During the bear-off, if your opponent is holding onto one of your key points in 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, while has to play a 2-1. What would you do with the 2-1 roll?

2-1. What would you do with the 2-1 roil?

There are several ownications 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 misnlaued move with a no-

nent 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. working to hit. But what is wrong with bearing off a

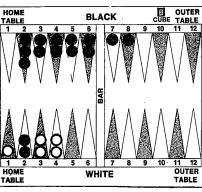
checker from the 3 point? White is still leaving the same 11 out of 38 rolls to be thit. It is clearly a hit or mis situation. If black hits, white will have a tough road ahead. But if black misses the shot, white could roll a lucky double and backgammon black for a triple win.

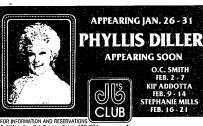
win.

Leaving the one shot conveniently duplicates the number one black would need to hit and cover the 7 point. Although the "duplication principle" plays an important role in backgamon, it does not reflect in my decision to bear off a checker. I like to think if my opponent should miss, I will have a slice for the backgammon.

Moving the checker from the 4 to the 1 point is not important. White would be a favorite to leave another shot on his next roll anyway.

If you have a backgammon prob-lem you'd like explained, contact the American Backgammon Club at Box 599, Plymouth 48170, or call 459-5776.





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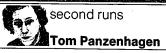
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"The 39 Steps" (1935), 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Redford Theotre, 17360 Labser at Grand Redford States and States at Grand Redford States with the States at States with the wrong-man theme that's at the center of so many of his films but expands 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 witly dialogue as on style and plot. There's dance hall music, humor and plenty of action, making "39 Steps" one of Hitcheock's more widely appealing films. Rating: \$3.15.

\$158.00 for Two Based on Double Occupancy

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

minutes.
Incredibly, this vintage Marlon
Brando motorcycle film was banned in
England until 1967. Stanley Kramer
produced the picture, which also stars

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## "The Wild One" (1953), 12:30 Friday night on Ch. 50. Originally 79 minutes.

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"Seven Days in May" (1964), 1 p.m.
Saturday on Ch. 20. Originally 113. Ronald Reagan is sleeping. Secretary of State Alexander Haig convinces the Joint Chiefs of Staff to overthrow the country by military coup. Burt Lancaster

#### is not a fine wine.

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