

backgammon

Michael Kloian of the American Backgammon Club

LEAVING THE "BAIT"

White rolls a 4,4. The doubling cube is neutral. What is your move?

White has several interesting options to choose from, but unfortunately cannot hit black on the 3 point. If any number rolled would have allowed white to land on the 3 point hit, he would have hit just to stop black from capturing that point. Once black rolls a 2, he will have a perfect back game position in white's home board.

Realizing this, the only strategy white should employ would be to move both checkers from the 8 to the 4 point, thus closing another inner board point. The importance of closing your own home board points cannot be stressed enough. Once you hit your opponent, your home board strength will show its true colors. White should then play the last two moves by sending an 11 and 12 point checker to the 9 and 10 points.

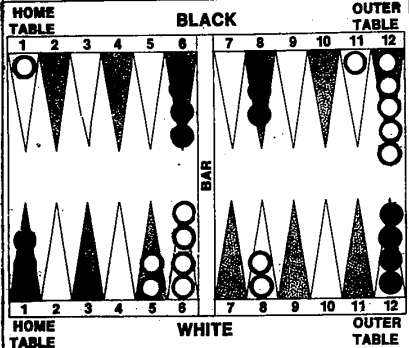
Of course, there were other options,

like moving two checkers from the 6 to the 2 point or two checkers from the 12 to the 9 point. So why leave two blots open on the 9 and 10 point as opposed to the other safe moves? Simple. If black does not roll a two on the next roll, he may roll a six or seven and decide to hit white. This would be a blessing in white's back game and would be able to make the 3 point and play the treacherous back game.

By white leaving the "bait," black may abandon any plans of a back game. If black rolls a two and captures the 3 point, white then would have two outer board builders to work on closing the 7 point.

Since backgammon is a running-hitting-blocking game, you may be appealing to your opponent's ego if you leave him a deliberate shot.

For more information on backgammon, call the American Backgammon Club at 455-7798, or write to Box 599, Plymouth, MI 48170.



Workshop tells about puppets

The art of puppetry will be explored during a children's workshop Feb. 13 at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills.

Children ages 7-10 will be invited to make puppets, give them voices, manipulate them and put on a show.

The focus will be on the rod puppets used in shadow plays. Puppeteer/participants will work from behind a back-

lighted screen so that only the shadows of the puppets are seen.

The hours for the workshop are 9:30-11:30 a.m. The fee is \$5. To register, send the child's name, address, age and telephone number with a check to: Cranbrook Institute of Science Puppet Workshop, P.O. Box 601, 500 Lane Pine, Bloomfield Hills 48013. Call 645-3230 for more information.

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WHAT'S IT WORTH?
A ratings guide to the movies

Bad.....	\$1
Fair.....	\$2
Good.....	\$3
Excellent.....	\$4

"American Graffiti" (1973), 8 p.m. today on Ch. 9. Originally 109 minutes.

Where are they now? "Graffiti" was produced by Francis Ford Coppola, directed by George Lucas, and stars Richard Dreyfuss, Ronny Howard, Suzanne Somers, Cindy Williams, Mackenzie Phillips, Candy Clark, Harrison Ford and William Jack, most of whom have left their mark on the decline of western civilization as we know it. What a lineup. And the film's not very good, either. Lucas calls upon cars, nostalgia and stereotypical characters to substitute for plot and action. Such devices rarely work. Rating: \$2.25.

"Run a Crooked Mile" (1969), noon Friday on Ch. 9. Originally 100 minutes.

To call this Mary Tyler Moore's best film wouldn't necessarily be saying much (not after "What's So Bad about Feeling Good" and "Don't Just Stand There"). But this made-for-TV thriller capitalizes on a good script about an amnesiac and unusually controlled performance from Moore, Louis Jordan and Wilfred Hyde-White. Rating: \$2.90.

"Godzilla, King of the Monsters" (1955), 1:30 Friday night on Ch. 7. Originally 80 minutes.

Here's the granddaddy of the Japanese monster movies that typically imported such American stars as Nick Adams and Russ Tamblyn to lend credence to sloppy productions and seemingly amateur casts.

This time Raymond Burr stars. Rating: \$1.98.

"It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" (1963), 1 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 50. Originally 162.

They say Spencer Tracy signed for this film script, unimpressed as a favor to his old friend, producer-director Stanley Kramer. And that's a relief, because this is one of those pictures that we

Hawaiian trip can be won

The Detroit area's own Emily Gail could help you win a trip to Hawaii.

All you have to do is guess how much time it will take her to participate in the world triathlon Feb. 6 in Hawaii.

She will be one of hundreds participating in the grueling competition. Participants must swim 2.4 miles, ride a bike 112 miles and run 56.2 miles. All these events will be done one after another.

Entry blanks are available at Tally Hall, 31065 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Deadline for entry is noon Feb. 6. Winners of the contest will be announced at Tally Hall Feb. 21.

The prize will include two airline tickets to Hawaii, one week at the Holiday Inn Waikiki and a limousine courtesy of Hamilton, Miller Hudson and Fayne Travel Corp.

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