



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

Jeff Coakley

MOTHER OF ALL REBUSES

number 150

May 12, 2018

This column celebrates the merry month of May with a trio of chess rebuses. The first commemorates the 61st birthday of my good friend Andrey Nikolayevich. The party bus rides today.



Rebus 16

“Andrey Nikolayevich Frolkin”

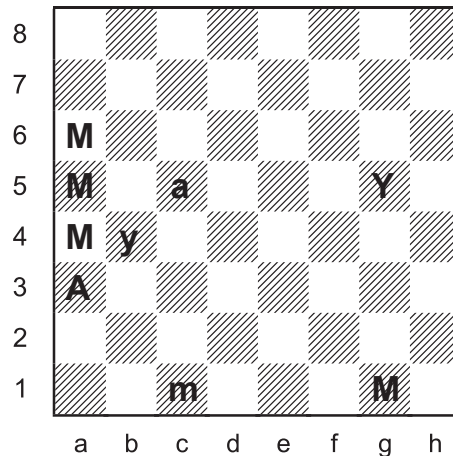
8	A					N	f	
7	A	n					f	
6	F							
5								
4								
3								
2								
1								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Each letter represents a different type of piece.
Uppercase is one colour, lowercase is the other.
Determine the position and, if possible, the last move.

In Canada, and much of the northern hemisphere, May is that grand time of year when trees and flowers blossom. The season of hope and rebirth. A perfect occasion for celebration.

Rebus 17

“My Amy May”



Each letter represents a different type of piece.
 Uppercase is one colour, lowercase is the other.
 Determine the position and, if possible, the last move.



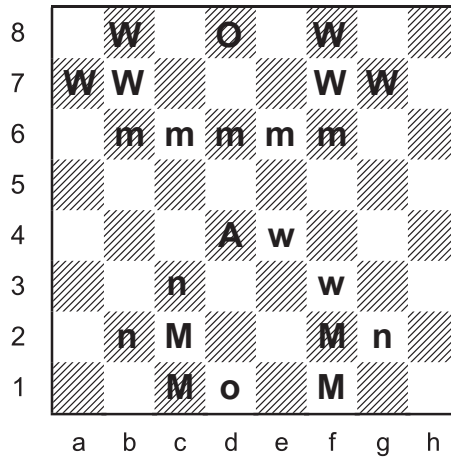
Canada Jubilee 2017 Regina, Saskatchewan

Puzzling Side number 150, another reason to be cheery. They sure add up quickly. For more on chess rebuses, see columns 133 and 148.

Our final puzzle, a tribute to Mothers Day, is a special kind of rebus called a *misspeller*, an idea of Ukrainian composer Sergei I. Tkachenko. A single letter, on one square, is wrong. To solve the rebus, you must figure out which letter it is and which letter it should be.

Rebus 18

“Happy Mothers Day”



REBUS MISSPELLER

Change one letter and determine the position.

Each letter represents a different type of piece. Uppercase is one colour, lowercase is the other. However, one of the letters is wrong. To legalize the position, that letter must be corrected. Any single letter may be changed to one of the other letters in the puzzle and/or to upper or lowercase. For example, changing the M on c1 to m, N, or n is allowed.



Andrey’s mother, Lucy

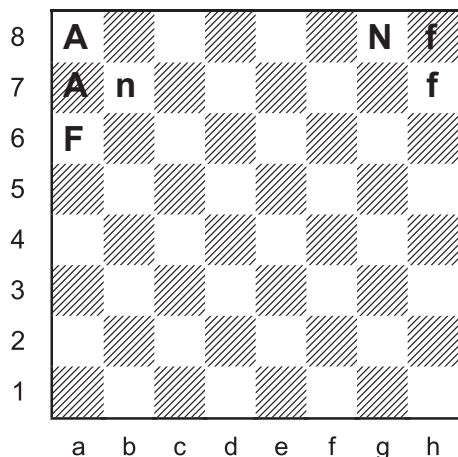
SOLUTIONS

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.

Rebus 16

Andrey Frolikin & Jeff Coakley 2018

Puzzling Side of Chess



“ANF”

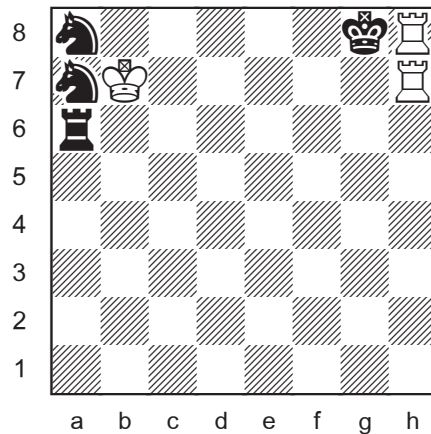
A = knight

N = king

F = rook

caps = black

last move:
1.g7xh8=R#



(3 + 4)

Solutions are given with *rebus notation*, an abbreviated method of describing logical deductions. The notation is mostly self-explanatory. See rebus 01 in column 133 for a detailed explanation.

N = ♔

Only letter with one uppercase, one lowercase.

AF ≠ ♖

There is an A and F on the 8th rank.

A ≠ ♔ (a7+, a8+)

Impossible double check.

A ≠ ♖ (a7+)

Impossible check.

A ≠ ♗ (a8+)

Impossible check.

A = ♞

F ≠ ♔ (h7+, h8+)

Impossible double check.

F ≠ ♗ (a6+, h7+)

Both kings in check.

F = ♖

Only remaining option.

last move: 1.g7xh8=R#

Only way to explain a check by the rook.

caps = black

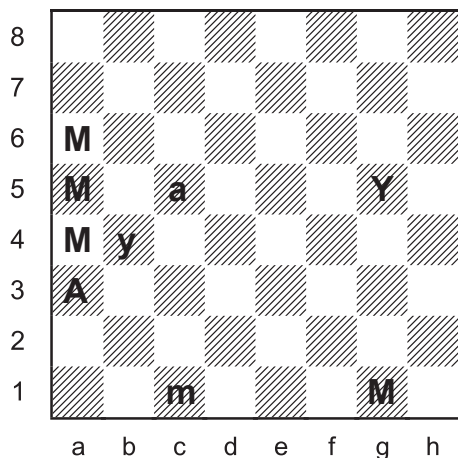


Rebus 17

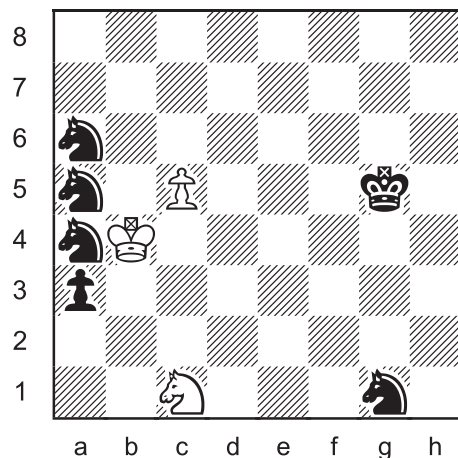
Andrey Frolikin & Jeff Coakley 2018

Puzzling Side of Chess

“My Amy May”



M = knight
 A = pawn
 Y = king
 caps = black
 last move
 1...N>a6+



(3 + 6)

♔ = (AY) The letters with one uppercase, one lowercase.

If A = ♔

- M ≠ ♔ (a5+, c1+, g1+) Impossible multiple checks.
- M ≠ ♖ (a5+) Impossible check.
- M ≠ ♗ (c1+, g1+) Both kings in check.
- M ≠ ♘ (a4+, a6+) Impossible double check.
- M ≠ ♙ M's on 1st rank.
- M = ∅? Impossible to assign a piece to letter M.
- A ≠ ♔

- Y = ♔
- M ≠ ♔ (a4+, a5+, c1+) Impossible multiple checks.
- M ≠ ♖ (a4+) Impossible check.
- M ≠ ♗ (a5+, c1+) Both kings in check.
- M ≠ ♙ M's on 1st rank.
- M = ♘ King on b4 is in check by knight on a6.
- A ≠ ♔ ♗ (a3+) Impossible double check.
- A ≠ ♖ (c5+) Both kings in check.
- A = ♙

caps = black

If caps = white, impossible double check (a3+).

last move: 1...N>a6+

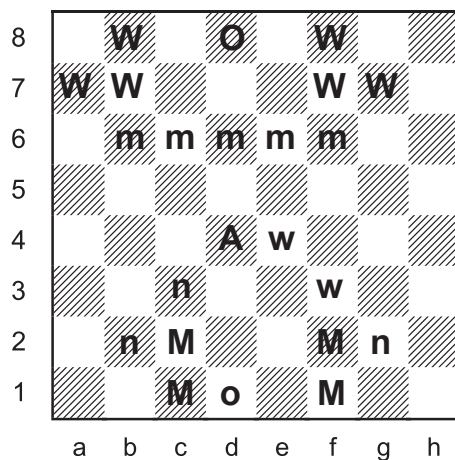
This move may or may not be a capture.

Rebus 18

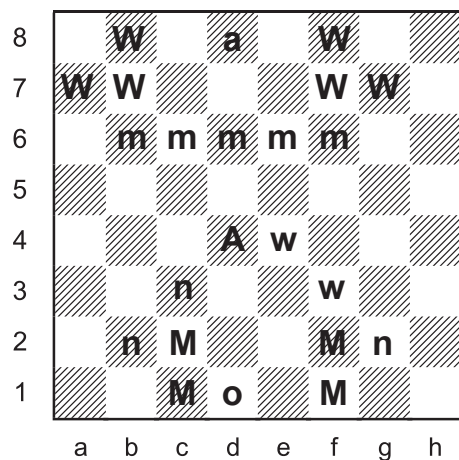
Jeff Coakley, Andrey Frolkin, Sergei I. Tkachenko 2016

Problemas

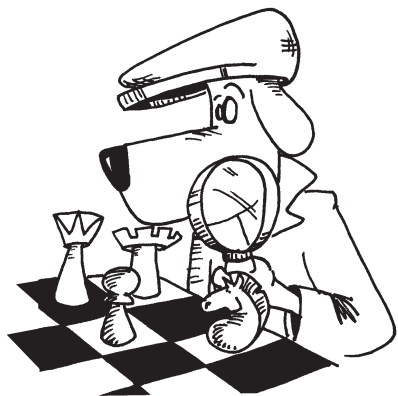
“Happy Mothers Day”



Change
'O' on d8
to 'a'



“wow/woman/mom”



W = bishop

O = knight

M = rook

A = king

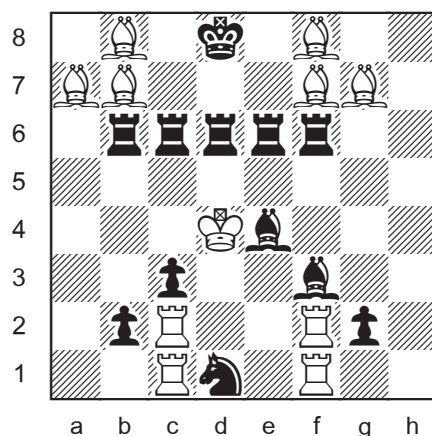
N = pawn

caps = white

last move:

1...Rd7xd6+ or

1...Bd5>e4+



(11 + 12)

If O = ♠

The only letter with one uppercase, one lowercase.

M ≠ ♖ ♗

Impossible multiple checks (c1+, d6+, f1+). Even if one M is changed to a different letter, the position will still be illegal. Either both kings are in check or there is an impossible double check. *Triple redundancy.*

M ≠ ♘

Impossible multiple checks (b6+, c2+, f6+).

M ≠ ♙

Impossible multiple checks (c6+, e6+, f2+).

M ≠ ♚

M's on 1st rank (c1, f1).

M = ∅?

Impossible to assign a piece to letter M.

O ≠ ♞

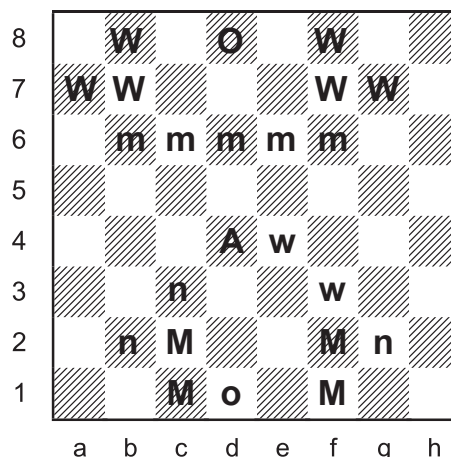
Therefore, A = ♔. The letters W and M have more than three instances and there are three lowercase N's.

A = ♔

To create a second king, the letter on some square must be changed to lowercase 'a'.

♖ ≠ (MOW) These letters appear on the 1st or 8th rank.

The king on d4 is in check by one of the M's on the 6th rank, unless m/d6 is changed to lowercase 'a'. To expedite our investigation, let's eliminate that possibility.



If m/d6 → 'a'

M ≠ ♞ (c6+, e6+) Impossible double check.

M ≠ ♔ ♖ (b6+, f6+) Impossible double check.

M = ♖

W ≠ ♞ (b7+, f3+, f7+) Three checks.

W ≠ ♔ ♖ (b8+, f8+) Impossible double check.

W = ∅? Impossible to assign a piece to letter W.

Therefore the king on d4 is in check from one of the M's on the 6th rank.

M ≠ ♔ (b6+, d6+, f6+) Impossible double check even if one of the M's is changed to lowercase 'a'.

W ≠ ♔ (e4+) Impossible double check. The W on e4 cannot be changed to lowercase 'a' because the two kings would be on adjacent squares.

N ≠ ♔ (c3+) Impossible double check. The N on c3 cannot be changed to lowercase 'a' because the two kings would be on adjacent squares.

O ≠ ♔ (d1+) Impossible double check. The O on d1 cannot be changed to lowercase 'a' because both kings would be in check. One of the M's on c1, c2, f1, f2 would check the king on d1.

♔ = ∅ There are no queens on the board.

N = ♖ Other remaining letters (MOW) are on 1st or 8th rank.

caps = white Otherwise there is an impossible double check. A white pawn on c3 would check a black king on d4.

Next, let's consider changing other M's on the 6th rank to 'a'. Reminder: one of the those M's is checking the king on d4.

If m/b6 → 'a'

- W ≠ ♖ (b7+) Both kings in check.
- W ≠ ♗ (a7+) Both kings in check.
- W = ♘
- O ≠ ♖ (d1+) Impossible double check.
- O ≠ ♗ (d8+) Both kings in check.
- O = ∅? Impossible to assign a piece to letter O.

A similar argument applies to m/f6 → 'a', based on the W's at f7 and g7.

If m/c6 → 'a'

- O ≠ ♘ (d8+) Both kings in check.
- O ≠ ♖ (d1+) Impossible double check.
- O = ♗
- W ≠ ♘ (b8+) Both kings in check.
- W ≠ ♖ (e4+) Impossible double check.
- W = ∅? Impossible to assign a piece to letter W.

A similar argument applies to m/e6 → 'a', based on the W at f8.

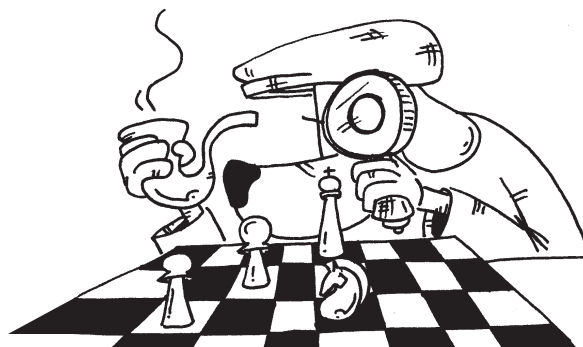
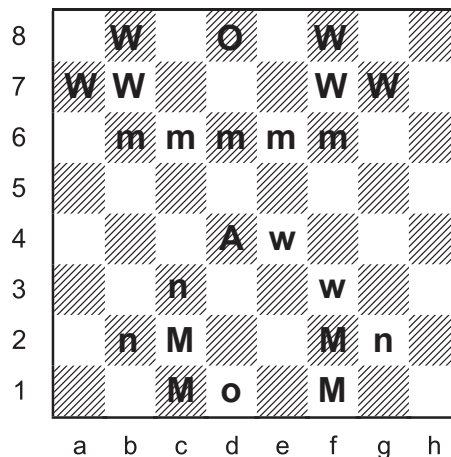
Thus, none of the M's on the 6th rank can be changed to lowercase 'a'.

- M ≠ ♘ (c6+, e6+) Impossible double check.
- M ≠ ♗ (b6+, f6+) Impossible double check.
- M = ♖ (d6+) The king on d4 is in check by a rook on d6.

- W ≠ ♘ (f3+) Impossible double check. The W on f3 cannot be changed to 'a' because both kings would be in check. The M (rook) on f2 would check the king on f3.

- W = ♗
- O = ♘

The only remaining piece of the puzzle is to figure out where the second king is hiding.



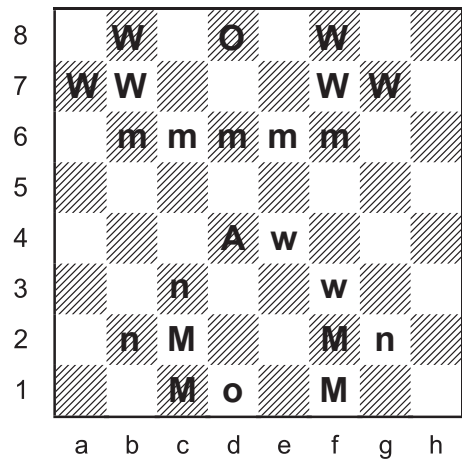
The W's on a7, b8, f8, or g7 cannot be changed to 'a' because both kings would be in check. One of the W's (bishops) would check king 'a'.

The M's on c1, c2, f1, f2 or N's on b2, g2 cannot be changed to 'a' because both kings would be in check. One of the M's (rooks) would check king 'a'.

There is only one possibility left.

Change 'O' on d8 to lowercase 'a'.

Happy Mothers Day!



Until next time!

© Jeff Coakley 2018. Illustrations by Antoine Duff. All rights reserved.