THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

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MARCHING ON
### Smorgasbord X

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Time to strike up the band. We're marching into spring, leaving those winter months behind.

This smorgasbord of puzzles features triple loyd 47, synthetic game 16, cyclotron 38, and the soon-to-be famous "six king task".

As usual in smorgasbord columns, we start off with our most popular appetizer, the speciality of the house, a *triple loyd*.

Triple Loyd 47
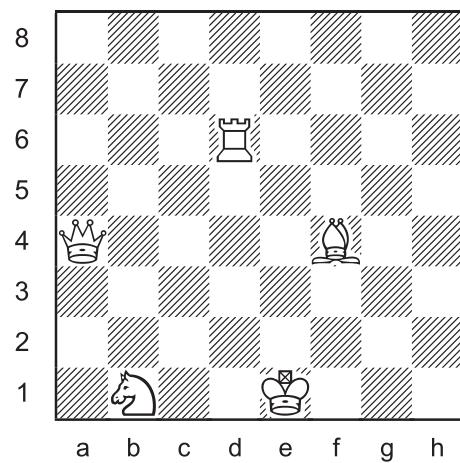
Place the black king on the board so that:

A. Black is in checkmate.
B. Black is in stalemate.
C. White has a mate in 1.

In the original Roman calendar, March was the first month of the year. This explains why October, with the root 'octo-' for 'eight', is now the tenth month. Sometime before 153 B.C., January took over as month number one.

Synthetic Game 16
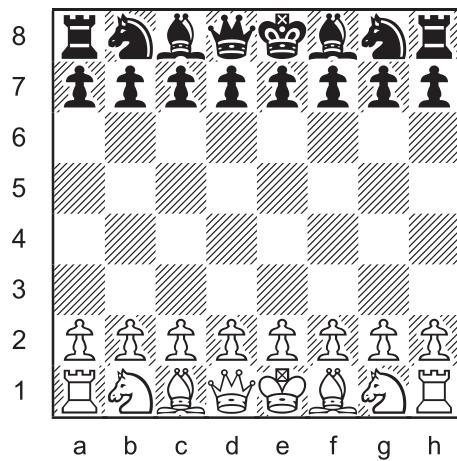
Compose a game that ends
with the move 4.Bb5#.

The month of March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war. He was the son of Jupiter and grandson of Saturn. Mercury and Venus were his brother and sister, Neptune and Pluto his uncles. I guess you could say we live in the Roman solar system.

Maximizers are problems in which the task is to make the most of things. In this case, attacking the maximum squares.

Six King Maximizer
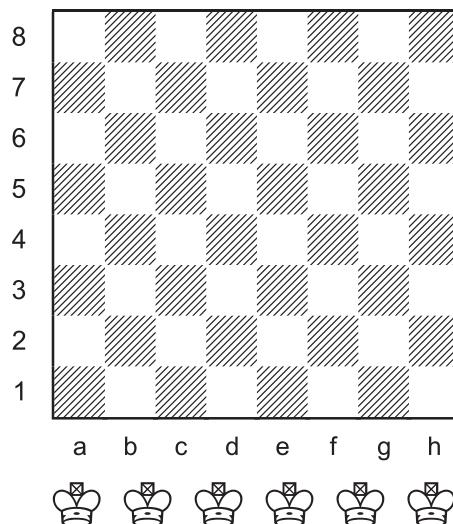
Place six kings on the board
so that the most squares are attacked.

Mars was not only the god of war. His earthly job descriptions also included "agricultural guardian". Evidently, a farmer at heart. His nephew was Cupid, the god of love.


March For Peace

A 1981 postcard by celebrated Finnish artist Tove Jansson (1914-2001)

For dessert today, we have a chilled platter of cosmic swirl.

Cyclotron 38
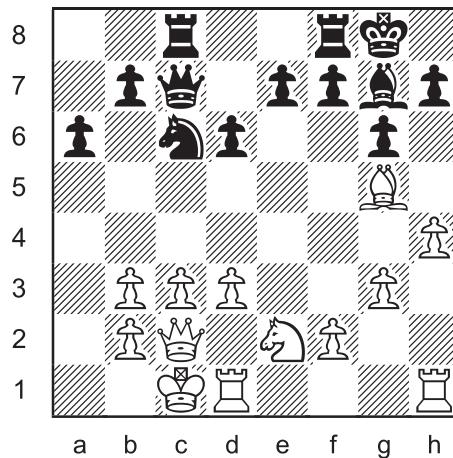
Cycle three pieces so that
Black is in checkmate.

In case you're new to cyclotrons, here are the rules.

> Switch the position of three pieces so that Black is in checkmate. No actual chess moves are made. The pieces simply swap squares. The pieces trade places in a "cycle". Piece A goes to square B, piece B goes to square C, and piece C goes to square A.
>
> Any three pieces can trade places. Colours do not matter. The cycled pieces can be all white, all black, or a mix of both. Cycling the black king is a common trick.
>
> The position after the cycle must be legal. This rule implies several things.
> a) A pawn cannot be on the 1st or 8th rank.
> b) Both kings cannot be in check.
> c) There must be a way to reach the position with a legal white move. Impossible checks, especially double checks, are a frequent "violation".
> d) In some cases, retrograde analysis is required to decide if the position after a cycle is legal.

The *Puzzling Side of Chess* archive is growing each week. For more information on cyclotrons, see columns 55 and 74.

SOLUTIONS

All puzzles by J. Coakley. *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2016).

PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

Triple Loyd 47
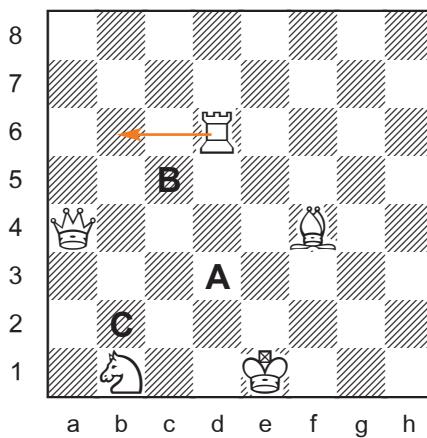
A. Kd3#
B. Kc5=
C. Kb2 (Rb6#)

A five officer loyd.

Synthetic Game 16
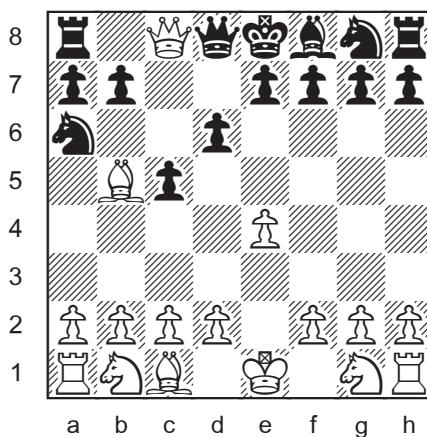
1.e4 c5 2.Qg4 d6 3.Qxc8 Na6 4.Bb5#

Sicilian Death Trap

The solution is not unique. White can also play 1.e3. Black's moves can be played in various orders and ...d6 can be replaced by ...d5.

Six King Maximizer
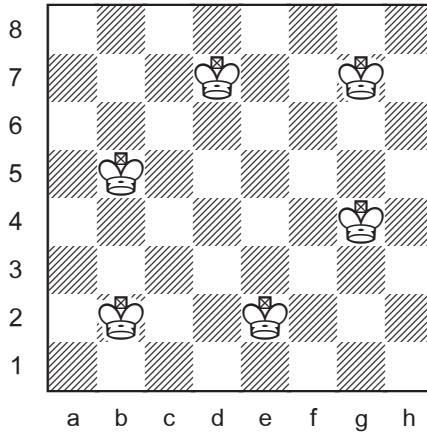
46 squares are attacked.

Only two squares are attacked twice (c6, f3).

There are two patterns. The one shown above is perfectly symmetrical along both long diagonals. It can be reflected left to right for two "different" solutions. The pattern below is also symmetrical, but only along one diagonal (a1-h8). It can be rotated for four different solutions, giving a total of six solutions to the six king task.
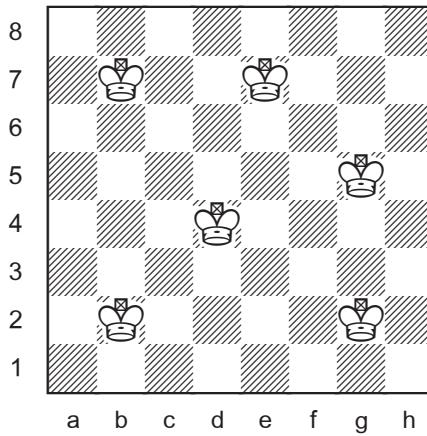
46 squares are attacked.

The squares c3 and f6 are attacked twice.

Cyclotron 38
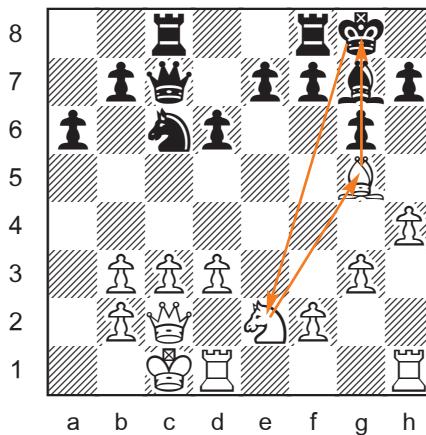
Ne2→g5   Bg5→g8   Kg8→e2

A twin to cyclotron 37 in column 94, with a white pawn on d3 instead of e4. The same cycle but in the opposite direction!?

The position after the cycle is legal. The bishop on g8 is a promoted e-pawn.

(Cycles involving Kg8→d3? are illegal because the black king would be in an impossible double check (from Qc2 and Rd1).

Until next time!