

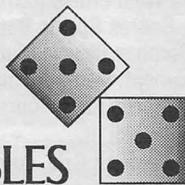
CHICAGO POINT

NUMBER 86

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1996

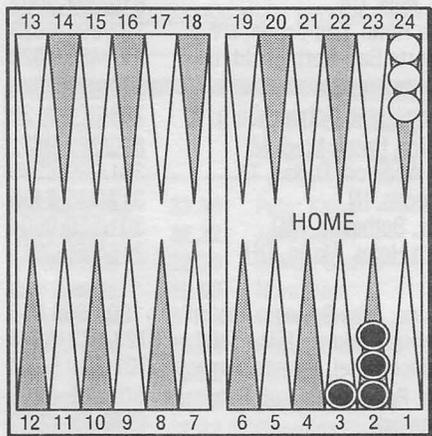
PREPARING FOR DOUBLES



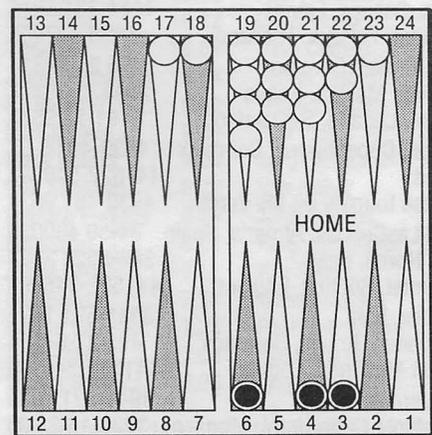
by Duane Jensen

A familiar endgame tactic is positioning your checkers to get the most benefit from a doublet on your last roll. These plays are sometimes necessary when you are trailing in the bearoff, playing for a gammon, or trying to escape a gammon. Positions such as these are routine problems for most players:

POSITION #1: Black to play a 1.



POSITION #2: Black to play a 1.



[Continued on page 7]

KAZAROSS WINS 3RD BAR POINT CLUB TITLE

Neil's Final Surge Edges Harry Cohn

Neil Kazaross, the 1994 ABT champion, came from behind to become Chicago Bar Point Club's 1995 Player of the Year. It was his third such title in a row.

Like he's done in previous years, Neil was fast out of the gate, leading the point race after four months. Then Harry Cohn kicked things in gear. Winning over 5.36 points in May, Harry took over first place and held that spot all the way through November.

But the An-Neil-ator finished the year in true championship style, opening December with an 11 match winning streak and two tournament victories. This was enough to catch and pass Cohn who missed nearly all of the month due to a scheduled trip and the passing of his mother.

Together, Kazaross and Cohn dominated 1995 BPC play. There 30+ point totals would make them runaway winners in any other year (except when the BPC met

on both Tuesday and Thursday nights).

Congratulations to the Bar Point Club's top six: Kazaross, Cohn, Tak Morioka, Jake Jacobs, John Demian and Herb Roman. This awesome squad is invited to represent the BPC at the Illinois State Challenge Cup 25 February in Glendale Hts., Illinois. Δ

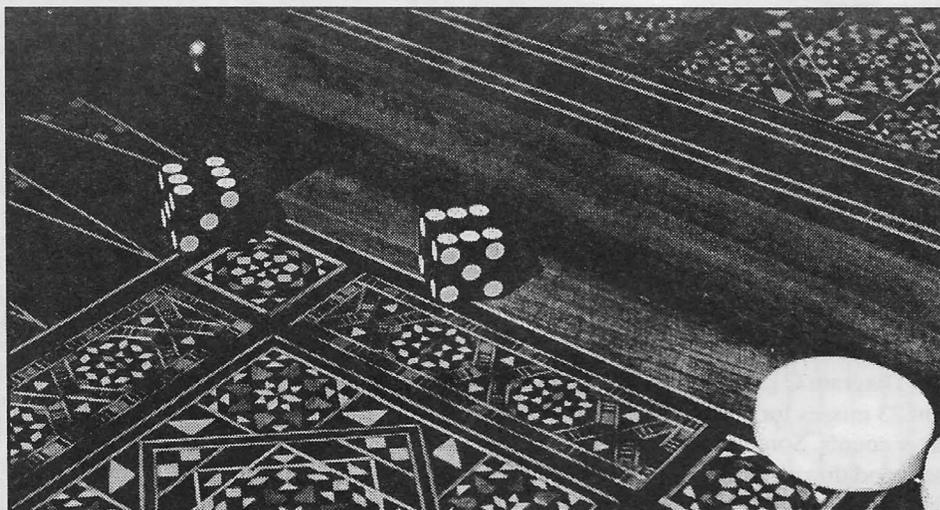


CLUB CHAMPIONS 1983-1995

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
1983	Chris Stanford-10.76	Bill Davis-9.32
1984	Tak Morioka-21.24	Deeb Shalati-14.64
1985	Bill Davis-23.64	Tak Morioka-18.64
1986*	Tak Morioka-46.44	Ira Hoffberg-33.28
1987*	Tak Morioka-42.48	Yamin Yamin-40.64
1988*	Tak Morioka-30.64	Yamin Yamin-28.56
1989	Yamin Yamin-28.92	Gary Kay-27.60
1990	Tak Morioka-27.76	Gary Kay-25.04
1991	Tak Morioka-24.40	Dave Cramer-23.92
1992	Gary Kay-22.60	Don Jayhan-18.82
1993	Neil Kazaross-27.76	Gary Kay-24.28
1994	Neil Kazaross-28.72	Tak Morioka-23.24
1995	Neil Kazaross-33.88	Harry Cohn-32.32

*Years marked with an asterisk also had Thursday play dates all or part of the year.

THE KIND OF GREETINGS WE LIKE . . .



We received a number of Christmas greetings from CHICAGO POINT readers last month, but none of them was more attractive than Saratoga Backgammon Club (NY) Director Lee Hoge's card. Imagine the inlay work in full color.

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
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A LITTLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

I appreciate Walter Trice's review of *Long Road to Gammon* in the December 1995 CHICAGO POINT, but take issue with some of his comments.

(1) Walter says, "Most cube action problems are not solvable by pure reason, and since Danny doesn't do rollouts, his credibility is more problematical." Curiously, in the same issue, my "Ask Danny" column mentions the need for "benchmarks" to complement "a priori analysis." Rollouts, like computer bearoff calculations, are unavailable at the table, so benchmarks and analysis are the *practical tools*.

(2) In Diagram C [Shown on page 3], I count 23 misses for Black, not the 26 that Walter counts. Some of those misses do other good things: making another priming point (4-point or 9-point), advancing to White's 2-point, or both (double aces).

(3) In the real positions for Diagrams B and

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACKGAMMON
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Jan 16	Bar Point Club Awards Night, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	312/583-6464
Jan 17	RSCARDS Winter 1996 Computer Modern Tournament, GEnie	301/294-2212
Jan 18	BG on Board Warm-up Tourney, Biscayne Bay Marriott, Miami, FL	312/583-6464
Jan 19-22	Backgammon on Board III, Miami to Key West cruise tourney on NCL	312/252-7755
Jan 21*	Atlanta Awards & Monthly Tournament, Scores Sports Bar, Atlanta, GA	770/441-2074
Jan 21*	Austin Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Jan 25	Flint Club Awards Party & Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 27*	Hawthorne BG Classic (Sat. Aftern.), Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	312/583-6464
Feb 3*	Springfield Series #4, The River Station, Peoria, IL	217/483-4028
Feb 11	Bar Point Doubles Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Feb 11	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/784-6114
Feb 15	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Feb 16-18</u>	<u>18th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 25*	Illinois State Challenge Cup, Cricket's Pub & Grill, Glendale Hts., IL	708/924-8632
Feb 25*	Hoosier Club Awards Tournament, Spats, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Mar 2*	Springfield Series #5, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Mar 3	13th Fleet Underwood Benefit Tournament, Ramada Flint, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Mar 8-10*</u>	<u>36th Gammon Assoc. Invitational, Holiday Inn, Woodland Hills, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Mar 17	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/784-6114
Mar 21*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Mar 22-24</u>	<u>1996 Midwest Championships, The Drake Oakbrook, Oak Brook, IL</u>	<u>312/583-6464</u>
Apr 7*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Apr 13*	Springfield Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 13	Spring Open Tournament, Promenade Cardroom, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 14	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/784-6114
Apr 17	RSCARDS Spring 1996 Computer Modern Tournament, GEnie	301/294-2212
<u>Apr 19-21</u>	<u>Spring Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>
Apr 23-28	3rd Worldwide Twin Championships, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Apr 27*	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
<u>May 10-12*</u>	<u>1996 Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Atlanta GA</u>	<u>770/441-2074</u>
<u>May 24-27</u>	<u>17th Chicago Open, Woodfield Hyatt Regency Hotel, Schaumburg, IL</u>	<u>708/674-0120</u>
<u>Jul 4-7</u>	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Aug 11-18	World Cup V and U.S. Open, Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX	301/299-8265
<u>Aug 30-Sep 2</u>	<u>44th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/845-8435</u>
<u>Oct 11-13</u>	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0604</u>
<u>Nov 29-Dec 1*</u>	<u>2nd Thanksgiving Tournament, Best Western Hotel, Akron, OH</u>	<u>216/966-2811</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jan 13-20*	Australian Championship, Lasseters Hotel Casino, Alice Springs, Australia	1800-658 951
Jan 16-21	4th Turkish Open, Conrad International Istanbul, Turkey	Eitan Telefax: 9723-672 8918
Jan 27-28*	Greek Players Club Tournament, Esperia Palace Hotel, Athens, Greece	301-99 17 707
Feb 1-4	Paradise Island/Atlantis Pro-Am, Ocean Club, Paradise Island, Bahamas	301/299-8265
Feb 3-4*	Nivå Åben 1996, Laden, Mariehøj, Nivå, Denmark	4549-18 12 62
Feb 8-11	French Open Championship, Hotel Lutetia, Paris, France	331-4359 1080
Feb 10-11	Jarvis Trophy Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	441522-546993
Feb 17-18*	DM 95 Finale, Studenterforeningen, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-400607
Feb 22-25	10th Cannes International Festival of Games, Cannes, France	4161-331 5816
Feb 23-25*	Pattaya Open Championships, Style Restaurant, Pattaya, Thailand	6638-427088
Mar 1-3	Einladungsturnier, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	495 21-64314
Mar 4-9	2nd Kenyan Open Tournament, Casinò Malindi, Malindi, Kenya	254123-30878
Mar 28-31*	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Royal Splendide, Lugano, Switzerland	4191-23 9570
Apr 5-8	8th Nordic "Wide" Open, Radisson SAS Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-40 06 07
Apr 13-14*	British Open, George Hotel, Solihull, England	441522-546993
Apr 20-27	Caribbean Open, San Juan to New York cruise tourney on Mv Zenith	4930-461 9624
May 1-5*	2nd EBN International Tourney, Apartahotel LasColinas, Almeria, Spain	34-50 460080
May 4-5*	4th City of Rome Tournament, Bridge Club, Rome, Italy	396-5527 3123
May 25-26*	County Cups Trophy Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	441522-546993
Jun 25-30	2nd Backgammon Olympiad, Casinò di Venice, Italy	3941-521 1029
Jun 27-30	2nd Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	495 21-64314
Jun 29-30*	Hilton Trophy Tournament, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands, England	441522-546993
Jul 2-4	Pagano's 2nd Super Cup Villa Condulmer, Venice, Italy	3941-521 1029
Jul 8-14	Monte Carlo World Championship, Loews Monte Carlo Hotel, Monaco	3392-16 21 33
Jul 15-16*	4th Nice Open Championship, Nice, France (tentative)	3393-879 436
Jul 18-21	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	331-4359 1080



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR—Top 100

All-Time Standings (1993–1995)

395 players have earned points



Neil Kazaross	77.92	Judy Brown	23.68	Quint McTyeire	14.53	Lucky Nelson	11.58
Doug Roberts	76.58	Bob Holyon	23.68	Homer Hector	14.50	John Stryker	11.56
Art Benjamin	73.78	Mike Colgan	22.88	Paul Magriel	14.50	Mary Ann Meese	11.44
Abbas Zaltash	69.00	Woody Woodson	21.12	David Hochron	14.40	Carol Falk	11.35
Dean Muench	55.94	Andy Palumbo	20.90	Mike Darooge	14.35	Bob Bishop	11.12
Walter Trice	48.20	Joe Harris	20.83	Tom Costigan	14.24	Don Bernstein	10.90
Arnold Zousmer	47.75	Phil Laak	20.20	Blake Sorem	14.10	Perry Gartner	10.84
Marty Storer	47.48	Ed Johnson	20.00	Toni Wuersch	13.97	J.A. Miller	10.70
Mike Friedman	42.69	Jeff Kane	19.57	Peter Kalba	13.86	Paul Strasberg	10.63
Paul Stebbing	40.34	Todd Doucet	19.52	Nora Luna	13.79	Ray Baker	10.59
Joe Russell	37.81	Ami Tennenbaum	19.17	Ralph Levy	13.72	Ray Bills	10.51
Harry Cohn	37.74	Charlie Morrison	18.86	George Alessi	13.50	Felix Yen	10.44
Patrick Gibson	36.94	Steve Hast	18.27	Richard Armbruster	13.37	Joe Sylvester	10.43
Dave Williams	36.21	Steve McCormick	16.82	Al Jones	13.32	Rick Bieniak	10.07
Harry Brown	33.82	Rudy Citrom	16.80	Ed Pavilonis	13.31	Jeff Acierno	9.76
Kit Woolsey	32.31	Bob Paris	16.50	Dean Adamian	13.03	Jorgen Granstedt	9.69
Jake Jacobs	30.92	Jim Muirhead	16.47	John Mansey	13.00	Judy Field	9.61
Odis Chenault	27.39	Ken Bond	16.16	Mike Nelson	12.91	Paul DiBiase	9.61
Howard Markowitz	26.66	Tak Morioka	15.99	Bill Szirtes	12.81	Paul Albert	9.60
Ben Lang	26.00	David Wells	15.89	Joe Freedman	12.81	Stuart Thomson	9.58
Maurice Barie	25.82	Herb Gurland	15.82	Bob Lumbra	12.57	Ed O'Laughlin	9.52
Frank Talbot	25.78	Alan Steffen	15.69	Mike Pettigrew	12.25	Dan Shapiro	9.47
David Rubin	25.28	Jerry Kane	15.68	Frank Dickerson	12.22	Trisha Hegland	9.46
Ray Fogerlund	25.26	Bob Koca	15.06	Doug Huch	12.16	Hal Heinrich	9.45
Malcolm Davis	25.20	Lincoln Bedell	14.96	Gene Entel	11.73	Wally Watson	9.42

The 1996 American Backgammon Tour kickoff event is the 18th Pittsburgh Championships (16–18 February). 1995 ABT champions Joe Russell, Doug Roberts and Abbas Zaltash will be on hand to receive their trophies at the ABT award ceremony.



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1996 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL
STANDINGS

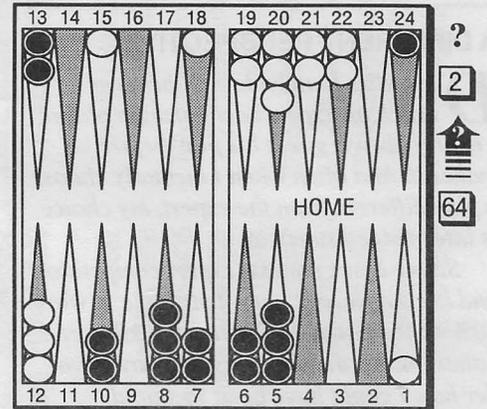
Neil Kazaross	33.88	Peter Kalba	6.40	Richard Stawowy	1.76	Andy Krenitz	0.84
Harry Cohn	32.32	Jolie Rubin	6.26	Howard Ring	1.76	John O'Hagan	0.72
Tak Morioka	22.76	Bobbie Shifrin	5.72	Marcy Sloan	1.68	Mike Flohr	0.72
Jake Jacobs	19.96	Nora Luna	5.12	Stu Katz	1.68	V.W. Zimnicki	0.72
John Demian	17.76	Norma Shyer	4.84	John Stryker	1.60	Jerry Smith	0.66
Herb Roman	16.84	Stuart Thomson	4.64	Elijah Miller	1.52	Ali Morovati	0.64
Tim Mabee	16.20	Jeff Kane	4.56	Mojie Shishineh	1.52	David Rockwell	0.64
Paul Franks	15.28	Alan Zimmerman	4.16	Elaine Kehm	1.48	Jay Ward	0.64
David Rubin	12.32	Georgina Flanagan	3.92	Jerry Brooks	1.28	John Meyers	0.64
Richard Lloyd	11.52	Ralph Levy	3.76	Jon Hartman	1.28	Steve Klene	0.60
Gary Kay	11.08	Bill Davis	3.72	Tim Serges	1.28	Arlynne Simon	0.56
Reggie Porter	10.86	Paul Friedman	3.70	Femi Owiku	1.26	Larry Strommen	0.56
Paul Klein	10.72	Dean Muench	3.28	Jill Ferdinand	1.00	Barbara Levinson	0.48
Alice Kay	10.66	Dave Cramer	3.16	Bruce Pollack	0.96	Tom Fahland	0.40
Joann Feinstein	10.04	Yamin Yamin	3.12	Ed Bauder	0.96	Don Marek	0.40
Ed Buerger	9.92	Leslie Lockett	2.96	Marty Tatosian	0.96	Monica Miller	0.40
Don Jayhan	9.40	Alex Itkin	2.96	René Wojtysiak	0.92	Mark Zoll	0.32
Mary Franks	9.00	Sarg Serges	2.80	Doug Roberts	0.88	Patrick Desmond	0.32
Phil Simborg	8.72	Nan Feiber	2.64	Earl Risch	0.88	Willie Franklin	0.32
Frankie Farjood	8.28	John Brussel	2.56	Gregg Westrick	0.88	Scott Richardson	0.30
Bill Keefe	8.24	Peter Heitmüller	2.56	Mitch Pomper	0.88	Kurt Warning	0.24
Arline Levy	7.52	Roz Ferris	2.40	Roger Smith	0.88	Vinton Knarr	0.24
Ken Bond	7.36	Wendy Kaplan	2.20	Roland Dieter	0.88	Stan Kucharz	0.18
Harold Seif	7.28	Paul Ruterma	2.08	Walter Trice	0.88	Tim Carroll	0.16
Amy Valerio	7.02	Mark Murray	1.98	Wilcox Snellings	0.88	Peaches Stewart	0.12
Phyllis Smolinski	6.88	Andy Bittman	1.84				

December's Player of the Month was **NEIL KAZAROSS**. Neil ended the year in a flurry winning 3.88 points. Paul Franks (3.28) finished second and Tak Morioka and David Rubin earned 2.64 points each.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Diagram C. 17 point match. Black trails White 11–4. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



C, Black trails [corrected above—Ed.], not “leads” as Walter shows, 11–4 in the 17-point match. This makes a big difference in cube actions. In general, the points which decrease a lead in a match are worth more than the points which increase that lead (as measured by gain in match-winning chances).

Bill Robertie's chart (in *Genud vs. Dwek*) illustrates. A plain win yields 17% chances for the trailer undoubled but 21% doubled. A plain win yields 90% chances for the leader undoubled but 93% doubled. Thus in doubling, the trailer receives 4-to-3 odds while the leader gives 4-to-3.

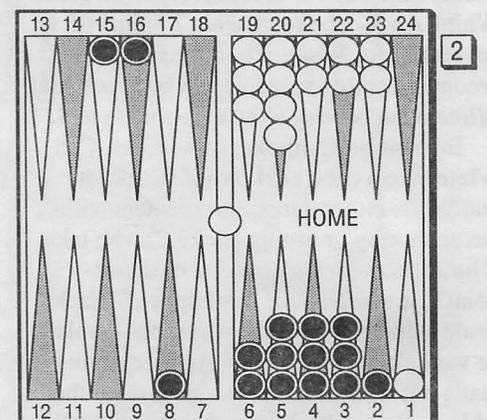
The odds are even more dramatic for gammons. A double increases the trailer's chances from 21% to 33%, but the leader's chances only from 93% to 98%. If gammons

[Continued on page 4]

your move

PROBLEM #221

Match to 7 points. White leads Black, 3 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



© 1996 by Danny Kleinman

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: Whenever I watch an expert backgammon player, I nearly always guess his play before he makes it. And often when I mentally choose a play different from the expert, my choice is later judged superior.

Sit me down against expert competition and it's a different story. I struggle to win 40% of my matches. Whenever a kibitzer points out my dumb moves, I always wonder how I could have been so stupid.

Why am I a better kibitzer than a player? How does one go about transferring kibitzing talents into playing skills?—Consummate Kibitzer

DEAR KIBITZER: Who can diagnose the disease without examining the patient? Your symptoms are common, and may stem from many different root ailments.

Perhaps you recall a gifted classmate who mastered the curriculum perfectly during the school year but flubbed the final exam. Coaches bewail the gifted basketball players who hit nothing but net during practice and throw nothing but bricks

during the game. Such “stage fright” is well known in diverse activities, and may affect your backgammon. The performance pressure may be all the more severe when significant money is at stake, as in most backgammon tournaments. If afflicted, you might try ignoring your opponent along with any kibitzers who may be watching you, and focusing your attention only upon the positions.

A second explanation addresses the loopholes in your account. You say you “nearly always” guess an expert’s move before he makes it and “often” choose a better play. What about the exceptions? Could these be the blunders and oversights that cause you to lose 60% of your matches against experts? How often do they occur? Most people, even people with good memories and honest intentions, do not keep accurate track of their experiences. When you overlook a good play that William Worldbeater makes while you are watching him, you are unlikely to remember it. When you see a good play that William Worldbeater misses, however, that is noteworthy (perhaps a source of pride) and you are unlikely to forget.

A third possible explanation lies in the fact that you are doing something different from the expert whom you are watching. He is thinking about the play, moving his checkers, and lifting his dice. You are only thinking about the play. What happens when you “see” a good play, “guess” that

he will make it, and the expert keeps thinking—or moves his checkers without lifting his dice? I can tell you what happens when I do this: I use the extra time before the expert completes his move to rethink the play, and sometimes find a better one.

When I watch a backgammon player, I do not gauge his skill primarily by the moves he makes, for even experts disagree. The time he takes before moving, reflecting which plays he finds problematical, offers a better measure. If you nearly always “guess” an expert’s play before he makes it, then—unless you can think about backgammon positions faster than he can—you are not thinking *enough* about the play. When you watch an expert, he helps you find superior moves by his tempo. When you are the player, however, you receive no such help.

The underlying disease may be “seeing” quickly what looks like a good play, making that play, and not searching for better plays you may have overlooked before lifting your dice. Perhaps you should slow down until the search for alternatives superior to the “obvious” move becomes habitual.—Miss Lonelyblots Δ

Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3128.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

were certain, then the trailer would receive 12-to-5 odds while the leader would give 12-to-5 odds by doubling. If gammons occur 25% of the time, the odds received by the trailer and given by the leader are 6-to-3½ (12-to-7).

Trailing 11-4 in a 17-point match, Black gets some added protection in doubling because the cube is of relatively little use to White. An 8-cube represents 2 points of “overage” for White. Therefore a 4-cube becomes readily returnable to 8 by Black, and White must be very slow to redouble to 4.

In Position C, market loss looms. Can White take a cube next turn if Black hits and White either dances, or reenters without anchoring or hitting back? Can he take if he anchors on the acepoint or deucepoint? How often will this happen? Black could stop and count the ways, but—unless he were “mathemagician” Art Benjamin—that’s not what I’d expect him to do at the table.—Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA

Walter Trice responds: Danny correctly points out that my review contained two errors. All I can say is that they were the result of inexcusable haste and sloppiness on my part. My sincere apologies to all who consider such details important. I shall make a New Year’s resolution to read Art Benjamin’s book and learn how to get the right answer when taking 13 away from 36.

I stand by all my conclusions about the position in question. With 23 misses for Black, White only makes his prime next turn 644 times out of 1296, but he’ll surely be “a slight favorite” to do so if we look ahead one more roll.

I’m quite surprised that Danny would use Bill Robertie’s 1981 match equity table to support his contention (unstated in the book) that the match score makes it a double. Most analysts, including Robertie, agree that the table has been superseded by Kit Woolsey’s table (first published in the March 1992 issue of Inside Backgammon). One of the chief defects of the old table is that it tends to overstate the leader’s advantage. At 11-4 in a 17 point match, Robertie gave the leader an 86%

match winning probability. Woolsey’s table only gives him 82%.

Using figures from the Woolsey table we see that a 2 point win is worth 8% to the leader but only 6% to the trailer. 4 point wins are nearly equal—15% for the trailer and 14% for the leader. Thus most of the trailer’s alleged extra value from doubling simply goes away if we use a more accurate table. Naturally the leader’s relative reluctance to redouble to 4 is significant. But is it enough to turn a nearly even position into a double? That seems doubtful.

Danny persists in over-rating the strength of Black’s position. “Can White take a cube next turn if Black hits and White either dances or reenters without anchoring or hitting back?” I believe that he can in some cases. After Black (6-1) 24/18/17 (or 24/18*, 8/7), White (6-3) Bar/22 10/4, I would take. The race is close, White’s board is better, and White’s chances of anchoring, escaping, or hitting in the outfield seem adequate.*

“Can he take if he anchors on the

[Continued on page 8]

Backgammon Clubs in North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. As a service to our readers, CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America. Please send information including updates, club closings and new clubs to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659. 312/583-6464. Fax: 312/583-3264. E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com**

WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Gammon Associates	Hampton's Kitchen	Burbank, CA	Sunday-2:00 PM	Patrick Gibson (pgibson@kpsca.org)	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	Carrows Restaurant	Tarzana, CA	Tuesday-7:00 PM	"	"	"
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Acme Bar & Grill	La Jolla, CA	Tues.-6:30 PM, Sun.-3:00 PM	Mike Fujita (fujita@cts.com)	619/294-2007	P.O. Box 178119; San Diego, CA 92177
San Francisco Bridge & BG Club	Clubroom	San Francisco, CA	Wed., Fri.-9:00 PM	Augie Hunt	415/776-6949	777 Jones Street; San Francisco, CA 94109
Backgammon by the Bay	Clubroom	San Mateo, CA	3rd Sunday monthly-12:00 N	Joan Clark (gking@netcom.com)	510/838-7789	121 Wilshire Court; Danville, CA 94526
Las Vegas Backgammon	Jockey Club	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Michael Maxakuli	702/458-9359	6132 Meadow View Ln.; Las Vegas, NV 89103
Oregon Backgammon Club	Lacey's	Lake Oswego, OR	1st & 3rd Tues.-7:00 PM	Henry Moss	503/636-6258	2360 Greentree Rd.; Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Pacific NW Backgammon Assn.	Shakey's Pizza	Bellevue, WA	Monday-7:00 PM	Chuck Breckenridge	206/778-8181	18204 Olympic View Dr.; Edmonds, WA 98020
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	European Connection	Burien, WA	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Ruth Robbins	206/226-3120	12611 155th Ave. SE; Renton, WA 98059

CENTRAL

Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Ride The Nine	Bloomington, IL	1st, 3rd, 5th Tues.-6:15 PM	Lane O'Connor	309/454-1947	108 Riss Drive; Normal, IL 61761
Chicago Bar Point Club	Golden Flame	Chicago, IL	Tuesday-6:15 PM	Bill Davis (chipoint@interaccess.com)	312/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659
"	Braxton Seafood Grill	Oak Brook, IL	Sunday bimonthly-12:30 PM	Peter Kalba (pappy@interaccess.com)	312/252-7755	2510 W. Iowa Street; Chicago, IL 60622
Chicago Board of Backgammon	Clubroom	Chicago, IL	Daily except Sun, Tour. Sat-12 N	Dean Muench (itaewon@interaccess.com)	312/922-0404	175 W. Jackson Blvd. 1103; Chicago, IL 60604
Games People Play	Alexander's	Chicago, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	J.A. Miller	312/734-9430	P.O. Box 8630; Chicago, IL 60680
The North Club	Clubroom	Chicago, IL	Daily except Sunday-1:00 PM	Greg Defotis	312/286-6719	4747 W. Peterson Ave. 2; Chicago, IL 60646
Pub Club	Cricket's Pub & Grill	Glendale Hts., IL	Monday-7:30 PM	V.W. Zimmnicki	708/924-8632	P.O. Box 72216; Roselle, IL 60172
Central Ill. Backgammon Club	Denny's Restaurant	Peoria, IL	Thursday-6:30 PM	Linda Woods	309/686-6662	1115 E. McClure Avenue; Peoria, IL 61603
Sangamon Valley BG Assn.	Brewhaus	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:00 PM	Ben Zemaitis (ben.zemaitis@accessil.com)	217/483-4028	57 Meander Pike; Springfield, IL 62629
"	Parker's Sports Bar	Springfield, IL	1st Sat/Nov to Apr-11:30 AM	"	"	"
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Stern	847/446-0537	4200 W. Lake 302C; Glenview, IL 60025
Summit City Backgam'n League	Alumni Club	Ft. Wayne, IN	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Ken Bruck	219/639-6898	P.O. Box 6546; Fort Wayne, IN 46896
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Spats	Indianapolis, IN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Butch Meese (hbc@ix.netcom.com)	317/845-8435	7620 Kilmer Lane; Indianapolis, IN 46256
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Ramada Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole (carlcole@sils.umich.edu)	810/232-9731	3003 Ridgecliffe Drive; Flint, MI 48532
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian (adamiancan@aol.com)	313/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Cavendish North BG Club	Clubroom	Southfield, MI	Daily except Sunday-1:00 PM	Bud Olejniczak	810/540-0197	30065 Greenfield Rd.; Southfield, MI 48076
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	Pracna on Main Restaurant	Minneapolis, MN	Thursdays-7:00 PM	Steve Maas	612/378-1536	841 20th Ave. SE; Minneapolis, MN 55414
Northern Ohio Backgammon Club	Andrew's Brews	Akron, OH	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Joe Miller (jmiller@cannet.com)	216/966-2811	6633 Lake-O-Springs; Canton, OH 44718
Dallas Backgammon League	Scoreboard	Addison, TX	Wednesday-7:45 PM	Rich Weaver	214/620-7462	2682 Hearthstone; Dallas, TX 75234
Austin Backgammon Assn.	Bombay Bicycle Club	Austin, TX	Monday-7:30 PM	Jackie Seiders-Smart	512/261-8518	30 Hightrail Way, Austin, TX 78738

(Continued on opposite side)

CENTRAL (continued)

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
American Backgammon Club	Vickery Feed Store	Dallas, TX	Sunday-6:30 PM	Kati Pratt	214/827-8403	5631 Ellsworth; Dallas, TX 75206
Houston Backgammon Club	Sam Delly	Houston, TX	Tuesday-6:45 PM	Phyllis Davidson	713/977-0702	2100 Tanglewilde 633; Houston, TX 77063
San Antonio Backgammon	I Don't Know Yet Lounge	San Antonio, TX	Friday-9:00 PM	Marcel Mommers	210/606-0025	3812 Greenridge Drive; Cibolo, TX 78108
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	Gas Lite North	Milwaukee, WI	2nd & 4th Wed.-7:00 PM	Marv Arnol	414/355-8805	9031 N. 70th Street; Milwaukee, WI 53223
Milwaukee Backgammon	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	Sunday bimonthly-11:30 AM	Merrill Schragar	414/463-2498	9043 W. Grantosa Dr.; Milwaukee, WI 53225

NORTHEAST

Beltway Backgammon Club	Promenade Cardroom	Bethesda, MD	2nd & 4th Sunday-12:00 N	Barry Steinberg (bkgm@aol.com)	301/530-0604	5712 Quebec St.; Berwyn Hts., MD 20740
Cavendish Club of Boston	Clubroom	Brookline, MA	Thur.-6:00 PM, Sat.-1:00 PM	Carl Saldinger	617/734-2230	111 Cypress Street; Brookline, MA 02146
New England Backgammon Club	Sheraton Commander Hotel	Cambridge, MA	Mon-7 PM, Sun Mithly-12:30 PM	Andy Latto (andy@harlequin.com)	617/784-6114	156 Massapong Ave.; Sharon, MA 02067
New Jersey Backgammon Assn.	Best Western Oritani Hotel	Hackensack, NJ	Friday-7:45 PM	Ron Whitney	201/833-2915	279 Glen Court; Teaneck, NJ 07666
Ace Point Backgammon Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-3:00 PM	Michael Valentine	212/753-0842	41 E. 60th Street; New York, NY 10022
Coterie	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-1:00 PM	Louise Goldsmith	212/371-5151	Private club. Telephone for information.
The Midtown Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily, Tour. Saturday-1:00 PM	Dr. Bob Hill	212/935-9800	216 East 49th Street; New York, NY 10017
New York Chess & Backgammon	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily, Tour. Sunday-12:00 N	Steve Manning (overdog@netcom.com)	212/302-5874	120 W. 41st Street 3; New York, NY 10036
Saratoga Backgammon Club	Waterfront Restaurant	Saratoga Springs, NY	Friday-1:00 PM	Lee Hoge	518/584-1714	P.O. Box 563; Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Greater New York BG Club	Woodbury Ramada Inn	Woodbury, NY	Sunday monthly-12:30 PM	Dr. Bob Hill	718/341-3779	194-22 115th Road; Jamaica, NY 11412
Cavendish Club of Philadelphia	Clubroom	Philadelphia, PA	Mon, Wed, Thu-7PM; Sat-1PM	Ken Reiver	215/878-5777	3801 Conshohocken Ave; Philadelphia, PA 19131
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club	Murphy's Tap Room	Pittsburgh, PA	Tuesday-8:30 PM	Steve Hast (pghsteve@telerama.lm.com)	412/823-7500	3560 Ridgewood Dr.; Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Tyson's Corner Backgammon Club	Mr. Smith's Restaurant	Tyson's Corner, VA	Monday-7:00 PM	Bill Pow	703/549-1808	8906 Hooes Road, Lorton, VA 22079

SOUTH

Suncoast Backgammon Assn.	New York, New York Lounge	Clearwater, FL	Monday-7:00 PM	Drew Giovanis	813/726-1398	25350 US Hwy 19 N 67; Clearwater, FL 34623
South Florida Backgammon	Big Apple Sports Pub	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Sunday-1:00 PM	Elayne Feinstein	305/785-1282	2621 NE 7th Ter.; Pompano Beach, FL 33064
Backgammon Club of NW Florida	Olde English Pub	Lynn Haven, FL	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Rick Bieniak	904/773-2013	P.O. Box 416; Wausau, FL 32463
Orlando Backgammon	Coach's Locker Room	Orlando, FL	Tuesday-7:30 PM	David Thomas	904/736-2844	P.O. Box 803; Deland, FL 32721
Backgam'n Society of Sarasota	Bath & Racquet Club	Sarasota, FL	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Frank Schank	813/792-3992	5320 86th Street W.; Bradenton, FL 34210
Atlanta Backgammon Assn.	Scores Sports Bar	Atlanta, GA	Thur-7 PM, 4th Sun-1:00 PM	Dave Cardwell (bginga@aol.com)	770/441-2074	P.O. Box 2266; Norcross, GA 30091
Louisville Backgammon Club	Delta Lounge	Louisville, KY	2nd & 4th Tuesday-6:30 PM	Quint McTyeire (hnm@gdm.com)	502/896-9783	4906 Crofton Road; Louisville, KY 40207

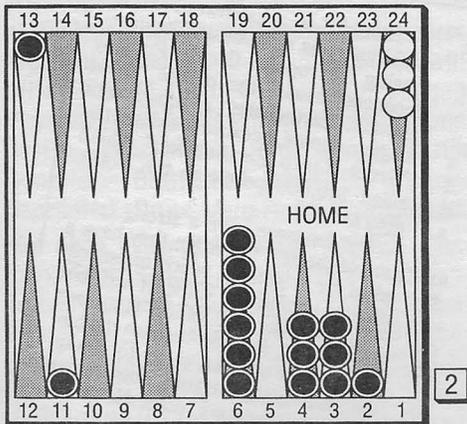
CANADA

Vancouver Backgammon	Broadway Earl's	Vancouver, BC	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Marty Jensen	604/688-8317	1339 Burnaby 402; Vancouver, BC V6E 1R2; CANADA
Nat'l Capital Backgammon Club	Lunergan's Pub	Vanier, ON	1st Sun/Sep to Jun-12:30 PM	Eden Windish	613/741-2530	396 Talbot St.; Ottawa, ON K1K 2N6; CANADA
Le Gammon	Clubroom	Montreal, QB	Daily-3:30 PM	Michel Merlitti	514/845-8370	552 St Catherine E; Montreal, QB H2L 2E1; CANADA

DOUBLES...

[Continued from page 1]

POSITION #3: Black to play a 1.



In Position #1, you forsake good distribution by stacking another man on the deuce point so double 2s play better. In Position #2, you play 4/3 to make double 3s work. In position 3, you ignore the slotting play (6/5) and the crossover (13/12) by playing 11/10. Now both double 4s and 5s will save the gammon next roll.

These are all one-roll situations. When the game is still several rolls from conclusion, the solution is less obvious or routine. Two such examples are shown at right.

THE IMPULSE TO FILL the gap with 4/2 in Position #4 is incorrect. You must play 3/1, stacking another man on the ace point. Double aces play better next roll leaving the final two men on the 3- and 4-points rather than two men on the 3-point.

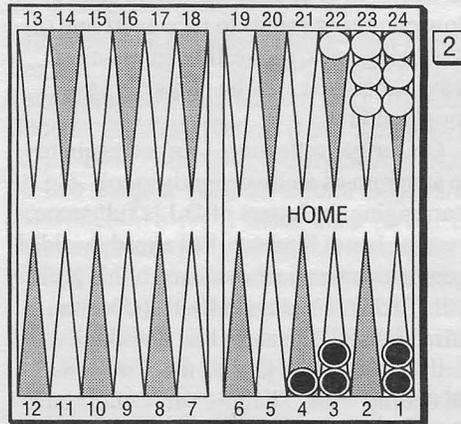
Making the correct play doesn't enhance your equity significantly, but you'll get that warm feeling in your stomach from having made the right decision. "Stacking" plays are common, but this one is unusual because Black is *winning* the bearoff.

In Position #5, taken from a high-flying chouette a few years back, Ed O'Laughlin doubled out everyone except the late, ever-fearless Ami Tennenbaum. Ed's victory was not in doubt, but the gammon was still a question mark.

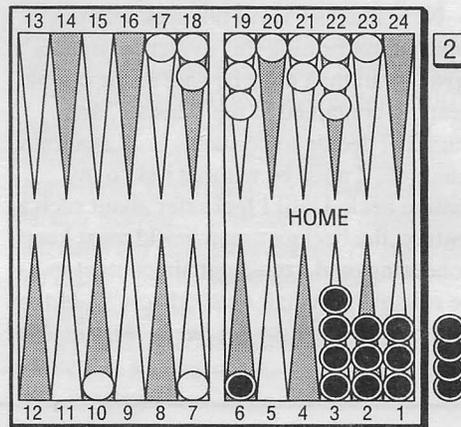
Since he needed to bear off a checker, Ed's choices were limited to (a) 6/1, 2-off or (b) 6/4, 4-off. Ed chose (b), a subtle play some players would overlook. Its advantage is keeping three men on the deuce point, thus guarding against three 2s in the bearoff.

But the goal of this game is to *gammon* Ami. It appears that Ami will escape the gammon by his fifth roll, so Ed must try to bearoff within his next four rolls.

POSITION #4: Black to play a 2.



POSITION #5: Black to play 5-2.



Play (a) is more efficient at the task by putting four men on the ace point, again making double aces more productive.

As cruel luck would have it, Ed's final roll was double 1s. His decision to maintain deuce insurance cost him a gammon. Δ

94/95 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)

1995 American Backgammon Tour: *Joe Russell*
 Gammon Associates (CA): *Jona Alexander*
 BG Club of San Diego (CA): *Don Bernstein*
 BG Society of Sarasota (FL): *Thelma Randall*
 Atlanta Backgammon Assn. (GA): *Dave Cardwell*
 Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): *Neil Kazaross*
 Pub Club (IL): *Jake Jacobs*
 Games People Play (IL): *J.A. Miller*
 Central Illinois BG Club (IL): *Milad Doueih*
 Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): *Paul Friedman*
 Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): *Larry Whittenberg*
 Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): *Jim Zimmerman*
 Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): *Chuck Stimming*
 Beltway Backgammon Club (MD): *Mel Leifer*
 New England BG Club (MA): Points Race: *Evan Diamond*. Club Championship: *Alex Perry*.
 Monarch of Monday Night: *Herb Gurland*
 Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI): *John Carrico*
 Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): *Dean Adamian*
 Twin Cities Backgammon Club (MN): *Steve Brown*
 New York Chess & Backgammon (NY): *Alex Rasic*
 Saratoga Backgammon Club (NY): *Lee Hoge*
 New Jersey Backgammon Club (NJ): *Bob Molitar*
 Northern Ohio BG Club (OH): *Harry Kayser*
 Oregon Backgammon Club (OR): *Bill Piland*
 Pittsburgh Backgammon Club (PA): *Abbas Zaltash*
 Dallas Backgammon League (TX): *Tom Wheeler*
 Austin Backgammon Assn. (TX): *Sam Karimi*
 Tyson's Corner Backgammon Club (VA): *Gary Fries*
 Puget Sound Backgammon Club (WA): *Cam Trenor*

INTERNATIONAL (Alphabetized by Country)

1995 WBF European Champion: *Evert Van Eijck*
 National Capital BG Club (Canada): *Mike Friedman*
 Danish Backgammon Fed.: *George Velando*
 Double Five Backgammon Club League (London, England): (League I) *Brendan McInerney*, (League II) *George Sulimirski*
 British Isles BG Champion: *Stephen Turner*.
 Ranking winner: *Paul Turnbull*
 Hong Kong Backgammon Club: *Marc Mostacci*
 Italian Federal Championship 94/95: *Nino DiBella*

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LETTERS...

[Continued from page 4]

acepoint or deucepoint?" No, but he won't make a low anchor voluntarily. He'll leave his back men split and try to anchor on Black's 4- or 3-point. White may have some market losers among these hitting sequences, but he needs to hit two checkers, improve his board, or have Black dance in order to really regret not having doubled—Walter Trice, Holden, MA

BETTER 'LATE' THAN NEVER

A Happy New Year to you. This letter is the second item on my list of New Year's resolutions. If I had done it yesterday, I could have started the new year with a cleaner slate. I just didn't get around to it.—George Rolf, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

George, your letter was dated, 1 Jan. 1996. We forgive you for the day's delay!—Ed.

LO, MARTIN'S PEN MASHES O.J.

I noted with interest Norm Wiggins' report on O.J. Simpson's backgammon style. To characterize O.J. as a "slasher" seemed at first merely another tired O.J. joke not

necessarily bearing any relation to reality. Mr. Simpson is undoubtedly too cagey to allow enquiring minds to take apart any of his actual games, so we'll be guessing forever about the way he plays. Or so I thought at first.

On further reflection, I turned again to the anagram as an investigative tool. Rearranging the letters of O.J.'s full name, Orenthal James Simpson, had already yielded strong anagrammatical evidence of his guilt in the Brown/Goldman affair. Indeed, an entire plausible scenario had unfolded, starting with "Real jam on the Simpsons," and ending with "Shalom, Mr. O.J., insane pest!" Likewise, the anagram "Jam—slasher points on me!" corroborates Norm's characterization of O.J.'s playing style.

Nevertheless, I will not seek O.J. out in hopes of confirming this evidence. Even a top anagrammist must beware of the double meaning contained in the "slasher" anagram. If I decide to be such a bold anagram detective, it must be without risk to my pristine neck. Until I feel safer about such a venture, the backgammon world must keep wondering, and I must remain content in the role of "armchair quarterback."—Marty Storer (Moron Wastrel In Stir)—Nashua, NH

A VIRTUOUS GAME?

I thought your readers might be interested in the following clipping from the *Washington Post*.

WASHINGTON POST

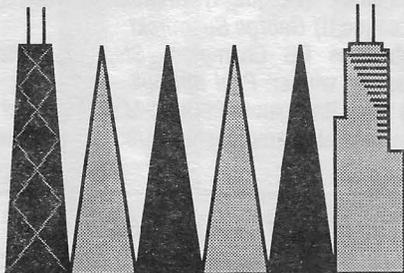
"Hanshin" is a catchword for a boring metropolitan area of Kobe and its surrounding area. For any Japanese person, the phrase "Great Hanshin Earthquake" is heavy with tragic meaning, because it evokes the "Great Kanto Earthquake," which killed 140,000 people in the Tokyo area in 1923.

The Japanese have a strong tradition of the stiff upper lip; they have a word for it, *gaman*, which means enduring something difficult without complaint. Because *gaman* is a cherished virtue, and also because the Japanese don't open up easily to strangers, not many victims complained openly to reporters, domestic or foreign, about conditions after the quake.

But when Western reporters heard complaints, they tended to feature critical remarks at the top of their

Would that more backgammon players exhibited the "gaman" virtue! Boxes from the bar should be borne without complaint.—Joe Freedman, Washington, D.C. Δ

CBOB



CHICAGO BOARD OF BACKGAMMON

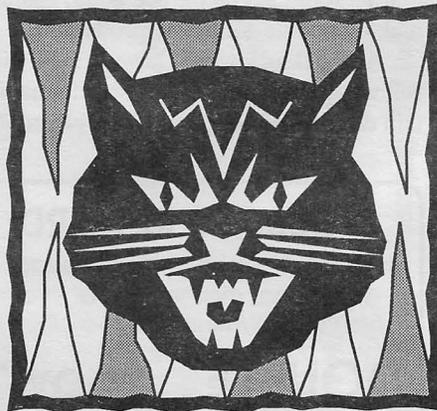
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"Your
opponent's
bad luck
is good."

WINNER'S CORNER

Oct. 1995—Jan. 1996



•**1995 Argentina Championship** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Marcelo Belaustegui, Joaquin Viejobueno. JUNIOR WINNERS: Atilio Verón, Basilio Theocharidis, Jorge Berger, Carlos Gonzalez. BEGINNER WINNERS: Virginia Rapetti, Hella Druse, Marta Funes, Liliana Jadech.

•**De Åbne Fynsmesterskaber** (Odense, Denmark; 14–15 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (30): 1-Torben Hasseriis, 2-Jes Bondo-Anderson, 3/4-Johnny Birch / Peter Svinding; 1C-Thomas Bræmer-Jensen, 2C-Thomas Boel. INTERMEDIATE (33): 1-Flemming Jensen, 2-Gert Jørgensen, 3/4-Lena Bergdahl / Helle Pedersen; 1C-Tony Hauboff, 2C-Niels Thomsen. BEGINNER (11): 1-Torben Nielsen, 2-Søren Rohwedder; 1C-Dan Aksvig, 2C-Andrew Scrase.

•**New England Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 15 Oct.)... EXPERT (24): 1-Seth Towle, 2-Linc Bedell (NH); 1C-Ed Guleserian, 2C-Mark Damish. A DIV. (18): 1-Ernesto Adrienzen, 2-Jim McKenna; 1C-Larry Liebster, 2C-Larry Lau. B DIV. (9): 1-Paul Sciaraffa; 1C-Lynn Marsella.

•**Frederiksberg Open 95** (Copenhagen, Denmark; 21–22 Oct.)... OPEN (55): 1-Klaus Switon, 2-Jakob Lauritzen, 3/4-Erik Gravgaard / Jack Nicholai Petersen / 1C-Annelise Wagner, 2C-Lars Rya, 3C/4C-Tony Hauboff / Lars P. Jensen.

•**Irish Open Championship** (Dublin, Ireland; 21–22 Oct.)... OPEN: 1-Paul Turnbull (UK), 2-Des O'Reilly, 3/4-Jack Darian (USA) / Roger Porter (UK); 1C-Cihanger. TEAM EVENT: 1-Tony Beckerson/Nick Check/Alan Lenox-Smith.

•**1995 Rio de Janeiro Open** (Rio, Brazil; 26–29 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (56+ reentries to 128): 1-Alvaró Savio, 2-José Saphir (ARG), 3/4-Ary Nogueira / Marcos Palmero, 5-Malcolm Davis (USA), 6-Luis Carlos Torres, 7-Evert van Eijck (NL), 8-David Chalom. INTERMEDIATE (58+ reentries to 128): 1-Verónica Dubal (ARG), 2-Pedro. BEGINNER (Reentries to 64): 1-José Maria.

•**Pittsburgh Sunday Tourney** (Pittsburgh, PA; 29 Oct.): OPEN (16): 1-Al Faller, 2/3-Rob Maier (WV) / Mike Reza (OH).

•**RSCARDS Fall 1995 Tournament** (GEnie computer service, Oct.–Nov.)... OPEN (12): 1-Greg Tomlin (IL), 2-John Jennings (IL), 3/4-Jean Lazaridis (PA) / Sam Tate (SC).

•**De Åbne Sjællandsmesterskaber** (Charlottenlund, Denmark; 3-4 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (31): 1-Erik Gravgaard, 2-Teis Dyekjær-Hansen, 3/4-Flemming Anderson / Anders Nielander; 1C-Gitte Dalgaard, 2C-navidi Afshar Kh. INTERMEDIATE (34): 1-Abdulkareem Zrir, 2-Kenneth Seemann, 3/4-Michael Schou / Niels Büchler; 1C-Christian Anthon, 2C-Thomas Lau Sønderup. BEGINNER (10): 1-Peter

Hallberg, 2-Gitte Antonsen; 1C-Majbritt Ehlers, 2C-Claus Steensgaard.

•**Backgammon in the Berkshires—ABT** (South Lee, MA; 3–5 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Tom Costigan, 2-Dan Shapiro (NY); 1C-Doug Roberts, 2C-Wally Watson (NY). ADVANCED (27): 1-Emily Fisher (CA), 2-Larry Liebster (NJ); 1C-Bob Lumbrá (VT), 2C-Sakura Sugawara. INTERMEDIATE (9): 1-Gilles Blais (CAN), 2-Jessica Brandlin (NY); 1C-Marcel Roux (CAN). NOVICE (11): 1-Kay Tennenbaum (NJ), 2-Martha Tarrimille (RI); 1C-Al Mason. MASTERS (16): 1-David Wells, 2-Joe Dinaro (CT). NEW ENGLAND DOUBLES (16): 1-Linc Bedell (NH) & Jerry Kane, 2-Dr. Bob Hill (NY) & Hersel Namdar (NY). 1-POINT TOURNEY (24): 1-Blake Sorem (MD)... *This ABT event was Part 1 of the Northeast Regional. See Big Apple (below) for Part 2.*

•**1st Japan Open** (Tokyo, Japan; 3–5 Nov.)... OPEN (21): 1-Elli Nache (USA), 2-John Koonman (USA), 3/4-Shunsuke Hasegawa / Seiichi Nagai; 1C-Bill Robertie (USA), 2C-David Brown (INDO). CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Masahiro Yamaguchi, 2-Tsuyoshi Minakami, 3/4-Kumiko Sasayama / Shunji Terao. BEGINNER: 1-Yoshiaki Maede, 2-Manabu Nishino... *Director Kenji Shimodaira sent Carol Joy Cole these results. He plans the 2nd Japan Open for November 1996.*

•**Springfield Series #1** (Springfield, IL; 4 Nov.)... OPEN (16): 1-Jim Zimmerman, 2-Linda Woods; 1C-William Hutchison, 2C-Cliff Mayoh; 1LC-John Jennings.

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 6 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-Tim Throsby, 2-Melody Rae; 1C-Ronnie Nutzati, 2C-Sunil Balani. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Nancy Wong, 2-Chris Gawan-Taylor.

•**Big Apple Series—ABT** (Hackensack, NJ; 10–12 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (25): 1-Abbas Zaltash (PA), 2-Hersel namdar (NY); 1C-Alan Steffen (NY), 2C-Art Kronenthal (NY). ADVANCED (18): 1-J.A. Miller (IL), 2-Emily Fisher (CA); 1C-Denise Merlitti (CAN), 2C-David Levine (PA). INTERMEDIATE (13): 1-Richard Schuler (NJ), 2-Doug Ljungkvist (NY). BIG APPLE 300 (12): 1-Perry Gartner (NJ), 2-Elliott Winslow (CA)... *Tom Costigan was declared the Northeast Regional Champ in the Berkshire/Big Apple combined performance event. Nora Luna won the drawing for the deluxe backgammon board.*

•**3rd Louisville Fall Classic** (Louisville, KY; 11–12 Nov.)... OPEN (16): 1-Frank Frigo, 2-John Cox, 3/4-Chuck Bower (IN) / Quint McTyeire.

•**International Tournament** (Bad Segeberg, Germany; 16–19 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Ralf Jonas, 2-Guido Hehmann, 3/4-Peter Dermann-Jensen (DK) / Carsten Joh; 1C-Rainer Birkle, 2C-Donald Kahn (USA); 1LC-Erik Gravgaard (DK). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Martin Rasmussen (DK), 2-Søren Betak (DK), 2/4-Hans-Peter Janzen / Volker Krüger; 1C-Jörg Keil, 2C-Einars Ullii; 1LC-Detlef Uter. BEGINNER: 1-Ole Bang (DK), 2-Andreas Engelmann; 1C-Anja Ewers; 1LC-Ralf Stemmler. SUPERJACKPOT #1: 1-Christian Plenz, 2-

Matthias Pauen; #2: 1/2-Garrett Bell (DEN) / Matthias Pauen. WARM-UP: 1-Nico Kitt, 2-Andreas Forster.

•**Townharbour Trophy Tournament** (Solihull, England; 18–19 Nov.)... OPEN (98): 1-Paul Lamford, 2-Tim Cross, 3-Dave Raynsford, 4/5-Jeff Ellis / Roy Hollands, 6-David Eggert, 7-Robin Clay, 8-Barry Williams. TOP LADY: Monica Beckerson. BETTER LUCK: Alan Lenox-Smith. FRIDAY NIGHT KO (22): 1-Peter Fallows, 2-John Broomfield. DOUBLES: 1-The Pigeons (Andreas Beunz & Martin Lee), 2-S&M (Simon Gascoigne & Martin Sims).

•**New England Club Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 19 Nov.)... EXPERT (26): 1-Evan Diamond, 2-Alex Perry, 3/4-Andy Latto / Phil Laak (CA); 1C-Marty Storer (NH), 2C-Herb Gurland. A DIVISION (13): 1-William Getty, 2-Larry Liebster (NJ); 1C-Jim Sullivan, 2C-Dan Moskowitz. B DIV. (9): 1-Rocio Borrero, 2-Graziano Bernardi; 1C-Lynn Marsella, 2C-Grammenos Karanos.

•**Flint Area Club Championships** (Flint, Michigan; 19 Nov.)... OPEN (26): 1-Carol Joy Cole, 2-Dave Pink, 3-Jim Muirhead. INTERMEDIATE (31): 1-Troy Longman, 2-Jim Smyth, 3/4-Abdul Alchabali / Gus Pappas, 5/6-Dirk Hogan / Carrie Morris. NOVICE (8): 1-Steve Grob, 2-Dave Brotherton.

•**"No Turkeys" Thanksgiving Tournament** (Akron, OH; 24–25 Nov.)... OPEN (22): 1-Ray Glaeser, 2-Steve Hast (PA), 3-Lou Steiner (PA). ADVANCED (15): 1-Janice Newman (IN), 2-Carol Leatherman (PA), 3-Wally Wolf (MI). NOVICE (9): 1-Eric Tharp, 2-Don Fowler. OPEN DOUBLES (6): 1-Art Benjamin (CA) & Joe Miller. ADV. DOUBLES (6): 1-Mike Hamad & Terry Kayser... *Joe Miller reports that this event will be part of the 1996 American Backgammon Tour.*

•**Atlanta Monthly Tournament** (Atlanta, GA; 25 Nov.)... OPEN (16): 1-Larry Taylor (GA), 2-Neil Young (FL); 1C-Alan Martin (NY), 2C-Frank Dama (FL)... *Director Dave Cardwell was regrettably forced to cancel the Georgia Championships—ABT due to low preregistration. The 1996 Georgia Championships are tentatively scheduled for 10–12 May.*

•**Springfield Series #2** (Springfield, IL; 2 Dec.)... OPEN (14): 1-Larry Whittenburg, 2-Linda Woods; 1C-William Hutchison, 2C-Ed Zell; 1LC-Randy Peterson.

•**Bar Point Sunday Tournament** (Oak Brook, IL; 3 Dec.)... OPEN (25): 1-Neil Kazaross, 2-David Rubin, 3/4-Paul Franks / Wendy Kaplan; 1C/2C-Tak Morioka / Mark Murray. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1/2-Femi Owiku / Jolie Rubin; 1C-Joann Feinstein, 2C-Peaches Stewart.

•**Beltway Backgammon Jackpot Tournament** (Bethesda, MD; 3 Dec.)... OPEN (18): 1-Bob Williamson, 2-Sam Orandle, 3-Chen-Fu Yu.

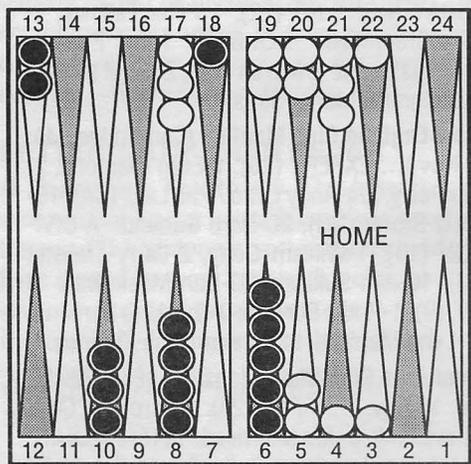
•**Double Five Club Winter Tournament** (London, England; 3 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Honorable Charles Montagu, 2-Tony Lee.

[Continued on page 10]

PROBLEM #220 SOLVED

by Kit Woolsey

Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.



So many good things to do, and only four 4s to play. Black can use the 4s in four ways:

1. To get the back checker safe,
2. To make the 9-point,
3. To make the 4-point, and
4. To make the 2-point. (This obviously only makes sense if you also make the 4-point.)

Thus, we have four candidate plays to choose from:

- 8/4(2)*, 6/2(2)
- 13/9(2), 8/4(2)*
- 18/10, 8/4(2)*
- 18/10, 13/9(2)

What is Black's game plan? Basically, to bring 'em in and win. He is well ahead in the race, so if he can avoid getting hit, the game figures to be his.

8/4(2)*, 6/2(2) makes an extra inner board point and puts White on the bar. Other than that, the play has little to recommend. Black is not trying to blitz White—that doesn't make sense. Making the 2-point has value only if White gets stuck on the bar. Once White enters, the 2-point has little value as a landing place and otherwise no value. In the meantime, Black has wasted two precious spares on the 6-point, as well as making no progress moving the back checkers around, which is really what he should be trying to do. This play can be rejected pretty easily.

13/9(2), 8/4(2)* makes two very nice

points, and would certainly be best except for the blot left on the enemy bar-point. White would have seven return shots, and White's board is strong enough so these shots might prove to be fatal. If Black figured to have great problems later on, this might be an acceptable risk. However Black is in pretty good shape anyway, so it simply isn't worth leaving this many shot numbers in order to drive White back.

18/10, 8/4(2)* is safe and makes the valuable 4-point. The problem is that it is pretty ugly. The gap on the 9-point remains, and Black still has the problem of getting those checkers on the midpoint home safely. The resulting distribution is pretty awkward, and Black will have plenty of problems later on.

How important is it for Black to make the 4-point in the first place? Granted, it is a valuable point both for blocking purposes and as a later landing place. However, there are some downsides to any play which makes the 4-point.

First, if White enters with a 3, she has a decent 3-5 structure. This isn't the best backgame in the world, but White really won't be playing it as a backgame. Her game plan would most likely be to run off the 20-point a few rolls from now if nothing exceptional happens, and play a 3-point game with the gap on Black's 5-point being an added bonus. White is much more likely to get a shot from the defensive 3-point than the defensive 5-point.

Second, White might enter deeper, on Black's ace or deuce point. This could also benefit White. Then the game plan would be to spring the checker on the 3-point, remaining with the anchor on the 5-point and one checker deep. White should have enough time to hold this formation for several rolls, and this structure will make it quite difficult for Black to bring the position home safely.

The preceding argument indicates that simply playing 18/10, 13/9(2) is the best play. And, so it is. Perfectly safe, and a fine structure to play from. White will have to find places to put her checkers, and Black figures to have a decent chance to bring the position home since he can play behind White's checkers if necessary. In a sense, White's checkers on the 3- and 4-points are in limbo. If White moves them up, it becomes even easier for Black to play safely; but if White doesn't move them up, something may have to give.

In addition, these checkers are in danger of future attack. The match conditions of double match-point make the argument for this play even stronger. The plays which make the 4-point will tend to

produce more gammons, something Black doesn't need. However I believe this play is so much better that it would be correct at any match score.

Finding the right solution to this problem is simply a matter of knowing what your game plan is and sticking with it. Black's plan is to bring them in and win—not to blitz the White checkers. 18/10, 13/9(2) is the move which sticks to that game plan. Δ

WINNER'S CORNER...

[Continued from page 9]

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 4 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Tim Throsby, 2-Don Rae; 1C-Avry Ben-Zeev, 2C-Patrice Hattu. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1/2-Nancy Wong / Peter Wong.

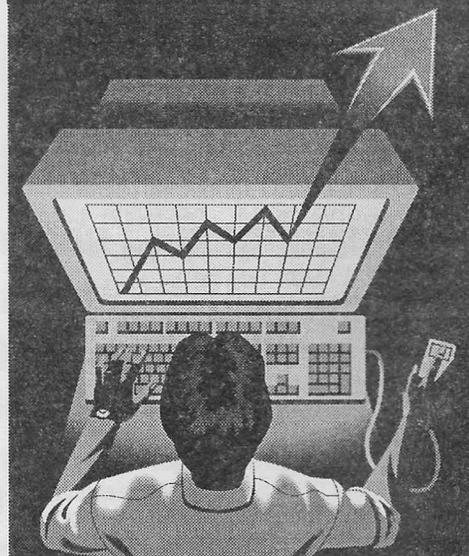
•**Atlanta Holiday Tournament** (Atlanta, GA; 17 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Jim Hickey, 2-Dave Cardwell.

•**WBF Electronic Team Event—Italy vs. South Africa** (Via FIBS; Dec.–Jan)... Team winner: South Africa (team captain Patza) defeats Italy (team captain DaPra) 5-4... *This is the first Worldwide Backgammon Fed. team challenge event. Greece and Sweden are next. For more information, interested parties should contact Alberto da Pra via e-mail at <dapra@iol.it>.*

•**Springfield Series #3** (Springfield, IL; 6 Jan.)... OPEN (18): 1-Ed Zell, 2-John Jennings; 1C-Randy Armstrong, 2C-Ben Zemaitis; 1LC-Mark Kaye.

•**Northern Ohio Monthly** (Akron, OH; 7 Jan.)... OPEN (11): 1-Greg Shoults, 2/3-Mike Hamad / Joe Miller... *11 players inside sounds pretty good when you consider there were 22" of snow outside!* Δ

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AMALGAMATION

Congratulations to "Games People Play" BG director **J.A. Miller** (Chicago) who became a grandfather (can you believe it?). J.A.'s granddaughter **Tamiko Miller** was born to **Eric & Angela Miller** on 25 November... Attention Internet users: WBF President **Alberto da Pra** (Italy) invites you to check out the website for the Worldwide Backgammon Federation: <<http://alpha.science.unitn.it/students/roberto/home.html>>... Grand Opening for the new San Francisco backgammon club "Backgammon by the Bay" is 18 February. For time and location, contact **Joan Clark** at 510.838-7789 or <gking@netcom.com>... On a December vacation to Costa Rica, Saratoga Backgammon Club (NY) Director **Lee Hoge** (celebrating his 80th birthday), hooked up with **George Aron** and other Costa Ricans for some friendly chouette play... We're in *Games* magazine (Feb. 1996 issue) with a new backgammon problem on page 62. Thanks to **Antonio Ortega** and **Mario Madrigal** for their valuable input. *Games* also includes info about the Midwest Championships (22-24 March) on page 60. Check it out... Speaking of the 1996 Midwest Championships: *Black Cat Backgammon*, if you're one of the first 16 to find small Black Cat on Friday or Saturday, you'll play in a special

\$513 Sunday tournament where if you lose, you win! Call 312/583-6464 to request an invitation... **Joanne and Jerry Feinstein** (IL) are proud grandparents again. (Daughter) **Jamie and Larry Irgang** welcomed **Danielle Irgang** on 3 January. The best to all... **Graham Sievers** (London) writes us that this fall, he, along with **Murray Henderson, Barry MacAdam, George Sulimirski** and **Paul Money** took on all backgammon comers to benefit a British Hospital Cancer Charity Fund. They did well: including the other games, over \$20,000 was raised... "For people who get their kicks above the waistline™," **Steve Manning** (NY) reports that the House of Games is now open. Located one floor above Steve's New York Chess & Backgammon (121 W. 41st Street), the studio will house non-smoking chess (especially for kids). Backgammon supplies are also available... Alpine Electronics is offering a neat backgammon diagram font called "Monte Carlo." It comes in 10 and 14 point sizes. **Jake Jacobs** (IL) is using this font for diagrams in soon-to-be-released book: *Can A Fish Taste Twice As Good?—Doubling in an Unequal Match*. To order the BG font, send \$29 postpaid to **Steve Smith** at Alpine Electronics; 526 W. 7th St.; Powell, WY 82435. Specify Macintosh or Windows version. Both TrueType and PostScript versions are included. Other game fonts are also available. Δ

chicago board of backgammon

CBOB OPENING IS GRAND

Gary & Alice Kay Share Top Honors

Chicago Board of Backgammon Club owner Dean Muench and family welcomed over 40 players from Chicagoland backgammon's past and present to the grand opening of CBOB, a private gaming club at 175 W. Jackson.

The Champagne brunch and balloon decorations were both excellent, as were the playing conditions.

Winners of the day were Gary & Alice Kay who split the four-figure prize money. Richard Lloyd and Ken Tyszko were runner's-up.

To keep tournament action in full swing on Saturdays, Dean has announced that guest and table fees will be half price. Δ



CBOB Grand Opening champions Gary and Alice Kay [File photo]

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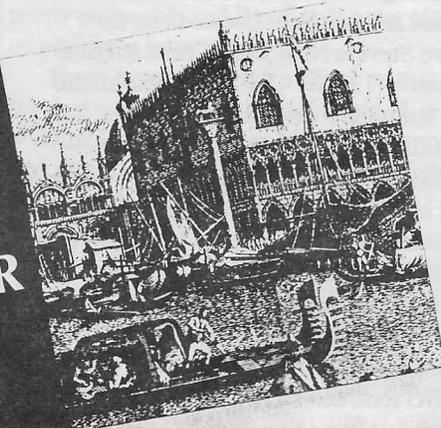
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