

## RUDOLPH PETERS 1920 - 1992

Rudolph Peters died November 29, 1992 in Longmont. Rudolph was a Master who was Colorado State Champion in 1954 and in 1960. He was one of the most active players in chess clubs to the north of Denver, playing almost every day any club had a meeting. Rudolph played a highly competitive game of chess until quite recently. He will be sorely missed on the Colorado chess scene.

*Colorado Chess Informant – January 1993, page 22*



*Rudolf Peters (1920-1992) holds John Watson (?) to a draw in the 1972 Colorado Open (?). Rudy had a unique Steinitz like playing style. He was one of few to beat Robert Wendling in a tournament game. I had two wins and two draws with him from 1971-73, which was fortunate since I had three and a half lost positions.*

*Colorado Chess Informant – April 2020, page 16*

## My Games With Rudolf Petters (& More)

by Curtis Carlson

*"We're not in this 'together'. We're in this simultaneously." - Vincent Ferrari*

*"The weakness of the dark squares means a weakness of the neighboring light squares as well." - GM David Bronstein*

*"If you want to reach the heights, you should study the entire history of chess. I can't give any clear logical explanation for it, but I think it is absolutely essential to soak up the whole of chess history." - GM Vladimir Kramnik*

*"To be a socialist or a flat-earther requires denying basic evidence of reality." - David McElroy*

*"What we do know is that in the past, open institutions and policies have resulted in wonderful new goods and services. Based on that, we can predict with a high degree of confidence that if open institutions and policies continue, we will continue to benefit from wonderful new goods and services." - Arthur Diamond, Jr.*

*"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." - John Muir*

*"There is a lot of value in driving the pieces into disharmony or passivity or just generally noticing a very bad piece or a very good piece. This should cause you to think about how to improve a bad piece if it is your own, or how to challenge a very good piece if it is your opponent's." - IM Erik Kislik*

*"To escape mass poverty requires a move from familiar economic habits, arrangements, customs, and patterns to new economic habits, arrangements, customs, and patterns." - Donald J. Boudreaux*

**R**udolf Petters (1920-1992) was Colorado champion in 1954 (the year I was born) and again in 1960 when I was in Kindergarten. I first saw him at the 1970 Colorado Open. He was a large, impressive European with a heavy accent and a powerful, interesting Steinitzian playing style. My early chess education was edified in 1968 by Fred Reinfeld's *Winning Chess, Chess Traps, Pitfalls, and Swindles*, and *How to Think Ahead in Chess*, but they emphasized tactics and did little to prepare me for closed positions. (*"Many people in their youth enthusiastically read chess books. Through their books the authors frequently become somebody's first chess teachers. Reflection on the read material helps to develop chess views and abilities."* - GM Vasily Smyslov) My previous article made me wonder what a computer might think of our four tournament games, which are analyzed here. The first was on October 2, 1971, in the third round of the Wyoming Open when I was a 1661 rated high school senior, and at 2063 Rudy was second ranked behind Robert Wendling. After he beat me easily in a

zany Denver Open King's Gambit blitz game I had more than the typical B player's veneration for him. My position was bad out of the opening but managed to equalize with opposite colored Bishops. As always, notes are mine with help from **Houdini 6.02** with 4 CPUs, **ChessBase 14**, and whatever engines happen to be online.

*"Telescopes are time machines that literally allow us to see objects as they were in the past." - Amber Straughn*

*"If you lose the power to laugh you lose the power to think." - Anthony McCarten*

*"In Capablanca's games, we sense cohesion, elegance, and singularity of intent. Not so from Korchnoi, who is, in a way, the anti-Capa." - IM Cyrus Lakdawala*



*Rudolf Petters thinks hard at the 1971 Colorado Open*

*"You need to constantly put yourself in the minds of the opponents and study their game along with your own." - GM Vishy Anand*

On Facebook my longtime friend Max Burkett recently said, *"I saw your photo of Rudolph Petters against whom I played 1st board in an early 1960s Colorado - New Mexico match. We each won a game. After the game he told me about his life - from surviving WWII on the Eastern Front to being a Denver paperboy with a bunch of kids."* I remember him having two or three daughters and working for the Denver Post, but knew no more. Thanks to Max for sharing this memory.

*“Every so-called ‘market failure’ is also an entrepreneurial opportunity, and those opportunities do not go unexploited for long.” - Sieve Horwitz*

*“Under the rule of experts, knowledge is imposed on the system. Knowledge should instead emerge from the system.” - Roger Koppl*

### Wyoming Open

Round 3 / October 2, 1971

Curtis Carlson (1661, age 17)

Rudolf Petters (2063, age 51)

C60 TC: 50/2 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19269>)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.d3 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nge7 6.Be3 Nd4 7.Bc4 c6 8.Bxd4 exd4 9.Ne2 O-O 10.O-O d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.Bb3 a5 13.a3 (13.a4=) 13...a4 14.Ba2 Bg4=+ 15.Ng3? (White is only slightly worse after 15.Nd2 or 15.Ne1=+) 15...Rc8-/+ 16.Rc1 Bh6 17.Rb1 Bxf3 (This maintains an edge for Black but since White is very passive Black has time to expand on the queenside. HCE likes 17...Qd6! followed by ...Nc6, and b7-b5-b4 with advantage.) 18.gxf3? (Right was 18.Qf3 Rc2 19.Rfe1 fighting on a pawn down.) 18...Qc7-/+ (Still good was 18...Qd6 19.Re1 Rc7, which is close to -) 19.c4 dxc3 20.bxc3 Qxc3 (HCE prefers 20...Qd7-/+ when the c3 pawn is hard to defend.) 21.Qxa4 Qxd3?! (Now it's almost even again. 21...Rc7 22.Qh4 Kg7 -/+ HCE) 22.Rxb7=+ Nf5= (22...Ra8=+ was the only try for advantage.) 23.Qd1 Qxa3 24.Nxf5 gxf5 25.Qxd5= (A draw could have been agreed to here but Rudy persisted due to the large rating difference.) 25...Rc5 26.Qb3 Qxb3 27.Bxb3 Bf4 28.Rd1 Rc6 29.Rdd7 Rg6+ 30.Kf1 Rf6 31.Kg2 Kg7 32.Re7 Kg6 33.Red7 h5 34.h4 Kg7 35.Re7 Kg8 36.Red7 Rg6+ 37.Kf1 Rf6 38.Kg2 Kg7 39.Re7 Bd2 40.Red7 Ba5 41.Re7 Bd8 42.Red7 Rb6 43.Rxb6 Bxb6 44.Rd5 Bd8 45.Kh3 f4 46.Rf5 Bc7 47.Rxh5 Rb8 48.Bxf7 Rb2 49.Bd5 Rxf2 50.Be4 Bd6 51.Rh7+ Kf6 52.Rh6+ Ke7 53.h5 Be5 54.Rg6 Rf1 55.Kg2 Ra1 56.h6 Bd4 57.Kh2 Ra2+ 58.Kh3 Ra1 59.Kg4 Rg1+ 60.Kxf4 Rxf6 61.Bxg6 Kf6 62.Be4 Bb2 63.Kg4 Bc1 64.h7 Kg7 65.f4 Bxf4. We adjourned, but agreed to split the point without further play. I drew another expert! My future was so bright I had to wear shades.

*“Everything changes for the better when you take ownership of your problems.” - Robert J. Ringer*

*“One of the marks of great players isn't they don't make errors, but rather that they adapt seamlessly to the errors and begin course corrections the instant they identify their mistakes.” - IM Cyrus Lakdawala*

*“But save us from the man who lives up to his own standards, save us from the man of clean conscience, he's the man that will beat us.” - Ayn Rand*

### Denver Open

Round 5 / July 2, 1972

Curtis Carlson (1832, age 18)

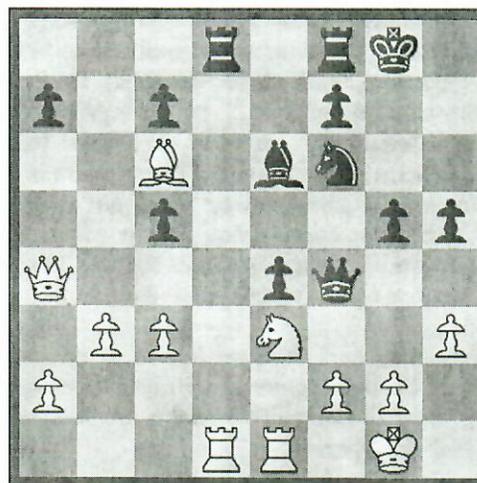
Rudolf Petters (1979, age 52)

C44 TC 40/2 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19298>)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 (After our previous game I avoided the Ruy Lopez) 3...exd4 4.c3 d5 5.Bb5 (This blind developing move leads to interesting play, where White gives up a pawn and the bishop pair to damage Black's structure. Bob Wendling asked me if it was book, since he'd only seen the obvious 5.de which is probably best. I of course knew no theory and just made moves. Black is already better after 5.e5!? de 6.Nc3 d4 7.Nb5 Bg4, and 5.Bd3 Bg4 gives Black easy equality.) 5...dxe4 6.Nxd4 Bd7=+ 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bc4 Nf6 (Move order makes a difference! Better is 8...Bd6 to answer 9.Qb3 with Qe7.) 9.O-O=+ (The passivity of my youth is unbelievable. HCE gives 9.Qb3 Nd5 10.Bd5 cd 11.Qd5 Be7 12.O-O O-O= which is better than White should have had. Interesting is 9.Qb3 Bd6!? 10.Bf7 Ke7 11.Bc4 Qe8= HCE, which is also better than what White would have had after 8...Bd6.) 9...Be7 10.Nd2 O-O 11.Re1 Bf5=+ 12.Qa4 c5 (12...Bd6=+ HCE) 13.Bb5= Bd6 14.h3 Rb8 15.Bc6 Bf4 (HCE says it's still equal after this but Black should probably keep his dark squared bishop since they protect his c pawns, and Black's weakened structure is more of a liability with fewer pieces on the board. Simply 15...h6 was good, since 16.Ne4 Ne4 16.Be4 is well answered by 16...Re8-/. Also reasonable was 15...Qe7= HCE.) 16.Nb3 (White should probably grab the annoying e4 pawn with 16.Ne4 Bc1 17.Rac1 Ne4 18.Be4 Be4 19.Qe4 Rb2=) 16...Qd6 17.Na5? (The knight takes the long route to c4. Right was 17.Bf4 Qf4 18.Qc4= HCE.) 17...Bxc1 18.Raxc1 Qf4-/+ (18...Qd2 19.Rcd1 Qg5-/+ was also very strong when a storm is brewing around White's king.) 19.Nc4 g5!? (After this natural move Black has no advantage. 19...Qg5-/+ was very hard to meet.) 20.Rcd1= Be6 21.b3 Rbd8 22.Ne3 h5

*“I wish that my fellow economists would pay less attention to aggregate demand and more attention to economic coordination.” - Donald J. Boudreaux*

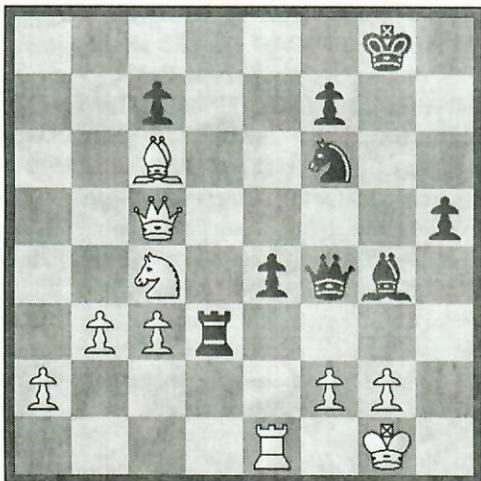
*“One aspect of logical chess is that we often realize that certain moves must be played sooner or later. Barring immediate threats we can create or must deal with, such moves are usually the most logical. In most cases, it is flexible to play those moves first.” - IM Erik Kislik*



23.Qxa7 (There's no need to worry about king safety when there's a pawn hanging! This is actually HCE's first choice but 23.c4= was also OK. "Go out on a limb - that's where the fruit is!" - fictional TV character Diane Lockhart.) 23...Qe5 24.Qa5 g4 25.hxg4 Bxg4?!+= (The bishop is badly placed here. HCE prefers 25...Ng4=) 26.Rxd8= (26.Rd4!+= HCE didn't even occur to me. We were both low on time and moving quickly.) 26...Rxd8 27.Nc4 (27.c4= HCE. Moving pieces away from the king is probably not best although HCE says it's still equal.) 27...Qf4?+- (27...Qe7= HCE. Black needs to keep an eye on the c7 pawn.) 28.Qxc5+/- (28.g3! Qf5 29.Qc7+- HCE) 28...Rd3

*"In fact there is, I believe, an inherent 'justice' in chess - that those who are brave and willing to dive headlong into the abyss, are favoured over those who err on the side of caution, always looking for the easy route."* - GM Danny Gormally

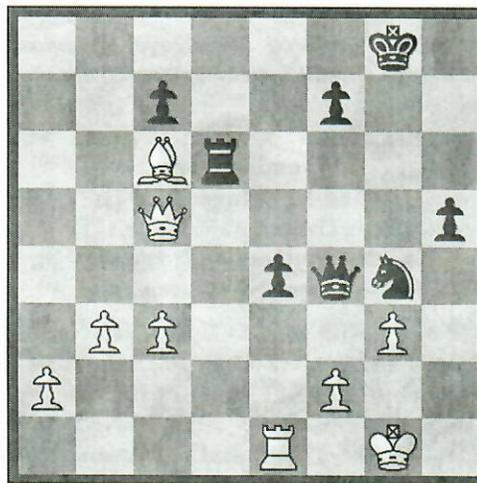
*"Every time we humans adapt, we expand the range of the spiritual."* - Howard Bloom



29.Ne3?=( 29.Qe5 Qe5 30.Ne5 Rc3 31.Ng4 hg 32.Be4+/- was best. As usual I was more worried about losing a pawn than favorable simplification. "Finding the path out of a middlegame jungle is considerably easier if the player knows what kind of endgame he should be aiming for." - GM Mihail Marin) 29...Rd6?+- (This turns out well due to White's weak response. Best was 29...Rd2 30.Nf1 Ra2= HCE. Also good was 29...h4= stopping g3.) 30.Nxg4?? (A gross blunder that changes the assessment from +- to -+. 30.a4! Rd2 31.Nf1+- was right. Now the game is over. "There are so many ways to go wrong in chess. A game may be 'won,' but it isn't over until it is over! One little mistake late in the game can ruin an otherwise well-played game." - Chuck Ensey) 30...Nxg4 31.g3 (Too late! Black's next is what I missed on move 30.)

*"In desperate situations, it is too late to be afraid. You must examine every choice, explore every hope - forcing variations first among them - as they can sharply alter the course of the game."* - IM Mark Dvoretsky

*"Rules are just guidelines for stupid people."* - House (fictional TV character)



31...Rxc6! (Of course! I should have resigned here but we were moving quickly to make time control.) 32.Qd4 Qf6 33.Rxe4 Qxd4 34.cxd4 Rc1+ 35.Kg2 Rc2 36.a4 Rxf2+ 37.Kg1 Rb2 38.Re7 Rxb3 39.Rxc7 Rxc3+ 0-1 ("In chess, you don't beat the board. It's more important to beat the player on the other side. Everyone thinks you make the best moves, but it's more about who makes the last mistake on the board." - GM Vishy Anand). One move before move 40 but way too late to shake hands. This game is painful to think about, not only of bad play but also of bad manners. In my youth polite behavior wasn't always forthcoming, but Rudy was very nice and said I should have won. When I said the better man won he smiled. This game wasn't good, but better than remembered. The passing of many years creates myopic memories on and off the chessboard, and they get more distorted when they're myopic to begin with.

*"I'm old enough to remember when there was still a travel industry. But that was back in the old days, in early March."* - Robert Higgs

*"If you put the government in charge of the Sahara Desert in five years there would be a shortage of sand."* - Milton Friedman



Moscow 1958: 15 year old Bobby Fischer crosses swords with GM Tigran Petrosian. They should have had a bigger clock!

*"The economy will get going again when people feel safe no matter what the law says. The economy is us. So stop looking for a plan and start thinking about what it would take for you to feel safe resuming bits of normality. We will decide, not them."* - Steve Horwitz

*"In life's unforgiving arithmetic, we are the sum of our choices."* - George F. Will

*"Complete absence of imperfections is consistent with efficiency only if the cost of accomplishing this objective is zero."* - Harold Demsetz

### Naylin Memorial

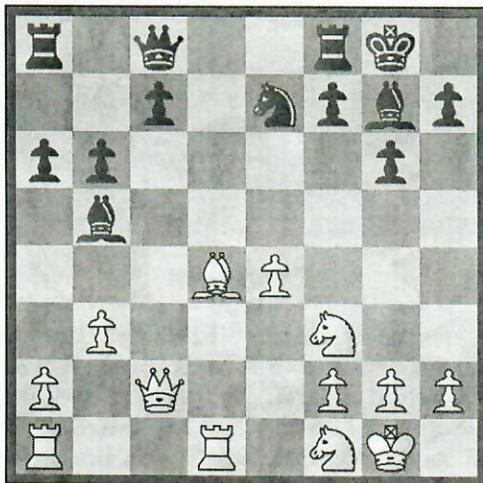
Round 5 / January 28, 1973

Curtis Carlson (2054, age 19)

Rudolf Petters (1997, age 53)

C76 TC 40/2 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19300>)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 (Back to the tried and trust Ruy!) 3...g6 4.O-O Bg7 5.c3 d6 6.d4 a6!? (This move order allows 7.Bc6 bc 8.de de 9.Qa4 Bd7 10.Rd1+/- HCE. As usual I made perfuntory developing moves with no attention to detail.) 7.Ba4 Bd7+= 8.dxe5 (This is OK since it blocks Black's dark squared bishop, but most common and probably best is 8.Re1 maintaing tension.) 8...dxe5 9.Qe2 Nge7 10.Rd1 O-O 11.Be3 b6 (11...Qe8= is Plachetka-Suba 1977) 12.Nbd2 (This is natural, but HCE's first choice is 12.Na3 {Suetin-Nezhmetdinov 1956}, where on a3 the knight can still head to c2 or c4 without blocking the d file. The typical Nbd2-f1-e3/g3 is less effective with a pawn on g6 since White can't easily play Nf5. Also reasonable were 12.Bc2+/, 12.Bb3+/, and 12.h3+)= 12...Qc8 13.Nf1 Nd4 14.cxd4 Bxa4 15.b3 exd4!? (This leads to an exchange of dark squared bishops which is dangerous for Black. Right was 15...Bb5= HCE.) 16.Bxd4 Bb5 17.Qc2= (17.Qe3 or 17.Qb2 are += HCE.)



17...c5? (This is a serious error that allows White to keep his f1 knight. HCE gives 17...Bd4 18.Rd4 c5 19.Rd2 Bf1 20.Kf1 Nc6=) 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.a4? (White wrongly provokes a bad exchange. Right was 19.Qb2 f6 {or 19...Kg8} 20.Ne3+- HCE. Suddenly 12.Nbd2 loox OK. *"It is not important which pieces*

*you exchange but those that remain on the board"* - GM Siegbert Tarrasch) 19...Bxf1 20.Kxf1+= Nc6 21.Rd6= (Again very routine. A better try was 19.Qc3 Kg8 20.Rd6 Qc7 21.Qf6+/-, but Black has 22...Re8= HCE.) 21...Qc7 22.Rad1 Rad8 23.Qd2= Nd4?!+= (This simplifies into an ending where White is better. 23...Rfe8 or 23...Rd6 24.Qd6 Qd6 25.Rd6 Rc8= HCE.) 24.Nxd4 Rxd6 25.Nf5+ gxf5 26.Qxd6 Qxd6 27.Rxd6 fxe4 28.Rxb6 Rd8 29.Rxa6 Rb8 30.Rc6 Rxb3 31.Rxc5 Kg6 32.a5+= (Too weak, too slow! White should have prevented 32...f5 with 32.g4, which HCE says is +/-) 32...Ra3?+/- (32...f5=) 33.Rc6+? (33.g4+/- was still right.) 33...Kg5 34.a6 f5= 35.g3 Ra2 DRAW on my offer. Rudy seemed very relieved, but there was no hope to win with Black's active rook and secure pawns. 36.Re6 Kh5 37.Kg2 Kg4 38.h4+=. If White had played 32.g4 and Rf5 he could have brought his king to the queen side to chase Black's rook off the a file, but that concept was too deep for my adolescent brain. This game is also embarrassing to think about, but at least I was more respectful than before. At age 19 I was finally approaching the maturity of a 13 year old.

*"The worst people, with the worst ideas, are now centrally planning your poverty."* - David E. Shellenberger

*"In chess, we need to have flexible nodes of thought and to be open to suddenly shifting gears from sharp execution of a direct idea to a tenacious defence if the situation demands it."* - IM Erik Kislik

### Denver Open

Round 3 / June 30, 1973

Rudolf Petters (2003, age 53)

Curtis Carlson (1979, age 19)

A23 TC 40/2 (<https://denverchess.com/games/view/19301>)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 (Later in life I had reasonable success with ...Bb4 continuations.) 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Nc6 (I knew no theory and had to find moves over the board. I was surprised to find this was considered best!) 7.Nxd5 Nxd5 (ChessBase 14 has six games with this move, but none by a GM. It's first choice of HCE and Stockfish 11 although 7...Nd4 is most common since it hits White's queen instead of luring it to d5. 8.Nf6 gf 9.Qd1 Qc7 10.Kf1 Nc2 11.Rb1 Be6 12.b3 Rc8= is Hodgson-Illescas Cordoba 1993) 8.Qxd5 Qxd5!? (8...Bd6= and 8...Qb6= are better. Black should keep queens on the board.) 9.Bxd5+= Nd4 10.Kd1 Bf5 11.d3= (According to HCE the simplifying 11.Nf3+= is best.) 11...Rd8!?!+= (I don't remember why I rejected the stronger 11...O-O-O=) 12.Bxb7 e4 (Playing for complications. 12...Bc5 and 12...Be7 were better.) 13.Ba6!? (13.g4 Bg4 14.Be4+/- was obvious and good when it's hard to see compensation for two pawns. 13...Bg6 14.e3 Ne6 15.d4 is also depressing for Black.) 13...exd3 14. Bxd3!? (14.ed Bc5+=) 14...Nxe2 15.Nxe2 (15.Ke2 Bd3 16.Kf3 Be7 is equal since Black's bishop pair and better development is worth a pawn.) 15...Rxd3+ 16.Ke1? (An inexplicable blunder. 16.Bd2 Be7 17.Nc3 O-O= HCE.) 16...Bb4+- 17.Nc3 Rxc3 18.bxc3 Bxc3+ 19.Ke2 Bxa1 0-1 move 50. This game gave little satisfaction since Rudy was unrecognizable (moves 13 and 16).

I think the 1973 Denver Open was his last tournament. My life record against him was better than deserved.

*“Every life history is the history of suffering.” - Arthur Schopenhauer*

I last saw Rudy at the CU student center in Boulder in 1982. We analyzed some positions and played a couple of offhand games. At age 62 he was still 2000+ strength. According to *FamilyTreeNow.com* and *Chessgames.com* he was born December 21, 1920, and died November 29, 1992. RIP Rudy. You will never be forgotten.

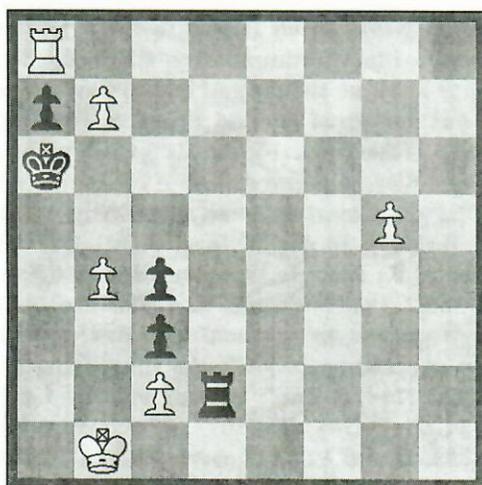
*“If you want to know the ultimate truth of life, rites and rituals are a huge obstacle. But if you are interested in social stability and harmony, as Confucius was, truth is often a liability, whereas rites and rituals are among your best allies.” - Yuval Noah Harari*

*“A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading.” - William Styron*

## Endgame Studies

*“Top grandmasters use studies as part of their training programs to improve their creativity and out-of-the-box thinking, to polish their calculating skills, to enrich their arsenal of tactical weaponry and to deepen their endgame understanding. And no less importantly: to keep sharp in general and intensify their joy in chess!” - IM Yochanan Afek*

### 1234 Modern Endgame Studies #513



**Somoff - Nasimovitch / 1928**  
*White to play*

The given solution is **A: 1.g6 Rg2 2.g7 Rg7 3.b8/B (3.b8Q or 3.b8R allows 3...Rg1 4.Ka2 Ra1 5.Ka1=) 3...Rg1 4.Ka2 Kb7 5.Bh2 Rg2 6.Rh8+-, and B: 3...Rg8 4.Ra7 Kb6 5.Rc7 Rb8 6.Rc4+-, but in line A 6...Rc2 7.Kb1 (7.Ka3 Rc1 8.b5 a5 gets**

**nowhere) 7...Rb2 8.Kc1 Kc6** is drawn since White loses his last pawn, and in **B HCE** says **6...Kb5** is equal. **5.Ra8 Kb7 6.Ra3 Rb8 7.Rc3 Kc6 8.Rc4 Kb5 9.Rd4 Ka4** is also drawn, according to tablebases at Syzygy and Shredder. But instead of the execrable **1.g6?** White wins easily with **1.b8B Kb7 2.Ra7 Kb8 3.Ra3 Rg2 4.Rc3 Rg5 5.Rc4 (+- HCE)**, which is similar to line **B** after 6.Rc4 except Black's king is passive. Sometimes the simplest moves are best! **GM Larry Evans** was right when he said computers would refute analysis of many old positions.

*“Sometimes we search for the truth in abyssal depths, when we can find it just one step away from us...” - GM Mahil Marin*

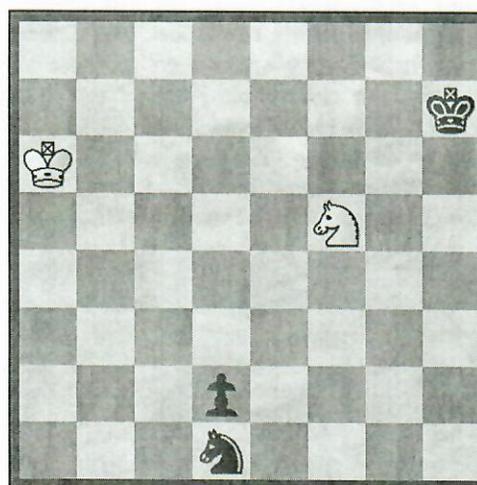
*“I never feel more like my father's daughter than when correcting risible linguistic absurdities.” - Sarah Skwire*

*“I wonder if people are going to realize that the policies they were so quick to adopt are causing a global depression.” - Sean Malone*

In 1983 the Czechoslovakian composer **Jindřich Fritz** (1912-1984) published an interesting book called *Česká studie* (*Czech Study*) with 644 compositions; a web site about him is at

<http://www.arves.org/arves/index.php/en/endgamestudies/studies-by-composer/418-fritz-jindrich-1912-1984>.

**This is position #239**



*White to play*

The given solution is **1.Kb7! Nb2! 2.Ne3 Kg6 3.Kc6 Kg5 4.Kc5 Kf4 5.Kd4=**, since White holds after **5...Kf3 6.Nd1! Nd1 7.Kd3=**. But instead of the affable **1...Nb2?** Shredder's tablebase says Black wins with **1...Nf2! 2.Ne3 Kg6 3.Kc6 Kg5 4.Kc5 Kf4 5.Kd4 Kf3** and now **6.Nd1** doesn't work because of **6...Ke2! 7.Nc3 (7.Nb2 Nd3+- wins at once) 7...Ke1 8.Ke5 (other moves are worse.) 8...Nd3 9.Kd4 Nc1-+**. White is helpless to stop **...Ne2** or **...Na2** deflecting White's knight. The difference is instead of being loose on b2 the knight is protected on f2 once Black's king reaches f3. Assiduous accuracy is necessary to achieve victory.