

ACERS ON CHESS

Box 100—CITY

Letter from Mr. Evans

Hello Mr. Chess!

Keep up the good work. Hope your Chess Tour of the Century goes well. I gave the announcement to Mr. Hochberg, editor of *Chess Life and Review* for publication. Unfortunately your "money talks" argument on behalf of Mr. Kashdan was cut by Mr. Hochberg. (Acers note: *This crucifying the distinguished Los Angeles grandmaster through omission of his defense in the Evans column.*)

Mr. Koltanowski (U.S. Chess Federation President) tells me that Mr. Kashdan sent a letter to the United States Chess Federation policy board wondering how he can keep me from playing at Lone Pine, 1976 — even though it is an open tourney and Mr. Statham invited me. The policy board did not reply because the United States Chess Federation will not intervene in a private tourney.

I did not intend to play, but if it makes Mr. Kashdan uncomfortable I might just come to snatch the \$8,000 first prize from under his nose and risk bum pairings!

Sincerely

Larry Evans
International Chess Grandmaster,
Reno, Nevada

Acers note: Showdowns and Mexican standoffs at Lone Pine, California, make it very difficult to concentrate on the chessboard. We can only offer sympathy and our prayers for players and organizers in the event, as friction appears inevitable. We are awaiting Mr. Kashdan's comments and will print them verbatim as received.

For readers unaware of 1975 Lone Pine events, Mr. Kashdan chose to pair the top six money players in a manner that precluded their playing amongst themselves in the final round, eight players playing for the "big money." Kashdan is the prime organizational titan and tourney referee at Lone Pine each year, the personal friend and liason with multi-millionaire chess benefactor Mr. Louis Statham, the retired inventor and himself a chess expert. (For reader's information, a full discussion of the bitter Kashdan-Evans feud appeared in our December 9 column, *CITY* Vol. 9, No. 22.)

The Chess Scene Notes

We are pleased to announce that an interesting new chess haunt is in the making, free chess nights at Delancey Street Restaurant, 2032 Union Street (346-9555). On

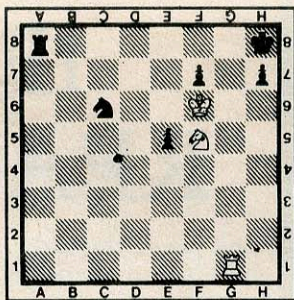
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings chess players are invited to use whatever space is available for skittles or serious match play. A well known restaurant, a wonderful place to play chess! Manager Jerry Mirault intends to have an absolutely open to the public chess scene in the restaurant if the chess nights are popular, business conditions permitting.

From Mr. Mirault: "This is the kind of thing we should be doing anyway."

There is no charge whatever, coffee will be free to all chess players on chess nights and nothing formal is needed.

Plans for a 16-player *CITY of San Francisco* women's chess tourney, March 23-25, each contestant playing 6 games (and dining as a guest of Delancey Street) are currently being completed. Women wishing to compete should notify Mr. Mirault as soon as possible. Final arrangements will appear in this column in the near future. There will be no entry fee and, as is the growing custom, the tourney will not be connected in any manner with chess organizations or federation rating systems. Prizes will be contributed by local merchants of our city, several having guaranteed worthwhile awards even before the tentative date was announced.

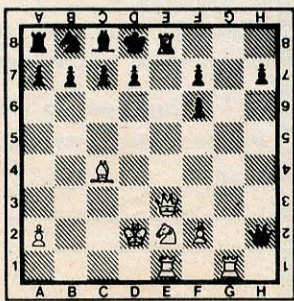
The Fourth *CITY* World Chess Challenge Preparatory Contest



(1) Suetin's Maxim

White to move and checkmate in three moves. Prove it.

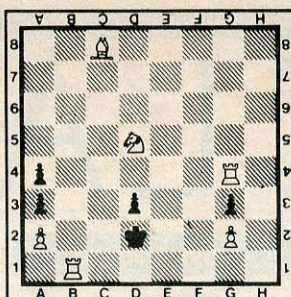
The Soviet author and theorist Suetin holds that the learning player should continue until there is nothing remaining on the board. White saves the game with such tenacity here.



(2) The Whiter Shade of Pale

White to move and checkmate in five moves. Prove it.

An unknown amateur in Como played a magnificent combination in 1907 and vanished. Once is enough.



(3) The Search and the Poet

White to move and checkmate in four moves. Prove it.

Without question one of the most enjoyable and lovely of all chess hunts. Must be solved to be believed. From a recent Soviet problem and endgame contest.

PRIZES: Main Event (three correct solutions): The first reader to forward all three correct solutions receives *dinner for the winner at Enrico's*.* In order to pass the time while awaiting the many wonderful dishes (and dynamite ice cream homemade by Enrico himself) the winner of our contest will browse through a bonus prize: *The Games of Anatoly Karpov* by Kevin J. O'Connell and Jimmy Adams (\$12.95) courtesy of the Pitman book company.

Even a cursory look at 347 games by the 24-year-old chess champion of the world will explain why Fischer chose to retire undefeated rather than face doom. As one observer wrote in *Michigan Chess*: "At best Fischer will be fully stretched, at worst he will certainly lose."

Mr. Karpov, an exponent of cool cucumber behavior and courtesy to his elders at all times, will go through any unstable competitor much as a child goes through cotton candy at the Lake Ponchartrain amusement park in New Orleans. (Six other prizes guaranteed, unstated.)

Consolation prize drawing (1 correct solution). Any reader forwarding just one correct solution with the words "I resign" penned aside the numbers of unsolved challenges is automatically entered in our consolation drawing with seven prizes! The first entry selected will receive *Lunch for Two* in Sausalito at **Agatha Pubb's** restaurant.

Bonus Prize: Tal's 100 Best Games by Bernard Cafferty (Pitman) the just-released 1961-1973 game collection by the mad attacking fiend of Latvia who has most recently added a fine positional blend and varied opening selection to his repertoire. The winner will find it interesting to prepare for our world chess challenge contest by practicing analysis of Tal's tactics, notably the "find the winning continuation" feature in the appendix. Also there are interviews and sketches of Tal and a wonderful tale of Tal and a young lady roaming about the railroad tracks during the twelfth round of the 1957 Soviet Championship Tournament in Moscow. The police carted Tal away when he was unable to produce proper documents.

When Tal was being "booked" he was astounded to see the police analyzing his adjourned game with Boleslavsky as announced over Soviet radio. Unable to restrain himself Tal made a slightly strong suggestion as to what the next move should be only to be ignored by the lieutenant! It was only when his name was asked — "Tal." "What another one?" "You'll laugh, I know, but I am the very man himself." — an all night session at the chess board rather than in the calaboose was assured. Despite the enthusiastic help of the police, the game was lost when resumed at 7 am. Like Korchnoi, Tal never sleeps during a tournament if humanly possible, has been involved in many wild scenes, was attacked while standing innocently in a Havana pub and seriously injured. He has a medical history that reads more like a cadaver's than a prolific chess grandmaster and chess journalist.

When James Tarjan last spoke to Tal, he was crestfallen at the recent refusal of the Soviet chess federation to play him in the leading grandmaster tournaments, Milan 1975 being the only exception. Tal shook his head in bewilderment "They will not let me play, they will not let me play."

One can only recall the words of the former Soviet ladies international player Kushnir: "In the Soviet Union, the worst thing is to be a bureaucrat. That is considered very bad by the chess players."

— Jude Acers

RULES: Contests designed to give even absolute beginners a very good opportunity to win one of 18 prizes assembled for our readers as well as guaranteed prizes. *CITY* reserves the right to award several hundred dollars and all other previously listed prizes without any notice whatever to all readers. Readers are advised to take no chances and enter every challenge contest regardless of stated prizes. There could be more than what you are looking for.

Beginners: simply give one solution and pen "I resign" to the other numbers. You are entered in our armchair chess player drawing with many valuable and generally unclaimed prizes as very few chess players world-wide have been willing to resign any contest under any circumstances. See *CITY* (Vol. 9, No. 24, Dec. 23) for a listing of many prizes at stake in preparatory and final contests. Many prizes awarded without warning, more are being added weekly. The jackpot is already an all-time record for a public chess contest. All prizes by return mail immediately.

An international chess contest, use only the simple "ABC" system of chess notation, any error whatsoever in following instructions or error in entry content disqualifies a reader from all prize awards. One entry per reader. Be deady accurate in your analysis, leave out nothing that is important, explain each challenge as you would to a friend who is just beginning to play chess. Challenges are definitely solvable and designed to both instruct and entertain all readers. Remember: they're "simple" but there is a lot to think about and if you err you're out! Two masters and five USCF experts failed to survive the first contests and the so-called "fish," "weakies" and "unknown" players have swept virtually all the prizes to date.

Send all entries postmarked no later than midnight three days past the cover date of this issue, 10 days maximum solving time, to: **The Fourth *CITY* of San Francisco World Chess Challenge Preparatory Contest**, 531 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94133.

*As required by law, alcoholic beverages not included.

Correction: We continue to be plagued with simple typographical errors. In our January 6 issue Mr. Tarjan played of course 31...Nb4-d3ch! against Mr. Raicevic and captured from that square on the following move. White's 39th move was 39.Kd3-c2. It was with some amazement that reader John Grant of Los Angeles noted these corrections "as the entire Tarjan-Masic game was perfectly reproduced immediately afterward."