



## backgammon

### Michael Kloian

of the American Backgammon Club

#### ● DOUBLING CUBE ERRORS

During a recent tournament, this situation came up in the first game of a quarter-final nine-point match. White has possession of the doubling cube at 4.

To appreciate this position, black's previous roll was a 6-4 with absolutely no choice but to leave a double shot. White, before rolling, decided to redouble black, moving the cube to 8.

If you were white, would you have redoubled the cube? Should black accept or decline the double?

With the potential of the six-point prime starting at him, black could be in serious trouble if white hits him. If

black fails to re-enter from the bar on the next roll, white should pick up the second checker and secure a gammon ending the nine-point match with one game.

Black should thank his lucky stars, drop the cube, take the four-point loss and start the next game.

In the game, however, black accepted the cube. White hit. Black stayed on the bar. White hit the second open checker and soon gammoned black, winning the nine-point match, 16-0.

What went wrong?

The first error belongs to white, for turning the doubling cube from 4 to 8. By offering the cube, white was giving black an opportunity to decline the

cube, which would have given white only four points. White should not have doubled the cube.

Since white was a definite favorite to hit black, white would have done best to hang onto the cube and play for a gammon. Naturally, black made an error in accepting the double.

On Dec. 2, 4 and 9, Kloian will teach a backgammon seminar, "Beyond the Basics," for players wishing to explore the game in depth. For more information, contact him at 459-5776 or write to the American Backgammon Club at Box 599, Plymouth 48170.

## Franklin man stars as Count Dracula

Mark A. Corkins of Franklin Village stars as Count Dracula, with Robert Stormont of Farmington portraying Dr. Seward, in "The Passion of Dracula," opening Nov. 21 at the Bonstelle Theatre in Detroit.

The play by Bob Hall and David Richmond is based on the novel by Bram Stoker. Performances are at 8:30 p.m. Nov. 21-22, 28-29 and 2 p.m. Nov. 23 and 30.

Tickets and information for "The Passion of Dracula" are available from the Wayne State University Theatre box office, Cass and Hancock, Detroit 48202. Reservations may be made by calling 577-2950.

Ticket also are available at most Detroit-area colleges and universities.

"The Passion of Dracula" was first produced off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre in 1977. Billed as "a Gothic entertainment," the nearly-cen-

tury-old story has been transformed from the spooky original into a pre-war upper-class drama. The action takes place in 1911.

SET IN THE STUDY of Dr. Seward's home and private sanatorium, the plot gradually reveals a connection between the death of three young women and the recent arrival of a count from Europe.

Using Sherlock Holmes sleuthing with a Freudian twist, a Dutch psychologist and a young reporter uncover the truth about Dracula.

"The Passion of Dracula" is directed by Robert Emmett McGill, with costumes by Marilyn Renaud, settings by Tedred E. Myers and lighting by Marc Riske. The cast also includes Ben E. Dean of Dearborn as Professor Van Helsing, Maryann Ferenc of Detroit as Wilhelmina, and Bob Cicchini of Detroit as Renfield.

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