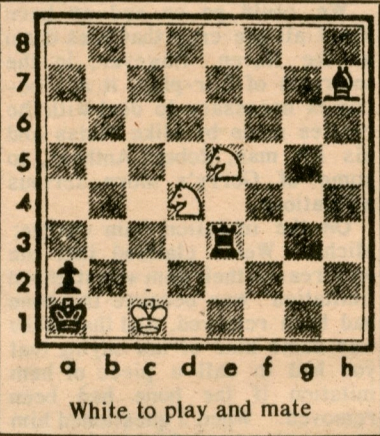


CHESS BARBS

by Jude Acers (U.S senior master)

a 12-year-old?") 13 h3 Bf3 14 Qf3 ab ("Oh, oh! He obviously sees 15 ab? Bf2ch and 16...Ra1. Molodets, Sasha!") 15 Ne3 Bb6 16 Ng4 Ng4? ("Whew! A mistake at last. The right move is 16...Nh7, with an unclear position.") 17 hg Ng6 18 g3 ba 19 Ra4 Ra4



20 Ba4 c6 21 Kg2 ("The extra pawn means nothing now that the 'h' file has been opened.") Qe7 22 Rh1 Ra8 23 Bb3 Nf8 24 g5 Bd8 ("Just amazing! He can find good defensive moves, too. The f6 square needs overprotecting.") 25 Qh5 Ra1 26 g6! ("That does it, and about time!") Ne6 27 Qf5 Qf6 28 gfch Black resigns ("Sasha pointed out 28...Kf7 29 Be6ch as the reason why.")

SPASSKY ON THE ROPES, PETROSIAN KNOCKED OUT: Karpov looks like an upset winner over former world champ Spassky, in spite of majority prediction. Boris won the first match game, when Anatoly was recovering from a cold, and now is sick himself with the score 3-1 against him after nine games. Korchnoi's score of 3-1 over another former titleholder, Petrosian, was good enough to win by a technical knockout, as Tigran's game was even sicker. ...Maybe he is trying to tell us something?

White: Boris Spassky. Black: Anatoly Karpov. Leningrad, 1974; 6th Match Game. Caro-Kann Defense 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 de 4 Ne4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 Nf3 Nd7 7 Bd3 e6 8 0-0 Ngf6 9 c4 Bd6

10 b3 0-0 11 Bb2 Qc7 (A) 12 Bg6 hg 13 Qe2 Rfe8 14 Ne4 (B) Ne4 15 Qe4 Be7(C) 16 Rad1 Rad8 17 Rfe1 Qa5(D) 18 a3 Qf5 19 Qe2 g5 20 h3(E) g4 21 hg Qg4 22 d5(F) cd 23 cd e5! (G) 24 d6(H) Bf6 25 Nd2(I) Qe2 26 Re2 Rc8! 27 Ne4 Bd8 28 g4 f6 29 Kg2 Kf7 30 Rc1 Bd6 31 Re2 Rc2 32 Rc2 Ke6 33 a4 a5! 34 Ba3 Rb8! 35 Rc4(J) Bd4 36 f4 g6 37 Ng3 ef! 38 Rd4 fg 39 Kg3 Rc8 40 Rd3 g5!(K) 41 Bb2 b6 42 Bd4 Rc6 43 Bc3 Rc5(L) 44 Kg2 Rc8 45 Kg3 Ne5 46 Be5 fe 47 b4(M) e4(N) 48 Rd4 Ke5 49 Rd1 ab 50 Rb1(O) Rc3ch! 51 Kf2 Rd3 52 d7 Rd7 53 Rb4 Rd6 54 Ke3 Rd3ch 55 Ke2 Ra3 56 White resigns.

(Edited notes by former world champion Mikhail Tal, translated from "64," No. 18, Mar. 30 - Apr. 10, 1974, pp. 8-9)

(A) Karpov tried 11...c5 in game two.

(B) Spassky thought for half an hour over this move.

(C) Covering g5 and preparing to neutralize White's bishop along the long black diagonal, if necessary. Sharper play, probably in White's favor, results from 15...e5 16 c5! Bf8 17 de Nc5 18 Qh4.

(D) Letting easy equality with 17...Bf6 slip by for a more active defensive plan.

(E) Instead of spending only a minute on his clock on this move, Spassky might have investigated 20 d5! more thoroughly, e.g., 20 ...ed 21 Nd4 (stronger than 21 cd g4! 22 Nd4 Qd5 23 Qg4 Nf6) Qg6 22 cd cd. Now the natural 23 Nb5, threatening 24 Nc7, does not work because of 23...Bf8!, after which 24 Qe8 Re8 25 Re8 fails against 25...Qc2. But 23 Qbt! looks unpleasant enough for Black on either 23...Qb6 24 Qd5 Nc5 25 Qe5! or 23...Nb6 24 Re3! (or 24 Re5) a5 25 Qe2. Maybe Spassky hoped to breakthrough in the center without resorting to sacrifices.

(F) At this point everyone in the press bureau believed that White's position was significantly better than Black's. And in fact, the double exchange on d5 does lead to a touchy pin on the 'e' file, since in an open game White can favorably trade his queen for the two rooks. Karpov, however, defends with extreme coolness.

(G) Offering a tainted pawn. If 24 Ne5, then Black continues 24 ...Qe2 (not 24...Ne5 25 Qe5 Bf6 26 Qe8ch Re8 27 Re8ch Kh7 28 fe!) 25 Bd6! 26 Rce1 Ne5 27 Be5 Ba3.

(H) At first glance, White seems to have missed 24 Qb5, but after 24...Bc5! Black has an excellent game, e.g., 25 Ne5 (25 Qb7 is risky in view of 25...Rb8 26 Qc6 Rb3) Ne5 26 Be5 Bf2ch! 27 Kf2 Re5 28 Re5 (and not 28...Qb7, due to 29...Qh4ch) Qf4ch! 29 Kg1 Qe5, and after 30 Qb7 Black has a perpetual check if he does not wish to play for the attack.

(I) Preferable is 25 Qb5, suggested by Kotov. While the 'd' pawn displays strength in the midgame, it becomes a burden in an ending, through proving the point requires absolute accuracy.

(J) Spassky figures to bring his knight to b5 by way of c3, which cannot be played now because of 35...Rc8. Black also maintains his edge after 35 Nd2 with either 35...Bd8 or 35...Bd4.

(K) On the last move before time control Karpov secures e5 for his knight.

(L) White would gladly play a pawn down after 43...Rd6 44 Rd6ch Kd6 45 b4.

(M) White should have moved 47 Kf3 first and waited for 47...Rd8 before answering with 48 b4.

(N) A very important gain of tempo, since 47...ab 48 d7 Rd8 49 Rb3 Rd7 50 Rb4 would give White a draw on account of his active rook.



International Master JULIO KAPLAN

(O) Nor does 50 Kf2 Rd8 51 d7 b3! (but not 51...Kf4 52 Rd6) save White.

GAMBIT GAME STORE MOVES AGAIN: Berkeley's only fully stocked chess store, under the professional management of Alan Benson, has moved to larger quarters just a few doors down Telly at 2508 Telegraph. The phone stays the same, 848-8018. Drop in and see what great things Gary Grady has done with his chess and game business since

starting small a few years ago as the East Asia Book & Game Center.

SOLUTION TO DIAGRAM: This little gem was included in Vukovic's superb book, "Sacrifice in Chess," and is based on a double intercept theme. Even though he only has two knights to his name, White sacrifices one of them, 1 Nd3!!, in order to cut off both Black pieces simultaneously. After 1...Rd3 or 1...Bd3 the other knight smother mates on c2 or b3.

DIAGRAM: A cute problem theme, executed neatly with a minimum amount of force. White moves first and checkmates against any Black defense. Solution at end of CHESS BARBS.

KAPLAN SAILS THROUGH "I" HOUSE EXHIBITION: Still undefeated in simultaneous exhibition play in the US after close to 300 games, international master Julio Kaplan blazed a fiery trail past 29 opponents at Berkeley's International House, Apr. 26. Only four half points were scored against him (all by "A" and Expert players), while all the rest went down in glorious defeat.

White: Julio Kaplan (in simul. exhib.). Black: Fred Crosby. Berkeley, Apr. 26, 1974. Petroff's Defense 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Ne5 d6 4 Nf3 Ne4 5 d4 Bg4 6 Bd3 Nf6 7 0-0 Be7 8 Re1 0-0 9 Nbd2 Re8 10 Nf1 c6 11 Ng3 Bc8 12 Bg5 Nbd7 13 Nf5 Bf8 14 Qd2 Re1 15 Re1 Nb6 16 b3 Be6 17 c4 Rc8 18 Qf4 d5 19 Nh6 gh 20 Bf6 Qd6 21 Ne5 Black resigns.

Kaplan's most devoted fan that evening was 12-year-old "Sasha" (Alexander), a Russian lad who apparently speaks no English and who wrote the word "Master" with pride in front of Julio's name on his score sheet. Judge for yourself what kind of a chess master Sasha will be when he is 24!

White: Julio Kaplan (in simul. exhib.). Black: "Sasha." Berkeley, Apr. 26, 1974. Guico Piano 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 c3 ("He's only a little boy, after all...") Nf6 5 d3 ("Let's get out of the books.") h6 6 Nbd2 0-0 7 0-0 d6 8 b4 Bd6 9 Bb3 Bg4 10 a4 a6 11 Nc4 Ba7 12 b5 Ne7! ("This is