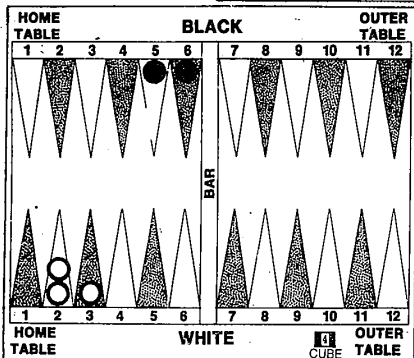




## backgammon

**Michael Klolan**  
of the American Backgammon Club



## IN THE BEAR-OFF

In the example, black has a 3-1 roll to play. White has possession of the doubling cube at the 4 level and, depending on how black moves, may choose to redouble.

How would you play the 3-1 for black? Very often during the bear-off, positions similar to this will arise. Of course, the primary goal in all situations is to make your move effectively to allow you (on your next roll) the most possible combinations that will succeed in bearing off both checkers.

The immediate complication for most players during an actual game is to readily know the correct move by way of a quick analysis or by actually calculating the odds of various moves — a slow but effective method.

For example, if black moved a checker from the 6 to the 3 point and from the 5 to the 4 point, black has 17 good combinations (less than a 50 per-

cent chance) that will bear off both checkers. Should black move from the 6 to the 2 point, there are 19 good combinations (better than a 50 percent chance).

Technically, this is the correct move since black has increased his chances. Also, if your opponent should own the doubling cube, making the best possible play may prohibit a redouble, allowing you another roll.

It certainly was easy for me to contemplate the best move by way of calculating the odds. But how about in a game, under pressure, with the tension of time gnawing away?

I'd do it the same way.

Klolan will teach a free beginner's backgammon class 1-3 p.m. Saturday at 3139 S. Wayne Road with a double-entry tournament for beginners and advanced players beginning at 4 p.m. For more information, contact the American Backgammon Club at 458-5776 or write to Box 599, Plymouth 48170.

# Jam turns serious for Dixieland fans

What started as a jam session during a rehearsal two years ago has turned into some serious business for some admitted Dixieland fans.

The Motor City Saints, a seven-piece combo featuring some of the area's finest Dixieland jazz musicians, moves into the Bronze Wheel Restaurant in Dearborn Heights this Sunday after successful stints at several area clubs. According to leader and trumpeter Jim Falk of Garden City, the group plays anything from traditional Dixie arrangements to more contemporary standards with a Dixie flair.

The group began almost by accident, Falk said. Several of its members play in a Detroit area band, the Swing Shift, and during rehearsal warmups they often jammed to different tunes.

Dixieland was a favorite, so all it took was a suggestion and the group was organized. That was two years ago.

ALTHOUGH four of the group's seven members sing, it's the drummer,



## Dine Out



## Tonight

Benjamin Franklin designed many of the devices and vignettes used on the Continental currency notes and printed currency for the colony of New Jersey. He was so busy making paper money that he merited a warrant out in the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Gazette in 1735. "The Printer hopes irregular Publication of the Paper will be excused a few times by his Town Readers, on consideration of his being at Burlington with the Press, laboring for the Publick Good to make Money more plentiful."

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