

backgammon

Michael Kiolan
of the American Backgammon Club

SAFE OR SORRY?

White is on the bar and rolls a 5-4. How would you play it?

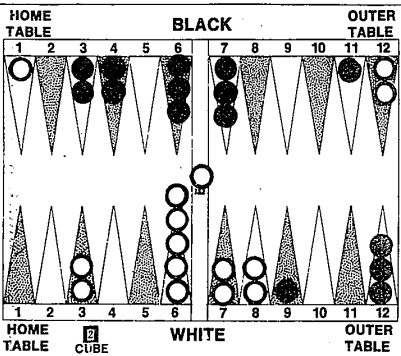
Situations like this will happen on occasion, offering the player a definite choice of critical moves. As we are taught, backgammon is a hitting, running and blocking game (not necessarily in that order) and may the best dice win, it's not necessarily so.

Most players, following that concept of backgammon, would certainly elect to hit black on the 9 point with the 4 (the 5 is a forced play - white re-enters from the bar to the black 5 point). Hitting could be correct, but at what expense?

White has a very weak home board; he could not possibly detain black long enough to establish more points in the home board. White would also leave four exposed blots (checkers).

If black rolled any horror shot, white could easily get gammoned (twice the cube value, or 4 points). Finally, aside from leaving the midpoint (black's 12 point) prematurely, hitting really does nothing for white's game.

White would do best to move the checker off the 1 point to the 5 point for a secure "anchor" in black's home



Actor's Trunk does fairytale

"The Emperor's New Clothes," a live stage show for children, will be presented from 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. Saturday at the Community House in Birmingham.

The classic Hans Christian Andersen fairytale comes to life with the Henry K. Martin - Actor's Trunk Production. Tickets at \$2 are on sale at the Community House, Bates and Townsend.

"The Emperor's New Clothes" tells the story of two roguish tailors who arrive at the palace to stitch, sew and weave a fabulous fib to trick a vain emperor. The show will be colorfully costumed and geared for children ages 4-12 years.

The production is part of the Community House Children's Show Series, which provides a live theater experience for youngsters. For further information call the Community House at 644-5832.



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second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

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

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

"She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" (1949). 10 a.m. Saturday on Ch. 50. Originally 103 minutes.

John Wayne gives one of his finest performances as an officer facing retirement from the cavalry. His line "Never say you're sorry, mister - it's a sign of weakness" has earmarked the Wayne mystique ever since. Amusing subplots involve John Agar and Harry Carey Jr. vying for the affections of Joanne Dru, and Sgt. Victor McLaglen, who drinks just a wee bit much and enjoys brawling with the boys. John Ford's direction, as always, is impeccable. Rating: \$3.80.

"The Deep" (1977). 8 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 7.

The second of two films based on quickie novels by Peter Benchley, "The Deep" doesn't pack the drama, chills or humor of "Jaws." Robert Shaw is resurrected as the crusty Captain Quint (only his name has been changed); and

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Film captures fairytale land

The beauty and charm of Scandinavia will be shown when Ric Doughtery presents his travel film "Denmark, the Fairytale Land," at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday at the Community House in Birmingham.

Tickets for the color film program, at \$3.25 each, are available in advance or at the door of the Community House, Bates and Townsend.

Dinner is served by reservation only from 6 p.m. and is priced at \$10.50 per person (including tax and service). Reservations can be made by calling the Community House at 644-5832.

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