



Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

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LIFE

J. R. EYERMAN
December 15, 1952

The Old *GDT* Lives On.

By Erik Heath, RIT IT Alumnus

I know what happened to the old *GDT*. It died when Simone cut funding. Of course, not ever hanging out with the *GDT* crew, donating only a chance poem and rant and never giving any of my hard earned green-backs to the cause certainly didn't assist *GDT* morale. But I am a faithful reader, every week calling dibs on the *GDT* that my buddy Tim brings in to work.

Of course, I remember what the old *GDT* was. Heck, I read it for years while I was in classes and such. I even had Alex (see I *do* know some old players¹) send me copies while I was away on Co-Op. Nothing made my day at the plant better than sitting down in my private prison cell (cubicle) lit with harsh florescent lighting than to kick back in my non-reclining chair and open up a *GDT*.

But that was back when Vice-Chancellor Simone had his fingers in the mix. Now *GDT* is a zine of bigger importance, a bigger message, but a smaller form. The publication still lives on. And hopefully my next statement will create more angered writings: IT is the only important major on campus.

That's right folks. All you cutty-pastys and train engineers can go pound salt. I've got my BA in IT right here in my hand, and you guys can't argue with that. Surely, I started as a lowly CE major, but I determined that the only good thing about that major is the chance to work in the clean rooms and see my brainchild come to life (whooopidy doo). So I moved to a major that wouldn't cause me to lose my mind in the fluorescent jungle every single day. My major allows me to work in darkened corners and underneath desks, moving my sorry ass out of my chair such that I don't turn into the large-assed wildebeest of the northeast, a very common sight in office environments. Not to mention I can carry a knife around and claim that I have it as a tool for my job. Let's see some Bubblewrap Engineering (Packing Sci for all you slow people) student say that.

Not that I really have a problem with the other majors on campus, I just see them as feeble and less relevant to the working world than what I see in IT. For example, when an art student walks up to me and starts a statement with "Umm, can you help me? My Mac..." I know enough to laugh directly into their face, turn 1. [No, you don't. -Adam]

and walk away. What's that? Your iMac isn't working? Here's what you do. You know the handle on the top? Tie a 30 foot rope to it and use it as a boat anchor. Tada! It is once again working in a useful fashion.

Of course, you know that Mac users are now offended at me too. But I haven't finished. Ooohhh no. Know what an iBook is good for? A footrest. Well, that and watching DVD's. And maybe music. But all in all, it is just a really expensive footrest.

Hang on, Erik. Don't you have a iMac on your desk at home? Damn straight. I never touch the freeking thing. It belongs to my very soon to be wife, and if she wants anything done to it, such as upgrading the memory or trying to add a program, she gets to do it herself. I ain't gonna' even touch the freeking thing. Of course, I have been coming home at night lately and she has been using my laptop (XP - Just about as close to a Mac interface as Gates has gotten yet). Big surprise, her iMac just doesn't want to work correctly. That'll teach her.

Alright, back to non-geeky things. I just want to comment on the Sentinel. My only question is this: Why?

I like 3-D sculptures, and abstract art. But seriously, couldn't we have spent it on something that didn't look like a plane crash? It's like we have a 777 that did a nose dive at slow speed into the administrative circle. There's a great sculpture.

My last message to all of you is to not drop out. Don't be like the other 30 percent of students that start here freshman year and go pansy on us. Suck it up, and work for the education that you are paying good money for. You get what you pay for. Just remember that next time you go to the strip clubs up in Cananananananana.

Peace, Love, and a Whole Lotta Beer.

Big Erik

LETTERS

Date: Wed, 28 Jan 2004 22:40:17 +0000
 From: Kari Iverson <skarives@hotmail.com>
 To: gdt@hellskitchen.org
 Subject: footnotes
 Dear Editor,

I like what I read in GDT. However, what the hell is up with all those footnotes? They are a pain in the ass to read. With a newsletter that prides itself on originality, it's funny that everyone writes in a similar style, i.e. including way more footnotes than are necessary.

Kari

Did you know that satire has a very strong history of footnotes? The real advantage to using footnotes is this: the piece reads very straightforwardly and provides a requisite pause before the punchline. All comedy is based on timing, satire doubly so. Footnotes also allow for an easy integration of tangents into a work that may not have a good place for them. *GDT* also has its own history of footnotes. Check out our archives at <http://www.hellskitchen.org/gdt/pdf> and you will see eight years of humor, literature, poetry, and, most importantly, footnotes.

As to the originality of the works, I would like to think that a piece is original or not based on its content and approach, not just the use (or misuse) of footnotes.

Thank you for writing in, and I hope you enjoy my footnote-less response.
 -Ed. @ L.

Date: Mon, 26 Jan 2004
 From: Brock <brock@csh.rit.edu>
 To: gdt@hellskitchen.org
 Subject: GDT Submission
 Dear President Bush,

While I appreciate the illusion of safety that keeps us from shooting each other every time a door slams, I can't help but feel suspicious of every Muslim I see. I'm glad that you spend \$1300 a year on defense, just for me, and I'm sure that everyone else agrees. However, I still get nervous every time a car backfires, so please take some more money from the education budget and make me feel safe.

I didn't want to learn French anyway.

Thank you,
 Your Flock of Unquestioning Sheep

There are two solutions. The first solution is 1. g7+Kh6 2. Bd3+Kh6 3. g8N# . The second solution is 1. g7+Kh7 2. g8Q+Kh6 3. Qg6# . If it is Black's turn, the game becomes a draw after 1. ... Ne5+ 2. Kf6 Nxg6 3. Kxg6 Kg8 . The Black king then cannot be forced to leave the squares $g8$ and $h8$ and blocks the White pawn's advance.

Fear

By Scott Rubin

I wrote the following over the New Year's break when I was drying off after a shower. After being heckled by my roommate and getting a spare five minutes I finally decided to clean it up and submit it to *GDT*. I hope I piss a lot of people off, because that's what it's all about.

Controversial statement number one: The 9/11 hijackers were courageous. Don't get me wrong here, they were by no means good or correct. In fact, I feel they were evil. But they were also courageous. Courage and evil are not mutually exclusive. According to the OED, *courage* is:

4. *That quality of mind which shows itself in facing danger without fear or shrinking; bravery, boldness, valor.*

Even though they were committing mass murder, the most heinous of crimes, they were unafraid. They feared not even death itself and were willing to go to it for what they believed -- even though they believed something very wrong.

Controversial statement number two: The majority of the people in the Western World, including much of the military, are cowards. Notice I did not say the entire Western World. I myself am from the United States, and I think of myself as very brave. There are also a very large number of service men and women who fight/peace-keep on the front lines in dangerous places, and they are willing to risk their lives for what they believe. All of these courageous individuals have at least my respect even if our sets of beliefs do not entirely coincide.

However, the Western World is mostly cowards. They fear death more than anything. They are often willing to give up civil liberties in exchange for an illusion of security. They would rather have a false sense of security than keep their freedom of speech. This is something Thomas Jefferson explicitly warned against. Actually think about what FDR meant when he said "nothing to fear but fear itself". The people we are worrying about are terrorists. Their goal is to incite fear. If you are in turn afraid then they have achieved victory. If like me and other brave souls you proudly go about your life as you always would have, fearing no danger, that angers the terrorist. It means he has failed.

The terrorist may then strike again! That's not a good or pleasant thing, but I'm willing to risk my life, why aren't you?

Watch the evening news any day of the week and you will see at least 1 story on each channel which attempt to incite fear into the viewer. "A new medical problem has been discovered, are you at risk of serious health trouble? Story at 11." This is designed to scare you. And if you are a coward, as most US Citizens are, you will fall for it. You will allow the media, the government and the terrorists to guide and control your actions through fear. It is no different from the way medieval kings and communist dictators controlled their own people. As they say in the awesome state of New Hampshire "live free or die". Your life is less valuable than your freedom. If you aren't willing to give up your freedom, if you are afraid of death, if you allow anyone to control you by inciting fear into you, then you don't deserve your freedom or your life.

President Bush likes to call the terrorists cowards. And he likes to call all of our troops brave. In fact, this is an outright lie (as I have discussed above). In fact there are cowards and heroes on both sides. This statement only proves Bush as the ultimate hypocrite since he himself is a coward. He drives in a bulletproof limo. He has secret service agents up the wazoo. He has secret underground bunkers to escape to. There are more security measures in place to ensure his continued survival than for any other human on earth. He has no right to call anyone else a coward, when he is in fact the biggest one of all.

Think about how the US wages war. Sure there are a huge number of ground troops who risk their lives in Iraq every day. I acknowledge their bravery even if I think they should go home. But think about the rest of the military: Stealth Bomber pilots. They can't be seen on radar and they fly faster than sound. They drop bombs from thousands of feet in the air on almost defenseless ground installations. Think about submarines that fire tomahawk cruise missiles. They hide under the sea where none can find them; they fire highly explosive missiles at target many miles away blowing them to smithereens, all without endangering themselves. Think about the simple sniper. He hides in the woods or in a building and picks off enemies far

away. With his special elite training that is far superior to that of his enemies, it is highly unlikely he will ever encounter a dangerous situation. All these people are cowards. They end the lives of others without endangering themselves, because they are indeed afraid of death. At least the suicide bomber sacrifices himself. He may be stupid, wrong and evil, but he's sure as hell brave.

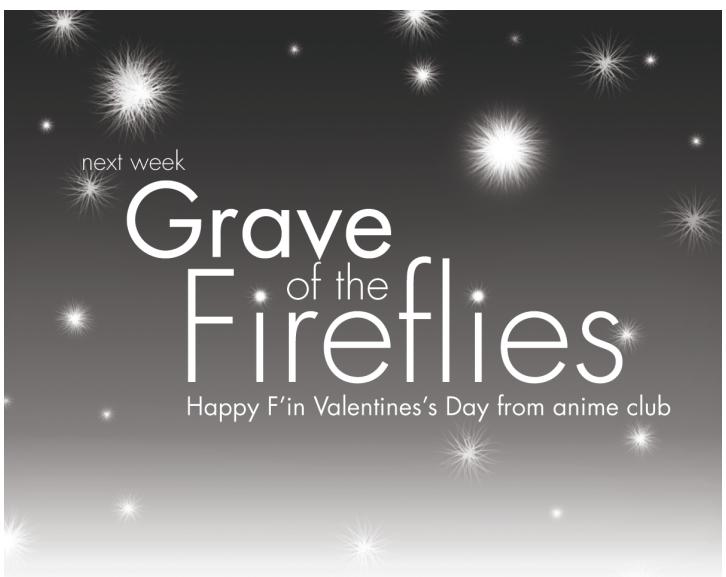
Think about any action movie you watch. The hero is always someone who overcomes impossible odds. They stare death in the face and somehow come out on top. James Bond is an example. He dodges bullets, gets hit by bullets, narrowly escapes explosions, and gets the crap kicked out of him. But he never backs down. Sure its unrealistic, but it shows something. If James Bond flew a B2 bomber and blew up a building with a bomb instead of sneaking in, KO-ing guards and getting shot up, you wouldn't think he was a hero at all. And if he kept on using such tactics you would have quite a different impression of him.

Think about how this applies to other situations in the world. Israel vs. Palestine is the best example. Both sides have cowards and heroes. Both sides have good and evil people on them. It's a few crazy suicide bombers and a few crazy settlers that ruin it for everyone else. But neither side is brave enough to achieve victory. One side strikes, the other strikes back, so on and so forth. They blame whoever struck first. This will never end. Israel hides behind its advanced US technology and its security fences. Palestine suicide bombs. Israel kills Palestinians with guns and tanks. Palestinians throw stones and suicide bomb.

Let's say, for example, that Israel decided to be courageous. They no longer feared death. They would take down their security fences. They would stop killing Palestinians. Palestinian suicide bombers would become frustrated. Their attacks are no longer inciting fear. If nobody is afraid of you, you are going to get pissed. Bullies don't like to beat on kids who aren't afraid. It doesn't give them any pleasure. It makes them feel lower, when their goal is to feel superior. The suicide bombers will either simply get angrier or give up. Obviously the latter results in peace. The more probable prior scenario also results in peace. When the world community sees Palestinians only killing Israelis and not vice versa, when they see the attacks increasing in number and severity, then and only then will they

say "Palestine is the obvious 'bad guy.' They continue to kill when Israel simply stands tall and takes the hits." This will result in victory for those who don't fear death. Victory for those who don't hide behind technology and illusions of security. And don't think I'm taking a side here. This could swing both ways. If Palestine stopped suicide bombing, Israel would continue to go about its usual business. The world community would all recognize Israel as the obvious bad guy and the conflict would settle in the same manner.

No matter what you believe in: good or evil, bad or good, Islam, Christianity, Judaism or whatever. Be courageous. Live free or die. If you are at any time afraid, you have lost my respect as a worthwhile human being. If you have fear you will not live your life to the fullest. You will make decisions partially governed by fear incited by others, thus losing freedom. Do not live like this. Do whatever you want; go wherever you want to go and say whatever you feel is right. Don't listen to the bullshit on the evening news. Fly somewhere, its faster and cheaper. Go skydiving and bungee jumping or do some other dangerous sport. If you spend all your time fearing the Reaper you won't live a free life of ultimate happiness. And if you don't do that, you might as well not live.





This Week's Chess Problem
by Dmitriy Shnayder

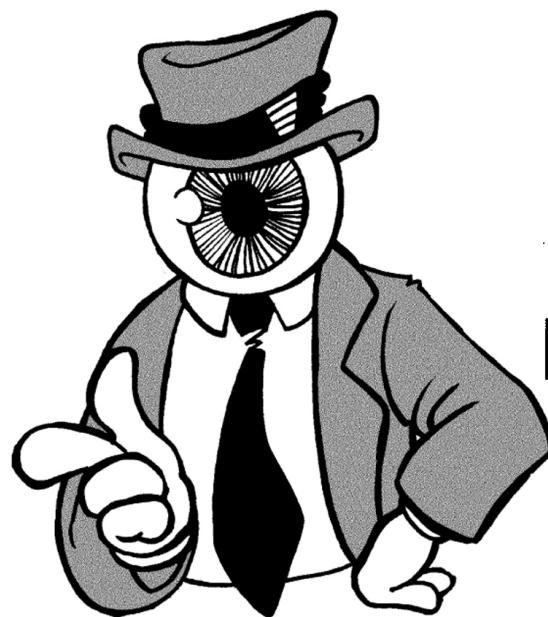
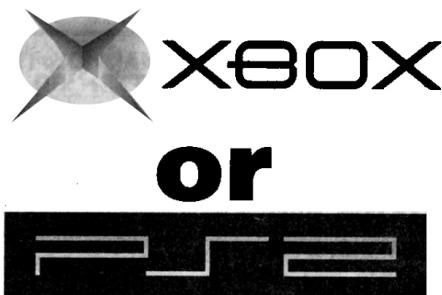
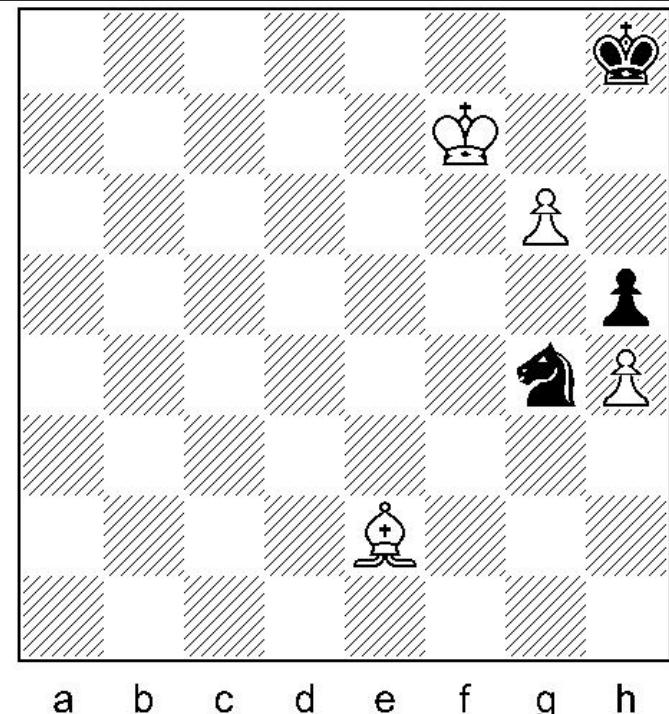
Challenge

In the diagram, White is to move and checkmate the Black king in three moves.

The solution is on page 3.

An explanation of the chess notation (how movement of chess pieces is written) used in the solution may be found on the website:

<http://www.michess.org/scholastic/notation.shtml>.



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Submissions of all
art forms accepted.



Written pieces should be in Word, plain text or RTF format. Visual art should be submitted at the highest resolution and dpi possible.

Give your time!

GDT meets Wednesdays at 8pm at Crossroads. We are always looking for people to help us edit, write, fold, distribute, cheer, get off and other fun activites.

gdt@hellskitchen.org



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