



BERKELEY CHESS MASTER CRAIG BARNES
He's rated second best in the U.S.

Young Berkeleyyan

His battleground is a chessboard

By **AUGUST MAGGY**
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A lion paces behind the quiet, shy and reticent exterior of Craig Barnes.

The patient lion waits, then stalks, waits again and finally pounces. The end comes quickly to the unwary. A hand tips over the king on a chessboard, and Barnes has won another match.

He has fought many a bat-

tle over the 64 black and white squares on a chessboard, and yesterday's game at the Berkeley Gazette office only served as a minor reinforcement of his status as a U.S. chess master.

For a layman to play Barnes is, indeed, like walking into a lion's den. Unless you are Daniel, there is no return.

Barnes met few Daniels last year when he walked away with the U.S. High School Chess Championship. He was 17 and a senior at Berkeley High School at the time.

At 18 years old, he is now ranked as the second best chess player under 21 years of age in America. Larry Christiansen, who recently won the U.S. junior title in San Francisco and tied for third for the world crown several days ago in England, is the best.

Barnes served as Christiansen's second in England, helping the U.S. champ prepare for games and analyzing games which were in adjournment.

He did not play in the invitational tournament in England but he did travel to Germany where he wound up third among most of the best the world has to offer in the under-21 age group.

Barnes, who says he does not play or think chess between tournaments, is now waiting for the U.S. Chess Championship to roll around next summer. His only concession to chess during the inbetween moments is to read chess magazines.

Otherwise, Barnes leaves the game alone — unless he is badgered by an eager I-G staff writer who foolishly wants to test the chess whiz. But as they say in the courts, *nolo contendere*.