

**N O T Q U I C K E R
T H A N
T H E M I N D S E Y E**

Larry Parr responds to Edward Winter

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NOT QUICKER THAN THE MIND'S EYE

In his "The Facts About Larry Evans" which appeared in the ChessCafe Skittles Room from June 6 to 20, Edward Winter played fast with the facts. Some of his ploys, which I detail in the nine essays that follow, were too clever by half. They were, as we shall see, sleights of handness that were not quicker than the mind's eye.

There are two matters raised by Mr. Winter that I do not address. GM Evans probably will respond to an article by Yasser Seirawan that was quoted by Mr. Winter. The second deals with the content of *Evans On Chess* in *Chess Life*.

Mr. Winter spent more than half a page supporting what he called his "charge" that GM Evans' *Chess Life* column "has very little chess play but features a barrage of chess politics (especially of the frenetically anti-FIDE variety)." Leaving aside the interesting question of how one can be "frenetically anti-FIDE" given the record of that corrupt organization run by a self-described dictator, one has to say that what Mr. Winter calls a "charge" is, in truth, a difference of opinion about what GM Evans should include in his Chess Life column.

Wrote GM Evans in the June 2000 issue of *Chess Life*:

"This is as good a time as any to mention that the focus of this column is shifting to general topics since many readers have chess computers that answer analytical questions in a jiffy."

Right.

My view is that there will be future surveys of CL readers, just as there have in the past. GM Evans always finished at or near the top, and if he continues to do so, then we may surmise he is providing readers material that they find interesting, even gratifying. As for Mr. Winter, he was just dropped from *New in Chess* for want of reader interest.

In "Fast Eddie, Part II" (essay number 8) I discuss how both GM Evans and Edward Winter have offered contradictory assessments of each other in varying statements. Mr. Winter once spoke of GM Evans as "normally one of the sanest and acutest of commentators," a judgment that was based at the time of writing on having already read many hundreds of columns by the famous American grandmaster. But when GM Evans began to criticize FIDE and Anatoly Karpov more strongly than in the past, Mr. Winter's judgment changed drastically. In a footnote in *Chess Explorations* Mr. Winter charged that GM Evans' "handling of TOPICAL [my emphasis] issues" veered off the beam, and one cannot help but notice that in "The Facts," Mr. Winter once again vented steam over anti-FIDE material in GM Evans' *CL* column.

I think it accurate to claim that the beginning of Mr. Winter's campaign against GM Evans coincides with the latter's stronger stance against FIDE, and I think it not a *post hoc* fallacy to deduce that Evans' anti-FIDE stance prompted the radical change in Mr. Winter's evaluation of his target.

What about GM Evans' work? One would never know it from Mr. Winter's abusive tirades, but GM Evans continues to sell large numbers of books. Readers purchase them because they know that the contents will interest. His book *The 10 Most Common Chess Mistakes* is a lot of fun to page through despite some spelling errors. I, for one, do not like to see Ljubojevic spelled as "Luboyevic," but the book is nonetheless enjoyable.

Mr. Winter called GM Evans' column in *Chess Life* "unspeakable." GM Hans Ree responded, "About the unspeakable one should not speak, but in fact this is not true at all, the column is interesting and informative, and it must be quite popular among readers, otherwise the USCF, with which Evans has been on bad terms most of the time, would have stopped it long ago." Too true!

A couple of people who read through the following articles asked me whether they will form the basis of a book. That seems likely. There is plenty more where "Richard the Fifth" and "Beat Generation" come from. My intention is to examine *in extenso* several further examples of Mr. Winter's stuff and to deconstruct them just as I did his imbecilic "Richard the Fifth" entry in *Chess Explorations*.

My findings will NOT be published on the Internet - except as teasers for what will become a book. Perhaps this is an apt public moment to request Mr. Winter's permission to reprint verba-

tim in this upcoming book his "The Facts About Larry Evans" as it appeared at ChessCafe on June 6.

Mr. Winter has made it his business to point out errors in the efforts of other writers and to draw sweepingly vicious, one-sided conclusions about their entire careers. As he wrote in his "The Facts" about GM Evans, "The present article has only scratched the surface regarding the singular exploits of the inimitable Larry Evans."

Too, the following nine articles have "only scratched the surface regarding the singular exploits of the inimitable Edward Winter." More, much more, is to come.

MR. WINTER ATTACKS HIS BETTER – I

KNOWING WHEN TO HAVE DONE

“There is endless merit in a man’s knowing when to have done.”—
Thomas Carlyle in *Francia*

The issue in the Evans-Winter dispute is not the work of GM Larry Evans. The issue is the vile lies peddled by Edward Winter.

On June 6, ChessCafe posted Edward Winter’s “The Facts About Larry Evans,” a long attack on the writing and person of the famous American grandmaster. This attack was a ploy by its author to deflect attention from a cold, calculated, vicious lie that he earlier peddled in *Kingpin* magazine.

In a coming essay in this series, I will nail that lie – so filled with Mr. Winter’s defining frosty fury – both substantively and syntactically. I will also be pointing out numerous rhetorical, substantive and structural lies that Mr. Winter retailed in a bait-and-switch operation that had the malign central purpose of painting a false picture of GM Evans’ epic career in chess.

As a writer, GM Evans is Mr. Winter’s superior as a stylist, as an essayist and, yes, as a commentator on historical questions. Mr. Winter is what Herbert Butterfield called an antiquarian – a parsing, pedestrian pedant who looks at history as a bookkeeper regards accounts. GM Evans is an interesting OTB materialist and remains a leading chess journalist whose work, as Mr. Winter once wrote, is “[i]n some ways ... of a superior quality” and whose “best is very good,” though he then stipulated that GM Evans is not “very often” at his best.

The most surprising outcome thus far of the coordinated attack against GM Evans by Mr. Winter and his ratpack acolytes is how little affect that it has had upon many readers. We know about postings on behalf of GM Evans for the ChessCafe bulletin board that were given the spike by the editors, and we may reasonably surmise that there were several other messages deemed “inappropriate” (see “Why This Venue?” below) for Mr. Winter’s home field forum. On other forums, writers describe a “food fight,” speaking of both the Messrs. Winter and Evans as admirable or describing Mr. Winter in unflattering terms.

This outcome – a fatigued plague on both your houses – was most definitely not the aim of Mr. Winter and his ratpackers, especially since GM Evans has yet to have his innings. They and the bulletin board referee, a publisher of Mr. Winter’s work, obviously had greater hopes for their *Schach*-therapy.

Why has there been an unmistakable reaction against the attacks of Mr. Winter and the ratpackers?

First, very importantly, the natural human revulsion against an uneven playing field at the ChessCafe, which I detail below.

Secondly, Mr. Winter proved unable to deflect the charge that he lied deliberately in *Kingpin* when attributing a quotation to GM Evans that was written by another. Many readers understand the distinction between a deliberate and vicious untruth designed to humiliate and such typos as “Aust[r]alia” and “Davi[d]son” that appeared in a couple of GM Evans’ columns. Many readers, without having given the matter much thought, understand that this time around in *Kingpin*, Mr. Winter’s canker could not be sublimated by the ultimately barren release of spewing correct dates and name-spellings. They understand that Mr. Winter *had* to step over the line. He *had* to lie that a mistake made by another was made by GM Evans. And as for Mr. Winter withholding vital information about the nature of GM Evans’ *The Chess Beat* – well, he hit a new low. “Fast Eddie, Part II” will deal with an episode in which he deliberately attempted to make an error look far worse than it actually was.

Thirdly, Mr. Winter violated the niceties by shifting from an attack on GM Evans’ writings to an attack on his person. When he wrote, “Evans, in contrast, shows by his own words that he is shameless,” he leveled a charge against his adversary’s character without – many readers understand – knowing the first thing about GM Evans’ life. Further, a number of readers noticed that Mr. Winter began his essay by lying in the very first paragraph about GM Evans attacking his person. They recollected that the American grandmaster actually addressed Mr. Winter’s

work when using such words as “absurd,” “cranky and boring,” “crude,” “false,” “vile” and so on. They recalled that the phrase “bilious fibber,” which Mr. Winter dishonestly described as an attack “on me,” was instead a CONDITIONAL description of Mr. Winter’s ultimate reputation IF he could not control the canker. “If he doesn’t clean up his act,” GM Evans wrote, “his strikingly original legacy will be that of a bilious fibber who adored only the ‘historical truth’ of raw dates.”

Fourthly, Mr. Winter’s ratpackers – to mix a metaphor – slipped their leash several times on the Cafe bulletin board, no doubt enjoying the intoxicating freedom of running free. Like the classic *amok-amok* of the Malay Peninsula, they luxuriated in primal release and sliced in every direction with their verbal parangs. But less involved readers abhorred these abusive displays.

Two English readers directed me to a particularly instructive lie told by ratpacker Donald Montchalin – instructive because it demonstrates the wave of malevolence directed at GM Evans. Let’s nail that lie.

In posting 335-1 on the Cafe’s censored bulletin board, Mr. Montchalin started the “*Evans on Chess*” thread with this cue sign held a few minutes from Mr. Winter’s e-nose: “I note in the July 2001 issue of *Chess Life* that Larry Evans has some very strong words about Edward Winter. Does Mr. Winter have any response?” Mr. Winter entered stage-whatever, referring mendaciously to GM Evans’ “countless” attacks on him. (More about that rhetorical lie in a later essay in this series.)

For now, back to ratpacker Montchalin. In posting 335-7, he wrote, “Evans’ column should have been eliminated from *Chess Life* [*i. e.*, ignore the oft-surveyed wishes of the *CL* readers] years ago. It is unoriginal, uninspired and insipid. The emperor’s new clothes in *Chess Life* are called Evans on Chess.” Then, in 335-49, he offered a recapitulation of the censored debate. After demonstrating his evident disdain earlier, he purrs, “After Mr. Winter’s Skittles article appeared, a lot of readers must have been curious to see how Mr. Evans would respond. What came from him was a real let-down.”

Ho, ho, ho. Stop right there.

A “let-down” presupposes a higher expectation. But only the ratpackers will repeat the fiction that Mr. Montchalin felt “let-down.” Rather, Mr. Montchalin is retailing what is called a foundation or grounding lie to add a patina of objectivity to a slanted summary he offers of the censored debate on the Cafe bulletin board. Of course, this ratpacker deliberately refused to repeat what GM Evans had to say in the Skittles Room, which was that responses to Mr. Winter would be conducted on other, uncensored forums. Mr. Montchalin also stated falsely that GM Evans “was delegating to someone else [GM Evans mentioned my name] the job of a detailed reply.” No such delegation occurred. After reading Mr. Winter’s attack, I immediately contacted GM Evans and told him that I would be writing at length about the attack.

And, of course, there were other ratpack droppings. GM Evans was accused of plagiarizing his friend Reuben Fine. The truth is that some of the very phrases quoted as plagiarism were written by GM Evans, who had an ownership position in the book in question through a royalties agreement! As for the supposed plagiarism of Emanuel Lasker’s famous (among chess players) “lies and hypocrisy” quotation, the idea is illiterate. Would I be plagiarizing Shakespeare were I to write, “There is something rotten in Edward Winter’s state of Denmark”? Then, some of the ratpackers implied that GM Evans used letters for his column without permission, whereas the grandmaster kept records showing that permission had been received for the published material. But my object here is not to discuss GM Evans. The subject is Edward Winter’s lying and incompetence.

Fifthly, many readers understood that Mr. Winter lied rhetorically and substantively and repeatedly in his Cafe rant. For example, when writing, “It is no easy matter for Evans to achieve a matching pair of correct title and correct author,” Mr. Winter engaged in hyperbole. But the hyperbole became a rhetorical and substantive lie because an otherwise permissible violation of literal truth was designed not to highlight distinctions but to injure and humiliate. The claim was based on GM Evans using the word “of” instead of “to” in the title of *The Oxford Companion to Chess* and on another occasion substituting “Encyclopedia” for “Companion.” An author’s name, “Davidson,” became “Davison” because of an obvious typo. That kind of thing.

One could respond, say, by asking readers to consult an award-winning article by GM Evans and this writer, “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Alekhine – But Didn’t Know

Enough to Ask" (*Chess Life*, May 1993), which contained 33 newspaper and book titles, including as we scrupulously noted, a "little-known list of the Alekhine *oeuvre* [18 titles] compiled by Edward Winter in *Chess Notes*."

Were all 33 titles correct? Yes, I think so. Were authors matched to book titles correctly? Ah, no. In the 5,000 or so words of this article, an error crept in. Surprise! That error (the co-author of one volume was given as Ken Whyld rather than Dale Brandreth) was made by this horrified writer, who duly corrected it on *two* proof copies. But magazines without research departments are fallible. The correction did not appear in the final copy in *Chess Life*. As I say, one could respond by quoting many other lists of books that GM Evans compiled without error (for example, in his June 2000 column, he provides some 20 references to book titles and authors, and they appear to be accurate).

As I say, one could respond – as I will – by adducing worse horrors by Mr. Winter. But this rehearsal is strictly sterile-cuckoo, antiquarian maundering. It will necessarily be as puerile as Mr. Winter repeating errors hitherto acknowledged and corrected by GM Evans. Still, one must say that when Mr. Winter wrote, "It is no easy matter for Evans to achieve a matching pair of correct title and correct author," he was lying outright, using a few exceptions to prove a non-existent rule.

(Concerning accuracy in *Chess Life*, one should mention the extraordinary strain placed on the staff. *CL* is the most ambitious chess monthly in the world. For example, no other publication has anything so intricate as the monthly TLA section, which is [or was] a major, much-appreciated service to the readership. The detailed contents must be about 99.99 percent [a considered number] error-free, and the efforts to ensure this result and to produce numerous advertisements and attractive catalogues are immense. Journalism is about details and deadlines. Journalism is about continuing a service rather than folding up the tent one fine day [as Mr. Winter did with his little-read *Chess Notes*] because the Caissic afflatus is no longer inflated. The deadline-ridden *CL* staff is more precise in its handling of TLA content than, as we shall see, Mr. Winter is in handling his material.)

Finally, and most importantly, many readers simply did not recognize Edward Winter's overwrought portrayal of GM Evans' *oeuvre*. These readers used to carry GM Evans' famous 10th edition of *Modern Chess Openings* (MCO-10, "the chessplayer's Bible") to tournaments. These readers played through the games and notes in GM Evans' *Trophy Chess*, a work that William Spackman described as "a genuine contribution to the literature of chess" and as "a solid and savourous chess dinner, even by European standards (where they know how to cook)." These readers loved GM Evans' *Bronstein's Best Games* and *Vienna 1922*, which Mr. Spackman rated as "excellent" with "very high quality annotations." These readers recognized the fluent professionalism that GM Evans added to Bobby Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games* and enjoyed the well-written, authoritative commentary that he provided in such works as *Modern Chess Brilliances*, *Chess World Championship* (with Ken Smith), *How to Open a Chess Game* (with Gligoric, Hort, Keres, Larsen, Petrosian and Portisch) and other best-selling chess works. These readers, including many tens of thousands of players ranging from beginners to grandmasters (far more acute witnesses on the subject of actual chess playing than Mr. Winter and the ratpack), regarded GM Evans' *New Ideas in Chess* as an important work for their development as players. These readers – as evidenced by every *Chess Life* reader survey ever conducted – enjoy GM Evans' *CL* column, even as the editors at *New in Chess* cancelled Mr. Winter's column for want of reader interest.

Now, one may argue, as ratpacker Montchalin did under No. 4 above, that the wishes of *CL* subscribers to read GM Evans should be ignored and that the readers should instead be bored to room-pacing tears by – dare one whisper the idea? – Mr. Winter as the replacement. Further, one may argue that GM Evans is the opiate of the befuddled. He serves up slop to satisfied chess masses, who know no better. But that is a different argument. My purpose here is merely to adduce another reason why Mr. Winter's blast got muffled. Namely: the disconnect between his portrayal of GM Evans' contribution to chess literature and what many readers remember of GM Evans' work was simply too great. Mr. Winter went too far. He forgot Carlyle's reminder, "There is endless merit in a man's knowing when to have done."

ARTICLES TO COME

This series of article will be a lengthy one. Here is what the reader will be receiving:

The current piece: "[Knowing When to Have Done](#)," which is the first part of a three-article section, "Mr. Winter Attacks His Better." Parts two and three are, respectively, "[Winter's Tale About Richard the Fifth](#)" and "[Larry Evans: Stylist, Essayist, Searcher](#)."

Section II is "[Mr. Winter's Watson Gambit](#)": A two-part – "[Not So Elementary, My Dear Winter](#)" and "[IM Watson's Five Arguments](#)" – detailed dissection of IM John Watson's "Chess and Politics" (*Kingpin*, Spring 1999), a work that Edward Winter recommends ("Readers are referred") as meaningful commentary on GM Evans' "politicking." By examining IM Watson's work, we will better understand the intellectual and historical standards that Mr. Winter evidently finds acceptable. For the record, I found IM Watson's effort to be that of a political ignoramus – the product of an uninformed mind creaking while it tried to work. For the man did worse than lie. He inverted the truth about GM Evans' political position a full 180 degrees.

Section III is "[The Boys in the Bandwidth](#)": A detailed look at why this writer and other supporters of GM Evans could not bring our case to the ChessCafe bulletin board.

Section IV is "Fast with the Facts": a three-part – "Fast Eddie, Part I," "Fast Eddie, Part II," and "[Peccavi and Evans, Too](#)" – examination of Edward Winter's "The Facts About Larry Evans." For the moment, I note that in 5,000 words spread across a printout of 12 pages with some 455 lines, Mr. Winter's indictment of GM Evans' chess *oeuvre* of about 10,000,000 words amounts to the following:

1. Evans wrote that one Quesada died before an adjourned game could be completed and muddled events because of mistaken memory;
2. Evans misread Lodewijk Prins' letter in *Chess Notes* and attributed mischaracterized thoughts to Winter;
3. Evans did not correct errors in a reader's letter re Steinitz-Zukertort and later butchered a typo claim;
4. Evans twice wrote *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Chess* and once wrote *The Oxford Companion of Chess* instead of the correct *The Oxford Companion to Chess* as well as writing *An Illustrated History of Chess* instead of *An Illustrated Dictionary of Chess*;
5. The following typos could be found in Evans' 20-plus books and thousands of articles: "Davison" instead of Davidson; "Averbach" instead of Averbakh; "Austalia" without an "r"; 192 "7" instead of 1929; "aviod" instead of "avoid" on a book spine; "Mitchell" for "Michell"; Book without umlauts;
6. Diagram errors: Evans twice published a wrong diagram for an Averbakh game; a White pawn sits on c5 rather than a Black pawn in one of Evans' 20-plus books;
7. Evans overlooked a quicker win by Re7+, though his solution was also winning;
8. Instead of +40 =23 (not counting two Met League wins), Evans gave +39 =22 as Capablanca's record between losing to Chajes in 1916 and Reti in 1924;
9. Evans misattributed one of Winter's complaints to the contents of an Evans answer rather than to a reader's question;
10. Evans wrote that Fine beat Borochow at Pasadena and repeated this error "several years later," along with giving the wrong number of moves;
11. Evans wrongly stated that a game played at Hastings 1932-33 was played at London 1932;
12. Evans claimed that Black won a game (Thomas-Mitchell***) that he actually lost;
13. Evans correctly noted a quarter century ago that a Queen was on b6 and not c6 but later forgot and falsely claimed that Capablanca overlooked an immediate win;
14. Evans got hoaxed in his March 2000 column;
15. Evans falsely characterized Taylor Kingston's views in a "letter" to *Kingpin*; and
16. Evans mistakenly added two words, "doping tests," to a laundry list of Yasser Seirawan's views.

***Wicked of me. I hereby deliberately leave "Mitchell" as is so that Mr. Winter and the ratpackers can damn a typo on my part. Rats need their cheese.

That's all. Ten million words, thousands of newspaper columns, thousands of magazine columns and feature articles, some two dozen books – and that's all.

Writes Mr. Winter by way of assertion and threat: "We have seen a great deal, but dozens, if not hundreds, of further examples from the public record are on hand to be chronicled if necessary." (By way of comparison, we shall later see that Mr. Winter thrice misquoted GM Evans in his "The Facts," which if he were to write 10 million words, would come to 6,000 misquotations.)

One would hope – in an ironic sense – that Mr. Winter can find far more than 25 errors in such a mass of work. One would hope that Mr. Winter has more in his quiver than the few arrows or errors given above. One would hope that Mr. Winter can dredge up more than a few mistakes that in several instances he pointed out in earlier attacks and that have either been acknowledged or corrected by GM Evans. One would hope that he will consult GM Evans' *CL* column in which the famous grandmaster conceded many unavoidable errors in the massive *MCO-10* and other works. He can then pretend that GM Evans has not corrected these errors or deliberately forget that the errors were often part of fascinating exchanges between this grandmaster and *CL* readers.

WHY THIS VENUE?

Nothing would have pleased me more than to appear at ChessCafe to dissect Mr. Winter's calumnies. Nothing would have pleased me more than to appear at ChessCafe to nail my theses about Mr. Winter's lies to the electronic door of the Cafe bulletin board. Nothing would have pleased me more than to appear at ChessCafe to stomp upon the rustling susurrus of the man's half-dozen ratpackers.

Nothing would have pleased me more – and few things would have proved more difficult. For the ChessCafe buffet has its own public accommodations law which legislates an "absolute discretion" to reject any contribution that the proprietors "deem inappropriate." Pro-Evans contributions were rejected for publication, and this writer's long effort debunking the attacks on GM Raymond Keene was also rejected.

One individual, who identifies himself as "PSCF Historian," implied that I approved of the censorship at the ChessCafe. That was deliberate dishonesty on the part of this "Historian." To set the record straight will require rehashing *in extenso* why this series of articles will be appearing on as many forums as possible, except for ChessCafe.

The ChessCafe bulletin board has a well-earned reputation for sculpted debate with shaped outcomes. A muscular "absolute discretion" gets exercised when favorites are being pummeled. The playing field is more than skewed. It is tipped at an 89-degree angle.

Here, once again, is my experience.

Beginning this past April, a long thread snaked across the Cafe bulletin board. In 65 postings, thousands of words were spat at GM Raymond Keene. Charge upon charge was leveled; personal abuse was hurled at the man; and the Cafe editors correctly let those who hate and despise GM Keene, several of whom are the same as the attackers against GM Evans, vent their splenetic envy of his success.

Then came the turn of the screw. GM Keene issued strongly worded denials, and the attackers left the denials unaddressed. One writer, generally friendly to GM Keene, unwisely suggested that the thread be snipped. The Cafe editors quickly set June 1, as the deadline for closure.

Over 48 hours before this deadline, I sent a posting of about 2,000 words in which I reviewed the status of the argument, juxtaposing several of the attacks with explanations offered by GM Keene.

For about 16 hours, I received no response from the Cafe editors. Fearing and, yes, expecting the worst, I dispatched a message of inquiry. "I sent a posting to ChessCafe," I wrote, "concerning the brouhaha surrounding Raymond Keene's doings. Did you folks receive it? I send it again in this message via both attachment and in e-mail form."

An answer came quickly. They had received my Keene piece. BUT: "The thread is being terminated tomorrow after almost two months. Your proposed submission is also much too long." The word "also," which refers back to the thread soon coming to an end, was ever so revealing. TRANSLATION: "Your piece will be the final word, which will result in Mr. Keene

embarrassing his critics. Some of these critics are among our closest confreres at ChessCafe. We will not permit your cute maneuver to succeed. In our 'absolute discretion,' we hereby declare your work 'inappropriate.'

Within minutes, I dispatched my response: "I thought that I [easily] made the deadline as posted. What are the length restrictions for the Bulletin Board? Of course, as noted, you have absolute discretion to reject this defense of Ray Keene after publishing tens of thousands of words in attack. That is your right, and I don't dispute it. So, if you don't mind, could you just say outright that you do not wish to publish it, and I will post it immediately on all of the possible other bulletin boards. Yours, Larry."

Someone did "mind." Because: No response. Because: No one was prepared to say anything "outright."

Managed debate by privately run Internet businesses is not a violation of free speech. The practice may be morally rancid, but my First Amendment rights were not violated. The editors at the Cafe are entitled to protect those with whom they have private business dealings. So be it.

The baloney is free to reject the grinder. But this grinder is also free to do his mincing on the much more level playing field of rec.games.chess.politics and other forums where Mr. Winter will not receive editorial protection from business associates.

MY INVOLVEMENT, NOTE ON TEXT

Some of the ack-ack from Mr. Winter's ratpackers is that I am a "hired gun," which is to say someone who is being paid by GM Evans to respond. One Taylor Kingston has called me GM Evans' "spokesman." That, too, is a lie. Neither GM Evans nor anyone else has or is or will pay me any money or any other form of consideration for this series of articles. I am involved because my name was brought into the fray by ratpacker Kingston in Cafe posting No. 335-11. He accused me of making "baseless assertions," which were unspecified, in some communication with GM Evans.

In future articles in this series, I will be quoting at length from Mr. Winter's "The Facts About Larry Evans." Or was the title, "The Truth About Larry Evans"? For a short period of time, the title electronically transmogrified into the latter on the Cafe web page. Then it became "The Facts," once again. For the record, then, I will be quoting from the text of Mr. Winter's exercise as it appeared on June 6.

WHAT IS "HISTORICAL TRUTH"?

Now there's a question for you!

Dates? Ages of historical actors who strut the stage? Yes, that is part of history. But we are dealing with the rankest kind of philistinism to equate these numbers with truth in history. Wrote Mr. Winter in *Kingpin* (Spring 2000):

Plain facts seldom stand a chance. A small example of the Evans approach to *historical truth* [my italics] arises from his December 1999 column, which included the following: 'Wilhelm Steinitz was 50 when he defeated Johannes Zukertort (44) in 1892.' In the February 2000 *Chess Life* we pointed out that this seemed improbable, given that Zukertort had died in 1888. Mr. Evans responded tartly that the matter was unimportant because 'obviously 1892 was a typo instead of 1872.' Still not even the right decade.

On the issue of truth – pure and simple, without a preceding adjective – Mr. Winter lied through his teeth when he deliberately misled an English audience that GM Evans wrote the sentence that Mr. Winter quoted. A detailed analysis of the substance and syntax of this icy lie will come in a later article of this series. For the moment, the subject is what Mr. Winter calls "historical truth."

Mr. Winter, the bean-counter, provides what he says is an "example" of how GM Evans approaches "historical truth." The example contains some incorrect dates and ages written by a

third party – a reader of GM Evans' column in *Chess Life*. There are seventh-graders who would shrink from a bookkeeper's equation of dates and ages with an "approach" to "historical truth."

"History, rejecting absolutes," writes Jacques Barzun in *Clio and the Doctors*, "gives no comfort to ... minds that crave finality and certitude." We know many dates and names with finality and certitude, but they have less to do with "historical truth" than applying common sense to raw data. Barzun, of course, is describing the *process* of writing history – not necessarily arguing that history is ultimately relative.

One "does" history by reading – and reading and reading. And thinking and thinking. And winnowing. Oh, yes, winnowing. Ninety-nine-plus percent of all the names, dates and production statistics get dropped. What remains is history, which is, by Barzun's reckoning, the historian's understanding of how it really was back then or, in Leopold von Ranke's phrase, *wie es eigentlich gewesen*. What remains in this understanding is not necessarily the meaningless subjectivity of a single person but the possibility for truthful understanding.

For, as Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wrote in his *Nobel Lecture*, truth carries its own conviction. As an example, men understood that in spite of Nazi propaganda, Theresienstadt was not a model for a noble Nazi system of labor correction. "*Arbeit Macht Frei*" never resonated. And when the first testimonies appeared about the Holocaust, the Nazi historical enterprise collapsed. Even more telling is how Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago* completely leveled the mountains of Soviet and Western apologies for Stalin's system. One book versus thousands of books. One work of truth versus a library of lies. Yet the single book prevailed.

Truth in history can only be found through the mind of the historian, though few historians measure up to writing works that evoke consensus. Names and dates can be important, though are by no means always so. But the capacity to understand what the raw facts mean is always crucial. On this score, GM Evans is Mr. Winter's distinct superior.

We turn in Part II of this series to Edward Winter's farce of "Richard the Fifth."

MR. WINTER ATTACKS HIS BETTER – II

WINTER'S TALE ABOUT RICHARD THE FIFTH

“If the record in the Spence book is to be believed, there is no justification for the nickname [“Richard the Fifth” for Richard Teichmann] ... ” – Edward Winter, *Chess Notes* (No. 929) and *Chess Explorations* (p. 122)

“If the record in the Spence book is to be believed, my judgment is that there is OVERWHELMING justification for the nickname, Richard the Fifth.” – Grandmaster Larry Evans in an e-mail message of June 30, 2001

Shakespeare had his tragedy of *Richard III*. Rowan Atkinson had his comedy of Richard the Fourth. Edward Winter has his farce of “Richard the Fifth.”

Mr. Winter's work is true to the pedant's paradox: the deeper you dig, the shallower it becomes. Take, as an example, his “Richard the Fifth,” which was No. 929 in *Chess Notes* and which appears on page 122 of *Chess Explorations*:

Richard the Fifth

It is frequently stated that Teichmann was called ‘Richard the Fifth’ on account of the number of times he finished number five in a tournament. If the record in the [Jack] Spence book is to be believed, there is no justification for the nickname; Teichmann is shown as finishing fifth or equal fifth only nine times out of fifty tournaments. He was first or equal first in eighteen.

Unmitigated, unhistorical swill. A veritable Reign of Error. Even the weasel-conditional – “If the record in the Spence book is to be believed” – doesn't help.

Where to begin? The above is not chance nonsense from Mr. Winter. Not only did he consider the thoughts worthy of *Chess Notes*, he reprised the effort for a book. We are dealing, then, with what Mr. Winter himself regards as mulled cogitation worthy of being republished.

Where to begin? A key rule in historical analysis is that not all likes are alike. That's common sense. Not all battle victories in a war are equal (the final victory frequently being more important than preceding ones); not all victories in tennis tournaments are equal (winning Wimbledon counts more than winning the Cannibal Open in Ouagadougou); and not all chess tournaments are equal (winning or, yes, finishing fifth at Linares counts more in determining a great player's reputation than winning the Kennesaw Monthly Sunday Swiss – reached from Wade Green exit 118, “west cross RR tracks, through alley to City Hall”).

Where to begin? A key rule in historical analysis is that there is no mechanistic formulation for analyzing what is important in a life. That's common sense. The most important moments may come at the beginning of a life or at the end or, most often, during the middle years. Bean-counters may try to average out events in a life. Historians do not. Reputations are rightly made by how one handles important moments or challenges in a life. No historian, when writing about Bobby Fischer's IQ, would average out his score on a Stanford-Binet during his high school years with his scores on the same test at age one week and, if Mr. Fischer remains with us, at age 101.

Mr. Winter's weasel-conditional that there is “no justification” for calling Richard Teichmann “Richard the Fifth” if the Spence tally is “to be believed” (meaning, in plain English, largely accurate) is fulfilled. Searching through Jeremy Gaige's *Chess Tournament Crosstables*, I found nine fifth or shared fifth prizes and 13 first or shared firsts out of 42 tables in which Teichmann appears. That leaves eight other tables – if Mr. Winter's count of 50 is “to be believed” – missing from the Gaige work. Moreover, five of those missing eight are probably among the 18 first prizes that Mr. Winter mentions in the book by Jack Spence. (My copy is packed away in New York.)

First, a disclaimer: I counted 42 Teichmann tables after sifting through Gaige's pages twice. Could there be 43 or 44? Possibly, but the overall picture will not change much. Counting the

relevant tables could help to pass the time for Mr. Winter or the ratpackers. If I have erred, we shall hear about it, for sure. If not, they will likely keep their traps shut.

The defining tournaments of the old Europe of Barbara Tuchman's *Proud Tower*, which is to say essentially the decade and lustrum before World War I, were the great casino and resort competitions. Whether Mr. Winter was aware of this common understanding, he certainly had before him on Jack Spence's list the names of such places as Monte Carlo, Ostend and Carlsbad. These tournaments and a few others were the key competitions of early 20th century chess. Here is a list of Richard Teichmann's results in the Wimbledons and French Opens of his time:

- Monte Carlo 1902 4th (of 20)
- Monte Carlo 1903 5th (of 14)
- Vienna 1903 5th= (of 10)
- Cambridge Springs 1904 10th-11th (of 16)
- Ostend 1905 5th= (of 14)
- Ostend 1905 4th (of 4)
- Ostend 1906 5th= (of 36)
- Carlsbad 1907 7th= (of 21)
- Ostend 1907 6th (of 29)
- Prague 1908 5th (of 20)
- Vienna 1908 5th (of 20)
- Munich 1909 1st (of 4) (a small but fairly strong quad)
- St. Petersburg 1909 6th (of 19)
- Hamburg 1910 5th= (of 17)
- Carlsbad 1911 1st (of 26)
- San Sebastian 1911 10th (of 15)
- Breslau 1912 3rd (of 18)
- Budapest 1912 5th= (of 6)
- Pistyan 1912 5th= (of 18)
- San Sebastian 1912 8th-9th (of 11)

The above list contains the strongest tournaments in which Teichmann competed during his prime years, though Breslau 1912 (a third-place finish), Ostend 1905 (a fourth-place finish and a quad), and Munich 1909 (a first prize and another quad) may not belong on a list that contains such massive events as Ostend 1906 and 1907 with 36 and 29 players, respectively. Still, even including these tournaments, one has enough to judge the adequacy of Mr. Winter's judgment that "there is no justification for the nickname" of Richard the Fifth. Notice the arrant, errant phrase, "no justification."

Mr. Winter's judgment is slop – the mental math of a bookkeeping antiquarian rather than the reasoned reflection of a historian. He utterly fractures the first rule that not all likes are alike — or, in the context of this discussion, not all chess tournaments are equal.

Here is what Larry Evans, a grandmaster and scintillating writer has to say on the same subject: "Teichmann's monicker, 'Richard the Fifth,' came from his performances in the great tournaments of his prime years. These were massive events held in spas and casinos, and they defined tournament chess at the beginning of the 20th century. Teichmann's results in these tournaments informed his career. That's historical common sense. Just read Lasker, for crying out loud."

The reference is to Edward, not Emanuel, Lasker and his lovely memoir, *Chess Secrets I Learned from the Masters*, where Teichmann's propensity for finishing fifth is mentioned. "It was said of him," wrote Lasker the Lesser, "that he had a season ticket for fifth place."

Now, then, GM Evans is a historically literate chess writer – not a chess historian. He is a jack of all chess trades and master of a few. He entertains with lively writing which at its best, as Mr. Winter once noted, "is very good." His rehearsal of why Teichmann was called Richard the Fifth is not that

of a Clio-accountant; it is a logical appraisal of the major moments in Teichmann's career by someone whom Mr. Winter once described as "normally one of the sanest and acutest of commentators."

Now, back to those numbers. Of the 20 tournaments listed (we will soon be discussing what is not listed), Teichmann finished fifth or equal fifth nine times, fourth twice, sixth twice, and 7th= once. In 14 of 20 tournaments, he was either fifth or hovering very nearby. No one, except a party-line Winterian ratpacker, would defend Mr. Winter's idiot-savant, number-crunching judgment that there is "no justification" for the monicker of Richard the Fifth. Indeed, GM Evans is clearly correct to say that there is "OVERWHELMING justification" for Teichmann's nickname.

I asked one statistician over here in Malaysia about the odds against so many fourth, fifth and sixth places in tournaments with large numbers of competitors. His response was NOT what I wished to hear: the odds could be many guh-zillions to one IF Teichmann were not fifth-place rating material or they could be considerably lower if he were. I asked him to work out the odds, and he wanted dollars in return. Perhaps some statistician could venture a ballpark figure for the odds against so many fifth places in tournaments with, respectively, 14, 10, 14, 36, 20, 20, 17, 6 and 18 players. One ought also to mention that several of Teichmann's non-fifth finishes were very close to the target. His 7th= at Carlsbad 1907 was a point shy of fifth; his 6th at Ostend 1907 was a half-point short; his 6th at St. Petersburg 1909 was a half-point below; his 10th at San Sebastian 1911 was one-point below fifth; and his 3rd at Breslau was a half-point above fifth-equal.

Another issue to consider is how Teichmann achieved these fifth-ish results. Was he creating a dynamic stir with wins wildly alternating with losses, forcibly suggesting other possible nicknames? Or was he often playing somnolent, though powerful chess, drawing against the strong and preying *a la* Darwin on the weak, thereby ensconcing himself comfortably in the upper half of most tournament tables? Did his game results suggest a strong also-ran or a win-loss mad dog?

I think the game results suggest a strong also-ran, especially during his maturity, though there are exceptions such as Vienna 1903, a gambit tournament. At Prague 1908 he was +1 =8 against the top half; at Vienna 1908 he was =8 against the top eight and +4 against the bottom four. At St. Petersburg 1909, he did NOT draw a lot against the top half because he lost a lot. But at San Sebastian 1911, a 10th-place finish, he was +1 -2 =4 against the top half but failed to assassinate the lower half that time around.

The reader will notice that I consider fourth-place and sixth-place finishes to have some bearing on calling Teichmann "Richard the Fifth." There were four such instances (two fourths, two sixths), and one can readily understand how these placings, when interspersed among nine fifths or equal fifths, would contribute to the picture of Teichmann as Richard the Fifth because that is where or NEAR where he always seemed to be finishing. That is common sense, though it is evidently not Winter sense. Notice how this bean-counter mechanically refers only to fifth or equal fifth finishes and first or equal first finishes. Notice how he fails to differentiate between great tournaments and lesser vehicles.

Another rule of thumb in historical analysis, as mentioned earlier, is that the ultimate judgment on a given individual seldom involves averaging out the man's life. What he does as a child (*pace* Mill and Mozart) or as an octogenarian (*pace* Colonel Sanders and George Burns) is seldom as significant as what he does in middle age. Mr. Winter, of course, made no attempt to differentiate not only among results in major versus minor tournaments, but he also lumped together first prizes obtained in minor tournaments in both Teichmann's early and late years.

Here is Teichmann's record in tournaments through 1900:

- Berlin 1890-91 1st (of 11) (only players of some note, Caro and Walbrodt)
- Berlin 1891-92 10th (of 11) (Caro, Walbrodt, Bardeleben, B. Lasker – not a landmark tournament)
- Leipzig 1894 3rd (of 18) (an important but not a great tournament of the 1890s)
- Hastings 1895 7th-8th (of 22) (THE famous Hastings event)
- London 1896 1st (of 12) (Lee, van Vliet and Loman – the only players of even minor repute – well, oh yes, friend Mortimer)
- Nuremberg 1896 19th (of 19) (one of the great events of the 1890s)

- Berlin 1897 16th (of 20) (one of the nearly great events of the 1890s)
- London 1899 15th (of 15) (one of the great events of the 1890s)
- London 1900 1st (of 13) (not a famous event with Blackburne, Gunsberg, and Mason being the only well-known players—a club tournament)
- London 1900 1st (of 5) (played at Simpson’s Divan vs. Lee, Muller, van Vliet, Mortimer – kinda speaks for itself)

The historian would not look at this period of Teichmann’s career as defining. His awful results at Nuremberg 1896, Berlin 1897 and London 1899 more than offset the respectable finish at Hastings 1895. The four first prizes in weak or relatively weak tournaments rightly created little notice. During Teichmann’s defining years, I did not include the following tournaments in the initial list given above:

- London 1904 2st (of 17) (Napier, Blackburne, Gunsberg, Leonhardt and a nearly dead Mason – once again, not a tournament to list along those included)
- London 1904 1st (of 9) (a Rice Gambit tournament with Leonhardt, Napier, Gunsberg and friends Mortimer, Dickinson, MacBean – kinda speaks for itself)
- Berlin 1907 1st (of 12) (the only other undisputed GM was Spielmann; maybe Leonhardt)
- Berlin 1909 1st= (of 4) (a six-round cafe event with Cohn, Spielmann, Bardeleben)
- Berlin 1909 1st= (of 10) (an undistinguished BLITZ tournament)
- Berlin 1910 1st (of 5) (an eight-round cafe tournament with no other grandmaster)

Some of the ratpackers will probably stoop low enough to suggest that the above six tournaments should be listed alongside the great events of Teichmann’s prime. Even if they were, the picture would not change much. Nine fifths, two fourths and two sixths, would still stand out in any reckoning of 26 (instead of 20) tournaments.

After 1914, I found mention of five tournaments in Gaige, the two most important being Teplitz-Schoenau 1922 (7th of 14) and Carlsbad 1923 (9th of 18), though Berlin 1924 (3rd of 4), a double-round quad with Paul Johnner, Rubinstein and Mieses, was a worthy little event. Berlin 1924 and Leipzig 1925, two 1st= finishes, were much lesser vehicles.

An historian looking at the above data would conclude that Richard Teichmann WAS Richard the Fifth, especially given the helpful coincidence of the first names. His fifth places and his near-fifths occurred in the greatest tournaments of his era. His famous first – the great exception that proves the rule – at 25-round Carlsbad 1911 was matched by no other comparable result. His first at Munich 1909? This double-round quad included Alapin, Spielmann and Przepiorka. Six-rounds. The “Historian” may do some ratpacking duty, but few others will.

Conclusion: Edward Winter wrote slop, though it was evidently his considered and republished judgment, when he claimed that there is “no justification” for the nickname Richard the Fifth.

None of the above is meant to cast aspersions on Teichmann’s strength. Capablanca once ranked Teichmann as among the first five in the world, listing “Lasker, Rubinstein, Schlechter, Teichmann and the present writer.” The order in this list could be taken as alphabetical or, given that Capa coyly lists himself last, in order of strength.

Who, then, would have been fifth strongest in the world? You got it. Good old “Richard the Fifth” himself!

MR. WINTER’S CONTUMELY

Was Mr. Winter really unaware that Teichmann was a human 1/5-fraction at the great events of his prime years? I don’t think so. He knows his dates and name-spellings well enough. But he could not restrain his disdain for conventional wisdom, even when that wisdom is evidently sound. He HAD to heap scorn on what others have long thought. Such is Mr. Winter’s contumely.

“Richard the Fifth” is far from an isolated example in Mr. Winter’s work. There are the makings of a book on the Evans-Winter dispute, and I will be deconstructing several other examples of Mr. Winter’s bad-willed, bad sense for eventual publication in book form. Another telling

example is his weak-thinking in *Chess Notes* No. 1192. But more about that and other gaffes if and when a book contract gets signed.

How does Mr. Winter's contumacious misrepresentation of Teichmann's career compare with Larry Evans permitting or not having the chance to proof the typo "Austalia" in his column or with having the name "Book" appear in his column without umlauts because of a *CL* style convention or with writing "of" instead of "to" in the title of a book or with misremembering when one Quesada died or with misidentifying the winner of a game between Fine and Borochow, etc.? The few errors that appear in the millions of words written by GM Evans were mistakes made in good faith. They were not major misjudgments motivated by scorn for the understanding and work of others.

On the subject of Mr. Winter's contumely, one of the man's favorite devices is to affect obtuseness so as to score debater's points. A typical snippet of nastiness is his "Horowitz philosophe" in the "Gaffes" chapter of *Chess Explorations*. Writes Mr. Winter, "On page 24 of *The Chess Beat* Al Horowitz is quoted: 'Chess is a great game. No matter how good one is, there is always somebody better. No matter how bad one is, there is always somebody worse.'" To which Mr. Winter responds tartly, "What other game can match that?"

Just awful. Even at the level of formal logic, Mr. Winter's putdown falls flat. For, of course, there is at any given split second one person who is the very best and one person who is the very worst. So, in fact, there is not "always" somebody better or "always" somebody worse. So, contrary to Mr. Winter's obtusely ironic claim, no other game can match what does not really exist.

But forget the formal logic. Even most of the ratpackers understand that Al Horowitz committed no gaffe. Horowitz was speaking jocosely and, in truth, rather deeply. He was claiming that egos among chess players are such that we have all seen club players looking for some poor sucker to lord it over – some young kid or old duffer to whom one can pose as the genius of the age. He was speaking with a chuckle about the foibles of chess players and, perhaps wrongly though interestingly, suggesting that the trait of seeking out dragons to slay or schlumps to dominate is stronger among chess players than among those playing other games. The *New York Times* obituary of Horowitz included part of the quotation that Mr. Winter calls a "gaffe" because the obit writers understood that a point was being made about human nature not about the mathematics of exceptions.

I am sure that Mr. Winter also understood Horowitz's thrust. He chose to take the man's words at face value so as to tar a great man of chess with the ironic subhead, "Horowitz philosophe."

(A minor point of connotation: A rather tin-eared Mr. Winter would have served his malign purpose better by titling the paragraph, "Horowitz the Philosopher." I am sure that a few readers know that in English the word "philosophe" [Mr. Winter did not italicize it to suggest strictly a French connotation.] has a somewhat negative connotation. "The philosophes" or "the *philosophe* party," as the phrases went, occupy a niche just above "artistes" with an "e." Kant was a philosopher, Diderot a philosophe.)

Another example of Mr. Winter dishonestly playing straight man so as to ignore jocose humility was his absurdly arch reaction in *Chess Notes* to GM Evans' admission of error re the game between Prins and Quesada. Wrote Evans, "I recalled Prins winning a hopeless adjournment from Quesada, who died before the game could be finished. I no longer have the scoretable of Havana 1952 but if Prins says he resigned, far be it from me to quibble. I stand corrected even though you must admit it makes a good story." Responded Mr. Winter icily, "The Prins-Quesada episode is not a 'good story' once it is shown to be untrue."

Now, in *Chess Explorations*, Mr. Winter writes, "'It makes a good story' was also the reply received from Fred Wilson after we complained that he had published inaccuracies regarding Staunton's background."

The point here is that "It makes a good story" is a standard way to admit error and poke fun at oneself rather than to insist, in spite of the literal meaning of the words, that what is untrue is a good story. Most of us understand that the phrase is an idiomatic device to concede a blunder just as the famous editorial advice, "Never let the facts stand in the way of a good story," is an example of journalists laying the lash on themselves rather than advocating delib-

erate error.

Did Mr. Winter dishonestly play the part of an obtuse pedant to administer a cranky putdown? The answer is obviously yes unless we assume utter ignorance on his part of a well-known piece of ironic idiom.

Deliberate obtuseness cuts both ways. Take Mr. Winter's apparently absurd claim on page 95 of *Chess Explorations*: "As recorded on page 27 of Dale Brandreth's edition of the Kemerri-Riga, 1939 tournament book, the Ruy Lopez was played in that event only once in the 120 games It will be surprising if a reader can quote a comparable case concerning this most popular of openings."

"This most popular of openings"? Certainly not by the number of games played! The Sicilian utterly swamps this "most popular" of openings. What a "gaffe"!

Whoa thar, Nelly! Isn't the phrase, "this most popular of openings," an old-fashioned, rather constipated rhetorical device used to indicate wide popularity or even merely limited popularity among certain circles? Am I not being unfair to take Mr. Winter's words at face value?

Of course I am being unfair. But no more unfair than Mr. Winter, who dishonestly feigned obtuseness when taking potshots at Al Horowitz, Larry Evans and Fred Wilson.

Or there is Mr. Winter's absurd reference to recorded chess games coming from the "pre-history" of chess. Ought we to take him literally, as he does others, or ought we to say that the phrase was a permissible idiomatic contradiction of what the word "history" – above all else, the study of written records – actually means?

MALICE AFORETHOUGHT

Mr. Winter often permits his canker to overcome cold calculation, though not because, in my view, he is careless. The man HAD to tell the lie in *Kingpin* of attributing words to GM Evans written by another. He HAD to make a historically illiterate claim in his "Richard the Fifth," though knowing full well that his attempt to debunk a piece of conventional wisdom was bunk itself. He HAD to splatter mud at Al Horowitz and GM Evans by taking literally some words that were intended jocularly and ironically. He HAD to do these things because his malign enterprise of endeavoring to humiliate those who commit honest errors in dates and spellings is a narrow, inadequate duct for his bile. He needs a wider latitude than the narrow channel of dates and spellings.

Hence the lies. Hence the historically illiterate contumely. Hence the feigned obtuseness.

"I Can't Get No Satisfaction" is the theme song for any career based on cheap shots derived from the mistakes of others. How barren. How vile, really.

MR. WINTER ATTACKS HIS BETTER – III

Larry Evans: Stylist, Essayist, Searcher

"If we all thought Bobby had deserted chess for two decades, he corrected us at the press conference. Chess had deserted him. 'No one has played ME for those 20 years,' he said. Reality is in the 'I' of the Fischer beholder."— Larry Evans, *Chess Life*, November 1992, p. 56

A fair specimen of Edward Winter's heavy-potato irony:

"While 'Mother Teresa was ministering to the Caribs, the Dictator (so the November *Chess Life* suggested) was indulging in 'arm-twisting'. On a less physical plain, Campomanes made only one notable contribution to the Press (in the November *CHESS* – sent out when everything was over). The British Gentleman, however, was to be found philanthropising in print almost everywhere. In the May *BCM* he set the tone with a declaration of unswerving principle: 'Honesty and openness is always the best policy!'"—Edward Winter, *Chess Explorations*, p. 217

In "The Facts About Larry Evans," Edward Winter attacked his better as a stylist, essayist and chess searcher. The intent was to destroy an adversary's reputation for lively, authoritative writing. The ploy was to recycle about two dozen old errors, pad them with hundreds of words of invective to suggest heft, and treat them as representative of GM Evans' *oeuvre*.

That is the main line of the Winter Variation. Repeat something, just anything – time and again. Regurgitate errors long since acknowledged and corrected – time and again. Rehearse feigned outrage – time and again.

Fortunately, though, Mr. Winter's slings and arrows boomerang. His targets remain whole, and he somehow ends up looking more riddled than a piece of well-aged Swiss cheese.

"Envy," in the words of the ancient Greek proverb, "slays itself by its own arrows." Just as a derelict marooned on a desert island waves his arms frantically to catch the attention of a passing ship, Mr. Winter waves his armaments frenetically at passing audiences hoping to catch some attention. Even as he gets cancelled from *New in Chess* for want of reader interest, writers such as Raymond Keene and GM Evans continue to interest large audiences. Indeed, as noted in an earlier essay in this series, every *Chess Life* reader survey has rated GM Evans at or near the top among the magazine's contributors.

Evans interests. Winter bores.

EVANS AS STYLIST

Take the Evans prose style. It crackles with sass and pizzazz. At Evans' best, he bubbles. At Winter's best, he foams. Glutinously. Like a Staunton without any of the edgy earth and energy. No suet-pudding is more viscous than Mr. Winter's sentences, written in the mannered cadences of third-rate Victorianese.

Winter's wit is heavier than one of those Swiss potato dishes. The man's irony? Few ingots of iron are, ah, more leaden. Forum readers should consult his eye-opening "Reviews/Commentary" chapter in *Chess Explorations* which is, paradoxically, a real eye-shutter. The work of a mouth in search of an ear.

The truth is that nothing ever written by Mr. Winter has the insight, the liveliness and the human involvement of a typical Evans feature. Here, for example, is GM Evans' introduction to his wonderful "Bobby's Back!" piece in the *Chess Life* of November 1992. Enjoy:

MAIN HEADLINE: BOBBY'S BACK!

By Larry Evans International Grandmaster

BOBBY'S BACK

And non-chess people know it. They know it because unlike the Loch Ness monster, so often sighted but never seen, Bobby Fischer showed up on September 1 for a press conference at the Maestral Hotel, the site of Fischer-Spassky II. The hotel is on the tiny peninsula of Sveti Stefan, an

erstwhile playground of the rich and famous, a mere 100 feet off the coast of Montenegro and some 70 miles from a civil war raging in Bosnia.

At his first press conference in 20 years, Bobby fired the spit heard 'round the world. He took out a letter from the U.S. Treasury Department warning of severe penalties for violating U.N. sanctions by playing Boris Spassky in the rump state of Yugoslavia – and spat on it.

There's more. "Communism is Bolshevism is Judaism," he declared. When asked about his reported anti-Semitism, he said Semites included both Arabs and Jews. "I'm definitely not anti-Arab, OK?" On the two Super Ks, usurpers to his throne, he opined, "These criminals Karpov and Kasparov have been ruining chess with immoral, unethical, prearranged games, and are the lowest dogs around."

As usual, Bobby had the organizers hopping. The playing table was built and rebuilt seven times; all toilets in the playing hall were raised an inch to accommodate [*sic*] his bulk; an extravagant birthday bash was thrown for his 19-year-old Hungarian girlfriend, Zita Rajcsanyi. A bemused Fischer looked on as torch-bearers dressed in folk costumes lined the isthmus leading to Sveti Stefan. Eerie – and reminiscent of the scene in *Frankenstein* when peasants with torches marched on the castle to destroy the monster within.

In Yugoslavia, this \$5 million duel is billed as "The Return Match of the Century Between the Never-Defeated Champion of the World, Bobby Fischer, and His Challenger Boris Spassky." All his wishes are fulfilled. He gets 10 wins with a 9 – 9 tie clause, which FIDE had denied him in 1975. The patented Bobby Fischer chess clock, which may revolutionize tournament chess, is being used. The purse is for a million more than Kasparov's next title bout. Further, FIDE, despised by Fischer, the body of amateurs that stripped Bobby of his title, is cut out of the picture (something which Kasparov despite all his efforts failed to accomplish).

But there's trouble in paradise. Before the start of the third game, Bobby suddenly added an ultimatum that journalists be barred from covering the match unless they acknowledged it's for the world championship. He relented – for now.

BOBBY'S BACK

And we chess people know it. We know it because at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, Bobby committed an act stranger than any recorded above: he played a game in public for the first time in 20 years. Many pundits were convinced that it would never happen.

How shocked he must have been in 1990 when former GMA chairman Bessel Kok balked at organizing a comeback match because Bobby's demands "were too tough to meet" and his extreme views espousing neo-Nazism and denying the existence of the Holocaust "went beyond the abhorrent." Bobby had barked, and for the first time a chessman failed to jump.

In the October *Chess Life*, Arnold Denker and Larry Parr wrote that all efforts to coax him from retirement were "doomed from the start." They continued, "His personal chess legend as an incomparable and undefeated genius means everything to him. It is his *raison d'être* – the single support for a very frail ego."

Elegantly written, closely reasoned and utterly wrong! Bobby is back because even for him time does not stand still. He's nearly 50, and he either makes a pile now or dies broke. Perhaps Ms. Sweet 19, whose own ambition is to become world champion someday, prodded him ever so gently about the future.

But Denker, Parr and many of us ultimately got it wrong about Bobby for a far more basic reason. We forgot, as a French philosopher once put it, that normal men do not know that everything is possible. Normal men cannot imagine the solipsistic absorption of a genius such as Fischer who has sunk, in the words of Vladimir Nabokov, "into the abysmal depths of chess."

If we all thought Bobby had deserted chess for two decades, he corrected us at the press conference. Chess had deserted him. "No one has played ME for those 20 years," he said. Reality is in the "I" of the Fischer beholder.

No matter what happens in Yugoslavia, I have a feeling we may be watching Bobby's last hurrah. Instead of launching another assault on the citadel, he'll probably take the money and run.

Great writing meant for the chess ages? Not at all. A piece of provocative, insightful, brightly written, and what Tartakower might have called "Sun journalism"? Absolutely. More interesting and faster paced than Mr. Winter's chloral hydrates? Oh, yah!

Instead of GM Evans' snappy headline and lead-in, "Bobby's Back," Mr. Winter would have served up something like the arch, "Return of Robert Fischer." Instead of Evans' lead-in and first two sentences – "BOBBY'S BACK ... And non-chess people know it. They know it because unlike the Loch Ness monster, so often sighted but never seen, Bobby Fischer showed up on September 1 for a press conference at the Maestral Hotel, the site of Fischer-Spassky II." – Mr. Winter's work would have dispensed with Evans' snappy economy:

Robert James Fischer has returned to the arena, and even non-chess playing people have heard the news. They have heard because Fischer, who has been caught only in glimpses like the Loch Ness monster these last two decades, showed up on September 1 for a press conference at the Maestral Hotel, the site of Fischer-Spassky II.

Not bad. Though not so good as energetic Evans copy. Still, it is better than most of Mr. Winter's lather, which brings to mind the Russian aphorism that paper can stand anything.

EVANS AS ESSAYIST

As much as I admire Larry Evans' *CL* feature stories and columns, I regard his newspaper work more highly. The various versions of Evans' syndicated columns have been appearing for over 30 years. His essays, so elegant in their economy, range from 300 to 500 words. They are minor miracles of compression. They tell complete stories in literate though completely accessible language, and they have kept tens of millions of readers interested.

Nothing – or, perhaps, just one thing – was more unjust in Mr. Winter's ChessCafe attack than the man's attempt to tar GM Evans' enormous *oeuvre* with the brush of his oft-repeated litany of Evans errors. Not only were most of these errors acknowledged and corrected by GM Evans, but they comprise less than a hundredth of one percent of his total work.

Over the past half century, GM Evans has written quite literally thousands of pithy and eloquent essays for his newspapers and magazines. Such as this story that he titled

A POINT OF LIGHT

By GM Larry Evans

Kids call her The Chess Lady. Her name is Irene Darnell. Her motto: "Push Pawns, Not Drugs."

She retired after 30 years as a cashier and enrolled in the Foster Grandparent Program. "All those seniors sitting on their duffs doing nothing," she says. "It's a crime."

One day she brought a chess set along to entertain latchkey kids, who were only five. "They had to kneel on chairs to reach the board, but they took to it real fast. Chess fascinated them."

It was a revelation. She asked a school to give her 45 minutes on Thursday morning to teach chess. "Wow! Kids soon began beating me. Suddenly I realized there was a brain in those heads that we hadn't begun to tap into."

Irene embarked on a crusade. A high-risk school invited her to teach chess to 300 problem kids ranging from 8 to 12. "In my 17 years of education I never ever saw something grab hold of so many kids and just soar," said the astonished principal.

In 1992 President Bush flew to Reno to present her with a medal as A Point of Light. Today a \$40,000 BADA grant enables Irene, 82, and two aides to expand their pilot program to four schools. "But we have to sweat out the funding each year," she says.

"We reach 1,500 kids – half are Hispanic, Black or Indian. It's a voluntary program but nobody has ever turned down the opportunity to learn chess. Some schools give them 10 hours of credit for math. They have to follow rules but learn they can still have fun. Like real life. Now they settle disputes with chess instead of fists. Parents simply can't believe what chess does for their kids."

A few years ago the mayor proclaimed May 9 as Reno Chess Day. “Next year I hope it falls on a weekday so we don’t have to go to school,” said a kid who beat Hizzoner in a game.

So economical. Yet the story is all there.

Mr. Winter and the ratpackers do not write like this because they cannot. They don’t know where to begin and don’t much care. Readers will note that except for the penultimate paragraph in which Evans gives his subject a chance to speak at length for herself, every paragraph begins with a piece of Evans narrative and ends with the subject speaking in her own words. That’s deliberate. It provides rhythm and permits newspaper editors to cut portions of paragraphs easily. The overall essay, a classic news agency pyramid, has seven paragraphs that are themselves mini-pyramids. Lovely work.

Mr. Winter and the ratpackers are unconcerned with the thousands of such essays written by GM Evans in which he illumined so many corners of our great chess globe. The Winter technique is to look for inevitable gaffes or even mistakes unconnected to the author – such as a publisher’s “avioid” on the spine of a book rather than “avoid” or for an absence of umlauts over the last name of Eero Book because such diacritical diereses are not in the *CL* stylebook – in order to reach what IM John Watson has called “one-sided and pre-ordained” conclusions.

“Pre-ordained”? Even the ratpackers know in the foul recesses of their minds that Mr. Winter digs for evidence to support prior conclusions rather than delving for conclusions (explanations) to explain prior evidence.

EVANS AS SEARCHER

For nearly 35 years, GM Evans has been conducting a grand dialectic (rather than a Winterian *Grand Guignol*) in the pages of *Chess Life*. Working in partnership with his readers, he has reestablished old chess knowledge and sought new knowledge.

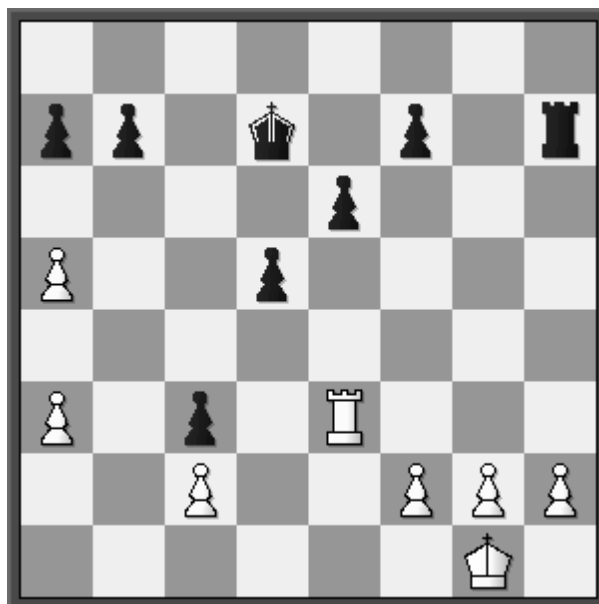
In my view the nastiest ploy in Mr. Winter’s ChessCafe assault is neither the “shameless” character assassination nor the mischaracterization of GM Evans’ *oeuvre* by regurgitating the same two dozen or so errors over and over – errors, moreover, that were earlier acknowledged and often corrected. To my mind, Mr. Winter’s lowest, in fact subterranean, device is to argue that GM Evans is loath to admit mistakes.

Mr. Winter is betting that most of you are without historical memory or, at least, bound annuals of *Chess Life*. He is betting that you do not recall or have never read the dozens, perhaps hundreds, of columns in which he gladly conceded errors in his own analyses or statements. No matter whether these errors occurred in his famous *MCO-10* edition, in his many feature articles, in his numerous books or in his hundreds of *CL* columns! “No matter,” I say, because GM Evans was and is hungry, indeed ravenous, for such corrections because they are the vital viands that keep a column such as his alive – just as a shortage of audience participation recently led to the demise of Mr. Winter’s column.

I mentioned earlier that GM Evans is a searcher after new chess knowledge. Given the wonderful, saving difficulty of chess, mistakes are inevitable. Dialectic is the corrective.

In the following Q & A’s from his *CL* column, GM Evans and some readers cordially correct one another and discover new chess knowledge as they search together – without any “pre-ordained” conclusions in mind – for the truth about one of the most famous games of the last 40 years (note to Mr. Winter and ratpackers: I am typing what follows from fuzzy faxed material and cannot guarantee the accuracy of all punctuation):

Here is the position in the diagram mentioned below: White (8 men): P/a3, a5, c2, f2, g2, h2; R/e3; K/g1; Black (8 men): P/a7, b7, c3, d5, e6, f7; R/h7; K/d7.



From *Chess Life*, July 1984:

NO BAIL?

Thomas Crispin Klamath Falls, Oregon

Q: This is from game 23 (Fischer-Tal: Leipzig 1960) in Bobby Fischer's *My 60 Memorable Games*. The game ended in a brilliant draw. In the note to Black's 15th move Fischer examines an important alternative, concluding that 21. Re3 (diagram) "bails White out." But isn't Black winning? Look at 21. ... d4! 22. Re4 e5!! 23. Rxe5 Kd6 24. Re8 f6! 25. Re4 (or 25. Re1 d3! 26. cxd3 Kd5, when White must eventually give up his Rook for the c-pawn, leaving him no choice but to try running his Kingside pawns. Unfortunately, this is too slow, and takes pages of analysis to verify, which I have done) 25. ... Kd5 26. Re8 Rd7!, and now Black wins on either 27. Rc8 d3 28. Rxc3 d2 29. Rd3+ Kc6 or 27. Kf1 d3 28. cxd3 Rc7.

A: Your idea is amazing and ingenious. My first impulse was that White might draw by 21. ... d4 22. Re4 e5 23. Rxe5 Kd6 24. Re4 Kd5 25. f3 and now (I) 25. ... f5? 26. Re8 Rd7 27. Kf2 d3 28. cxd3 Rc7 (if 28. ... Kd4, then 29. Ke2 holds) 29. Rd8+ Ke5 30. Re8+ Kd6 31. Re1 Kd5 32. Ke3 Re7+ 33. Kf2 Rc7 34. Ke3 f4+ 35. Kxf4 Kd4 36. h4; but (II) a vital improvement is 25. ... d3! 26. cxd3 Rh6! 27. Rc4 Rc6 38. Kf2 c2 29. Ke2 c1=Q, when Black wins. It's hard to believe that White must lose this problem-like ending. Perhaps some reader can find a saving resource.

[Readers will note the easy intercourse between GM Evans and his reader. This famous U. S. champion forthrightly compliments the man on some ingenious analysis that casts doubt upon a key line given in a famous book on which GM Evans collaborated. As for Mr. Winter and the ratpackers, I would point them to YET ANOTHER error by either GM Evans or the CL proof-reader: "38. Kf2" in the above answer should be "28. Kf2." One can hear ratpacker Louie Blair intoning sententiously and venomously, "Even as Mr. Parr attempts to defend the indefensible Larry Evans, he condemns the hopeless bumbler by pointing out that the '3' in '38' ought to have been a '2.'" As for those who would excuse the blunder as a slip by the Chess Life typesetter, it is not our job to issue such corrections. This matter ought to have been attended to by Evans in an errata column.]

From Chess Life, February 1985:

No Bail? (Continued) Allen Van Gelder Palo Alto, California

Q: In your Chess Life column of July 1984 (page 55), Thomas Crispin proposed a strong line for Black in Fischer-Tal, Leipzig 1960. Mr. Crispin quoted Bobby as claiming in one of his notes in My 60 Memorable Games that 21. Re3! (diagram) “bails White out” (page 148).

Mr. Crispin then claims a win for Black with 21. ... d4! 22. Re4 e5! 23. Rxe5 Kd6 24. Re8 f6!. He demonstrates that either 25. Re4 or 25. Re1 seems to lose. However, it seems to me that White can hold with 25. Kf1!. The main point is that the immediate d-pawn sac doesn't work: 25. ... d3 26. cxd3 Rc7 27. Re1 Kd5 28. Ke2 Re7+ 29. Kf1! (but not the blunder 29. Kd1?? c2+). Black should now repeat moves with 29. ... Rc7 30. Ke2 Re7+, etc. He would get nothing with 30. ... Kd4 31. Kd1!.

After 25. Kf1!, Black's other main try, 25. ... Rxh2, leads to a long line which appears to be a draw: 26. Rd8+ Kc5 27. Rc8+ Kb5 28. Rd8 Rh1+ (if Black tries 28. ... Rh4, White survives with 29. Ke2 Kxa5 30. g3 Rg4 31. Kd3 b5 32. Rxd4 Rxd4+ 33. Kxd4 Ka4 34. g4 Kxa3 35. Kxc3 b4+ 36. Kd2 a5 37. f4 a4 38. g5 fxg5 39. fxg5 b3 40. cxb3 axb3 41. g6, leading to a position where both sides Queen) 29. Ke2 Rc1 30. Rxd4 Rxc2+ 31. Kd3! (if White plays 31. Ke3?, then Black hits him with 31. ... Rxf2!) 31. ... Rxf2 32. Rb4+! Kc6 33. Rc4+ Kd7 34. Rd4+ Ke8 35. Re4+ Kf8 36. Kxc3 Rxc2 37. a6! b6 38. Re6 Rg3+ 39. Kb4 Kf7 40. Rc6 Rg7 41. Rc7+ Kg6 42. Rb7 f5 43. Kc4 Kf6 44. Kd5 Rf7 45. Kd4! (White carefully preserves his pawn on a3 – which is the margin of the draw) 45. ... Re7 46. Rxe7 Kxe7 47. Ke5 Kd7 48. Kxf5 Kc6 49. Ke4 Kb5 50. Kd5 Kxa6 51. Kc6.

So Black exerts lasting pressure right down to the final pawn. But the adage that all Rook endings are drawn seems to hold up.

A: Several other readers tried without success to demonstrate draws. But your analysis looks convincing. In the final position after 51. Kc6, White has only one defense for the draw: 51. ... b5 52. Kc7 Ka5 53. Kb7 Ka4 54. Ka6!. Can anybody find a vital improvement for Black along the way?

[GM Evans twigs that many of his readers would be a bit unclear why White holds the game after 51. Kc6 and provides a bit of analysis. This analysis enlightens, while keeping down frustration levels among class players. Please notice the reference to “[s]everal other readers” trying without success to demonstrate draws. This behind-the-scenes work is the thankless portion of keeping a Q & A column going. Given Mr. Winter's deliberately obtuse abuse toward obviously jocose comments by Al Horowitz and GM Evans (quoted earlier in “Winter's Tale About Richard the Fifth”), one can hear the Swiss mister observing archly and absurdly in the style of the by now famous lie he retailed in Kingpin (Spring 2000): “Yet another small example of the Evans' approach to historical truth arises from his February 1985 column, which included the following: ‘But the adage that all Rook endings are drawn seems to hold up.’ All Rook endings are not drawn as demonstrated conclusively in Capablanca-Yates (Hastings, 1930). Nor does the Fischer-Tal position demonstrate that ‘all Rook endings are drawn.’”]

From Chess Life, September 1985:

BOBBY'S BAIL REVOKED?

Thomas Crispin Klamath Falls, Oregon

Q: In your Chess Life column of February 1985 (see page 48), Mr. Allen Van Gelder offered analysis disputing my claim of a Black win in a variation from Fischer-Tal (Leipzig 1960). The mooted position arises from a note in which Fischer asserts that 21. Re3 “bails White out” (diagram). Mr. Van Gelder is correct that Black only draws after 21. ... d4 22. Re4 e5 23. Rxe5 Kd6 24. Re8 f6?. My original analysis in the July 1984 Chess Life is indeed incorrect. But I believe that Black can win by 24. ... f5!. The main point becomes clear after 25. Kf1 d3 26. cxd3 Rc7 27. Re1 Kd5 28. Ke2 Re7+ 29. Kf1. With the Black pawn on f6, Mr. Van Gelder correctly claims that Black must repeat with 29. ... Rc7. But with the Black pawn on f5, the second player has 29. ... Rg7!!, when White must continue 30. Ke2 (there's no time for 30. g3? Kd4!) 30. ... Rxc2 31. Kd1 Rxf2 32. h4 f4 (this vital tempo is the reason why 24. ... f6 is faulty) 33. h5 Ra2! 34. h6 (White does no better with 34. Re7 f3 35. Rf7 f2

36. h6 f1=Q+ 37. Rxf1 Ra1+ 38. Ke2 Rxf1 39. Kxf1 c2 40. h7 c1=Q+) 34. ... Ra1+ 35. Ke2 f3+ 36. Kf2 Rxe1 37. Kxe1 c2 38. Kd2 f2 39. h6 c1=Q+ 40. Kxc1 f1=Q+. And, of course, Black wins.

A: One hesitates to reach a final conclusion after all the discoveries in this complex ending. But I find your ingenious new winning try unconvincing. After your improvement of 24. ... f5, you give the line 25. Kf1 d3 26. cxd3 Rc7 27. Re1 Kd5 28. Ke2 Re7+ 29. Kf1 Rg7. With White's King now on f1 rather than on g1, White seems to hold by 30. Re8! Rc7 (What else?) 31. Rd8+ Ke5 32. Re8+ Kd6 33. Re1 Kd5 34. Ke2 Re7+ 35. Kf1 – all of which repeats the position which arose after 29. Kf1.

[Many of you will notice GM Evans' sweet courtesy in this response. He cast serious doubt on a piece of analysis, yet he acknowledged its ingenuity and accorded it value. We also have this famous grandmaster and analyst admitting humbly that after what was obviously days of analysis, a final verdict on the Fischer-Tal ending is difficult to render. However, in the rigorous dialectic between GM Evans and his readers, we have learned that there is considerable substance in Bobby Fischer's laconic, though evidently deeply considered judgment that 21. Re3 "bails White out." And, yes, one can hear Mr. Winter's voice in the style of his ChessCafe piece: "GM Evans fails in the most elementary task of a chess writer: to place the proper number next to a move. His '38' rather than '28' is but a single example of dozens, if not hundreds, of such errors from the public record that are on hand to be chronicled if necessary. His sloppy repetition of the absurd claim that all Rook and pawn endings are drawn shows by his own carelessness that he is shameless." That kind of thing.]

Mr. Winter and the ratpackers want to get GM Evans out of *Chess Life* and out of newspapers. No doubt about that. They do not care whether *CL* readers enjoy reading his column as evidenced by every reader survey ever conducted. They do not care whether readers fail to flock to wintry page after wintry page of such games as Fahrni-Maliutin, Wiker-Sandehn, Williams-Wight or the immortal L. Loewy II - Felix masterpiece played at the Cafe Pirus in 1904. And on and on and on. They have contempt for those stubborn chess readers who unaccountably wish to know more about the games of Kasparov and Fischer (Mr. Winter's games section of *Chess Explorations* has one of Kasparov's games, none of Fischer's.) and to read the opinions of a famous grandmaster about the burning chess issues of our time.

Evans interests. Winter persists.

SECTION II : MR. WINTER'S WATSON GAMBIT

PART I : NOT SO ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WINTER

“It might be argued that if Evans can get away with (mis)using his column soapbox for incessant regurgitation of his political sentiments and conjecture, so be it, but in his politicking Evans cuts no more of a credible figure than in the rest of his output. Readers are referred, by way of example, to a detailed article by John Watson entitled ‘Chess and Politics’ (*Kingpin*, Spring 1999, pages 33 – 38), which contains such observations on Evans as : ‘huge bias’; ‘long histories of ignoring and distorting evidence’ and ‘Evans’ absurd arguments’ Page 60 of the Autumn 1999 *Kingpin* carried a brief reply from Evans. Although, in reality, he replied to virtually nothing, he did dispute ” – Edward Winter, “The Facts About Larry Evans” (ChessCafe, June 6, 2001)

Mr. Winter likes to use the word “facts” – as in, say, “The Facts About Larry Evans.” Is one of these “facts” that Grandmaster Evans “replied to virtually nothing” in John Watson’s highly critical *Kingpin* piece?

Yes. Mr. Winter’s factoid is true, even as it is also a low dishonest misrepresentation of context. In short, another lie.

For, of course, I wrote a 3,500-word response that appeared in the Autumn 1999 *Kingpin* in which I dealt with IM Watson’s points. Part of my response appeared on the same page as GM Evans’ brief comments, which Mr. Winter quoted. So, Mr. Winter knew that I had taken up the cudgels against IM Watson’s grotesque mischaracterization of GM Evans’ political positions even as he also knew that 99 percent of ChessCafe readers would be unaware of what appeared in the widely unread *Kingpin*. He knew that GM Evans most likely did not reply at length because the famous U. S. chess champion regarded my evisceration of IM Watson’s root political ignorance as, at the very least, adequate.

Root political ignorance? Really?

Readers will be judging for themselves whether IM Watson had anything sensible to say about GM Evans’ politics or whether he was a historical illiterate who unintentionally, though nonetheless inaccurately and nastily, misrepresented the political positions of GM Evans. More importantly, readers will have a chance to judge the level of historical and political advocacy that evidently satisfies Mr. Winter’s intellectual standards.

Let me elaborate: Mr. Winter calls for higher standards in the writing of chess history, yet in his canker, he directs readers to a long, loosely penned polemic written at a standard less elevated than the kneecaps of the Incredible Shrinking Man.

Winter ratpacker Louie Blair has already tried to defend his leader’s exposed Watson flank on one part of the front, when he wrote that Mr. Winter was not necessarily endorsing a certain portion of IM Watson’s essay. Which is true – in the sense that a truism is true. No one ever endorses everything written by someone, unless he is a ratpacker commenting on Mr. Winter’s work. (Readers will later discover that I do not endorse every word written by GM Evans, and in “*Peccavi* and Evans, Too,” I take him to task with a virulence that no ratpacker would dare to employ with Mr. Winter.)

Most likely, the ratpackers will try to distance Mr. Winter from IM Watson’s folderol. So, then, let’s examine carefully what Mr. Winter wrote when referencing IM Watson’s article to his readers – when, in effect, he suggested that his readers would not be wasting their time by reading the 5,000 words. Was he treating his readers with respect when referencing, “by way of example,” IM Watson’s article? Or was he treating readers with something worse than even the “disdain” that he imputed to GM Evans?

Mr. Winter violated an important rule of civilized advocacy when he proved emotionally too distraught to voice an opposing argument in neutral terms. “It might be argued,” he wrote like a wound-up spring, “that if Evans can get away with (mis)using his column soapbox for inces-

sant regurgitation of his political sentiments and conjecture, so be it, but in his politicking Evans cuts no more of a credible figure than in the rest of his output." He ought to have written, if he were merely the honest broker of fact that he wishes us to believe, that "It might be argued that if Evans uses or, as I insist, misuses his column [not soapbox] to present his political sentiments and conjecture, then so be it. But in his politicking, he cuts no more of a credible figure than in the rest of his output."

The reader will notice in my rendition of Mr. Winter's argument, he spends the first sentence retailing a point of view in language that an opponent might have used – with the exception of the sentiment surrounding the phrase, "I insist." Then, in the second sentence, Mr. Winter lowers the boom with a contrapuntal conclusion. One might then disagree with Mr. Winter's view, but one would have to concede that he could voice fairly the thoughts of others. But no, this avatar before the altar of raw dates could not put a collar on his choler. He could not fairly represent an opposing argument. His was the rhetorical lie of a propagandist, not the objective representation of an opposing view by a disinterested watchdog of chessic facts.

After mischaracterizing an opposing idea, Mr. Winter writes in the next sentence, "Readers are referred, by way of example [of GM Evans' absence of credibility "in his politicking"], to a detailed article by John Watson entitled 'Chess and Politics.'" Let's stop right here: Mr. Winter is referring – which is to say, directing – readers to a source to support his position, "by way of [meaningful] example," that GM Evans cuts a sorry figure "in his politicking." He would not thus direct his readers unless he believes that IM Watson characterizes GM Evans' advocacy adequately.

To be fair, Mr. Winter is not saying or even implying that he agrees with every syllable in the Watson article, but he is saying that IM Watson accuses GM Evans of "huge bias," of having "long histories of ignoring and distorting evidence," and of peddling "absurd arguments." By directing readers to this source, Mr. Winter is more than implying that the source effectively demonstrates that GM Evans is guilty as charged. Mr. Winter has assumed the moral onus of retailing secondhand charges that are damaging to the reputation of another. If he is dishonest, he tossed out the charges from spite. If he is honest, he passed on damaging allegations because the printed source (IM Watson's article) satisfied his intellectual standards.

Let us assume, purely for the sake of argument, that Mr. Winter is an honest broker. We may then conclude that IM Watson's article satisfied Mr. Winter's intellectual standards to the extent that the latter directed readers to the lengthy piece as worthy of their valuable time – indeed, as showing that these secondhand charges to which Mr. Winter obviously subscribes had merit.

My view is that Mr. Winter betrays a lot about what he means by higher standards in chess writing when directing readers to IM Watson's pathetic work.

Here, then, is my critique of IM Watson's work – a work that met, if not necessarily matched, Mr. Winter's standards.

(By way of correction, I write below about a mass grave near Minsk [in a place called Kuropaty] that had "300,000-plus" bodies. My figure came from initial reports back in the late 1980s and early 1990s which reached me when I was editor of *Glasnost News & Review*. There is currently evidence of some 900 mass graves in the area, though this figure is almost certainly not the sum total, given the absence of resources directed to the excavation work. If it is, say, half the ultimate total of mass graves dug between 1937 and 1941 then the total number of bodies in this single Stalin hecatomb would be 200,000, give or take 50,000.)

From Larry Parr [in Kingpin, Autumn 1999]:

NOT SO ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON

'Cannon to right of them,

Cannon to left of them,

Cannon in front of them

Volleyed and thundered.'

— Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 'The Charge of the
Light Brigade'

Imagine, then, a famous American chess grandmaster.

Imagine this grandmaster leading protests against racial segregation at the 1954 U. S. Open in New Orleans, before such political twitching became *de rigueur*. Imagine him travelling to Castro's Cuba in 1964 without permission of the U. S. State Department to play in that year's Capablanca Memorial. Imagine him opposing the Vietnam War so vociferously that he was investigated by the FBI for suspected Communist ties. Imagine him fighting against censorship as a self-described 'First Amendment absolutist' and long-time member of the American Civil Liberties Union. Imagine him arguing passionately for a woman's 'right to choose' where abortion is concerned. Imagine him favoring decriminalization of drugs. Imagine him professing no religious beliefs.

This grandmaster must be a bleeding-heart, secular-humanist liberal – a Commie-loving left-winger who begins every debate with a verbal 1. P-QR4. Right?

Wrongo! In the Spring 1999 *Kingpin*, International Master John Watson claims in his 'Chess and Politics' article, an essay suffused with the '60s sensibility, that this famous American chess grandmaster, who happens to be Larry Evans, is a 'highly-politicised right-wing', 'stridently' anti-Communist columnist who begins every debate with a verbal 1. P-KR4.

Someone is getting something very wrong. That someone is Mr. Watson. His pious avowal that he has 'never before broached this subject in print' may play well before an audience of apolitical chess players, even though he is the one broaching 'this subject' in print. However, I wonder whether Mr. Watson's dilettantism, when combined with evident political ignorance, constitutes adequate intellectual equipment for discussing how politics impinge upon the world of chess.

States Grandmaster Evans, 'When I played in Castro's Cuba in 1964, the Right attacked me. When I was a tournament commentator and gave integrated simuls in South Africa in 1981, the Left attacked me. How does that poem by Tennyson go? Something about cannon to the left and cannon to the right of me. Let me be absolutely clear: I support the right of a grandmaster to practice his art anywhere he sees fit. I don't care if it is North Korea, South Africa or Hades. I call the shots as I see them.' Larry Evans seeks validation from neither Right nor Left.

Confusion and Defamation

'No matter how thin you slice it, it's still baloney.' – Al Smith

Sorting through the confusion and defamation in Mr. Watson's essay will require a few words about the world of the once famous anti-Communist Left – the world from which Larry Evans emerged into intellectual adulthood during the late 1940s. And, too, we will talk a bit about the Right. For, contrary to Mr. Watson's assertion that the Right 'model' is one of 'simplicity and orderliness', there is nothing so tidy in messy politics.

The terms 'Left' and "Right' are artificial constructions – if also inescapable literary contrivances – dating back to the 18th century. The more literate Old Left writers, who viewed Marxism as explaining the entire 'superstructure' of human existence down to the proper design of progressive ashtrays, took pride in contrasting the orderliness of Marxism with the inchoate edifice of the Right, which accommodated such disparate jaspers as ultramontane Catholics, Baptist prairie preachers, authoritarian military cliques, and *laissez-faire* American capitalists.

Heavy, non-chess stuff, I know. But in his gripes of wrath, Mr. Watson trampled on vital political distinctions. A few paragraphs will be required to explain why there is no necessary correlation between being, as Mr. Watson writes in his propagandistic way, 'stridently' anti-Soviet and being a member of the Right on the Anglo-American political scale. Not, however, that there is anything necessarily wrong with being on the Right, given the hecatombs and failed societies bequeathed by the Left.

Laying my Intellectual Cards on the Table

'That was a time when only the dead could smile.'—Anna Akhmatova in 'Requiem'

John Watson has introduced me to *Kingpin* readers as a 'purveyor'—indeed, a 'rabid' purveyor—of 'political views which could be charitably characterised as well to the right of Ronald Reagan'. Mine is a 'rigid' commitment, and I am given to 'staunch' worshipping at the 'altar' of Fischer, when I am not touting 'various Anti-Communist Heroes' such as Viktor Korchnoi.

I shall try not to foam too rabidly while laying my intellectual cards on the table – face up, and without those propagandistic nouns and adjectives that Mr. Watson employs to attack those who agitate his political thermostat. The guy has, for example, never met a 'purveyor' that he likes, and he opposes anything 'rigid', 'extreme', 'staunch', or 'strident'. (However, we ought not to hold our breath, waiting for the day when Mr. Watson writes about 'stridently' anti-Nazi columnists.)

Briefly, my background is in Soviet history, though I ended up working as a journalist in Southeast Asia, before becoming *Chess Life* editor in 1984. In 1988 I became editor of *Glasnost News & Review*, which was published by one of those 'think-tanks' that exercise Mr. Watson. Contributors included Nobel Peace laureate Andrei Sakharov and someone named Boris Yeltsin. Over 400 members of the U.S. Congress were subscribers.

My view is that if ever a political position has been vindicated by events, it is anti-Communism. Forget about the adjectives – be they 'strident', 'thoughtful' or whatever. The anti-Communist consensus is disputed these days only by a few hundred doddering antiques of the Stalinist Left such as Britain's 'granny old spy' Melita Norwood and several thousand anti-Vietnam War relics. These latter zombies cannot admit that Woodstock has ended in fire and looting. As one American editorialist wrote, 'We are all "knee-jerk" anti-Communists now.'

My position is that there is no more practical sense in outdated liberal chatter about 'strident' anti-Communism than there would be in someone's mincing imbecility about 'strident' anti-Nazism. After all, the most strident words will never inflate the truth about the 300,000-plus bodies uncovered at a Stalinist mass grave near Minsk or make more hideous the actual vision of those burning pits at Auschwitz. *Hier stehe ich*—with apologies to Martin Luther.

The Russians Are Coming!

'Normal men do not know that everything is possible.'—David Rousset in *The Other Kingdom*

Among Mr. Watson's bogeymen are Soviet émigrés. 'When ... [they] first began to dot the American chess landscape,' he writes, 'I was naturally curious about their views on political issues. Over the years, I have had dozens of conversations with émigrés from the old USSR, and I can confidently state that ... when an émigré looks into your eyes and sincerely says that he is "absolutely certain" or "sure" or "completely sure" about some controversial or dubious-seeming point, it can safely be translated into one of (a) "I'm not sure at all", (b) "it may be true and it may not", or (c) "I don't care if it's true or not, but it sounds good"!'

The above is written with the arrogance of someone luxuriating in his ignorance. What, in fact, does Mr. Watson know about the history of Soviet emigrants beyond displeasure that several of them spoke truths about the USSR, which struck him as 'dubious-seeming'? Leftists have long treated the anti-Soviet emigration as an affront to their vision sublime of the Workers' Paradise. During the 1920s and 1930s a popular pretence was that refugees from Communism were mainly disinherited nobles and distempered Cossacks. A refugee who could voice his story tellingly was attacked relentlessly for personal failings of any kind. The idea was to distract attention from the concrete particulars. Mr. Watson, for example, prattles falsely about this writer touting Grandmaster Korchnoi as an 'Anti-Communist Hero'. He chatters ludicrously about a campaign to beautify Korchnoi's life, which 'flagged a bit when people actually began to talk with Korchnoi, but that's another story'.

No, Mr. Watson. No, sir! I think that it is the same old story: find something wrong with Korchnoi to undermine indirectly his testimony about Soviet abuses in chess.

In spite of the Left's efforts to marginalize the anti-Soviet emigration, the good news is that just as recent history has justified the anti-Communist critique, so events have vindicated the message of anti-Soviet refugees. Namely, that the USSR was indeed an evil empire. Vladimir Tchernavin, an escaped Soviet slave labourer, was the first effective émigré 'messenger'. In *Speak for the Silent* (1935), he told stories about concentration camps the size of European countries that were denounced as 'anti-Soviet ravings'. 'Normal men,' as David Rousset has written, 'do not know that everything is possible.' Yet Tchernavin's book survived the Left onslaught. Other messengers followed, most notably Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, whose three-volume *The Gulag Archipelago* (1973) caused an upheaval in the way men of ideas thought about the Soviet Union. Then, in the late 1970s, a new wave of émigrés washed up on Western shores, including several widely ignored economists, who predicted the imminent collapse of the Soviet Union. The accumulated testimony of the anti-Soviet emigration is immense, and the verdict of history is that this testimony is tragically true.

On the theme of émigré perceptiveness, Soviet defector Grandmaster Lev Alburt gave a speech back in 1989 to members of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in which he calmly stated that the Soviet Union would collapse in a year or two. His liberal audience gasped in evident embarrassment. 'Who let this wild émigré into the house?' was the unasked question.

Now, then, one of Mr. Watson's targets is Grandmaster Alburt. 'He personally told me in the early 1980s,' Mr. Watson claims, 'that he thought the U.S. should launch a full-scale first-strike nuclear attack on the then Soviet Union (and presumably on his own relatives, come to think of it ...). It took me a few minutes to confirm that he was serious.'

From Malaysia, where I currently work, I telephoned Lev Alburt. He denied saying any such thing. Still, none of us were present during this conversation, and we cannot dismiss the theoretical possibility that the mild-mannered Alburt was once a thermonuclear firebug burning and yearning to pyrolyze his beloved mama. The only way to gauge the trustworthiness of Mr. Watson's allegation is to analyse it carefully. Based on what Mr. Watson asserts, there is excellent reason to believe Lev Alburt's denial. For Mr. Watson appears to know nothing about nuclear strategy.

Grandmaster Alburt, on the other hand, has read a lot on the subject. He would have been aware that 'in the early 1980s' the only debate was whether the Soviets rather than the Americans enjoyed a 'window of opportunity' to launch 'a full-scale first-strike nuclear attack' designed to knock out America's retaliatory capacity. He would have known that the American strategic triad was designed as a SECOND-strike deterrent force aimed at Soviet population centers. He would have known, therefore, there was **no question of the United States attempting a first strike**.

None of the foregoing is arcane knowledge. GM Alburt would regard it as being elementary, my dear Watson.

Is Mr. Watson lying here? I don't think so. The conversation occurred nearly two decades ago, and Mr. Watson was probably disoriented after his chitchat with the formidably informed Alburt. If, in the highly unlikely event that Lev Alburt did speak as claimed, then he was obviously dismissing a gibbering American whom he sized up as an opinionated *naïf* on subjects Soviet.

The God That Failed

**'Communism is the corruption of a dream of justice.'—Adlai
Stevenson**

In 1949 a politico-literary event of tremendous importance occurred, the publication of Richard Crossman's *The God That Failed*. Crossman, a British Labour Party intellectual, brought together six former Communists, including English poet Stephen Spender, to tell about their journeys to and from Stalin's Damascus. Appearing shortly after the triumphant Berlin Airlift of 1948, *The God That Failed* exploded on the New York scene about as loudly as the Soviet A-bomb test did that same year in the corridors of the Pentagon.

A young, 17-year-old Larry Evans, who two years later in 1951 would win the first of his five

U.S. titles, became embroiled in the heated debate over the Crossman volume. He read avidly such journals as *The New Leader*, the anti-Communist voice of American labour, and *Partisan Review*, the anti-Stalinist standard bearer of the '2Ms' of Marxism and Modernism. He studied the writings of such anti-Stalinists as Sidney Hook and Lionel Trilling. Without being a man of the Left himself, GM Evans reached his conclusions about the Soviet Union by reading the writers of the anti-Communist Left. His thinking flourished in a hothouse milieu that the unhistorical Mr. Watson knows not. In his 'Chess and Politics' article, Mr. Watson rarely permits facts to temper his buncombe. His work is such slapdash slop that he did not even bother to acquaint himself with the particulars of Grandmaster Evans' political position before epitomizing it.

Later, as we shall see, Mr. Watson turns upside down the views of Larry Evans and myself about Bobby Fischer's battles with FIDE.

If Larry Evans is neither a man of the Left or Right nor a gent of the squishy Centre, then where does he stand? I see him as a flinty libertarian who distrusts the State. 'And were it left to me,' he often quotes Jefferson, 'to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.' Grandmaster Evans truly calls 'em as he sees 'em. On gun control and hard-time-for-slime-crime, he is with the Right. On abortion and organized religion, he is with the Left. So, go figure.

Mr. Watson's simpleminded equation of Grandmaster Evans' strong anti-Communism with right-wing desiderata tells more about the former's limited grasp of political history than about the latter's political position. Politics are not so elementary, my dear Watson.

Mr. Watson's Inversion

'Fischer refused to negotiate or compromise and his stubbornness is what killed the match [with Anatoly Karpov] – nothing or nobody else.'—Larry Evans in *Chess Life* (November 1975, p. 760)

'To this day, GM Evans continues to repeat the same tired version of how Fischer – excuse me: "Bobby" – had his title stolen by the Communists.'—John Watson in *Kingpin* (Spring 1999, p. 34)

Before Mr. Watson decided to discuss the views of Grandmaster Evans and myself about Bobby Fischer's world title travails, he ought to have read what we wrote. For example, in one of his claims Mr. Watson outstrips most lies by inverting truth 180 degrees. 'Parr's political commitment,' he charges, 'was so rigid that he even turned simple misstatements of fact into unretractable stands of principle ... e.g. defending Evans' insistence that the challenger in the World Championship had to win two matches before FIDE would give him the title.' Here, for the record, is Larry Evans' actual position (*Chess Life*, November 1975):

'Fischer refused to negotiate or compromise and his stubbornness is what killed the match – nothing or nobody else. Despite "mathematical proof" that his conditions were fairer than the old system, they were still not fair. "Fair" means no advantage to either side. All the words in the world can't obscure that simple fact. Many years ago Hans Kmoch observed prophetically: "Finally America produces its greatest chess genius, and he turns out to be just a stubborn boy."'

What can one say about Mr. Watson's assertion that I supported Grandmaster Evans' non-existent advocacy of Fischer's famous 10 – 8 clause? Did he just mindlessly snatch this inversion of truth out of the supernal ether? Or did Mr. Watson practise the intellectual hygiene that he attributes to Russian emigres? To wit: 'I don't care if it's true or not, but it sounds good!' As for Mr. Watson's invention that Larry Evans believes that Fischer 'had his title stolen by the Communists'—well, what makes Mr. Watson's fantasy unusually egregious is that Larry Evans was for many months **the single writer in *Chess Life* criticizing Fischer's match conditions!**

Grandmaster Evans and this writer are repeatedly on record that the only acceptable match arrangement is one that provides the sitting champion with no mathematical advantage. How-

ever, our position contains nuances. While we never wrote that Fischer lost his FIDE title because of the Communists, we have noted that FIDE routinely granted Karpov a rematch clause in 1977, which was a greater edge than Fischer ever demanded.

In December 1992 Grandmaster Evans and I published a newspaper editorial, 'Is Bobby Fischer a Criminal?', that appeared outside the chess press. We discussed whether Fischer was a criminal for playing Boris Spassky in Yugoslavia, thereby violating a presidential executive order. Although we argued that Fischer broke no constitutionally valid law by practising his art in Yugoslavia, we concluded that he was a prime louse for opting to exercise his rights. 'Our conscience,' we wrote, 'would not permit us to play chess in the Yugoslavia of ethnic cleansers; Bobby's conscience, assuming that he has one, permits him to take money from evil men who do evil things. Fischer may not be someone whose hand you would shake. But he is no criminal.'

With 'staunch' worshippers at his 'altar' such as Larry Evans and I, Bobby Fischer needs no apostates.

The Howl of a Failure?

'Never speak disrespectfully of society, Algernon. Only people who can't get into it do that.'—Oscar Wilde in *The Importance of Being Earnest*

'Kasparov has taken [Andrei] Agassi's "image-is-everything" principle to heart and, using this story [about fighting against the Communist chess establishment], has successfully cosied up to the monied Westerners who count.'—John Watson in *Kingpin* (Spring 1999, p. 37)

Men hear what they want to hear. For my part, I hear the howl of a failure in John Watson's allegation that Garry Kasparov consorts with 'monied Westerners'. Others will hear in Mr. Watson's charge envious barking by someone whose own paw-scratching at the door of better society has been ignored.

When dealing with Kasparov's politics, Mr. Watson literally raves about what he calls 'Kasparov's political ravings'. He disagrees with the world champion's distinction between an authoritarian ruler such as Augusto Pinochet and a totalitarian dictator such as, say, Vladimir Lenin. He also attacks Kasparov's contention, which is often heard in the United States, that there is 'a dominant elite of liberal intellectuals' whose 'Marxist' theories are 'fashionable in prestigious universities and magazines'.

There is no point in debating Kasparov's positions except to say that contrary to Mr. Watson's preposterous assertion that these views exist only among 'uneducated talk-radio-show hosts' and 'leaders of militia movements', there is plenty of support from members of the political mainstream, including several thoughtful Democrats. Take, for instance, Kasparov's statement that there are important differences between totalitarian and authoritarian governance. Carl Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski made the same argument in their classic work, *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy*. Brzezinski was, of course, Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor. Last I heard, Brzezinski was not spending much time in the mountains of Idaho quaffing frozen daiquiris at soirees hosted by the tattooed toughs of the Aryan Nation.

Kasparov's contention that the popcult media and universities are strongholds of left-liberal influence has been standard fare on the mainstream Right since William Buckley's *God and Man at Yale* appeared in 1951. Stanley Rothman's and Robert and Linda Lichter's *The Media Elite* is a scholarly source that supports Kasparov's position.

But no matter, never mind – as was said of the philosophical dispute between Bishop Berkeley and David Hume. Watson and Kasparov both overstate their conflicting views about leftist influence in the media and the universities. Mr. Watson pretends that the issue of political balance at universities excites only the illiterati of talk radio, while Garry Kasparov strikes a posture that was becoming dated 15 years ago. These days, Marx and his liberal inamoratos are largely confined to litcrit asylums and academic cubbyholes where black-ruled Africa is viewed as a source of celestial effulgence rather than as a movie set for another *Towering Inferno*.

Mr. Watson got nearly everything wrong. This geyser of pishposh lacked even a vague idea about the politics of Larry Evans, yet he did not scruple at relying upon his ignorance. As for his tough-talking rehash of Kasparov's politics, it was downright silly. How else to describe his macho bluster about the *Wall Street Journal* editorial page being a 'notorious haven for right-wing hacks'? Oh, my! If the laddies writing opinion leaders for one of the world's two most powerful newspapers are 'hacks', then what are Mr. Watson and yours truly, who peddle piffle to *Kingpin*?

C'mon, Mr. Watson. Cut us some slack, will ya?

Reading through Mr. Watson's article prompts a thought similar to one I had after studying the beatific and beautifully lined visage of Grandma Norwood. Just as that traitorous crone smiles serenely at having served Joseph Stalin and Lavrenti Beria, who liked his ballerinas dead (though still warm), so Mr. Watson will never reassess his *Kingpin* article.

As Aristophanes wrote, 'Even if you persuade me, you won't persuade me.'

PART II: IM WATSON'S FIVE ARGUMENTS

IM Watson's response to my "letter" mentioned in Part I of "Mr. Winter's Watson Gambit" – a response that appeared concurrently in the Autumn 1999 *Kingpin* – was weaker than I had dared to hope. He made five arguments – which he labeled from "a" to "e" – that managed to be brief without getting to any point, except possibly one.

For IM Watson does get something close to right, though everywhere else he left points unanswered except by truculent, untruthful retreats from what he actually wrote. The method was to spew insults at my character without dealing with arguments that I raised.

Beginning with point "b" in IM Watson's response, he wrote: "When I talk about Evans' amazing insistence that the challenger for the FIDE world title had to win two matches to become world champion (based on an apparently intentional misreading of the rematch clause), a position which Evans defended with Parr's backing, Parr changes the subject completely to say that I have him defending Fischer's 10 – 8 clause!" IM Watson then accuses me of "blatant dishonesty."

My defense is that I had no idea what the man was trying to say in his original article. For, in truth, neither GM Evans nor this writer has ever written that the challenger had to win two matches before being awarded what FIDE calls its world title. We never denied that a challenger would receive the title after the first match. Our point was – well, here is our position in detail.

We believe that it makes no sense to divide a title defense into two separate phenomena of match and rematch. The chess world title is not merely a formal sanction of a world body; it is a valuable property with numerous lucrative appurtenances. Gaining a title for a short term and being obliged to spend much of this period preparing for a rematch is not meaningful possession of this property. To be granted two opportunities to maintain a long-term leasehold over such a property is an obvious advantage, whereas the individual who must twice conquer an opponent to profit from the title is placed at an enormous disadvantage. If the opponents are relatively equal, the statistical inequality is about three to one.

My error, thankfully confined to a couple of paragraphs, was to disallow the idea that IM Watson was making the ludicrously parsing argument that one gains a meaningful property when being obliged to prepare presently for its defense. For GM Evans and this writer, the rematch clause defined a single title defense in which the initial titleholder was granted two chances to maintain a long-term leasehold.

Ours was a real-world argument about actual value.

IM WATSON'S FIVE ARGUMENTS (cont'd)

IM Watson claimed that in the early 1980s, GM Lev Alburt advocated a first-strike against the Soviet Union. My reply was that GM Alburt denied making this statement and that, in any event, it was exceedingly unlikely that he did so because GM Alburt, though not IM Watson, knew that there WAS NO QUESTION OF THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHING A FIRST STRIKE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION IN THE EARLY 1980s. The debating point in those days was whether the Soviet Union enjoyed a "window of opportunity" to launch a first strike against the

United States. In his response under section "c", IM Watson writes feebly, "I used this as an example of how extreme one of the *Chess Life* authors had become. I wish that I hadn't: he was expressing a personal feeling and I apologize for using it."

Then, incredibly, IM Watson continues: "It would have been much better to give an example of one of the political comments from his [GM Alburts] articles, but I didn't have old *Chess Lifes* at hand." What a debased intellectual standard! This guy persists in a defamatory attack even though he STILL has not consulted source material. In his "The Facts," Mr. Winter attacks GM Evans for not consulting a copy of an obscure Filipino chess magazine (though GM Evans had no obvious reason to do so), while he directs readers to an article by a man who wishes – kinda – that he had consulted an easily available source to buttress an argument. The phrase, "double standard," does not do justice to Mr. Winter's subterranean standard.

Mr. Watson concluded in section "c": "[GM Alburts] just happens to have (or have had) some strong political views which he (very wrongly, in my opinion) incorporated into our chess federation's national magazine. That was the point, which Parr, of course, never addresses at all."

Hah! IM Watson defamed GM Alburts (and Viktor Korchnoi) in the context of a nasty attack on Russian émigrés that I quoted at length in my *Kingpin* "letter." Alburts's supposed statement was adduced as substance for what was otherwise a description offered without meat. My treatment, as given above, was to argue that the testimony of the Russian emigration has been largely confirmed by events and that, in any event, GM Alburts knew something about the nuclear balance in the early 1980s that the pathetically, though amusingly, uninformed IM Watson did not.

In section "a," IM Watson writes, "Nevertheless, I apologize if this characterisation ('right wing') confused anyone. This is the kind of casual article that requires a bit of mutual understanding and intelligent interpretation on the part of the reader."

Hah! Five-thousand words is "casual"? Mr. Winter disagrees. He called the article "detailed," betraying unwittingly the standard he employs for informational elaboration. I would call it long, and I would call IM Watson's "casual" statement an attempt to escape responsibility for anti-scholarship.

IM Watson argues that he was really using the phrase "right-wing" (and all of those nasty adjectives that he employed) "in the context of the political manipulation of CHESS news," though he admits, "Naturally, there's a good deal of overlap between what we call 'right-wing' in both the domestic and international realms, but I wasn't concerned with the broader use of the term."

Hah! IM Watson made no attempt at all in his article to limit the application of his nomenclature. None. Indeed, he specifically compared my political views, albeit unfavorably, with those of Ronald Reagan, who had nothing to do with chess. He wrote that GM Evans is a "highly-politicised right-wing" columnist without any qualification of the term.

The truth is that IM Watson mindlessly equated strong anti-Communism with a right-wing agenda because he was completely unacquainted with the intellectual history of the so-called "New York intellectuals." The truth is that he did not scruple at relying on 60s-ish ignorance of particulars to mischaracterize GM Evans' political position.

In section "e," IM Watson responds to my statement that "we ought not to hold our breath, waiting for the day when Mr. Watson writes about 'stridently' anti-Nazi columnists." Surprisingly, he agrees that we ought not to hold our breath because he has yet to find someone meriting the adjective-adverb, "stridently," in the American chess press. Unsurprisingly, he says that he would use the word "stridently," if he could but find an example of an anti-Nazi writer in chess who merited the hit. He leaves unaddressed my actual point that "there is no more practical sense in outdated liberal chatter about 'strident' anti-Communism than there would be in someone's mincing imbecility about 'strident' anti-Nazism. After all, the most strident words will never inflate the truth about the 300,000-plus bodies uncovered at a Stalinist mass grave near Minsk or make more hideous the actual vision of those burning pits at Auschwitz."

Finally, in section "d," IM Watson responds to none of the specific points that I raised about his attack on Kasparov. He speaks of my "contortions" without detailing even one of them. However, he does let something out of the *Kingpin* bag of editorial practices:

Parr's original version of this letter [lie: IM Watson knows that it was written – with payment offered – as an article.] was even more delightful, containing, for example, this wonderful accusation: 'At no point does Mr. Watson summon the elemental grace to distinguish between the views of Larry Evans, who lost a brother to the Nazis going up the boot of Italy, and Fischer's denial of the Holocaust.' It takes a sort of demented originality to even make such an inspired accusation, and I have to admit that I laughed out loud.

Readers may wonder what the above is all about. The *Kingpin* editor, one Jonathan Manley, commissioned an article from me in response to IM Watson's piece. We agreed on 5,000 words, and I wrote the article. The editor said that the "article" was, alas, too long. We agreed on 3,500 words, which he explicitly accepted as an "article." He printed the piece as a letter-to-the-editor in six-point type, offering payment that I refused. One would note further that IM Watson received the right of concurrent response, whereas we targets of the man's initial attack did not.

So, then, IM Watson chose to attack an argument that never appeared in print, though he lacked the honesty to explain to *Kingpin* readers why the above paragraph got cut. Namely, I cut the argument because the editor pleaded that his initial 5,000-word limit had been too optimistic and that 3,500 words would have to suffice.

Here is what I wrote in a context that IM Watson chose to omit:

One of Mr. Watson's more unsavory ploys is tarring others with the Fischer political brush. He accuses those with whom he disagrees of having radical politics (in this instance, of the Right) and then recounts Fischer's demonic silliness about Jewish conspiracies. In the case of Kasparov he accuses the world champion of serving up "characterisations of countries" such as Spain under Francisco Franco and Chile under Augusto Pinochet "which are about as accurate as Fischer's portrayal of World Jewish Government." Outright piffle. Kasparov may be wrong, but he is wrong in a far more legitimate way than Fischer. At no point does Mr. Watson summon the elemental grace to distinguish between the views of Larry Evans, who lost a brother to the Nazis going up the boot of Italy, and Fischer's denial of the Holocaust.

I stand by what I wrote. IM Watson attempted to equate Fischer's loonball stuff with mainstream conservative thinking on some important issues. Indeed, he took my final sentence in the above paragraph out of context because he knew that *Kingpin* readers would be unable to reference this unpublished portion.

FAIR IS FAIR

Given that IM Watson felt it fair to quote from the unpublished version of my *Kingpin* "letter," I think that fair is fair. Here is a section that I chose to omit after GM Evans respectfully requested that it be deleted because it made IM Watson appear an ingrate:

And while on the subject of affirmations, *Kingpin* readers ought to know that political polemics aside, this writer harbors no ill will toward John Watson, who lies partially paralyzed from a recent stroke. He is undergoing a long and expensive program of physical rehabilitation that is being paid for in part by a \$20,000 contribution from the Players' Health and Benefit Fund of the U. S. Chess Federation. Ironically, Larry Evans originated the idea behind this Fund, having once been prevented from speaking in its favor at an annual Delegates' Meeting by some of Mr. Watson's political confreres. All of which, of course, signifies nothing about the quality of Mr. Watson's research and arguments. There are few things uglier than giving a man a shirt and then telling him how to wear it. Larry Evans and I are delighted that Mr. Watson can make use of the Fund. His doing so is unrelated to the adequacy or inadequacy of his advocacy.

The measure of Larry Evans the Man, whom Mr. Winter labeled as "shameless" in his "Facts" attack, is that he begged me not to publish the above. I do not still have his private e-mail on the subject, but I recall the thrust of his comments: "Please, please, Larry, drop this sh-t. It is unfair to John Watson to make him appear an ingrate. I did NOT advocate this fund to help him specifically. I advocated it on account of so many chess friends who died in charity wards or on the streets. I am very happy that Watson is being helped with a fund that I proposed. What significance have these chess arguments when compared with another person's health? Nothing. So, please just drop the matter."

WHAT IM WATSON LEFT UNADDRESSED

In his *Kingpin* response, IM Watson could say nothing about the following points (in addition to the unaddressed items mentioned above in "IM WATSON'S FIVE ARGUMENTS" and "IM WATSON'S FIVE ARGUMENTS [cont'd]"):

IM Watson wrote that GM Evans was a "highly-politicised right-wing," "stridently" anti-Communist columnist. (Leave aside for a moment how one goes about being "stridently" anti-Communist, given the 100-million plus corpses the system left behind this past century.) Yet this "stridently" anti-Communist author was investigated by the FBI for possibly being pro-Communist because of his virulent opposition to America's involvement in Vietnam. The supposed "stridently" anti-Communist Evans incurred the anger of conservatives for playing chess in Cuba without State Department permission. How did these points square with IM Watson's description of GM Evans' politics – even if one accepts IM Watson's false statement that he was referring only to chess and anti-Soviet politics when using the phrase, "right-wing"? These points did not square with IM Watson's nomenclature, which is why the man dropped the subject. Having recommended IM Watson's article to readers, one wonders whether Mr. Winter stands by this ploy.

IM Watson buttons his lip about Viktor Korchnoi. He earlier prattled impudently about unspecified problems with the man, thereby blackening a name without providing a single charge that could be addressed. Guilt by snide non-accusation. Having recommended IM Watson's article to his readers, one wonders whether Mr. Winter stands by this standard.

IM Watson claimed that I was given to "staunch" worshipping at the "altar" of Bobby Fischer. In my "letter" I quoted chapter and verse from the writings of GM Evans and myself on Bobby Fischer. Among other things, we wrote in a newspaper editorial of nearly a decade ago, "Our conscience would not permit us to play chess in the Yugoslavia of ethnic cleansers; Bobby's conscience, assuming that he has one, permits him to take money from evil men who do evil things. Fischer may not be someone whose hand you would shake. But he is no criminal." We concluded that with so-called "staunch" worshippers such as GM Evans and myself, Fischer needed no apostates. From IM Watson: Stupid Silence. Having recommended IM Watson's article to his readers, one wonders whether Mr. Winter stands by this rank failure to address an argument.

IM Watson employed animal language in describing my political views. The words "rabid" and "rabidity" foamed, as it were, from his pen. My response was to note my editorship for several years of a publication on the Soviet Union that featured such contributors as Nobel Peace laureate Andrei Sakharov, Boris Yeltsin and others. "Over 400 members of the U. S. Congress were subscribers," I wrote. In truth IM Watson had not the foggiest notion about my politics which are very close to those of GM Evans except on the issues of abortion (I am opposed) and capital punishment (I am opposed). From IM Watson: Stupid Silence. Having recommended IM Watson's article to his readers, one wonders whether Mr. Winter stands by IM Watson's obvious lack of research for what Mr. Winter called a "detailed" article. IM Watson, by the way, called it "casual" and then casually admits that he never consulted the writings of GM Alburk in *Chess Life*, even while refusing to withdraw a poisonous serving of defamation. I call the article "long," and I say that Mr. Winter's skewed description of the piece as "detailed" is unspeakable. Readers will have to judge for themselves.

IM Watson compared Garry Kasparov's argument that there are vital distinctions between totalitarian and authoritarian regimes and that liberal quasi-Marxists are fashionable in "prestigious universities and magazines" with the views of "leaders of militia movements." In my "letter," I noted that even thoughtful Democrats, including Zbigniew Brzezinski or, for that matter, Daniel Moynihan, would agree. From IM Watson: Stupid Silence. Having recommended IM Watson's article to his readers, one wonders whether Mr. Winter stands by its ludicrous rehearsal of GM Kasparov's views.

AM I TARRING WINTER WITH THE WATSON BRUSH?

Of course, I am.

Edward Winter tried to tar GM Evans with the same brush. He referenced IM Watson's "Chess and Politics" as some kind of proof that "Evans cuts no more of a credible figure" in "his

politicking" than "in the rest of his output." He said that IM Watson's work contained "such observations on Evans as: 'huge bias'; 'long histories of ignoring and distorting evidence' and 'Evans' absurd arguments.'"

The gravamen of this essay is that Mr. Winter unwittingly revealed the standard of historical and political writing that he finds adequate. In effect, he wantonly directed his readers to 5,000 words of swill because he wished to toss more slop at GM Evans.

"We have seen," wrote Mr. Winter of GM Evans in his "The Facts," "that he treats his readers with disdain by not even making a token bid for basic precision, let alone quality."

We now understand what Mr. Winter regards as "quality" writing: John Watson's "Chess and Politics." We now understand what Mr. Winter means by NOT holding his readers in disdain: Directing them to spend their valuable time wading through 5,000 words of unhistorical stupidity.

SECTION III: THE BOYS IN THE BANDWIDTH

Nowhere is the appetite for bogus revelation – most notably, a hunger for Edward Winter's "The Facts About Larry Evans" – more ravenous than at the ChessCafe. A ratpack of favored diners hangs about in the buffet line at a greasy spoon called the bulletin board, a censored forum that refuses to serve spicy dishes that might upset the digestion of certain privileged feeders.

The boys in the bandwidth at the ChessCafe are largely those who swallow whole or, alternatively, cook up attacks against grandmasters such as Garry Kasparov, Raymond Keene and Larry Evans. Two recent threads are Nos. 317 and 335, where the targets are, respectively, GMs Keene and Evans. Thread No. 335 contained the fallout from Edward Winter's article, "The Facts About Larry Evans," which appeared in the Cafe Skittles Room on June 6.

To capture the decorum at the Cafe diner's club, just imagine any of the food fights described by P. G. Wodehouse at the Drones Club. But unlike the latter institution, there is a lurking figure of authority that ensures privileged feeders are not left with egg on their face. That figure of authority is the bulletin board editor, who writes on the Cafe menu in red letters, "We reserve the right, in our absolute discretion, to edit or refuse to post anything we deem inappropriate."

Love that word, "inappropriate." It is a lawyer's word that may mean anything. I discovered one of its definitions this past May when I wrote a long posting for thread No. 317 that quite effectively debunked several attacks on and attackers of Ray Keene. My strategy was to send in the piece about 48 hours before an officially posted deadline of June 1. Several days earlier, GM Keene had gone on the offensive and silenced many of the ratpackers (who, given the divisions in the chess world, are generally the same persons attacking GMs Kasparov and Evans); and my idea was to toss one big egg omelette – you can't make an omelette unless you break a few eggs – at the ratpackers just as the Cafe proprietors were snipping the thread.

I was playing by the posted rules.

But as I say, the Cafe has long-time customers, who are not to be left with omelettes on their face. Some of these diners are contributors to portions of the Cafe menu, and others have business relations with the proprietor. My omelette, therefore, became "inappropriate" and got the spike. The long meal of thread No. 317 ended after the 65th course rather than my 66th serving. The story and the omelette are served below under the subheading, "MANAGED DEBATE."

But first, some words about the censorship of thread No. 335 – a censorship that matches at least one of the censorship standards in the late Soviet Union.

SOVIET-STYLE CENSORSHIP

The difference between the all-encompassing censorship of Soviet publications and the selective culling of unwanted words in the Cafe menu is the difference between counterproductive dishonesty and intelligent dishonesty. The proprietors understand that the Cafe must serve a few forbidden fruits if its custom is not to suffer, but they also wish to guide serious disputes involving favorites to predetermined outcomes. If that requires spiking postings of one side at KEY MOMENTS in a debate, then so be it.

Still, there is a very interesting similarity between Cafe and Soviet censorship. I refer to censoring the very mention of censorship. In the old Soviet Union, there was a thick volume jocularly known among censors as "The Talmud," which contained many items that could not be reported. Forest fires, for example, could not be mentioned even as smoke choked major cities. Too, when the Soviets exploded a 90-megaton hydrogen bomb in the Arctic that shook windows in Moscow, the explosion went unreported. "The Talmud" also said that the existence of "The Talmud" and censorship was not to be published.

The fate of a posting submitted by one Michael Charles is foul even by ChessCafe standards.

The story begins with an initial letter by Lawrence Zimmerman, a key Evans defender during the censored debate on the Cafe bulletin board. This first letter was published, and it was attacked. Mr. Zimmerman responded with a piece that contained several points not mentioned

in his first letter, contrary to claims by censorship apologists among the ratpackers. This second letter was rejected *in toto* because Mr. Zimmerman had the temerity to mention that Edward Winter resorts to the despicable ploy of recycling errors of opponents that have been acknowledged and even corrected. Here is the offending passage:

3 Great Mistakes. "We have seen, for instance, that in three separate games (Quesada v Prins, Borochoff v Fine and Thomas v Michell) he failed in that most elementary task of a chess writer: to know who won and who lost." (Winter) BOROCHOW-FINE (see above). PRINS-QUESADA. In a reply quoted by Mr. Winter, GM Evans stated: "I stand corrected." What more can be expected? THOMAS-MITCHELL (or Michell, who cares?). Maybe it was wrong in the first edition (which I don't have) but my copy of [Evans'] *The 10 Most Common Chess Mistakes* correctly states that White (not Black) lost. Big deal. What book is perfect? To err is human. In a long and distinguished career GM Evans has won several Olympic gold medals as well as many tournaments; he also collaborated on *My 60 Memorable Games* and helped Fischer ascend to the world championship; he penned tons of words and garnered numerous journalism awards. But Mr. Winter, who boasts nothing comparable, is obsessed with trivial mistakes, typos and wrong dates. He can't see the forest for the trees. He can only splatter mud. What a small man.

Ouch! Mr. Zimmerman was escorted to the Cafe dining room door in no uncertain terms. Edward Winter may call GM Evans "shameless," but Mr. Zimmerman could not conclude that Mr. Winter is "a small man" for slovenly research in which he blamed GM Evans for errors either acknowledged or corrected in a later edition of a particular book. We shall see in the next section of this work, "[Fast with the Facts](#)", that the sloppy Mr. Winter failed to realize or, quite possibly, failed to mention that errors he cited had already been corrected.

Enter or, more accurately, not enter Michael Charles. He sent the following would-be posting to the ChessCafe bulletin board:

Sirs

I don't believe that Larry Evans has been treated fairly on this [ChessCafe] bulletin board, which is supposed to be a level playing field. I just finished reading Lawrence Zimmerman's letter on rgcp which refutes most of Edward Winter's charges (see Mr. Winter's Humbug, June 15). This is a real eye-opener and I can't understand why it was rejected on this bulletin board as noted by GM Evans in The Skittles Room. And why was Larry Parr's piece on Keene and his Critics also rejected here?

Bah, humbug, indeed!

—Michael Charles

Alas for Mr. Charles. He committed the sin of exposing censorship at ChessCafe and expected the letter to appear on the bulletin board there. The proprietors of the Cafe have taken a leaf from that mighty Soviet book of censorship, "The Talmud." GM Evans, of course, understood full well that the Cafe bulletin board is censored, and he announced in a short piece in "The Skittles Room" that he would reply to Edward Winter's stuff elsewhere. He mentioned that I would also be writing about Mr. Winter's attack on the free forums, given my experience with thread No. 317: MANAGED DEBATE

Here, then, is the story *in extenso* telling why I find myself posting on as many forums as possible EXCEPT the policed ChessCafe bulletin board. Mr. Winter gets his free pass at the Cafe by virtue of editorial muscle exercised by his business associates. His publisher (of books and feature pieces) gets to decide what criticism of him will appear during debates just as that same publisher decided to protect the critics of Ray Keene as related below.

MANAGED DEBATE

The ChessCafe bulletin board has never enjoyed a high reputation as a level debating field. It is closely monitored, and as the management puts the matter in words which are highlighted in red italics: "We reserve the right, in our absolute discretion, to edit or refuse to post anything

we deem inappropriate.”

What follows is a posting by yours truly that was deemed inappropriate in toto and that fell afoul of “absolute discretion.”

No one, least of all myself, would question the right of the Cafe proprietors to keep unwanted diners out of their buffet line. I have never supported public accommodations laws, and if this particular jiveass chess honkie is unwanted online (or in line) at that particular bulletin board, then – really – so what?

A CASE STUDY

Beginning this past April 12, a long thread snaked across the Cafe bulletin board. At last count – which may be the final count – 65 postings appeared. Thousands of words were devoted to the subject of GM Raymond Keene’s activities. Charge upon charge, intermixed with dollops of personal abuse, was hurled at GM Keene.

Exercising their “absolute discretion,” the editors of the Cafe bulletin board okayed these wallops of dollops. Moreover, they were right to do so.

Then GM Keene gave the screw a turn. He issued several strongly worded denials which his attackers left unaddressed, prompting a writer generally friendly toward the English grandmaster to suggest (unwisely in my view) that the debate be terminated. The bulletin board editors jumped at the suggestion and set June 1, as a deadline for any further contributions.

Two days before this deadline, I sent the following posting to the Cafe bulletin board, which juxtaposed several of the attacks with explanations offered by GM Keene.

For some 16 hours, I received no response whatsoever from the Bulletin Board editors. Fearing that they might hold the piece or deny receiving it (though I sent one copy in attachment and a second in standard e-mail form), I dispatched a message of inquiry. “I sent a posting to ChessCafe,” I wrote, “concerning the brouhaha surrounding Raymond Keene’s doings. Did you folks receive it? I send it again in this message via both attachment and in e-mail form.”

An answer came quickly. They had indeed received my Keene piece. BUT: “The thread is being terminated tomorrow after almost two months. Your proposed submission is also much too long.” Notice the word “also.” What was “also” wrong?

I responded within minutes: “I thought that I [easily] made the deadline as posted. What are the length restrictions for the Bulletin Board? Of course, as noted, you have absolute discretion to reject this defense of Ray Keene after publishing tens of thousands of words in attack. That is your right, and I don’t dispute it. So, if you don’t mind, could you just say outright that you do not wish to publish it, and I will post it immediately on all of the possible other bulletin boards. Yours, Larry.”

Evidently someone did “mind.” Because: No response. Because: No one was prepared to say anything “outright.”

Managed debate by privately run internet businesses is not a violation of free speech rights – no matter how intellectually filthy the exercise of “absolute discretion” may be in given instances. I feel no “chill” wafting around my First Amendment rights. In truth, not even the wisp of a cool breeze. That’s one side of the coin.

The other side of the coin is that we may also draw conclusions about the intellectual hygiene of those serving the Cafe bulletin buffet. I find their intellectual sanitation to be soiled. In truth, dirty.

A case study, you might say, of the baloney rejecting the grinder.

WHAT CHESSCAFE WOULD NOT PRINT

To the editor of the Bulletin Board at Chess Cafe.

Here is a contribution before your deadline that I would like to offer to thread No. 317 on the doings of Raymond Keene. I earlier sent this piece as an attachment and here give it as an e-mail message in case you prefer receiving contributions in this form.

Yours, Larry Parr

317-?? IM Ricardo Calvo and others suggest that this thread come to an end. The editors of this Bulletin Board appear to agree. I disagree. The attackers against Raymond Keene's doings should be given every opportunity to air the laundry until they quit the enterprise. Indeed, the polemical worm has turned in the past week or so; and Mr. Keene has provided answers in which he makes specific claims that the attackers must refute or leave The Hunt. The political subtext behind the assault on Mr. Keene's activities is that his attackers wish to pry him out of his jobs at *The Times* and *The Spectator*. The idea is to muck on enough mud until it begins to stick. Not, however, that there is anything wrong *per se* in attempting to destroy the livelihood and influence of Mr. Keene. He is a public figure, and his attackers will argue that he deserves to be destroyed.

Here is a brief reprise of Attackers vs. Keene on this forum:

First, a bit of background. Suzanne Martin, former CEO of Brain Games Network (BGN), charged that the Russian mafia laundered money by funneling funds through BGN. The story broke on April 8 in the un-brainy British tabloid, *News of the World*, which is read by lots of young men interested mainly in the latest starlet's gluteal gestalt. But Ms. Martin's charge had to be answered.

I understand GM Keene's answer as playing the Orthodox line of the Due Diligence Defense. In No. 317-19, he writes: "The money was raised by City of London stockbrokers Williams de Broe and paid into the client account of Lincolns Inn Lawyers Edwin Coe. By UK law money paid in via solicitors must be checked by them in advance against the possibility of money laundering – it is absolutely clear, therefore, that the investment in Brain Games was honest money from bona fide investors paid in the clearest possible way ... if the money which goes in is checked by lawyers and stockbrokers and is clean – and the money goes out to identified and legitimate sources [*i.e.*, Kramnik and Kasparov] – logic dictates that there can be very little room left for money laundering!"

One Montgomery Church responded in No. 317-21: "Then in 317-19 Calvo quotes Keene, but the latter's 'explanation' still reveals nothing about the origin of the funding. So we are no further forward than with the laconic 'private investments' comment (317-4) that Mr. Keene made to Calvo during the match last year."

I warrant that most readers understand that we are considerably "further forward." Mr. Keene is saying that he undertook scrupulous due diligence to avoid laundered money and that he has the legal commitment of Lincolns Inn Lawyers Edwin Coe that the money is clean. That counts for something. In truth, rather a lot. At no point does Keene ever deny that mafia money might not have found its way into the match. There is no way to prove this kind of negative. But for most people, a due diligence defense has to be shaken by the attackers. This defense has not been shaken or, for that matter, even touched upon.

Secondly, Mr. Keene claims outright in No. 317-50, "Today (May 17) we received an apology from the *News of the World* plus a cheque for almost three thousand pounds for BGN's costs. Newspapers, especially rich and powerful ones with virtually unlimited investigative resources, do not like to admit that they are wrong, so i [*sic*] feel the papers [*sic*] retraction and payment indicates that BGN has proven its probity in this respect." Mr. Keene says that *News of the World* got cold feet and bailed out. This is either a stupid, outright lie on his part or, well, the truth. To shake this response, the critics must come forward to deny that he received such a check and such an apology. Otherwise, we can draw the conclusion that Mr. Keene's claim is probative.

Thirdly, Mr. Keene claims that one Sue Hale produced a draft agreement of a contract rather than a binding legal document. Once again, Mr. Keene is either lying with imbecilic abandon, or he is telling the truth. If we are to continue to pay any heed to critics who talk about BGN abandoning chess orphans to chill Caissic penury, the critics must argue that there was a binding agreement on the part of BGN.

Fourthly, there was a wintry contretemps over whether Mr. Keene somehow lied when claiming that Garry Kasparov had a five-year contract with BGN. Mr. Keene responded that such an agreement existed at the time that he wrote the claim in his book of the Kramnik-Kasparov match, but that such a contract lapsed at a later date. This claim makes sense on its face, and

no attacker has since disputed it. Once again, most people will assume that the charge was smoke unless the attackers can return with some new ammunition.

Fifthly, attackers have said that Mr. Keene defrauded the British Chess Federation. In No. 317-61, Mr. Keene responded, "I deny ever having defrauded the BCF and they have not taken any action against me." Forget about Mr. Keene's denial. That is to be expected. Mr. Keene's key claim here is that the BCF folks "have not taken any action against me." True or a blatant lie?

Fraud is serious. For a charge of it to be taken seriously, the supposed victim must be seen to seek redress in the courts. Moreover, Mr. Keene is not in himself an enormous corporation. Those who feel abused can bring action against him without feeling that they are battling General Electric. Has the BCF sought either civil or criminal redress against Mr. Keene? Mr. Keene denies that either is the case. The critics must respond by pointing out the civil or criminal action, or we must begin to use a word other than "fraud" and start talking about political battles among discordant personalities.

Sixthly, the attackers have said that Mr. Keene took 50,000 pounds from Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO), which was somehow a fishy act that smelled financially. In 317-47, Mr. Keene responds, "[B]y the way, as CEO of the company, I had the absolute right to do this and the board of MSO Ltd has supported me since then and I remain CEO." Once again, forget Mr. Keene's boiler plate about having an "absolute right" to do this or that. His key claims are: 1. The Board of MSO approved his expenditure of 50,000 pounds; and 2. The Board continues to employ him as CEO of this company. True – or two utterly unconscionable and moronic lies? Readers of this forum await for the attackers to return and to deny that the MSO Board okayed this expenditure and to deny that Mr. Keene remains as CEO at the discretion of the Board. If they cannot do so, then Mr. Keene's claim that the Board okayed his action is probative – to say the least. If they cannot do so and if the Board of the supposed injured party continues to pay for Mr. Keene's services, then one may possibly assume that the charges were more smoke.

Seventhly, writes Mr. Keene in No. 317-47: "Elsewhere a correspondent claims that I admitted I used £50,000 to set up Brain Games. Absolutely untrue. It wasn't used for that and I never admitted it!" Did Mr. Keene ever admit to having used £50,000 to set up Brain Games? He appends an "!" to his denial. The critics must come up with the claimed admission, or Mr. Keene's strong denial, when considered together with his continued employment as MSO CEO, has probative value.

Eighthly, Mr. Keene refuses to defend himself against charges that appeared in *Kingpin*. He does not enjoy the magazine and avoids it as a general rule. For myself, I think that the magazine is a good read, though probably not worth the subscription price. But my lineage is Scots, and I'm cheap. Still, I can understand Mr. Keene's fears that *Kingpin* will not provide a level playing field. The magazine is a prime example of reverential irreverence – of lachrymose personalities who take themselves seriously. Such putatively open-minded people are usually the most close-minded. Old St. Mugg wrote about their types when describing his years as the editor of *Punch*, though I am not suggesting here that *Kingpin* is remotely the magazine either in quality or, of course, influence that *Punch* once was.

In the Spring 1999 issue, John Watson published "Chess and Politics." Among those attacked were GM Larry Evans, Garry Kasparov and myself. I wrote a 3,500-word "letter to the editor" in which I defended Evans and, to a lesser, extent Kasparov. Therein lies a story. Editor Jonathan Manley sent me several e-mails in which we discussed an "article" to appear in his magazine. I wanted 5,000 words, which was about the length of Mr. Watson's piece. He said okay, and I sent him 5,000 words. He then begged about space, and we agreed on an "article" of 3,500 words. I edited down the piece to exactly 3,500 words and made it better.

Whereupon, the "article" appeared in six-point type as a letter to the editor! Needless to say, Mr. Manley did not consult me about printing a long article as a letter to the editor. Mr. Manley sent me a check for my efforts. I returned the check because no honest editor should ever pay for a "letter to the editor," and no writer should ever accept payment if that is how his work appears in print. Mr. Watson was then given the right of concurrent reply to the "letters" of GM Evans and myself. My conclusion is that GM Keene would do best to avoid *Kingpin* because the reverentially irreverent editor cannot be relied upon to provide an honest forum.

A few words directly to GM Keene: You cannot rely upon any e-mails from Mr. Manley in which he states repeatedly that your work will appear as an "article." My advice is not to enter-

tain intellectual commerce with the gent.

Look, GM Keene, you have a track record of going your own way and of ignoring advice. But just read, reread and peruse again and again and again Mr. Manley's words in No. 317-60: "It is true that Ray Keene and Peter Kemmis Betty once interviewed me for the post of Batsford chess editor, and I must confess that my failure to land that plum job was a crushing blow which has left me tormented and embittered. I sometimes wonder how my professional and personal life might have been enriched had I only been given this opportunity to study at close quarters the standards of professionalism, integrity and openness for which Mr. Keene commands world renown."

GM Keene: with or without reason, this man hates your intestines. Mr. Manley tries to pen jaunty irony, but that pen has a broad and bold rather than a fine and light point. The blithe soufflé falls flat. I warrant that virtually every reader on this Bulletin Board caught the enduring hurt. And, too, Mr. Manley did not declare his interest in the pages of *Kingpin* when publishing attacks on you. I think that most observers will understand if you steer clear of the pages controlled by this obviously disappointed man.

HARRWITZ vs. MORPHY

Edward Winter and the ratpackers enjoy a censored home field at the ChessCafe bulletin board. Their chief targets are Grandmasters Larry Evans, Garry Kasparov and Raymond Keene. The attackers of the three are, by and large, the same for all three. They are also, by and large, FIDE apologists. Indeed, Mr. Winter's *Chess Notes* was once distributed throughout the world by FIDE, and for quite some time, Mr. Winter wrote about FIDE issues without disclosing a financial interest that he had in the form of subscriptions from that corrupt international chess body. He was evidently not notably fastidious concerning income sources.

GM Raymond Keene outlined the extensive measures he took to ensure that the Kramnik-Kasparov match would attract unlaundered, unsoiled money. One wonders whether Mr. Winter performed due diligence on the source of FIDE monies flowing to his bank account – indeed, an amount sufficient to become a FIDE budget item. We do not anticipate that the ratpackers will tender the same questions to Mr. Winter that they tossed at GM Keene.

The good news is that there are uncensored bulletin boards in the chess world, such as the one on which this essay is appearing. Mr. Winter is perfectly free to respond to what I have written in this long series of articles, and he will have every expectation that the response will not be quashed or even edited.

Some 140 years ago, Daniel Harrwitz experienced enormous difficulty in showing up for a ninth match game against Paul Morphy, when trailing by three points. Earlier, at a moment when he led two-to-one, he encountered no similar obstacles. Mr. Winter and the ratpackers had their lengthy innings on a censored homefield. Now, the play of dialectic has shifted to an arena without special fences erected by a home team.

Will Mr. Winter appear on this totally level playing field? I hope so.

SECTION IV: FAST WITH THE FACTS

FAST EDDIE, PART I

“Plain facts seldom stand a chance. A small example of the Evans approach to historical truth arises from his December 1999 column, which included the following: ‘Wilhelm Steinitz was 50 when he defeated Johannes Zukertort (44) in 1892.’ In the February 2000 *Chess Life* we pointed out that this seemed improbable, given that Zukertort had died in 1888. Mr. Evans responded tartly that the matter was unimportant because ‘obviously 1892 was a typo instead of 1872.’ Still not even the right decade.” – Edward Winter, *Kingpin* (Spring 2000)

“‘Bah,’ said Scrooge. ‘Humbug!’” – Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

Humbug indeed!

Edward Winter’s “The Facts About Larry Evans,” a long attack on Grandmaster Evans, which appeared in the ChessCafe “Skittles Room” from June 6 to 20, was a ploy to deflect attention from a lie. To paraphrase W. H. Auden loosely, it was a “low dishonest” and very stupid lie. A lie that Mr. Winter retailed in the Spring 2000 *Kingpin* magazine and that GM Evans detailed in the pages of *Chess Life* (July 2001).

For a mortal moment early last year, Edward Winter allowed his cold canker to overcome his cold calculation. As he sat before his computer keyboard or his typewriter or, mayhap, as he sat hunched in a shawl in a freezing room with a Scrooge quill in his hand, he was overcome by the frosty fire within him. The truth or, more accurately, the “facts” of name spellings, footnote references and dates could no longer still that chilly rage. The barren satisfaction of “facts” could no longer appease.

And so, Mr. Winter lied with the motive to humiliate.

Let’s nail that loathsome lie.

But first, this article and “Fast Eddie, Part II” are concerned with Mr. Winter’s lies in “The Facts” and elsewhere at the ChessCafe. These lies are structural (deliberately constructing false arguments), substantive (deliberate misrepresentations), and rhetorical (most often, hyperbole intended to injure rather than to limn distinctions).

Now, back to Mr. Winter’s lie in *Kingpin*.

Notice this independent clause in *Kingpin*: “A small example of the Evans approach to historical truth arises from his December 1999 column [in an answer titled “The Age Factor”].” To speak of “historical truth” when discussing a couple of dates is, to be sure, an unwitting example of sophomoric intellection that is all too common in our world of chess. But to refer to the “example” as “small,” when one considers that Mr. Winter would later devote several hundred words of “The Facts” screed to the “example,” suggests a transparently dishonest rhetorical device meant to imply that there are other greater enormities waiting to be retailed even as the “small” matter consumes considerable space. Readers are not expected to notice the contradiction. Readers are not expected to ask this question: If the “example” is “small” and if it consumes about 10 percent of the “The Facts,” then why not handle “big” examples, if there really are such?

Here, then, is how the lie got told.

Mr. Winter speaks of “the Evans approach” (not a mistake by a reader) to this thing called “historical truth” in an answer dealing with age in chess. He is writing for an English audience that he knows contains very few readers of *Chess Life* who would be aware that GM Evans conducts a Question-and-Answer column. He then states that this “Evans approach” to historical truth “arises” from “his” December 1999 column. There immediately follows the quotation from a reader’s letter separated only by a colon: “Wilhelm Steinitz was 50 when he defeated Johannes Zukertort (44) in 1892.” Only a ratpacker will argue that Mr. Winter’s intent was anything other than to mislead his readers into believing that GM Evans rather than a reader

made the claim that Steinitz defeated Zukertort in 1892. Not content with espousing a line of play missed by the grandmaster (correcting the reader's error), Mr. Winter had to imply – with the obvious motive to humiliate an opponent – that GM Evans penned the quoted words.

One of Mr. Winter's structural lies in "The Facts" is his understandable unwillingness to reproduce exactly what he wrote in *Kingpin*. Mr. Winter introduces the subject of his lie under the subhead "Johannes Zukertort (1842 – 1888)." He writes of GM Evans, "He poses as the innocent victim of a large fuss about a simple, obvious typo that was not his fault [SUBSTANTIVE LIE: GM Evans accepted responsibility for the error in his column, even though it appeared in a reader's letter.], also averring that in discussing the matter I misled readers of *Kingpin* in a 'sly' and 'vile' way."

At which point, Mr. Winter promises "the facts rather than the fantasy." Does he quote what he actually wrote in *Kingpin*? No way. He rehearses errors already conceded by GM Evans concerning the ages of Steinitz and Zukertort and the date of their title match.

Under the next subhead, "Questions and answers," Mr. Winter still refuses to address the adequacy of GM Evans' answer to a question about chess and aging. He continues: "But of course the real issue is Evans' allegation that I misled *Kingpin* readers." But then: he CHANGES THE SUBJECT in the very next sentence: "His [GM Evans'] attempted distinction between what he publishes from readers and what he publishes as his answers indicates that he rejects responsibility for checking information received from his correspondents." Dishonest nonsense. GM Evans' point was, as demonstrated above, that Mr. Winter attributed errors to him that were actually made by a reader. He accepted responsibility for letting the reader's mistakes get past him.

At which point, Mr. Winter switches subjects without ever addressing the claim that he lied through his teeth. Mr. Winter announces on page five of the printout, "I write more about Evans' false accusation regarding *Kingpin* in a later section below entitled 'Obsessions, fantasies, distortions and solecisms.'"

One turns to page nine for the promised disquisition on "Evans' false accusation." Once again, Mr. Winter does not quote for the reader what he himself wrote in *Kingpin* and does not even attempt to demonstrate that GM Evans' charge is false. Unable to address the charge directly by quoting his own words and showing them to be true, he offers a false analogy fit only for his ratpackers:

In any case, let's suppose that a *Chess Life* reader proudly contributes to 'Evans on Chess' a score of an unpublished simultaneous game won against Bobby Fischer. I subsequently wrote, 'An excellent unknown Fischer game has appeared in Evans' column', would he seriously object to that phraseology on the grounds that the game was in a reader's question and not in his answer?

Wow!

What utter contempt Mr. Winter must have for the intelligence of his ratpackers. As one correspondent wrote when picking apart the above: "What Winter did, however, was closer to the following: Suppose a reader submits faulty analysis – which happens all the time Would it be fair to say that faulty analysis appeared in Evans' column, thus creating the false impression that Evans produced the faulty analysis?"

Faulty analysis? Here is how Mr. Winter's "The Facts" screed could also have read, employing the man's sly misdirection: "A small example of the Evans approach to analytical truth arises from his December 1999 column, which included the following: 'Wilhelm Steinitz overlooked mate in five when playing'"

A couple of readers noticed how Mr. Winter split his response to GM Evans' allegation about lying in *Kingpin* into two parts, promising to address the subject again in a separate section about 2,000 words later. The ploy was to add a lot of intervening text in the expectation that many readers would fail to notice that Mr. Winter never actually addressed the charge that he lied in *Kingpin*. This kind of structural lie is an old technique among polemicists, and it works well against casual readers. Call it rhetorical coitus interruptus.

In "The Facts," Mr. Winter thrice repeated in varying words the substantive lie that GM Evans "rejects responsibility for checking information received from his correspondents." As he put the

matter after noting errors made by GM Evans, "How many of the above mistakes can he try to brush aside on the grounds they were merely in readers' questions and not in his answers? None. They were all in his answers." Well, of course, they were! And GM Evans never suggested otherwise and never suggested that he would wish to blame readers for his own mistakes.

Once again, the issue is not whether GM Evans accepts responsibility for mistakes in readers' letters. He acknowledges his errors readily. The issue is that Mr. Winter lied coldly, calculatedly and viciously when misleading *Kingpin* readers that a mistaken sentence came directly from the pen of GM Evans. The Swiss mister twisted and turned – lying that GM Evans will not accept responsibility, then changing the subject, and then dividing his answer into two sections – but he never addressed the charge that he lied through his teeth in *Kingpin*. Indeed, he never repeated what he wrote in that magazine, even excising the relevant quotation when reproducing the exchange between the reader and GM Evans in the July 2001 *Chess Life*."

Nice. But not good enough.

STRUCTURAL LIES

In 455 lines of text, spread across 12 pages of printout of "The Facts About Larry Evans," Edward Winter scraped together some 25 errors committed by the author of *MCO-10* – many of which he had trouped out before and many of which had hitherto been acknowledged and corrected by the famous grandmaster, who has written 10 million or so words about chess over the past half century, often under the pressure of a deadline.

A couple of the errors pointed out by Mr. Winter are serious. Others are not even errors as normally reckoned by honest intellectual brokers (*e.g.*, noting that "Book" is without umlauts over the middle letters, when such is the stylebook of *Chess Life* and many other American publications). As for Mr. Winter's snide aside that "Book" is "as Evans writes the name" – an honest broker would have noted different style books and left it at that. "[A]s Evans writes the name" is a lie in rhetoric.

Mr. Winter's central structural lie in "The Facts" is to misrepresent these mistakes as representative of GM Evans' *oeuvre*. "We have seen," he writes, "that untruth and distortion are indeed endemic in Evans, regardless of whether he is dealing with politics, game-scores, history, literature, dates or statistics." One might note that few honest brokers would use a word such as "untruth" rather than "errors" when referring to game-scores, dates and statistics. Moreover, Mr. Winter does not, in truth, demonstrate that any of the above failings are "endemic" in the works of GM Evans. Concerning politics, he has one good point to make (which I make more strongly for him in "*Peccavi* and Evans, Too"). That's all.

Here, then, is Mr. Winter's indictment against a half-century of writing by GM Evans:

1. Evans wrote that one Quesada died before an adjourned game could be completed and muddled events because of mistaken memory;
2. Evans misread Lodewijk Prins' letter in *Chess Notes* and attributed mischaracterized thoughts to Winter;
3. Evans did not correct errors in a reader's letter re Steinitz-Zukertort and butchered a typo claim;
4. Evans twice wrote *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Chess* and once wrote *The Oxford Companion of Chess* instead of the correct *The Oxford Companion to Chess* as well as writing *An Illustrated History of Chess* instead of *An Illustrated Dictionary of Chess*;
5. The following typos could be found in Evans' 20-plus books and thousands of magazine and newspaper articles: "Davison" instead of Davidson; "Averbach" instead of Averbakh; "Austalia" without an "r"; "192"7" instead of 1929; "aviod" instead of "avoid" on a book spine; "Mitchell" for "Michell"; Book without umlauts;
6. Diagram errors: Evans twice published a wrong diagram for an Averbakh game; a White pawn sits on c5 rather than a Black pawn in one of Evans' 20-plus books;
7. Evans overlooked a quicker win by Re7+, though his solution was also winning;
8. Instead of +40 =23 (not counting two Met League wins), Evans gives +39 =22 as Capablanca's record between losing to Chajes in 1916 and Reti in 1924;
9. Evans misattributed one of Winter's complaints to the contents of an Evans answer rather

than to a reader's question;

10. Evans wrote that Fine beat Borochoff at Pasadena and repeated this error "several years later," along with giving the wrong number of moves;

11. Evans wrongly stated that a game played at Hastings 1932-33 was played at London 1932;

12. Evans claimed that Black won a game (Thomas-Michell) that he actually lost;

13. Evans correctly noted a quarter century ago that a Queen was on b6 and not c6 but later forgot and falsely claimed that Capablanca overlooked an immediate win;

14. Evans got hoaxed in his March 2000 column;

15. Evans falsely characterized Taylor Kingston's views in a "letter" to *Kingpin*; and

16. Evans mistakenly added two words, "doping tests," to a laundry list of Yasser Seirawan's views.

Mr. Winter writes near the end of "The Facts": "We have seen a great deal, but dozens, if not hundreds, of further examples from the public record are on hand to be chronicled if necessary." This self-contradictory sentence is mendacious in an interesting way. The guy claims that "[w]e have seen a great deal" – note the word "great" – yet he then claims that more remains to be presented "if necessary." Why would such an eventuality ever prove "necessary," as opposed to "advisable," if such an enormous or "great" amount of material had already been vouchsafed? Surely, readers can be trusted to reach the desired conclusions if Mr. Winter really believed that he had presented a "great deal."

The truth is that Mr. Winter realized how very little he adduced against GM Evans – as outlined above in the paragraph with 16 numbered points – and was well aware that he had padded his indictment with hyperbole and insulting commentary. Too, he wished to reassure his more careful readers, who are well aware of the enormous amount written by GM Evans during the past half century, that if they sensed that the "The Facts" appeared to be spread a bit thin over 5,000 words and that much of it consisted of mistakes earlier noted by Mr. Winter or actually acknowledged and corrected by GM Evans, then there was far more to be presented "if necessary," while simultaneously maintaining that a "great" deal had nonetheless been "seen."

As noted in an earlier essay, I would be amazed if GM Evans has not committed hundreds (let alone dozens) of mistakes over the past 50 years of ceaseless writing, if only because he himself, over several decades in *Chess Life* and elsewhere, has acknowledged "countless" – to use a word employed by Mr. Winter – such errors of analysis and fact in fascinating exchanges with readers.

On the basis of what Mr. Winter presented in "The Facts," an honest broker would ask GM Evans to acknowledge and correct important errors (which he has already done – though an errata column devoted to "Australia" and "Book" would be absurd in a chess publication with no research department and with pressing deadlines) and to rely, in some instances, on more current sources. That would be fair criticism. But to tar an entire career, which as we have seen in "Larry Evans: Stylist, Essayist, Searcher" has featured writing superior to anything produced by the turgid Mr. Winter, is an act of wanton intellectual destructiveness motivated, most likely, by consuming envy of those who can write snappy prose and sell their words for good money.

If the central structural lie in "The Facts" is to pad a small amount of material and claim that it represents the Evans *oeuvre*, then there are also lesser structural lies. For example, Mr. Winter claims with consciously dishonest hyperbole, "It is no easy matter for Evans to achieve a matching pair of correct title and correct author." Here is the material that he presented to justify the claim:

Even a well-known title such as *The Oxford Companion to Chess* can prove excessively difficult for Evans to copy correctly. In December 1999 he called it '*The Oxford Encyclopedia of Chess*', just as he had done the previous month, too. I corrected him on page 8 of the February 2000 *Chess Life*, but Evans came up with something different again in June 2000: '*The Oxford Companion of Chess*'. Another reference work mentioned (in December 2000) was Edward Brace's *An Illustrated Dictionary of Chess*, except that Evans called it '*An Illustrated History of Chess*'. In the following issue (January/February 2001) he managed to reproduce impeccably the title *A Short History of Chess*, but this time it was the author's name that defeated him: Henry A. Davidson, and not 'Davison'. It is no easy matter for Evans to achieve a matching pair

of correct title and correct author.

Except for ratpackers, readers will notice that Mr. Winter bases a sweeping indictment on the titles of two books and a missing "d" in an author's name – an obvious typo. That's all.

Mr. Winter loves his "facts." Every dereliction that he noted in the above paragraph occurred. His "facts" in "The Facts" are accurate. But they serve to tell a structural lie – a lie, moreover, that is ever so obvious. We see that he points out two natural errors in book titles (an "of" instead of a "to," in one instance) and a typo in an author's name that was probably a proof-reading error. No honest broker, which Mr. Winter is not, would conclude anything from this sample beyond the "fact" that a couple of errors occurred.

Why did Mr. Winter dredge up an embarrassingly minor matter such as a missing "d" in "Davison"? The purpose was not to illumine honestly but to present both mistaken titles and a misspelled author so that he could pretend that GM Evans has difficulty matching names with book titles. We have here a lie in rhetoric.

Still, if two mistaken book titles and a missing "d" are to be held as indicative of something beyond the errors that they are, then surely one may adduce the many titles and names of authors that GM Evans produced without error. In "Knowing When to Have Done," I mentioned two *CL* columns (May 1993 and June 2000) with about 50 references to authors and book titles. One mistake occurred in this mass of material. In many other columns, there were no mistakes at all.

My conclusion based on citing references that may be inspected by interested readers (when compared with Mr. Winter's two book titles and missing "d" in "Davidson") is that Mr. Winter not only lied structurally, he told a substantive lie when claiming that GM Evans finds it "no easy matter" to match author and book title.

REIGNS OF ERROR

In the bad old days of the Cold War, one of the favorite intellectual pastimes was arguing the comparative terrors of Stalin and Hitler. Those on the Left were anxious to show that the Right killed more people, while those on the Right wanted to prove that the Left killed more people. The idea was to undermine the opponent while offering implied exculpation for a Stalin or a Hitler.

In chess we do not have reigns of terror except arguably in Kalmykia. Which leaves us only with the issue of reigns of error. Or, in other words, the issue of comparative errors.

Mr. Winter is concerned with "Austalia" and "Davison," while I find the kind of butchery that he committed in his "Richard the Fifth" to be far worse than anything he alleges against GM Evans. Though, to be sure, Mr. Winter also makes the kind of meaningless mistakes that he attributes to GM Evans. In "The Facts," Mr. Winter misquotes GM Evans as follows: "In passing, that remark may be contrasted with Evans' words in the July 2001 *Chess Life*: 'Mr. Winter is a prolific writer on chess history who fully deserves the very highest praise for keeping chess authors on their toes by pointing out their boners.'" For the little it is worth, Mr. Winter added a non-existent "their" before "boners." A titch slovenly, but no big deal. (See "Fast Eddie, Part II" for more of these drops of slop.)

So, then, how does an added word compare with, say, a missing "d" in "Davison" or a missing "r" in "Austalia"? Evans' errors, if they were not proofing mistakes at *Chess Life*, are venial sins of omission, whereas Mr. Winter's added word was a venial sin of commission. Still, if a ratpacker wishes to argue that "Davison" is worse than an added word in the hierarchy of reigns of error, then I will generously concede the utterly unimportant point.

Unimportant? Oh, yes, most definitely unimportant. Most of the 25 errors adduced by Mr. Winter were unimportant both in themselves and when placed in the context of the vast amount written by GM Evans.

One of Mr. Winter's beefs had to do with page 45 of GM Evans' *The 10 Most Common Chess Mistakes*. He noted five errors on this page, which he calls "major," though any honest broker would have noted that overlooking a faster win in a line that is otherwise correct is hardly "major." Still, Mr. Winter once again has his "facts" correct, though they once again serve a neat structural lie.

Our Mr. Winter "forgot" – if that is quite the word – to mention that the book had a second

printing in which each of the mistakes he cited was corrected. Moreover, this printing came out in February 2000, nearly a year and a half before Mr. Winter retailed his claim at the ChessCafe. Mr. Winter had plenty of time for what he calls "due thought, verification or attribution," which he did not exercise.

If Mr. Winter argues that he was unfamiliar with a second printing, then he was sloppy once again. If he was aware of a second printing, then as an honest broker of "facts," he ought to have mentioned that the errors given in his indictment were later corrected. If a ratpacker argues that Mr. Winter cannot be expected to know the printing history of the works that he attacks, then one may argue still more forcefully that GM Evans cannot be expected to know in advance that his publisher would spell "avoid" as "aviod" (an error pointed out by Mr. Winter) on the spine of one of his books.

We are talking here about comparative reigns of error. Which error, then, is worse? Larry Evans getting the number of moves wrong in Borochof-Fine (Pasadena, 1932) or Mr. Winter failing to mention that the errors that he attacks in one of GM Evans' books were later corrected?

Mr. Winter found three games (Quesada-Prins, Borochof-Fine and Thomas-Michell) that GM Evans handled poorly – three among many thousands that he has published. The mistakes involved in Thomas-Michell were nothing more than typos or passing lapses, though Evans' handling of Borochof-Fine was a bit more seriously flawed, though readers will discover in "Fast Eddie, Part II" not nearly as careless as Mr. Winter so mendaciously alleged. As for Quesada-Prins, GM Evans made a mistake of an interesting kind, against which there is simply no defense.

I daresay that all of us have had mistaken memories of events that we experienced directly. When we recall striking moments VIVIDLY, we do not check our recollections for the simple reason that it never occurs to us to do so. We were there, we saw it, we know. Except, alas, we do not know. The IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS error is the single trap that no amount of care can avoid because it never occurs to us to take care.

The "immediately obvious"? As Winston Churchill wrote of a highly celebrated example of disastrous war planning on his part because of the immediately obvious, "[T]he possibility of Singapore having no landward defenses no more entered my mind than that of a battleship being launched without a bottom." As Churchill later moaned in his war memoirs, "I ought to have known. My advisors ought to have known and I ought to have been told and I ought to have asked." But who checks to see whether "a battleship being launched" has a bottom?

GM Evans played at Havana 1952 nearly a half century ago. He remembered Quesada-Prins as being adjourned, and he knew full well that Quesada died before the adjournment could be played off. He clearly KNEW what happened. Except, alas, he did not know.

As GM Evans wrote manfully, "I stand corrected." Period.

How does GM Evans' Quesada boner, an honest though embarrassing error of memory, compare with Mr. Winter's deliberate obtuseness when choosing to interpret literally GM Evans' self-deprecating statement, "I stand corrected even though you must admit it makes a good story"? Mr. Winter's response was archly dishonest, "The Prins-Quesada episode is not 'a good story' once it is shown to be untrue." Mr. Winter knew that Evans' phrase was a common turn of speech (he quotes Fred Wilson as saying the same thing) that was not to be taken at face value, yet he took it so anyway. That is deliberate dishonesty. Another lie in rhetoric.

A BIZARRE CHARGE

Is an author who conducts a Q & A column in a chess magazine responsible for verifying the material in a reader's question? Within limits, the answer is obviously yes. GM Evans was certainly sloppy in handling a question in which the ages and match dates for the Steinitz-Zukertort title match were given, though his errors were not meant to deceive or humiliate. (To be fair, one should mention that GM Evans' answer to the question was insightful.)

But is a Q & A chess column author responsible for checking obscure references from magazines and newspapers throughout the world? To establish this standard is, in effect, to end Q & A chess columns, given the paucity of research grants. GM Evans cannot be expected to check facts and references that appear in exotic sources.

In a Q & A that appeared in the July 1993 *Chess Life*, I asked GM Evans a question about a famous Alekhine opening idea, mentioning *en passant* that the Irishman J. C. Hickey was a Malayan chess champion. This claim was accurate, but GM Evans obviously took my word on the matter. He did not seek out microfilm of, say, *The New Straits Times* and search through several years of that newspaper to discover whether I made a correct statement. He did not travel 12,000 miles to Kuala Lumpur to rummage through dusty middens in the attic of one Dr. Foo Lum Choon, who may have a listing somewhere of all the Malayan champions.

Instead, he thought that I had an interesting question about a famous idea (1. P-Q4 P-Q4 2. P-QB4 P-QB3 3. N-QB3 PxP 4. P-K4 P-K4 5. BxP PxP 6. N-B3!?!) {*That's 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4 e5 5.Bxc4 exd4 6.Nf3 in modern notation – editor.*} and tried to answer it, offering several apt observations. I think that he did an excellent job on that question rather than shelving the inquiry for several years while trying to pin down whether Mr. Hickey was ever truly the Malayan chess champion.

In "The Facts," Mr. Winter spends a page on a truly bizarre charge. I think it ever so telling that in sifting through 50 years of GM Evans' work, he finds himself rehearsing an episode involving – well, let Mr. Winter tell the story:

If "Evans on Chess" is to lift work from my *Chess Notes* (i. e. the Borochow and Junge items in the December 1999 *Chess Life*) would it not at least be possible for that to be specified and for the material to be used accurately?

One of GM Evans' readers from the Philippines sent in a Q & A dealing with two games from "our local magazine *Chess Asia*." These games came from Mr. Winter's *Chess Notes*, which was then appearing in *Chess Asia*, though the reader did not mention this fact in his letter to GM Evans, who proceeded to answer the questions accurately. That Mr. Winter would ask GM Evans to subscribe to *Chess Asia* or, perhaps, to magazines with Chinese ideograms or Russian Cyrillic and, perhaps, to pay for translations of script that he cannot understand (for that is the logic that he wishes to establish here) is absurd. Readers will discover under the subhead "BEAT GENERATION" in "Fast Eddie, Part II" that Mr. Winter did not apply this lofty standard to himself.

Mr. Winter is struggling to reach what IM John Watson has called a "pre-ordained" conclusion. He has little to hold against GM Evans and is trying to drag up something. Just anything. That, in itself, is a kind of structural lying.

In Mr. Winter's "The Facts," there are numerous rhetorical and substantive lies beyond those already mentioned in this article. They will be taken up in "Fast Eddie, Part II ."

FAST EDDIE, PART II

By Larry Parr

"'Larry Evans' column in *Chess Life* continues to be unspeakable,' writes Winter on another occasion. About the unspeakable one should not speak, but in fact this is not true at all, the column is interesting and informative, and it must be quite popular among readers, otherwise the USCF, with which Evans has been on bad terms most of the time, would have stopped it long ago."— GM Hans Ree, *New in Chess* (No. 3, 1999)

"Mr. Evans' latest attack on me is similar to countless previous ones, i.e. grossly deceitful."—Edward Winter, *ChessCafe* bulletin board (May 31, 2001)

Has Larry Evans launched "countless" attacks on Edward Winter's person ("on me")? Is this claim literally true? Or is this claim an example of permissible hyperbole? Or is it an example of mendacious hyperbole?

Mr. Winter suggests his own answer in the first paragraph of his "The Facts About Larry Evans" that appeared at the ChessCafe on June 6. Writes Mr. Winter in a short paragraph in which he manages to misquote GM Evans twice:

Over the years, I have become quite accustomed to Larry Evans' base and baseless attacks on me, which have featured such choice abuse as (in alphabetical order) 'absurd', 'billion fibber', 'cranky and boring' [an example of Mr. Winter's slatternly inattention to detail, given that

the gent later quotes GM Evans in "The Facts" as writing "boring and cranky" –hey, it's amusing to play Mr. Winter's preposterous proofreading games], 'crude', 'false', 'sly' [more sloppy failure to quote GM Evans accurately: "slyly," is correct], 'unscrupulous' and 'vile.'

For the record, "boring and cranky" is what GM Evans actually wrote. But what about Mr. Winter's charge of "base and baseless attacks" on his person? Sounds damning, doesn't it? If one were to believe Mr. Winter, then GM Larry Evans has engaged in "countless" attacks employing puerile abuse.

Unfortunately for Mr. Winter, there is far more hysteria than history in his account of GM Evans' dealings with him. Let us begin with Mr. Winter's big lie that there have been "countless" attacks.

Given Mr. Winter's claims, one would never guess that GM Evans has had virtually no contact with the man over the years, though Mr. Winter has written often about GM Evans' work and, less often, about his person.

GM Evans wrote once to *Chess Notes* (item No. 1457) back in 1987 *in response* to justified criticism in item No. 1385 re the Quesada game at Havana 1952; he *replied* to criticism from Mr. Winter in the March 31, 1997 *Inside Chess* in an exchange of letters; he answered readers' questions about Mr. Winter in the May 2000 and July 2001 issues of *Chess Life* and *responded* to an attack by Mr. Winter in a letter-to-the-editor in the February 2000 *Chess Life*. After Mr. Winter wrote his ChessCafe article, GM Evans answered a question about Mr. Winter in the August 2001 *Chess Life*. And he REPLIED to yet another attack on him by Mr. Winter in the September 2001 *Chess Life*.

So far, we have seven instances over nearly 15 years of contact in which GM Evans has written about Mr. Winter's work – of which four were in the nature of answering Mr. Winter's criticisms or addressing the criticisms of others that appeared in the man's published materials.

There were other instances, but these were neutral exchanges in *Chess Life* involving Mr. Winter's materials in *Chess Notes*. To the extent that they involved short plugs for Mr. Winter's vanity publication, they could be construed as favorable to the man. For example, in the May 1995 *CL*, GM Evans quoted from *Chess Notes*, giving due credit and citing items No. 1025 and 1474. On another occasion, GM Evans and this writer mentioned Mr. Winter in our *CL* article, "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Alekhine – But Didn't Know Enough to Ask," of May 1993. "Here is a little-known list," we wrote, "of the Alekhine *oeuvre* compiled by Edward Winter in *Chess Notes*." The list followed.

Mr. Winter claims that GM Evans and he had exchanges over the old Leisure Linc forum. One would enjoy reading them again, though my recollection, which could be mistaken, is that Mr. Winter and I had those exchanges.

By my count, the number of times in which GM Evans has addressed Mr. Winter substantively is less than 10. "[C]ountless," indeed!

But, but, but: perhaps in each of those half dozen instances, GM Evans heaped numerous attacks, as Mr. Winter put the matter, "on me." Let us take the list of personal attacks that Mr. Winter provides above in the extract from his "The Facts." Four of the phrases listed come from GM Evans' answer to a reader's question in the July 2001 *Chess Life*. As the reader can see, none of the words ("bilious fibber," "crude," "sly" [*sic* – as noted above], "vile") referred to Mr. Winter's person:

Alas, Mr. Winter undermines his own credibility with this CRUDE [my emphasis] effort to mislead readers of *Kingpin*. If he doesn't clean up his act, his strikingly original legacy will be that of a BILIOUS FIBBER [my emphasis] who adored only the "historical truth" of raw dates. ... Needless to say, Mr. Winter did not quarrel with any part of my answer or address himself to the nub of the question – only to a trivial error in the question itself that he ever so SLYLY [my emphasis] misdirected to me. How amusing, how VILE [my emphasis].

In, ah, "alphabetical order": "bilious fibber" was a conditional description of Mr. Winter's future reputation if, if, if, etc.; "crude" was an adjective modifying "effort"; "slyly" was an adverb telling how Mr. Winter "misdirected" a "trivial error"; and "vile" was an adjective modifying the understood subject of Mr. Winter's tactics in *Kingpin*.

Okay, two phrases are left on Mr. Winter's list that he so clearly relished giving in "alphabetical order." They are "cranky and boring," which actually appeared as "boring and cranky" in the

February 2000 *CL*, a phrase that Mr. Winter himself described as “a wholesale condemnation of my chess writing”; and “unscrupulous,” which appeared in *Chess Notes* item No. 1457. Wrote GM Evans about what he mistakenly perceived to be Mr. Winter’s views, “But you are unscrupulous to deduce that I am defaming the character of Capa, Alekhine and Euwe merely because I made the perfectly banal observation that dragging out hopeless positions does ‘not endear a master to his colleagues.’” The predicate adjective, “unscrupulous,” though technically modifying “you,” clearly refers to Mr. Winter’s supposed act of deduction.

The truth is that GM Evans has not issued countless “attacks” on Mr. Winter. Indeed, he has seldom ever written about the man and his doings. The truth is that Mr. Winter’s “alphabetical” list of supposed “attacks on me” contained attacks on Mr. Winter’s work. The truth is that Mr. Winter fobbed off a rhetorical lie when speaking of “countless” attacks and compounded it with a substantive lie when alleging that his “alphabetical” list contained attacks on his person. Indeed, he himself refers to one of the attacks as being on his writing.

Let us compare GM Evans’ scrupulous regard, as shown above, for keeping a discussion at a professional rather than a personal level with Mr. Winter’s failure to separate the polemical from the personal. Mr. Winter mentioned the word “crude,” which we have seen that GM Evans employed to describe a particular “effort” made by Mr. Winter in *Kingpin*. Mr. Winter, too, has employed a noun form of the word “crude” in his *Chess Notes* (item No. 1457).

GM Evans wrote with obvious initial friendliness in No. 1457, “Meanwhile I hope you [Mr. Winter] keep your curmudgeonly watch on the chess world. C.N. is unique and lively. Incidentally, one of the reasons Seattle lost out to Seville is that a lot of prize money was structured as ‘best game prizes’ so Campo could not get his greedy hands on it.” Responded Mr. Winter, “His ‘Incidentally ...’ sentence in the penultimate paragraph is not relevant to anything that has appeared in C.N. though it serves as a further example of his crudity.”

“His crudity.” The reference is NOT to the “sentence in the penultimate paragraph” but to how the sentence testifies to GM Evans’ quality of condition, which is one of “crudity.” That, in truth, is a personal attack.

In his ChessCafe piece, Mr. Winter went still further, evidently losing control for a moment:

And if, after somebody else pointed out such an error, I published a huffy “correction” which also turned out to be wrong, I would feel deeply ashamed. Evans, in contrast, shows by his own words that he is shameless.

“[H]e is shameless.” Mr. Winter is not claiming that GM Evans conducted himself shamelessly when writing as he did but rather that what he wrote indicated that “he is shameless.” That, too, is a personal attack.

Am I arguing that Mr. Winter has launched “countless” attacks on GM Evans’ person? Not at all. One need not flaunt prevaricating hyperbole *a la* Mr. Winter. My point is merely that Mr. Winter has attacked GM Evans personally, whereas the American grandmaster in the instances cited by Mr. Winter confined his attacks to the latter’s written doings.

Mr. Winter claims in “The Facts” that GM Evans “never subscribed” to *Chess Notes*, though “often criticizing the magazine.” He fails to mention that GM Evans purchased a complete run of the magazine or to adduce the asserted numerous criticisms of *Chess Notes*. The truth, once again, is that GM Evans virtually never talked about *Chess Notes*. The word “often” is a substantive lie. If Mr. Winter would care to trot out all of these criticisms of his magazine, then I am prepared to retract my charge. But such criticisms were actually quite rare. Yet another puddle of dishonest slop deposited by Mr. Winter.

When Mr. Winter wrote of “countless” attacks by GM Evans on his person (“on me”), he lied rhetorically. When Mr. Winter claimed that six phrases, so absurdly paraded as being placed in “alphabetical order,” were attacks on his person (“on me”), he lied substantively.

CONTRADICTIONARY PRAISE AND CONDEMNATION

In “The Facts,” Mr. Winter childishly states that GM Evans both praised and criticized his work. We all understand that points of view change over the years, and we all understand that such changes are related to the condition of personal relations or simply passing mood. In adult polemics of the real world, not a lot is made of such contradictions. Instead, issues are debated.

Mr. Winter quotes from GM Evans’ *CL* letter-to-the-editor of February 2000 – a response to a

criticism from Mr. Winter. Wrote GM Evans, "In his pedantic eagerness to find flaws, he makes a false charge by claiming I 'lifted' the Borochow and Junge items from his work (which I find boring and cranky [earlier in "The Facts," Mr. Winter quotes this phrase as "cranky and boring"] on the rare occasions when I glance at it)." In "Fast Eddie, Part I," I dealt with the episode of GM Evans answering a letter from a reader in the Philippines, who quoted from "our local magazine *Chess Asia*," without mentioning that the material came from Mr. Winter's column, which was appearing in that little-known publication. GM Evans answered the reader accurately, and Mr. Winter then accused him of "[l]ifting" the material, which mendaciously connotes a conscious intent to filch without giving due credit. That, too, was an obvious lie in rhetoric. But the point raised by Mr. Winter is that GM Evans later praised him in *Chess Life*:

In passing, that remark ["boring and cranky" or "cranky and boring," depending on which page one reads of Mr. Winter's rant] may be contrasted with Evans' words in the July 2001 *Chess Life*: "Mr. Winter is a prolific writer on chess history who fully deserves the very highest praise for keeping chess authors on their toes by pointing out their boners." The idea that any mortal being could keep Evans on his toes is pie in the sky, but I quote that passage merely to highlight yet another inconsistency in his remarks about me. Of course, given his track-record of inaccuracy, guile and self-contradiction, his praise is as worthless as his censure.

Fair or unfair enough. This arch putdown directed at a bit of praise may be viewed as tartly just or as meanly inspired. But one must also note Mr. Winter's own contradictions when evaluating GM Evans' work.

In *Chess Notes* (item No. 323), Mr. Winter reviewed GM Evans' *The Chess Beat*, which he described as "a reproduction of 300 newspaper columns." The fact that Mr. Winter understood that this volume was a photographic "reproduction" is important when we nail yet another of his sly lies a bit later. But, for the moment, the subject is Mr. Winter's judgments in this review that "[i]n some ways Larry Evans' journalism is of a superior quality" and that his "best is very good," though he stipulates that Evans is "not very often at it." Elsewhere, he opines that "the contents are mostly of some interest" and that Evans "is at his best when recounting contemporary events, whether it be a World Championship match or one more instance of USCF mismanagement."

Later in *CN* item No. 1143, Mr. Winter prefaces a criticism of GM Evans' views on Anatoly Karpov with the sentence, "One would, however, have expected better of Larry Evans, normally one of the sanest and acutest of commentators."

Then, in a ChessCafe bulletin board entry of June 20, 2001, Mr. Winter wrote:

Mr. Evans' Skittles Room "article" quotes me as calling him "normally one of the sanest and acutest of commentators". The passage in question comes from C.N. 1143 (*Chess Notes*, May-June 1986, page 51), and in a separate Bulletin Board item I shall cite my full comments about him on that occasion. They began, "One would, however, have expected better of Larry Evans, normally one of the sanest and acutest of commentators", after which I gave chapter and verse on how he had bungled matters relating to Fischer and Karpov. I had also criticized his inaccuracy and slovenliness well before then, but I was certainly too slow in recognizing the extent of the Evans problem (which, in any case, has clearly worsened since then). Other writers may have been slower still, but, yes, my praise of him was unjustified.

The above simply will not do. Mr. Winter tells us that he earlier read through hundreds of chess columns by GM Evans and much of his magazine commentary. Otherwise, the word "normally," which is an adverb suggesting a regnant condition observed over a period of years in this case, makes no sense. Mr. Winter was not writing that GM Evans had his lucid moments; he was claiming in *CN* item No. 1143 that this later *bete noire* had met his requirements for being "one of the sanest and acutest of commentators."

What changed?

GM Evans began to speak out against FIDE outrages and started writing about the saurian slithering of Anatoly Karpov while enthusing about Garry Kasparov. That's what changed. Or, as Mr. Winter put the matter in a telling *Chess Explorations* footnote, "Larry Evans' subsequent handling of topical issues matched his treatment of history."

So Mr. Winter's judgment of GM Evans' work and person transmogrified. Yet in "The Facts" Mr. Winter would chide GM Evans for publishing inconsistent views of the former's work and

person. A flip-flop that Mr. Winter performed, he would deny to GM Evans.

BEAT GENERATION

In "The Facts" Mr. Winter spends more than a page on GM Evans' treatment of the Borochow-Fine game, which was an 11-move win for White and which Irving Chernev once published as a seven-mover with the winner being unclear in his book, *The 1000 Best Short Games of Chess* (1955). Writes Mr. Winter, "The famous miniature between Borochow and Fine at Pasadena, 1932 is yet another example of how facts in Evans' hands stand no chance." But the truth is that Mr. Winter's exposition is yet another example how the truth in his hands stands no chance.

In *Chess Life & Review* (October 1977), GM Evans wrote that Reuben Fine as Black won the game. He was corrected in the August 1978 issue by G. S. G. Patterson, the president of the Pasadena congress, who provided the 11-move game ending with Black's resignation.

Now, here comes Mr. Winter's authentically low and scabrous zinger: "Even so, in a book published several years later – *The Chess Beat* – Mr. Evans repeated, in large bold letters, his claim that 'Black won' (after 7. f4 e6), adding 'But Chernev says Black resigned!' (page 24)."

What is missing from the above? What piece of information would any honest broker of fact provide? Why did Mr. Winter use the phrase, "in a book published several years later"?

Mr. Winter "forgot" – if that is quite the word – to mention that *The Chess Beat* was a photocopied collection of GM Evans' newspaper columns in a large eight by twelve format. One may argue that such compilations of articles should be annotated with footnotes and corrections, but purchasers know what they are getting: reproductions of articles that have already appeared. The column in question, "Five Easy Pieces," was published in 1976 (!!), though it appeared in a book published in 1982. It was NOT fresh work by GM Evans in which he contradicted his recognition of Patterson's point made in 1978.

Did Mr. Winter know that the column was published in 1976? Probably not, because the columns are undated. As GM Evans wrote in the preface, "These 300 essays first appeared in my syndicated newspaper column from 1973 – 1981." However, one thing is certain: Mr. Winter was far too lazy to do the elementary research to find out when the column was written.

Please note: Mr. Winter accused GM Evans of "lifting" copy from *Chess Notes* because the grandmaster did not realize that a reader of a local Filipino chess magazine had incorporated *CN* material appearing there in a letter sent to GM Evans' *Chess Life* column. The idea was that GM Evans was expected to have on hand every chess publication in the world or to have divined that Mr. Winter's material was used by the Filipino correspondent even though there was no reason to believe that anything was amiss.

HOWEVER: Mr. Winter did not research the date when "Five Easy Pieces" appeared, though virtually any major library would have on microfilm such important American newspapers as the *Chicago Tribune* or *Denver Post* in which the column in question appeared. Moreover, Mr. Winter understood perfectly well that the date when "Five Easy Pieces" appeared was absolutely crucial in sustaining or subverting his contention that GM Evans later contradicted a correction that he published in 1978.

Hence, Mr. Winter's lying phrase: "in a book published several years later." Yes: Mr. Winter's "fact" is true. Yes: the book was published in 1982. Yes: the book contained a column contradicting a correction that GM Evans made in 1978 of an earlier error that he made. But: the book contained reproductions of earlier newspaper columns. But: the newspaper article in question was published in 1976. But: Mr. Winter understood full well that he could not place the date of that article. But: Mr. Winter decided to hide this point by declining to inform ChessCafe readers that the article might easily have appeared BEFORE 1978.

Why couldn't this man have simply confined himself to noting that GM Evans incorrectly reported on Borochow-Fine in a newspaper column of 1976 and in *Chess Life & Review* in 1977, which he then corrected with a letter that he published in 1978? Why couldn't this man have used the opportunity to inveigh against unannotated collections of newspaper columns in chess and in other fields?

Two reasons. First, the whole brouhaha over Borochow-Fine was fundamentally over a small matter – a misunderstanding about an 11-move game. Secondly, for this man to wax wickedly

about GM Evans' error (which was followed by a correction), he had to mislead readers into believing that GM Evans later rescinded his correction in *The Chess Beat* (1982), even though he did not know when the newspaper column was written and, given the period covered, had a fair idea that in all probability, it appeared before 1978.

What would an honest broker of fact have written about GM Evans' treatment of Borochow-Fine? Probably very little, given that GM Evans made an error and then corrected it. But assuming that an honest broker did feel impelled to write something, it might read as follows (in summary): "In a *Chess Life & Review* column of 1977, Larry Evans erred when claiming that Black won the Borochow-Fine miniature (Pasadena, 1932). But in 1978, he published a letter that corrected this mistake. Still, one must mention that the initial error appears again in GM Evans' *The Chess Beat* (1982), a book containing photo reproductions of 300 undated newspaper columns. Without research, it is impossible to tell whether the column in which the error appears was written before or after GM Evans' correction of 1978."

What can one make of Mr. Winter refusal to mention that *The Chess Beat* was a photocopied collection of old newspaper columns? Did he not realize this fact? As noted earlier, he himself refers to the work as "a reproduction of 300 newspaper columns" in a review of the volume. In T. S. Eliot's words, "The ways deep and the weather sharp,/The very dead of winter."

"The very dead of [W]inter," indeed. For there is nothing living in the mannered writing of this hideous liar.

Mr. Winter's deliberate omission of vital information – a structural and substantive lie of the most malicious sort – is unspeakable and, in the phrase of Professor Henry Higgins, "so deliciously low." How this man's soul must freeze with chancrous envy of GM Evans' fame and success.

SMEAR BY NON-ACCUSATION

One of Mr. Winter's more interesting rhetorical tricks in "The Facts" is to level a smear at GM Evans without providing an explicit accusation. Neat.

Mr. Winter quotes from a reader's letter to GM Evans that appeared in *Chess Life* (July 2001). Wrote the reader, "He [Mr. Winter] calls this column a 'monthly dumping ground' for your 'fantasies' and concluded: 'Plain facts seldom stand a chance'." Mr. Winter then claims that what he wrote in *Kingpin* was "rather more explicit" (meaning: more elaborated): "... Mr. Larry Evans, whose *Chess Life* column is a monthly dumping ground for his obsessions, fantasies, distortions and solecisms. Chess itself has been more or less dropped, and plain facts seldom stand a chance."

So far, nothing overtly dishonest. Now comes the smear without an accusation:

It is naturally impossible for us to know why only my word "fantasies" appeared in Evans' column, and not "obsessions", "distortions" and "solecisms", i. e. whether they were omitted by the correspondent or by Evans himself. This further illustrates why it is preferable, in the interests of both accuracy and safety, to refer to all matters as having "appeared in Evans' column", or a similar formulation, rather than, at the risk of being mistaken, pointing an accusing finger direct [*sic*] at Evans' correspondents. In any case

The truth: it is naturally POSSIBLE to know why portions of Mr. Winter's attack on GM Evans' column did not appear. Letters from readers are kept on file. GM Evans states that the letter was published as provided by the author. Mr. Winter's smear is NOT that GM Evans cuts portions of letters for reasons of length or linguistical sanitation (which every Q & A columnist must do); his smear is that GM Evans cuts portions of letters to affect tone and meaning.

Writes Mr. Winter, "This further illustrates" – stop right there. "This" has no antecedent beyond the reference that it is "naturally impossible to know" why a portion of Mr. Winter's tirade was not contained in a reader's letter. Mr. Winter has provided no foundation even in an unsubstantiated accusation to merit the smear that GM Evans might alter letters to affect tone and meaning.

Smear by non-accusation. Ya gotta love it.

AN AGONIZING APPRAISAL

Edward Winter is "Fast Eddie" without much speed. His intellectual hands are not quicker than the mind's eye.

We have seen him retail structural, substantive and rhetorical lies, while sloppily misquoting GM Evans on at least three occasions in an essay of 5,000 words – a rate of error by Mr. Winter, which were it extrapolated to the 10 million or so words written by GM Evans, would come to 6,000 misquotations. Still, give the man some credit. He did find three games that GM Evans muffed to varying degrees.

Mr. Winter's central structural lie was to argue that the 25 mistakes he found defined the *oeuvre* of GM Evans – a lie that he compounded when endeavoring to make errors appear worse than they were. For example, his failure to inform readers that *The Chess Beat* was a photocopied collection of newspaper articles was a dandy of a doozy. But what can one expect from a man who lied about GM Evans mismatching authors and book titles as a norm and who trumpeted errors on page 45 in one printing of GM Evans' *The 10 Most Common Chess Mistakes* without mentioning that these errors were corrected in a second printing?

What can one expect?

One can expect that Mr. Winter would and did misattribute errors made by a reader to GM Evans himself. One can expect that Mr. Winter would allege "countless" personal attacks without finding one example. One can expect that Mr. Winter would adduce a list of attacks "on me" that were actually criticisms of his published work. One can expect that Mr. Winter would childishly attack GM Evans for contradictory statements about himself, while "forgetting" – if that is quite the word – that he changed his views about GM Evans after this celebrated grandmaster began to attack FIDE in earnest. One can expect that Mr. Winter would level a smear against GM Evans concerning his treatment of letters to his column without grounding it even in an unsubstantiated accusation.

One can expect, in short, that Mr. Winter would live up to the monicker, "Fast Eddie." Fast with the lies. Fast with the errors. And fast with his beloved "facts."

Part III: PECCAVI AND EVANS, TOO

“Peccavi.” – Telegram of February 1843 from General Sir Charles “I Have Sinned” Napier to the British Foreign Office, announcing the surprisingly successful annexation of Sind – against orders.

We all make mistakes.

In “The Facts About Larry Evans,” Edward Winter found about 25 errors made by GM Evans over many years. Never mind that several of those errors had been previously acknowledged and corrected by GM Evans, and never mind that Mr. Winter was in several instances regurgitating his past attacks on GM Evans. After all, Mr. Winter’s purpose was to taint an entire career of constructive enterprise by retailing a very small number of mistakes that were padded by hundreds of words of abuse.

When dealing with Mr. Winter and his ratpackers, one understands that they will not address the initial issue in question – in the case of Mr. Winter, whether he told a cold, calculated, vicious lie about GM Evans in *Kingpin* – but will search out typos, misunderstandings and undoubted shortcomings in the work of adversaries. In the spirit of Napier-like confession, I say *peccavi*. I have sinned.

Arnold Denker and I authored the well-known book, *The Bobby Fischer I Knew and Other Stories*, which won the American Chess Foundation’s book of the year award for 1996. As yet, no one has pointed to a single diagram error or even a single mistaken move in over 300 games of difficult descriptive notation. Not a single misspelling has been found in the main text of this long book unless one wishes to argue about the transliteration of Nimzovich’s name – just as one may argue over the common spellings for Alekhine, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy and so on.

Still, errors crept in. They can be found in some captions of pictures and in index citations for the “Introduction.”

Four names are misspelled in the captions: Holmes became “Homes”; Kupchik became “Kupchick”; Isaac became “Issac”; Bacall became “Becall.” Other errors in the two sections of pictures include: “chauffer” should be chauffeur; “coupon’s” should not be a possessive; “recorde” should be recorded; an end parenthesis is missing following the word “left”; a photograph of Reuben Fine and fellow chess team members at the City College of the City of New York was flipped by the printer; “PLay” should be Play; the “s” in “M.G.M.’s”, should not be in italics; the apostrophe in “’em” is pointing the wrong way; the word “to” should be too; a period is missing at the end of one caption; “Photgraph” should be Photograph; an extra, unwanted period appears after the word “fog”; and the interrogative, “(?)”, was placed at the beginning of a caption line.

Here is an e-mail exchange with the book’s publisher, handsomely acknowledging that the Denker-Parr copy was without the above errors. First, my e-mail of July 15, 2001, to the publisher:

Re: Will you back me up? I don’t intend to mention your name, but if necessary, will you back me up when I state that my copy on those captions and index was correct and that the error occurred with the printer-publisher? If necessary, will you note that I was not given a chance to proof those captions as I did the remainder of the book in which no one, thus far, has discovered a single mistaken diagram or a single misspelling or a single notation error. I mean to say, there MUST be an error some place. There HAS to be. But no one has yet pointed out said mistake.

Yours, Larry

The response of July 16, 2001, from the head of the publishing house is as follows:

Of course. Those errors were my responsibility. Just between the two of us, I was [there follows a description of a difficulty] No excuse. Just information. I will certainly accept full responsibility. Didn’t that prison-chess guy from Oregon, Schroeder?, catch one error in

notation? I wish I could remember! I seem to recall an ambiguity in a capture or something like that.

Best Regards,

XXX

I would mention that there is no secret of X's identity, who owned Hypermodern Press. He is currently prominent in FIDE affairs, and I have attacked his stands very often on rgcp and other forums. But why bring in the name of a third party, whose positions on FIDE are closer to those of many ratpackers than they are to my own?

MR. WINTER'S TREATMENT

After dispatching the copy for the Denker-Parr captions, I repeatedly requested an opportunity to proof the text before it appeared in print. But there were publishing difficulties, and the book appeared with neither that section nor the index citations for the "Introduction" being checked by me.

Still, *The Bobby Fischer I Knew* is nearly 400 pages long, when the 34 pages of photos are included. There are over 300 games and over 500 names listed in the index. The book has appeared on a number of "Desert Island" chess book lists, which is enormously gratifying to GM Denker and me. Yet just as Mr. Winter ignored GM Evans' excellent answer about chess and the aging process and instead focused on errors in a reader's letter which he attributed to GM Evans, so I think it likely that he would write something along these lines about our work *a la* the style of his ChessCafe rant, "The Facts About Larry Evans":

The not-so-lucky winners of Denker-Parr's *The Bobby Fischer I Knew*, a volume Parr contrives to mention at every opportunity, gain a further opportunity to assess their manhandling of facts. The full title of the book is *The Bobby Fischer I Knew and Other Stories*, yet the phrase, "and Other Stories" appears in smaller type on the cover. Chapter headings include many subjects in which Parr undeniably specializes: "A Character if Ever There Was One," "The Frightened Little Rabbit," "Caissa's Conman," and "Mr. Believe It or Not." In a photo section containing 86 lines of text, Denker-Parr made the following errors: "Isaac" is spelled "Issac." A photograph is flipped by either the printer or Denker-Parr (of Reuben Fine and a scholastic team on which he played) "[R]ecorded" is misspelled as "recorde." "[C]hauffeur" is misspelled as "chauffer." The interrogatory, "(?)," concerning the identity of an unknown person in a photograph, is misplaced. The phrase, "(left" has no end parenthesis. "Photograph" is misspelled as "Photgraph." There is an extra period following the word "fog." No one need be a detective to deduce that Sherlock "Holmes" is spelled Sherlock "Homes." Lauren Bacall becomes the unbecoming "Becall," unwittingly suggesting the world's oldest profession. In the phrase, "MG.M.'s", the "s" should not be in italics. The name "Kupchik" is misspelled as "Kupchick," though the elderly man in the photograph is no spring chick. "New York Times" ought to be in italics. We have seen a great deal, but dozens, if not hundreds, of further examples from the public record are on hand to be chronicled if necessary. The present article has only scratched the surface regarding the singular exploits of the inimitable Denker-Parr.

Blah, blah, and more blah. Winter style.

At which point, the ratpackers intone that no one has questioned any of the "facts" offered by Mr. Winter. That is because the "facts" have very little to do with the value of the work in question – whether that work be the Denker-Parr book or any of the major volumes written by GM Evans. The "facts" are little hammers meant to pound at adversaries rather than significant observations about the quality of a given work. At some level, many readers understand Mr. Winter's charlatanism, and that is one of the reasons why the books written by GM Evans sell so much better than the turgid volumes from Mr. Winter's pen. That is also why Mr. Winter's labors are so widely unread, prompting only the susurrus – the sound that T. S. Eliot likened to rat's feet over broken glass – of approving e-mail rustles from his tiny audience of ratpackers.

We did make a few errors of historical judgment in *The Bobby Fischer I Knew*. For example, we wrote stupidly, "[The notorious Norman Whitaker] had the benefit of a fine education at Georgetown and Oxford, the personal presence of a man who once wielded power (he served as an Assistant Secretary of the Interior during the Teapot Dome scandal of 1922), and the intel-

lectual self-assurance of an outstanding scholar of German literature." There is a lot wrong with this sentence, and many of the problems have to do with a stalled Freedom of Information Act filing for Whitaker's FBI file that we initially made two years before our publication date. The request, which was unfortunately the first for Whitaker and which had to await a lengthy declassification process, bore fruit only two years after publication. Arnold and I tried to piece together shards of information and memory, and we ought to have infused our narrative with a far greater degree of skepticism.

Still, our overall picture of "Caissa's Conman," as we dubbed him, was about right. Namely, that he was a prime louse. "At some point," we wrote, "Norman slipped from being a colorful high-roller to being an off-color and failed old man, though as with most bad hats, Norman possessed even in his salad days an enormous capacity for self-pity."

AND EVANS, TOO

In the Autumn 1999 *Kingpin*, GM Larry Evans, unaccountably and completely inexcusably, wrote the following:

IM Watson wrote, "The first politicised controversy I want to discuss is the recent revival of the argument that Keres was forced to throw his games to Botvinnik in the 1948 World Championship tournament." He cites Taylor Kingston as a critic of my research, but perhaps your readers might be interested in Mr. Kingston's letter to the editor in *Chess Life*, August 1997:

'Larry Evans's article, "The Tragedy of Paul Keres" in your October 1996 issue was one of the best pieces of chess historical writing you've ever run. Evans's analysis of games from the 1948 World Championship makes a strong case that Keres' failure, and Botvinnik's consequent success, were the result of coercion by Soviet authorities *Chess Life* should investigate further and find out the facts. We could be on the verge of uncovering one of the major scandals in chess history.'

In his "The Facts About Larry Evans," Edward Winter accuses GM Evans of being guilty "of the very offence which he has groundlessly [in truth, as we have seen in "Fast Eddie, Part I," accurately] ascribed to me of making a sly attempt to mislead *Kingpin* readers." Mr. Winter then quotes a statement made by Mr. Kingston in the Spring 2000 issue of *Kingpin*:

I did indeed write the letter Evans quotes, but that was before I researched and analyzed his article in detail. On deeper examination I found his logic and evidence to be highly questionable. I made this quite clear, both publicly in my article, "Keres and Botvinnik: A Survey of the Evidence" (*CL* 5/98) and privately in letters to Evans himself. For Evans to say or even imply that I now support him, is amazingly, grossly dishonest.

Mr. Winter then shoots his zinger: "'Amazingly, grossly dishonest.' Somehow such words keep coming back in any discerning scrutiny of Evans' writings." In truth, as we have seen in the preceding eight essays, the phrases, "Amazingly, grossly dishonest" or Auden's telling, "low dishonest," fit the body of Mr. Winter's work as snugly as any pair of hot pants on a Hooter's waitress.

The unpleasant truth is that GM Evans is guilty of something worse than dishonesty. Losing control of the keyboard and writing something that does not ring true to one's ear is a common, casual kind of dishonesty, and it happens all the time. On chess forums and in chess magazines. People cease thinking and just put on paper or ship into the electronic ether whatever makes them feel good at the time, though they know that their words will not withstand deconstruction because their thoughts were mendacious from the start. They know that, yet they still lie. Mr. Winter's "The Facts," which is filled with structural, substantive and rhetorical lies, is a prime example. The Swiss mister had fire breathing from his snout with that initial bulletin board posting falsely claiming that GM Evans had launched "countless" attacks on him, and he proved incapable of later downshifting the gears of abusive hyperbole in "The Facts About Larry Evans."

GM Evans' transgression is to have misrepresented Mr. Kingston's position out of polemical incompetence. Moreover, this incompetence cannot be excused with the weakminded, exculpatory unguent, "honest but mistaken." GM Evans has had years of experience as a columnist. There is such a thing as what one rhetorician called "the dishonesty of inexcusable incompetence," which GM Evans has compounded with a stubborn defensiveness that is akin to his

famed dour defenses of chess positions in which he has grabbed a pawn.

Incompetence can be more morally odious, when it is utterly inexcusable, than conventional forms of dishonesty derived from momentary loss of self-control.

I know what was in GM Evans' mind when he wrote the short note to *Kingpin*. He believed that Mr. Kingston would naturally reassess his position in "Keres and Botvinnik: A Survey of the Evidence," given the complete worthlessness of Botvinnik's testimony, which Kingston had accorded some probative value. I refer to the following statement by Botvinnik in an interview from 1991:

I have experienced myself that orders were given. In 1948 I played with Keres, Smyslov, Reshevsky and Euwe for the world title. At a very high level, it was proposed that the other Soviet players would lose against me on purpose in order to make sure there would be a Soviet World Champion. It was Stalin PERSONALLY [my emphasis] who proposed this. But of course I refused!

Not merely "refused," mind you, but "refused" as a matter "of course" and with an exclamation mark that the interviewers, GM Gennady Sosonko and Max Pam, felt they heard in Botvinnik's answer. No one, not even the simpletons to be found among the ratpackers, would have refused as a matter "of course" to do what Stalin "personally" proposed. Even these nit-twits know that Stalin not only proposed, but disposed. Of any person who might ignore him. Of that person's family. Of that person's loved ones. Of that person's friends.

The likely explanation for Botvinnik's statement, which directly contradicted his earlier testimony, is that this old man, who was 80 at the time of the interview, started talking without listening to what he was saying. At some point, he remembered his earlier avowal that there had been no interference and scrambled to recover by asserting that in spite of Stalin's proposal, he was "Iron Mike," who would brook no shenanigans even from the Man of Steel, who could and would shoot him and his family.

The point here is that Botvinnik's wholesale contradiction of earlier testimony destroys whatever value his evidence may have possessed. All of which explains GM Evans' supposition that Mr. Kingston must have reverted back to his initial position after learning of the Sosonko-Pam interview.

GM Evans' other straw to grasp is Mr. Kingston's statement in his above-mentioned article of May 1998: "At first I found Evans' case persuasive (explaining two highly laudatory letters of mine written in late 1996 but not published in *CL* until 8/97 and 10/97). Since then my research has raised doubts."

"Raised doubts"? GM Evans' idea here is that he was not necessarily misstating Mr. Kingston's position because the latter came to no final conclusions. Only "doubts" were raised, and these doubts, so GM Evans reasons, were eliminated after Mr. Kingston learned of Botvinnik's disqualifying contradiction in the Sosonko-Pam interview.

Not nearly good enough. Not even in the same universe of being good enough.

GM Evans' high-handed supposition only compounds his earlier "dishonesty of inexcusable incompetence." He shattered the rules of honest controversy. He ought never to have made this assumption, which was all the worse to do, because IT SERVED HIS POLEMICAL PURPOSES OF THE MOMENT. He was obliged – no strike that, absolutely required as a matter of honor – to contact Mr. Kingston before using the man's initial letter of praise for his "The Tragedy of Paul Keres."

How typical of Mr. Winter that after retailing one lie after another to build a case, he lets GM Evans off the hook relatively lightly when he actually has the goods. That's because he was so focussed on buttressing, in the words of IM John Watson, "one-sided and pre-ordained" conclusions that he quite failed to notice a "conclusion" that required nothing more than common-sense moral condemnation.

Larry Evans let himself down when he sent that note to *Kingpin*. He hurt his friends, including this writer. However, Edward Winter did not let himself down when lying repeatedly in "The Facts." He did not let himself down when failing to mention that *The Chess Beat* was a compilation of photocopied newspaper columns. He merely confirmed to the ratpackers the essence of his method and, in my view, the nature of his person.

Just call him Fast Eddie.

