC rules in regard to his role in declaring games regular or 'other.' ((Now those are suggestions that I would love to see expanded on by all of you in the letter-column! Definitely much food for thought there.))

BOB OLSEN: It seems clear to me that Melinda Holley is the most eligible female Dipper in the hobby today, what with Thomas Manning, Woody, me, and everybody else breathlessly pursuing her. There's really only one fair way to settle this; I propose that we raffle off Melinda in order to raise money for hobby services! If Manning is willing to pay \$10.75 to get his article to you overnight, he'd probably go \$11 at least for rights to Melinda, and spring for a pair of shoes for her to boot! (Or maybe a pair of boots for her to shoe!) As Melinda's close personal friends and disinterested spectators, I think that the Courtemanchi are the logical people to oversee this lottery. How about it? ((Now there's an ideal! If we raffled off Melinda, we could keep DW in the black for the next ten years...))

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And now for this past month's questions....

"IS DIPLOMACY PRESS A DYING ART?"

STEVE COURTEMANCHE: I disagree with the statement that Diplomacy press is a dying art. It just seems that way because more people are participating in the Diplomacy hobby. The same percentage of them are sending in quality press as before. For example, in 1970, say 200 people were actively in the hobby and 20% were quality writers (I don't have hard-and-fast numbers; these are guesstimates). That would mean 40 people were good press writers. It is 1986 and we have about 700 people in the hobby. Twenty percent of that yields 140 good press writers, but they have to compete with 560 Bozos. Their press gets swamped by the infield banter. ((Good point. ~~Bozo~~ honey!))

BOB OLSEN: Considering some of the tedious drivel that's praised as Golden Age Press, I don't see how things could be any worse now. A good press game is sort of a freak or miracle--it just takes off spontaneously and unpredictably. There's still good press out there and there always will be. The style or standards might change, but there'll always be some good stuff popping up here and there.

NELSON HEINTZMAN: This is really a very broad question which may defy an easy answer. First, entire essays could be (and probably have been) written on what composes the definition of quality press (use of the word "art" implies skill and enhanced quality): involved characterization, intricate plots, wit and repartee? Other elements? Just what exactly? Could not a superbly clever and appropriate one-liner be of as high quality (as artful) as a longer, more elaborate scenario? Doesn't the determination of Diplomacy press as art, like beauty, lie in the eyes of the beholder?

Nevertheless, let us assume a reasonable definition of quality press could be agreed upon. The next necessary step would be for one to canvass the entire hobby zine pool in order to properly analyze all the current press. Who knows what press gems could be tucked away in obscure, out-of-the-way zines? Of course, one would then have to backtrack several years (at least) through all those zines in order to have a basis for comparison. And just how far back should one go? The early 80s? The late 70s? Further back yet? However, even having done all that, how does one go about determining an answer?

General hobby participation and each individual's own degree of personal involvement clearly moves in cycles. A not unreasonable inference would be that press writing also is cyclical. Those who write press float in and out of the hobby like everyone else. In addition, the quality of their effort is affected by the natural peaks and valleys to which their own creative activity is subject. So, at the very least, such a term as "dying" can only be considered in the most relative terms. Perhaps a better term (if applicable) would be "declining," which, after all, can be merely a temporary state of affairs and can be reversed.

Which brings me to my last point: whether discussing decline or brilliance, one needs the passage of time in order to truly assess a particular period or era. One must be sure of what came both before and after in order to determine the in-between. Thus, I would venture to say that 25 years, even, is too short a period of time with which to construct a "Rise and Fall of Dip Press" scenario. After all, who knows what talents lie dormant within the unknown Dipsters of the 90s?

MELINDA ANN HOLLEY: Disagree. But not everyone can write Golden Age.

KATHY BYRNE: I disagree, the press keeps the game exciting and interesting. I really get into the press, especially when I have a good GM to abuse, like the Bumbling Idiot or Melinda. I love the games I GM because my players write interesting press and keep me entertained.

FRANCINE BYRNE: I agree, because if you only have a 10-day deadline, how are we supposed to negotiate and write press at the same time? ((Francine is referring to a typo Steve and I made in announcing the Spring '01 deadline for The Chocolate Game. We tried to get fancy and set up a deadline that was "14 days before the deadline for REBEL's such-and-such issue" -- which confused the heck out of everyone...including us! Our players thought they had to get their orders in immediately. An object lesson for us, and for all new GMs: Make your deadlines EASY! You notice that our game deadlines are now the first of every month. As you have seen this issue, The Chocolate Game deadline is now September 1st, 1986. As for our Q & A deadlines, Steve and I are leaving them as they are because we want our readers to have as much time as possible to write to us before we sit down at the typewriter and get the issue out.))

"HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED?"

STEVE COURTEMANCHE: I want to be remembered as a ~~Wotny~~ loving husband. ((Snicker!))

NELSON HEINTZMAN: A generally nice guy -- reasonably intelligent -- who made it through life without screwing over anyone too badly.

RUSS WALLACE: I would like to be remembered as a person who loved his fellow man.

FRANCINE BYRNE: I want to be remembered just the way I am.

MELINDA ANN HOLLEY: Kindly if possible. If not, I just want to be remembered.

KATHY BYRNE: As a good Diplomacy player, not a good female Diplomacy player. Think about it, there is a big difference!

LINDA COURTEMANCHE: I want to be remembered as a woman who never stopped trying to make her corner of the world a little better. It is tempting to hope, along with this, that people forget all the times I overstepped the mark in my efforts; however, going too far is as much of my character as caring too much. I can only hope that, in the end, the good I have done outweighs the hurt I have caused. Certainly I would rather try and fail, than to always feel as if I could have done more, tried harder, made things better.

BOB OLSEN: "Who?"

"WHAT INFLUENCE DO HOBBY POLLS HAVE?"

STEVE COURTEMANCHE: The only influence that a poll has is on the people who pay attention to them. Otherwise, I'd say they were a waste of paper.

FRANCINE BYRNE: They have no influence.

KATHY BYRNE: I ignore them, or as Mike Goodman would say -- "Big fucking deal!"

MELINDA ANN HOLLEY: When the poll results are announced, interest is fairly high. Two weeks later, few care.

RUSS WALLACE: The only influence that any Poll has on the hobby is to inflate or deflate the already-inflated egos of those who the polls are about.

PETER MATEUNAS: What influence, if any, do polls have on the hobby? Little, to much, it depends on the poll and who reads it. If you consider country and people ratings as a poll, then obviously you'll use a different strategy or diplomatic approach for Kathy Byrne playing Italy versus Joe No-name playing Italy. Polls on viewpoints can only make a difference in that they form a consensus or center-point by which people can tell if they are left or right of the majority. However, statistically, your poll may have no meaning because of several reasons. (1) The way the question is worded may create ambiguity, or even lean (skew) the answers away from the mean. "Have you beaten your children today?" If you answer No, it still implies that you have beaten them in the past. (2) Does your poll reach an audience that represents a weighted average of the population, and do all of them respond. A poll on election night that asks Democratic voters who will win the election will be skewed toward a Democratic victory. The Republican could win, while the Poll showed a Democratic landslide. By the way, I hope Mario Cuomo doesn't run for President and, if he does, I hope he loses. I think he's a lousy Governor. Henry Kissinger would make an interesting candidate. In the age of Chernenko, we need a diplomatic President.

Finally, a Poll of my own. I'm currently soliciting footnotes for an upcoming article to DW. When is a person not a novice? I have yet to read anything on this subject. If it is not or cannot be answered, then theoretically we are all novices at the PBM Hobby of Dip. This is one of those poll questions that form a consensus. I'm enclosing a stamp if you care to comment. If not, then use it as part of your prize fund. ((Thanks!))

((I just got a second note from Peter, adding that, "Elmer ((Hinton)) gave me the exact definition of a novice: 30 game turns +, so that article looks to be down the tubes." But I really think that the issue is still quite debatable. What do all of you think out there?))

BOB OLSEN: The current reductio ad absurdum of polls is merely the culmination of a long-developing problem, which is that polls ((...)) are vastly overrated. The electorate is just too volatile...too much influenced by outside factors...and too ignorant. ((...))

I think polls have entirely too much influence (any influence, let alone engine-of-patronage, is too much) because people allow themselves to actually think the polls have some meaning other than as a conversation piece to fill pages. There are people who actually get upset if they don't make Top Ten or Top Five or (glory be!) #1 ...and it's ludicrous.

**NELSON HEINTZMAN:** Anyone who stays up late at night watching the election returns on TV ought to enjoy hobby polls in general. I would think. Watching trends, being surprised or feeling vindicated following the fate of the contending few, all provide fascinating material for contemplation and reflection. The unfolding of the drama inherent in elections or polls can be most exciting and exhilarating. In one sense, polls have influence in that they are simply fun to participate in.

In more practical terms, however, polls do provide some form of feedback for those being voted upon. GM's receive some idea of how their efforts have been received; zine and subzine editors gain a general impression of how their product has been viewed. While no poll can be completely comprehensive in absolute terms (as regards the "totality" of the hobby which can never be perfectly pinpointed anyways), in general the greater the participation in polls, the greater the degree of representativeness, and hence the closer one comes to the goal of abstract "reality." Admittedly, an unreachable goal, but one to which one can come closer and closer all the time, and thus continually fine-tune the accuracy of the endeavor.

Of what eventual use, value, or influence are these various polls? I believe some individuals take them as a general barometer of quality. Certainly, if zines are attracting 30, 40, 50, or more voters in a poll, those editors are doing something noteworthy to attract attention! And if most of the votes are positive scores, why so much the better! Something must be occurring in a praiseworthy fashion. Does this mean that zines ranked lower are regarded by the voters as inferior and poorer in quality? Perhaps GMs ranked excessively low might take a second look at their performance but as regards zines, tain't necessarily so! Many lower ranked zines simply suffer by comparison to larger, more widely circulated reading zines. For example, the warehouse zines, arguably considered the backbone of the hobby, provide the invaluable service of running "just" the games, which are, after all, the base reason for the hobby in the first place. These zines may completely and fully satisfy their function, yet lose out in polls due to the extra effort put forth by the larger reading zines which perhaps reflect a heightened degree of ingenuity by providing the reader with varieties of substantive material. Still both types of zines may fulfill differing purposes admirably.

Are the polls thus rendered useless? No, but the discerning individual must be aware that different zines are set up to do different things. When reviewing poll results (or when voting, for that matter) one must be conscious of this fact. And, rather obviously, one can enjoy a fine time in ANY zine given the right circumstances and dynamics.... For myself, I enjoy participating in polls: zine, subzine, GM, best player, best writer, etc. I enjoy seeing how various individuals and their efforts compare in the eyes of the rest of the hobby. I also enjoy seeing people rewarded for their efforts with public recognition. And for those who do not fare so well? Well, there is always next year...!

((Before we wrap this up, we have a couple more answers from...))

PETER MATEUNAS: Favorite Muppets: Animal. He really whales on the drums. I also have to agree with Don Williams; the two old guys in the balcony; they're always good for a laugh. I felt obligated to answer that one, as I watched the Muppets until I was 20 or 21. I'm now 23.

Diplomacy press is a dying art? Disagree. With new people entering the hobby every year, it is more than anything an evolving art. If you feel it is dying, it's probably because you are used to the older generation of press writers who are slowly fading to the wayside, due to death, illness, senility, or loss of interest.

I want to be remembered as someone who made a difference in turning the country rating system upside-down (i.e., France and England at the bottom), and secondly as the "Crazy Lithuanian."

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It's 5:20 p.m., and traffic has spilled out onto the highways. You are stuck grumbling at countless red lights and traffic-jams. To stay somewhat sane, you probably do the same thing I do...entertain yourself by reading the bumper-stickers of the cars around you. Therefore.....

HI CONTEST!!!

WHAT IS THE BEST BUMPER-STICKER YOU HAVE EVER RUN ACROSS????????????

Below are a few gems I have seen on the byways of Pennsylvania:

DON'T HONK You'll wake me up!	Yes, As A Matter of Fact -- I Do Own The Whole Damn Road.	YANKEE By Birth REBEL By Choice*
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((\*That one is dedicated to Melinda.))

Anyway, you get the idea! The best answer wins stamps, as is our tradition. The winner will be announced next issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

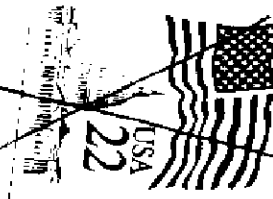
SUBBERTIME! Questions For Next Issue:

1. Tell about your worst Postal-Service-screw-up experience.
2. Do you believe that dreams have meanings? Why or why not?
3. When does a Dip player stop being a novice? ((Thanks to Peter Mateunas for this one! Peter, feel free to use the answers to this as resources.))

All the best...

"The Courtemanchi."

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1st Class

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PLEASE STAND BY AS \_\_\_\_\_ IN GAME NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOU ARE IN THE FOLLOWING GAMES:

