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CalChess

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHESS ASSOCIATION

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US Open Prize Fund Announced

The 1981 U.S. Open in Palo Alto has aroused enthusiasm in places as far apart as Massachusetts and Missouri. The prize fund may make it one of the strongest ever.

Open Prizes

1st \$4,000
2nd 2,500
3rd 1,200
4th 850
5th 700
6th 600
7th 500
8th 400
9th 300
10th 250

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CalChess Team Challenge

In addition CalChess has voted to award a plaque to the best "team" from any chess club in the United States. The competing "teams" will consist of the best four performers from any club. Clubs wishing to enter the "team" competition should notify the tournament directors of their desire and which U.S. Open entrants are members of their club. The only requirement is that the club be a USCF affiliate.

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be edited to conserve space and avoid repetition. Correspondence with the editor is assumed to be available for publication unless stated otherwise.

We'll Take Your Word for It

You're doing good work as editor, Keep it up.

George Cunningham
Orono, ME

A Few Harsh Words

I was angry at the poor annotations to the game Fedorowicz-Bisguier. After 28 ..., Rg7 the annotator says this position is "hopelessly won." In fact, after 29, Bf5, Qe7; 30 Rf4!, Rf8; 31 Qh6! there is no defense for Black! Bisguier tried 31 ..., Bc8; 32 Nc6! and now ..., Qf6. In fact this is probably the best defense, but the annotator gives it ??, indicating a horrendous blunder. Bisguier did not overlook his Q hanging. The way it was annotated Bisguier apparently hung his queen. In fact, all Q moves lose: 32 ..., Qe8; 33 Rg4! Rf7; 34 Bh7, Kf8; 35 Bf5! or 32 ..., Qc7; 33 Bh7, Kh8; 34 Be4! or 32 ..., Qg5; 33 Bh7! Bisguier was dead lost when he gets a ??

I was very disappointed by these false statements and shallow analysis.

Craig Mar
San Jose, CA

... And not Quite So Harsh

Hi! I was proud to see my games analysis appear in the Santa Clara club article of what can only be considered an outstanding magazine.

Ahem, er. . . but the editor's note to my note after 24 ..., Ne3 (Sferra-Eade, CV, Dec.-Jan., p. 103) has a hole in it. After 29 BG4 simply Rd1; 30 Bd1, and Rb1 wins. The only complaint I have!

James Eade
Sunnyvale, CA

There is comfort in such criticism. If all our readers found only one mistake an issue, we could make 1000 mistakes an issue and still keep everyone happy. We can promise to keep errors well below that level and appreciate readers who peruse the magazine with such attention - Ed.

People Pleasing Pages

I very much liked your chess theory article in the October-November CV, and hope you will do more along that line

John Larkins
Oakland

I've been a subscriber to **Chess Voice** for one year now and recently mailed in my renewal check. I find **Chess Voice** one of the most useful chess publications I receive.

What I would like to have and don't see offered, are back issues -- as far back as possible through 1979.

I would appreciate it if you or someone else could notify me as to the availability of back issues and the purchase price.

Vic Glazer
Westlake Village, CA

It is always nice to hear from John Larkins again, and he has most of the back issues. We only kept an archival file and a number of the June-September, 1979 issue, which we are selling at the cost of \$1 a copy. Intending to edit the magazine for some time, we knew that back issues of 1980 and subsequent issues would pile up in the garage, and we wanted to reserve a small space for our little car.

Larkins may still have copies for sale if you write him at 5804 Ocean View Drive; Oakland, CA 94618. -Ed

College Chess

This is just a brief note in response to an article from Dec.-Jan., 1980-81 **Chess Voice** by George Lewis concerning the Pacific Intercollegiate Chess Championship.

I quite concur with Mr. Lewis' opinions. In December, 1977, the year of the drought, there was chess talent galore attending the "open ward," (UC Berkeley). Consider this:

- Board I Julio Kaplan (computer science)
- 2 Nick de Firmian (physics and mathematics)
- 3 Paul Cornelius (physics and chemistry)
- 4 Jon Jacobs (journalism) (I think)
- Curtis Carlson (economics) (I think he was attending)

Consider the staff at that time: Aki Kanamori, visiting professor in mathematics and in 1965 American Open winner Dr. Robion Kirby, also mathematics.

P.S. Right now I'm told there was a GM (student) Soviet immigrant. Perhaps there is a reason for not playing --?

- 1) no money
- 2) not into that kind of challenge

Anonymous

The Pacific Intercollegiate, or the Pan-Am for that matter, are not the kind of events in which you really want to field International Masters. They are for students who also enjoy chess and can get enjoyment out of the camaraderie of a team event. Although it sometimes seems that we have professionalized nothing in chess, we do not have to professionalize everything - Ed.



CalChess News

The main matter before the CalChess board at its February 6 meeting was scheduling of the annual meeting and nominations for officers to be elected at that meeting.

The Board chose the LERA Memorial Day Tournament, held at the Lockheed Recreation Building in Sunnyvale as the site and designated as the time Sunday May 31, between the morning and afternoon rounds.

The agenda will commence with brief reports by officers on this past year's activities with special emphasis on finances, **Chess Voice**, and scholastic chess. Following this there will be nomination and election of officers. Following the installation of officers the floor will be open to new business as brought up by the members.

To facilitate election of officers the Board created a nomination

committee to nominate officers in advance. The committee consists of Breen Mullins, Ramona Wilson, and Roy Bobbin. Any member who wishes to run for office or to nominate someone else to an office is urged to forward such a nomination to **Breen Mullins: 117 Rising Road; Mill Valley, CA 94941**. The Board is particularly concerned to find an able replacement for its respected outgoing chairman, Mike Goodall.

Bryce Perry reported that there is an excellent chance that the 1982 U.S. Amateur Championship will be held Memorial Day weekend at the San Francisco Airport Hilton.

The CalChess and Circuit Points system was approved **pro forma**. Funds are now being sought with a goal of \$2,000 in mind. The Circuit is expected to be in operation at Labor Day. Earmarked donations to CalChess will be applied to that purpose and are encouraged.

Grefe Northern California Champion

by Michael Goodall

The 1981 Northern California Chess Championship, known as the Charles L. Bagby Memorial, was the strongest state championship in the United States history. The players had an average rating of 2427, stronger than most international tournaments. Among the luminaries were two international masters, John Grefe and Nick de Firmian.

Although de Firmian led the tournament up until the last two rounds, Grefe emerged the winner with 5-2 after beating de Firmian in round six and George Kane in round seven. De Firmian also lost in round seven but was still able to clear second with 4-3. The tournament was hosted by the Mechanics Institute Chess Club in San Francisco, where it was played on successive weekends between January 16 and February 1.

This was the sixth tournament of the Bagby series, which has been getting stronger each year. This year's average rating was 90 points higher than last year's. The eight masters who participated shared a total prize fund of \$1,650. Contributions from the American Chess Foundation, CalChess, and the Mechanics Institute Chess Club provided the fund.

The players were so closely matched that only two points separated first place from last. No one strongly dominated the field, and no one got wiped out.

John Grefe	-	1	½	½	1	1	½	½	5-2
Nick de Firmian	0	-	0	1	1	0	1	1	4-3
Dennis Fritzing	½	1	-	0	0	0	1	1	3½-3½
Vincent McCambridge	½	0	1	-	0	½	½	1	3½-3½
Jonathan Frankle	0	0	1	1	-	½	0	½	3-4
George Kane	0	0	1	½	½	-	1	0	3-4
Charles Powell	½	0	0	½	1	0	-	1	3-4
Jeremy Silman	½	1	0	0	½	1	0	-	3-4

White won 11 games, Black 9, and only 8 were drawn. This sounds normal, but it represents a shift from prior years when Black won the majority of games.

Grefe played solidly in scoring his 5-2. He started slowly by drawing four of his first five games, and it looked like he would be content to take second place since de Firmian was winning game after game. Grefe came through, however, by winning his last two games against de Firmian and former U.S. Olympic team member George Kane.

Grefe continues to draw spiritual inspiration from the guru Maharaj Ji, who has provided him with a cool, detached approach to life and chess. Having won the American Open and now the Bagby, it looks as though Grefe is poised to make a charge at the grandmaster title.

Nick de Firmian started out with a bang by winning four games and losing only a marathon contest with Jeremy Silman. His games were crisp and solid – who could catch him? Then he met Grefe, who took advantage of an innocuous looking knight move. Going in to the last round he could still have tied for first, but he was downed by Dennis Fritzing, the lowest rated player in the event.

Even then he salvaged second place. De Firmian is the dominant Berkeley player in local tournaments. His play and his results are the standard by which we measure excellence in the East Bay.

Tied for third and fourth were Dennis Fritzing, the poet laureate of the American chess community, and senior master Vincent McCambridge, twice a contender for the U.S. Junior Championship. Fritzing started out by drawing Grefe in a game that he should have won and by beating Jeremy Silman. Then consecutive disasters in the middle rounds dropped him into the basement.

Well, this just confirms the validity of the ratings, we all thought. Fritzing thought differently and smashed his way to an even score and a place in the top half of the tournament by winning his last two games against Charles Powell and de Firmian.

An accomplished poet, Fritzing once again proved that he can make the chess pieces dance like his words. Fritzing donates much of his prize money from tournaments to various conservation groups. He said his prize from this tournament was going to Greenpeace to help save the whales.

McCambridge hails from southern California and is now attending UC Berkeley. For the last several years he has been one of the leading junior players in the country and has won a few futurity tournaments down south. His most recent result prior to his tournament was first place in the December Marin County Championship. Despite a slow start, McCambridge became a contender for first. Had he won in round seven and Kane have beaten Grefe he could have achieved a tie, but he offered a quick draw, since by then he knew that points were not so easy to come by in this tournament.

Jeremy Silman best exhibited the prevailing enthusiasm at the start of the tournament. As he began his first round game with Grefe, he leaped up and exclaimed, "Grefe and I will draw in twenty. Then there will be wins aplenty." It was not quite that way, although there were plenty of wins and Grefe eventually conceded the draw.

Silman finished at the bottom of the tourney – but only minus one. There is speculation that he would have scored better except that his bedside book during the tournament was **A Practical Guide to Astral Projection**. Perhaps he just wasn't there during critical moments. He can still take consolation that he had a plus score against IM's.

cont. on p. 117



John Grefe



Nick de Firmian

Grefe cont.

Charles Powell is a transplanted Virginian who has had repeated successes in local tournaments. His games are always exciting and he is clearly underrated in the USCF lists. After two wins he came down with a bad case of bronchitis, which took the edge off his game. Powell is a sometime law student who calls himself a professional chess player. Spared the illness, I think he would have scored better against this field.

Jonathan Frankle is another University of California student. He transferred here from Harvard partly because he wanted to play new players. Frankle said he was tired of playing the same opponents again and again in Boston. Starting out badly, he never fully recovered, although he did manage to keep pace toward the end. It is extremely difficult to step into a tournament like this with no familiarity with the other players. In the first round he played a gambit against Powell which Powell plays himself. Frankle's style is a bit unusual, but he makes it work by being so resourceful. A very genial fellow, he is a welcome addition to California chess.

Former U.S. Championship contender George Kane hovered near first place throughout the tournament. He came up against Grefe with the White pieces and an even score the last round. Caissa smiled on Grefe that day so Kane joined the others at the bottom.

Kane is probably best known as a teacher of chess to children. He has written two books, **Chess and Children** and **What's the Next Move?** If Kane played more often he would regain his senior master rating with ease. He has restricted his playing only to this tournament for many years, although he did play in the 1980 Paul Masson. There he beat Jack Peters and drew grandmaster Peter Biyiasas. I really look forward to George's participation in this tournament each year. His games are fine and logical.

The Mechanics Institute Chess Club, the downtown San Francisco site of the tournament, is the oldest chess club in the country and has greeted many of the world's greatest players. Unfortunately, it tends to greet them loudly. For this tournament there was space for the contenders but another area where club regulars socialized and played casual chess. The noise level was a little better this year, thanks largely to the commanding presence of Max Wilkerson, the club director. Still, it was unacceptable for such a quality master tournament.

Will this be the greatest Bagby of them all? What's going to happen next year? A couple of grandmasters showed an interest after the American Chess Foundation sweetened the prize fund this year. Maybe next year we will have grandmasters. Maybe Jay Whitehead, three time Bagby Champion, will rejoin the cast, if we can coax him away from his acting career for the tournament.

The crucial game in determining the north state champion was the encounter between Grefe and deFirmian in round six.

Benoni; J. Grefe - N. deFirmian: 1 d4, Nf6; 2 Nf3, e6; 3 c4, c5; 4 d5, ed; 5 cd, g6; 6 Nc3, Bg7; 7 e4, 0-0; 8 Be2, d6; 9 0-0, a6; 10 a4, Bg4; 11 Bf4, Re8; 12 Qc2, Qc7; 13 h3; Bf3; 14 Bf3, Nbd7; 15 Rfe1, c4; 16 Be2, Rac8; 17 Rad1, Qc5.

Even though a draw would have suited deFirmian's tournament purposes as well, he cannot resist the opportunity to play sharp chess. Another strategy here involves 17 ..., Nc5 with pressure on the KP. An indirect exchange of that pawn for Black's QBP produces a pretty good endgame prospect because White's QP is more exposed than Black's.

18 Bf1, b5; 19 ab, ab; 20 Be3, Qb4; 21 f4, Nc5; 22 Bf2, Nh5; 23 g3, Na4?

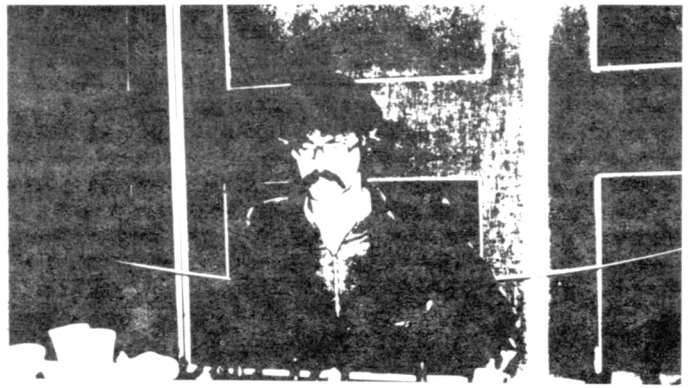
Black's queen is not very actively placed, and White is threatening to sweep forward on the king-side. The diversion of the knight is too much in this position.

24 e5! de; 25 d6, Rcd8; 26 d7, Rf8; 27 Na4, ba; 28 fe, Qe7; 29 Qa4, Be5; 30 Qb5!, f6; 31 Bc4, Kh8; 32 Bc5, Qg7; 33 Bf8; Qf8; 24 Re5, fe; 35 Qe5, Ng7; 36 Rf1, Qb4; 37 Rf7, Qb6; 38 Kh2, Rg8; 39 Qg7 1-0.

Here is an action gambit where Black survives despite an exposed king. The notes were kindly contributed by Charles Powell.

Sicilian Defense: J. Frankle-C. Powell: 1 e4, c5; 2 d4, cd; 3 c3, dc; 4 Nc3, a6; 5 Bc4, e6; 6 Nf3, b5.

There are few games in this variation. Black has active play on the Q-side, but his king stays awhile in the center.



Charles Powell

7Bb3, Bb7; 8 Qe2, d6; 9 0-0, Nd7; 10 Nd4, Nc5; 11 Bc2, Nf6.

An Alternative is 11 ..., b4; 12 Na4, Be7; 13 Nc5, dc; 14 Ba4, Kf8 when White has compensation for the pawn. Bad would be 12 ..., Nf6; 13 Nc5, dc; 14 Ba4, Nd7; 15 Ne6, fe; 16 Rd1, Bc8; 17 Qh5, g6; 18 Qe5 and wins.

12 b4, Ncd7; 13 a4, ba; 14 Ba4, Rc8; 15 Nd5!?, Ne4!?

Because 15 ..., ed; 16 ed, be7; 17 Nc6, Bc6; 18 dc, 0-0; 19 cd, Nd7; 20 Qa6 favors White. Black emerges two pawns up but with a strangely placed king in the game, but 16 Bd7, Qd7; 17 Nb6 is unclear.

16 Bd7, Kd7!; 17 Nf4, Qf6; 18 Nb3, Be7; 19 Be3, Nc3, 20 Qd2, Nd5; 21 Na5, Ba8; 22 Nd3, Qc3; 23 Qd1, Qc2.

Laying the trap 24 Nc5, Rc5; 25 bc, Ne3!; 26 c6, Bc6; 27 Qc2, Nc2; 28 Nc6, Na1 winning. After the exchange of queens Black's two pawns are too much.

24 Bd4, Qd1; 25 Rfd1, e5; 26 Bb2, Rc2; 27 Ba3, Rb8; 28 Ne1, Rc7; 29 Rdb1, Bf6; 30 Rb3, e4; 31 Rd1, Nc3; 32 Rd2, Bd5; 33 Rbb2, Ke6; 34 Rbc2, Rbc8; 35 Kf1, Nb1; 36 Rd5, Kd5; 37 Ra2, Rc3; 38 Bb2, Rc2; 39 Nc2, Rc2; 40 Nb7, Rb2 0-1.

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A Whale's-Eye View of the State Championship

by Dennis Fritzing

could it be that deep down inside i am a whale! – D.F.)

It's mindlink time again. Our human brother tells us he's going to play – what was it? – chess again. He says it's going to be rough and then explains, like the sea in a heavy storm. But that's fun! I protest, but he doesn't seem to listen.

Tonight, all day, nothing but static. Our brother has a picture in his mind that he would be playing, but so far the linkage hasn't happened.

Morning. The sea is calm. We are traveling down the coast from the Gulf of Alaska, feeding as we go. Our brother calls, apologetic. Says the linkage didn't go because of him. Says he wasn't able to – visualize, his word for making a picture – the calm.

Today was better. Bright sun, choppy waves. Our brother says we strengthen him, but how? We just feel good.

It's better today. I'm a little jumpy for the first round but that's normal. The first few moves I find it hard to concentrate, yet that changes soon enough.

Philidor Defense: Grefe-Fitzinger: 1 e4, e5; 2 Nf3.

Leave it to John to challenge me on my own turf!

2 ... , d6; 3 d4, Nf6; 4 Nc3, Nbd7; 5 Bc4, Be7; 6 0-0, 0-0; 7 a4, c6; 8 Ba2!?, Qc7; 9 Qe2, a5; 10 Rd1, h6; 11 h3, b6 (Re8!?): 12 de, de; 13 Nh4, Nc5.

I was a little concerned about 14 Qf3, which contains the danger of a sacrifice on h6, but I feel 14 ... , Be6; 15 Nf5, Re8; 16 Qg3, Bf5; 17 ef, Kf8 would neutralize the threats.

14 Ng6, Re8; 15 f4, Be6.

Forced but fine since 16 Ne5, Ba2; 17 Ra2, Bd6 or 16 Be6, Ne6; 17 Ne5, Bc5; 18 Kh1, Nd4.

Today we are several hundred miles farther south off the coast of what our brother calls Washington. The sea is smiling today. I just heard a joke (my brother told it, or rather thought it to me). It's a joke about jokes. What do you call the biggest joke in the world? – A whale of a joke. I asked him to explain it to me, only I'm afraid the transmission came through a little garbled.

After my game yesterday I feel confident. Like I've gotten my form back. Today's game shows this. After Black's initial surprise (2 ... , e5) I recover rapidly, playing carefully to reach a reasonable position. In response to Black's aimless maneuvering. I conceive a plan...

Caro-Couldhave; Fritzing-Sillman: 1 e4, c6; 2 d3, e5; 3 f4.

Instead 3 Nf3 allows Black to play f5! with a position I did not care to let him have.

3 ... , d5; 4 ed, ef; 5 Bf4, cd; 6 Nf3, Nc6; 7 Nc3, d4; 8 Ne4, Nf6.

Funny would be 8 ... , Bg4; 9 Qe2, Bf3?; 10 Nf6 mate. Here I decided that the best thing to do was trade places to eliminate Black's king bishop.

9 Bg5, Be7; 10 Nf6, Bf6; 11 Bf6, Qf6; 12 Be2, 0-0; 13 0-0, Be6; 14 Qd2, h6; 15 c4!

Necessary to gain some squares for my pieces and to keep Black's out.

It has been raining for two days. The ocean is alive with giant waves – so big that when I pass through them, part of my body is exposed. What was a sport has become dangerous, though not very for I am well experienced at the ways of the sea. Dangerous for the calves and dams though, especially the calves. For this reason we talk to each other constantly. We sing. Yet it is not for this that I am sad. It has been a sevenday since I heard from our brother. That is, clearly. Though once yesterday I felt his presence. He wasn't imaging. Today, nothing.

I approach the board in a state of desuetude. My mind isn't working. I feel like a walking zombie. Playing the first few moves, I fall into shock, despair. And then confusion intrudes his ugly head.

King's Gambit; Fritzing-McCambridge; 1 e4, e5; 2 f4.

For some reason I didn't want to play this move, though before the tournament I had decided to play King's Gambit. I finally overcame my reluctance by reminding myself that McCambridge was probably better versed in the Ruy than I was.

2 ... , ef; 3 Nf3, g5; 4 Bc4, Bg7; 5 0-0, h6; 6 d4, Ne7.

A surprise. I had expected 6 ... , d6; 7 g3, Nc6; 8 Nc3, g4; 9 Nh4, f3; 10 Qb3, Qd7 as in Kaplan-Karpov; Stockholm, 1969.

7 g3, d5.

16 Ne7, Qe7; 17 fe, Nfd7; 18 Be6, Ne6; 19 Qf2, Nec5; 20 Qg3, Kh7; 21 b3.

Black's knights control the future but 21 e6! was more challenging. 21 ... , Ne5; 22 Ba3, Ng6; 23 Qf2.

Because 23 Qf3 allows Qe5 when Black is rolling. The idea of tactics is to get your opponent off balance and then deliver the **coup de grace**. I thought that was happening here.

23 ... , Ne4; 24 Qb6, Qg5; 25 Ne4, Re4; 26 Bc1, Qe5; 27 Bd2, Nh4?

The move I wanted to play was 27 ... , Re2, but I overlooked that after 28 Re1, Nf4 is killing: 29 Re2, Ne2; 30 Kf2, Re8! or 29 Qc6, Nh3; 30 Kh1, Nf2; 31 Kg1, Ng4. Now I saw nothing better than the draw.

28 Re1, Nf3; 29 gf, Qg3; 30 Kf1, Qh3; 31 Kf2, Qh2; 32 Kf1, Qh3 1/2-1/2.

15 ... , Rfe8; 16 Rf2, Rad8; 17 Raf1, Rd7; 18 Bd1.

To meet 18 ... , Ne5 with 19 Ne5 and 20 Ba4 winning an exchange.

18 ... , Rde7; 19 b4, Rc7; 20 b5, Ne7; 21 g3.

The point of this move, besides allowing White to answer Nf5 with Nh4, is that after 21 ... , Bh3; 22 Re1 the knight is pinned.

21 ... , b6; 22 Re1, Rd8; 23 Ne5, Qg5; 24 Qg5, hg; 25 Nf3.

Now Black's position is very precarious since 25 ... , g4 won't do – 26 Ng5 wins material. I expected 25 ... , Bf5; 26 Ng5, Bd3; 27 Rf7, Rf8; 28 Ne5 and White has every reason to expect a win.

25 ... , Nf5!; 26 Ng5, Ne3; 27 Bh5, Re7; 28 Ne6, fe; 29 Bg6, Rf8?

Falling into a cheapo after which the rest is easy. Best resistance came from 29 ... , e5 followed by maneuvering a rook to f6. Jeremy claimed after the game, however, that White still wins by coupling a4-a5 with doubling on the QR file.

30 Bh7, Kh7; 31 Rf8, e5; 32 Rf3, Rd7; 33 dh3, Kg6; 34 Kf2, e4; 35 de, Nc4; 36 e5, d3; 37 e6, Rd5 and Black's flag fell.

For some reason I hadn't anticipated this natural response.

8 ed, fg; 9 Ne5, gh; 10 Kh1, 0-0; 11 Nf7, Rf7; 12 Rf7, Kf7; 13 d6.

A novelty. The book continuation (which I didn't know at the time) is 13 Bg5!, Kg6!; 14 Bh4. (Zak-Korchnoi, **The King's Gambit**) A funny continuation McCambridge pointed out in this position is 13 ... , Kf8?; 14 Qf3, Nf5; 15 Qd5 with a winning attack.

13 ... , Kg6; 14 de, Qe7; 15 Bd3, Kf7; 16 Bc4, Kg6; 17 Bd3, Kf7; 18 Bc4.

Willing to draw. . . But Black isn't.

18 ... , Kf8; 19 Nc3, Nc6; 20 Qf3, Ke8; 21 Bd2?

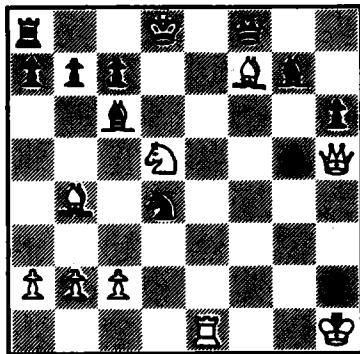
cont. on p. 119

Whale cont.

Of the three moves I looked at before playing 20 Qf3 this is the weakest. Although 21 Be3 gets White nowhere after Bd7 and Kd8, 21 Nd5 offers chances. There is 21 ..., Qd6?; 22 Qh5, Kd8; 23 Bg5. Better is 21 ..., Qe1; 22 Kh2, Qh4; 23 Kg2, Bg4; 24 Qg3 (not 24 Nc7, Ke7; 25 Of7, Kd8) when it is still a fight. Now things run downhill pretty fast, despite White's last valiant try.

21 ..., Nd4; 22 Qh5, Kd8; 23 Re1, Qf8; 24 Bf7; 25 Nd5, Bc6; 26 Bd4!

Go for it!



26 ..., Qb4!

27 Re8, Kd7; 28 Qg4, Kd6; 29 Re6, Kd5!

Everything was according to plan except for this move. This was the most unusual position in the tournament. White's discoveries

The storm is gone. We are within sight of the coast, cool with its green trees. For over a day we have been focusing on our brother, healing him, the members of our pod. how concerned we grew each day we had lost contact. Now we perform a healing; the sky heals also, except for a rift of gray cloud in the east.

Mindlink - I can feel our brother's wound grow slowly closed. It is a task, a slow task - but it is our task. Ever since we met with our brother, crossed minds with him as we passed the promontory with its light, we have been connected. Now we feel for him - help him along as we would help one of our own in need. The healing proceeds; the mindlink grows.

Whales - I must remember I am playing for the whales today. Woke up, had a few things to do, breakfast. Rock music on my record player - I mentally replace it with the sound of whales. I am playing Powell today. I will be on the lookout for any signs of trancing out - the problem that faced me in my first and fifth games.

Sicilian Defense; Fritzing-Powell; 1 e4, c5; 2 Nf3, e6; 3 d4, cd; 4 Nd4, Nf6; 5 Nc3.

A departure. I usually play Bd3 here, but it's been so long since I've gotten a good game with that move that I decided to give this one a go.

5 ..., d6; 6 g3, Be7; 7 Bg2, 0-0; 8 0-0, a6; 9 a4, Qc7; 10 h3, Nbd7; 11 f4, Re8; 12 Kh2.

A waiting move which incidentally removes the king from a dangerous diagonal and protects g3.

12 ..., Nf8; 13 f5.

I really didn't want to play this move just yet (it weakens e5), but I felt the knight shouldn't be allowed to go to g6.

13 ..., Bd7; 14 a5, Rac8; 15 Be3, e5; 16 Nde2, Bc6; 17 g4, h6; 18 Ng3.

The space advantage White has established in the center, queenside, and kingside will nevertheless bear careful watching. It is difficult to attack on three fronts at once and be victorious.

18 ..., N6h7; 19 Rf2, Nd7; 20 Rd2, Ne5; 21 Qb1!

Avoiding weakness (b4) or precipitous action (Bc5) and preparing for the queen to take over the task of guarding a5, which frees the queen rook for service elsewhere.

21 ..., Nd7; 22 Qa2, Ndf6; 23 Bb6, Qb8; 24 Rad1, Rf8; 25 Be3, Rf8; 26 Bb6, Rd7; 27 Nd5, Bd5; 28 ed, Bd8; 29 Bd8, Rdd8; 30 e4, Qe7; 31 Rc1, Qe5; 32 Rc3.

To keep the queen out.

32 ..., Ng5; 33 Qa4, e4; 34 b4, Qc7; 35 Qd1, Qe7; 36 Qg1! Re8. Probably stronger was 36 ..., Qe5 as 37-Qd4 would be a mistake: 37 ..., Nd5! White could reply 38 Qe3 or 38 Rc2 with interesting play. 37 Qd4, Nf3?; 38 Bf3, ef; 39 Rf3, Qe1; 40 Rf1, Qe3; 41 Rd3.

avail him nought. I hadn't even seen this move - thinking Kc5 or Kd7 forced, when Rc6 wins.

30 c3, Qb2; 31 cd, Qd4!; 32 Qf5, Be5! 33 Re5, Kd6 1-0

Black reaps the rewards of his imaginative defense.

Sunday, January 25. I am still thinking about my blunder yesterday. My head is full of this as I sit down to play, and I quickly find myself violating the ecology of an opening. I try too many pawn moves to disturb the flow of nature - energy cycle, matter cycle. From the predator I become preyed upon; become composte, tossed on the decaying heap.

The soul heals slowly. I drag myself through four weary days until I get an offer to watch the Cal Crew work out. I arise at 5:30 and join the crew at the boathouse in the early morning darkness. And cold! My friend has just thrown open the doors of the East Oakland shed. The water, just a few steps away - 20 or so - is unruffled, lit with pinks and violets preceding the rising of the sun of a perfect day. After waiting 15 minutes, almost alone in the cold, I watch the first shells carried out, ceremoniously placed in the water at a sharp command from the coxswain. I await the moment to climb into the launch and follow the coach and a driver, to speed, gasoline powered, under the shadowed, malevolent forms of Oakland factories.

They row. We follow. Each crew a perfect eight pulls through the water with effortless grace - backs arching.

The perfection of the day makes up for the biting cold of the wind. The morning's exercise of 10 timed spirits is over quickly, and we head to the boathouse and do everything in reverse. Boats are put up. I carry two life jackets inside. Within 15 minutes we are listening to the coach bring up old news, new news, then we file out and I am driven back to Berkeley. suddenly alive again.

This was the sealed move after 20 minutes of thought. I mainly wanted to determine a concrete plan in the face of the threatened rook invasion. During adjournment I decided that Black's best try was 41 ..., Qg5 followed by placing his rooks on e5 and e8. My plan was then to attempt to exchange on g5, followed by playing Rh1 and h4 (with the king on f3 to guard the KNP). As it was, Black made another move.

41 ..., Qd4; 42 Rd4, Re3; 43 h4, Rb3; 44 g5, Nd7; 45 Ne4, Rb4; 46 Nd6, Rd8; 47 Re1, Nc5; 48 g6!

Everything works like a charm. If 48 ..., fg; Rf8; 50 Nf7 comes to the same thing.

48 ..., Kf8; 49 Nf7; Re8; 50 Re8, Ke8; 51 d6, Nd7; 52 Re4, Kf8; 53 Re7, Nf6; 54 Nb6, Rc4; 55 Rf7, Ke8; 56 Rf6, Rh4; 57 Kg3, Rh6; 58 Rf7, Rh1; 59 Rg7 1-0.

In my final game I prepared to play de Firmian, a friend and fellow Rioter (we both played on the Berkeley Riots, a two time national championship team.) I have booked up on the wild sacrificial lines of the Philidor as Nick has threatened to essay one. Yet, when he comes in 15 minutes late (typical of those who take BART), he plays 1 b3. We both had to play from scratch, like bakers looking for some yeast to make the dough rise. There was soon plenty of yeast enough in the game for both sides, and the dough was rising but pretty equally. After some fiendish traps Nick became impatient to win because that was the only way he would catch Grefe for first. Instead of getting equality he got a rook down.

The last game, Grefe, victorious in the last round was standing impassively waiting on the outcome. I felt good about my victory because my whale brothers would finally benefit from all the good energy they'd been giving me. In the words of Steve Brandwein: "the whales will eat tonight!"

I'd like to urge you other players to send your tournament winnings all or in part, as I do, to:

cont. on p. 123

CALCHES MASTERS OPEN

by R.E. Fauber

CalChess held another Masters Open February 21 to March 1 in the University of California, Berkeley Student Union. The \$5,200 prize fund, donated by the American Chess Foundation, attracted 41 masters from six states and one foreign country to the nine round event.

It was no particular surprise when Grandmaster Jim Tarjan scored 7-2 and walked off with the \$1,600 first prize, although he had another grandmaster and four international masters nipping at his heels. These titled players, however, had to fall back and watch as relatively unknown Richard Lobo of San Francisco and James Thinnsen of Los Angeles surged through the pack in the closing rounds to finish a bare half point behind Tarjan and collected \$800 each.

Thinnsen was particularly impressive. He went through the tournament undefeated. He drew both grandmasters and scored 6½-2½ despite facing the seven highest rated players in the tourney and Lobo in the final round.

Bunched at 6-3, which was worth \$440, were grandmaster Peter Biyiasas, Boris Baczynskj (who came all the way from Philadelphia), Vincent McCambridge, Jeremy Silman, and Elliot Winslow. The remaining \$200 for 9th and 10th places was split four ways between Edward Formanek of Los Angeles, Walter Morris, the tall stalk of corn from Iowa, Charles Powell, and Eugene Martinowsky, the dapper Chicago psychiatrist.

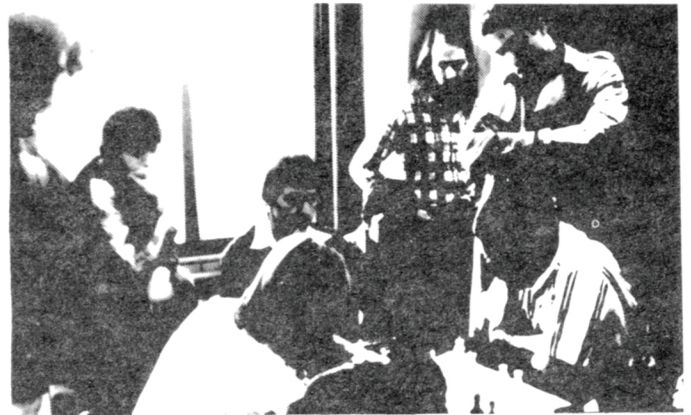


Tarjan at work.

Much of the significance of this Masters Open was what did not happen. Only chess happened — no tricky disputes, no player arguments — no English university commons room could have boasted better manners and more mutual respect among colleagues. Tournament directors Alan Benson and Max Burkett had to make tough decisions every day: when to go for coffee and when to go home and take a nap. Part of the credit for the smooth progress of the tournament ought to go to them for the unobtrusive competence with which they conduct such high-powered events and to the advance work they put in so that everything is in order before the masters arrive, but all the masters deserve recognition for being men of manners. They carry their chess eminence with dignity and accord each other mutual courtesy and respect.

Journalists had to turn to the spectators to generate copy. For example, there was Pascia, the two year-old daughter of John Grefe and Mary Lasher. She became very rapt in a game between Jeremy Silman and another player, for whom she was rooting. Silman had to move like a machine-gun to make the time control but had the better of it. When he finished his 40 moves in time, Pascia quietly remarked, "Bummer."

Another spectator was ranking the masters by sexiness rather than strength. "It's funny, but the best looking masters seem to be playing on the top boards," she said. Her centerfold picks were Tarjan, Lobo, Thinnsen, Biyiasas, and de Firmian. "De Firmian is kind of funny. Some days he looks great and other days I don't know so much," she mused. "And Boris (Baczynskj) is kinda cute for all his size."



A clutch of kibitzers.

The players were completely absorbed in playing chess to the exclusion of other considerations. Jerry Hanken, who brought a southern California delegation up, was sitting down to his third round game when a woman came up and said to him, "Congratulations."

"For what?" he inquired. "I lost my first two games."

"On your marriage," she responded.

"Oh, that. . ." he muttered.

In the closing rounds the excitable youths attending the model United Nations in the same building produced bustle and noise in the halls. Occasionally the remarks of excited youngsters would drift into the tournament room as once when someone was shouting, "We've got to get in touch with Czechoslovakia. They claim we've invaded them, but we haven't."

The CalChess Masters Open also produced a most bizarre conclusion to a chess game. Ruth Haring has White against James MacFarland. Effortlessly achieving slight inferiority out of the opening, Haring dug in and had achieved a kind of Nirvana after MacFarland blockaded a QP, which was burying Haring's QB alive, with the wrong piece.

MacFarland had a further problem in that he needed a ride back to Sacramento, and the carload was ready to leave at adjournment time. The move before adjournment MacFarland made a move which, while not exactly disastrous, gave Haring an edge as her QB got more breathing space.

Confronted with the possibility of seeing his wheels drive away while he played this game which would influence nothing, MacFarland proposed a draw. Haring wanted to consult her husband



Last round: Lobo vs. Thinnsen

cont. on p. 121

Masters Open cont.

Peter Biyiasas, who escorted her to a corner to find out what her sealed move was.

The scene became bizarre when a number of masters including IM de Firmian and GM Biyiasas began to analyze the game in front of MacFarland and Haring. The results proved inconclusive with MacFarland able to hold his side of the board while the other masters strove with might and main to find something for Haring.

An hour of this led to negotiations in the foyer. MacFarland did not want to resign, but he could not very well forfeit his ride either. He proposed that they play the game off with 15 minutes apiece on the clock. If Haring won, she won. If he won, it was a draw. This novel approach caused more negotiations in which Haring remarked that maybe her husband could find a win for her, if there was a decent adjournment interval.

Ultimately, by some mysterious dialectical process, the players agreed to toss a coin. MacFarland would call it in the air, and he would get a draw if he won while Haring got a win if the toss went against him. The coin came down tails but MacFarland had called heads. Thus half of Haring's score in the Masters Open came from a bye and the flip of a coin. MacFarland had to be content with his ride home. A kibitzer even criticized him for calling heads "when you know it always comes down tails."

If the whole story of the tournament lay in the games, it was a rich story full of brilliance and excitement. Only a small selection will have to serve for now, but Dennis Fritzingler is preparing to annotate a further selection for the next issue.

Here was an important win in Tarjan's drive for the trophy:
(Notes by Tarjan)

Sicilian Defense; B. Baczynskyj — J. Tarjan: 1 e4, c5; 2 Nf3, d6; 3 d4, cd; 4 Nd4, Nf6; 5 Nc3, a6; Bg5, e6; 7 f4, Be7; 8 Qf3, Qc7; 9 0-0-0, Nbd7; 10 Bd3, b5; 11 Rhel, Bb7; 12 Qg3, b4.

A theoretical novelty. This has been the same course taken in Spassky — Fischer; Reykjavik, 1972. Here Fischer played 12 ..., 0-0-0, which is not so good.

13 Nd5, ed.

The move 13 Nd5 is supposed to be very strong. There are several variations available here, for example, 14 ed, Kd8 is unclear.

14 e5, de; 15 fe, Nh5; 16 Qh4, Bg5; 17 Qg5, g6.

White's next forces Black's knight to a square where it strengthens the threatened e6 square. Better was an immediate 18 e6 when Qf4;



Silman vs. Baczynskyj

19 Qf4, Nf4; 20 ed and Rf1 is better for White despite the pawn minus. I planned 18 e6, Nc5! when the attack is strong, but Black has a piece.

18 g4, Ng7; 19 e6, Nc5; 20 ef.

Also possible is 20 Bf5 and if ..., 0-0; 21 e7 and Re3.

20 ..., Kf7; 21 Rf1, Kg8.

A piece ahead, but I can just barely survive.

22 Rf6, Re8; 23 h4, Qe5; 24 Qe5, Re5; 25 Rdf1, Re8; 26 h5, gh; 27 gh, Nd3; 28 cd.

Even here it's not easy because 28 ..., Nh5; 29 Rg1.

28 ..., h6.

But it's lost now — 29 Rg1, Bc8.

29 Rf7?, Re1 0-1.

The \$100 brilliancy prize went to Biyiasas who donated three pieces to the cause of stripping Black's king bare. There are several picturesque positions created in the process.

Sicilian Defense; P. Biyiasas — I. Skovgaard: 1 e4, c5; 2 Nf3, e6; 3 d3, Nc6; 4 g3, Nf6; 5 Bg2, d6?!; 6 0-0, Be7; 7 c3, 0-0; 8 Re1, Qc7; 9 d4.

cont. on p. 122



Consists of complete scores of games from listed tournaments with ECO&Informant codes

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Masters Open cont.

Since Black is now going to transpose a move down into a well known form of the King's Indian Attack, he should at least avoid the trade on d4, which gives White's QN a nice square.

9 ... cd?!, 10 cd, d5; 11 e5, Nd7; 12 Nc3, b6; 13 Bf4, Qd8; 14 Rcl, Na5; 15 h4, Ba6; 16 Ng5, h6.

The fatal weakening. Black is unable to generate any Q-side play, and White leisurely prepares his K-side break-in. Black would be happiest if he could simultaneously have his bishop, knight and rook on f8.

17 Nf3, Rc8; 18 Nh2, Re8; 19 Ng4, Bf8; 20 b3, Nc6.

Now Biyiasas thought an hour before making his first sacrifice and only decided on it "based upon a random sampling of variations."

21 Nd5!?, ed; 22 Bd5, Ne7?

The defensive mistake of "crowding" too many pieces near the king. If salvation were to be had it must lie in 22 ... Nb4 when 23 Be4 looks like the move. The immediate threats include the simple 24 a3; and 23 ... Nb8; 24 Nf6, Kh8; 25 Bh6 is too horrible. There is no time for 23 ... Rc1; 24 Bc1, Na2; 25 Nh6, gh; 26 Qg4, Kh8; 27 Qf5.

23 Bf7!, Kf7; 24 e6, Kg8; 25 Nh6!

Tremendous shot follows tremendous shot. The key is that Black's KR is stalemated.

25 ... gh; 26 Qg4, Kh7; 27 ed, Rc1, 28 Rc1, Bb5; 29 Rc7, Bd7; 30 Rd7, 1-0.

White piles up on the knight while threatening mates. If 30 ... Qa8; 31 Be5.

The best game prize proved thorny indeed. There were many fine games, full of dramatic points and inspiration. To make technical precision too much of a factor would have required having a judge who had a higher rating than any of the players. The criteria became reduced to a game where both sides were playing strongly, where there was thematic play and where the winner had to execute the latter part of the game crisply to gain the point. It was also possible for a draw to have qualified.

The best game turned out really to be the most exciting game. There is a single tempo between triumph and disaster. Both sides seemed to be winning and to be losing at the same time.

English Opening; D. Waterman — R. Hurdle: 1 e4, e5; 2 Nc3, Nc6; 3 g3, g6; 4 Bg2, Bg7; 5 e3, Ng3; 6 Nge2, d6; 7 Rb1.

This is a popular way to play this formation, but it has not fared well recently. Another method is 7 b3 intending Bb2 and an eventual advance d4. After Black's 7 ... Bf5; 8 e4 is worth a try, as it leads into another perfectly satisfactory situation.

7 ... Bf5; 8 d3, a5; 9 a3, 0-0; 10 0-0, Qd7; 11 Nd5, Nd5; 12 cd, Ne7; 13 Qb3, Rfc8; 14 e4, a4; 15 Qd1, Bh3; 16 Bh3, Qh3; 17 Nc3, Qd7; 18 b3, ab; 19 Qb3.

White has opened the Q-side to good effect. His QRP is no weakness because it can always be traded in the process of closing in on Black's QBP and QP, which now face considerable pressure.

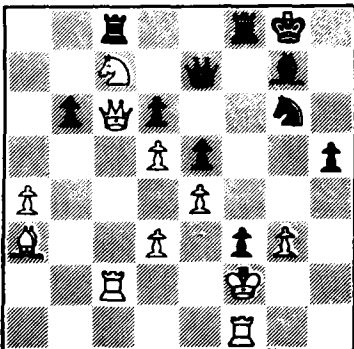
19 ... b6, 10 Kg2, Rf8; 21 f3, f5; 22 Nb5, h5!

Black is losing on the Q-side and has to be able to open lines on the K-side to keep in this game.

23 Rb2!, f4; 24 Rc2, Rac8; 25 Qc4.

Playing 25 Bd2, g5; 26 Rfc1, g4; 27 Rc7, Rc7; 28 Rc7, gf is a little too exciting for White's taste. Leaving the rook to run interference for the king, he plans to divert Black's queen with gain of tempo.

25 ... g5; 26 a4, Ng6; 27 Qc6, Qe7; 28 Ba3, g4; 29 Ne7, fg; 30 hg, gf; 31 Kf2.



Both players have winning attacks. Who wins? Clearly White could not play 31 Rf3, Rf3; 32 Kf3, Qf6 followed by Rf8 with too many threats to be met by the White men winning the Q-side. A sample variation — to show the threats — is 33 Kg2, Rf8; 34 Qb6, Qf1; 35 Kh2, Nf4; 36 Rf2, Qh3; 37 Kg1, Ne2. But now the king is hiding and getting ready to run.

31 ... Nf4; 32 Qd6.

One variation is 32 gf, Qh4; 33 Kg1, Qg3; 34 Kh1, Rf4; 35 Rh2, Rh4!, and another is 32 Bd6, Qg5; 33 Bf8, Rf8; 34 gf, Qh4; 35 Kf3 (35 Kg1, Rf4), Qf4; 36 Ke2, Qf1; 37 Kd2, Rf2; 38 Kc3, Qa1 sews up the win. The attacking variations are very difficult to sort.

32 ... Qg5; 33 Bc1, Nd3; 34 Kg1, Qg3; 35 Kh1, Qh3; 36 Kg1, f2; 37 Rff2, Qg3; 38 Rg2, Rf1 0-1.

For excitement it was hard to beat Paul Whitehead — Nick de Firmian, where Whitehead gave up queen and pawn for rook and knight but "all his knights looked like queens to me," according to de Firmian.

(notes by Whitehead)

Sicilian Defense; P. Whitehead — N. de Firmian: 1 e4, e5; 2 Nf3, d6; 3 d4, cd; 4 Nd4, Nf6; 5 Nc3, a6; 6 Bg5, e6; 7 f4, Be7; 8 Qf3, Qc7; 9 0-0-0, Nbd7; 10 Be2.

First played by Keres against Fischer at Bled, 1959 and pretty much discarded since.

10 ... b5; 11 e5?!

The previously mentioned game went 11 Bf6, Nf6 and then 12 e5, Bb7; 13 ef!?, Bf3; 14 Bf3, Bf6; 15 Ba8, d5; 16 Bd5, Bd4; 17 Rd4, ed and now 18 Re1, Kf8; 19 Re5! was correct with interesting play. As far as I know 11 e5?! was first played in E. Winslow — R. Hammie, Golden Gate Open, 1976.

11 ... Bb7; 12 ef, Bf3; 13 Bf3, gf; 14 Ba8, fg; 15 f5, e5!

Of course it is impossible to surprise Nick in this opening. He knew about the game of Elliot's and had analyzed it out to a win for Black.

16 Nd5, Qc8; 17 Bc6, Bd8?!

Faced with two apparently favorable variations, Nick slips and chooses one which gives White loads of play. Better was 17 ... ed; 18 Bd7, Qd7; 19 Rhe1, Qf5! when the attack both after 20 Ne7 and 20 Re7, Kf8; 21 Rd4 seems to be sufficient.

18 Bd7, Qd7; 19 Ne2! Qf5; 20 Ng3.

Now White sets up a blockade with his knights. Despite my huge material deficit, I thought I had a good one.

20 ... Qg4; 21 Rhf1, 0-0; 22 Ne3, Qe6; 23 Kb1, Bb6; 24 Nef5, Rd8.

Because 24 ... d5; 25 Rd5, Qd5; 26 Ne7 is a royal fork up.

25 Ne4, d5!

Played after long thought. The alternative 25 ... h6; 26 Rd6 (not Nfd6, f5 winning), Rd6; 27 Ned6, Bc7; 28 Ne4, Qc4; 28 Re1! sets up an invincible blockade.

26 Ng5, Qf6; 27 H4!, Rd7; 28 g4, h6?

Correct was 28 ... Bd8!, when I think the onus is on White to prove he had compensation for the queen.

29 Ne4!, Qe6; 30 Nh6, Kh8.

And here better was 30 ... Kg7 or 30 ... Kf8. White wins after 30 ... Qh6; 31 Nf6, Kg7; 32 Nd7, Bd4; 33 c3. Black's pawns fall like ripe tomatoes.

31 Nf6, Rc7?

Time pressure. Better 31 ... Rd8, although I see no way to meet 32 g5 followed by destroying Black on the KB file.

32 Rd5.

Threatens 33 Rd8, Kg7; 34 Rg8, Kh6; 35 g5 mate.

32 ... Rc4; 33 Re5!

And Nick played 33 ... Qd6 but resigned before I could go into the aforementioned mate.

One of the very nicest masters you will ever want to meet is Boris Baczynskyj of Philadelphia. God created him out of good will and integrity, and he learned his first cheapo only while learning chess. When he vaulted into the prize list by defeating Paul Whitehead in the final round, he came away from the game visibly upset. He thought Whitehead should have won that game and hated to take it away from him on a blunder. "I don't like to win that way," he told one spectator.

Masters Open cont.

With Boris the play really is the thing. He comes all the way out here because "I'm always playing the same people in the east; I want to meet somebody different." and he is a chess professional who must depend on his tournament winnings for a large portion of his income.

A natural attacking player like his prototype, Spielmann, this is how he let his fancy free against a leading Bay Area light.

(notes by Baczynskyj)

Zaki Opening; Z. Harari — B. Baczynskyj: 1 g3, c5; 2 Bg2, Nc6; 3 d3, g6; 4 Nf3, Bg7; 5 c3.

Unusual — orthodox dictates 5 0-0 or 5 e4 or 5 c4.

5 ..., e5; 6 0-0, Nge7; 7 Be3.

This move instead of the natural 7 e4 places the QB where it interferes with the KP.

7 ..., b6.

I played this instead of 7 ..., d6 because I wanted to push the QP two squares. I realized that I weakened the White squares but did not see how White could take advantage of this.

8 Qc1, d5; 9 Na3, 0-0; 10 Rb1, Bg4.

Both sides are more or less finished with their development. Black stands better in the center as a result of White's last four moves which, although imaginative, were somewhat unnatural. With his last move Black prepares to bring the rook to the QB file to hinder a possible b4 by White. The QB also tempts White to weaken his k-side slightly.

11 h3, Bd7; 12 Bg5, Rc8; 13 e4, Be6; 14 b3, Qd7; 15 h4, f5.

Black goes on the attack. As frequently happens in the closed openings, there is a radical shift of the game's tenor from the general and logical to the concrete and variational.

16 Bh6, fe; 17 de, de.

I played this rather than the "positional" 17 ..., d4; 18 Bg7, Kg7; 19 Ng5 because Black will have to give up his QB while White's pieces get good squares. But now 18 Bg7, ef is good for Black.

On 18 Nh2, Bh6; 19 Qh6, Qd3 (intending ..., Nf5—e3) Black keeps his pawn.

18 Rd1, Nd4!

Only forward! (Except if you're Ulf Andersson — and I'm not.) Also the knight is safe since 19 cd, cd; 20 Qd2, e3 or 19 Nd4, cd and Black keeps his extra center pawn.

19 Bg7, ef; 20 Bf8, fg; 21 cd, cd; 22 Qg5, Rf8; 23 Qe5.

As a result of the forced exchange operation Black has exposed the White king to an assault by mobile pieces. White's rooks and knight are helpless spectators at the royal tragedy. After 23 Kg2, Bd5; 24 Kf1, Bf3 White would not be long for this world.

23 ..., Nc6; 24 Qg5, Rf5; 25 Qd2, Ne5; 26 F4?, Nf3, 0-1.

Besieged, White blunders away the queen, but there would have followed from 26 Kg2, Qd5; 27 Kf1, Qh1; 28 Ke2, Qf3; 29 Kf1, d3 mating soon or 29 Ke1, Nd3; 30 Kf1, Re5, also mating. Black's cluster of centralized pieces was very effective against White's scattered pieces.

The lower boards were not laboring to produce mice either. Charles van Buskirk's extravagant play was punished in gambit by Errol Liebowitz in this original game.

Queen's Indian Defense; E. Liebowitz — C. van Buskirk: 1 d4, Nf6; 2 e4, e6; 3 Nf3, b6; 4 a3, c5; 5 d5, Ba6?!; 6 Qa4, ed; 7 cd, Bb7.

The unprotected rook on a8 makes moves like 7 ..., Nd5; 8 Qe4 ugly.

8 e4, Qe7; 9 Bd3, Bd5; 10 0-0, Bc6; 11 Qc2, d6; 12 Re1, Nbd7.

The threat of e5 loomed.

13 Nd4, Bb7; 14 Nf5, Qd8; 15 f4, Qc7; 16 e5, de; 17 fe, Ne5.

Even worse may be 17 ..., Nh5; 18 e6, fe; 19 Re6, Kd8; 20 Bg5.

18 Bf4, Nfd7; 19 Be5, Ne5; 20 Bb5, Kd8; 21 Nc3, c4; 22 Rad1, Kc8; 23 Kh1, Bc5; 24 Ng7, Nd3; 25 Ne8, Ne1.

If 25 ..., Nf2; 26 Qf2 produces a long variation with White a pawn up.

26 Qf5, Kb8; 27 Re1, Bg2.

Very picturesque — Black's queen has no safe squares.

28 Kg2, Qb7; 29 Kh3, a6; 30 Bc4, Qc8; 31 Qc8, Kc8; 32 b4, Bd4; 33 Nd5, b5; 34 Bd3, Ra7; 35 Bf5, Kd8; 36 Nd6, Bb2; 37 Re2, 1-0.

Whale cont.

Greenpeace
240 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

or to other organizations such as the
Whale Protection Fund
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

or to

Friends of Animals
11 W. 60th St.
New York, NY 10023

(The latter group is a more violent group, having rammed the Sierra, a private whaling ship as she attempted to leave port.)

Chess is only part of the great life system of our planet, and maybe whales will give energy to you. Or birds, to make your mind fly. Chess is a part, not apart from life.

Whales Passing

i hear the grays
are passing off point reyes
just now, that any day
you may
see them go by.
and why
not? the whales have gone
this way before, or bone
embedded in sandstone
means nothing. not "here lies
a whale" but "under other skies
unlike yet like today
another gray
swam by
happened to die
was buried and
preserved for us in sand."
the crumbling cliffs that raise such butts and ifs
will fall away,
vanish some day,
but not, i hope, the gray.

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Modesto Produces A Winner

by R. E. Fauber with Frank Garosi

Larry Christiansen of Modesto scored the finest tournament triumph of his chess career in January at Linares, Spain. Scoring 8-3 Christiansen tied for first with world champion Anatoly Karpov. Bent Larsen of Denmark was third with 7-4. Zoltan Ribli of Hungary fourth with 6½-4½, and former world champion Boris Spassky had to settle for a tie with Lubomir Kavalek of Washington, D.C., at 6-5.

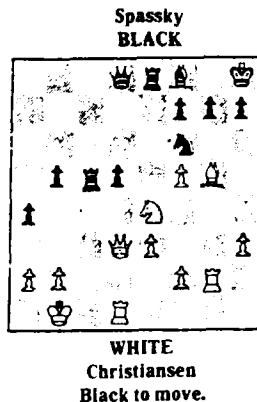
Although losing to Karpov in their individual encounter, Christiansen granted only four draws, to Larsen, Ribli, Kavalek, and Lubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia. The tournament field had an average rating of about 2565, which will make it one of the strongest tournaments of this or any other year. At the beginning the 24-year-old Christiansen was ranked only ninth among the competitors.

Christiansen showed promise of things to come when he won the U.S. Junior Championship three years in a row, 1973-75. In 1976 he tied for second behind former world champion Tigran

Petrosian at Lone Pine, and took another second and a grandmaster norm at Torremolinos. Returning to Torremolinos in 1977 he came clear first and earned his grandmaster title before he had reached the age of 21. He also became the first player in international chess history to go directly from untitled player to grandmaster.

Christiansen's career seemed to go into a stall in 1978-79. A sociable and athletic youth, he seemed to be treating chess with the easy grace he brought to his lifestyle and to be relying too much on natural ability. But in 1979 he turned to rigorous analytical work, the fruit of which included two excellent tournament books, "Hastings 1978-79" and "Talinn, 1979." These efforts began to pay off in 1980 when he tied for first in the U.S. Championship and then scored 7-4 on third board for the U.S. team at the chess Olympiad. Now this triumph puts him in the front rank of American grandmasters as a player who, like Yasser Seirawan, may seriously aim at bringing the world championship back to American shores.

Christiansen mauled a former world champion in the following sharp manner at Linares.



Queen's Gambit Declined L. Christiansen vs. B. Spassky

1. P-Q4, P-Q4; 2. P-QB4, B-K3; 3. N-QB3, N-KB3; 4. PXP, PXP; 5. B-N5, B-K2; 6. P-K3, QN-Q2; 7. B-Q3, 0-0. (A staple of chess in the 1950s, this Exchange Variation has recently been considered dull and bestowing Black with lively winning chances through K-side attack. Christiansen, however, hates dull.)

8. KN-K2, P-B3; 9. Q-B2, R-K1; 10. P-KR3. (A multi-purpose move. In some cases ... P-KR3; B-KB4, N-R4; B-R2 is possible. It also supports a pawn assault on the Black K.)

10. ... N-B1; 11. P-KN4, B-Q2; 12. 0-0, R-B1; 13. K-N1, P-N4; 14. N-B4, P-QR4; 15. B-B5, P-R5; 16. N-Q3, BXB?; 17. PXB, N/1-Q2; 18. KR-N1, B-B1. (He who hesitates is lost. Christiansen recommends the immediate 18. ... P-B4, when White would regret 19. PXP, NXP; 20. NXP?, Q-R4; 21. N-Q4, N/4-K5; 22. Q-K2, NXB; 23. RXN, N-K5; 24. R/5-N1, P-R6.)

19. R-N2, P-B4; 20. PXP, NXP; 21. NXN, RXN; 22. Q-Q3, K-R1; 23. N-K4!!

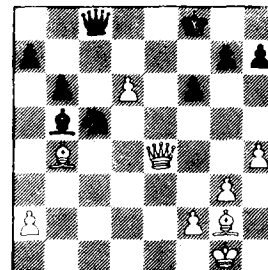
See diagram. (The attack after 23. ... R-B1; 24. NXN, PXN; 25. B-R4 is crushing. If 25. ... R-K5; 26. QXQP.)

23. ... RXN; 24. QXR, Q-B1; 25. Q-Q3, N-K5; 26. P-B3, NXB; 27. RXN, B-K2; 28. P-B6, BXP; 29. RXP, P-R3?; 30. RKR, QXR; 31. R-QB1, Resigns.

If 31. ... Q-B1; 32. Q-B5 wraps it up.

Christiansen + Portisch

1. c4, c5 2. Nc3, Nf6 3. Nf3, e6 4. g3, Nc6 5. Bg2, d5 6. cxd5, Nxd5 7. 0-0, Be7 8. d4, 0-0 9. e4, Nxc3 10. bxc3, cxd4 11. exd4, Bf6 12. Bb2, b6 13. Rb1, Bb7 14. d5, exd5 15. exd5, Na5 16. Ne5, Bxe5 17. Bxe5, Rc8 18. Rcl, Qd7 19. Bc3, Ba6 20. Re1, Nb7 21. Qd4, f6 22. Bb4, Rxc1 23. Rxc1, Rc8 24. Rxc8+ Qxc8 25. h4 Bb5 26. d6, Ne5 27. Qd5+ Kf8 28. Qe4



28. -, Kf7 29. Qe7+ Kg6 30. h5+ Kxh5 31. Qf7+ 1-0.

Freud's Father cont.

Psyching Out

The great psychological model makers may be of practical use to players who care for nothing more theoretical than their standing in a tournament.

From transactional analysis we may learn the art of exchanging. From Jung's concept of archetypal behavior we may get a guide to reviving out of date openings. Late in life Freud evolved a "nirvana principle," which may explain the use of the grandmaster draw, a quick way to attain blissful nothingness.

Computer chess play discloses emotional interactions in impersonal circuitry. The best computers are very good at everything but attacking the king. Computers are electronic monsters whose power derives from programmers who created them. They behave like monsters from old movies. They are able to attack but subconsciously resist the idea of symbolically killing their masters. "Go back, go back! I made you," buzzes eerily through their circuits.

Today psychology and chess are joined in a quivering dialectic. AS Socrates might have commented on the matter: "All I know is that I know something, but I'm not sure what it is."

REMEMBERING 1980

By R. E. Fauber

Chess tournaments follow each other with such dizzying rapidity that their significance soon fades. A year-end wrap-up of northern California and international competition might be worthwhile if only as a speculation on chess trends or lack thereof.

Northern Californians were never more prominent in American chess than in 1980. At the \$30,000 Chess Set Memorial Day tournament in Los Angeles it was Peter Biyiasas of San Francisco, Walter Browne of Berkeley, and Larry Christiansen of Modesto sharing first with the south state's Jack Peters. In July at the mammoth Paul Masson American Class Championships, the last such tourney Masson will sponsor, it was again Biyiasas, Browne, and Christiansen tied for first with Jim Tarjan of Berkeley and Florin Gheorghiu from Rumania. In November at the American Open in Los Angeles Browne shared first with John Grefe of San Francisco and David Strauss from the south state.

These were relatively minor achievements. The Northern California Tournament Clearinghouse Area took the top three spots in the U.S. Championship in June: Browne, Christiansen, and Larry Evans of Reno, Nevada tied for first to third. The next week Christiansen shared first in the World Open in Philadelphia.

Meanwhile, Browne had a clear second in one of the year's strongest tourneys at Reykjavik behind surging Viktor Kupreichik of the Soviet Union and in an even stronger tournament at Wijk-aan-Zee Browne shared first with Yasser Seirawan of Seattle ahead of fearsome Viktor Korchnoi.

Finally, when it came time to select the six man U.S. team for the Olympiad in Malta, the north state contributed half its members: Christiansen, Tarjan, and Nick de Firmian of Berkeley. Had he wanted to Browne could also have played.

Since Browne is 32, Biyiasas 30, Tarjan 29, and Christiansen 24, our grandmaster quartet has not yet peaked in skill, and we can expect even finer accomplishments from them in the future.

International Perspective

In searching for trends in international tournament competition it may be useful to summarize the winners in the 16 strongest tournaments of the year. Of these 10 had an average rating among the contestants of 2500 or more. Clearly the winners of these events faced very few rabbits in their struggle to the top.

Tmt	Ave. rating (when available)	FIDE Category	Winner(s)
Bad Kissingen	2614	15	Karpov
Bugojno	2602	15	Karpov
Tilburg	2608	15	Karpov
Amsterdam	---	14	Karpov
Buenos Aires	---	13	Larsen
London	---	13	Andersson Korchnoi
Baden-bei-Wien		12	Miles Belyavsky Spassky
Sochi	---	11	Panchenko
Vrbas	---	11	Miles
Wijk-aan-Zee	2510	11	Browne Seirawan

Just below these most testing tournaments were six others in FIDE category 10.

Tmt	Winner(s)
Baku	Kasparov
Erevan	Arshak Petrosian Tseshkovsky
Hastings	Andersson Nunn

Reykjavik
Tashkent
U.S. Championship

Kupreichik
Belyavsky
Browne
Christiansen
Evans

In these 16 tournaments there were 24 first places and ties for first place. This is a summary of 1980's major tournament winners with the number of wins each had in parentheses when it is more than one.

Anatoly Karpov (4)	Viktor Kupreichik
Ulf Andersson (2)	Bent Larsen
Walter Browne (2)	John Nunn
Anthony Miles (2) Panchenko
Andrei Belyavski (2)	Arshak Petrosian
Larry Christiansen	Yasser Seirawan
Larry Evans	Boris Spassky
Gary Kasparov	Vitaly Tseshkovsky
Viktor Korchnoi	

It was another Karpov year. He won the four strongest tournaments and only had a mediocre (for him) result in one individual tournament in which he competed. Karpov did disappoint in the European team championships - where he scored only 40 per cent - but he had a score of 65 per cent in the 79 games he played in 1980 and lost only six games. Not since the Alekhine era of 1927-35 has any one player so dominated the tournament scene.

Another sensational Soviet was Gary Kasparov. He played in only one international grandmaster tournament, at Baku, where he scored 76 per cent overall and 77 per cent against the grandmasters he faced, but he also competed in the European team championship, the Olympiad, and the World Junior Championship. Although the grandmasters he faced in these contests were weaker than the ones Karpov encountered, he scored 78 per cent against them without a loss. In 46 games during 1980 Kasparov lost only to Georgiev of Bulgaria - just one game all year.

The champions Karpov and Spassky keep on having successes, but Belyavsky and Kupreichik are also notable for outstanding achievements in tournaments held outside the Soviet Union. About 30 and 32 years of age respectively, they have been brought along, much the way baseball players work their way through the farm system of minor league ball, and are now playing in the major league with a vengeance.

Another striking feature of the winners in the most important tournaments is the complete absence of winners from east European countries. Hungary tied the Soviet Union for first in the Olympiad, but Portisch, Ribli, Adorjan, and Sax do not figure at the top of any tournament. The Yugoslavs have enough grandmasters to form a choir, but not one of them soloed in a major tournament.

Czechoslovakia's Smejkal and Hort remained formidable but not indomitable, while it was close but no cigar for Rumania's Gheorghiu.

The Scandinavians Andersson and Larsen shone, and the Britons, Miles and Nunn. Born only two days apart in 1955, much more can be expected of Miles and Nunn in the future. Miles has known outstanding successes in the past, while Nunn may be just beginning to stride out to the peak of his ability.

Certainly 1980 was a year when bright new stars came to the top of the international tournament scene. Not the least of them was 21 year-old Yasser Seirawan, who sandwiched a pair of mediocre results between victories at FIDE category 7 Torremolinos and Wijk-aan-Zee and his outstanding score of 8-3 on second board at the Malta Olympiad.

But the international chess race never stops. Andersson took this year's first big event, Hastings. Karpov and Korchnoi are rolling up their sleeves for another world championship slug-fest, and somewhere in an out of the way YMCA or Pioneers' Palace some unknown juvenile has stars in his eyes and mate on the board.

When Second Best is Best

by Roy Jackson

Inferior moves appeal to me. Early on, peers told me that a strong center was essential but did not provide convincing reasons. So I annotated a fictitious game where White pushed both his rook pawns to open. "Far superior to attempts at dominating the center," I wrote, "since there is only one center as opposed to two sides." Whoever had the center, it seemed to me, made little difference.

Coffeehouse "experts" freely criticize inferior openings. "Yuk, Philidor's," I've heard. Most of this has to be chess snobbery, I figure, because out and out refutations don't exist. Up against such attitudes, I am easily tempted into weak lines of play. One coffeehouse regular haughtily suggested I not play inferior lines in tournaments because I might discover my opponent "knew how to beat it." What a silly preconception — a clear path to victory? No sir, when I make a move that isn't in the books, then my opponent must beat me, not the opening. Furthermore, he must win by himself — unaided by rote memorization.

Not long ago British grandmaster Tony Miles won a game by playing 1 ... e5 only the way patzers play the opening.

So much for coffeehouse wisdom. Books may criticize; grandmasters, too. But players in the B category have no business scoffing at lines which are slightly weak. **So are we.**

Confronted by the theoretical Sicilian in this next game I ventured on the unpopular and possibly second rate Deferred Wing Gambit. The theoretical question remains unresolved by this game as my opponent obliged first with second rate and finally some third rate moves.

Jackson (1623)-Flammer (1659): 1 e4.

Hoping for the same from Black. I had seen the Sicilian twice already from this side. Besides, I'd just studied the Exchange Ruy. (Moderate players have even criticized this opening like it were a car without an engine or incapable of going anywhere.)

It's more like a V-8 engined car dependent on the Arabs for fuel.
—ed.

1 ... e5.

The Sicilian AGAIN! I'm flabbergasted at how unoriginal the players of my strength can be as a whole.

2 Nf3, d6; 3 b4.

The inferior line. I've played this in tournaments before, occasionally stunning my opponent into 15 minutes of thought. B players are too much into book lines; chess is a chance to be creative.

3 ... cb; 4 d4, e6?

White has the best of the center and a bigger playground. Meanwhile, Black has muffled his QB. All four of Black's moves have been with pawns, notice.

When a gambit is accepted, it is pretty important for the greedy player to develop as soon as he can before his opponent's development ties him up. Do you suppose 4 ... e6 was played because it occurs frequently in other variations? The thought is too booky for words. Better was 4 ... Bg4.

And better than that 4 ... Nf6; 5 Bd3, d5; 6 Nbd2, e6 inviting White to release the tension in the center. —ed.

There was a time when I'd have played 4 ... e5, deliberately relinquishing my privilege to castle. Maybe I'll take this quirk up again for shock value.

5 e4!

Important, I've learned from the endgame's point of view. This pawn is a candidate in the Wing Gambit. Left backward too long on QB2, it can easily be blockaded by enemy pieces. Now Black will hem and haw: should he take in passing?

5 ... bc?

Black has made yet another pawn move. White develops his other knight, gains a tempo, and unshackles QB3.

6 Nc3.

In addition to his stronger center, White has two pieces in play. Meanwhile Black's center pawns are anti-developmental, standing between the bishops and clear sky.

I arrived at this position once before in this tournament by a different move order. White has adequate compensation for his pawn. Unfortunately, being a B player is compensation for my compensation; I lost the first time.

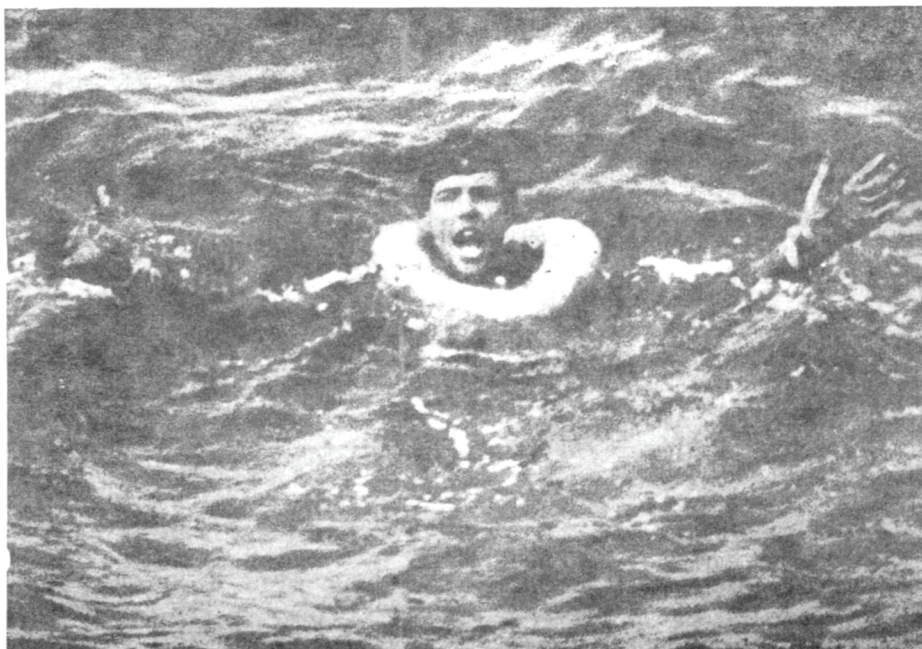
6 ... Nf6; 7 Bd3, Be7.

Black wishes he'd gotten in ... d5, when his bishop could be placed actively on b4. Now, it's a thorn which has to be removed from the castling route.

8 0-0, 0-0; 9 e5.

Cont. on p. 134

CHESS GOES TO WAR



"My position is sunk!"

Freud's Father Had His Problems Too

by
R.E. Fauber

“You were crazy to make that move!” — Sigmund Freud (kibitz-
ing an Adler-Jung game)

Despite the efforts of Ernest Jones and Reuben Fine, psychologists have done a dismal job of relating the dynamics of the human mind to the dynamics of the 64 squares.

In 50 years all they have come up with is the correlation of the Oedipus Complex with the desire to kill the king and protect the queen. In this Freudian interpretation of chess players' behavior Alexander Alekhine is Oedipus Rex. This classic king killer, who learned chess from his mother, fabricated an encounter for his games collection which featured extra queens on the board. He constantly married older women who enjoyed mothering him. The moral of Alekhine's story: if you want to be aggressive, be a momma's boy.

Yet, for all its attractiveness as a core principle of psychological theory, the Oedipus Complex had no role in evolving the strategic principles of chess. Francois Philidor discovered the foundation of sound play precisely because he did not grow up with an Oedipus Complex. His 85 year-old father died when he was six, just as the Complex is supposed to reach its first crisis. So he had already beaten his father. This shows up in his games, in which he ignores both kings almost invariably.

The Boys in the Band

The king of France placed the orphaned Philidor in the Versailles choir, where he learned chess watching the play of musicians in the band. He grew up in a society of other little boys.

The result of this psychological matrix was Philidor's classic **Analysis of the Game of Chess**, which laid the base for all our chess concepts. Rather than advocating killing the king with dispatch, Philidor stressed the importance of the pawns, the little boys of society, and how great they can become if they work together until one of them reaches the eighth rank and becomes powerful. Far from wanting to kill his father, Philidor simply wanted to surpass his choir master by promoting.

The Italian masters of his time took a dim view of his theories. Ponziani wrote in 1769: “. . . in the conduct of the games he is much distinguished by the management of the Pawns; I wish I could say as much of that of the pieces.” Ponziani and his pals stressed the importance of that of piece interaction, the pieces being the adults of the game.

It remained for Louis de Labourdonnais to synthesize these two great schools and so adumbrate the foundations of the currently fashionable transactional analysis. By combining fluid piece play with a gimlet eye for pawn structure he was saying that correct behavior in chess was a matter of expressing the child and the adult in all of us at the appropriate time.

Father Knows Best

The heyday of the Oedipus Complex arrived in the second half of the 19th century when “father” ruled the family hearth with smug pomposity. This was also the era when wild attacking play reached its merry zenith. Players, it seemed, were willing to sacrifice anything for a crack at dear old dad.

With the exception of Joseph Blackburne, a lower middle class Yorkshire lad, all the great attacking players came from the continent. England would have had its share of brilliancy prize winners, had it not been that all their attacking players were reared by nannies, who made them neat and clean and washed their mouths out with soap when they said dirty words. Amos Burn was the prototypical British player. He made his mark less in competition than in journalism, where he was reknowned for his neat and thorough annotations.

This Nanny Complex has survived the passing of the pram. The ideal of today's ambitious British player is not to be grandmaster but to publish three best selling books on the opening. Britons do not

compete in world championship matches. They are much happier tattling on the naughty boys who do indulge in such brawls.

The Pleasure Principle

Certain great geniuses of the chess board deserve special analysis. There was the “noble” Adolf Anderssen, whose career neatly illustrates two Freudian concepts, sublimation and the pleasure principle. A jolly good sport at the board, Anderssen was more noble because he forsook becoming a chess professional so as to support his mother and sister by teaching high school.

This explains why Anderssen developed into an attacking player who made a lot of sacrifices. It was sublimation of his sacrifice to filial responsibility. Also, sacrificing is fun, and fun is the essence of the pleasure principle. “You only go around once,” he used to say and grabbed for the gusto at the board. After the game was over, though, he let it be Lowenbrau.

Wilhelm Steinitz's father must have been a holy terror. At first Steinitz used chess as a form of rebellion in which he went straight after the old goat. Yet he was still afraid of him. “I did not play with the object to win directly, but to sacrifice a piece,” he said of his youthful play. His family was poor, and his father always appreciated having a little extra material in hand.

Steinitz finally realized that, if you cannot beat daddy, you should join him. Then it was that he proclaimed, “The king is a fighting piece.” He would accept the extra material himself and let his king (papa) deal with the torrent of threats which ensued.

The unique styles of certain players often stem from childhood experiences. Aron Nimzovich had a happy period in his childhood when his parents gave him a pogo stick. He would happily hop about the house for hours. When they gave him one of those new-fangled bicycles, he promptly pedaled it into a building. This explains his predilections for the hopping knight over the straight line bishop, which can never veer off course when confronting obstacles. Since he never hopped outside, Nimzovich also appreciated the need for a closed position when maneuvering the knight, not out in the open where he could get mauled by free moving traffic.

Psychology Today

Contemporary play raises many questions about the usefulness of father-oriented Freudian psychology for predicting the behavior of our own leading lights.

Bobby Fischer was a long-time devotee of a line in the Najdorf Sicilian in which he played 7 . . . , Qb6—Qxb2. He sent his queen off for a walk to gather in material. Does this mirror his mother's career, in which she periodically picketed and complained, drawing attention to herself in an exposed position to bring back money for Bobby?

Larry Evans likes nothing better than grabbing a pawn in the opening. Is this an indication that he wants more children, or does it explain why he moved to Nevada, which has no state income tax, where he can always keep that extra pawn courtesy of the government?

At the height of the great Soviet purge of the 1930's Fine described the “harum-scarum attacks” which were the hallmark of Russian play. This was the time when Josef Stalin wanted to establish himself as a new “little father” for his people. This attacking violence has ebbed.

Since Stalin's death in 1953, Soviet players have become much less king-oriented. Their new god is Anatoly Karpov, who will attack you if you insist — but not necessarily if he must. There is no longer a “little father” to hate, only those tedious bureaucrats, who can be squeezed by inexorably denying them space to move. That Karpov does supremely well at the board.

cont. on p. 124

The Longest Game

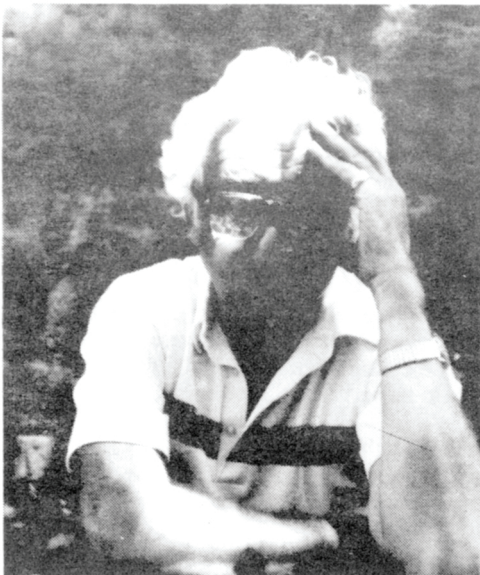
BY Sydney J. Rubin



Opening



Middle Game



Ending

A game of chess between the masters Pilnik and Czerniak once lasted 191 moves. According to Irving Chernev in "Wonders and Curiosities of Chess" (1974) this is supposed to be the longest game ever played between masters. Is it possible to place a limit on the number of possible moves in a game of chess? It certainly seems unlikely that a sensible game could last more than a few hundred moves, but an answer to this question will be provided.

Going back to the matter of sensible games, there is nothing, apparently, in the rules of chess which prevents two players (for as long as time allows) from continuing a game of king and bishop versus king or even king versus king. In fact the game does not terminate automatically unless by stalemate so, technically, a game could last indefinitely. Of course, a game with king versus king, for example, would almost always end with the use of the "drawn by agreement rule." If one of the players is not willing, the other could, as a last resort, apply the "50 move rule."

So, with the assumption that one of the players in a game of chess applies the "50 move rule" at the first opportunity, it will be possible to establish a limit on the longest possible game. Alternately, we could state that a player (not inclined to resign), would never have to play a game lasting more than a certain number of moves.

We shall show that, with the new 50 move rule in effect, a game of chess cannot last more than 6147 moves.

We should mention first the new "50 move rule." This is given in the October, 1979 issue of *Chess Life and Review*, page 586. Briefly stated, the old rule is modified to allow 100 moves for the ending king and two knights versus king and pawn from each position such that the pawn is safely blockaded and not further advanced than the line indicated in diagram 1 for a Black pawn and its obverse for a White pawn.

It will be easier to give first the limit using the old "50 move rule" and then a simple calculation will give us the figure for the new rule.

By the old "50 move rule," the game terminates if the player on the move can show that both players have made 50 consecutive moves without making either a capture or a pawn move. We shall call a capture or a pawn move a **major move**. Any other move called a **minor move**. In this study we naturally consider the maximum number of major moves possible since, when these are exhausted, the game can last at most another 50 moves. The reader can see that, when we talk about consecutive major moves by one player, we shall mean that these major moves occur at 50 move intervals of the game.

So much for general considerations. Let us consider the specifics of diagram 2.

It is easy to see that this position can be reached after 12 consecutive major moves by Black then 20 consecutive major moves by White. Minor moves are always possible before each of these major moves, even if they are limited to knights moving back and forth from N1. For example, the first major move, a pawn say, need not be made until Black's 50th move, his other moves being knight moves.

To have the maximum number of major moves available, we would want to pass as many pawns as possible, promote them, and then utilize captures of those promoted pieces as major moves. Actually, all 16 pawns can be passed and this can easily be seen if we pass from Diagram 2 to Diagram 3.

Black can readily make the minor moves Qb6, Bd6, nf6, and Rh6 and White the responsive moves Ra4, Bc4, Ne4, and Qg4. This diagram leads to diagram 4 after all captures have been made.

Note, however, that four of the major moves by White and four by Black were simultaneously pawn moves and captures. This is significant, since, if the pawn moves were not also captures, the game could be prolonged by eight major moves. But it is not possible to pass all 16 pawns without at least eight captures by pawns. This is easy to show if first we consider diagram 5.

In this position each has a pawn opposing in the same file. In order to pass each of the eight pairs of pawns there will have to be a capture of a piece by one of the pawns of each pair, hence there must be eight captures by pawns. To get the pawn array of diagram 4 captures were made by four Black pawns and then four White pawns.

Now continuing with diagram 3, Black can make 19 more consecutive major moves in capturing, then promoting the pawns, and then capturing White's three remaining pieces. If necessary, to avoid stalemating, under-promotion is, of course always possible. Then White can make 35 major moves in capturing, promoting, and then capturing seven Black men, four of which previously promoted. So far, we have the sequence of consecutive major moves of 12B, 20W, 19B, 35W. It is clear that Black can then made 28 more major moves. Finally, the lone White king will capture Black's remaining four pieces leaving only the two monarchs. The sequence will then be 12B, 20W, 19B, 35W, 32B 4 W. This gives a total of 118 major moves.

As a convenient check on our work note that each Black pawn made six moves in promoting, so for eight pawns, 48 moves. There were also eight captures of promoted White men and three captures of original White men which are not simultaneously Black pawn moves.

So there were 11 captures plus 48 pawn moves, or 59 major moves by Black. Likewise there were another 59 major moves by White for a total of 118.

Now we multiply 118 times 50 and get 5900, since there will be 50 moves (49 minor, 1 major) corresponding to each major move. After 50 more moves by the Black king, White, according to our assumption, applies the "50 move rule" after a total of 5950 moves. This would seem to give us the limit for a game of chess under the old "50 move rule." We shall show, however, that the correct number should actually be $5947\frac{1}{2}$.

How do we account for these $2\frac{1}{2}$ moves? To answer this, consider an actual game in progress. Assume no major moves have been made. Black must on his 50th move (if the game is to be prolonged) make a major move else White could, on his 51st move, apply the "50 move rule." Now if Black makes the next major move, it must occur on his 100th move and then at 50 move intervals for each consecutive major move.

Suppose Black has no more major moves available to him. For example, suppose this should happen immediately after Black's 50th move. Then White must make a major move on his 100th move since otherwise Black cannot. If White does not do this on his 100th move, he would be able to apply "50 move rule" on his 101st move. But White's 100th move occurs at move $99\frac{1}{2}$ of the game score. We see then, that as long as Black (or White) make consecutive major moves, these will be made at 50 more intervals. But whenever there is an alteration in major moves from Black to White or White to Black, there will only be a $49\frac{1}{2}$ move interval. That is a decrease of a half a move. In our count of 5950 moves we had the sequence 12B, 20W, 19B, 35W, 28B, 4W of major moves. Here there were five alternations of color for major moves, which accounts for $2\frac{1}{2}$ moves.

We need only show that for 118 major moves fewer than five alternations of color is impossible. Going back to diagram 2, White cannot pass all of his pawns in one sequence of consecutive captures because he cannot capture more than seven Black pieces whereas eight would be necessary to pass the pawns. So the sequence of B, W, B, W of major moves necessary to reach diagram 4 is minimal. The remaining alternations were necessary to capture the remaining pieces. So the longest possible game under the old "50 move rule" is one of $5947\frac{1}{2}$ moves.

Finally, to get the count for the new "50 move rule," we see from diagrams 1a and 1b that 100 moves is allowed for at most four pawn positions. This would increase the count now by at most 200 moves. There will, however, be one additional alternation of major moves. This is easily seen from diagram 4. This position was reached after sequence B, W, B, W of major moves. A similar position of pawns is possible with a White pawn remaining at Q2. Then White can continue a sequence of major moves, promoting all but the pawn at Q2. Black then captures all the White men except the lone White pawn. This is followed by the White king capturing all the remaining Black men except two knights.

Now we suppose that Black does not succeed in checkmating White. White then captures Black's remaining two knights without an additional alternation of color. He then promotes his remaining pawn, which is captured finally by the Black king. So to the sequence B, W, B, W, we must add a sequence B, W, B. This gives us one more alternation of color. Similarly, one more alternation of color would still have been required if we had finished with two White knights and a Black pawn. This one additional alternation of color decreases the total count by $\frac{1}{2}$ move so there is altogether an increase of $199\frac{1}{2}$ moves. Therefore, for the new "50 move rule" the total count is $5947\frac{1}{2}$ plus $199\frac{1}{2}$ to make the longest game one of 6147 moves.

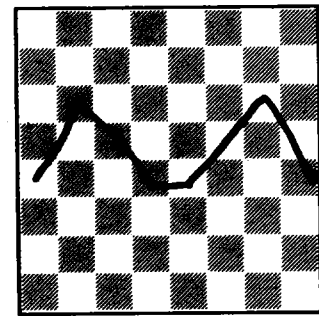


Diagram 1a and 1b upside down

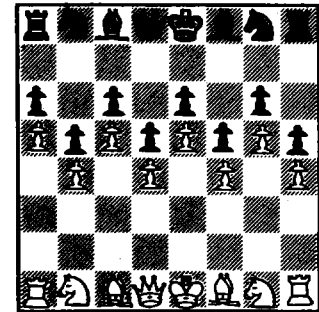


Diagram 2

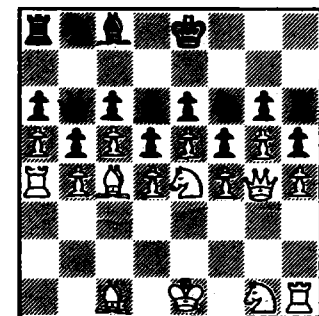


Diagram 3

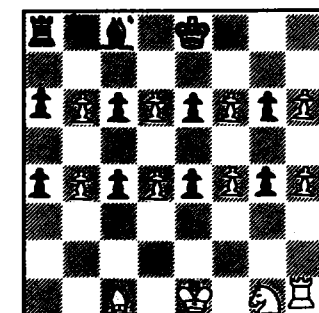


Diagram 4

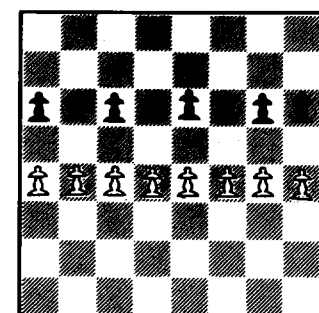


Diagram 5

USCF

Selection Criteria

by Jerry Hanken

At the USCF Policy Board meeting at Phoenix in February the Policy Board finally came to grips with a problem which had long plagued the Federation. Uniform standards for all USCF invitational events were adopted to go into effect January 1, 1981.

There is no guarantee that the Delegates at Palo Alto won't change or revise some of this package, as they are often wont to do, but what the Board has done represents the fruit of lengthy discussion and thought, as well as the consideration of various suggestions made by a wide range of people. In August the Board constituted me, George Cunningham, and Myron Lieberman a committee to hammer out areas of agreement. With the exception of the seeding provisions, to which I am unalterably opposed, the package was approved unanimously.

First, as noted above, the criteria are to be applied uniformly to U.S. men, women, and junior championships as well as to the selection of teams for the Olympiad and Youth Championships. Also, if we are to send an individual to represent us in a FIDE event, such as the under 16 championship, we will use the criteria which I am about to describe.

The rating formula is the same basic formula now in effect for team invitations which was recommended by the Professional Chessplayers' Association in 1978. It is an arithmetic mean between two ratings. The first of these is the "peak published rating" since the last list used to choose the invitees to the last event. For instance, if the list used to choose the last U.S. Olympic team was August, 1980, as it was, then any published list subsequent to that, year-end or supplement, will be effective to provide a peak rating. The second rating will be the last one in effect prior to the issuing of invitations if the invitations are issued on time.

Invitations are to be issued four months in advance when possible, but if we have an unexpected event, we will still go back four months prior to the starting date of that event. For instance, a supplement comes out February 1, and in April we get an offer for a U.S. Championship to be played in Yankee stadium starting June 10. This is an offer we cannot refuse, so we invite on short notice. The invitations go out on the basis of the February 1 supplement, not on the April 1 supplement. This kind of situation is rare, and we want it to become extinct, but it can happen.

In any case when you take the arithmetic mean of the "peak published" and "current" rating, as defined above, you get your ranked list or your individual.

If you wonder why we use peak **published** or official ratings only, it is because our computer does not have the capacity to store more than the most immediate five past results, and the practical problems of keeping peaks by hand are simply too great.

There is a real kicker in these new regulations. First the mild version: if you have a tie in the final number, and it is for the last place — were it matters — the tie is broken by determining who has played the most games in U.S. tournaments in the last year. This reflects the Board's feeling that players who are invited to play in American events or to represent America in FIDE events should play chess in America.

Now for the heavy part of the aforementioned kicker. Take note you non-playing GMs! In order to be eligible for any invitation after January 1, 1982, you must play at least 10 games in at least two U.S. tournaments during the 12 months prior to the issuing of the invitations. This puts the players on notice right now to start playing, even though the effective date is January 1, 1982. The 12 months will stretch backwards to this year.

As for the seeding decisions, I oppose them on principle. We have to seed the Grand Prix winner as part of an old agreement, but the U.S. Junior Champion and the U.S. Open winner may well be weaker than the last U.S. Championship invitee. In any case the

Delegates exercised themselves in Atlanta, seeding the U.S. Open winner in the middle of the tournament. I had convinced the board to eliminate seeding last year, but this show of sentiment on the part of the Delegates was too much. The vote to seed the Junior Champion was 5-2 (with Sue Benoit joining me in the negative) and for the Open Champion it was 6-1.

There were other attempts to seed. One suggestion was to seed the top three in one U.S. Championship into the next, another to seed the current U.S. Champion to the Olympic team (in 1980 we had three champions), still another involved seeding all Olympic medalists to the next Olympic team. The Delegates in their collective wisdom may well decide to do any or all of this in Palo Alto, but the Board did not see fit to adopt them. None became firm motions and even though this is an election year, I am strongly opposed to any of them.

Having passed this package to take effect on January 1, 1982, I was the only Board member who noticed that the Junior Champion for 1981 was still not seeded for 1982. After some discussion the '81 Junior Champion was seeded into the '82 or later U.S. Championship. As the delegates in Atlanta only reversed a "suspension" of the seeding of the U.S. Open winner, he is also seeded into the '82 or later championship.

An issue which has loomed large in the discussion over the last six months has been the possible injection of subjective criteria into the selection of invitees by the institution of an oversight committee. In the end a consensus was reached that any such committee would pose the danger of bringing personality and politics into the process.

There have been allegations ranging from drug abuse to "poor team spirit" leveled at various individuals. Fortunately, in the end the Board showed the wisdom to avoid that can of worms and stick to objective criteria.

There was another suggestion that FIDE ratings be used in some form, but the infrequency of these as compared with USCF ratings rules that out. (Recall the complaints that Alburt was too low at 2515 FIDE to be our first board at the Olympiad? Not only did he have a plus score in the event, but his January 1, 1981 FIDE rating a month later was 2575, the highest ranked American!)

So you think you have got it all straight now — right? Tell me then how we will issue invitations for the women's and junior invitational championships in July and a possible U.S. Championship zonal this summer or even in December. Remember that this package went into effect only on January 1, 1981. Every one has plenty of notice. For this year's championships it is still simply the peak published rating since the list effective for the last event — up to 90 days prior to the current one. So for the junior and women's in July, the list that comes out April 1 will be the last one used for peaks. We are less sure about the U.S. Championship, but say it starts December 15. We would have to go back to September 1 and supplement for invitations to go out September 15.

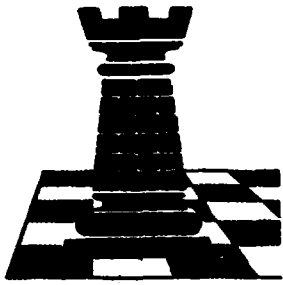
These selection criteria are, of course, not set in granite, and no one can stop future Boards, let alone the Delegates, from further tinkering. But a lot of thought and work went into the adoption of these criteria, and for the benefit of the players' peace of mind we hope they will go unaltered for a long time.

SAN JOSE CHESS CLUB

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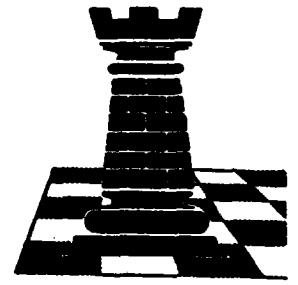
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A Few Calculating Words



by Mark Buckley

"What is the essence of the chess master's art? Fundamentally, it consists of the ability to analyze chess positions." – M. M. Botvinnik.

Perhaps no subject commands more of the aspiring chess player's interest than the technique of improving one's play. The popularity of Kotov's **Think Like a Grandmaster** attests to the fact that most players are starving for some hint of the methods that put the grandmasters on Olympus. It comes as no surprise, however, that most successful players are loth to impart their knowledge to ambitious, would-be masters.

Simply memorizing and studying the general principles or aphorisms is not enough. Loading the memory with opening analysis, although a popular pastime, does little to sharpen the mind's eye.

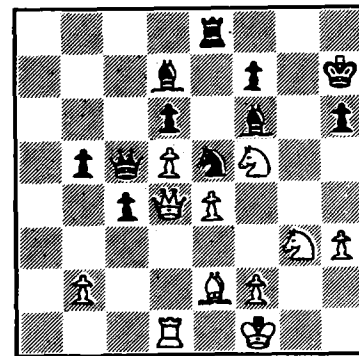
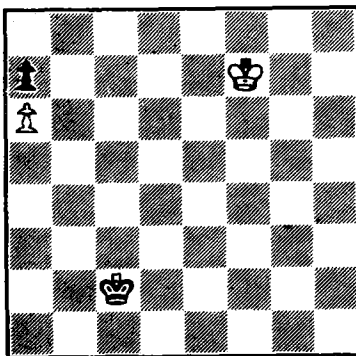
The power to visualize is the heart of the matter. In my opinion most players can significantly improve with systematic practice in the technique of visualization. A simple and effective method starts by simulating tournament conditions – no moving of the pieces to facilitate analysis. Of course if you want stark realism, add a blaring radio – Top 40 – and an assistant blowing smoke in your face. The primary purpose of this exercise, however, is to strengthen and clarify the images formed in the mind's eye.

At the beginning it is important to avoid great complications. We do not aim for a bust of the Najdorf Sicilian. A king and pawn ending will do nicely. A simple position contains fewer distractions and is more predictable. Having fewer variations and sub-variations you can see far and quickly. Of no less importance (I am telling you this secretly) is to start systematic study with a success.

The six-move sequence can now be played out on the board: 1 Ke6, Kc3; 2 Kd5! (in the game White played without calculation 2 Kd6?, Kd4!; 3 Kc6, Ke5; 4 Kb7, Kd6; 5 Ka7, Kc7 and only drew), Kb4; 3 Kc6, Ka5; 4 Kb7, Kb5; 5 Ka7, Kc6; 6 Kb8 winning. (This dry run is not strictly necessary; we are here dealing with the method in its most elementary form.)

Now reset the board at the diagram. Without moving the pieces we replay the moves mentally. Following each move ask 1) which square does this move strengthen? 2) which squares are weakened?. In more complex situations the order and weight of these questions may differ. The position of each king and the squares they dominate must be seen clearly. The position after each half-move should be examined separately with particular attention paid to the king's adjacent eight square "aura." Visualizing this aura (of any piece) is central to chess calculation. Playing blindfold consists of little else.

Applying the foregoing method to more difficult positions requires some modification. We cannot see all the way to the end as we can in some ending positions. Rather we have to think ahead a few moves at a time visualizing which are the important squares and which squares pass into or out of control with each move. A leapfrog approach is adequate for training in these situations. After a few moves are visualized and the mental image becomes too fuzzy, the position on the board can be advanced to aid the mental work (but never of course because of analytic laziness – while you are trying to train yourself to see far ahead, but, most important, to see clearly as far ahead as you can see). The results of the work depends on the diligence given to the visualization. Let us take a little more practice on this position from Browne-Nunn; London, 1980.



Let us choose this position from Schlage-Ahues; Berlin, 1921 for a beginning. Set up the pieces on your board. It is White to move and win.

Hmm.

Obviously you want to queen the QRP. So don't we just march over there and take it? Yes, but there are several paths over which to advance. First of all there is Ke7, d7, c7, b7. There is also Ke6, d5, c6 b7. This is reasoning. In calculating we have to remember that Black gets to move too. There is a triangle of squares which is the essence of White's strategy, a6-c6-a8. If we visualize the king as the center of a nine-square array, it becomes clear that the second path does a better job of denying Black's king entry into that triangle while still winning the pesky pawn. The indirect route accomplishes more in the same number of moves. This fact of chess geometry helps clarify the position and, therefore, aids calculation.

We have to think about the queen trade, after which we would have to advance in the center, but the weakness of our f4 square gives pause to that as in 30 Qc5, dc; 31 f4, Ng6; 32 e5, Bh8!; 33 Bh5, Nf4; 34 Bf7, Re5.

Now let us think more about the auras, those special threats which radiate from pieces even through the blocking action of other pieces. Black's h6 is a pretty weak square. Consider 30 Qd2. If ..., Bg7; 31 Qf4. Black stands passively, and White's queen combines with the knight to attack d6, on which stands a useful pawn. Other auras of moment are those of Black's QB, which can capture on h3 with check should White's knight on f5 move. Black's queen looks all the way down to g1 because, surely in many variations pawn to f4 will open the way. We take some squares and give some away.

cont. on p. 134

Tournaments

Piece of the Action Results

The third annual "Piece of the Action" Chess Tournament, a USCF-rated, four-round Swiss system competition in five playing divisions, was held in the Student Union Building of the University of California at Berkeley, Jan. 10-11.

Sponsored jointly by SUPERB and the U.C. Berkeley Campus Chess Club, the \$1,465 event (\$1,365 in cash prizes, \$100 in California Chess Bulletins gift certificates and five trophies) attracted 119 players, directed by USCF Senior Regional Vice President Alan Benson.

Complete results (in modified Solkoff tie-break order):

Master-Expert Division

1st, William Adam (2261), Berkeley, 4-0, \$250 plus trophy; 2nd-3rd, Jeremy Silman (2424), San Francisco, and Robert Sferra (2166), San Jose, 3½-½, \$112.50 each; 4th, Eugene Lubarsky (2043), Fremont, 3-1, \$36 gift certificate.

Category I (Class A)

1st, Robert Karnisky (1898), Palo Alto, 4-0, \$50 plus trophy; 2nd-6th, Hiawatha Bradley (1813), Hayward, Robert Arnold (1668), San Francisco, Bill Campbell (1907), San Jose, Ray Kratochvi (1843), Berkeley, and Barry Brandt (1936), Reno, Nevada, 3-1, \$23 each; 7th-8th, Kevin Lewis (1983), Manteca, and Karen Street (1951), Berkeley, 2-4, \$12.50 gift certificate each.

Category II (Class B)

1st, Mark Davidson (1688), Berkeley, 4-0, \$135 plus trophy; 2nd-6th, Albert Wong (1793), Berkeley, Keith McHugh (1697), Fresno, Clarence Anderson (1447), Travis A.F.B., Dennis Gill (1746), Crescent City, and Teri Lagier (1553), Sunnyvale, 3-1, \$21 each; 7th, Dan McDaniel (1620), Livermore, 2-4, \$20 gift certificate.

Category III (Class C)

1st, Larry Weston (1456), East Palo Alto, 4-0, \$120 plus trophy; 2nd-3rd, Michael Budnik (1464), Redwood City, and Steven Hanamura (1695), Oakland, 3-4, \$45 each; 4th, Scott Green (1581), Fairfield, 3-1, \$15 gift certificate.

Categories IV-VI (Classes D-E-Unrated)

1st, John Davis (Unr.), Ross, 4-0, \$100 plus trophy; 2nd-4th, Rodolfo Yambao (Unr.), Hercules, Jerry Finkelshtein (Unr.), El Cerrito, and Lee Dize (Unr.), Travis A.F.B., 3-1, \$25 each; 5th, Dale Pendell (1255), Nevada City, 2-2, \$10 gift certificate.

San Jose State Results

The San Jose State University Annual Chess Tournament attracted 129 players to the S.J.S.U. Student Union and Business Classrooms for a five-round, USCF-rated Swiss system competition in seven sections, Dec. 20-21, 1980.

Directors Francisco Sierra, Amanda Sierra and John Sumares conducted the \$2,493 event. Complete results:

Open Section

1st, James Tarjan (2565), Berkeley, 5-0, \$550; 2nd, Charles Powell (2373), San Francisco, 4½-½, \$180; 3rd-6th, Kamran Shirazi (2455), Los Angeles, Steven Smithers (2115), Sunnyvale, Eugene Lubarsky (2043), Fremont, and John Romo (1938), Livermore, 4-1, \$62.75 each; Best Under 1600, Thomas Kyrins (1661), San Francisco, 2-3, \$24; Best Under 1400, Dan McDaniel (1592), Livermore, 1½-3½, \$32; Best Under 1400, James Watt (1379), San Jose, 1-4, \$30; Best Unrated, Ken Seabof, San Jose, 1-4, \$28.

Class A

1st, Robert Karnisky (1898), Palo Alto, 5-0, \$270; 2nd-3rd, John Bidwell (1798), Ben Lomond, and Robert Vacheron (1974), Berkeley, 3-1, \$92.50 each; 4th-6th, Jonathan Atkin (1865), Palo Alto, Jaroslav Strecek (1820), Berkeley, and Gaudencio Delacruz (1626), San Jose, 3½-½, \$31.67 each.

Class B

1st, Mark Davidson (1688), Berkeley, 4½-½, \$230; 2nd-5th, Ryszard Bleszynski (1774), Cupertino, Allen Wong (1753), San Jose, Rodolfo Algonos (1717), Sunnyvale, and Ursula Foster (1670), Modesto, 3½-1½, \$45 each.

Class C

1st-3rd, Matthew Ng (1577), San Francisco, Colin Hurt (1553), Palo Alto, and Ronald Solf (1459), Saratoga, 4-1, \$66.67 each; 4th, Alan Purvis (1403), San Jose, 3½-1½, \$35; 5th-9th, Caesar Gareia (1597), San Jose, Thomas Bissell (1559), Fremont, Pat Mayntz (1526), Campbell, Bruce Christopher (1468), Vacaville, and Ken Johnson (1431), Morgan Hill, 3-2, \$11 each.

D-E-Unrated Section

1st-3rd D, Robert Berg (1380), Vacaville, Dale Pendell (1235), Nevada City, and Paul Ecord (1233), Concord, 4-1,

\$28.33 each; 1st E, John Hare (1112), San Jose, 1-4, \$10; 1st-2nd Unrated, Luis Rubalcava, Santa Clara, and Ray Niccholls, Oakdale, 3-2, \$22.50 each.

"PEOPLE'S CHESS TOURNAMENT" RESULTS

The eighth annual "People's Chess Tournament", a USCF-rated, six-round Swiss system competition in six playing divisions, was held in the Pauley Ballroom of the U.C. Berkeley Student Union, Feb. 14-16.

Sponsored jointly by SUPERB and the U.C. Berkeley Campus Chess Club, the \$2,810.97 event (\$2,670.97 in cash prizes, \$140 in California Chess Bulletins gift certificates and 13 trophies) attracted 209 players, directed by USCF Senior Regional Vice President Alan Benson, assisted by Sr. T.D. Mike Goodall and Local T.D. Mike Donald.

MASTER-EXPERT DIVISION

1st, James Tarjan (2593), Berkeley, 5½-½, \$535 plus trophy; 2nd-4th, Peter Biyiasas (2490), San Francisco, Nick de Firmian (2531), Berkeley, and William Adam (2318), Berkeley, 5-1, \$156.08 each.

1st-2nd Expert, Doug Sailer (2044) (trophy), San Francisco, and Mike Montchalin (2091), Portland, Oregon, 4½-1½, \$169.50 each; 3rd-6th Expert, Stanley Scheiner (2111), San Francisco, Jon Sjogren (2104), Corvallis, Oregon, Jorge Freyre (2112), San Francisco, and Eugene Lubarsky (2149), Fremont, 4-2, \$14.12 each; 7th-9th Expert, Mike Arne (2162), Menlo Park, Jose Marcal (2107), Palo Alto, and Daniel Switkes (2180), Berkeley, 3½-2½, \$12 gift certificate each.

CATEGORY I (Class A)

1st, Thomas Maser (1958), Morgan Hill, 6-0, \$213 plus trophy; 2nd-4th, Don Steers (1906), San Rafael, Steve Levine (1969), Santa Clara, and Marcus Aurelius (1842), San Francisco, 4½-1½, \$53.25 each; 5th, Karen Street (1951), Berkeley, 4-2, \$32 gift certificate.

CATEGORY II (Class B)

1st, Thomas Blow (1673), Fairfield, 5½-½, \$206 plus trophy; 2nd, Tom Stevens (1743), San Francisco, 5-1, \$103; 3rd, James O'Gallagher (1629), San Francisco, 4½-1½, \$51.50; 4th, Gregory Boyd (1639), Walnut Creek, 4-2, \$28 gift certificate.

Category III (Class C)

1st, Larry Weston (1452), East Palo Alto, 5½-½, \$190 plus trophy; 2nd, William Tseng (1404), San Francisco, 5-1, \$95; 3rd-4th, Jovan Beran (1404), Berkeley, and Matt Healy (1502), Santa Rosa, 4½-1½, \$23.75 each; 5th-6th, Michael Budnik (1464), Redwood City, and Daniel Birmingham (1538), San Bruno, 4-2, \$12 gift certificate each.

Categories IV-VI (Classes D-E-Unrated)

1st, Rodolfo Yambao (unr.), San Rafael, 5-1, \$118 plus trophy; 2nd-3rd, Alan Gambrell (1380), Monterey, and Nicholas Dodge (1380), Santa Cruz, 4½-1½, \$44.25 each; 4th, David Fattig (Unr.), Walnut Creek, 4-2, \$20 gift certificate.

cont. on p. 133

Tournaments

Beginners Section

1st, Tony Lama, San Francisco, 4-0, trophy plus USCF membership; 2nd-3rd, Richard Green, San Mateo, and Munah Tarazi, Albany, 3-1, trophy each; 4th-6th, Jeffrey Jones, Oakland, Jonathan Nicolas, San Francisco, and Jon Zvalidroga, Berkeley, 3-1, USCF membership each.

Special Trophy Awards

Best U.C. Student, William Adam (2318), Berkeley, 5-1; Best Jr. Under 18, William Tseng (1402), San Francisco, 5-1; Best Jr. Under 14, Matthew Ng (1577), San Francisco, 4-2; Best Sr., Eugene Lien (1769), Berkeley, 4-2.

North Bay Open

The 5th North Bay Open attracted a goodly 70 players to the San Anselmo Parks and Recreation Office over the weekend of February 7-8. It was directed by Art Marthinsen and Breen Mullins on behalf of the Ross Valley Chess Club.

Held with both an Open and Reserve section, the winners were:

Open

Jeremy Silman	4-0 (\$200)
Eugene Lubarsky	3½-½
Robert Sferra	3½-½ (both \$125)

Third to sixth were Jerry Walls, David Weldon, and Manuel Joseph, scoring 3-1 and earning \$37.50 each. Best under 2000 prizes were shared by Alan Yaffe and James Stewart, Jr. at 2½ and also earning \$37.50.

Reserve

Con Fedoroff, Sr.	3½-½
Mark Davidson	3½-½
Jack McMann	3½-½ (all receiving \$108)

Best under 1500 player honors was also shared by Jerome Brooks, Robert Sphar, and Tim Taylor, all 3-1 and winning \$25. Duane Smith was best Unrated at 3-1 and worth \$25.

Bay Area Speed Championship at Santa Clara Club

Despite losing both his games to Eleuterio Alsasua, Harry Radke emerged the victor with 9½-2½. Bill Chesney was close behind with 9, while Gabriel Sanchez and Robert Sferra tied for third with 8½. Prizes for best under 2100 player honors went to Ronald West with 5, and Robert Arnold's 4½ gained him second prize in this category.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sumares directed the event, and Mrs. Sumares also provided food and beverages for the lunch break.

Sacramento Chess Club Team League

The fall-winter team league championships has been an established feature of the Sacramento chess season since the days when Ed Edmondson ran the club 20 years ago. This year Caissa's Corsairs threatened to raid higher rated competing teams. The Weinhard Trolley went chugging along with an empty beer bottle by the side of first board. It looked like curtains for sure when the Knights of Doom marched into the room bearing mace and banner. And there were Katz's Kamikazes, those sacrificial samurai who had won the event for three years running.

In the end none of these was to gain the palm but an unnamed team which became Team One. Led by James McFarland, the team also had Arthur Braden, Zoran Lazetich, Thomas Walker, and Erwin Hamm. They amassed a 12-4 score while winning all their matches.

Best board scores went to Mark Buckley, 3½ on board one, Arthur Braden 3½ on board two, Zoran Lazetich 3 on board 3, and Stanley Eng 4 on board four.

The Chess Players' Association held its New Year Open from January 5 to February 2 this year. A total of 50 players turned out for this single section event.

Victorious against a formidable field was Fred Mayntz (1981), who scored 4½-½ to best Kevin Binkley (2045), Jim Eade (2120), John Peterson (2097), Neil Regan (1912), and Steve Smithers (2115), who all had 4-1's.

Thomas Kerlin (1571) was next with 3½-½, while the remaining plus scores belonged to Timothy Randall, Robert Karnisky, Flynn Penoyer, Stan Cohn, Woody Morgan, Eric Peterson, Francisco Sierra, and Robert Regon, all 3-2.

Some sharp games:

Vienna Game; S. Smithers-E. Lubarsky: 1 e4, e5; 2 Nc3, Nf6; 3 Bc4, Ne4; 4 Qh5, Nd6; 5 Bb3, Nc6; 6 Nb5, g6; 7 Qf3, f5; 8 Qd5, Qe7; 9 Nc7, Kd8; 10 Na8, b6; 11 d3, Bb7; 12 h4, h6.

This has been a hotly analyzed variation of the Vienna since Alekhine mentioned it casually in his games collection. Black's compensation for the exchange is a sharp attack. Necessary here is 12 ..., f4!; 13 Qf3, Nd4; 14 Qg4, Bh6; 15 Nh3, N6f5; 16 Ng5, d5 when 17 c3 poses the most problems. In Miller-Statham; Correspondence, 1979 the great tournament benefactor scored an exciting point after 17 0-0, Bg5; 18 Qg5, Qg5; 19 hg, Ne2; 20 Kh2, h6.

13 Qf3, Ba8; 14 Ne2, Bg7; 15 Nc3, e4; 16 de, Ne5; 17 Qg3, fe; 18 Be3, Nf5; 19 Qh3, Bf6; 20 h5!, Ne3; 21 fe, g5; 22 0-0-0, g4; 23 Qg3, Qc5.

Black is the exchange down with a backward pawn protecting his exposed king, while White is safely castled with Q-file pressure. By now even the tournament director had scored this game on the pairing cards. But to the contrary, the real fun is just beginning. Your commentator has rarely ever won a game where he did not stand at least as badly as Black, and I have a friend who swears she never won a rated game unless she was first at least a piece down. White's position is so good that he will have to play extremely well to hold it at all.

24 Bd5, Nd3.

Goodness, look at that! There are a lot of takes in this position.

25 cd, Bc3; 26 d4!

Take that. This shot envisions 26 ..., Bd4; 27 Kb1, Bd5; 28 Rd4!, Be6; 29 Rc1, Qa5; 30 Qh4!, Ke8; 31 Rc8, Kf7; 32 Rh8.

26 ..., Qc8; 27 Kb1!, Bd5; 28 Qe5, Ba2; 29 Ka2, Qc4; 30 Kb1, Re8.

It was more thrilling to play 30 ..., Qb3; 31 Qh8, Kc7; 32 Qe5, Kc8; 33 Rd2 when White still wins.

1 Qf6, Kc8; 32 Rc1, Qd3; 33 Rc2, Re6; 34 Qf8, Kb7; 35 Qf1. (There is no law against 35 bc, but 1-0 eventually.)

These next games were annotated by James Eade, who shows rare objectivity for an annotator.

by James Eade

Bird's Opening; J. Eade-G. Barber: 1 b3, d5; 2 Bb2, c6; 3 e3, Nd7; 4 f4, Ngf6; 5 Nf3, e6; 6 Be2, Bd6.

Opinions on where the bishop belongs, either here or on e7 vary. On d6 it is more active, true, but more exposed as well.

7 00, Qc7?

The positive side to ..., Bd6 is that it reserves e7 for the queen, but now both pieces can be harassed by more than one piece and from more than one direction. White's next is in the true Nimzovich spirit. It is both provocative and strategically sound.

8 Nd4, 0-0; c4, e5?!

White's play has been designed to exploit either ..., e5, or ..., c5, Black's typical freeing maneuvers. Black has weakened his f5, such a concession should not be made voluntarily.

10 Nf5, ef; 11 Nd6, Qd6; 12 Rf4, Ne5; 13 Ba3, c5; 14 d4, Ng6; 15 Be5, Qe6; 16 Rf3, Re8.

Black prefers to coordinate his forces rather than speculate with 16 Nh4.

17 Nc3, b6; 18 cd!, Nd5; 19 Nd5, Bb7.

On 19 ... Qd5; 20 Bc4 wins.

20 Nc7, Bf3?

Second Best cont.

Attack! White's mobile center pays off. He now has two clean diagonals for his bishops while removing a K-side defender.

9 ... de; 10 de, Nfd7?

Less cramped would be 10 ... Nd5.

11 Qc2, g6.

Hans Knoch tagged this melanpenia, i.e., the weakness on the dark squares. Specifically the 7 squares h6, g7, g5, f6, e5, d6, and c7, which all plead for coverage by Black's KB.

12 Bh6, Re8; 13 Nb5, Nc6; 14 h4!?

If Black nabs the RP, then 15 Nd6! picks up material. Better, probably, was 14 Be4. If 14 ... Qb6 comes 15 a4! embarrassing the queen.

14 ... a6; 15 Nd6.

Oh, it hurts! Black must give up his dark-squared bishop and allow White to expose the long, dark diagonal.

15 ... Bd6; 16 ed, f6??

Well - what can be said? - he simply didn't see it.

17 Bg6, f5; 18 Bg5 1-0.

It is all right to play your "inferior" moves in the opening, if you play well at the close of the game.

Calculating Words cont.

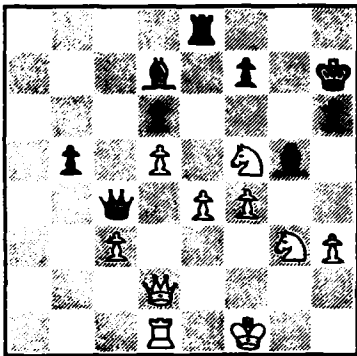
Let us look at the alternative 30 Qd2, Bg5; 31 f4. Hey! We have forked two pieces! Pretty good. This is a tricky position to visualize. The full striking power of pieces consistently reaches through other pieces. 31 ... Bh4! is an incredible shot. On the obvious 32 Nh4, Bh3; 33 Ng2, Rg8, when the auras of March have come but are not yet past.

White does little better with 32 fe, Bf5. White's knight is as blocked from opening f2 to a second attack now as the king was forbidden to move in the previous variation because of a following Qg1. White's attacking move on 31 also opened up vistas of attack for the Black pieces. After 33 ef, Bg3, 34 Bg4, Re5 and Black's pieces are tremendously active, while the extra pawn does not hurt either.

We cite this position to emphasize the need to analyze in relation to squares. The shifting focus of battle may suddenly open up critical squares for exploitation.

Black found another path from the diagram: 30 Qd2, Bg5; 31 f4, c3; 32 bc, Nc4; 33 Bc4, Qc4.

We would say that all these moves were forced, except that the calculating player soon learns that far too few moves are forced, only obvious. Now we can move the pieces again.



This is a very difficult position in which to choose between the two equally innocuous looking moves 34 Kg2 and Kg1. The main feature is that on g2 White's king is subject to checks. On 34 Kg1, Qc5; 35 Kh1 Black's king faces threats, for example, 35 ... Bf6; 36 e5.

Also interesting is the variation 34 Kg1, Bf5; 35 Nf5, Bf6; 36 Qd3!, Re4; 37 Nd6, Qd3; 38 Rd3, Rf4; 39 Nb5.

Browne, a leading practitioner of the art of concrete analysis found all this hard too. Instead came 34 Kg2?, Bf5; 35 fg, Be4; 36 Kh2, Ra8; 37 Qf2, Ra2; 38 Rd2, Rd2; 39 Qd2, hg; 40 Ne4, Qe4; 41 Qg5, Qc2; 42 Kh1 and an agreed draw.

This was a very involved position, but it serves to illustrate how awareness of opportunities to strike at squares can emerge from behind the shifting maneuvers of pieces and pawns, like the aura of the Moon breaking suddenly through dark clouds.

In a more general way, concentrating on the aura of a piece strikes at the heart of another problem. When we first learn to play the game, all our thought is fixed on the pieces standing on the board. Elementary tactics seem so complex that no attention is given to the board itself.

And later this bias remains. Positional play, however, deals with control of squares. Early in the game control of center squares is sought. Later, those closer to the opposing king attract our eye (even if only longingly). Progressive domination of the board measures strategic gain. Hence, considering the aura of a piece, while necessary for tactical operations, also increases awareness of positional requirements.

I believe Black rejected ... Qd7 because on 21 Na8, Bf3; 22 Bf3 covers the knight. The same 21 Na8 would also answer 20 ... Qg4.

21 Ne6, Be2; 22 Qe2, Re6; 23 d5, Re5; 24 Bd4, Rd5; 25 Qf3, Rad8; 26 Rf1, f6; 27 Qg4, Kf7; 28 Rc1, R1d7; 29 Rc6, Re7; 30 Qf3, Rd8; 31 Qh3, h6; 32 Qf5, Ne5; 33 Be5, Re5; 34 Rc7, Kg8; 35 Qg6, Rg5; 36 Rg7 1-0.

Then there was the decisive game in the penultimate round when tournament leader Eade met lower ranked Mayntz. —Editor.

English Opening; F Mayntz-J Eade; 1 c4, g6; 2 Nc3, Bg7; 3 g3, Nf6; 4 Bg2, 0-0; 5 e4, d6; 6 Nge2, c6.

Asking for the main line King's Indian systems, but White declines the invitation.

7 d3, Bd7; 8 h3, Na6; 9 0-0, Rh8; 10 Be3, b6.

Mayntz mentioned that the apparent compromises on Black's queen-side turned the course of the game. I prefer to think that I have removed the queen-side targets and can now concentrate on the center.

(Black has lost time without gaining space. —Editor)

11 Kh2, Nc7; 12 Qd2, Re8; 13 F4!, e5.

The standard way of treating White's c4-d3-e4-f4 setup is to control the d4 square (usually with c5) and to fight for d5. I feel I have achieved both objectives in this position.

14 G4!, Bg4?

Fish! It is strategically called for and proper to play 14 ... Ne6, while 14 ... Bg4 is tempting but unsound.

(Actually after 14 ... Ne6; 15 f5, Nd4; 16 Ng3, White may not be winning, but he will feel like he is winning. The knight on d4 paws the air. White continues with slow stuff like g5-h4-h5 as in Dolezhal-Trapl; Czechoslovakia, 1963. Doubling on the KB file is not out of the question either. Eade's move is an active way to challenge the king-side bind White is trying to achieve. In this unhappy situation it is also the best way to try to salvage something out of nothing. We shall see the resources this position affords the apparently cramped Black men. —Editor)

15 hg, d5; cd, cd; 17 ed!

If the knight captures it relinquishes protection of the knight on e2 which, after the opening of the K-file allows possible sacs on e2 to be followed by vicious checks on d4.

17 ... Ng4; 18 Kg1, Qh4; 19 Rf3, Nh2!; 20 Raf1!

And not 20 Rh3, Qh3; 21 Bh3, Nf3.

20 ... Nf1?

Figuring that driving the king to the center was good.

21 Kf1!, Qe7; 22 f5, f6; 23 fg, hg; 24 Rg3, f5.

I was convinced that my chances of victory were good.

25 Rg6, Qf7; 26 Rc6!, f4; 27 Bf2, f3; 28 Bf3, Qf3; 29 Rc7.

Now I was worried.

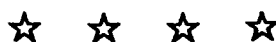
29 ... Rf8; 30 Ne4, Qh3; 31 Ke1, Bh6; 32 Qc3.

Now I was very worried.

32 ... Qh1; 33 Bg1, Qg2; 34 N4g3, Rbe8?; 35 Qc6; Bg7; 36 Qg6, Rf1; 37 Kd2, 1-0.

It is true that you really don't mind losing certain games.

The Santa Clara Chess Club now meets Monday nights from 7-11 at 3505 Monroe in Santa Clara. There is a phone at the site: 296-9489.



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- (27) - Dates in parentheses are tentative.
(X) - The column of capital letters at the right refers to the list of tournament organizers. (These are mail-addresses, not tournament sites.)
/29/ - See advertisement on the indicated page.
/Fly/ - See flyer inserted in the centerfold of this issue.
GATS - Tournament title in capital letters indicates that Galt's membership is required.

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- 11-15 Palo Alto: 29th Annual Spring Open Classic (JS)
18-19 UC Berkeley: APRIL SHOWERS (AB)
18-19 Reno: Truckee Meadows Spring Tournament (PH)
25-26 Walnut Creek: CAL CHESS TEAM CHAMP. (HP)

MAY

- 2-3 Fresno: San Joaquin Championship (JW)
9-10 Sacramento: Sacramento Championship (RG)
12-13 Santa Clara: Santa Clara Quads (FS)
16-17 UC Berkeley: MAY DAY TOURNAMENT (AB)
30-Je 1 LERA MEMORIAL DAY SUNNYVALE (JH)

JUNE

- 6-7 Burlingame: 2nd Annual San Mateo-Burlingame Amateur (AH)
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East Bay

Berkeley CC - Fridays, 7 p.m.-midnight, Berkeley YMCA, 2001 Allston Way, USCF-rated tournaments. Alan Glasscoe, (415) 654-8108.

Capt. Anchovy's CC (San Leandro) - Wednesdays, 7 p.m., at Capt Anchovy's Pizza Parlor, 1456 136th Ave. (Palma Plaza). Jerry Rogers (415) 276-5754.

Discovery Bay CC (Byron) - Just getting started. Contact Ed Marnell at (415) 276-5754.

Fremont CC - 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7-11 p.m., Olone Rm., San Francisco Federal Savings, Fremont Blvd. and Mowry Ave. Hans Poschmann (415) 656-8505.

Lakeview CC meets Saturdays 2-5:30 2-5:30 Lakeview Library, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. Kenn Fong (415) 834-1576.

Martinez CC - Mondays (except 1st), 1111 Ferry St., Eric Wernes (415) 228-4777.

U.C. Campus CC - Thursdays, 7 p.m.-midnight, 4th Fl., Student Union, Univ. of Calif. (Berkeley) campus. Speed chess. Alan Benson (415) 843-0661.

Walnut Creek CC - Tuesdays, 1650 North Broadway (behind the library), 7:30 p.m. Saleh Mujahed.

North Bay

NAPA CC - Thursdays, 7-11 p.m., Napa Com. Coll. Cafeteria. Bill Poindexter (707) 252-4741.

Occidental CC - Mondays, 8-midnight, at the Yellow Lizard Deli (behind Pannizzera's Mkt.). Contact Moses Moon, Box 192, Occidental, CA 95465.

Ross Valley CC (San Anselmo) - Tuesdays, 7 p.m., San Anselmo Parks and Rec. office, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Art Marthinsen (415) 456-1540.

Vallejo CC meets Fridays 7:30-11:30 Vallejo Community Center, 225 Amador St. G.H. Rasmussen (707) 642-7270.

Santa Rosa CC - Fridays, 7-10 p.m., Barnett Hall, Rm. 142, Santa Rosa JC. Al Fender (707) 433-6058.

North Coast

Mendocino CC - Tuesdays, Sea Gull Cellar Bar, Hotel Mendocino, evenings. Tony Miksak, Box 402, Mendocino, CA 95460.

Ukiah CC - Mondays 7-10:30 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, 497 Leslie St., Matt Sankovich (707) 462-8632.

South Coast

Calissa CC (San Luis Obispo) - Calif. Polytechnic State Univ. George Lewis, A.S.I. Box 69 - Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

Monterey Chess Center - Monday through Friday, 4:30-10 p.m., Sat.-Sun., 2-10 p.m., 430 Alvarado St. Ted Yudacufski (408) 372-9790

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