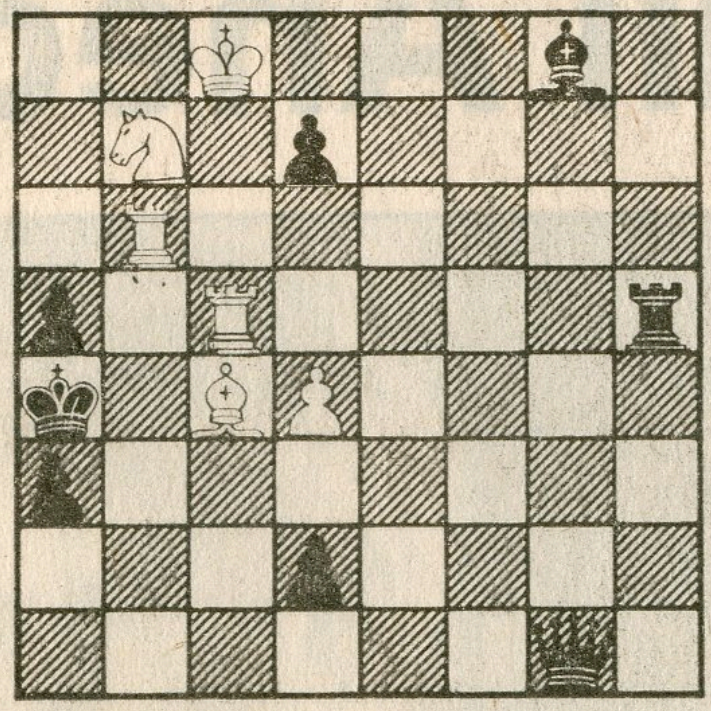
CHESS / GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI

PROBLEM
By I. Kisis, Hungary



White to play and mate in two moves.

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U.S. CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

18 players participated in this year's important Chess Championship held in the vast Pauley Ballrooms in the UC Students Union at Berkeley. Lev Alburt, 43, rated 2586, took the lead in the fifth round, widened it in the 10th round, and took the championship with a 1½ point lead over his closest rival. Lev has been a Grandmaster since 1977 and holds a doctorate in physics and natural philospohy. He defected from the Soviet Union to the U.S. in 1979.

IM Nick deFirmian, 27, 2585 rating, finished strongly and his second place award is more than merited! DeFirmian is originally from Oakland, CA, but he moved to Europe to try for his Grandmaster title. He should have it as soon as this tournament is officially rated by the FIDE.

Four players tied for the third spot. They will have to play again to see who of the four will classify for the Zonal tournaments next year. John Fedorowicz, 25, of Clearwater, Fla., 2568 rating, showed strength and resourcefulness. He ought to get his GM title before too long. A good example of his play is his game with GM Larry Christiansen.

Yasser Seirawan, 24, from Seattle, Wash., has a 2578 rating. He came back after a bad blunder in his game with Alburt in the 13th round. Beating six-time U.S. champion Walter Browne in the last round helped Yasser to qualify.

GM James Tarjan, 32, of Los Angeles, 2631 rating, seems to be enjoying his return to his old form winning a strong International tournament in Yugoslavia and another in Los Angeles this year. When you see him twirling his forelock (a la Alekhine), you can be sure that he is looking for the best move. One bad habit: Tarjan can get into severe time trouble.

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Solution to Problem: 1.P-Q5.