

California Chess Journal

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Special State Championship Issue!

New State Champion



Vladimir Mezenstev

Photo by Elizabeth Karnazes



Plus-
15th Western States
LERA Class
19th Livermore
34th Stamer
How OMOV Lost
and much more!



California Chess Journal



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THE EDITOR'S REPORT

Welcome to our special state championship issue! New-comer Vladimir Mezentsev is a hard working and popular state champion. Our state president Richard Koepecke reports on the Labor Day classic while Alan Kirshner interviews Julie Vizcaino and her remarkable coach Kevin Cripe. Julie's continued success should encourage our young ladies to remain with the royal game as they enter high school. The Western States Open just keeps getting better and we are pleased to have Eric Schiller contribute an endgame clinic from his own games at this 'Weikel' tournament.

As a part of our continuing series on *The Crisis In The USCF*, Hal Terrie reports on the defeat of One Man One Vote at the 1997 delegates meeting. Eric Schiller replies in defense of the actions of the delegates this past August. As always, Eric argues his case well but your editor is also disappointed with this latest defeat of OMOV. Will the payment of your USCF dues *ever* entitle a member to directly vote for national officers?

Our next issue will come quickly to your mail box and will be a special 'Games' issue. Our readers can look forward to Grandmaster annotations (with a couple of pleasant surprises already received) plus the best in local chess from Berkeley to Sunnyvale to Fresno. I wish to thank Tawny Fulleros for her assistance in the design and layout of this issue. For the next issue, my submission deadline is February 19th with a goal of mailing the magazine by March.

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1997 Open State Championship

By Richard Koepcke
Pictures by Allan Fifield

This year marked another successful State Championship. It was also the second year we ran the tournament in Union City. By now the site had been completely renovated, so participants were no longer distracted by the building that went on in 1996. Approximately 170 participants eventually attended the event. I hope people like the site, because barring some unforeseen event, we will be running it in the same location next year. This year's tournament was directed by Peter Yu, Don Shennum and yours truly.



TD Don Shennum (r) visits with concessionaire Jay Blem

Valdimir Mezentsev is the new State Champion by virtue of his nearly flawless trek through the Open section with 5 1/2 out of 6. Mr. Mezentsev is not titled, but is known to be a strong player in the former Soviet Union. He is currently employed by a local computer company, and spends three to four months a year in the Bay Area and the rest in Russia. So Mezentsev is no stranger to this part of the world. Finishing in clear second was Craig Mar with 4 1/2. His only loss was to the eventual tournament winner in the second round. Finishing out the open section was Burt Izumikawa, IMGuillermo Rey and IM Roberto Navarro (who normally resides in Mexico) tied for 3rd - Bernard Gulen and Akash Deb split the honor of winning the sec-



A confident Robert Boles on his way to third place in the 'B' class

tion by scoring 5 points a piece. Deb defeated Gulen in the last round to catch him. I should note that Mr. Gulen had not played a rated game in five years prior to this tournament. I for one need to play 20 - 30 games per year to stay in some sort of playing form. So Mr. Gulen's accomplishment is certainly not easy.



The Big and The Small in the D/E/Unrated section

In this tournament the unrated players competed for a different prize than the D/E players, though they played in a combined section. Much to the relief of the D players since this time the unrateds were stronger than the rated players. Two brothers Jesus and Juan Cendejas won the un-



Bruce Stone (1310) is calm and focused.



Al Rangole considers his chances in the 'C' class

rated prize with 5 1/2 (they drew each other in the fifth round). To 'D' was a multi-way tie with David Steel, Jonas Mutuc, Ricky Grijalva, Bill

Dixon and Tym Matusov each scoring 4 1/2. All save one lost at least one game to one of the brothers.

Games from the 1997 Open State Championship

One of the best games from a spectators point of view occurred in the first round of the two day event. Take a look at the following game, and keep in mind that it was played in a Game in one hour time control.

**Craig Mar [2460] -
Vinay Bhat [2323]
English Opening - A30
Master section Brillancy Prize**

**1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5
4. g3 b6 5. Bg2 Bb7 6. 0-0 d6
7. d4 Nbd7?**

Either Vinay is not familiar with the so called Hedgehog variation of the English or this is an experiment

gone wrong. Practically forced is 7 ... cd when 8 Qxd4 Nbd7 and 8 Nxd4 Bxg2 9 Kxg2 Qc8 lead to positions that have been played many times before. The problem with the text is that White can force an extremely favorable variant of the Benoni.

8. d5 ed 9. cd a6

After the tempting 9 ... b5? White can just take the pawn because, 10 Nxb5 Bxd5 11 e4! Bxe4 12 Nxd6+ Bxd6 13 Qxd6 where White has an overwhelming plus.

10. e4

There is no need for the standard Benoni retort 10 a4, since Black doesn't have time for 10 ... b5. That's because White is threatening a dangerous pawn sac, 11 e5 and now de 12 d6 Nb6 13 Nxe5 Bxg2 14 Kxg2 Bxd6 15 Nc6 Qd7 16 Re1+ Kf8 17 Qf3 with more than enough compensation for the pawn given loose nature of Blacks position.

10. ... Ne5 11. Nh4 Ng6 12. Nf5 Qc7

Perhaps 12 ... Bc8 !? is worth a try.

13. Bg5 0-0-0 14. Rc1

White could think about trying for a white square clamp with 13 Bxf6, followed by a4 and Bh3. But this amounts to a slow squeeze that may or may not ultimately succeed. I doubt Craig contemplated this kind of plan for long (if at all).

14. ... Ne7 15. Nd4!

The text is more than a pretty move, because it temporarily paralyzes Black's kingside. The moment Black tries to free his game by moving the Knight on e7, white will play Nc6 leaving his opponent the choice of two evils. Take the Knight and open the h1-a8 diagonal, or leave it there with Knight hampers the rest of Black's pieces.

15. ... Kb8 16. Na4 h6

Hoping for 17 Bxf6 (?)

17. Be3 Nc8 18. b4 Qd7

Trying hard to get out of the way. Closing lines with 18 ... c4 does not work on the account of 19 b5 followed by 20 Nc6.

19. Nc6

The above mentioned line clearing sacrifice. Black can hardly ignore it.

19. ... Bxc6 20. dc Qc7

20 ... Qxc6 21 bc (e5 Ne4) bc 22 Nxc5 would end the game in short order.

21. Qb3 c4?

Black thinks he has discovered a trick, but it turns out to be an illusion.

22. Qxc4 b5 23. Qe2 Ne8

Unfortunately, Black can't grab the Knight since he has no defense to the ensuing pawn rush b4-b5-b6 that would follow 24 Qxa6.

24. Nc3 Nf6 25. e5

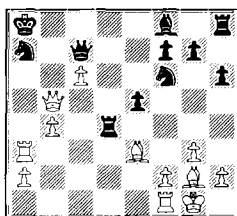
Clearing lines for the Bishop pair.

25. ... de 26. Nxb5!

The blows just keep coming. After the pawn cover disappears, Black will not be able to marshal enough force to stave off the coming mate.

26. ... ab 27. Qxb5+ Ka8 28.

Rc3 Na7 29. Ra3 Rd4



30. Qxe5!

Who needs an exchange when there is a king to be eaten. White will soon get his queen back with interest.

30. ... Qxe5 31. c7+ Nd5

32. c8=Q(?)

This wins, but even quicker is 32 Bxd5+ Rxd5 33 Rxa7 mate.

33. ... Qb8 34. Rxa7+ Kxa7 35.

Bxd4+ Nb6 36. Bxb6+ Resigns

Vinay must give up his queen or get mated (Qa8 mate). A nice one-sided bop by Craig Mar. One gets the impression that Black was practically lost after his mistake on move 7.

For some people a loss like this would be devastating for that person to continue. In the following game, played right after the above one, Vinay Bhat proves he is made of sterner stuff.



Emmanuel Perez followed in Kasparov's footsteps

Vinay Bhat [2323] -

Em. Perez [2375]

Caro Kann - [B17]

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 de 4. Nxe4 Nd7 5. Ng5 e6 6. Bd3 Ngf6 7. N1f3 h6?

Remember the sixth game in the Deep Blue - Kasparov match? Well, I asked Perez after the game whether he really planned to defend the position after the sac on e6. His answer was no, history just repeated it's self.

8. Nxe6

By the way, if white doesn't commit to this sacrifice, he can pretty much forget about obtaining any kind of opening advantage.

8. ... fe

This is supposed to be better than 8 ... Qe7, as Kasparov played in the game mentioned above. The point is that the Black queen is better posted on c7, where it helps defend e5. This position has been played several times between Grandmasters, so its not a case of White to play and win easily. There is even a rather unconvincing game Wolf - Granda Zuniga where Black actually kept the piece and won. The problem is, Black is going to be on the defensive for a very long time. And in practical terms, it is a hard position to defend successfully, as this game will show.

9. Bg6+ Ke7 10. 0-0 Nb6

The Granda game went 10 ... Qc7 11 Re1 Kd8 12 c4 with a complicated position. The text is not entirely new. However, it does allow white to place his remaining Knight on a more active square.

11. Ne5 Qc7

As far as I know, this has not been played before. Not without reason as the point of the Queen

move seems to be lost now that the opposing Knight has safely traveled to e5. Also worth considering is 11 ... Bd7 trying for Be8 followed by, Qd6 and Kd8-c7. For what it is worth, Qd5 is the "book" move.

12. Qf3 ?!

The Queen is not particularly well placed here. More active moves such as 12. b3, or Re1 should have been tried.

12. ... Rg8 ?

On the other hand, black is having a hard time finding constructive ideas of his own. 12 ... Bd7 - e8 is still worth a look. Not much help is 12 ... Nbd7 13 Bf4 Nxe5 14 de Nd5 15 Bg3 Kd8 16 c4 with a very dangerous attack.

13. Nf7 Qd7 14.b3 Qd5

Taking the pawn is suicidal. One possible continuation is 15 Ba3+ Ke8 16 Ne5+ Kd8 17 Rad1.

15. Qg3 Nh5 16. Qh4+ Nf6

17.c4 Qa5 18. Qf4 Kd7

19. Bd2 Qa3 20. Rfe1

Black's pieces are an uncoordinated mess, but white hasn't found the a win yet. The black queen is offside on a3, so it off with c5 looks like the right way to continue. A possible line is 20 ... Nd5 21 Qe5 Qb2 22 Rfe1 Nc7 23 Ba5 Nfd5 24 Bf5 where Black can't escape mate without a big material loss.

21. ... Bd6 22.Qf3 Nxc4

Giving back the piece to exchange Queen's. Believe it or not this doesn't help Black's cause, because he cannot get the rest of his forces coordinated.

23. bc Qxf3 24.gf b6

White was threatening 25 c5 followed by bf4+ and Nd6.

25. Rad1 Be7

It is probably better to complete development with 25 ... Bd7, then save this Bishop. It's a pretty ugly game either way.

26. Bf4 Rf8 26. Bg3 Ne8

27. d5 ed?? 28. cd??

Both sides miss a random tactic, most likely due to time pressure.

28. ... Bb4?? 29.Bf5 mate

Mezentsev is a dangerous tactician who has a tricky opening repertory. Combine that with good endgame technique and you get a lethal combination. Here IM

Navarro ties to beat him to at his own game with a sideline in the Accelerated Dragon. However, the hunter soon becomes the prey.

**R. Navarro -
Vladimir Mezentsev
Accelerated Dragon - B34**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cd

4. Nxd4 g6 5.Nxc6

White is hoping to catch Black unprepared for this sideline. The problem is, Black has more than one way to equalize. So even if he doesn't know the line, it is likely that Black can find a good continuation at the board. The idea behind White's fifth move is better carried out a few moves later (5 Nc3 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Nxc6 ect).

5. ... bc 6. Qd4 Nf6 7. e5 Nd5

7 ... Ng8 is also good for equality.

8 c4

For those of you who are wondering, Black has very few problems after 8 e6 f6 9 ed+ Bxd7 with a big lead in development.

8. ... Nb4 9. Qc3 c5 10. Be3 Bg7 11. Nd2 ?

TN in Informant speak. This looks suspiciously like over the board inspiration rather than a prepared line. After the text, Black sizes the initiative by exploiting the pin along the a1-h8 diagonal. For the record, Bxc5 is the book move.

11 ... d6 12. f4 Bf5 13. Kf2 0-0

14. Be2 Qc7 15. Nf3 Rad8

Black pounds away at the center, setting a positional trap along the way. Now realitively best is 16 Rhd1. Instead White sees a chance to relieve the pressure on e5, but the resulting exchange only strengthens Blacks initiative.

16. ed? ed!

Navarro probably expected 16 ... Qxd6 17 Ne5 f6 18 Rhd1 where White is OK. True the text leaves Black with a backward pawn, but the open e-file and Whites inability to untangle his pieces are more critical to the outcome of the game.

17. Qd2 Rfe8 18. Rhc1 Qe7 19. h3

Hoping to eject the Bishop via 20 g4.

19. ... Nc2!

A nice little combination that wins the exchange.

20. Rxc2 Bxc2 21. Bxc5? Qxe2+

22. Qxe2 Rxe2+ 23.Kxe2 dc Resigns

I would like to close this article with the Brillancy Prize winner from the Expert Section, won by an 'A' player!

**Chris Mavraedis -
Walter Wood
Bishop's Opening - C24
Expert section Brillancy Prize**

1. e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3 .d4

The sedate 3 d3 probably has a better chance of obtaining an advantage for White, but the text is more fun.

3. ... Nxe4 4. de Qe7?

This parries 5 Bf7+ Kxf7 6 Qd5+, but puts the Queen on an awkward square.

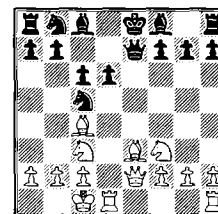
More aggressive is 4 ... Qh4, and for those who prefer safety first, 4 ... Nc5 is worth a look.

5. Qe2 Nc5 6. Nc3 c6 7. Be3!?

Defending the strong point at e5 via Bf4 or Nf3 would be more in keeping with the position. The text invites Black to grab a pawn, with dangerous consequences.

7. ... Qxe5? 8.Nf3 Qe7 9. 0-0 d6

Black was probably counting on 9 ... d5 to save him. To late did he realize that after White's retort, 10 Bxd5 cd 11 Nxd5 there is no defense to the multiple threats, Bxc5 and Nc7+.



10.Rxd6!

Ouch!, the Rook cannot be taken, so White has just won a pawn, with an unabated attack.

10.... Ne 6 11.Rhd1 Qxd6

12. Rxd6 Bxd6

The material is still some what balanced, but White's big lead in development gives him a decisive advantage.

13.Ng5 0-0 14. Bxe6 Bxe6

15. Qd3 Rd8 16. Qxh7+ Kf8

17. Nxe6+ fe 18. Qh8+ Resigns.

Julie Vizcaino

A Daughter Of Whom Any Father Would Be Proud

by Alan M. Kirshner



Photo by Alan Kirshner

Julie Vizcaino.

I had been hoping to interview Julie Vizcaino for a few months. I had promised to write articles on some of Northern California's young chess players on my California Chess Scholastic web site (<http://www.hooked.net/~hegemon/CALCHESS.html>). Julie, as one of the top young women players for the last few years, was an obvious choice. Julie had jumped from a 1434 USCF rating in February 1997 to a 1736 rating on August 8, 1997. I finally caught up with her and her coach, Kevin Cripe, before the last round at the CalChess Labor Day Tournament. I had just walked out of the CalChess meeting and saw her watching Kevin go over a game with one of his other students. She seemed remarkably relaxed for someone who was about to contest for the first place money in the A Section. Julie and Kevin welcomed my talking with them at that time.

Julie, a very pleasant and unassuming young woman of 16, lives in Modesto and is in tenth grade at Downey High School.

Kevin Cripe, her coach for the last five years, was her fourth grade teacher at Shackelford Elementary School. Julie was in fifth grade when Kevin determined he was going to organize a chess team. Julie, at 11 years of age, was among his first recruits, "because he decided to start with the smart kids." Julie did not need to give Kevin's solicitation much thought. She immediately responded: "OK!" Within a few months she entered her first tournament. The match in Bakersfield proved her potential. She tied for first place but lost the trophy on tie-breaks. She still brought home an award for being the best girl player—a bag to hold her chess pieces. Julie's first posted provisional rating in December 1992 was 1138—an auspicious beginning.

For four years Julie maintained a respectable rating, usually between 1300 and 1400. This year she exploded on the chess scene. How many players do you know that in one year have won C, B, A, Expert and Open divisions? In fact, Julie has won nine tournaments this year. She went on to win her last game after my interview, taking a clear first in the A Section of the CalChess Labor Day Tournament.

I wondered why the dramatic success in such a short period of time. I think I learned why from an unrelated question. I asked Julie how it felt being a successful young woman in a sport that is dominated by men. She said it was "weird" and that most of her girl friends quit over the years. An aside—Kevin Cripe's scholastic program probably has more young women playing chess than any

other in California. Julie proceeded to tell me about how, after her father died last year, she resolved to stay with chess.

Because of her parents divorce she did not see her father very often. Often when she visited with him she showed him her chess trophies. Her father, Julie reported, was so overwhelmed with pride over her accomplishments that he even cried. Julie took his sudden and accidental death very hard, as was to be expected. She entered this year's competition firm in her resolve to keep her father's pride alive in her memory.

Kevin, Julie's only chess teacher, spent a couple of hours each day after school working with her on chess tactics. Kevin has never asked for any payment. Actually, Kevin and his wife Crystal, spend hundreds of their own dollars each year to pay the entry fees and to transport their players to tournaments in California and other parts of the country. And, this is on a teacher's salary. Talk about dedication—phew! Recently, Julie agreed to treat the Cripe's to a restaurant dinner every time she won over \$100 at a tournament. So far this year Kevin and Crystal have had three fine meals.

I asked Julie if she had any advice for other girls playing chess. She responded: "Don't quit! Who cares what they think of you. Even if they call you a nerd, don't quit. When you start winning money, everyone will think you are cool."

I have three sons and no daughters. How great it would be to have had a daughter like Julie Vizcaino. I can say without any hesitation, "If Julie were my daughter, she would make me very proud."

Read All About It!

Check out the CalChess Web Site at its new Address:
<http://www.hooked.net/~hegemon/norcal.html>

15TH ANNUAL SANDS REGENCY WESTERN STATES OPEN

by

ORGANIZER & CHIEF T.D.-JEROME V. WEIKEL

425 chess players converged on the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino in Reno, Nevada on October 24-26 to vie for a record breaking \$41,000 prize fund! This six round Swiss was divided into seven sections. A 3-way tie for first in the open section set the stage for a crowd pleasing (Game/15) playoff between GM's Alexander Goldin, Eduard Gufeld and Alexander Baburin after each had scored 5-1 to capture the Western States Open Championship in an extremely strong open section. 11 GM's and 13 IM's made this the strongest Western States open section ever (as a case in point a Grandmaster on board 15 in Round 1!). Using cumulative tie breaks, Goldin received the first round bye in the playoff. Baburin and Gufeld played their 2-Game/15 games to another 1-1 tie! This forced the next tie breaker which was two five minute blitz games - won by Gufeld. This set-up a Gufeld/Goldin match for the championship which was won by GM Goldin. Congratulations to Alexander, Eduard and Alexander for a well fought playoff match. Goldin received \$2240 and the championship trophy. Gufeld and Baburin each received \$2140.

Congratulations to all the class winners! Expert - Gerry Neufahrt, Canada; "A" - Leslie R. Colin, Boise, ID; "B" - Ed English, Dallas, TX; "C" - Jeff Pisan, Klamath Falls, OR; "D" - Gerald Paiz, Sacramento, CA; "E" - Benjamin S. Haun, Santa Rosa, CA; Top Unrated - David Khararzi, Mt Shasta, CA and Top Seniors - Jessie P. Stewart, Redmond, WA and Richard Bolling, Mt Shasta, CA. The Club Championship was a tie between Seattle and Sacramento Chess Clubs with the Burlingame Chess Club in 3rd Place followed by the 4th Place Reno Chess Club.

Quick Quads (Wednesday) were won by Arkia Bayati, Edwin Schreiber and Richard Lee. The WBCA Blitz tournament on Thursday was won by GM Alexander Ivanov. Simul winners on Wednesday & Thursday were Mark McCue (over IM Igor Ivanov), Robert Woodworth (over GM Kudrin) and John Goudy (over GM Mednis). Popular with the players (and now part of our Western States family) was National Chess & Games chess equipment and vendor Jay Blem in his 7th year. An additional vendor this year was Mindscape which featured the newest release of Chess Master 5500 and an opportunity to play chess on their net server. Mindscape donated 10 ChessMaster 5500's as prizes in a drawing!

My wife Fran and I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Barbara Woodward of the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino. We would like to also salute Barbara's assistants Terry and Joanne and rest of the staff at the Sands Regency. We would also like to give a special special thank you to our staff: GM Larry Evans (Reno NV), GM Mednis, GM Kudrin, IM Ivanov, Victor Flashman (Kansas City, KS), Peter Yu (Sherman Oaks, CA), Alan Kantor (New Windsor, NY), Mike Nagaran

(San Diego, CA), Dave Sheryka (demo board guy - Reno, NV) and our daughters, Dana and Kimberly. We cannot thank all of them enough for their outstanding efforts! The many pats on our backs and sincere "thank you's" from our players during our tournaments really helps to keep our enthusiasm going! We greatly appreciate it. We know we make some mistakes and appreciate your understanding.

Eric Johnson, Associate Director of the USCF, attended the tournament as a advanced "scouting party" for the 100th Annual US Open. Eric also played in the Expert section where he won a prize. The final planning went well and appears to be leading up to a great US Open in Reno. The Sands Regency is excited and enthusiastic about this upcoming event (and of course, my staff and I are too!) and USCF appears to be the same. We are all looking forward to being your host and I personally guarantee the best US Open ever! Look out! We have a few more than the normal surprises in store for you. Remember, this is a Weikel events! As I announced at the start of the 6th round, "Start saving just \$1.00 a day and you will have enough for your trip to the 100th US Open!" (Take 4 quarters and put them in a cookie jar each day.)

We are looking forward to seeing you at the 16th Annual Sands Regency Western States Open, October 30 -November 1, 1998. Please bring a friend (especially one you can beat) and thanks again for your continued support.



Photo by Val Zemitis

**The next deadline for
California Chess Journal
submission is
February 19th**

15TH ANNUAL SANDS REGENCY WESTERN STATES OPEN

Results

OPEN SECTION

	Player	City	Rating	Score	Prize
1	GM Goldin, Alexander	New York, NY	2670	5	\$2220
2	GM Baburin, Alexander	Foster City, CA	2648	5	\$2140
3	GM Gufled, Eduard	Kiev, UKR	2543	5	\$2140

EXPERT SECTION

	Player	City	Rating	Score	Total
1	Neufahrt, Gerry	Harrison Hot Springs, BC	2131	5.5	\$1460
2	Yamankak, Keith L	Seattle, WA	2003	5	\$730
3	Lee, Jack	Vancouver, BC	2149	4.5	\$584

A SECTION

	Player	City	Rating	Score	Total
1	Gordon, Paul M	Long Beach, CA	1980	5	\$766
2	Colin, Leslie R	Boise, ID	1918	5	\$766
3	Krasnov, Steve	San Francisco, CA	1910	5	\$766
4	Childress, Jason	Redwood City, CA	1886	5	\$766

B SECTION

	Player	City	Rating	Score	Total
1	Inglish, Ed	Dallss, TX	1724	5.5	\$1168
2	Martinez, Lawrence	Sacramento, CA	1775	5	\$584
3	Keagle, Bryan W	Waldport, OR	1610	5	\$584
4	Simanis, Edwin	Reno, NV	1796	5	\$584

C SECTION

	Player	City	Rating	Score	Total
1	Pisan, Jeffery	Klamath Falls, OR	1410	5.5	\$1022
2	Stewart, Jesse P	Redmond, WA	1587	5	\$511
3	German, Vladimir	San Francisco, CA	1557	5	\$511
4	Bell, John	Avindale Esta, GA	1510	5	\$511
5	Kirste, Richard	Marshal, CA	1418	5	\$511

D SECTION

	Player	City	Rating	Score	Total
1	Paiz, Gerald	Sacramento, CA	1215	5.5	\$876
2	Bolling, Richard G	Mt Shasta, CA	1286	5	\$535
3	House, Stephen	Grass Valley, CA	1266	5	\$438
4	Chinnici, Charles	Reno, NV	1220	5	\$535
5	Dixon, Bill	Sunnyvale, CA	1154	5	\$535

E SECTION

	Player	City	Rating	Score	Total
1	Haun, Benjamin S	Santa Rosa, CA	1171	5.5	\$365
2	Wilburn, Patrick	Menlo Park, CA	1067	5	\$292
3	McGuire, Michael	Bishop, CA	1166	4.5	\$127
4	Andrew, Stephen L	Claremont, CA	1091	4.5	\$127
5	Langston, Marcus	Elk Grove, CA	1057	4.5	\$127
6	Pass, David C	Janesville, CA	1016	4.5	\$127

How to avoid the slot machines and gaming tables: Three interesting endgames from the Western States Open

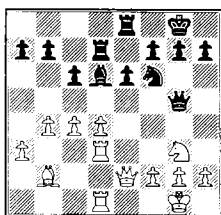
By Eric Schiller

Normally, players at the Western States Open at the splendid Regency Sands in Reno spend a fair bit of time, and money, trying their luck at the tables or slot machines. This year, I was far too busy playing 7 hour games. Four of my six games were lengthy struggles and three had very instructive endgames. I present them here for your entertainment and education. There is no room to present the complete games, alas, so we'll have to pick up each one part way through.

In each of these games I had an inferior position, but managed to save two out of three. I am constantly reminding my students that endgame skills can save, sometimes even win, bad positions. Inability to win superior positions costs a lot of points! No matter how "drawn" a position may be, the higher rated player often continues to play for a win, counting on a slip on the part of the opponent to help out.

I was very proud of my accomplishments against Luberti and Battetseg, but the game against Stein reminded me that I still have a ways to go. I underestimated the difficulty of that endgame, and it cost me. I learned a lot from these three endgames and I hope you will too!

Luberti - Schiller B18 Western States Open (3), 25.10.1997

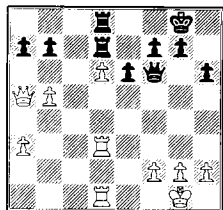


White has built up a strong position with solid control of the center. There is only one way to secure an advantage, however, and my opponent, a strong player from the Netherlands (USCF 2420) finds a good plan.

22.d5 cxd5 23.Bxf6 Qxf6 24.Rxd5 Qe7 25.R5d3 Rdd8 26.c5 Bc7 27.Nf5!

I had overlooked this back at move 21. Now my position becomes a bit unpleasant.

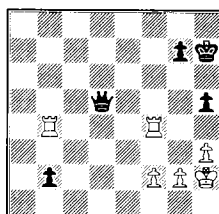
27...Qf6 28.Nd6 Bxd6 29.cxd6 Rd7 30.b5 Red8 31.Qd2 h6 32.Qa5.



Here I can eliminate the strong pawn, but I have to give up two rooks for the queen. At the

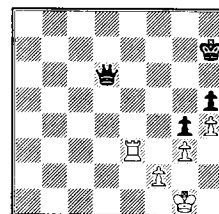
time I did not see any real danger in this plan, but I was concentrating only on attempts to quickly capitalize on the power of the rooks. My opponent plays a slow plan which is far more deadly

32...Rxd6 33.Qxd8+ Qxd8 34.Rxd6 Qa5 35.Rd8+ Kh7 36.R8d7 Qxb5 36...Qa4!? 37.Rxf7 Qb3 37...Kg6 38.Rfd7 Kf6!? 38.Rf1 e5 39.Rf3 Qb2 40.h3 Kg6 41.Re1 b5 42.Kh2 a5 43.Re4 h5 44.Ree3 b4 45.axb4 axb4 46.Rf8 Qd4 47.Rg3+ Kh7 48.Rf7 e4 49.Re3 Qd5!? 49...h4 50.Rb7 Kh6 50.Rf4 50.Ra7! b3 51.Rg3 Qe5 52.Kg1 b2 53.Rb7 would have led to an advantage for White. 50...b3 51.Rexe4 b2 52.Rb4

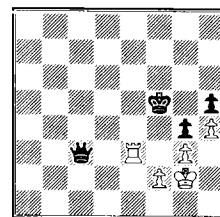


Here I manage to win a rook. When I first gleamed the opportunity back at about move 45, I thought this would be enough to win and confidently played the key move **52...g5!** If the rook moves vertically, then either ...Qd6+ or ...Qe7+ wins. There are no safe lateral moves, because White threatens to deflect the other rook from b4 and make a new queen, as in the game. **53.Rfc4 Qxc4**

53...b1Q 54.Rxb1 Qxc4 54.Rxc4 b1Q 55.h4 Qb5 56.Re4 Qd5 57.Re3 Qd6+ 58.Kg1 g4?! 59.g3



This fortress cannot be penetrated, and the king and pawn endgame is Black's only hope. To this end I played for a sacrifice on e3. **59...Qd5 60.Re1 Kg6 61.Re8 Kf7** This is designed to move the king forward along the f-file. **62.Re1 Kf6 63.Re3 Qc6 64.Re1 Kf5 65.Re7 Qc1+ 66.Kg2 Qc5 67.Re1 Qc3 68.Re3**

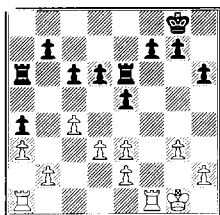


I can't see any way to contain a rook on the e-file using just king and queen, even if there is a zugzwang against the White king. The rook at e3 has 7 possible moves on the e-file. The king can cover at most three. The queen can cover another three. To cover seven squares, the open square must be one where a check along the a8-h1 diagonal will pick off the

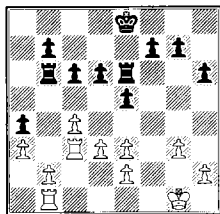
rook. Yet the Black king cannot cross the e-file, so it can never cover e3, e2, or e1. I can't find a way to combine enough threats to win. **68...Qxe3** 68...Qc2 should have been tried. 69.Re7 Qc5 70.Re3 Qd5+ 71.Kg1 Qd1+ 72.Kg2 Qd6 73.Kf1! (73.Re2?! Qd5+ 74.Kh2 Qd1 75.Ra2 Qf1 76.Ra5+ Ke4 77.Ra4+ Kd3 78.Rf4 Ke2 79.Re4+ Kxf2 80.Rf4+ Ke2 81.Re4+ Kd2 82.Rd4+ Kc1! and Black wins.) 73...Qd1+ 74.Re1 Qd3+ 75.Kg2 still holds. Hoping he wouldn't see. **69.fxe3 Ke4 70.Kf2 Kd3 71.e4! Kxe4 72.Ke2!** But he did, and a draw was agreed.

**Schiller, - Stein A29
Western States Open (4),
25.10.1997**

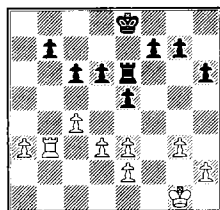
I allowed Stein to establish the bind on the queenside using the advanced a-pawn.



I optimistically thought that it would be possible to remedy the backward b pawn without much of a penalty. I was wrong. **23.Rab1 Rb6 24.Rfc1 Kf8 25.Rc3 Ke8**

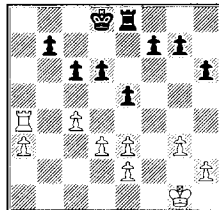


Now the b-pawn problem gets solved, but a new weakness is formed. **26.b4 axb3 27.Rcxb3 Rxb3 28.Rxb3**



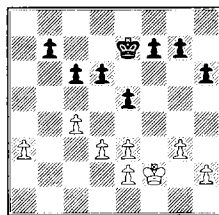
The rook ending is better for Black, who can use direct and

indirect threats against the a-pawn. White must be careful not to walk into a lost king and pawn endgame. Still, with so few open lines it must be possible to draw this. After a long morning game I was getting a bit tired. **28...Re7 29.Rb4 Kd8 30.Ra4 Re8**



Black invites an exchange of rooks. I had to spend a lot of time calculating the king and pawn endgame. I was pretty sure it was hopeless, but wanted to look for tricks. **31.Kf2**

The alternative is 31.Ra8+ Kd7 32.Rxe8 Kxe8 33.Kf2 Ke7



White cannot hold this endgame. **A)** 34.Kf3 Ke6 35.h3 d5 36.c5 (36.cxd5+ Kxd5 is a win for Black who will infiltrate the queenside. The pawn at e5 can be defended by ...f6 if necessary.) 36...e4+! If the king advances, then Black can play ...f5 and may even find a checkmate. 37.dxe4 (37.Kf4 f5 38.h4 g6 forces 39.g4 fxg4 40.Kxg4 Ke5 41.d4+ Ke6 and the king calmly strolls to a8, then inches forward and grabs the a-pawn. The White king must remain on the kingside.) 37...Ke5!!; **B)** 34.e4 34...g6 35.g4 b6 36.Kf3 Ke6 37.h4 Kf6 38.Ke3 g5 39.h5 Ke6 was a line I was worried about. Black has a tremendous resource in the availability of a tempo-wasting ...f6, which could prove critical. Now that I have had a chance to look at the position, I think my instinct was incorrect. 40.Kd2! **B1)** 40...Kd7 41.Kc3 Kc7 42.e3 Kb7 43.d4! Ka6 44.Kb4 c5+ 45.Kc3 Ka5 46.dxc5! (46.Kb3 exd4 47.exd4 cxd4 48.Kc2 Ka4 49.Kd3 Kxa3 50.Kxd4 Kb3 51.Kd5 Kc3 52.Kxd6 Kxc4 and

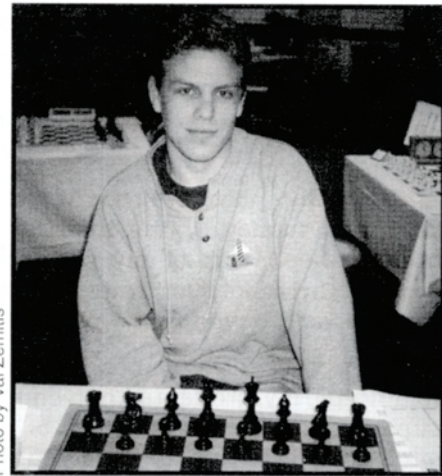
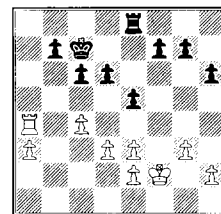


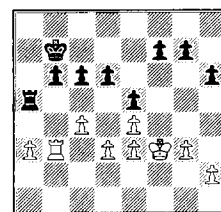
Photo by Val Zemlitis

NM Alan Stein

Black wins.) 46...dxc5 47.Kb3! Black must now retreat or play the "trump card". 47...f6 48.Ka2 Ka4 49.Kb2 Ka5 50.Kb3! **B1a)** 50...Ka6 51.Ka4 Ka7 (51...b5+ 52.cxb5+ Kb6 53.Kb3 Kxb5 54.a4+ Ka5 55.Kc4 leads to the next note.) 52.Kb5 Kb7 53.a4 is an easy win.; **B1b)** 50...b5 51.cxb5 Kxb5 52.a4+ (52.Kc3 Ka4 53.Kc4 Kxa3 54.Kxc5 transposes.) 52...Ka5 53.Kc4 Kxa4 54.Kxc5 Kb3 55.Kd5 Kc3 56.Ke6 Kd3 57.Kxf6 Kxe4 58.Kg6 e4 61.h6 e3 62.h7 e2 63.h8Q e1Q 64.Qf6+ Kxg4 65.Qxg5+ saves the half point.; **B2)** 40...d5? 41.exd5+ cxd5 42.e4! Otherwise Black can sooner or later get in ...f5. 42...dxc4 43.dxc4 Kd6 44.Kc2 Kc5 45.Kc3 draws. **31...Kc7**

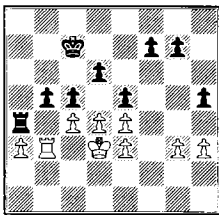


Black brings the king to the queenside so that if the rooks come off, the king can quickly reach a3. **32.Kf3 Kb8 33.e4 b6 34.Rb4 Kb7 35.e3 Ra8 36.Rb3 Ra5**

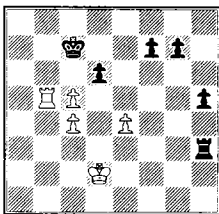


I could not find a constructive plan on the kingside, so I decided

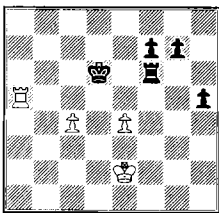
to bring my king to the center, so that it could go to either flank as needed. **37.Ke2 Ra8** Now I have to watch out for ...Rf8 and a break with ...f5. **38.d4** A weakening of the pawn structure, but I wanted more space and needed d3. **38...h5 39.h3 Ra4 40.Kd3 Kc7 41.Rc3 Ra8 42.Ke2 c5 43.Kd3** 43.d5 Ra4 44.Kd3 g6 45.Kd2 b5! 46.cxb5 Kb6 47.Kd3 Kxb5 48.Rb3+ Ka6 leaves White with no alternative but to go for broke. 49.Rb8 Rxa3+ 50.Ke2 Ka5 51.Rd8 Kb4 52.Rxd6 Ra2+ 53.Kd1 Kc3! 54.Rc6 c4 55.d6 Kd3 56.Kc1 (56.Ke1 Kxe3) 56...Rc2+ 57.Kb1 Rd2 58.d7 Kxe3 59.Rxc4 Rxd7 wins for Black. **43...Ra4 44.Rb3 b5!**



The break is perfectly timed. The threat of ...bxc4+ forces the play. **45.Rxb5** 45.cxb5?? c4+ **45...Rxa3+ 46.Kd2 exd4 47.exd4 Rxd3 48.dxc5 Rxb3**

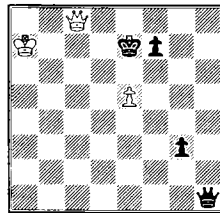


Well, there are two connected passed pawns, and all I can do is seek counterplay. **49.Ra5 Kc6 50.Ra7 Rf3** 50...Kxc5 51.Rxf7 g6 52.Rf6 Rg3 would have been much simpler. **51.cxd6 Kxd6 52.Ke2 Rf6 53.Ra5**



I had relied on the tactical threats at e5 and h5, but Black can defend. **53...Re6 54.Ke3 g6 55.Kd4 Re8 56.Ra7 Ke6 57.Ra6+ Ke7 58.e5 Rd8+**

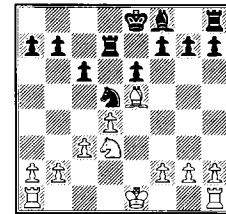
59.Ke4 h4 60.c5 60.Ra7+ Rd7 61.Rxd7+ Kxd7 62.Kf4 h3 63.Kg3 h2 64.Kxh2 Ke6 is simple enough for Black. **60...Rd1 61.c6 h3 62.Ra2 Rc1 63.Rh2 Rc4+ 64.Kd5 Rh4 65.Kc5 g5 66.Kb6 g4 67.c7 Rh8 68.Kb7 Rg8 69.Ra2 69.c8Q Rxc8 70.Kxc8 Ke6 71.Kc7 Kxe5** Black's three pawns clobber the rook. **69...g3 70.Ra8 Rxa8 71.Kxa8 h2 72.c8Q h1Q+ 73.Ka7**



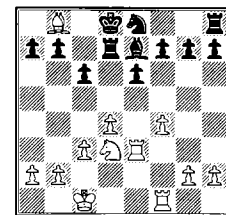
If White could hold on to the e-pawn, there are some drawing chances. When I calculated the horse race, I was just too tired to go past this point. **73...Qa1+ 74.Kb6 Qb2+ 75.Ka6 Qxe5 76.Qb7+ Kf6 77.Qf3+ Kg5 0-1**

Battsetseg - Schiller, B10 Western States Open (6), 26.10.1997

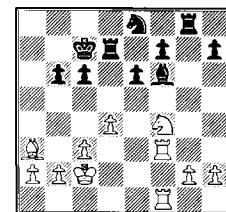
My opponent in the final round is a woman IM and I am suffering the Weikel curse of having 4 Black's out of 6 games, including the last two rounds! His perverse pairing system is about the only bad thing one can find at his tournaments, but it is an awful burden. Exhausted after many long games at two games per day, I managed to blow away young Raymond Kaufman in the morning round with an exotic line in the Caro-Kann, which I repeated, out of lack of energy, in the final round. My opponent made no real effort to secure an advantage, but by coming up with intriguing and unusual strategies she managed to reach an endgame where the control of e5 is a powerful weapon. In the diagram below, we have just exchanged queens and I have recaptured with the knight from f6, probably the worst choice.



16.0-0-0 Nf6 17.Rhe1 Bd6 18.f4!? Kd8 19.Re3 Ne8? 19...Ng4 20.Rg3! Nxe5 (20...Nxb2 21.Rh1) 21.fxe5 Bf8 22.Rf1 Ke8 may have been defensible. **20.Rf1 Be7?** 20...Nf6! 21.Rg3 Bf8 22.f5 exf5 23.Rxf5 Ne8 was ugly, but perhaps playable, since 24.Bb8 is met by 24...Bd6! 25.Bxd6 Nxd6 . **21.Bb8!**



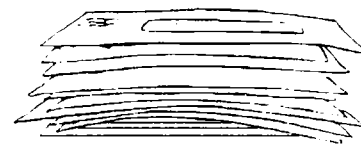
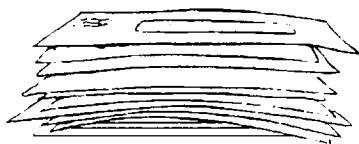
Oops! There goes a pawn. I can't afford to weaken b6 by advancing the a-pawn, and Ne5 is a terrible threat. Until this point I have been playing brain-dead chess, not blundering but not making very good moves. Now I wake up. The danger signals booming in my head put me into my "resourceful" mode, where I often play my strongest chess in bad positions. **21...g5!** Only active defense can get some counterplay for the pawn. **22.Bxa7** 22.fgx5 Bgx5 23.Bf4 Bxf4 24.Rxf4 is only a little better for White. 24...Re7 25.g4 h5 is unclear. **22...gxf4 23.Ref3 Kc7 24.Bc5 Bf6! 25.Kc2 Rg8 26.Nxf4 b6 27.Ba3**



White is up a pawn, but the bishop at a3 is out of play. **27...e5! 28.dxe5 Bxe5 29.g3 f6** The plan is to let White play Nd3xe5 and gain a passed pawn as a source of counterplay. **30.b3 Nd6 31.Bxd6+**

Continued on page 27

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Sir:

In the 1950's and '60's I was a very active chess player. I used to play at least 40 hour per week, I was the captain of our strong college chess team and played in quite a few tournaments. I was not a particularly strong player, but I sure spent a lot of my youth enjoying the game.

I am now in my fifties, and my interest in chess has subsided. However, I do want to claim my rightful place in chess history as the inventor and first commercial vendor of the digital chess clock.

In 1966 I retired from chess and committed my time to a professional career. However, in 1973 I was invited by a neighbor to play in a local tournament in the San Diego (California) area. At that tournament I noticed that every one of the players was still using a mechanical chess clock - of a design patented in about the year 1900. Since I was at the time involved in electronics, I decided to investigate the possibility of commercializing a digital version of this device. More - I decided to concurrently dramatically advance the method of time keeping in chess.

For the next eight years I focused nearly all my "free" time on this endeavor. In 1975 (together with my electrical engineer Jeff Ponsor - who has passed away about ten years ago) I filed for and received the first patent (Number 4.062,180) on a fully operational (microprocessor based) digital chess clock. An additional patent for a more advanced version with many additional features was awarded in 1979.

My chess clock concept resulted from years of conceptualization and testing and thousands of hours of work. I even published my MBA thesis on this subject - "Demand Analysis for a New Product (Digital Chess Clock)", at San Diego State University, 1978. For this thesis I interviewed and surveyed thousands of chess players from all over the world, and every chess association and club worldwide.

I actually designed and built two versions of the clock - the Micromate-80 (based on the original patent), and the Micromate-180, which incorporated the latest innovations. Only one unit of the Micromate-80 was ever built. This unit was extensively tested in tournament play for over a year and resulted in the development and commercialization of the Micromate-180. The Micromate-180 was truly revolutionary and clearly ahead of its time. It featured a rich repertoire of options for timing the game of chess, including for example, the ability to set a fixed time per move, then add the unused time for each move to the player's total time remaining. This feature, which I called "Accumu-

lation", became the linchpin of Bobby Fischer's chess clock that was patented almost ten years later.

Some of the innovations claimed for and incorporated in the Micromate were:

- * Show time remaining - the down counting clock showed the time remaining to each player. Interestingly, Ed Edmondson who headed the USCF at the time, strongly objected to this concept on historic grounds. So much so that for more than a year he refused to allow me to advertise the Micromate in Chess Life. Eventually he relented, and the Micromate was promoted with full-page adverts. In 1980 I donated one of the Micromate-180 units and a copy of my thesis to the USCF's museum.

- * Being extremely accurate, the Micromate depicted time to the nearest second. The merit of this capability was first demonstrated at the Lone Pine tournament in 1979, where a grandmaster game was decide with just about one second left on the clock! This Lone Pine tournament was the first international event in which the Micromate-180 was used to time an officially sanctioned game (Formanek vs. Chandler), and was used by the contemporary challenger, Viktor Korchnoi (photos available).

- * The clock was fully programmable by the user. A large variety of game types and time permutations were possible.

- * Time lost to an illegal move was recoverable, even to several moves back.

More comprehensive information, including a user manual, is available.

In 1981, after selling about 200 units and when it became clear that the Micromate-180 would never be a commercial success (at about \$200/unit), I pulled the product off the market. Reality confirmed my thesis' conclusions and I could no longer afford to support the substantial cost of this project.

My current interest is simply to preserve my place in chess history as the inventor and first commercial producer of the digital chess clock and of the many innovative features that I am sure in time will become commonplace.

Sincerely,

Joseph Meshi
Newport Beach, California

Editor: An interesting piece of history. If any of our readers owned (or still has) a Micromate 180 I'd be interested in their comments on this early digital clock.

To The Editor,

I wanted to comment on one aspect of "The Editor's Report" as follows:

"Bay area organizers should check with private schools, union halls, junior colleges and recreation departments in an effort to locate affordable playing space."

HA! I have! First, lets start with the two million dollars of liability insurance that all of those areas require. I was able to get some insurance for the 1998 CalChess Scholastics for \$200 because the Santa Clara Convention Center has a special in-house price. Generally, you are looking at about \$1000 for a weekend. Second, Schools are outrageous in the cost of facilities. The Univ. of the Pacific wanted us badly—the best cost for the weekend was \$10,000. My college, Ohlone Junior College, I can rent for \$4,000 for a weekend. No special price deals—if we had a chess club the cost would be greatly reduced—this may be the next step—but, they do not have the requisite tables and chairs. The Fremont Recreation Department charges \$75 an hour for its larger facilities. Steve Seegmiller was able to get co-sponsorship from the Delta J.C. in Stockton because of a close friend at Rotary, but Steve moved to LA. Any other cheap ideas—I'll be happy to send you around the Bay Area. Oh, the hotels are a minimum of \$3600 for the 10,000 sq ft we need for our State Scholastics and that is if we make the room nights. They, however, do not require 2 million dollars in insurance, nor do we generally have to rent tables and chairs. Note the "generally"—The Embassy Suites ran out of tables and chairs and an extra 160 chairs plus a few tables cost \$700—hard to believe—and that was their cost. They showed us the bill from the rental facility.

I doubt most people have any idea how expensive it is to hold a large tournament. My quads which drew 107 and 102 players was reasonable because I was able to hold them as a school organization and they only cost me \$22 an hour for a custodian. But, none of the schools have a facility large enough to hold 600 players. An adult tournament with 100 players would run about \$1000 a day in the same school.

Alan Kirshner

Dear CCJ:

I just received a flyer for the CalChess Winter Festival on Martin Luther King weekend. The fee for advanced entries was an astounding \$69. I have no objection to any enterprising individual organizing a tournament with large entry fees and large prize funds. After all, the players can display their approval or disapproval by simply playing or not playing.

However, the event in question is one of only two tournaments sanctioned by the official state organization. It determines the state champion and is directed by Richard Koepcke in his capacity as CalChess presi-

dent. I view the most important mission of CalChess to be the promotion of accessible events for the chess community. The number of participating players should be maximized. In addition, new players should be encouraged to enter. Instead, they are overwhelmed by the expense. (Yes, I know that there is a first-time-USCF-member 'deal' for a mere \$85.)

I would like to see all concerned CalChess members let our officers and board members know that they would prefer to see more affordable events that will result in more people playing chess. It's up to our state organization to lead the way.

Sincerely,
Donald Wolitzer
Livermore

Editor: Don's points are well taken as to the high expense of tournament chess to new players. However, as Alan Kirshner's letter points out the cost to any organizer of any reasonable room space in the Bay Area is sky high. Short of a major economic depression, I don't have any easy answer.

To The Editor

The "Test Your Tactics" page 29, Vol 11, Number 3 has a serious flaw in problem number 8. The proposed solution you give of 1. Rg4! should actually be shown as 1. Rg4?? since this loses for Black! The winning White response is 2. Kh1 and Black's attack is completely stalled. The desperation try of 2. Rg3? fails to the simple 3. fxxg3 Qxxg3, 4. Bg1 etc. Meanwhile White is threatening the pawns at b7 and d5 as well as Qe8+ picking up the f7 pawn. After the proposed move of 1. Rg4? it is also hard to see how Black can disentangle his heavy pieces quickly enough to avoid the loss of additional pawns leaving White with a winning ending.

From the diagrammed position, it is interesting to ask if Black has ANY move to save a draw! Perhaps the best try is 1. Qe7! Then, if 2. Qxd5 Rxe3!! 3. fxe3 Qxe3+ 4. Kh1 Qg3 5. Kg1 Qe3+, etc. we have a draw by repetition. However, White may still try for a swindle win after 3. Qxe3+ by 4. Rf2!? Then if Black falls for the sucker move of 4. Bg3??, 5. Qxf7+ Kh7 6. Qf3 Bxf7+ 7. Qxf7 and White has good winning chances due to the passed d pawn. Black does not have to play 4. ... Bg3?? since the draw is still there by 4. Qe1+ 5. Rf1 Qe3+ etc. This is lot's of interesting tactics, but not what was intended!

Gene Levin

Editor: You're absolutely right that there is a hole a mile wide in the solution. Rats! It's a position from one of my own games — Allan Fjfield

**THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL
1997 LERA SUNNYVALE CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS
AUGUST 16 & 17, 1997**

Class	Place	Player	Rating	City	Prize	Score
Open	1st	Walter Browne	2630	Berkeley	\$500	4-0
	2nd	Alan Stein	2365	Menlo Park	\$300	3 1/2-1/2
Expert	1-2	Tim Kokesh	2074	San Jose	\$320	3 1/2-1/2
		Anthony Rozenvasse	2048	Cupertino	\$320	3 1/2-1/2
A	1st	Antonio Angel	1940	Miami Beach	\$350	4-0
	2-3	David Wait	1980	Walnut Creek	\$175	3 1/2-1/2
		Ruben Catig	1944	San Francisco	\$175	3 1/2-1/2
B	1-2	Bill Conrad	1702	El Cerrito	\$240	3 1/2-1/2
		Andrew Handler	1712	Orinda	\$240	3 1/2-1/2
C	1st	Jim Stapleton	1555	Los Altos	\$200	4-1
	2-5	German Valdimir	1524	San Francisco	\$50	3-1
		John Goudy	1504	Nevada City	\$50	3-1
		Roy McCollough	1380	Fairfield	\$50	3-1
		Cesar Cuellar	1595	Modesto	\$50	3-1
D	1-3	Arron Wynn	1205	Redwood City	\$33	3-1
		Peter Lwin	1347	San Jose	\$33	3-
		Michael Lane	1270	San Jose	\$33	3-1
E	1-2	Bill Dixon	1031	Sunnyvale	\$50	4-0
		Ricky Grijalva	1120	Benicia	\$50	4-0
F	1-4	Alan Jensen	875	Fairfield	\$25	3-1
		Ankit Gupta	870	Los Altos	\$25	3-1
		Alberto Cisneros	970	Cupertino	\$25	3-1
		Wolfgang Behm	958	Santa Clara	\$25	3-1
UNR	1	Lowell Liwat		San Ramon	\$100	3-1

Bay Area chessplayers continue to be deeply indebted to LERA organizer Jim Hurt. As advertised on the tournament flyer, the prize fund was to be based on 160 paid players. With less than 140 paid players, organizer Jim Hurt donated enough money from his own retirement savings account to permit the LERA Chess Club to pay out the full \$4000.00 in cash prizes as advertised on their flyer. (Class F received \$100.00 and Brilliancy Prizes received \$100.00). The 141 total players were ably directed by Jim Hurt and Ted Yudacufski. The best games of LERA will appear in the next issue of CCJ.

- - - - Allan Fifield - - - -

The Crisis in the USCF

HOW OMOV LOST

A Report From The 1997 Delegates Meeting

by Hal Terrie

A number of the CompuServe Chess Forum members are strong and articulate advocates of One Member One Vote. It was a week long debate in this Forum with some of these people that resulted in my conversion to the OMOV cause about two years ago. For that reason I decided that I would document as fully as I could the decision process at the U.S. Open this year. To that end I made detailed notes of all the various workshops and meetings I attended. What follows is a reconstruction of events based on those notes. Two complete sets of new Bylaws were published in the Advance Agenda for the Delegates; one of them was a genuine OMOV system, sponsored by six members of the Policy Board. Even if the OMOV proposal lost, that it appeared on the agenda at all was an historic achievement. I expected a lively debate; with most of the Policy Board behind it, I thought OMOV had a real chance. What actually happened was very different. As the saying goes, OMOV died not with a bang but with a whimper. Though I didn't realize it at the time, by the time the Delegates Meeting began the issue was already decided. With a few adroit maneuvers at the meeting, debate on the issue was bypassed altogether.

THE FIRST DAYS

I arrived in Orlando on Saturday 8/2. I expected that the critical moment for the two governance proposals would come on Friday, at the Blue Ribbon Panel and Bylaws workshops. It would be there that most of the actual debate would take place. Straw polls would be taken and the votes reported to the Delegates when their meeting convened the next day. In fact, behind the scenes maneuvering began almost at once.

Within the first couple of days

of the tournament, I came upon Eric Schiller sitting with a small group of Delegates. He was arguing forcefully against OMOV. His line was that he was in favor of OMOV in principle but that the Policy Board proposal had no "safeguards." He thought that their system would allow a wealthy candidate an unfair advantage - the ability to contact the entire membership directly with an expensive mass mailing. In particular, he thought the PB proposal was practically a free pass to the USCF Presidency for Bill Goichberg, a prospect he viewed with loathing.

At first I thought this discussion was just a random occurrence. After all, Schiller was there to explain next year's Hawaii U.S. Open to the players at this year's tournament. He spoke to many groups of players about the details and had an elaborate travel cost comparison sheet and other materials to hand out. Yet on at least two subsequent occasions I found him with groups of Delegates, arguing against OMOV. If there were other persons conducting lobbying sessions I did not see them; Schiller conducted his openly in the hallways but perhaps others were more discreet.

Meanwhile, word filtered down that there would be special procedures at the Delegates Meeting to handle debate on the proposals. USCF President Schultz had met with members of the Blue Ribbon Panel (Steve Doyle and Woody Harris) and the USCF Parliamentarian (Mike Nolan). It had been agreed that neither proposal could be passed without many amendments being considered. If normal procedure was followed, there would be amendments, then amendments to the amendments, substitutes for the amendments etc. etc., all accompanied by lengthy debate. The Delegates might not finish the agenda in the allotted



NM Hal Terrie

two days. So Nolan suggested that the Delegates reconvene as a Committee of the Whole, then proceed to narrow the field of amendments with a series of straw polls on the various options. This procedure would be explained at the beginning of the Delegates Meeting and voted on right after Committee reports were completed. It seemed logical enough.

THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL WORKSHOP

Friday Aug. 8 finally arrived and the Blue Ribbon Panel workshop convened at 10 AM. Three members of the panel were there to explain their proposal: Woody Harris of VA, Steve Doyle of NJ and Helen Warren of IL. Harris took the lead role. He led the assembled Delegates through the details, explaining that the Panel had been much influenced by their study of governance systems of other non-profit groups. (By the way, most of those in attendance were indeed Delegates, despite the fact that the workshops are open to anyone. Year after year I tell everyone who will listen that they can really influence USCF policy if they attend the workshops, and year after year no one but Delegates attend.)

Helen Warren spoke next; she had done much of the research on academic writing about governance systems and gave her conclusions from that reading. Finally, Steve Doyle spoke. While the other

two had only explained, Doyle took the role of advocate/cheerleader. He strongly urged the acceptance of the Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) proposal. The only one of the three to mention OMOV directly, he argued that if the USCF membership really wanted it, they would use the BRP system to elect Delegates who would put it on the agenda and pass it within a couple of years.

Then the meeting was opened for discussion. The first question was from Harold Winston of IL: why did the BRP proposal reduce the number of Policy Board electors from 460 to about 114 (90 Delegates plus the Delegates at Large)? At first the BRP members avoided answering the question but as more and more Delegates rose to oppose reducing the number of voters (a partial list: Fan Adams, Jim Eade, Roger Gotschall, Bob Smith, Gary Prince) Steve Doyle let his true colors show. He said, among other things, that 90 is the number that actually shows up at the U.S. Open, that these people are the "opinion leaders" and are less subject to manipulation because they are strong willed and independently minded. It was not exactly the high point of the meeting. Fortunately the consensus was for more voters; the Delegates eventually adopted a system with about 500 voters.

A major turning point for OMOV came early in the meeting when John McCrary of South Carolina rose to speak. McCrary is a widely respected Delegate because of his frequent brokering of compromises. He has short circuited many a heated debate with his carefully crafted substitute motions. My personal view is that his relentless pursuit of the middle ground sometimes leaves principle trampled in the dust but there are not many who share that view. McCrary spoke in favor of the BRP proposal. He said that it was an evolutionary approach to governance reform. He called OMOV "a total wild change ... a big gamble." If we adopt OMOV and it flops, he said, there is no going back. Better to try a partial change and see how it goes.

After that, there was little further discussion of OMOV. None of the Policy Board members in attendance chose to speak on the subject of OMOV. I assumed that they were waiting to make their pitch at the Bylaws workshop. The remainder of the meeting focused on details of the BRP proposal.

THE BYLAWS WORKSHOP

The Bylaws workshop convened at 3 PM on Friday Aug. 8. Harold Winston was the Committee Chairman and conducted the meeting. Winston believes strongly in taking straw votes on the various issues (which can subsequently be reported at the Delegates meeting), so he had prepared an easel with a long list of items to be voted on. OMOV was #10 on the list.

When One Man One Vote finally came up, Bill Goichberg rose to make the case for the Policy Board proposal. He argued that it would increase participation in USCF affairs by USCF members and result in the creation more organizers of tournaments and other chess events in the process. That it would also be more democratic seemed not to be an important issue for him. His delivery was very low key and unenthusiastic. Goichberg was obviously for OMOV but was not a very eloquent advocate. Despite the fact that he frequently referred to notes on a yellow pad, his remarks seemed poorly organized and not well prepared. Though nearly the entire Policy Board was in attendance, none of the others chose to speak on the subject of their OMOV proposal.

The next speaker was former USCF President Tim Redman, who argued against OMOV. Good decisions are based on good information, he said. The many letters and phone calls which Delegates receive during a campaign provide much better information than a small election insert in Chess Life. Redman was followed by John McCrary, who repeated his argument that the BRP proposal was better as a compromise first try.

Then it was the turn of Jerry Hanken of CA, who served three terms on the Policy Board. Hanken delivered a thundering denunciation of the BRP proposal. It was a sham and a delusion, he said, not real reform at all. As long as there is a relatively small number of voters, they will be subject to manipulation by the "old boy" network of opinion makers. The only way to achieve real change was to adopt OMOV, he concluded, and he strongly urged the passage of the Policy Board's OMOV proposal.

Shortly after that, the workshop voted. The vote was 13 in favor of OMOV, 25 opposed and 6 abstentions. The rest of the workshop dealt with other issues. It was now clear that OMOV would lose but I still hoped for further debate at the Delegates Meeting.

THE DELEGATES MEETING

The Delegates Meeting convened at 9 AM on Saturday August 9th. The special procedures for dealing with the two governance proposals were explained: the vote on them would take place when the Blue Ribbon Panel report came up during Committee reports. Reports from other Committees and the USCF Officers consumed the entire morning. The meeting recessed for lunch, supposedly until 2 PM, but the awards banquet then ran very late and it was not until 3 PM that the Delegates reconvened. The vote to reconvene as a Committee of the Whole then passed without opposition, and control of the meeting was passed to Woody Harris, who was representing the BRP.

Harris immediately began the straw polls. The first one was for "change" vs. "no change." Change won by an overwhelming margin - there were only 14 votes out of nearly 100 for no change. The next vote was to be on the BRP proposal vs. the OMOV proposal. As he seemed to be preparing to take the vote immediately, I raised a point of information. I said to Harris that it seemed that the first vote had whisked by with very little discussion and now it looked like

A Reply to Hal Terrie

by
Eric Schiller

there would be no debate on this important question. Was there going to be time for debate on the issues, I asked? Yes, he said, but later. These votes were just to get a general idea of where the Delegates stood on the issues, so that time might be conserved later. I had to settle for that but it turned out that "later" never came. The vote proceeded. It was 61 for the BRP proposal, 33 for OMOV.

The discussion then turned to the details of the BRP proposal. One detail after another was voted on. Suddenly there was debate. Whenever it seemed that opinion on an issue was closely divided, long lines of speakers formed for and against, and were recognized one by one. It became clear that this *was* the real time for debate but that the 2-1 margin against OMOV had eliminated it as a candidate for discussion. 2-1 was a big margin but not so big that it would be impossible to change a few minds with an open airing of views. It is true that as much time as possible had to be saved but I thought that such an important issue should have received at least a few minutes of discussion. I truly do not know if this was a deliberate plan by Woody Harris or just a snap decision based on the lopsided vote.

I will not go into all the details of the final Bylaws document here. The Delegates worked on it until nearly 6:30 PM, then ended the Committee of the Whole procedure and recessed for the day. The BRP and the Bylaws Committee were to incorporate all the voted changes into the BRP Bylaws and print up a complete document for the Delegates to see the next morning. We were told the next day that they worked on it until nearly 3 AM.

THE FINAL CURTAIN

The Delegates Meeting reconvened at 9 AM Sunday morning, August 10. The new Bylaws document was handed out and the implementation procedures were explained. Because the new Bylaws document had been prepared in haste, it had a number of typos and other flaws. So, the Delegates would vote to adopt it but delay the implemen-

tation for a year until they could vote on a final, cleaned up version in August 1998. Meanwhile, a 1998 election for all seven PB members would take place under the old system, with the top four vote getters serving four year terms and the other three serving two year terms.

The new Bylaws would then take effect on Sept. 10, 1998, with the first state level OMOV election of Delegates being that same year. The first election of PB members under the new Bylaws would thus not be until 2000 (for the three spots of those serving two year terms).

The formal vote was then taken by the Delegates. It was an anticlimax. The BRP Bylaws passed overwhelmingly. After that, the meeting moved on to other business. A revised Code of Ethics was passed, and a Code of Conduct for the Policy Board. In order to finish the agenda, a large block of motions held over from the previous year was simply tabled, along with all motions whose sponsors were not present at the meeting.

IMPLICATIONS

So, what does all this mean for supporters of OMOV? In practical terms, it means that OMOV is dead for at least the next five years or so. The Delegates are unlikely to consider any further change before this new system has been tried. We won't see PB members elected under the new system until 2000, and then they will want to see how the new PB members work out for a couple of years... So, for the foreseeable future the only shot may be to take up Steve Doyle's challenge to try to elect Delegates who favor OMOV. I don't see any other way it can happen now.

One thing I will definitely recommend: all USCF members, no matter how discouraged by the failure of OMOV, should VOTE in their state level elections for Delegates, even if they don't like any of the candidates. The larger the voter turnout, the better the case for real OMOV. And who knows, maybe we really *can* elect enough OMOV supporting Delegates.

Hal Terrie presents his discussion from the point of view of a supporter of OMOV (One Man One Vote), and I'd like to respond as an opponent of OMOV and a supporter of SOMOV (State One Man One Vote), a form of which was passed at the Open. As Hal points out, I argued against OMOV on the grounds that it would make money a major determining factor in elections, something that has not been the case in the past.

With the old system, one only had to contact a few hundred people, making mailings and phone calls. This was an affordable method of promoting a candidate. With OMOV, reaching the voters would cost over \$15,000 per mailing, even on a conservative estimate. Therefore only rich people could mount a full campaign for the policy board. Although many voters are joining the Internet, the percentage is still too small to be significant at present, so there is no alternative to expensive mailings. Who could afford such a luxury? Only those who are independently wealthy or who have such vested interests at stake that they would be willing to spend thousands of dollars to run for the PB. While I do not, as Terrie states, view the prospect of Bill Goichberg as president "with loathing", I do fear the election of any major organizer who makes a living from chess. We have seen many changes in chess which have been designed for the benefit of organizers, including ludicrous re-entry and purchased byes, single events played at different time controls depending on schedule, and a variety of regulations designed to assist organizers too cheap to hire enough trained staff. With OMOV, we would be overwhelmed by such organizers on the PB.

Promoting the 1998 US Open and Hawaii International Games Festival was my primary purpose in visiting Orlando. A commitment to the

Mind Sports Olympiad in London, where I was arbiter of the World Computer Programming contest, kept me from playing. So I had plenty of time to present my views on OMOV, and I did so exclusively in public. To each OMOV supporter I met I raised a simple question: What safeguards can you offer to prevent the role of money from becoming decisive in an election. Answers were not forthcoming. Even leading OMOV advocates such as Sylvester Robes admitted that my predictions could well be true. Nor did Mr. Terrie offer any solutions.

I had raised this issue for months on the Internet, without ever seeing any suggestion which would address this problem, which I felt made OMOV anti-democratic.

It is clear to me that if we have a system in which wealthy persons and major organizers had a built-in advantage, this would be even worse than what we have now. On the Internet I argued for SOMOV, an approach where each USCF member receives a vote, within a state, and elects representatives who make major decisions including electing the board. OMOV-ers whined that this was indirect election and not sufficiently democratic, but it is the way our country works, a system that has served us pretty well. We do not directly elect the President, but use the Electoral College. Our nation's policy is determined by a combination of the executive branch (=PB) and congress (=delegates). I feel that a similar system would provide the checks and balances we need.

The important goal, in the short term, is to rid the USCF of the oligarchies which control it by dominating state chess associations, which are generally small groups which have a mere fraction of the USCF membership of the state. These oligarchies presently appoint the voters. This wretched system had to go. SOMOV allows minority views to be represented in a state. A campaign can be effectively mounted at the grass-roots level. Most state associations cannot influence the majority of USCF members in the state. The little guy can win at the state level, as long as every USCF member, not just state association mem-

bers, has a vote.

More importantly, it is harder for political slates to dominate at the local level. Most of the USCF national elections have featured one group fighting another for all the marbles. Our elections have also been dirty and spiteful, because they are one-on-one. The new system will have the election of a PB followed by the PB organizing itself internally. We stand a better chance of getting the best people onto the board, because they will not be running against each other. That is another significant reform.

In the months leading up to the Orlando meeting I argued on rec.games.chess.politics that OMOV was dangerously flawed. No steps were taken to address the problems, and it went down to crashing defeat. The original BRP proposal was just as bad, maybe even worse. I was determined to vote against both proposals unless they were fixed. BRP, without any intervention on my part (I didn't even attend the workshop) adopted a form of what I had been advocating on the Internet, and I think that the Internet community, a public and democratic entity, had a great effect in encouraging the reform of the BRP proposal, while the OMOV proponents kept their heads in the sand, refusing to acknowledge the dangers of their plan. So in the end, the BRP coughed up a plan that most of us considered an improvement on a status quo, and it was adopted.

The procedure by which the debate and vote took place seemed somewhat improvisational, but not unfair. After all, there had been plenty of time for discussion at the Open,

and in chess, as in Congress, only a negligible number of votes are changed as a result of debate on the floor. The overwhelming margin by which OMOV was rejected made it clear that additional arguments would have done nothing to change the decision.

SOMOV is a first step in the process of reforming the USCF. The implementation chosen by the delegates is too slow for my taste, and there are minor aspects I would prefer to see changed. There will be time enough for that later. We now have to give our new system a chance and see what it produces. Every USCF member now has as much of a vote as they do in our federal system. This is a form of democracy.

If the OMOV crowd want to pursue their plan, they can do so in the future. But I believe that the dangers of their plan are so clear, that they will need major revision to convince the membership to adopt it. With SOMOV, they now have their chance to lobby the USCF membership, who now have votes. I doubt they will succeed, because OMOV is not ready for prime time. It basically has an emotional and philosophical appeal, but anyone who considers the consequences realizes that the universal vote will be sham, because only those with lots of money can afford to run a successful campaign.

Let's see how SOMOV works. If it succeeds in giving the USCF member a sufficient say in policy, fine. If not, we will need to find something else. Giving the control of policy exclusively to the rich, powerful or famous is no way to go.

19th Livermore Open November 1-2, 1997

Open	1st	Emmanuel Perez (2412)	3.5	\$230
	2nd	James MacFarland (2223)	3.0	\$150
U2100	1st-3rd	Mark Brown (2067)	2.5	\$75
		Jimmy Plumb (2061)	2.5	\$75
		Walter Wood (1940)	2.5	\$75
		Todd McFarren (1735)	3.5	\$140
Reserve	1st-2nd	Roy McCullough (1439)	3.5	\$140
		Jeff Andersen (1638)	3.0	\$100
U1700	1st-2nd	Matthew Ho (1524)	3.0	\$100
		Alberto Cisneros (1103)	4.0	\$80
Booster	1st	Alberto Cisneros (1103)	4.0	\$80
	2nd	Garrett Chan (1028)	3.5	\$60

1998 Sacramento Chess Championship

January 31st and February 1st, 1998

PLACE: Samuel Jackman Middle School, 7925 Kentwall Drive, Sacramento. From Highway 99, take the Mack Road West exit about 1 mile and turn left on Center Park Drive (from I-5, take the Pocket Road East exit approximately 4 miles to Center Park Drive and turn right). Go about 1 mile and turn left on Bamford Drive. After a short distance, the school will be on the left. Turn left on Kentwall and use the large parking lot. Signs will direct you to the tournament hall.

EVENT: Two sections, Open (open to all players) and Reserve (under 1800). Ratings will be based on the 12/97 USCF Supplement. Five round swiss.

SCHEDULE: Registration: 1/31/98, 8:00 am - 9:00 am (Late entries see below)
Saturday: Round 1, 9:30 am; Round 2, 2:00 pm; Round 3, 6:30 pm; time controls, 40/90, G/30
Sunday: Round 4, 9:00 am; Round 5, 3:30 pm, time controls, 40/2, G/1

ENTRY FEE: Early Registration (mailed by 1/24/98): \$40 each section, \$45 after 1/25/98. Under age 19, \$20 (early registration and on-site). USCF membership required and available on-site (see entry form).

PRIZES: Prizes based on 38 entries in each section (Open and Reserve). The prize fund and/or number of prizes will be increased or decreased based on total entries in each section.

Open: 1st - \$325, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$125 Reserve: 1st - \$325, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$125
*Under 2100: 1st - \$225, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$100 *Under 1500: 1st - \$225, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$100

NOTES: Unrated players ineligible for asterisked prizes. Prize checks will be mailed out to winners on February 4, 1998. Sacramento Chess Champion trophies awarded to highest scoring resident of Sacramento County in the Open and Reserve sections. Tie-break information on-site.

OTHER: Registration closes at 9:00 am to allow rd 1 to start on time. One 1/2 point bye per player available. Late entries given 1/2 point bye or paired against late entry per TD discretion. 1/2 point byes must be requested before completion of the previous round. Rd 5 bye must be requested prior to the end of rd 3 and may not be changed. No smoking on school grounds. No computers. Wheelchair access. Nearest lodging: Motel 6, Highway 99 at Mack Road (2 sites), (916) 689-9141 or (916) 689-6555

MORE INFO: Contact organizer and TD John M^cCumiskey, e-mail: jmc-lmc@pacbell.net; phone: (916) 557-7053 (days), (916) 428-5532 (eves).

1998 SACRAMENTO CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ USCF Rating: _____

Address: _____ City & State: _____

Zip: _____ USCF ID Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Entry Fee (circle one): \$40 (by 1/24/98); \$45 (after 1/24/98); \$20 (Under 19) Date of Birth: _____

Circle the section being entered: OPEN RESERVE (under 1800)

USCF Dues: \$40, Adult; \$30, Senior; \$15, Youth (*Chess Life*); \$10, Scholastic (*School Mates*)

Mail to: Sacramento Chess Club, c/o 6700 50th Street, Sacramento, CA 95823 Amount of Check \$ _____

A Tale of 3 Petroffs

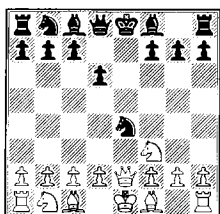
by Keith Mehl

Director of the 19th Livermore Open

At the 19th Livermore Open, the open section had an odd number of players, so organizer Don Wolitzer volunteered to play a game for the house against Richard Newey:

Don Wolitzer (1830)
Richard Newey (1708)
19th Livermore Open,
Rd 1, Nov. 1, 1997

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6
4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qe2



Capablanca's line. White gets an extra tempo while Black gets an early Queen trade.

5...Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Qxe2+
8.Bxe2 Be7 9.Nc3 Bd7

9...c6 is considered more normal here, though per Don, this is in the books as OK.

10.d4 Nc6 11.O-O-O O-O-O
12.h3

Not really needed here, but White has a move to spare. Black suffers from tangled pieces, especially the e7 Bishop.

12.h6 13.Bh4 Bf5

Suffering from the illusion that the coming attack on c2 really matters to White.

14.Rhe1 Nb4 15.Bc4

Of course! There is nothing on c2 except a hanging Bishop on e7...

15... Rd7 16.Bb3

... and White has his tempo to



Picture by Allan Fifield

Genial Don Wolitzer(left) started the Petroff madness in Livermore.

protect c2.

16... g5 17.Bg3 Bg6 18.a3

Amazingly a3 is an attacking move!

18...Nc6

And where else for Black to retreat the Knight? Perhaps ... Na6 which would hold out longer...

19.Ba4

This wins at least the exchange with threats to the Rook at d7, the Bishop at e7, and the Knight at c6.

R7d8 20.Bxc6 1-0

As luck would have it, I was given the task of playing for the house in round 3:

Keith Mehl (2131)
Christopher Black (1928)
19th Livermore Open
Rd 3, Nov. 2, 1997

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5

I used to play this line years ago, but quit in favor of 3. d4. But after Don's game the previous day...

3... d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qe2

... how could I resist?

Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Qxe2+
8.Bxe2 Be7 9.Nc3 c6

The main line as given in MCO. Black gets rid of the possible threat on c7 and prepares ... d5.

10.d4 Be6

Why not ... d5? White still has better development, but Black is solid.

11.O-O-O Nbd7

Again, why not ... d5?

12.Rhe1 h6?!

This is the last chance for ... d5. Now White's rooks plow through the center files while Black's are bookends...

13.d5!?

This actually may lose a pawn, but I couldn't see through to the end and didn't care. The center gets blasted open for White's rooks.

13....Bxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5
15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Rxd6 O-O-O
17.Bc4

The point of the previous sequence. Black loses at least a pawn

17... Nd5

During my analysis of 13. d5 and 17. Bc4, I expected ... Nf5 here with ... f6 to follow, but it turns out the Knight is trapped there (Rd2 and g4), which Chris pointed out to me after the game.

18.Bxd5 Kc7 19.Rxd7+ Rxd7 20.Bc4 Rhd8 21.Bd3 Rd5 22.Re7+ R8d7 23.Rxd7+ Kxd7 24.Bc4 Rf5 25. Bxf7 1-0 for if ... Rxf7 26. Ne5+.

Amazingly, the players the house met in rounds 1 and 3 met each other in the 4th round:

**Richard Newey (1708)
Christopher Black (1928)
19th Livermore Open,
Round 4, Nov. 2, 199**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qe2

What else?

Qe7 6.d3 Nf6 7.Bg5 Qxe2+ 8.Bxe2 Be7 9.Nc3 c6 10.O-O-O Bg4?

Why not ... d5? White still will have the lead in development, but Black will have his fair share of the center.

11.Rhe1 Nbd7 12.Nd4 Bxe2 13.Rxe2 Kd8

As the result of the Bishop sortie, Black is faced with the prospect of a pin on e2. However, the square e8 is just as vulnerable with the King on d8.

14.Rde1 h6 15.Bf4 Re8 16.Nf5 Bf8 17.Nxd6 Bxd6 18.Bxd6 Nf8 19.Rxe8+ Nxe8 20.Bxf8 1-0

More games from the tournament, with annotations by me:

**Richard Salazar (1842)
Roy Jackson (1717)
19th Livermore Reserve
Round 1, Nov. 1, 1997**

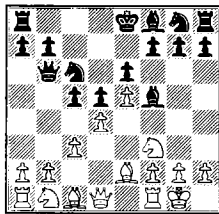
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.O-O?

White can't allow Black to break up his center, c3 is needed

6.... Nc6?

And for Black, why not ... cxd4?

7.c3 Qb6?



Black seems to think this is an Advance French, but the moves ... Bf5 and O-O make a huge difference in the position.

8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.b4

Because the f2 pawn is invulnerable, Black loses 2 full tempos and never recovers.

9....Bf8 10.Qa4 Bg4?

Never, ever, try to make combinations when you're this far behind in development. The hanging Bishop on e2 is no match for the hanging King on e8.

11.Be3 Qd8

Maybe...Qc7 with the idea of 12.... Nb8? It probably loses almost as fast, but may offer some hope.

12.b5 Nxe5?

Consistent but immediately fatal. The Knight is needed for plugging the holes at c6 or d7.

13.Nxe5 Bxe2 14.b6+ Ke7 15.Bc5+ 1-0 as Black can choose between mate by Qf4 or loss of the Queen.

**Sinan Kaptanoglu (1984)
Richard Newey (1708)
19th Livermore Open
Round 3, Nov. 2, 1997**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dc 3.Nf3 c5 4.Qa4+ Bd7 5.Qxc4 cd 6.Nxd4 Nc6 7.Bf4 Qb6 8.Nxc6 Bxc6 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.e4 g6 11.Be2 Qxb2?

Do you wonder why they say you should never take the Queen Knight's Pawn with your Queen? Here's why...

12.Rb1 Qa3 13.O-O Qa5 14.Nb5 Rc8 15.Rbc1 Bg7 16.e5

Here they come...

16... Nd7 17.e6 Ne5 18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.ef+ Kf8 20.Qe6 Bxh2+ 21.Kxh2 Rd8 22.Qe5 Kxf7 23.Bc4+ e6 24. Qxe6+ Kg7 25.Qe5+ Kh6 26.Rh1 1-0

The upset of the tournament:

**Jonas Mutuc (1242)
Stephen K. Sullivan (1741)
19th Livermore Reserve
Round 3, Nov. 2, 1997**

1.e4 g5 2.d4 Bg7 3.Be3 c5 4.c3 cxd4 5.Bxd4 Bxd4 6.cxd4 Nf6 7.Nc3 d6 8.Bb5+ Kf8 9.h3 Qa5 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Nge2 b6 12.Qa4 Qxa4 13.Nxa4 Nb4 14.Bb1 Ba6 15.Nac3 Rc8 16.a3 Nd3+ 17.Bxd3 Bxd3 18.f3 h5 19.Kd2 Ba6 20.Rac1 Kg7 21.Rc2 Bc4 22.Nc1 Be6 23.d5 Bd7 24.N1e2 Rc7 25.Rhc1 Rhc8 26.Nd4 g4 27.h4 e6 28.Ndb5 Bxb5 29.Nxb5 Rxc2+ 30.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 31.Kxc2 exd5 32.Nxd6 dxe4 33.Nxe4 Nd5 34.fxg4 hxg4 35.g3 f5 36.Nf2 Kg6 37.Kd2 Kh5 38.Nd3 f4 39.Nxf4 Nxf4 40.gxf4 Kxh4 41.Ke2 Kh3 42.f5 g3 43.f6 g2 44.f7 g1=Q 45.f8=Q Qg2+ 46.Qf2 Qg7 47.Qf3+ Kh4 48.Qh1+ Kg5 49.Qg2+ Kf6 50.Qxg7+ Kxg7 51.Kd3 Kf6 52.Kc4 a6 53.Kd5 1-0

And a few other interesting games:

**Anna Thongtap (904)
Wolfgang Behm (1010)
19th Livermore Booster
Round 4, Nov. 2, 1997**

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 e5 3.Nf3 e4 4.Ne5 d6 5.Nc4 Be6 6.Be2 Bc4 7.Bc4 d5 8.Bb3 Bd6 9.O-O Nbd7 10.c4 c6 11. c5 Bc7 12.Nc3 Qe7 13.Qd2 Bh2+ 14.Kh1 Bc7 15.Qe2 h5 16.f3 Ng4 17.fg hg+ 18.Kg1 Rh1+ 19.Kh1 Qh4+ 20. Kg1 Qh2+ 21. Kf2 Bg3++

continued on page 25

Beginner's Corner

by
Steve Cohen

In the previous article we noted that the f-pawn may become a target for the opponent until you have castled. Of course, that's not to say that castling will always lead to safety. In fact, while many of us are taught that king-side castling is the safest thing to do with a king in the opening, the very well-known combination of the bishop sacrifice at h7(2) actually takes advantage of the limited choices available to a castled king when there are insufficient defenders helping to safeguard his majesty after a king-side castling.

As with all combinations, a particular set of circumstances needs to be present in the position on the board before a player should begin to consider the possibility of this combinational motif; yet, once present, the position should be thoroughly studied for the exploitation of this well-known tactic. Looking at it from White's point of view (i.e., the attack will be directed against h7), the necessary ingredients, or circumstances present in the position are: the light-squared bishop having access to h7 along the b1-h7 diagonal, a knight having access to g5 (i.e., say, from f3) and the queen needs to have access to g4 and h5, usually along the d1-h5 diagonal. For example, in Diagram 1, say it's White's

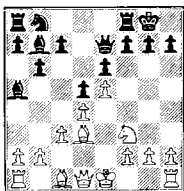


Diagram One

turn to move. If after 1. Bh7+ Black accepts the sacrifice, 1. ... Kh7:., White follows with 2. Ng5+. If Black's king retreats, 2. ... Kh8, then 3. Qh5+ Kg8~. 4. Qh7 mate. If, instead, Black's king retreats 2. ... Kg8, then 3. Qh5 (still) Rd1 (or anywhere else as 4. Qh7 would be mate), 4. Qh7+ Kf8, 5. Qh8 mate (since Black's queen is blocking

the escape at e7 — another circumstance to look for before doing this combination).

Work out Whites win for yourself if after 2. Ng5+ Black plays 2. ... Kg6. Suffice it to say that after 3. Qg4, threatening a discovered check (which is why the queen wants access to g4 and h5, depending on if the Black monarch retreats or comes forward), White will still come out on top. To be sure, after 2. Ng5+, Black could give up the queen to try and avoid the upcoming mate by playing 2. ... Qxg5. However, this only prolongs the agony.

Still this brings up an important point: What happens if, instead of a queen, Black has a bishop at e7 guarding g5 (i.e., interfering with White's knight's access to that square)? This is an important circumstance to consider as often Black's bishop is at e7. Never fear! Because, even if Black has a bishop threatening to capture the knight when it goes to g5, if White still has a rook at h1, so by first playing the h-pawn to h4 the combination is on again! This is so because, if the bishop captures the knight when the latter gives check at g5 then now White may recapture hxg with an uncovered check by the rook on the newly-opened h-file. This actually is more effective at helping the queen to deliver the mate at h8. In short, the rook substitutes for the services the knight otherwise performed and, if need be, the g-pawn pushes on to g6 to guard f7 if that square opens up (also replacing the lost knight's services in controlling the possible escape via f7).

But, enough of theory! Let's see a real game! From the winner of the "Best Game" prize from this year's U.P.S.C.L. Top Player Invitational, Round 2: Spencer Peck v. Jesse Albert: 1. e4 e6 (Known as the French defense this is one in which the pawn formation favors this combination), 2. d4 d5. 3. Nc3 c5?! (dubious because after 4. exd and 5. dxc, White has the advantage), 4. Nf3 (better is 4. exd) Nf6, 5. Bg5 Be7, 6. e5 Ne4 (because White has not played the opening as

forcefully as possible, this move, which is usually weak for Black is here quite potent as the knight on e4 can't be captured or else White will lose the d-pawn (e.g., 7. Ne4: dxe. followed, wherever the Nf3 moves, by 8. ... Qd4), 7. Be3 Nc6, 8. Bd3 Nc3: 9. bc O-O?. With the bishop on the



Diagram Two

diagonal heading to h7, the knight having access to g5, and the queen on the d1-h5 diagonal, all seems ripe for the sacrifice — except Black's bishop on e7 is guarding g5. Accordingly, White played 10. h4! which is like waving a big flag on which is printed "READY OR NOT, THE WELL-KNOWN BISHOP SACRIFICE AT H7 IS COMING UP NEXT MOVE! HERE'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO STOP IT!"

Rather than play 10. ... g6 or even ... h6, to stop the sacrificial offering, Black played 10. ... b6??

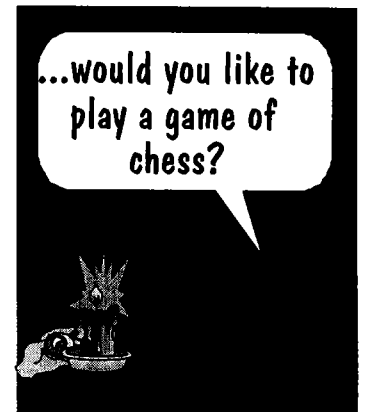
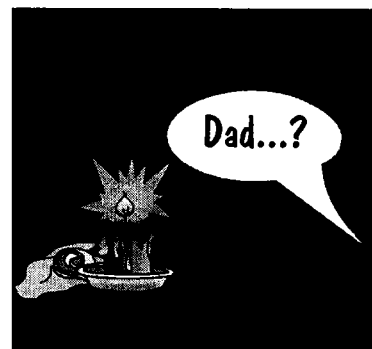
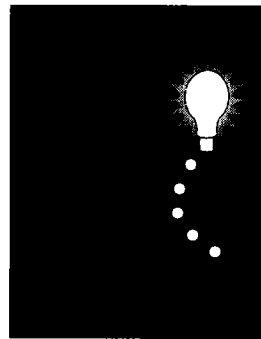
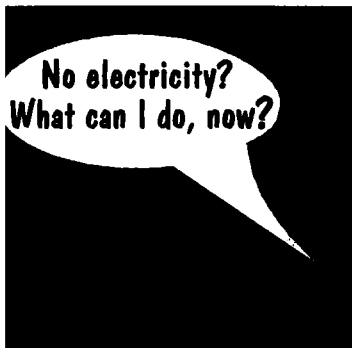
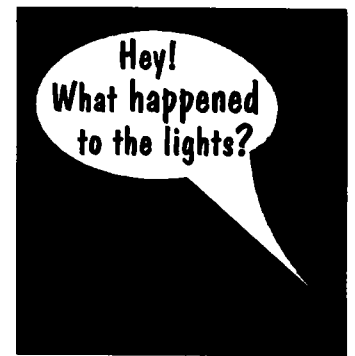
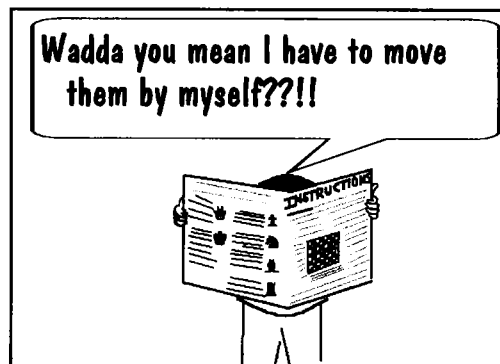
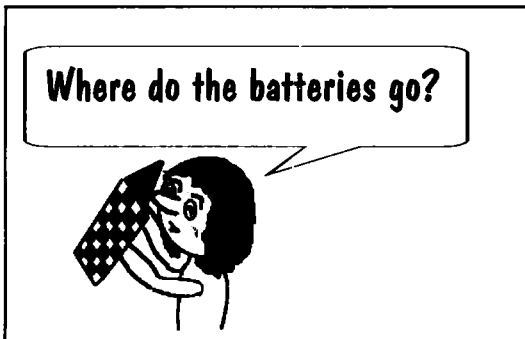
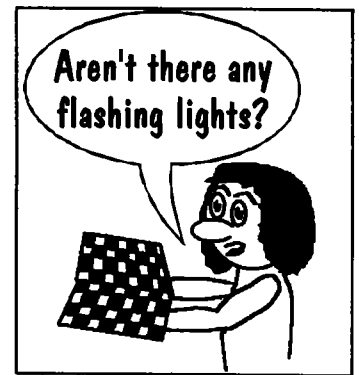
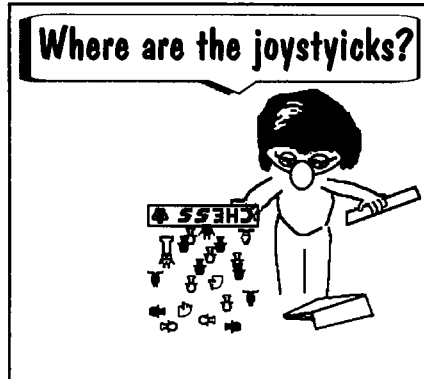
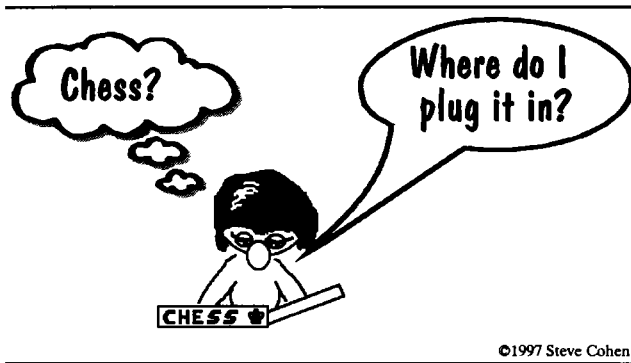
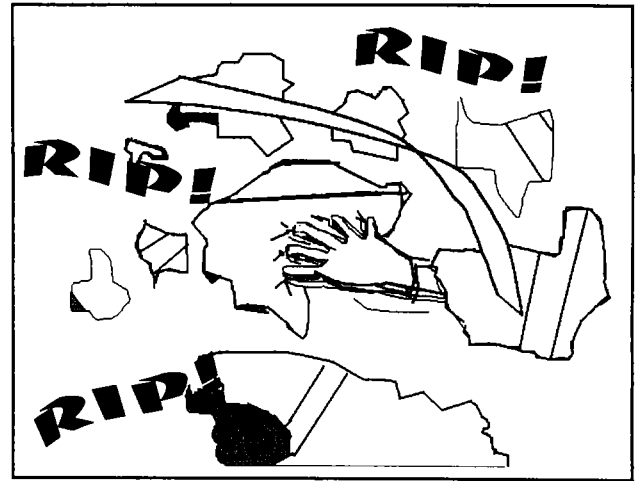
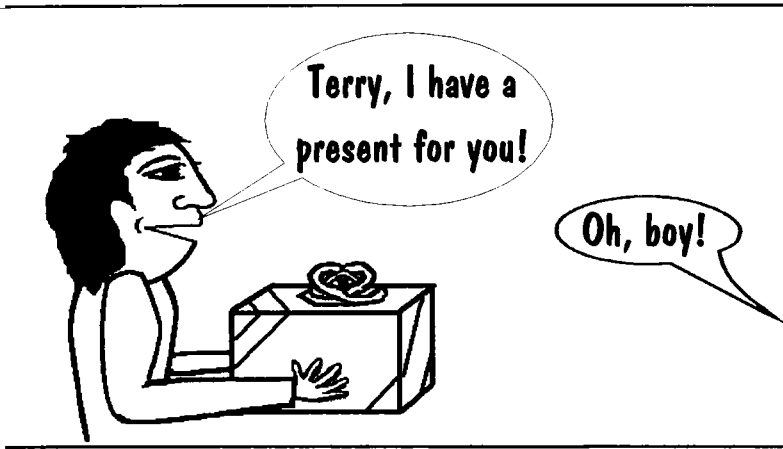
Well, since you've learned so much from this article you're probably screaming that White can, now, play 11. Bh7+!, which he did!

Not unexpectedly (now that you've learned so much!), the game concluded 11. ... Kh7:, 12. Ng5+ Bg5:, 13. hxg dis. + Kg8, 14. Qh5 f6, 15. g6 Rf7, 16. Qh8 mate.

Whenever you see that your opponent has moved h4 (... h5, for Black), the bishop is on the b1-h7 diagonal, the knight has access to g5 and the queen is on the d1-h5 diagonal, LOOK OUT!!! or you will be the latest victim to a combinational theme which has been known and repeated for more than 100 years! Of course, if the circumstances are right for you, then you can teach your unwitting opponent this well-known trick!

CHES MUSINGS

BY STEVE COHEN



THE C.C.J. WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!!!



“*Quis necavit equitem*”

A book review of “*The Flanders Panel*”

by Henry Vinerts

I have been introduced to a story that I would like to share with the readers of CCJ. The story is really a mystery story written by a talented Spanish author, Arturo Perez-Reverte, and translated into English by Margaret Jull Costa—“*The Flanders Panel*”, Bantam Books, 1990. Barnes and Noble still has it on its shelves. Chess Monthly has said that “as chess fiction, it must be either the best ever written or second only to Stefan Zweig’s *The Royal Game*.”

I must confess that, once started, the book was hard to put aside. Arturo does a good job, I think, in keeping the suspense going. If he had had Sam Loyd for a partner, he would have created a masterpiece. But then again, I don’t know what Sam would have thought about Goedel, Escher, and Bach, Sherlock Holmes, and Lewis Carroll... Or “retrograde analysis?” Some of the ideas in the story will lead me to further “research”, I am sure, but before I come to the point of writing this note to you, let me quote a few passages from the story, which revolves about a classic painting of the 15th century, by

one of the Flemish masters. A painting that shows two gentlemen playing a game of chess, and a lady who may or may not be watching, but who may be harboring some very dark secrets. And these secrets find their way into the 20th century, into the life of another young lady, an art restorer, and the suspense starts...

“Chess has more to do with the art of murder than the art of war.”

“Qc2 is still no good against Bd3+.”

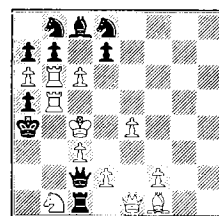
“There is nothing more misleading than an obvious fact.”

“In the end all paintings were paintings of the same painting... ‘Tis all a Chequer-board of Nights and Days where Destiny with Men for Pieces plays...”

I would like to issue a challenge and offer a reward to the winner from my personal piggy bank (like Richard Feynman who offered \$1000 dollars to whoever could build an tiny electric motor) for \$12 for one subscription to CCJ!. Entries to this challenge must be received by January 30th, 1998.

Here is the challenge:

The painting in the story shows the following position:



Black has just moved, as the chessmaster in the story proves on

page 72, and the mystery starts with a hidden inscription in the painting: “*Quis necavit equitem* (Who killed the knight)?” The hero solves that with “retrograde analysis”, but my challenge is

TO RECONSTRUCT THE GAME FROM ITS VERY BEGINNING!

If it is possible to reach the book position at all, my prize would go to the person whose solution would present the most plausible and, perhaps, elegant game that two Flemish gentlemen could have played in the presence of a lady. (Of course, if you have difficulties in discovering who killed the white knight, you may also want to read the book. One way or another, enjoy!)

34th Arthur Stamer Memorial June 13-15, 1997 Mechanics Institute, San Francisco



Photo by Allan Fifield

Veteran Walter Shipman scored well at the Stamer.

Place	Name	Rating	Score
1st	Isaak Margulis	2358	4.5
2nd-11th	Paul Whitehead	2416	4.0
	Walter Shipman	2340	4.0
	David Blohm	2272	4.0
	Russell Wong	2242	4.0
	Philip Wang	2213	4.0
	Romulo Fuentes	2193	4.0
	Bela Evans	2152	4.0
	David Pruess	2142	4.0
	Robert Kichinski	2137	4.0
	James Jones	2073	4.0

72 players.

Tournament Director: Mike Goodall

Is Deep Blue Yellow?

by GM Larry Evans

Last May IBM's Deep Blue edged world champion Garry Kasparov in a six-game match with \$700,000 to the winner and \$400,000 to the loser. Kasparov promptly cried foul, called it a fluke, and demanded a rematch. Kasparov almost didn't show up for the fourth game because the IBM team denied his request to see printouts from the second game where he quit in a position that was later found to be drawn. He all but accused IBM of cheating and took the loss so hard that the following joke soon surfaced on the Internet:

Q. How do you know Kasparov's plane has landed?
A. The engines have stopped but the whining continues.

This historic match captured the imagination of the world. A Newsweek cover story dubbed it "The Brain's Last Stand." IBM stock soared to a new high; its website recorded some 30 million hits for each game. Overall it topped the 128 million hits recorded for the much longer Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Undaunted, and still confident of victory, Kasparov said IBM owed a rematch to mankind. After prolonged silence IBM declined his

challenge and announced that the machine will be used for other purposes before it becomes a museum piece. "We should look at this as a chess match between the world's greatest chess player and Garry Kasparov," quipped IBM chairman Louis Gerstner. Apparently corporate gurus made a cold decision that there was not much to gain and a lot to lose by risking another confrontation. Business is business, yet many people were disappointed. Someone suggested that now Deep Blue ought to be called Deep Yellow.

An enjoyable "instant" book that explains each game and reveals what took place behind the scenes is Man Versus Machine by David Goodman and Raymond Keene (H3 Publications). Also included are all six games from a previous match with Deep Blue that Kasparov won easily. In the 1997 match, Kasparov looked like a shoo-in after the first game, but it was his last taste of victory. IBM's team then tweaked the machine to win two and draw three of the remaining games to triumph 3.5 - 2.5.

Despite several errors by Deep Blue at the outset, the authors still maintain that its best chance to hold was 36...Ng4! 37 f6 Re6 38 Bh3 Rxf6! 39 Nxg4 (or 39

Bxg4 Rxg6) 39...hxg4 40 Bxf6 Rd6 41 Be5 Re6.

White: GARRY KASPAROV
Black: DEEP BLUE
Match Game # 1 - 1997
Reti Opening

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Bg4 3.b3 Nd7 4.Bb2 e6 5.Bg2 Ngf6 6.O-O c6 7.d3 Bd6 8.Nbd2 O-O 9.h3 Bh5 10.e3 h6 11.Qe1 Qa5 12.a3 Bc7 13.Nh4 g5 14.Nhf3 e5 15.e4 Rfe8 16.Nh2 Qb6 17.Qc1 a5 18.Re1 Bd6 19.Ndf1 dxe4 20.dxe4 Bc5 21.Ne3 Rad8 22.Nhf1 g4 23.hxg4 Nxg4 24.f3 Nxe3 25.Nxe3 Be7 26.Kh1 Bg5 27.Re2 a4 28.b4 f5 29.exf5 e4 30.f4 Bxe2 31.fxg5 Ne5 32.g6 Bf3 33.Bc3 Qb5 34.Qf1 Qxf1+ 35.Rxf1 h5 36.Kg1 Kf8 37.Bh3 b5 38.Kf2 Kg7 39.g4 Kh6 40.Rg1 hxg4 41.Bxg4 Bxg4 42.Nxg4+ Nxg4+ 43.Rxg4 Rd5 44.f6 Rd1 45.g7 1-0

continued from page 21

Albert Cisneros (1103)
Robert Chan (1409)
19th Livermore Booster,
Round 4, Nov. 2, 1997

1.e4 c5 2.b4 cb 3.a3 e5 4.ab Nf6 5.Nf3 Bb4 6.c3 Bc5 7.d4 ed 8.e5 Ne4 9.cd Bb4 10.Bd2 Bd2 11.Nbd2 Nd2 12.Qd2 O-O 13.Bd3 d6 14.h4 Bg4 15.Ng5 h6 16.Qc2 hg 17.Bh7 Kh8 18.hg f5 19.Bf5 Kg8 20.Bg4 Qg5 21.Be6 Rf7 22.Qc8 1-0

Jimmy Plumb (2063)
Rob Nicholson (1909)
19th Livermore Open,
Round 3, Nov. 2, 1997

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 O-O 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.O-O-O Ne5 11.Bb3 Qa5 12.Kb1 Rfc8 13.h4 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Nb3 Qa6 16.h5 Nxb3 17.g4 Nf6 18.e5 Ne8 19.Qh2 h5 20.gxh5 Bf5 21.hxg6 Bxg6 22.Rdg1 dxe5 23.Bh6 Nc7 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Nc5! 1-0

1997 Mechanics Grandmaster Invitational Mechanics Institute, San Francisco

Organizer: Jim Eade

Player	Rating	Country	Total
1 GM Fedorowicz, John	2510	USA	5.5
2 FM Wolski, Thomas	2300	Germany	4.5
3 NM Stein, Alan	2295	USA	2.5
4 IM Donaldson, John	2430	USA	4.5
5 NM Bhat, Vinay	2235	USA	2.0
6 IM Frias, Victor	2515	Chile	6.0
7 GM Baburin, Alex	2570	Ireland	7.0
8 NM Lobo, Richard	2340	England	2.5
9 GM Wojtkiewicz, Alex	2575	Poland	6.0
10 IM Rey, Guillermo	2310	USA	4.5

Peninsula G/15 Challenge

by
Steve Cohen

The Peninsula G/15 Challenge series, which is fast becoming the most popular regular series of Quick-Chess tournaments in the Bay Area, held its last event for 1997 on November 1 at Foster City's El Torito restaurant. Sponsored by the Unofficial Peninsula Scholastic Chess League (UPSCL) as a fund-raising event, this tournament, the 1997 "Challenge Championships" attracted 20 participants in 3 categories: Open (USCF 1799+), Senior Amateur (5th Grade - USCF 1799), and Junior Amateur (4th Grade & younger). The series offers a tournament-like experience (5 rounds) in half-a-day's time as opposed to a week-end tournament, for which 5 rounds takes 2 full days. With guaranteed prizes (which may be increased in 1998!), high-quality players in each section, and a tournament that always ends on time, it's no wonder that players from as far away as Sunnyvale, Oakland, Berkeley and even Vacaville have been coming to participate. Unfortunately, for a second time, this tournament was unintentionally held the same weekend as another — the 19th annual Livermore. I try to avoid such conflicts, but sometimes with other scheduling conflicts of our League (and holidays) and in planning far in advance it's hard to avoid them. Hopefully, at our first such event of 1998 on January 31, there won't be a similar conflict.

In the 6-player Open section, young peninsula star, Jordy Mont-Reynaud, came to three-peat, and officially claim the 1997 G/15 Challenge title [and take home another check for \$100 — which is not bad for about 3 hours of playing chess]. But East Bay Senior Master Craig Mar (whom Jordy defeated at the last challenge to earn top honors) came to avenge his result from September's "Challenge" [the event is held bimonthly!] — and to regain some lost rating points [the event is not USCF-rated, but it is rated on the UPSCL adult list]. Still, with a Senior amateur and Junior Amateur section offered for the first time and attracting a number of quality, local players, there would be a fierce few hours of close competition that morning.

In the Junior Amateur section, 3rd-grader Alex Wu, defeated a much-improved Ewelina Krubnik (also a 3rd-grader, but from the East Bay), in a last-round fight for first place. This earned Wu a perfect score and the top

trophy. A 4-way tie for 2nd place (with 3 points each — surely, a tough competition took place in this section) was decided according to UPSCL tie-breaker rules. Kevin Greene (another 3rd-grader) won 2nd; Krubnik, 3rd; Elliot Star (yet another 3rd-grader) took home the 4th-place trophy. Matthias Fore finished in 5th place. 1st-grader, Claire Greene, scored well to finish only a point behind in 6th place.

In the Senior Amateur section, UPSCL-star Michael Pearson (a 5th-grader) powered to a perfect performance to earn the 1st-place trophy and check (a 50% return on an investment just for playing several games of chess isn't a bad way to spend a Saturday morning). The adults, Patrick Webb and Arnaldo Delucca, finished in 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Danny Colligan, a 7th-grader, carried home the 4th-place trophy.

In the Open Section, after Round 2, there were 3 people with a perfect score. Craig Mar, Jordy, and yours truly. I was having a surprisingly good day, especially compared to my performance in September's "Challenge". In Round 3, I sprung some home-preparation against Jordy's Sicilian — and he played into the line I'd predicted. Before Jordy was aware of what was really going on, he found himself in an uncomfortable pin and ended up losing the exchange (a rook for a knight — with no other compensation). Atypically [against Jordy, I often seem able to win an early pawn, but never seem able to close out the game] I held on in the position. As time was running out, Jordy tried one last chance; but, it cost him a whole piece — and, the game.

Thus, the 4th-round match-up between Mar and myself — not the last-round match between Craig and Jordy — unexpectedly became the match for 1st place. Intelligently, Mar adopted a waiting-plan. Playing with White and with my time running short, I tried to push ahead when I should have conducted a plan of maneuvering. [Quick Chess does not give one as much time for planning as you'd like, but it is exciting chess]. After that, Craig was quick to jump on top before my flag fell.

In the 5th-round match between Craig and Jordy, a win by Jordy would set up a tie between the 2 of them [a 3-way tie if I also won my game that round] requiring a blitz shoot-out for the top prize. If Craig won and I won my game, Jordy would fall back to 3rd and his 3-peat would not be — at least not this year. As the last Challenge's the Sicilian Pelican did not go well for Mar [see story on that event for game

score], so here he opted for 1. d4 this time around. In brief, this last round Grünfeld Defense went as follows:

**Craig Mar (2482) -
Jordy M-R (2190)
November 1, 1997 Round 5**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cd Nd5 5.e4 Nc3, 6.bc Bg7 7.Be3 [the fight in the Grünfeld is all about d4: Can White protect it, or will it fall to Black?] ... c5 8.Qd2 cd 9.cd Nc6 10.Rd1 O-O 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.Be2 Qa5 13.O-O Qd2 14.Rd2 fRd8 15.d5! Na5 16.Rc1 aRc8 17.dRc2! Ra8 18.h3! Bd7 19.Bg5 f6 20.Bf4 f5? 21.Bc7! fe 22.Ng5 Ba4 23.Bd8 Rd8 24.Rc8 Nc6 25.Rd8 Nd8 26.Rc8 and White won.

Meanwhile, my game had become a tough battle with my time running short. In a position which slightly favored me, I accidentally offered a free queen (she didn't quite make it to the square I'd intended to place her on). As beads of sweat began to stream from my face and I was sure my opponent would surely hear comments from people coming by to see — or, somehow be drawn to the situation even if he didn't see it by some gasp or pointing. As the seconds ticked by I was wondering: 'Was he just toying with me, or did he really not see it?' If the latter was true, as much as I wanted to gulp, I felt any gulp would clue him in on my troubles. Finally, he picked up his queen. As I was sure he was just about to take my own, instead (whew!!!) he moved her to a place where I could take her for free [one error, if not seen, often begets another] — which I did.

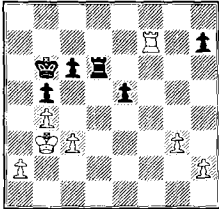
Thus, Craig Mar took the top trophy and check. I finished in 2nd place. Jordy — who's only 14 — will have to wait for 1998 to try again to make it 3-in-a-row. Still, Jordy earned the check for third, another.

1998 will present another six G/15 "Challenge" events as they are held bimonthly with the first one scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 1998. The senior amateur section will have a second prize category for players rated under 1400 (UPSCL). The Open section's guaranteed prizes will likely be increased. If you like to play quality, competitive chess for nice prizes, but don't want to give up a whole week-end of free time, I hope to see you at the next Challenge! [For a flier, call (650) 349-7746 — Steve Cohen, TD]. Lastly, I'd like to thank the Foster City El Torito for their support and James Millet, our league Secretary, for his assistance throughout the morning. It was James first tournament as an assistant director and he did a great job.

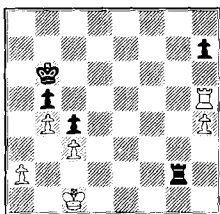
How to Avoid...

Continued from page 11

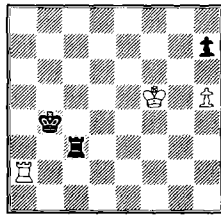
Rxd6 32.Nd3 Ra8 33.Kb2 b5! A home is created for the king. A rook and pawn endgame seems inevitable. **34.R1f2 Kb6 35.b4 Rad8 36.Kc2 Ra8 37.Kb3 Rad8** Now the central exchange is almost forced. **38.Nxc5 fxe5 39.Rf7 R8d7 40.R2f5! Rxf7 41.Rxf7**



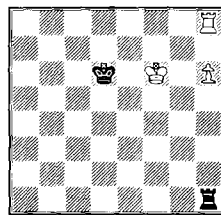
A difficult endgame for Black to hold. There is one awkward, but playable plan to avoid the simple ...Re7. **41...Rh6 41...h6 42.Kc2 Re6 43.Kd3 Rd6+ 44.Ke3 Rd1 45.Rh7 Ra1 46.Rxh6 Rxa2 47.h4** should win. **42.h4 c5! 43.Re7** If White captures at c5 it is easier for the Black king to escort the future queen to the promotion square. **43...c4+ 44.Kc2 Rg6 45.Rxe5 Rxc3 46.Re6+ Kc7 47.Re5 Rg2+ 48.Kb1 Rg1+ 49.Kb2 Rg2+ 50.Kc1 Kc6 51.Rc5+ Kb6 52.Rh5**



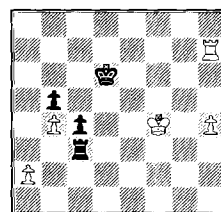
A very complicated position. Passive defense is out of the question, but exchanging the a-pawn for the pawn at h7 hardly comes into consideration. 52.a3 is too slow. Eventually the queenside pawns disappear and the resulting rook endgame is drawn. For example **52...Rg1+ 53.Kd2 Rg2+ 54.Ke3 Rc2 55.Kd4 Rd2+ 56.Ke4 Re2+ 57.Kf5 Rc2 58.a4 bxa4 59.Rxc4 a3 60.Rc8 a2 61.Ra8 Kb5 62.h5 Rxc3 63.Rxa2 Kxb4**



This position cannot be won by White, but Black must play with care. **64.Rb2+ Kc5 65.Rb7!** This wins the pawn, leading to a rook and pawn vs. rook endgame which is well known to theory. **65...Rf3+ 66.Ke4 Rf1 67.Rxh7 Kd6!** The Black king is close enough to hold the draw. **(67...Kc6 68.Ke5** reaches a position similar to Gelfand-King, Haifa 1989! There, the Black rook is on f3, so checks along the third rank would have run out. In any case, the king should approach the pawn. **68...Re1+ 69.Kf6 Kd6 70.h6 Rh1 71.Rh8**

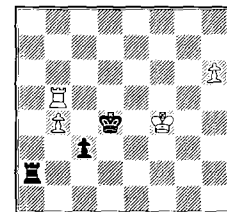


This position is actually a study by Grigoriev, from 1936! **71...Rf1+ 72.Kg5 Rg1+ 73.Kf4 Rf1+ 74.Kg3 Rf7 75.h7 Rd7 76.Kf4 Kd5** Black must not allow the king to be exposed to check from the White rook because then the pawn queens. **77.Kf5 Kd6 78.Kg6 Kd5 79.Rb8** and wins.) **68.h6 Ke6 69.Rb7 Kf6 70.Rb6+ Kg5 71.h7 Rh1 72.Rb7 Kg6** draws. **52...Rg1+ 52...Rxa2? 53.Rh6+ Kc7 54.Rxh7+ Kc6 55.h5 Rh2 56.h6 Kd6 57.Rh8 Ke7 58.h7 Kf7 59.Ra8 Rxh7 60.Ra7+ Kg6 61.Rxh7 Kxh7 62.Kd2 Kg6 63.Ke3 Kf6 64.Kd4 Ke6 65.Kc5** and wins. **53.Kd2 Rg2+ 54.Ke3 Rg3+!** The c-pawn is the target, not the a-pawn! **55.Kf4 Rxc3 56.Rh6+ Kc7 57.Rxh7+ Kd6**

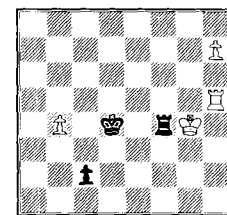


Black's advanced c-pawn

provides serious compensation for the pawn. **58.Rh6+ Kd5 59.Rh5+ Kd4!** The king must cross the meridian! Now the idea is to eventually sacrifice the rook for the h-pawn, after driving the White king as far away as possible. Then Black will need to return the material to stop the c-pawn. **60.Rxb5 Ra3! 61.h5 61.Rb8** is another try. Black has resources here, too, for example **61...c3 62.Rd8+ Kc4 63.Ke3** gets the king closer but **63...Rxa2 64.Rd4+ Kb3 65.Rd1 Kb2 66.h5 c2 67.Rg1 Ra1! (67...c1Q+ 68.Rxc1 Kxc1 69.Kd4** leaves Black's king further away from the b-pawn.) **68.Rg2 Kb3 69.Rxc2 Kxc2 70.Kd4 Rh1 71.b5 Kb3 72.Kc5 Rxh5+ 73.Kc6 Kb4 74.b6 Rh6+ 75.Kc7 Kb5 76.b7 Rh7+ 77.Kb8 Kb6 78.Ka8 Rxb7** with stalemate. **61...Rxa2 62.h6 c3**



Each pawn needs two steps to reach the promotion square, but the Black pawn queens with check. On the other hand, White can move the rook to the 8th rank and threaten to move to d8 with check, keeping an eye on the pawn. **63.Rc5 63.Rh5 Rf2+!** (**63...c2 64.Rc5 Rb2 65.h7 Rxb4 66.h8Q+ Kxc5+ 67.Ke5** and **67...c1Q** loses to **68.Qc8+ .)** **64.Kg4 c2 65.h7 Rf4+!**



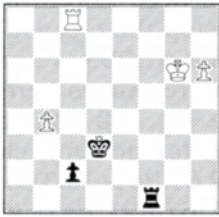
A resource which saves Black, and even makes White work for a draw. **A) 66.Kg3 Rf8! 67.Rc5 (67.Rh1 Rh8 68.b5 Rxh7 69.Rc1 Kd3) 67...Kd3** and Black wins!; **B) 66.Kxf4 66...c1Q+ 67.Kg4 Qc8+ 68.Kg5 Qd8+ 69.Kg4 Qd7+ 70.Kh4 Qe7+ 71.Kg4 Qe4+** and White cannot avoid the checks.; **63.h7 Rh2** and White is in trouble. **63...Rb2**

Continued on next page.

How to Avoid...

Continued from page 11

64.Rc8 Rf2+ 65.Kg3 Rf7
66.Kg4!? 66.b5 Kd3! 67.Rd8+ Ke2
is a draw. 66...Kd3 67.Kg5 c2
68.Kg6 Rf1!



Now Black has the option of checking from e1 to h1, following the White king. If the king strays too far, then ...Rh1 attacks the pawn at h6 and the White rook cannot defend because Black will promote the pawn. 69.Rd8+ Ke2 70.Re8+ Kd2 Here I offered a draw, but my opponent, still striving for prize money, decided to spend a while looking for a miracle. 71.Rd8+ Ke2 72.Rc8 Kd2 73.h7 Rg1+ 74.Kf7 Rf1+ 75.Kg6 Rg1+ 76.Kf5 Rh1 77.Kg6 Rg1+ 78.Kf6 Rf1+ 79.Kg5 Rh1 80.Kg6 Drawn.

Eric Schiller is a National Master and International Arbiter. He has written over 75 books on chess, including new titles *Standard Chess Openings* and *Unorthodox Chess Openings* (Cardoza) and *Improve Your Endgame!* (Chess Enterprises). He can be reached at author@chessworks.com and has an extensive web site at <http://www.chessworks.com>.

Chess From The Heart



FRESNO FALL QUAD/SWISS 1997

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Report by TD Dennis Wajckus



Calm and precise Chris Black takes the top quad. Photo by Allan Fifield

Name	Rating	Score
QUAD #1		
1st		
Chris Black	1926	2 1/2
QUAD #2		
1st		
Keith Yost	1622	2 1/2
QUAD #3		
1st		
Terry Butler	1391	3
Swiss Section		
1-2nd		
Diosdado Omandam	1149	3
1-2nd		
Stacy Struthers	1139	3

A great turn out of 31 players participated in this Fall event. This high number of players was due to Allan Fifield, Bonnie and Ric Yost, and William Hicks who all brought numerous people to this one day event. All players were awarded either a book or chess equipment prize! Special thanks to Marian L. Wajckus for her fine assistance in directing this USCF rated event.

'Dado' Omandam (r) on the move at the **Chess From The Heart** tournament in Madera on August 9th. Co-sponsored by the Madera Chess Club and the Visalia Chess Club, this was a benefit for Jeremy Cantrell. Jeremy is a young chessplayer from Porterville who has just undergone a difficult heart transplant. All proceeds went to the Cantrell family to help with expenses and additional donations are still being accepted by the Visalia Chess Club. Picture by tournament director Kelton Brewer.

Solutions

To Test Your Tactics

(see facing page)

1

1.Rb7+ Kxb7 2.Bc8+ and wins. Also, if 1...Rxb7 2.Qxg8 Kxd7 3.Qg7+ and wins

2

1... Re2 2.Rxe2 Rg1+ 3.Kxg1 fxe2 and wins. Also, if after 1.Re1 Re2, black plays 2.Nd1 Rd2 3.Rxc6 Rh2 and wins.

3

1.Qxf6+ Kxf6 2.Be5+ Kg5 3.Bg7!! and black cannot avoid the many mates, e.g. 3...e5 4.h4+ Kf5/Kh5 and the g2-bishop mates.

4

1.Be5 Rxe5 2.Ne8 Nf5 3.Nf6+ Kh8 4.Qg8+ mate.

5

1... Rh1+ 2.Kxh1 Rh8+ 3.Kg1 Rh1+ 4.Kxh1 Qh8+ 5.Kg1 Qh2+ mate.

6

1.Qxd7+ Rxd7 2.Nc7+ Rxc7 3.Rd8+ mate.

7

1...Ng3 2.Qxg6 Nde2 mate.

8

1.Qxh6+ gxh6 2.Nf7+ Kg8 3.Nxh6 mate.

9

1...Rc1+ 2.Qxc1 Rxa3+ 3.Kb1 Ra1+ 4.Kxa1 Qa8+ 5.Kb1 Qa2+ mate.

10

1.Qxh7+ Kxh7 2.Rh5+ Kg8 3.Ng6 and mates next move.

11

1... Rc1+ 2.Rxc1 Qa1+ 3.Kxa1 dxc1(Q)+ 4.Bb1 Qc3+ mate.

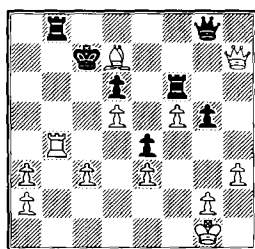
12

1.Nf6+ Bxf6 2.Qxh6+ Kxh6 3.Rh3+ and mates next move.

Test Your Tactics

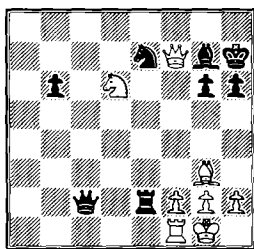
This month the California Chess Journal is proud to feature tactical positions selected by GM Arnold Denker. Sharpen your wits to search for a deadly mate or decisive material. Solutions are on the facing page but don't peek!

1



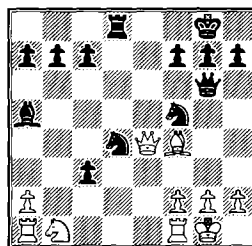
Mason-Winawer 1882
White to move

4



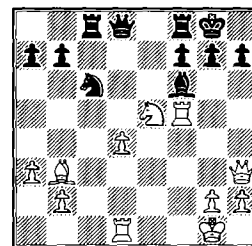
Keller-Nievergelt 1960
White to move

7



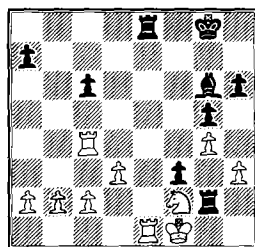
Marache-Morphy 1857
Black to move

10



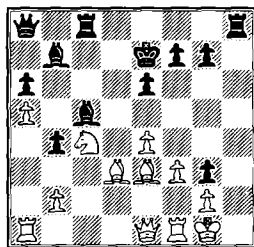
Kogan-Foster 1937
White to move

2



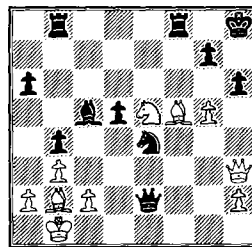
Ivanchuk-Riklis 1982
Black to move

5



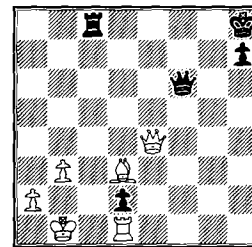
Baburin-Adianto 1993
Black to move

8



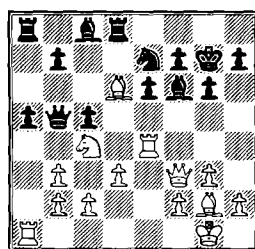
Tchiburdanidze-Larsen 1993
White to move

11



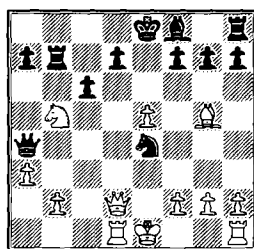
Fernandez-Lommer 1967
Black to move

3



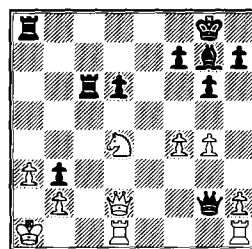
Petrosian-Pachman 1961
White to move

6



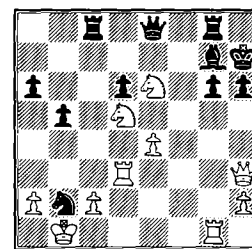
Ostropolski-Ivanovski 1949
White to move

9



Weller-Hall 1964
Black to move

12



Chevaldonnet-Blanc 1977
White to move



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The next deadline for C.C.J. submissions is February 19th.
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AOL: jostensvis
Internet: fifiela@jostens.com

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Visalia 93279-0027
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102033,3421@compuserve.com
jostensvis@aol.com

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Berkeley City Club
2315 Durant
A. Glasscoe 510•652-5324

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Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
Burlingame Lions Hall
990 Burlingame Ave
Scott Wilson 650-355-9402

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Kolty Chess Club
Thursdays 7-11:30 p.m.
Campbell Comm Ctr
Winchester/W.Campbell
F. Leffingwell 408•224-0743

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Call for current information
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C. Coleman 707-678-9792

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Mtn Mike's Pizza
1722 Mangrove Ave
Barry Nelson 916•873-3107

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Thursday 7 p.m.
Hunt Hall UCD, Room 241
Dave Johnson 916•756-2752

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Fridays 7:00-on
Sugu's Coffee
3602 Thornton Ave, Fremont
Hans Poschmann 510•656-8505
Alan Kirshner 510•657-1586

Fresno

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Carls Jr.
3820 N. Cedar Ave.
D. Wajckus 209 233-8710

Hayward

Mondays 7-9 p.m.
Hayward Library
Mission at C St
Kerry Lawless 510•785-9352

Humboldt County

Call for current information
Bob Phillips 707•839-4674

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South Cafeteria
Lawrence Livermore Lab
Charles Pigg 510•447-5067

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Merced Chess Club
Friday 6:30 p.m.
Merced Mall Food Court
Dave Humpal 209•722-0764

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Madern Ave. & Hwy 99
Kelton Brewer 209•673-1026

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McHenery Avenue
John Barnard 209•785-7895

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430 Alvarado St.
Yudacufski 408•646-8730

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Terman Community Center
660 Arastradero #33
Tom Dorsch 650-322-0955

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Barry Nelson 916•873-3107

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Trinity Lutheran Church
Corner of Henderson &
Indiana
Hans Borm 209•784-3820

Reno, NV

Sun-Thurs 6:30 p.m.
2850 Wrondel Way, Suite D
Club: 702•827-3867
Jerry Weikel 702•747-1405

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Richmond Library
26th & MacDonald
John Easterling 510•529-0910

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Wednesday 6-10 pm
Senior Citizens Ctr
915-27th St.
Stewart Katz 916-444-3133
CSU Sacramento
Student Union Bldg.

San Anselmo

Tuesday 7 p.m.
Round Table Pizza,
Red Hill Shoppin Ctr
Sir Francis Drake Blvd
Jim Mickle 415•457-2719

San Francisco

Mechanics' Institute
Open daily
57 Post St, 4th Floor
Jim Eade 650-328-9785

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Tue & Fri, Noon-4 p.m.
Willows Senior Center
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Jerry Marshall 408•267-1574

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2d Sat. each month
2:15-6:15 p.m.
Mary Gomez Park
F. Sierra 408•241-1447

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Tuesdays 6-10:45 p.m.
Sonoma Coffee Company
521 4th Street
Keith Halonen 707•578-6125

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Student Union, Rm 550-550D
Andrian Keatinge-Clay
415•497-0598

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LERA
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Ward Forman 209•688-6386

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Hwy 198 & Chinowth
Allan Fifield 209•734-2784

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Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.
Civic Park/Broadway at Civic
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Bridge St & Hwy 99, Yuba City
Tom Giertych 916•671-1715

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(* = CalChess discount) Last update 11-15-97

1998

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Jan 24.....	(Sa).....	Hanford Chess for Kids	(AF)
Jan. 24.....	(Sa).....	Linklater Qualifier.....	
Jan. 31- Feb 1.....	(Sa-Su).....	Sacramento Champ.....	(JM)
Feb. 3-11.....		Linklater	
Feb. 14-16.....	(Sa-M).....	People's (Berkeley).....	(DS) *
Feb. 21.....	(Sa).....	Napa Valley Quads (St. Helena).....	(JA)
Feb. 28.....	(Sa).....	Fresno Chess for Kids.....	(AF)
Feb. 28 - Mar. 1..	(Sa-Su).....	Santa Clara H.S. (San Jose).....	(SS)
Mar. 6-8.....	(F-Su).....	SF Amateur.....	(JA2)
Mar. 15.....	(Su).....	Mechanics Junior (San Fran.).....	(JA2)
Mar. 27.....	(F).....	Cal State Schol. Blitz (Santa Clara).....	(TD)
Mar. 28-29.....	(Sa-Su).....	Cal State Schol. Champ. (Santa Clara).....	(AK)
Apr. 17-19.....	(F-Su).....	Mech. Senior	(JA2)
May 2-3.....	(Sa-Su).....	Livermore Open.....	(CP) *
May 23-25.....	(Sa-M).....	LERA Memorial Day (Sunnyvale).....	(JH)

Annual Events

MLK weekend (3rd weekend Jan.) (TD)	2nd weekend June (F-Su) Stamer (MG)
Presidents' Day Weekend People's (Berkeley) (DS)	3rd weekend June (F-Su) Far West Open (Reno) (JW)
1st weekend March (F-Su) SF Amateur (MG)	Labor Day weekend (1st weekend Sept.) (TD)
State Scholastic Championship (last weekend March)	Last weekend Oct. (F-Su) Western Open (Reno) (JW)
LERA Memorial Day (JH)	2nd weekend Nov. (F-Su) Capps (MG)
	LERA Thanksgiving (JH)

See page 30 for the key to the tournament organisers (listed here by their initials).

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