Puzzle No 2367

Clues across

- 3. Glorious exhibition of age in a kitchen closet (9).
- Quite enough for a member in drink (5).
- 8. The function of a radio fence (9).
- 9. A vague pain approaching a hundred might cause it (5).
- 10. A holy man would scarcely do this with a halo of old, however unusual it might be (4,5).
- 15. A Roman girl (5).
- 16. Remains, for example, in medical men (5).
- 17. Shouted a drink again, and then went back on it! (9).
- 21. Drive someone back, he's not well back (5).
- 22. Put in a strange desire, and create a bad odour (9).
- 23. Played apart? Not often (5).
- 24. Sick motors around, yet spent too much time in the cellar

Clues down

- 1. Oyster-eater who sounds as if he would work (9).
- 2. What a badly arranged trip finds if the sea turns stormy (9).
- 3. "— to dream" (Shakespeare) (9).
 4. Improve me in the end (5).
- 5. A book for five in the middle of Christmas (5).
- 6. He sounds like the star of the Beatles (5).
- 11. Very small, when located among the azaleas (5).
- 12. What one enjoys waking up from (1,3,5).
- 13. A poet's back in the grip of an oath, find a bone doctor (9).14. Eve, or Elizabeth II, or Nancy Reagan (5,4).
- 18. Predicted the middle order (5).
- 19. Truly this is a test of sobriety (5).
- 20. A broken spear in the Latin manner (2,3).

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Solution No 2366



Glorious confusion

by Murray Chandler

HE MAJORITY of top grandmaster games are relatively smooth affairs. Few moves come as a real surprise to either player, and normally a mistake results from the underestimating of an opponent's reply - not missing it completely. In the traditional post-mortem examination after each game, the participants can usually pinpoint the decisive moments of each struggle. When they leave the tournament hall, both sides think they know exactly which moves were inaccurate, and where improvements could have been

This week's game, played in Holland in 1983, is the exception. Describing the middle stages of it, the loser, American number one Yasser Seirawan, said: "After each of my moves I thought I was winning. After each of his I thought I was lost!" The action begins on move 12 when, instead of maintaining an opening advantage by positional means, Lubomir Ljubojevic embarks on a speculative knight sacrifice. The Yugoslav grandmaster is renowned for his tactical vision, but even he had not foreseen the amazing complexity of the subsequent skirmishing. For his piece, Ljubojevic wins several pawns and soon after a rook — but at a cost. His queen, perilously cornered, is in perpetual danger of being

The way her majesty survives, and the alternatives rejected by both players along the way, require considerable explanation. If you have a second chess set, I recommend that you use it to play over the variations in the notes without losing your place in the game. Find a quiet corner and put aside a spare hour. This is a battle that stretched two of the world's most brilliant chess stars to their limits.

FRENCH DEFENCE

TIL	MCII DEFENCE
L LJUBOJEVIC	Y SEIRAWAN
1. e5	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e5	Qd7
5. Qg4	f5
6. Qg3	b6
7. Nh3!?	a5?
D	

Better is 7. ... Ba6 8. B×a6 N×a6 9. Nf4 0-0-0 10. a3 B×c3 ch 11. Q×c3 with only a

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8. Nf4		Qf7	
9. a3		B×c3	ch
10. Q×c3		Ba6	
11. B×a6	0	R×a6	
12. N×e6!?		TA COLOR	
		and the same of the	

This is the knight sacrifice that sparks off the tactics. Considerably safer, probably stronger (but certainly less interesting!) is 12.b4 with a clear advantage.

12	Q×et
13. Q×c7	Nc6
14. Q×g7	Qg6!

The first shock — this one for Ljubojevic, who now sank into deep thought. After 15. Q×h8 Q×g2 16. Rf1 N×d4 17. Be3 Nf3 ch 18. Ke2, Seirawan's idea was 18. . . . Qg4 with a decisive discovered check looming. 15. Q×h8!

Nevertheless! Now it was Seirawan's turn to think. "I smelt a rat," he told me later, 'but even after 20 minutes' study I couldn't find White's idea. Just as I was reaching my hand out to take the pawn on g2, I spotted it: 15.... Q×g2 16. Bg5!! Q×g5 (if 16.... Q×h1 ch 17. Kd2 Q×a1 18. Q×g8 ch wins) 17. Kf1

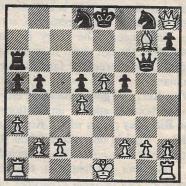
with the crushing 18. Rg1 to follow."

Highlighting the precarious position of

White's queen. Black threatens 16... Nf7, and 16. e6 fails to 16. ... b5! intending ... R×e6 ch and ... Nf7.

Further remarkable defence. After 16. . . . Nf7 17. Qg7 Ng×h6 18. Q×g6 h×g6 19. c4! d×c4 20. f4! Black has no defence to 21. d5 when the connected central passed pawns must decide.

16. . . 17. Bg7!



LJUBOJEVIC

Another shock for Yasser — Lubo saves his queen by himself incarcerating it in the corner! The point is that Black's next move (essentially forced) takes away the f7 square from his own knight.

17.		Kf7
18.	Bf6	Net
19.	h4	Rce
20.	h5	Qhe
21.	c3	Rc8

'Now I must have him!" thought Seirawan. Indeed there seems to be no escape imaginable from the threatened 22. ... Ne7, winning the White queen.

The point was 22. ... Ne7 23. Bg5! Q×g5 24. Q×h7 ch Qg7 25. Q×g7 ch with a winning endgame ... but what is White's move now?

23. 0-0! 24. Kf2 Ne2 ch Nf4 25. g4!

No draw by repetition says Lubo! Now 25.

. . Ne7 fails to 26. g5. 25. . . . f×g4 26. Bg5 Q×g5 27. Kg3!

The final touch, forcing the shattered

Seirawan into a lost endgame. Nf6 28. Q×f6 ch Q×f6 29. e×f6 N×h5 ch 30. K×g4 N×f6 ch 31. Kf5 a4 32. Rae1 33. Kg5 Rc6 Rd6 34. Re5 h6 ch 35. K×h6 Kg8 36. Rg5 ch Kf7 37. Rgf5 Ke7 38. Kg5 Ne4 ch 39. Kf4 Nd2 40. Re1 ch Kd7 41. Rf7 ch Kc6 42. Re8 43. Rc8 ch Kb6 44. Rb8 ch Kc6 45. Rfb7 N×b2 46. R×b5 Nc4

47. Rc5 ch

White liquidates to an easily won rook endgame after 47. ... Kd7 48. R×c4 d×c4

Resigns