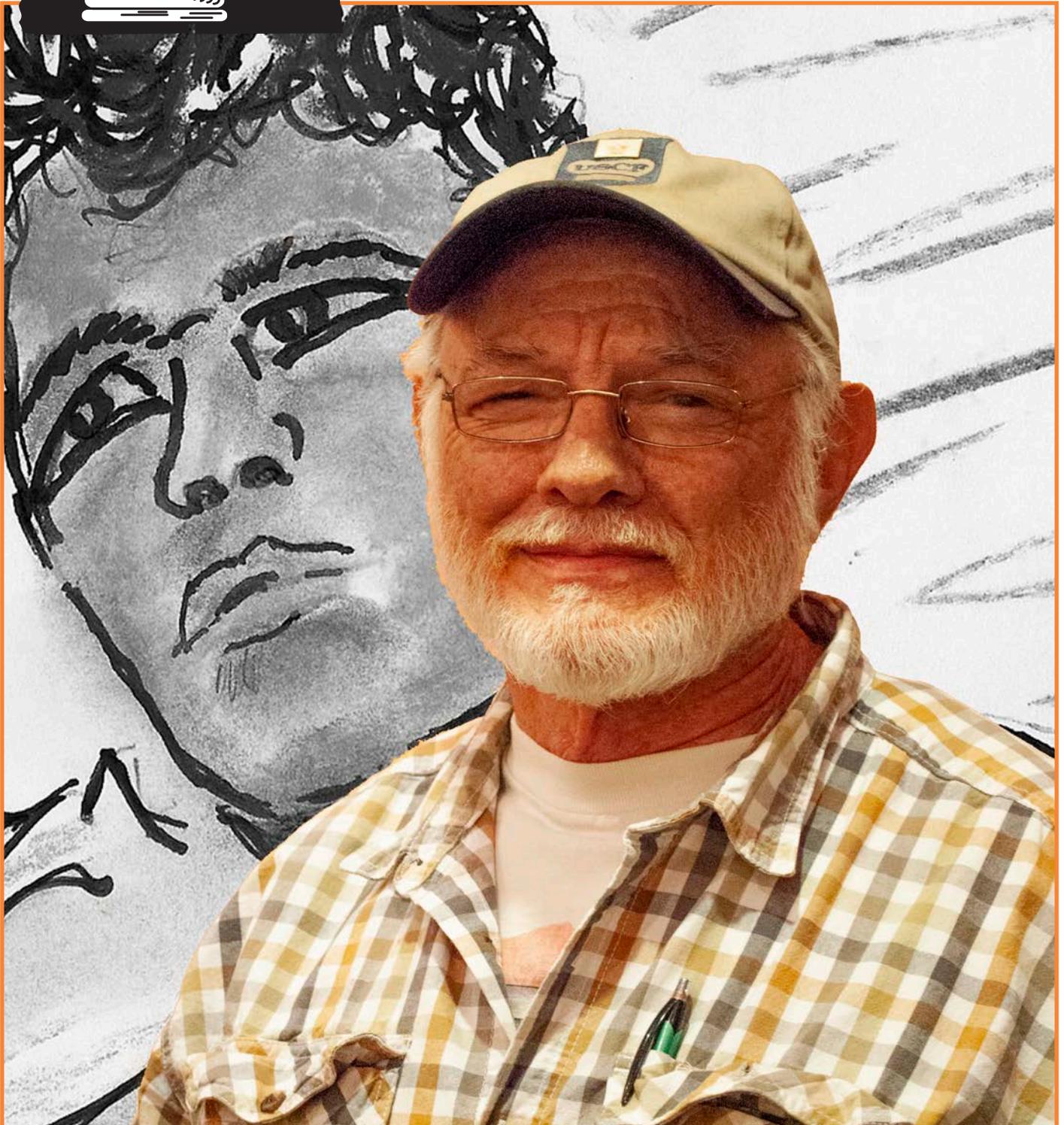




# Chesstoons

Drawn by Brian Berger.

*Book 1: November 2013-October 2015*



# Chesstoons

## *Book 1: November 2013-October 2015*

### Forward

It was at the Oregon Open of September 2013 that Brian Berger came up to me after the annual business meeting (I had only been editor for 10 months at that point) and asked me if I would like cartoons in *Northwest Chess* magazine. I didn't hesitate at all before I said, "Yes!"

I had wanted cartoons in the magazine for quite a while but aside from a one-time visit from a cartoonist in the fourth grade in 1972, I was not exposed to another cartoonist from that time until meeting Brian Berger in 2013.

The first cartoon to come from Brian appeared in the November 2013 issue, my 12th issue. Brian wanted to call these "Chesstoons" and he has not missed a month yet. The one issue that did not have a cartoon is explained in the Editor's note of the June 2014 issue.

For a while now, I have kicked this idea around in my head to put them all together in one place—this book and its companion book two. Seeing them like this gives a greater appreciation of Brian's talent and evolution over time.

In the magazines, I sometimes had to make the cartoons smaller to make them fit, as they were originally offered for the very purpose of helping to make everything fit, here I can feature one on each page in all its glory.

I wish to thank Brian Berger for volunteering his time and talents to making the magazine better with these chesstoons. I hope the public can appreciate his passion and talents and enjoy these "Chesstoons" as I do.

This is book one, and book two is also available now. We had to split these up due to space and filesize. As the years continue to play out, there will likely be even more Chesstoons to compile. As with each issue of the magazine, one of the things I can't wait to see is what Brian Berger has come up with next!

—Jeffrey Roland, May 5, 2018

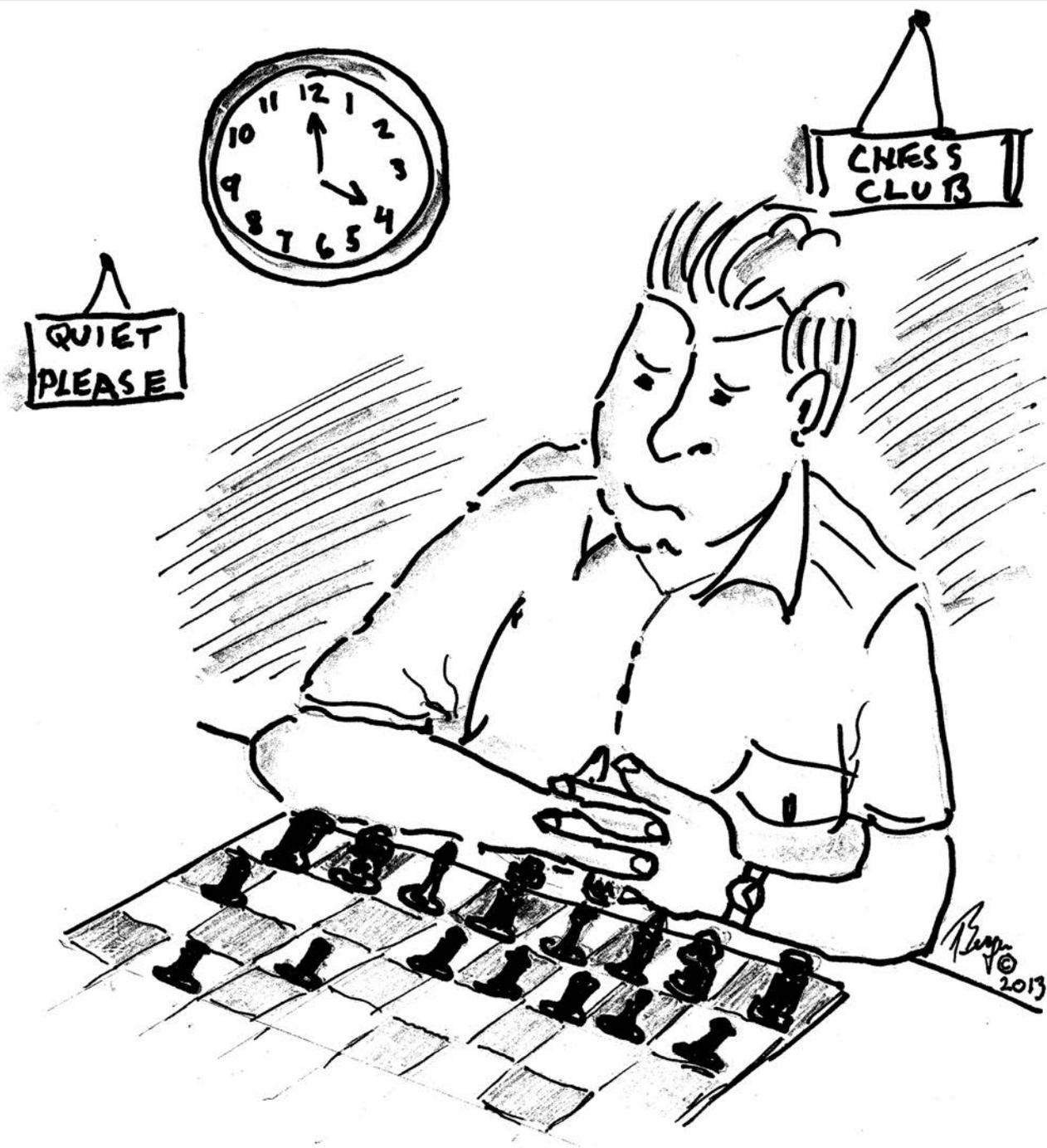
Cover photo credit: Brian Berger taken at the Oregon Open on September 15, 2015 by Jeffrey Roland. Superimposed in the background is the cartoon Brian drew for the January 2014 cover.

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November 2013



**ATTEMPTING TO FINISH A DEGREE IN  
DIGITAL CLOCK SETTINGS, BERNARD  
STILL COULD NOT PROGRAM A 5 SEC.  
DELAY.**



## PROPER PLACEMENT OF BLACK'S C AND B PAWNS IN THE OPENING WAS ALWAYS A MYSTERY TO FELIX.

### Editor's Note:

The first month that Brian submitted chesstoons to *Northwest Chess*, he actually submitted two—giving me a choice. In the early days, he sometimes submitted more than one. In some cases, I saved cartoons for a future month, but in some cases, like this one, the cartoon has not been seen anywhere... until now!

Please enjoy this rare and special "lost" Chesstoon, and it's good... but I had to make an editorial choice and that's the way it is with art and publications.—Jeffrey Roland.



George and Bernard were patient players.

## January 2014 (color cover!)



Jeff Roland in his front yard in Boise on December 12, 2013 at 4:18 PM holding the freshly printed and designed front and back covers of this issue. Photo credit: Jacob Stinar courtesy of Jeff Roland.

### Editor's Note:

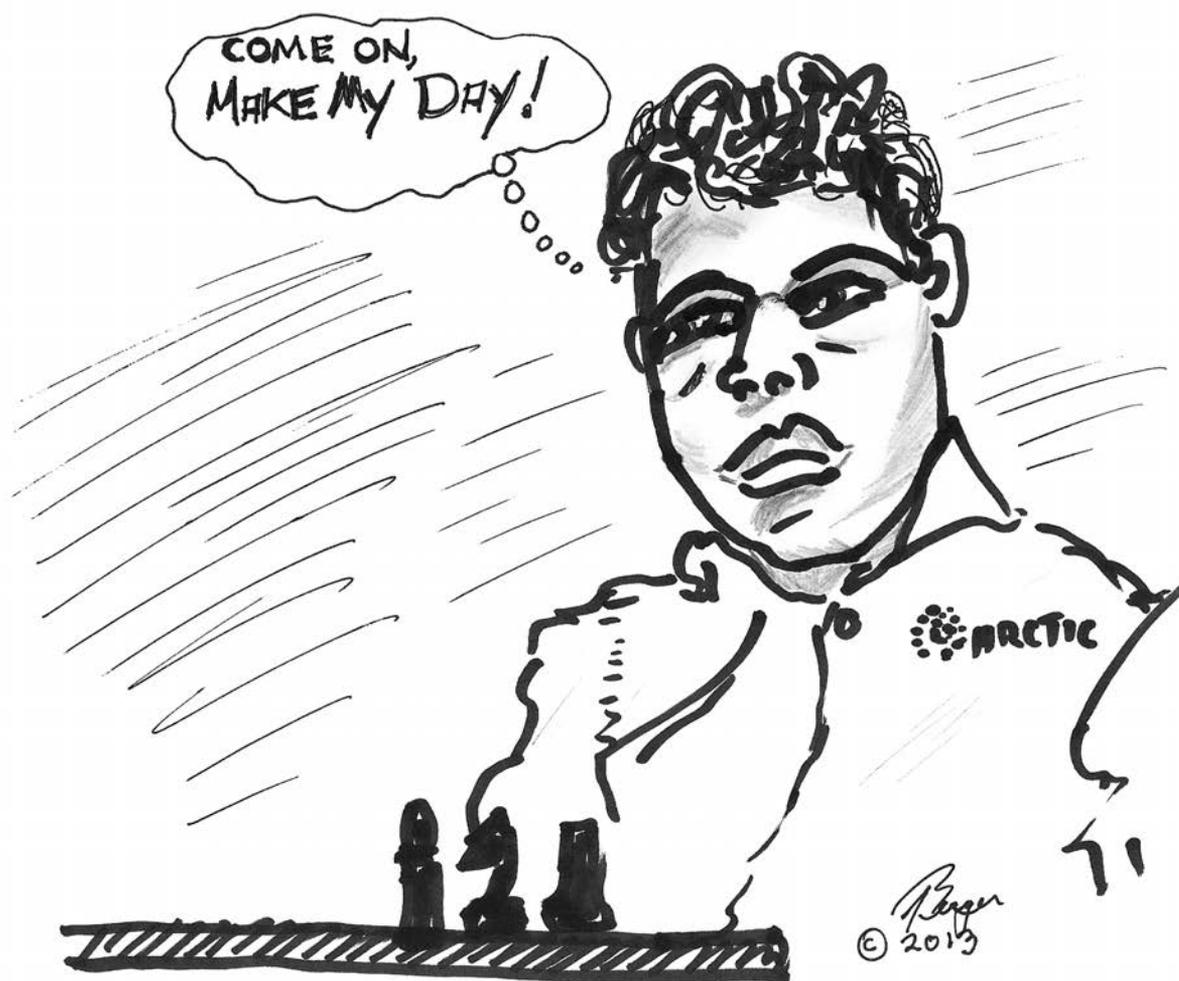
I wanted to really give Brian's cartoons even more exposure, so I suggested to Brian that he draw a high quality cartoon that would go on the cover of the January 2014 issue. Beyond that, I did not give any instructions, as I believe an artist needs to be free to go where his artistry takes him. This is a similar concept that applies to me as editor too... I like it that the Publisher gives me freedom to do whatever I want, wherever the material and my ideas take me, and thus the magazine remains an expression that is not hindered by other people's limitations!

But with the first cartoon he drew, I was confused as to who it even was (confusing it for some reason that makes no sense, as a cartoon of Prince Harry of England!) So I asked Brian to redo it, but this time doing it in color, as this issue was going to be an issue that had eight color pages in the printed issue, one being this cartoon on the cover.

This was also the first issue wherein I began putting something besides a list of upcoming tournaments on the back cover! From this issue forward there was a "front" and "back" cover that I could play with and attempt to be artsy.—Jeffrey Roland.

## January 2014 (first cover-attempt!)

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### Editor's Note:

This was Brian's original cartoon that I had requested to go on the cover of the January 2014 issue. I didn't actually even recognize that this was Magnus Carlsen. So I had him re-draw it, and also since it was going on the cover, I requested to have it in color!

I honestly thought it was Prince Harry of all people... makes no sense, but that's what I thought! So a week later, he came up with what actually went on the cover, and added the caption, "Come On Anand, Make My Day!" so that nobody could mistake him for Prince Harry!

Ironically, I learned later that some people, upon seeing that caption mentioning Anand by name, thought we were picking on Anand who had just lost the World Championship match to Magnus, when in fact, it was only to clarify who was in the cartoon.

This version of the cartoon has not been seen anywhere outside the magazine staff until now. And by the way, it doesn't even look like Prince Harry to me anymore! —Jeffrey Roland.

January 2014

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**Gerald had fallen asleep, while waiting for his opponent's opening move.**



**With two enemy rooks and a queen on his seventh and eighth ranks, and in desperate time trouble, Felix cracked.**

### **Editor's Note:**

When I first saw this cartoon I burst out laughing (out loud). I think this is the first one of Brian's cartoons to do that to me. Something about it just hit home with me and was so funny to me that I thought about it all day long.

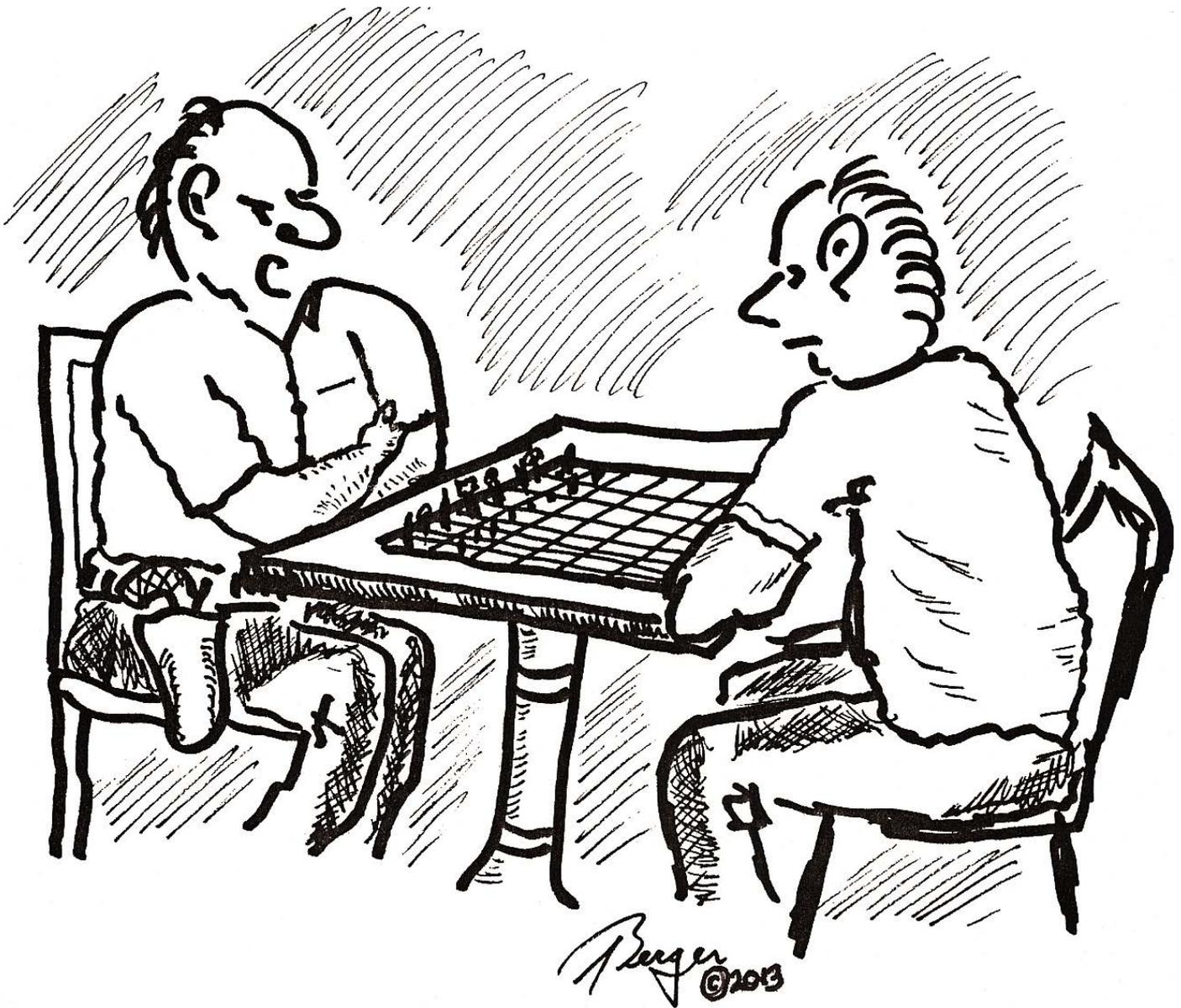
This was the first time Brian submitted a cartoon to me that actually mutilated or physically changed a subject to something that is not physically possible in the world of reality, but that is definitely possible in the world of cartoons. Anyway, I loved it!—Jeffrey Roland.

March 2014

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**DISTRESSED AT LOSING IN THE  
OPENING, BERNARD PONDERED THE  
DEEPER MEANING OF "EN PASSANT."**



“I warn you, I take chess seriously.”

**Editor’s Note:**

This month, Brian gave me no less than four chesstoons to consider. I had actually planned to put two cartoons in this issue. This one would have been in the right top of page 9 of the March 2014 issue.

But due to objections from several on my staff at the last minute, I decided to listen and cut this from that issue. Thank goodness I had an off-the-wall picture submitted by Russell Miller that was the same size and shape that could fill that space nicely, as this literally was cut in the last few minutes before the issue went off to print!

To the right is a miniature of what page 9 would have looked like had this chesstoon not have been cut at the last minute.

—Jeffrey Roland.

was the Chief TD. A perfect 4-0 score by Carter (top of Rosewood) won the 1st place USCF and even Rook Section which was held rated by USCF and Chess Ratings Northwest.  
 Another 4-0 score won the Rook Section and that was by Kahlil Pui of Portland over 25 other players.  
 The Bishops A section of 31 players was won by another perfect score, 5-0 by Melissa Plung of Hillsboro.  
 The Bishops B section of 18 players was a close race for the 1st place. It was by William Lee of Portland, Adam Gonzalez of Wilsonville and Jacob Strayer of Hillsboro.  
 The Knights A section had 24 players and topped by a 5-0 score by Chris Zalko of Portland. The Knights B Section also included with a 3-0 score by Liana Hoyt of Portland.  
**Coffetime Feb 2014**  
 by Russell Miller



“I warn you, I take chess seriously.”

**Coffetime Feb 2014 Crosstable**  
(not in finished order)

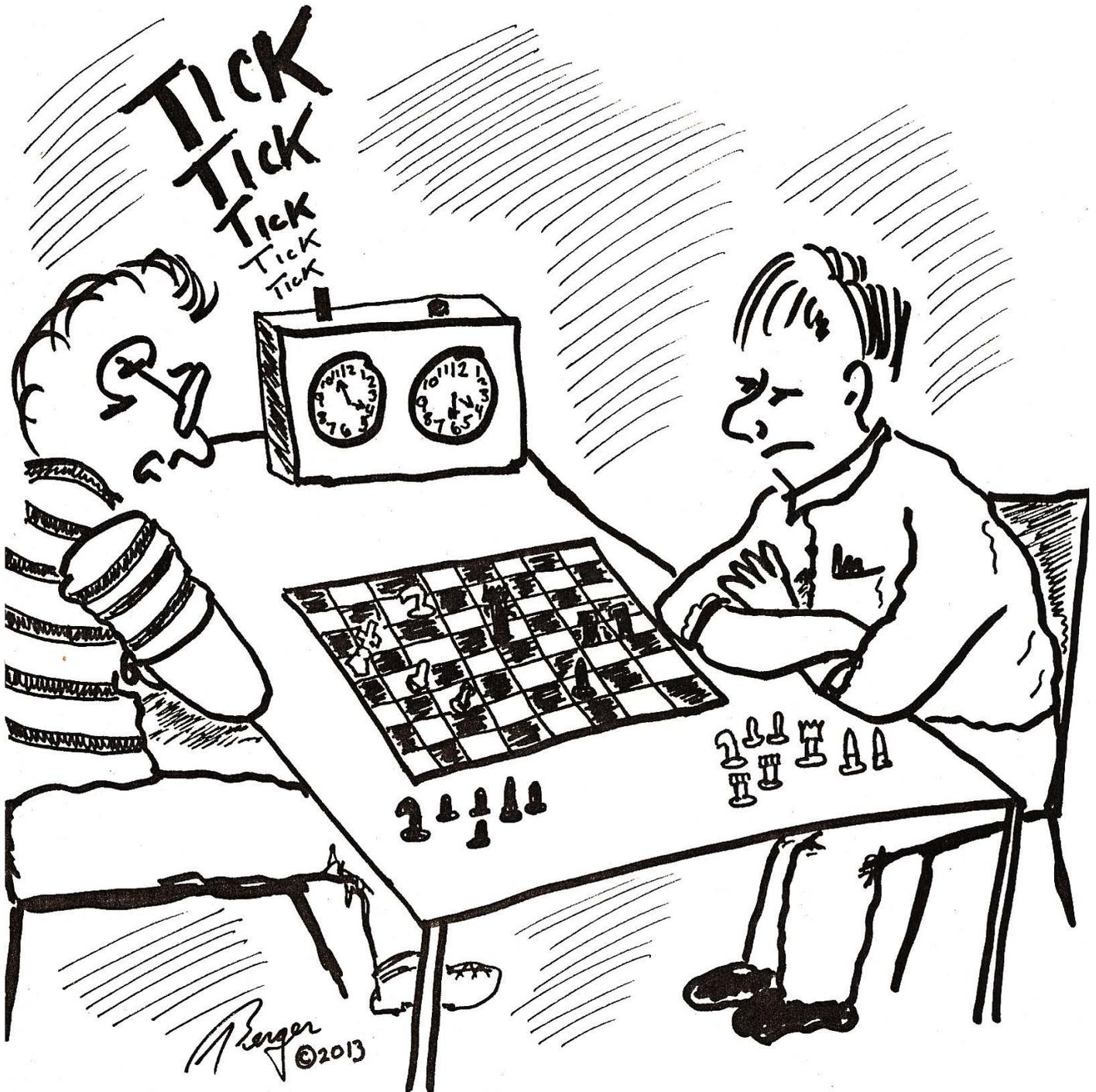
#	Name	Opp	Final	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	Total
1	Benk Rogers	2282	2280	W12	W9	W8	W7	W7	5
2	Michael Goffe	1878	1891	W11	W8	W7	E1	W9	5.5
3	Joan Harbin	1788	1760	W12	L6	W11	W11	W4	5.5
4	Scott Andrew Lewis	1688	1720	L12	W8	W14	W9	W1	5.5
5	Richard G Gonzalez	2110	2081	D10	L4	W15	D8	W12	5
6	James Caplan	1677	1680	W11	W11	L3	L2	W13	5
7	Adam Chaffin	1764	1760	W10	W15	L2	W10	L1	5
8	Jerry Sheppard	1752	1760	W10	D2	L10	D5	W11	5
9	Robin Fry	1710	1760	W10	E1	L11	W14	E	5.5
10	Julius Jay Patten	1690	1675	D5	W12	W8	L7	L2	5.5
11	Kwan Tache	1574	1581	L6	W17	W9	E3	L8	2
12	Jonathan Lee Frutkin	1557	1547	E1	L10	W10	W10	L5	3
13	Bill Ward	1547	1532	L5	W16	E3	W15	L6	2
14	Jonathan Winton Kenway	2287	2307	L5	W18	L4	E9	W17	2
15	Sean Abraham, Steve Robinson	1525	1510	W1	L2	L1	L13	D16	1.5
16	Jeff Jack Austin	1473	1460	L8	L11	W17	L12	D15	1.5
17	Mark S Harris	2355	2310	L3	L11	L16	W18	L14	1
18	Ray Leonard Greenwood	1335	1070	L7	L11	L12	L12	E	1

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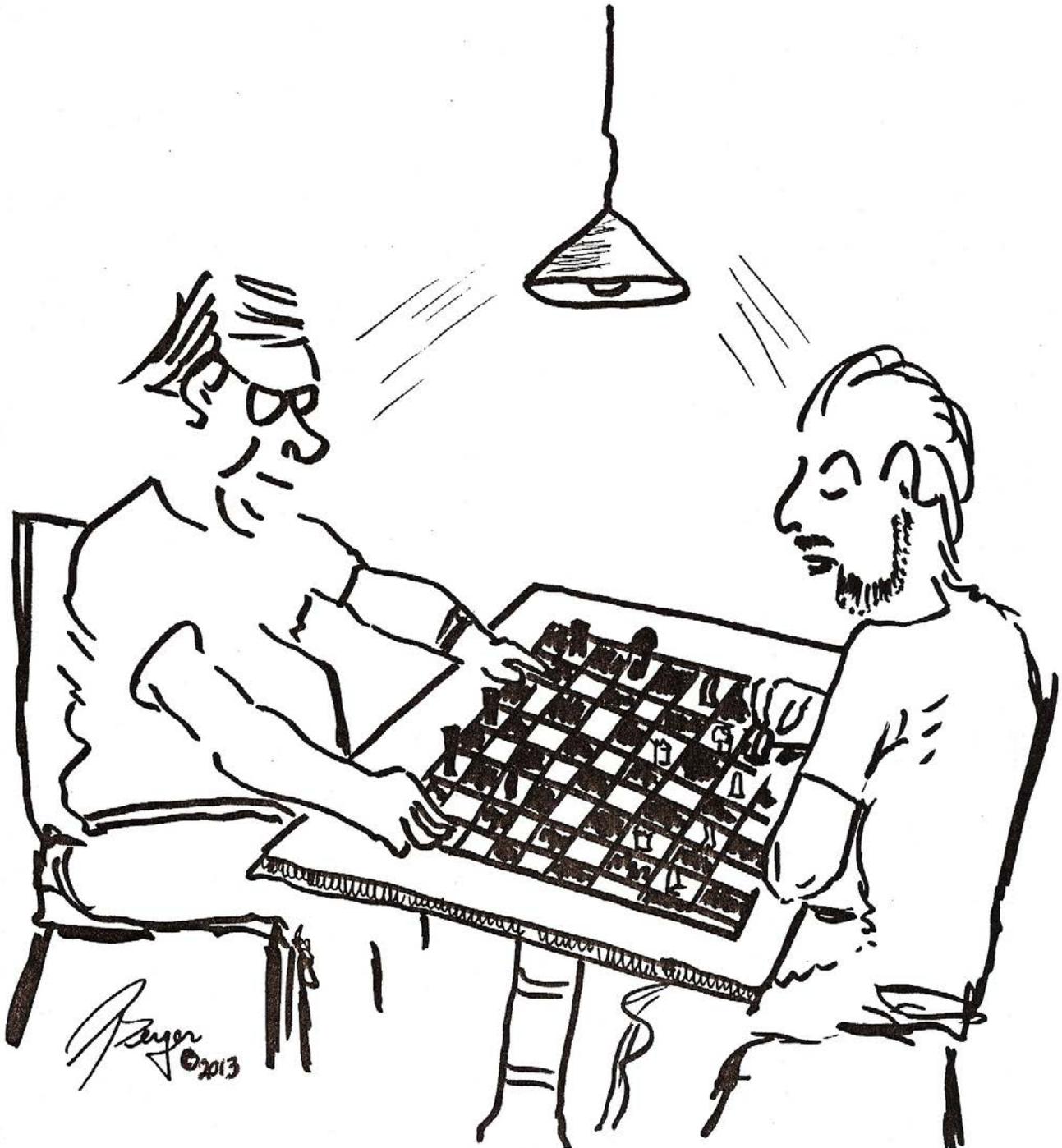


Faced with a naked king on the eighth rank, few defending pieces, and in time trouble, Oswald could not help noticing how large and loud the clock had become.

### Editor's Note:

This chesstoon was also not used. However, it's great! It captures an emotion of what a chess player feels and perceives, has nothing to do with reality... or does it?!!

Anyway, this is another golden gem of a chesstoon that just for whatever reason did not get into an issue.—Jeffrey Roland.



Bernard could not believe his eyes. The game had reached the exact position of Rubinstein-Nimzovich, Carlsbad 1907, wherein 40. N-N1, B-K3 41. P-N3, K-N6 42. N-B3, P-R6 43. K-Q3, P-N3 44. K-Q4, K-B7! White resigns.

### Editor's Note:

This one didn't go in an issue because I just didn't like it for some reason. Maybe the position on the board wasn't clear enough for me. Anyway, I guess one can't like everything... however, we see it now for the first time anywhere. Another lost Chesstoon!

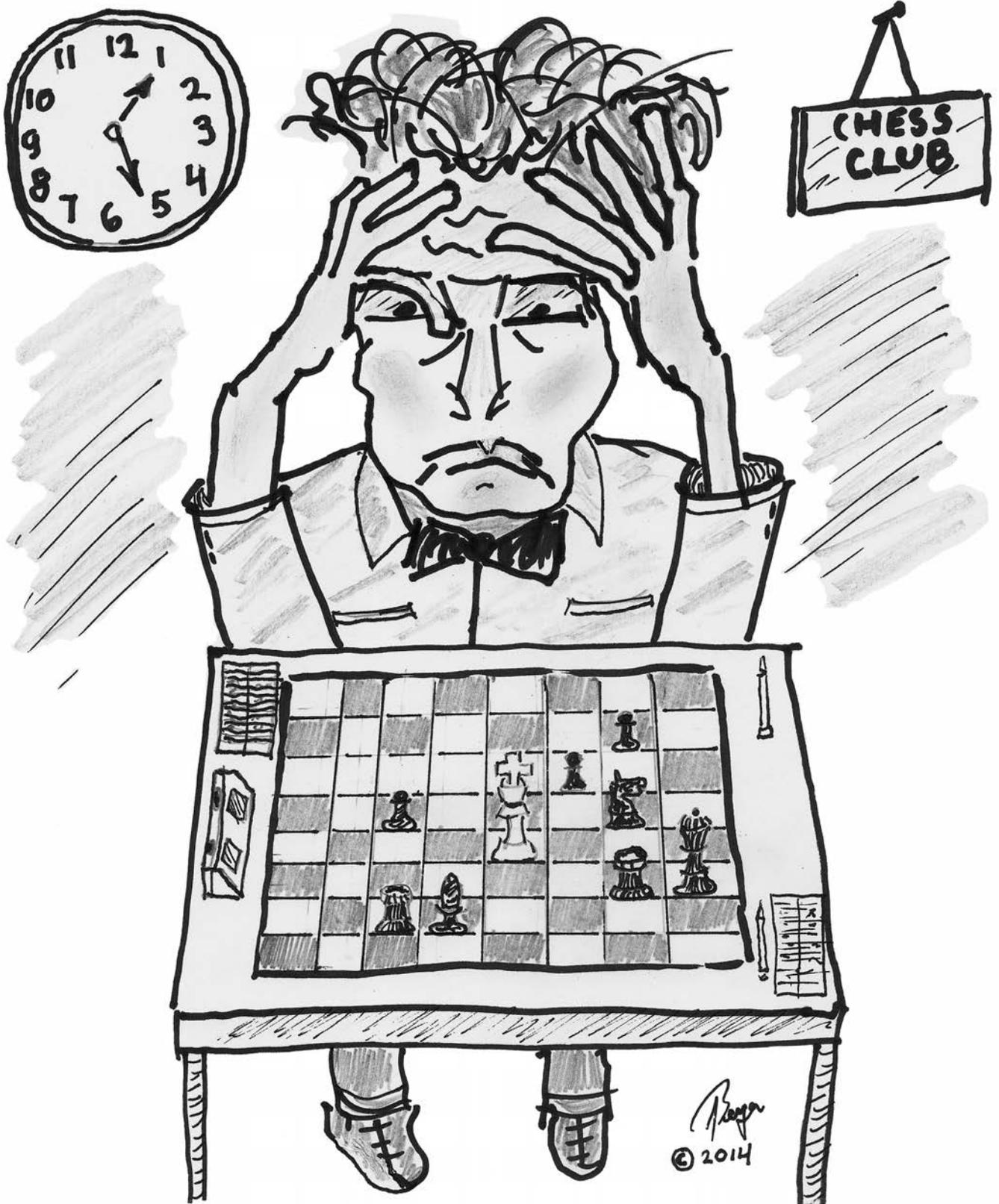
—Jeffrey Roland.

April 2014



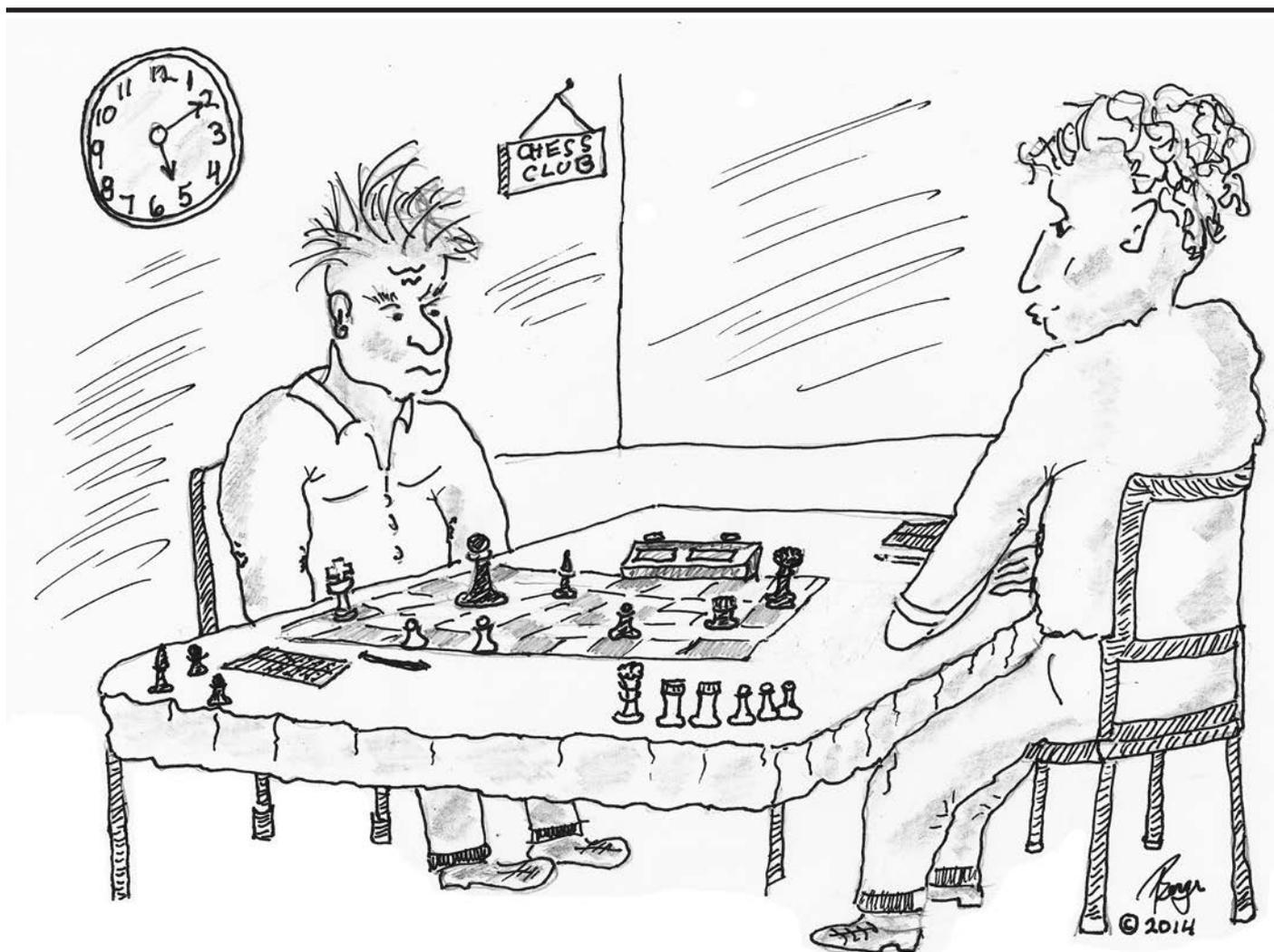
**BERNARD SUSPECTED HIS OPPONENT OF CHEATING.**

May 2014



HIS LONE KING, SURROUNDED BY HOSTILE FORCES,  
IT BECAME CLEAR TO FELIX THAT CHESS WAS  
MUCH LIKE LIFE.

June 2014 (not used)



By the time Gerald's d-pawn had reached the 7th rank, it seemed to have grown in size.

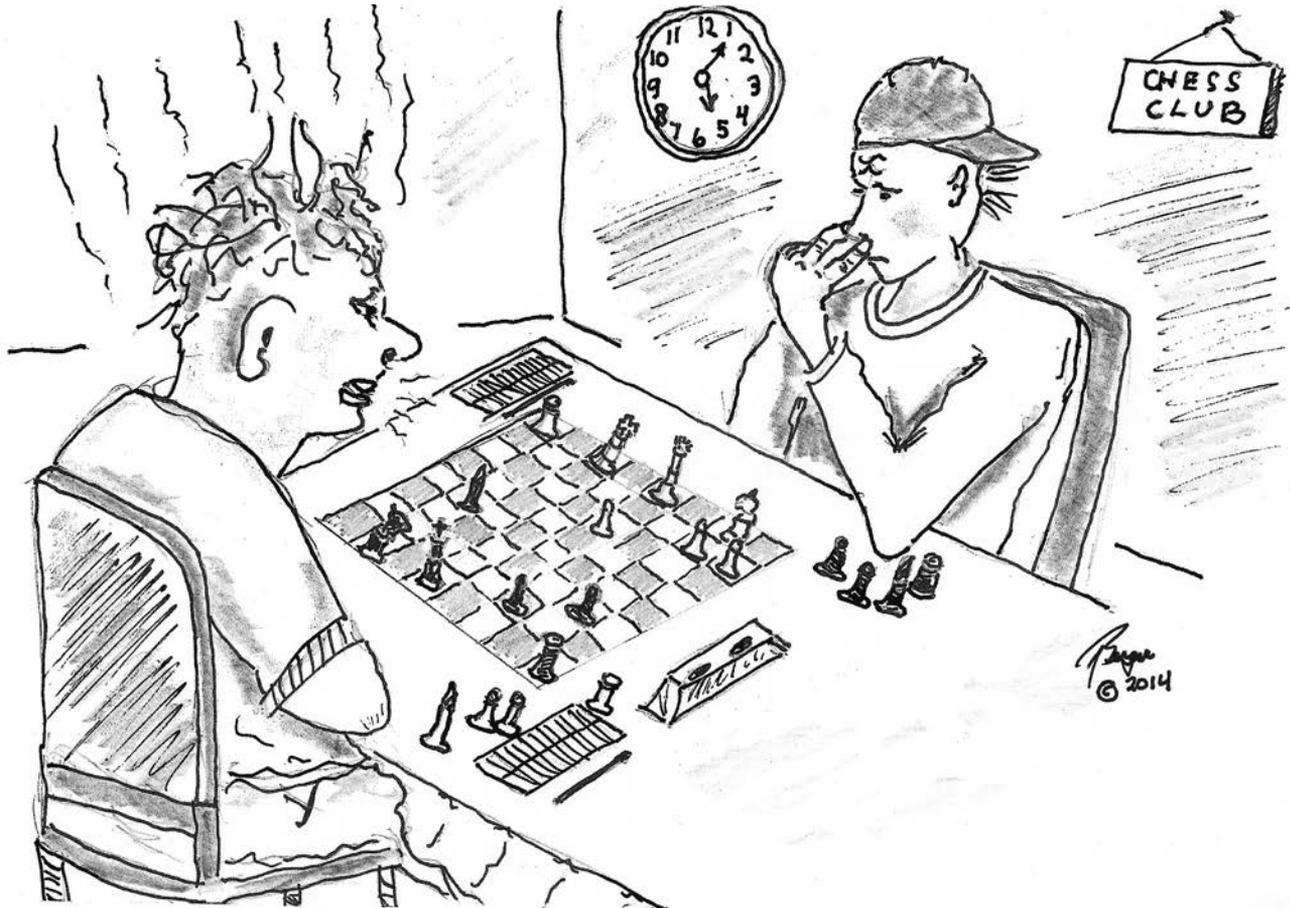
### Editor's Note:

This cartoon was going to be in the June 2014 issue, however, it never made it in. Why? Well, I was so low on material for that issue, and once it was determined and approved that this issue would be 24 pages (instead of the usual 32), when I got those 24 pages done, it was what it was.

I didn't realize until after I sent the issue off to the printers, that this cartoon didn't go in. It was an oversight on my part, as I had intended it to go in. I had even begun doing touch-up work on it. I was still new...this was only my 19th issue as editor!

—Jeffrey Roland.

July 2014



**AFTER READING "THE IDIOT'S BOOK OF WINNING CHESS TACTICS," BERNARD DID NOT SHOWER FOR A WEEK, ATE THREE CLOVES OF GARLIC, AND FEIGNED A MOST HORRIFIC COUGH AT HIS NEXT TOURNAMENT.**

August 2014



Whether having the black pieces or the white, Felix approached all his chess games in the same way—total bewilderment!

September 2014



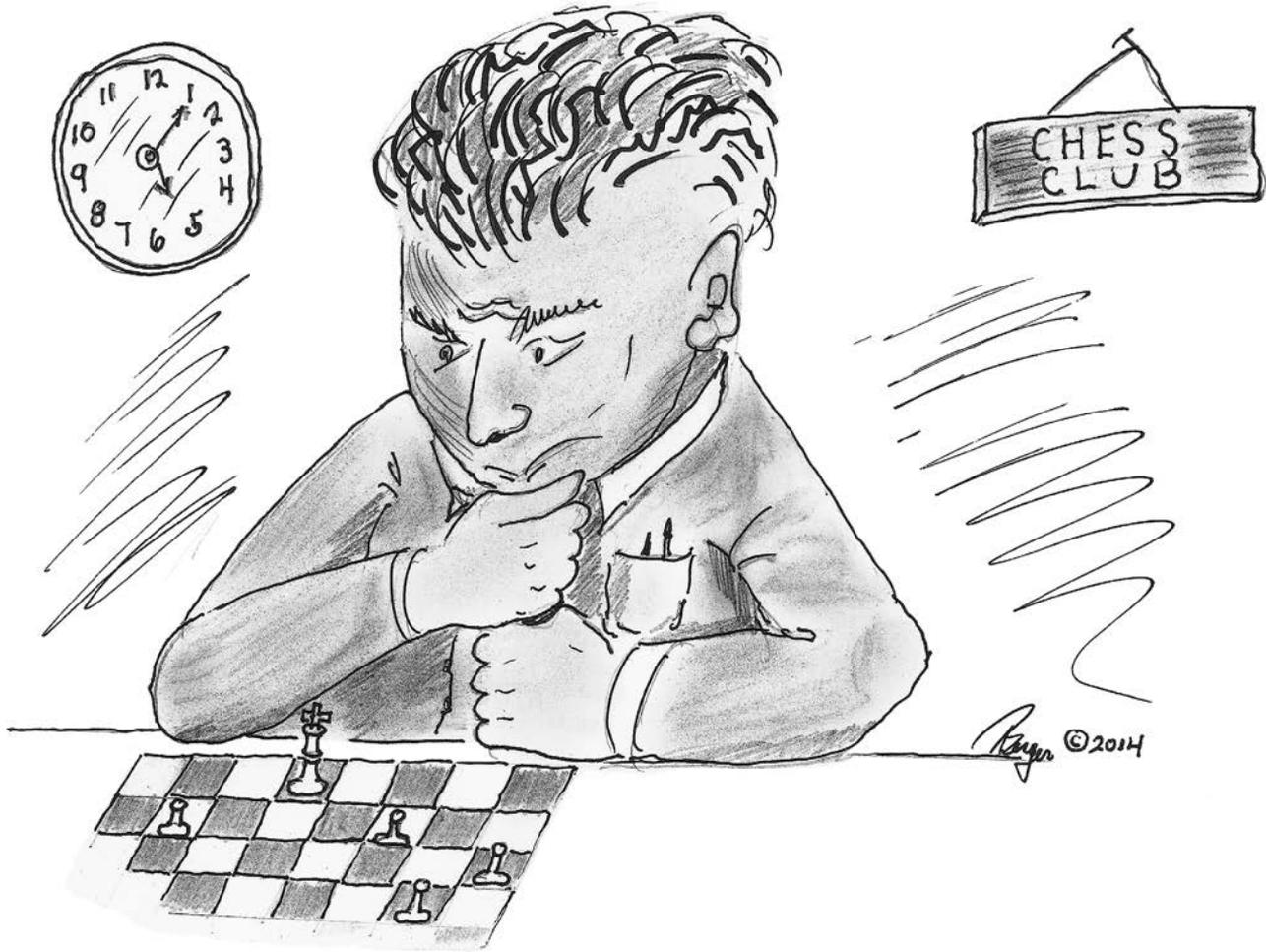
**BERNARD GAVE THE POSITION A  
THOUGHT, BUT FOUND THE EFFORT OF  
TWO THOUGHTS, TOO MUCH.**

October 2014



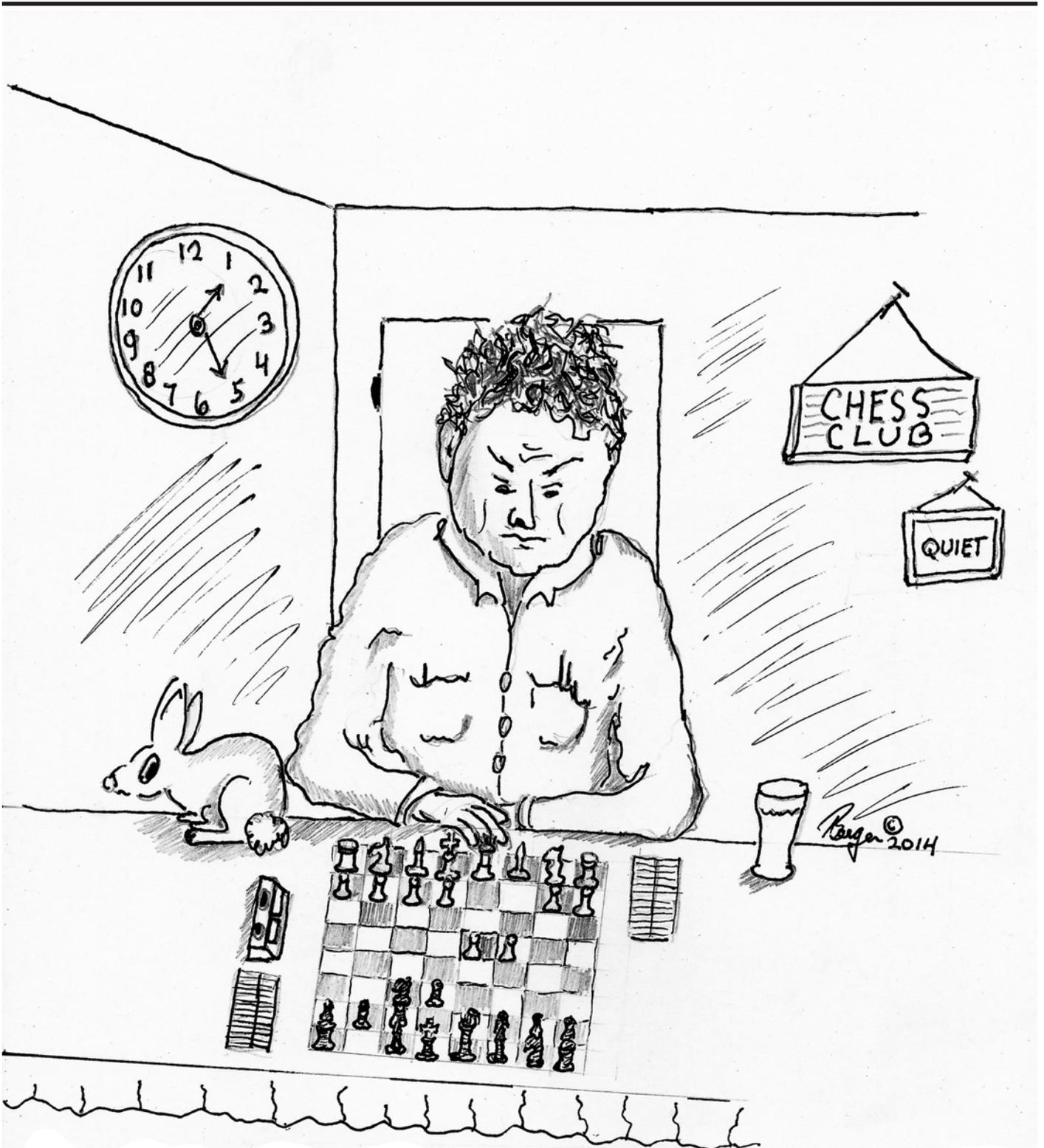
**GERALD GAVE HIS SECOND MOVE A HARD THINK, ONLY TO REALIZE HE HAD SPENT 35 MINUTES OF HIS GAME 45 TIME.**

November 2014



HAVING LOST HIS TWO ROOKS, TWO BISHOPS, TWO KNIGHTS AND HIS QUEEN, BERNARD SEARCHED IN ERNEST FOR A DRAW.

December 2014



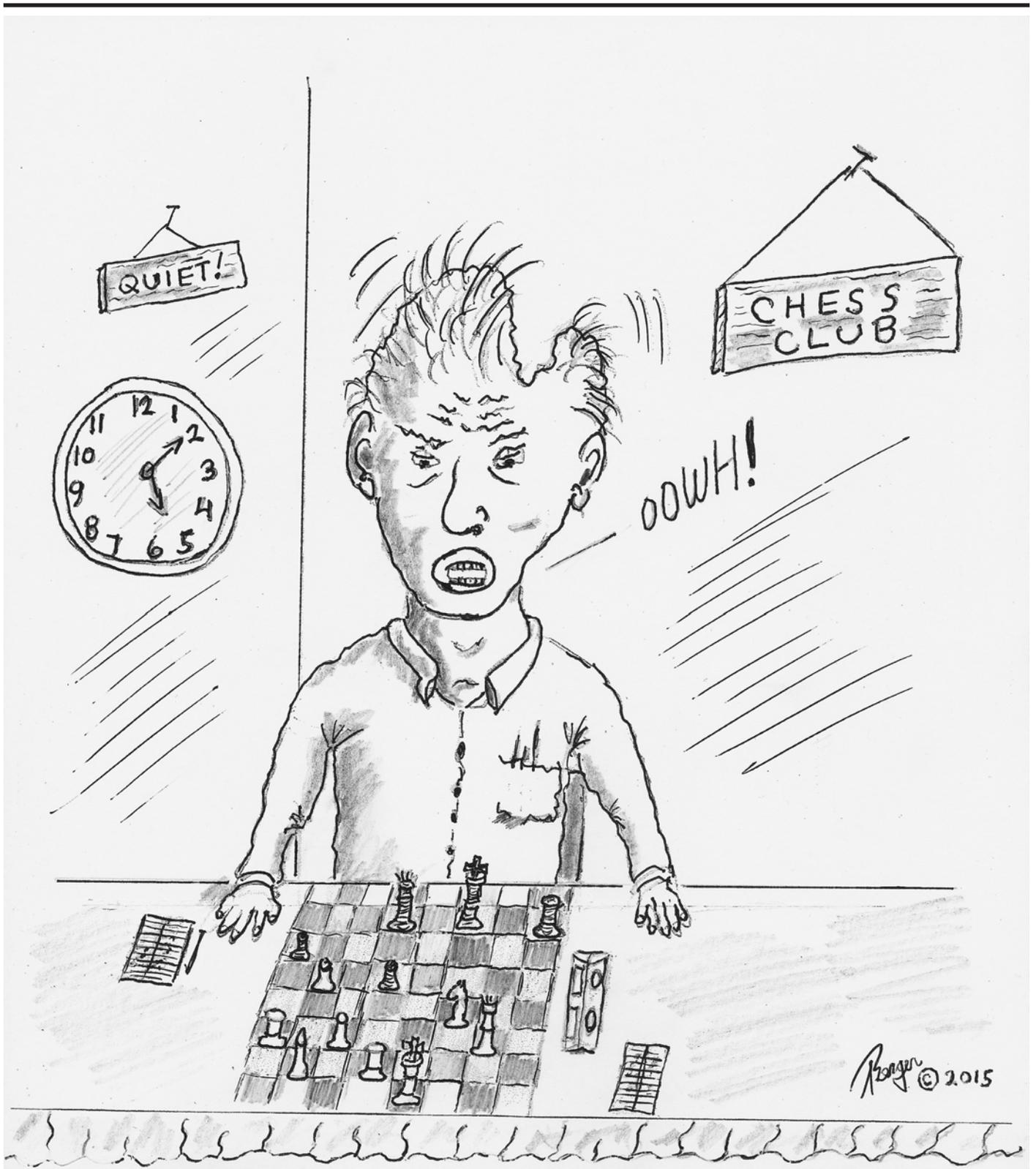
HAVING HAD SOME SUCCESS WITH HIS LUCKY RABBIT'S FOOT, FELIX BROUGHT A WHOLE RABBIT TO HIS NEXT TOURNAMENT.

January 2015



**HAVING FEW CHESS SKILLS, FELIX ALWAYS USED HIS "MESMERIZING" STARE.**

February 2015



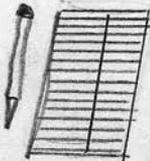
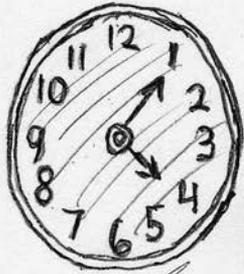
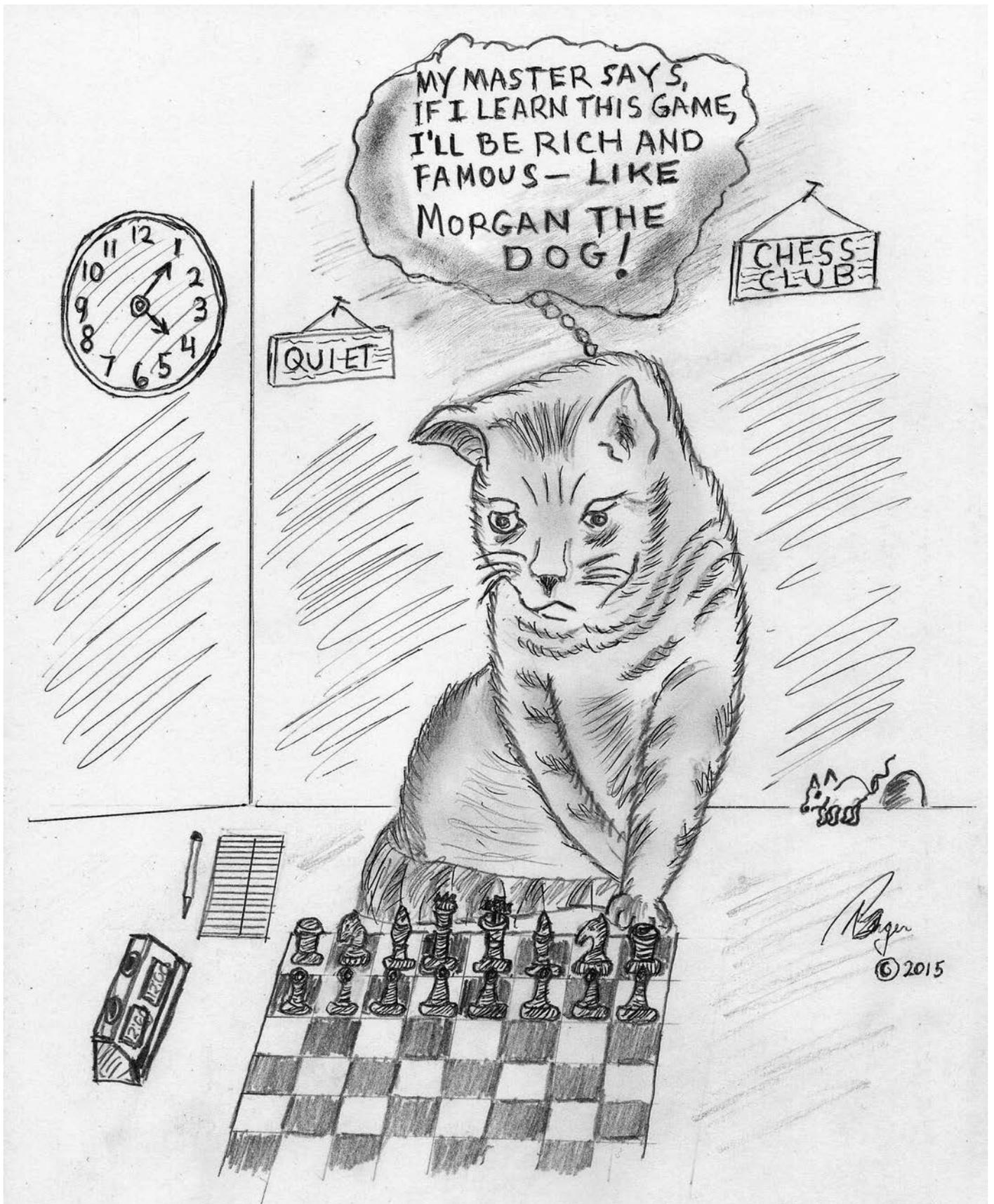
**BERNARD'S BRAIN SNAPPED, TRYING TO STRETCH HIS TACTICAL IMAGINATION**

March 2015



Believing in the oft heard adage, "No guts, no glory," Gerald added 30 pounds more to his already substantial girth.

April 2015



*Roger*

© 2015



## Editor's Note:

This is from one of my favorite issues ever. The May 2015 issue featured Morgan the Dog in various poses around the world.

It was a very creative issue, inspired mostly by Brian Berger and his love for animals, plus the Photoshop talents of (I believe) his daughter, Lisa Kuhlman.

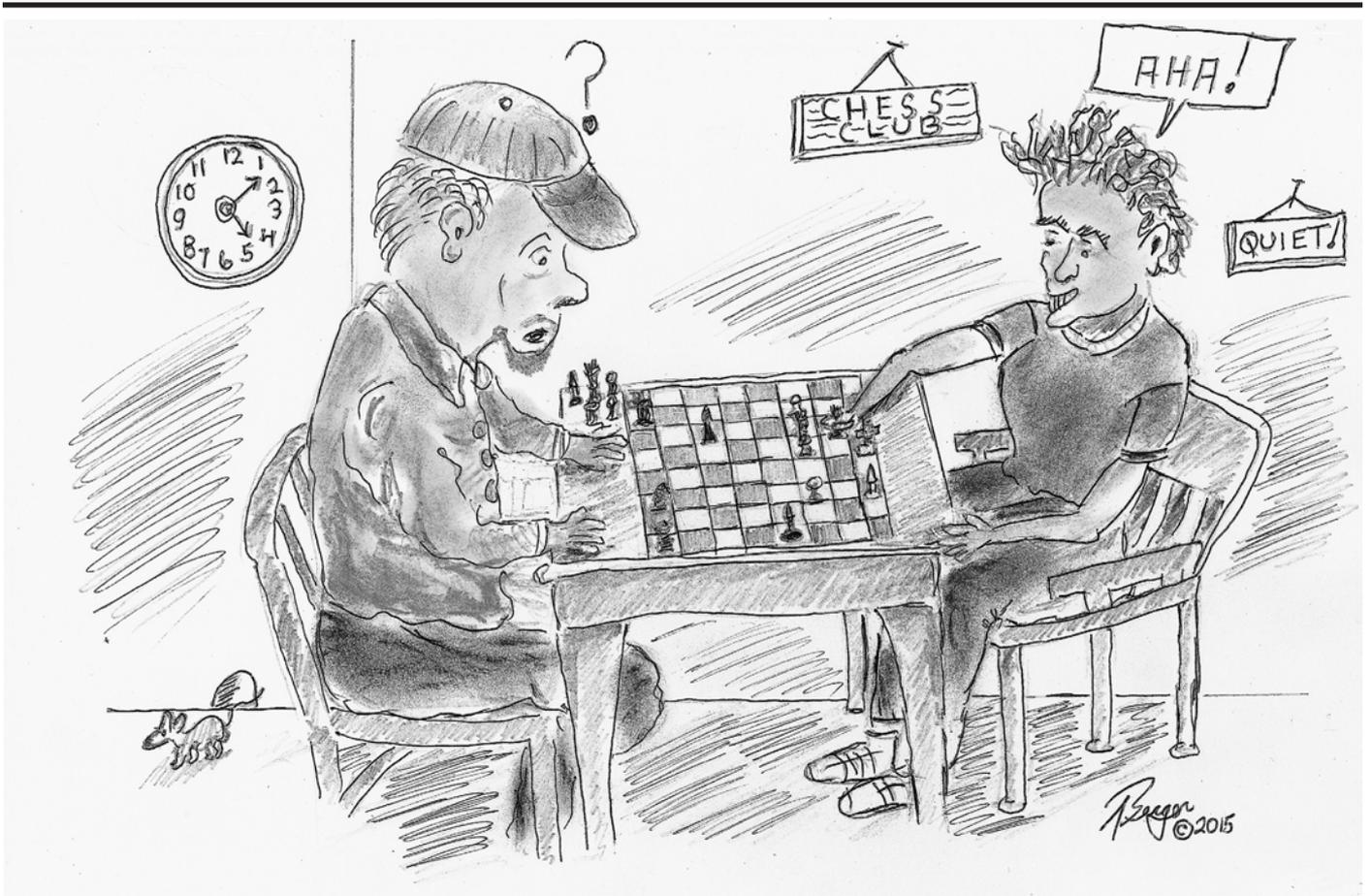
Naturally, with the photos of Morgan the Dog, Brian wanted to have a cartoon of a dog that wasn't Morgan the Dog, but who tried to look like him by wearing the shades and looking cool.

—Jeffrey Roland.



Too cool Morgan the Dog being given his own star in Hollywood. Photo credit: Lisa Kuhlman and Brian Berger.

June 2015



**FORGETTING WHICH COLOR HE HAD BEEN PLAYING, GERALD GRABBED HIS OPPONENT'S QUEEN AND CHECKMATED HIMSELF!**

July 2015



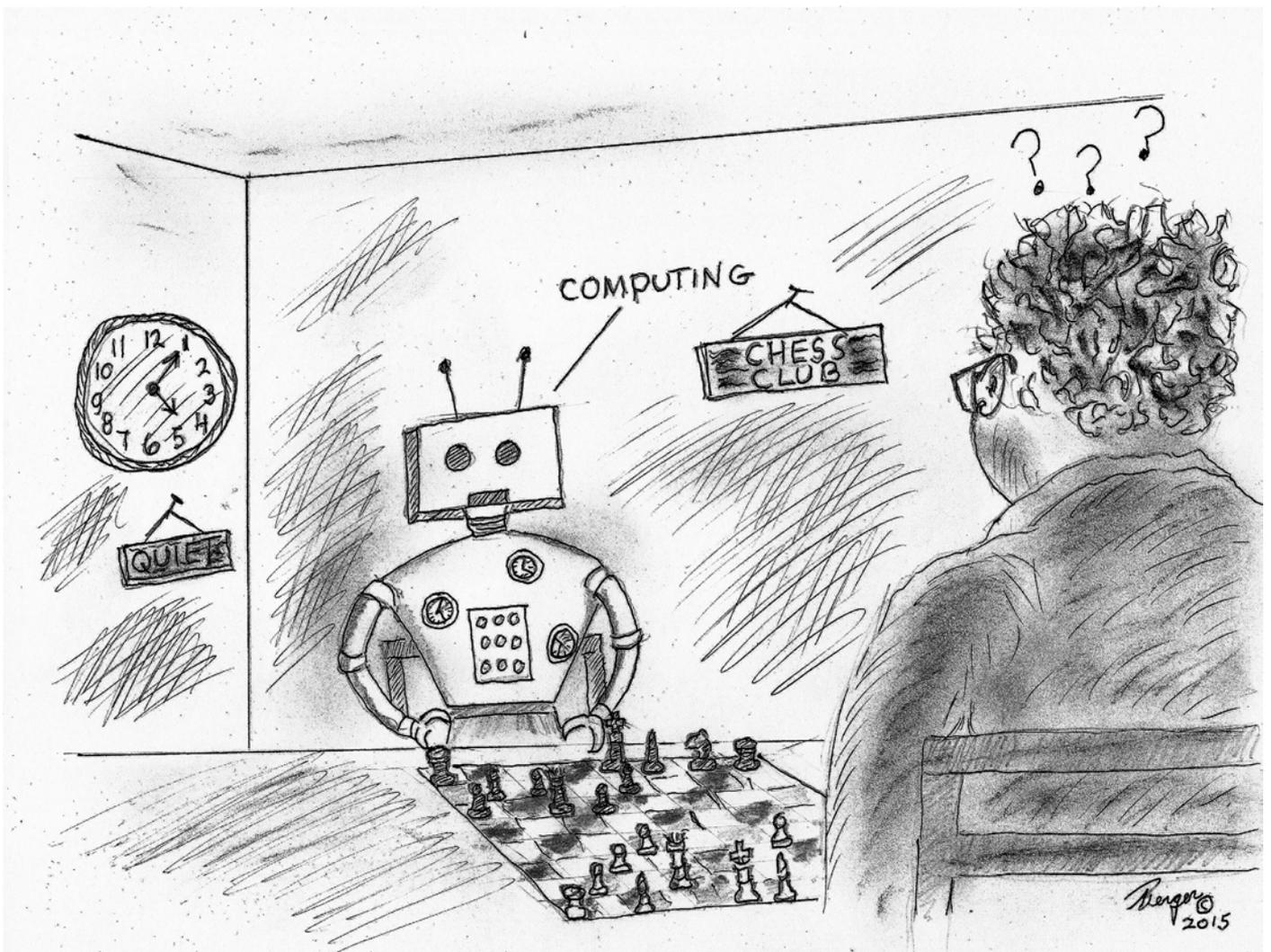
**SOMETHING IN THE WAY HIS OPPONENT STARED AT HIM, CAUSED FELIX TO FEEL A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE.**

August 2015



AFTER 6 MONTH'S OF CHESS LESSONS, GERALD'S ATTENTION SPAN SEEMED LIMITED.

September 2015



**FELIX WAS FEARFUL OF THIS NEW BREED OF YOUNG CHESS PLAYERS.**

October 2015



**SADLY, FELIX'S GROWTH AS A CHESS  
PLAYER, ENDED WITH THE NICKNAME,  
"FOOL'S MATE FELIX."**