

backgammon

Michael Kiolan
of the American Backgammon Club

HIT OR MISS

During the bear-off, if your opponent is holding onto one of your key points (1 or 2 point), you will probably be forced to leave a shot sooner or later.

Often, the correct move is misplayed or overlooked if you fail to consider both your opponent's home board position and who owns the doubling cube.

In the example, white has to play a 24. What would you do with the 2-1 roll?

There are several considerations with this move. Most often, clearing the furthest point is usually (not always) the top priority. Normally, you don't want to leave open gaps between your checkers and the point your opponent is on.

The most misplayed move with a position similar to this would be to move a checker off the 4 to the 1 point, seemingly to protect the open checker on the 1 point. Leaving the direct 2 shot is not too bad with only 11 out of 36 numbers working to hit.

But what is wrong with bearing off a

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OUTER CUBE TABLE

WHITE

OUTER CUBE TABLE

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second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

"The 39 Steps" (1935), 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser at Grand River, phone 537-2560, \$2. Running time 80 minutes.

Hitchcock's "39 Steps" starts with the wrong-man theme that's at the center of so many of his films but expands about the relationship of its two principal characters, Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll. Many of their encounters are pure screwball comedy and the film places as much emphasis on witty dialogue as on style and plot.

There's dance hall music, humor and plenty of action, making "39 Steps" one of Hitchcock's more widely appealing films. Rating: \$3.15.

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Lee Marvin and Mary Murphy. Brando and his gang "terrorize" a small, western town, but their actions are mild-mannered compared to what we've seen Clint Eastwood do. Some of Brando's gang would later make appearances in TV situation comedies of the '50s and '60s, also diminishing their credibility just a tad. Look for one famous line: Brando's response to the question "What are you rebelling against?" Rating: \$2.65.

"Seven Days in May" (1964), 1 p.m. Saturday on Ch. 50. Originally 118 minutes.

The time is May 1961. Ronald Reagan is sleeping. Secretary of State Alexander Haig convinces the Joint Chiefs of Staff to overthrow the country by military coup. Burt Lancaster stars as Haig and Fredric March plays Reagan. Kirk Douglas, Ava Gardner and Edmund O'Brien also star in this gripping John Frankenheimer film that was way ahead of its time. Rating: \$3.35.

"The Big Country" (1958), 11:30 p.m. Saturday on Ch. 2. Originally 166 minutes.

William Wyler directed this beautiful western film about two feuding families. Reminiscent of John Ford (some might say "stealing from"), Wyler presents a laconic, dreamy picture of the west and of the men who fought over it. Gregory Peck, Jean Simmons, Charlton Heston, Burl Ives and Charles Bickford star. Musical score by Jerome Moross. Rating: \$3.70.

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