



## The Check Is in the Mail

June 2008

**NOTICE: The correspondence office will be closed June 7 to June 16 while I am at a chess camp in Atlanta.**

### OSTRIKER EARNS SIM TITLE

Jon Ostriker, currently battling in the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Championship Finals, has found that a busy occupation indeed – so busy Jon didn't have time to send a picture for the readers. Jon was awarded the SIM title at the ICCF Congress in Malaga Spain in 2007. Jon has had considerable success in approaching the Finals of this World Championship. Jon, who celebrates his birthday on November 28, 1942, has earned his climb to the top starting with a weak finish in the IV North American Invitational (1982) to overshooting the GM norm in the World Championship semifinals. With results like that, Jon can be forgiven for being busy!

### RUY LOPEZ (C67)

**White: Jesus Roig Grau (2440)**

**Black: IM Jon Ostriker (2348)**

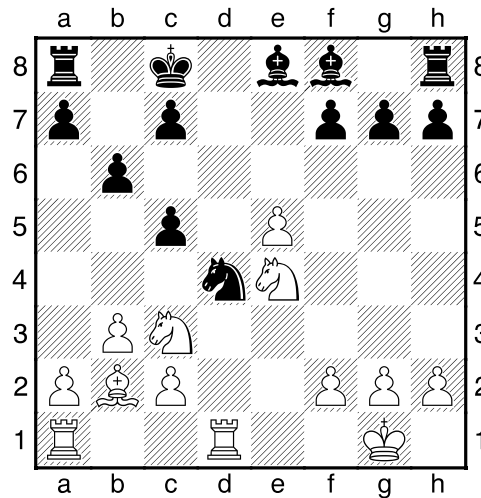
**27<sup>th</sup> World Championship semifinals 2003**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 Bd7 10.Rd1 Kc8 11.Ng5 Be8 12.Nge4 b6 13.b3 c5**

An earlier game Percze-Mahony, ICCF 2001 had continued 13...Kb7 14. Bb2 Be7 15. Rd3 Rd8 16. Rad1 Kc8 with a slight pull

for White that was converted to a win much later.

### 14.Bb2 Nd4



Critical moment #1 -- how is White to protect his c2 Pawn?

### 15.Nd5!

With Black's army hibernating on the back ranks, White does not defend. Now Ostriker knows he is in trouble and will have to defend well. But first he must at least take the Pawn to have something to defend.

**15...Nxc2 16.Rac1 Nb4 17.Nxb4 cxb4 18.Nd6+ Bxd6 19.exd6 c5**

If Black survives, and that is a large if, Black will have a 4 to 2 queenside majority to play with, but right now he has a monster on d6 and a Pawn about to disappear on g7.

### 20.Re1! Rb8

To contest the seventh rank -- Re7 Rb7

**21.Bxg7 Rg8 22.Be5 Bd7 23.Bg3 Rb7 24.Re5**

White, who has played excellently until now, begins a series of 90% moves while Jon continues to defend well. Here 24. Re7 seems more demanding.

**24...a5 25.f3 Re8 26.Rxe8+ Bxe8 27.Re1 Bd7 28.Re7?**

White continues his attack, but now Black's King is safe and the queenside majority begins to make its presence felt.

**28...Be6!**

This was critical moment #2: Black now realizes that the time may come to switch from defense mode to attack mode.

**29.Kf2 a4! 30.bxa4 Rd7**

Now with the Rooks off the board, Black has at least a draw. This mysterious rook move guarantees that --31. Re8+ is met by Rd8, 32. Re7 Rd7 etc., but this is what White should do, Still pursuing a win, he catches a loss.

**31.Ke3 Bxa2 32.Re8+ Rd8 33.Re7 Rd7 34.Re8+ Kb7!**

Critical moment #3 -- Black gets ambitious, and rightfully so. White has passed up too many drawish lines.

**35.Be5 Kc6 36.Rc8+ Kd5 37.f4 Bb3 38.Rb8 f6 39.Bxf6 Rxd6 40.Be5 Re6 41.Ra8**

His monster gone, the Black King active, two passed Pawns on the queenside, White's game has fallen apart. Jon's iron defense has turned on White.

**41...Bc2 42.g4 Kc4 43.Kd2 Kb3 44.Rc8 Re7**

and now the Rook threatens to come into the fight.

**45.Rc6 Rd7+ 46.Bd6**

After this, Black finds a little combination and White is lost. The endgame after 46. Rd6 Rxd6+ 47. Bxd6 Ka2! 48. Kc1 Bxa4 49. f5 Be8 is winning for Black.

**46...b5! 47.axb5 Be4**

The two passed Pawns are unstoppable. **0-1**

## The Chess Specialists

About sixty years ago the great chess writer Cecil Purdy labeled them as "chess specialists" These were players who could not play well over the board but were poison by correspondence chess. He attributed their successes to the differences between OTB and CC – memory, nerves, and time.

As a study of the modern "chess specialist" I took the February 2008 Correspondence rating list and the current OTB rating list. The ELO system was just evolving in the 50's when Purdy was writing, so I took the liberty of interpreting where a chess specialist would be – I took the top 100 rated CC players. Arbitrarily, I decided that Class A would be out of the "specialist" category. I excluded all OTB ratings ten years old or older and those who were unrated OTB. The result was fascinating.

Specialist	OTB	CC
Gino Figlio	2434	1735
Rose Bleys	2403	1569
David Greene	2403	1626
Keith Rodriguez	2384	1778
Kristo Miettinen	2363	1732
Peter Swan	2354	1377
Mark Robledo, sr.	2330	1786
Gary Adams	2322	1719
Dana Daves	2318	1569
Robert Fass	2304	1400
Javy Gwaltney	2253	1486
James Wood	2253	1408
Jeffrey Endler	2248	1532
Laurence Anderson	2248	1446
Juraj Beres	2242	1792
Robert Hampton	2240	1683
Morgan Murray-Miller	2237	1616
David Griffith	2219	1334
Ronald Zoracki	2215	1664
Michael Marshall	2214	1690
Anthony Kain	2177	1424

## MAY WINNERS

### TROPHY QUADS

Frank Spooner	06Q12	5-1
Lester Ferrell	07Q05	6-0
Walter Alberts	06Q06	6-0
Michael Perlowitz	06Q02	6-0

### WALTER MUIR

Wilbur Tseng	07W42	6-0
Robert Beavan	08W09	5 ½-½
Richard Massimo	07W40	5-1
Charles Allen	07W32	5-1
James Sawaski	07W45	5 ½-½

### SWIFT QUAD

David Mora	07SQ17	5 ½-½
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### JOHN COLLINS

David Huslig	06C21	6-0
David Buhan	07C09	6-0
Emanuel Chosak	06C28	5 ½-½
Thomas Delehanty	06C18	4-2
James Anderson	06C47	6-0
Jeffrey Thurman	07C53	6-0
Charles Truax	06C46	6-0
Phillip Norman	07C07	5-1

### PALCIAUSKAS TOURNAMENT

Micah Rudisill	06P05	5 ½-½
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**Quotation: “Correspondence chess saved my life”. – Charles Hall**

## VAN ENK SWEEPS 07SQ08

van Enk	2253		11	11	11	6-0
Beres	2240	00		1=	==	2½-3½
Aung	0000	00	0=		0=	1-5
Kain	0000	00	==	1=		2½-3½

When Black’s attack on the queenside sputters out, White’s kingside action proves decisive.

### BISHOPS OPENING (C24)

**White: Steven van Enk (2253)**

**Black: Kendrick Aung (0000)**

### 2007 Swift Quad

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 0-0  
5.0-0 Nc6 6.c3 Bb6 7.Re1 d6 8.h3 Na5  
9.Bb5 a6 10.Ba4 Be6 11.d4 exd4  
12.cxd4 d5 13.e5 Ne4 14.Nc3 Bf5  
15.Bc2 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Qd7 17.Bxf5 Qxf5  
18.Nh4 Qe6 19.Qf3 f5 20.Qg3 Nc4  
21.Nf3 Ba5 22.Bf4 Rae8 23.Rab1 b5  
24.Ng5 Qe7 25.h4 Qa3 26.Rbc1 h6  
27.Nh3 Re6 28.Rc2 Qa4 29.Rce2 Qa3  
30.Be3 Rd8 31.Nf4 Re7 32.Nh5 Qxc3  
33.Qg6 Nxe3 34.Nf6+ Kf8 35.Qh7 Kf7  
36.Nh5 Rg8 37.Rxe3 Qxe1+ 38.Rxe1  
Bxe1 39.Qxf5+ Ke8 40.Qg6+ Kd7  
41.Nf6+ gxf6 42.Qxg8 1-0

### ATTENTION: WRITERS/MASTERS

I am looking for a Master-level correspondence player with strong knowledge of the openings and healthy writing abilities who might be interested in writing an article for possible publication in Chess Life. Please contact me and I will fill you in on the details.

## WESLEY FERGUSON WINS 2007 IOWA TITLE

Wesley Ferguson came in as the lowest rated in the five-man 2007 Iowa Correspondence Championship Final with a simple plan – win his four games as White and draw his four games as Black. Something went wrong, however, when he scored 3 ½- ½ as Black and 4-0 as White to win the 2007 title. At publication time second place has not yet been determined.

### SICILIAN DEFENSE (B22)

**White: Steven Patterson (1953)**

**Black: Wesley Ferguson (1741)**

**2007 Iowa Championship Final**

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Rd8 13.Qb4 Qc6 14.Be3 Nd5 15.Qg4 Nxe3 16.fxe3 e6 17.a4 f5 18.Qe2 Bd6 19.Na3 Bxa3 20.Rxa3 0-0 21.Rb3 Rd5 22.Rb4 Rfd8 23.Rd4 g6 24.Rfd1 e5 25.Rxd5 Rxd5 26.Rxd5 Qxd5 27.Qb5 Qd1+ 28.Kf2 Qc2+ 29.Kg3 Qe4 30.Qe8+ Kg7 31.Qe7+ Kg8 32.Qe8+ Kg7 33.Qe7+ Kh6 34.Qh4+ Qxh4+ 35.Kxh4 g5+ 36.Kg3 Kg6 37.a5 h5 38.c4 f4+ 39.Kf3 Kf5 40.b4 e4+ 41.Ke2 h4 42.Kf2 Ke6 43.Ke2 Kd6 44.Kf2 Kc6 45.Ke2 a6 46.h3 b6 47.axb6 Kxb6 48.Kd2 a5 0-1

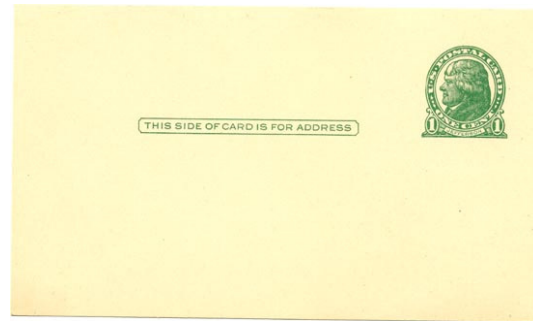
### USA GM TITLE HOLDERS

Here is a list of our CC Grandmasters and the date they were awarded the title.

Hans Berliner	1968
Jason Bokar	2007
Joseph DeMauro	1997
Victor Palciauskas	1983
Robin Smith	2004
John Timm	2004
Alik Zilberberg	1994

The exciting news is that we may have an addition to this list very soon!

### History of the Penny Postcard



The penny postcard made its appearance sometime during 1898. For 54 years it remained at a penny. And then...

1952 -- 2 ¢ ;1958 -- 3 ¢ ;1963 -- 4 ¢  
1968 -- 5 ¢ ;1971 -- 6 ¢ ; 1974-- 8 ¢ ;  
1975 -- 7 ¢ (a drop!); 1975 (again) 9 ¢  
1978 -- 10 ¢ ; 1981 -- 12 ¢ ; 1981  
(again)-13 ¢ ; 1985 -- 14 ¢ ;1988 15 ¢  
1991 (a leap) -- 19 ¢ ;1995 -- 20 ¢  
2001 -- 21 ¢ ;2002 -- 23 ¢ ; 2006 24 ¢  
2007 -- 26 ¢ and now 2008, 27 ¢

## **RESPONSES TO “To Catch a Computer Cheat?” by Anthony Kain**

Anthony Kain’s article last month brought in some interesting responses. Here are some excerpts –

**John Menke:** Statistical arguments are only somewhat indicative, not solid proof...it’s virtually impossible for any software such as Rybka (a relative newcomer) to predict what moves the others will make – especially at the longer time control of postal chess.... Those who have a problem with it are playing the wrong game. That rule should probably be changed because it’s out of sync with this highly computerized era – better to embrace computers and endorse current reality.

**Edward Duliba:** The paper presents no data to assess its validity, so it is hard to judge how effective the proposed method may be....many human moves will match a computer’s selection, just by random chance.

**Barry Walker:** His methodology is questionable...The approximation works best when the proportion of matches with Rybka is close to 50%. As the proportion of matches gets larger (or smaller) away from 50%, this approximation becomes less and less valid. That is to say, the more suspicious the player, the less reliable is this method....This method also assumes that a player’s skill level remains constant after the year 2000. Thus his method discriminated against players who have been improving their skill after the year 2000. Innocent players could be declared suspicious by blindly following his recipe.

**Robert Irons:** Remember that the

scientific method (which is what you are using) cannot prove anything, it can only disprove something. Therefore you cannot really prove that someone is cheating; the best you can hope to do is find evidence that supports the hypothesis that they are cheating. Since we are talking about accusing a player of a chess crime, we must err on the side of caution.

**Michael Allard:** It seems to me that one of two things needs to happen. Either allow consultation of computers and chess software, or two, spot check games raised by members who feel such assistance is being used.

**Anthony Kain responds:** Chess computers leave “fingerprints” when used and it is only when we dist games for them that they can be found. Although there is no way of procuring irrefutable evidence that someone cheats, this should be seen as a step in the right direction for those that disdain computer use in CC. The process may be further refined by repeating the study using more games and more engines, not just Rybka; the implementation of this data into an analysis program designed specifically to find correlations between a player’s moves and an engine by running the moves against each tested engine may have merit in the future.

## **CLASSIFIED ADS**

**LEARN CHESS BY MAIL !** Lessons given by mail, telephone, ICC – many different ways. I specialize in players rated 800-2100 who would like to improve their game. Contact me for information. Alex Dunne, 324 West Lockhart St., Sayre, PA 18840 or [chesskinetics@stny.rr.com](mailto:chesskinetics@stny.rr.com)

Some of the opening moves in this game look like mouse slips.

### **TWO KNIGHTS DEFENSE (C58)**

**White: Kristo Miettinen (2340)**

**Black: Joe Shipman (2308)**

**2003 Absolute Championship**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Qe2 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bd3 Bg4 10.f3 Bh5 11.Rb1 Nxd5 12.Qxe5 Nxc3 13.Ne6 fxe6 14.Qxh5 g6 15.Bxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Qh6+ Kg8 18.Qxe6+ Rf7 19.bxc3 Qf8 20.Kd1 Qg7 21.g3 Rd8 22.d3 Rd6 23.Qc8+ Rf8 24.Qxc7 Rxf3 25.Rb4 Rc6 26.Qxa5 Bxb4 27.cxb4 Qg4 28.Qg5+ Qxg5 29.Bxg5 Rf2 30.Bd2 Ra6 31.Kc1 Rxa2 32.Kb1 Ra6 33.Bc3 Rc6 34.Kb2 Rg2 35.Kb3 Re6 36.h4 Ree2 37.Re1 Rxc2 38.Re8+ Kf7 39.Rb8 b6 40.Rb7+ Ke6 41.h5 Rh2 42.h6 Rxc3+ 43.Kxc3 Rxh6 44.Rxa7 Rg6 45.Kc4 Rg4+ 46.d4 Kd6 47.b5 Rg8 48.Rb7 Rc8+ 49.Kb4 Kd5 50.Rxb6 Rg8 51.Rh6 Rxg3 52.b6 Rg1 53.Kb5 Rb1+ 54.Ka6 Ra1+ 55.Kb7 Rc1 56.Kb8 Rc4 57.b7 Ra4 58.Rh5+ Kc6 59.Kc8 Rxd4 60.Rh6+ 1-0

Schakel shows some of the form that brought him the 2004 Absolute championship with a game right out of Capablanca's realm.

### **FRENCH DEFENSE (C44)**

**White: Corky Schakel (2405)**

**Black: Eric Fischvogt (2350)**

**2004 Absolute Championship**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Qb6 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.cxd4 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 Qxb2 14.Re1 0-0 15.Nxe6 Bxe6 16.Rxe6 Qb6 17.Ne5 g6 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Qa4 Ng4 20.f3 Rf4 21.Rb1 Qxd4+ 22.Qxd4 Rxd4 23.Ba6 Nh6 24.Rxc6 Ra4 25.Bc8 Rxa2 26.Be6+ Kf8 27.Bxd5?! Rd2 28.Rd6 Re8 29.Rd7 a5 30.h3 a4 31.Rbb7 a3 32.Ra7 a2 33.Kh2 Ree2 34.Ra8+ Re8 35.Rxa2 Rxa2 36.Bxa2 Re7 37.Rxe7 Kxe7 38.g4 Nf7 39.Bxf7 Kxf7 40.f4 h6 41.h4 1-0

Why Bishops Are Better than Knights

### **RUY LOPEZ (C77)**

**White: William Turin (2090)**

**Black: Gillmore Hoefdraad (2058)**

**05ENf02, 2008**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.d3 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.d4 exd4 10.Nxd4 Bd7 11.Re1 Re8 12.Qf3 Rb8 13.b3 d5 14.exd5 cxd5 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bf4 Rb4 17.Be5 Ng4 18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.Qxf5 Nxe5 20.Qxe5 c6 21.Re2 Qb8 22.Rae1 Qxe5 23.Rxe5 Kf8 24.Ne2 Bd6 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Nd4+ Kd7 27.c3 Rb8 28.g3 g6 29.f4 Bf8 30.Kf2 Bg7 31.Re7+ Kxe7 32.Nxc6+ Kd6 33.Nxb8 a5 34.b4 a4 35.Ke2 Bxc3 36.Na6 Kc6 37.Kd3 Ba1 38.Kc2 Bd4 39.Kd3 Bb6 40.Nb8+ Kb5 41.a3 Bg1 42.h3 Bh2 43.Nd7 Bxg3 44.f5 gxf5 45.Nf6 Kc6 46.Ng8 Kd7 47.Nxh6 Ke6 48.b5 Bd6 49.b6 Bxa3 0-1

After some maneuvering, Black's endgame blossoms like a spring field.

### **FRENCH DEFENSE (C05)**

**White: Bobby White (0000)**

**Black: Michael Hensley (2063)**

**2007 Express Tournament**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.c3 c5 6.f4 Nc6 7.Ndf3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Qb6 9.Ne2 f6 10.h4 Be7 11.h5 0-0 12.h6 g6 13.a3 Rb8 14.Nc3 fxe5 15.fxe5 a6 16.Qd3 Rxf3 17.Qxf3 Nxd4 18.Qf2 Nxe5 19.Na4 Qa7 20.Bf4 Bf6 21.Rc1 b5 22.Bd2 Nef3+ 23.gxf3 bxa4 24.f4 Bd7 25.Bc3 Re8 26.Bg2 Rc8 27.Bh3 Qb6 28.Bg4 Bb5 29.Rh3 Re8 30.Kd1 Bc4 31.Re3 Re7 32.Bb4 Rb7 33.Rh3 a5 34.Bc3 Re7 35.Re3 Nf5 36.Bxf5 exf5 37.Be5 Bxe5 38.fxe5 Qd4+ 39.Ke1 f4 40.Re2 Qxf2+ 41.Kxf2 Bxe2 42.Kxe2 Rxe5+ 43.Kf3 d4 44.Rc8+ Kf7 45.Rd8 g5 46.Kg4 Re4 47.Rd7+ Ke6 48.Rxh7 d3 49.Rh8 Rd4 50.Kxg5 d2 51.Re8+ Kf7 52.h7 d1Q 53.h8Q Qg1+ 54.Kh5 Qh2+ 55.Kg5 Qg3+ 0-1