

StabBack

Published by: Howard R. Christie

Issue #12

March 11, 1985

This is STABBACK, a monthly journal of Diplomacy and other Diplomacy variants. These variants are 1939 III and Final Conflict III. 1939 III is a five player game of World War II. Final Conflict III is being run by James Early in his subzine Malaguena. Final Conflict is a seven player World War III game. Subscriptions to STABBACK are 10/\$5.00. Game Fee is \$5.00 + subscription. STABBACK is edited and published by: Howard R. Christie, PO Box 115, Millville, PA 17846.
Phone Number: (717) 458-5790

Don't jump on a man unless he's down.

Finley Peter Dunne

1984CO, 1984CT, 1984CZ, 1984HN, and 1984Mqho8 games in process.

DEADLINE FOR ALL GAMES: March 25, 1985

Many of you are wondering what the heck this is. Don't worry it is not a fake. I am sending out an issue in between issues. Sorta of a surprize. Well, here I am in sunny Florida, just soaking up the old warm weather and sunshine. I am on vaction in Florida at my wife's parent's home. If some of you are non-believers just check out the postmark. Yes there is a reason for this surprize issue of STABBACK. Boy this sun is really hot.

The reason for this little surprize is that the ballots for the Runestone poll have come in. I thought that you all would like to get them as fast as you could so here they are. Please, everybody in this zine should vote in the poll. It is your way of expressing your opinons on this zine and myself. Of course you should vote for other zines and GM's in the poll.

Enclosed you will find all the instructions and ballots to participate in the Runestone Poll. So feel free to vote. Would anybody like me to bring them back a gift from warm weather Florida?

The 1985 Runestone & GM Poll

THE NINTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN ZINE POLL: You may rate any publication substantially devoted to Diplomacy of which you have seen more than two issues since April 1, 1984. Rate the series, not individual issues. Rate each zine on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Specify subzines and rate them separately from the parent zine; subzines will be listed separately. Publishers may not rate their own zines or subzines. Sign your ballot and indicate one way in which you participate in the hobby (e.g. "I sub to zine XXX", "I play in game 1984YY", "I publish zine ZZZ", etc.). All votes will be kept confidential (but please note that Pat Conlon will see all of them). Please list the zines alphabetically to make tabulation of the results easier. I reserve the right to tabulate or ignore ballots which do not follow the format outlined above.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN GAMESMASTER POLL: You may rate any GM in whose postal game or games you were a player during the year beginning April 1, 1984, and under whom you played for long enough to gain an objective assessment of his or her competence as a GM. Rate each GM on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Gamesmasters may not rate themselves. Others may not rate GMs in whose games they were not active players during the poll period. Rate each GM by NAME, not by zine. Votes which do not use the GM's name will not be tabulated. Please list the GMs in alphabetical order by SURNAME. Distinguish between Ron Brown of California and Ron Brown of Canada if you vote for either or both.

The deadline for both polls is June 29, 1985. The deadline for ballots sent to Pat Conlon is June 22, 1985. Results will be tabulated as soon after the poll deadline as possible, and will be released as they become available to anyone wishing to phone. Please rate only North American zines, subzines, and GMs; though any readers or players living outside North America are welcome to participate. Send all ballots to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226, USA or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893, USA.

CHANGES AND OTHER NOTES PERTAINING TO THIS YEAR'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to the turmoil surrounding the change of pollsters this year, I have attempted to keep procedural changes to a minimum. Nonetheless, we do have a few:

There is no "official" proclamation against grudge votes this year. As a voter, you may vote using any criteria that you deem fair and reasonable. Some people tend to ignore such a restriction anyway, as Randolph Smyth mournfully pointed out after last year's poll. So the restriction was unenforceable -- and in my opinion, unrealistic as well. That is, I believe that the quality of a zine (or the voters' opinions thereof, which is after all what the poll is supposed to measure) CAN be affected by the publisher's ethics or his stance regarding feuds -- the basis of most grudge votes, if you will. Vote as you see fit.

Anyone who has participated in the Diplomacy hobby since April 1, 1984 is eligible to vote.

I will be discounting the top and bottom 10% (as opposed to last year's 8%) of the votes cast for any given zine, subzine, or GM. This figure will be rounded down, so that zines (etc.) receiving fewer than ten votes will not be subject to this provision. I believe that Randolph applied this lopping-off procedure only to the zines last year; I'll be applying it to the subzines and GMs as well -- but only in determining the "averaging" scores, NOT in forming the preference matrix. Which brings me to...

The preference matrix. Randolph had initially planned to come up with a preference matrix for the zines last year, and generate two lists. This ended up not working out; this year I plan to draw up a preference matrix for zines only, and generate a score for each zine. The preference matrix scores will then be averaged with the zines' "averaging" scores to produce a single final list.

In addition to providing a second list of scores to be combined with the zines' mean scores, the preference matrix should prove to add interest to the poll results by itself, as it will be portrayed in graphic form. I have devised a formula which will translate a zine's raw score from the matrix to a number ranging from 0 to 10, so that the combining of the lists will be practical.

There may be other embellishments to the presentation of the results, depending on what I can dream up to make the final product more interesting to the readers. We'll see.

A few clarifications regarding specific publications and GMS: as mentioned in the GM poll announcement, be sure to distinguish between the two Ron Browns if you vote for either or both. Treat Whitestonia as a zine, Kathy's Korner as a subzine (to keep the status quo from years past.) The editor of Bad Doggie treats that product as a subzine even though it sometimes appears separately from the parent zine; therefore the poll will tabulate BD as a subzine. Ditto for Orphan City; treat it as a subzine.

The cutoffs for inclusion in the main lists will be the same as last year's: ten votes for zines, five for subzines and GMS. Zines which do not make the main list will not be included in the preference matrix.

A clarification to the rule that you must have seen more than two issues of a zine in order to vote for it: if you were supposed to see more than two issues of a zine but did not (i.e. because the publisher has not published regularly), then you may still vote for that zine. I can think of one or two "active" publications that fall into this category: sorry, guys, but being grossly irregular ain't gonna get you off the hook around here if the voters wish to send you a message...

The Conlon Arrangement: Voters who for any reason do not wish to send their ballots to me (Bruce Linsey) may send them instead to Pat Conlon, whose address appears with the announcement above. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR BALLOTS GOING TO PAT IS A WEEK BEFORE MY DEADLINE. This is so that Pat will have time to transcribe the ballots and send them to me by the poll deadline. I will not know who voted how among those ballots received by Pat -- he will be copying them onto blank, unsigned ballots which will then be sent on to me. However, he will be providing me with a list of names so that I can 1) check to make sure no one voted twice, and 2) publish a list of all people who voted.

After the poll results are tabulated, I will be sending all of the ballots (or copies thereof) to Pat, who will verify the results if necessary.

For ease in voting, I suggest that voters use the official ballots which will accompany this mailing (and I'll be very grateful to those publishers who choose to print the ballots); but of course this is not required.

Any questions on the voting procedure should be directed to me.

The Runestone Poll is the oldest and most highly regarded of the Diplomacy hobby's polls. It is my intention to maintain this status by publishing the results accurately, impartially, promptly, and in a (hopefully) interesting manner. I ask each and every member of the hobby to do his or her part by getting out there and voting. May the best publications -- and GMS -- win!

1985 RUNESTONE ZINE POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALPHA & OMEGA | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELSIOR | <input type="checkbox"/> PERELANDRA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANDUIN | <input type="checkbox"/> FESTUNGS HOF | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITESSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE APPALACHIAN GENERAL | <input type="checkbox"/> FEUDESSE | <input type="checkbox"/> PONTEVEDRIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPALLING GREED | <input type="checkbox"/> FEUILLETONIST'S FORUM | <input type="checkbox"/> THE PRINCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ARMCHAIR DIPLOMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> FLICK OF THE WRIST | <input type="checkbox"/> PROTOZOAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BERSAGLIERI | <input type="checkbox"/> FOL SI FIE | <input type="checkbox"/> RAGING MAIN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIG HITS OF MID-AMERICA | <input type="checkbox"/> FROBOZZ | <input type="checkbox"/> REBEL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOAST | <input type="checkbox"/> THE GAMER'S ZINE | <input type="checkbox"/> REDWOOD CURTAIN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BROADSIDE | <input type="checkbox"/> GIVE ME A WEAPON | <input type="checkbox"/> RETALIATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUSHWACKER | <input type="checkbox"/> GRAUSTARK | <input type="checkbox"/> SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BUZZARD'S BREATH | <input type="checkbox"/> HAI! JIKAI! | <input type="checkbox"/> SNAFU! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE CANADIAN DIPLOMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> HANSARD | <input type="checkbox"/> SO I LIED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CATHY'S RAMBLINGS | <input type="checkbox"/> HOOF AND MOUTH | <input type="checkbox"/> STABBACK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHEESECAKE | <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSE OF LORDS | <input type="checkbox"/> TACKY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COAT OF ARMS | <input type="checkbox"/> THE INNER LIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> TER-RAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMAND | <input type="checkbox"/> IRKSOME! | <input type="checkbox"/> THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE CONCERT OF EUROPE | <input type="checkbox"/> ITALIANO PRIBE | <input type="checkbox"/> TORPEDO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COSTAGUANA | <input type="checkbox"/> KAISSA | <input type="checkbox"/> TOUCHÉ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D-DAY! | <input type="checkbox"/> LIBERTERREAN | <input type="checkbox"/> THE VOICE OF DOOM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMACY DIGEST | <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE OF MONTY | <input type="checkbox"/> WHITESTONIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMACY WORLD | <input type="checkbox"/> LONE STAR DIPLOMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> WHO CARES? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMAG | <input type="checkbox"/> MACABRE | <input type="checkbox"/> WINSOME LOSESOME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE DIPLOMAT | <input type="checkbox"/> MAGUS | <input type="checkbox"/> THE WORDWORKS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPPY | <input type="checkbox"/> MIDLIFE CRISIS | <input type="checkbox"/> XENOGOGIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE DOGS OF WAR | <input type="checkbox"/> MIKE'S MAG | <input type="checkbox"/> ZOMBIE FLESH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOWN THE TUBES | <input type="checkbox"/> MURD'RING MINISTERS | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EFGIART | <input type="checkbox"/> NO FIXED ADDRESS | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ELECTRIC PENGUIN | <input type="checkbox"/> NORTH SEALTH, WEST GEORGE | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMHAIN MACHA | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT NEW YORK | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS | <input type="checkbox"/> OMNIPOTENT | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENVOY | <input type="checkbox"/> THE ORPHANAGE | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EREHWON | <input type="checkbox"/> OUINIPIQUE | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EUROPA EXPRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> PARANOIACS' MONTHLY | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EVERYTHING | | _____ |

(Blank spaces are for any I've neglected to list.)

Signature _____

I participate in the Diplomacy hobby by _____

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE VOTING! Send this ballot to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 U.S.A. or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893 U.S.A. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE POLL RESULTS BY MAIL, enclose \$1.00 U.S. (to Bruce Linsey). Results will include a complete statistical analysis, preference matrix, etc.)

1985 RUNESTONE SUBZINE POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BAD DOGGIE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLETIVE DELETED | <input type="checkbox"/> MeANnderings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BEHOLDER | <input type="checkbox"/> FATHER KNOWS LESS | <input type="checkbox"/> MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BENZENE | <input type="checkbox"/> FEMME FATALE | <input type="checkbox"/> ONLY YESTERDAY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BETTY DALY'S SUBZINE | <input type="checkbox"/> FEUDETTE | <input type="checkbox"/> ORPHAN CITY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BOOB REPORT | <input type="checkbox"/> FIAT BELLUM | <input type="checkbox"/> PERLMUTTER'S REVENGE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOTTOMS UP | <input type="checkbox"/> FNORD | <input type="checkbox"/> PHYLLIS'S PYRAMID |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUT I'M HAPPY | <input type="checkbox"/> FOOT IN MOUTH | <input type="checkbox"/> SAVOLINNA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUTTER BATTLES | <input type="checkbox"/> GALIMATIAS | <input type="checkbox"/> SCREED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHOMPS & MIAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> HARE OF THE DOG | <input type="checkbox"/> SEX APPEEL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE CALL | <input type="checkbox"/> HIGH PLAINS GONZO | <input type="checkbox"/> SHADOWPLAY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORN OFF THE COBB | <input type="checkbox"/> HUMBOLDT | <input type="checkbox"/> THE SPACE VIKING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CUBISTS' CORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> KATHY'S KORNER | <input type="checkbox"/> STRANGE DOINGS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DAYLESFORD | <input type="checkbox"/> KNOWN GAME OPENINGS | <input type="checkbox"/> SUBMARINE WARFARE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEBI'S FILLER | <input type="checkbox"/> THE LITTLE DIPPER | <input type="checkbox"/> TEMPORARILY DELAYED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMACY BY MOONLIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> MAGGIE'S ZINE | <input type="checkbox"/> THE TOAST OF PHILADELPHIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ECHO OF DOOM | <input type="checkbox"/> MAGNIFICENT 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> VERTIGO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E*S*A*D | <input type="checkbox"/> MALAGUEÑA | <input type="checkbox"/> VICIOUS HATE SHEET |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

(Blank spaces are for any I've neglected to list.)

1985 RUNESTONE GM POLL OFFICIAL BALLOT

Vote	GM's Name	Vote	GM's Name	Vote	GM's Name
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

(Please list GMs alphabetically by surname, going down the columns.)

Signature _____

I participate in the Diplomacy hobby by _____

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE VOTING! Send this ballot to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 U.S.A. or Pat Conlon, Box 17014, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70893 U.S.A.

QUESTION: Would you like to see non-North American publications and GMs included in the 1986 Runestone Poll? (Please check one response.)

yes
 no
 don't care

StabBack

Issue #12

#12

Howard R. Christie
P. O. Box 115
Millville, PA 17846

Your sub expires with _____.

Your sub expires this issue _____.

Your sub expired last issue _____.

We Trade X.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Rod Walker
1273 Crest Dr.
Encinitas, CA
92024



FIRST CLASS MAIL