

# Chess Barbs

by Jude Acers (US senior master)

DIAGRAM: White to move, the diagram position has been proven a forced win for the first player by Reti--Mandler. How do YOU prove it? Solution will be found elsewhere in this issue of THE BARB.

RAPPING WITH JUDE: Question. Jude, how does it feel to be a living legend?

Answer. Legendary.

Q. From where did you get your extreme humility?

A. From Browne, R.E. Burger and Fischer.

Q. Road tours are murder, as Evans said in his Chess Life & Review column. It has to be lonely, too. Do you plan to be married soon? It would be easier on a 200-city tour! How can

you survive?

A. Many come but few are chosen. Seriously, no lady can tolerate me or stand the scorching pace, despite my greatness. I remain alone on tour. But someday, somewhere, over the rainbow, there's a place for...a Rolls Royce. Scratch that, James. A Mercedes Benz.

Q. Do you agree with Fischer and Browne that money is everything?

A. Yes, because cold cash confers options, the chance to do with your life what you wish. All else is chance, transitional. You cannot buy happiness, but sleeping in the

street or in the back of a Trailways bus is not a good morale booster while thee is waiting for the good ship hope. Mere survival is not bliss.

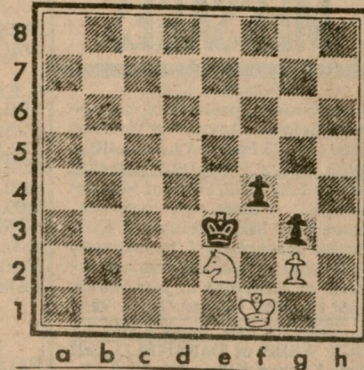
Q. What do people find in chess to go crazy over? Why does it make people so happy?

A. Chess play, chess study and just watching others play chess often gives a person an inanimate, absolutely dependable reason for living, no matter how difficult life is. Chess is a way to really live, grow and explore within an individual's own mind. It is unquestionably a mental narcotic--and there is no greater delight than being chess crazy, a chess bum, a chess fanatic. And Fischer has made it possible for them to actually eat genuine food nowadays!

Basically, the "mistake" that many people make with their lives is to foolishly look for love and success with animate objects like a housepet, husband, son, daughter, brother, sister. By placing their sole reason (and delight) in living in being a housewife and mother of two children (for example), a woman shuts out all reality, self growth, crisis buffers and prepares the day when she will experience agony, when her husband dies, her children leave her and she is dead long before dying.

Instead of ruthlessly taking hold of her life, the American housewife foolishly believes that she is sacred "mother", to be honored as indispensable, when the simple truth is that were she and her husband to die in an auto accident this day, her children would have excellent chances to continue living very well without her, as has been adequately demonstrated in both life and clinic.

Rather than becoming a crack



sharpshooter, archer, knitter, equestrian, multi-lingual student, mechanic, inventor, writer, etc., all of mom's activities are left to all other mankind by the role player. The crash is not guaranteed, but possible. One can easily become a Hemingway buff, Sherlock Holmes buff or go over every recorded game Bobby Fischer has played in his career, and with positively divine bliss while at it, I should add. Doer possibilities are endless!

Chess is doing and thinking and fun by force. Nothing is left to fate.

One of my favorite stories about chessplayers was the one repeated in one form or another by observers at death camps freed by Allied soldier after the Second World War. One observer was an Army photographer (now editor-publisher of the Atlanta Daily World) named William Scott, who is a U.S. Chess Federation expert rated chess player as well. Scott recalls, "We found hundreds of skeletons still moving the chess pieces about as we came through the gates. It was hard to believe and I can't help but believe that thinking about chess all the time

SEE PAGE 26...

# CHESS BARBS

FROM PAGE 21...

is primarily why those chessplayers survived. I took many photographs of these living dead people."

Indeed, chess, a pure mind narcotic that has entranced people for 1,600 years, is probably not an escape from life itself, but life itself is like great music, loving or reading Herb Caen! I have always believed that chess play, much less trying to master the chessboard, is one of those delightful separations of man from animal. Everything else is just waiting!

And when somebody like George Koltanowski plays 80 kids in Ghirardelli Square before thousands of onlookers in a single day, chess becomes a public, personal and

nostalgic event for the chess mind that is indescribably delicious.

I just thought you would like to know. Please remember at all times that I am a good guy, and that I tell it like it is.

Q. Some of the department stores and shopping centers where you have appeared in exhibitions really go crazy in promotion before you hit the city. In Denver my mother heard commercials announcing your arrival for weeks. Is promotion planned?

A. The most successful promotion was done by the largest shopping center mall in the world--Woodfield's in Schaumburg, Illinois. They used the phrase, "JUDE ACERS: ALL HE IS IS EVERYTHING!", and packed in several thousand people in three days to watch and play in my six exhibitions there. I played 147 opponents in three days and scored 138 wins, 5 losses and 4 draws before insane teeny bopper Jude Acers fans. You don't get days like that

very often!

Q. Do you ever play chess games in your mind or have chess dreams?

A. Bronstein dreamed an entire chess game, move for move, and wrote it down upon awakening. As for myself, I am so good, innocent and saintly that I sleep undisturbed by rumbles of 32 chess pieces. However, a very funny thing happened on the way to O'Hare Airport yesterday. I was feeling very depressed and fatigued despite the incredible success of the 1973 tour so far. In the cab I looked at the diagram position analyzed by Reti and Mandler. White is to play and win! It looks just unbelievable, and I found myself entranced. All moodiness vanished. Music began to play! Pieces began to dance about! I was alive again and felt as if Messrs. Reti and Mandler are the Dr. Feelgoods of the chess world. So now I intend to take apart the studies and problems of Pal Benko and C.W.

ones (my second and top problemist) from now on. It will be fun, flying high.

Q. Since you like bands so much, you should keep a sharp eye out for tours by major groups. Rolling Stone gives a good schedule each week.

A. Natch. So far we've caught Poco, Rolling Stones, Quicksilver Sage, the Everly Brothers, the New York Rock Ensemble and the Byrds. More to come. Goodis

Q. Do people really play millions of chess games by mailing postcards to each other?

A. True, indubitably true, my dear lady. Millions of correspondence games are going on right this minute, I will have you know. About 100,000 official games in worldwide and national postal chessplay are conducted yearly. I was playing 110 games by mail until I ran out of postage stamps in ye olde orphanage in Raleigh, North Carolina. To find out everything you

need to know or how to play chess by mail, just drop a line to the U.S. Chess Federation, 479 Broadway, Newburgh, N.Y. 12550, but please, please don't tell them that I sent you. I am their deadly enemy.

Q. Isn't it possible to play several chess games on one postcard?

A. Of course. Just put "Game A, Game B, Game C, etc." and your move in each game as well by the letter. Acknowledge your opponent's last move and underline our reply to distinguish it. To make sure that my moves were even more distinguished I used to put an exclamation mark after each Acers crusher as well so as to terrify opponents with the nerve my soul. Even more scary for opponents, I found, was to make very strong, well-planned moves, which caused the poor victim to develop quakes, nervousness, press of business absences, sickness (medical postal delay), resigning  
SEE PAGE 33...

# CHESS

FROM PAGE 26...

gencies or failing to reply at all, losing by forfeit.

As a young chessplayer, when all my world was one of dreams because the real one was too bad to recognize, I had as many as 80 different opponents in many lands. I played four or even six games with some of the opponents in addition to the official game.

Almost always my opponents would send their return moves by

postcard. But one rare day in the year a letter would arrive from an opponent. This would bring to mind all of the excitement and fantasy of a 12-year-old chessplayer who had chess and chess alone to live for. I imagined that my opponent had been so awestruck by my brilliant moves that he was sending Jude Acers a poisoned powder letter to snuff him out of the tournament for good! I always took care to open the letter at arms length, holding my nostrils cautiously. Of course, wh-

en a package arrived...!!

Q. Why doesn't Fischer enter the world correspondence chess championship so that he could win it and thus become champion of the planet?

A. Young man, speak with thy leather wallet and gold pieces of eight. There would also be other problems. Who would dare to referee? Who would want to referee? Also, the largest advance entry list in the history of correspondence chess would be received. Several thousand masters would

try by hook or crook to play in the correspondence chess event. Bodies would disappear. Murders, mayhem would possibly result. Worst of all, Fischer would win.

Q. Is it true that Bobby Fischer falls asleep at the chessboard and has to be awakened to make his moves? And that he just makes one that looks good and goes back to sleep?

A. It is a fact that Fischer had to be awakened repeatedly during two games at the 1961 Western Open while playing world chess players! He crushed every-

body. I personally would have taken lie. Fischer could be nightmarish enough in drowsy, underfed, poor condition, much less wide awake.

To his eternal credit, grandmaster Arthur Bisguier of New York, the All-American good guy of US chess, is one of the players who kept waking Bobby up so Fischer could beat him! Fischer would have forfeited precious (if not all) minutes of his time if he had been left alone. (Fischer had been up all night watching movies

and playing speed chess.)

Q. Somebody told me in Toronto that the top Canadian player, Duncan Suttles, was robbed of the international grandmaster title for no reason at all by the World Chess Federation. I thought the title was awarded automatically on the basis of performance (mathematically) at the chessboard. After achieving the required percentage versus international grandmasters, international masters, and a few untitled players, Suttles had to be a grandmaster. How can they take this title away? Was he robbed?

A. He certainly was and the disgrace and contempt the World Chess Federation (FIDE) brought upon itself in this affair will never be possible to fully remove. Only one discriminatory action in the history of sporting competition stands out as being more scandalous, odor-filled, disgusting, and that is the World Boxing Association's decision to 'take away' Cassius Clay's world boxing title because he did not wish to murder people in Viet Nam.