

Credit: Jolene Osztian, Photographer

FALL SEMESTER NEARING ITS END!

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS SEASON IS HERE!

EXAM STRESS GETTING TO YOU?

page 2

All students have access to help with stress and academic aid, and this article tells you where to find it.

TAYLOR SWIFT DRAMA

page 5

A battle of copy rights are the main focus of musician Taylor Swift's life.

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH CHEATING IN CHESS?

page 7

Cheating is something that takes place in almost everything sadly. Find out how it affects chess tournaments.

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EXAM SEASON SUPPORT

Donnovan Hillman, Senior Advisor

Ah yes, exam season is finally here. The final stretch of the semester, the last mile to the finish line. They often say that the final mile in a marathon is the most difficult. Well, it turns out post-secondary studies follows a similar pattern. The truth is, exam season is a time of extreme stress and pressure. All that material that you learned back in September is back, and your expected to know it from top to bottom. December and April are two of the busiest months for university students, no matter how many years of school you have under your belt. Late night studying, reading the textbook through meal time and going over the same practice questions over and over again become the norm. Fear not! As there are shards of light at the end of this tunnel. First off, once you finish your exams you get a well deserved, relaxing two-week holiday before the second semester starts. You will finally have the ability to sit back, relax and enjoy some quality time with friends and family. In the meantime, and to assist you with getting through exam season, Brandon University offers a variety of services to help students deal with the added stress and pressure.

One of the best ways to deal with the pressure of exam season is to book an appointment at the Academic Skills Center. The Academic Skills Center, located in room 102 in the A.E. McKenzie building on campus, offers students assistance with math, writing and learning skills. These skills will prove invaluable on any test or exam you take throughout your post-secondary studies. Many students find themselves struggling in the field of mathematics, especially if they are not in sciences to begin with. At the Academic Skills Center, a skills specialist can work with you one on one, and assist in explaining principles and applying them in related questions. The Academic Skills Center also has a learning specialist. The learning specialist can assist you with a variety of academic activities such as read-

ing a textbook more efficiently, writing short answers on tests and making study questions. They can also offer help in preparing for those long-winded essay questions of final exams. Speaking of those last page, hour long questions, the Academic Skills Center can also help you touch up on your writing skills. Whether its learning about citations and referencing or just how to organize your essay, a stop at the Academic Skills Center will relieve some of that added pressure. The more prepared you are for the final exam, the less stress you'll endure. Make sure you take advantage of all the Academic Skills Center has to offer this exam season. The best way to access the services at the Academic Skills Center is to book an appointment. You can book an appointment by stopping by the center or by calling 204-727-9737

One of the best ways to prepare for the final exam, is to take the time to talk to your professor. Brandon University is known for its friendly faculty and stunning student-to-faculty ratio. The professors at Brandon University are always willing to assist their students in understanding the course material. Send your professor an email, a professional email from your university account. Even if you are on a first name basis with your professor its important to keep things proper in the post-secondary setting. Some questions can be answered over a quick email while others may require an appointment for further clarification. Either way, make sure you take the time to ask any questions you have before the final exam.

Sometimes the added stress and pressure just becomes to much for us to handle. After all, there can be times when you have back to back exams and aren't nearly prepared enough for them. You may feel like your losing all control over the situation. Luckily, Brandon University is equipped with some invaluable

resources to help you through that difficult time. Counselling services are available to all Brandon University students, free of charge. Professional Counselors can help with stress, anxiety and depression, things that some students may experience during exam season. Not to worry, as the sessions are confidential so you can attend knowing your privacy is respected. To book an appointment with a counselor either stop by the office at room 102 in the A.E. McKenzie building or call 204-727-9737. Remember that if you need the support, its just a short phone call away.

As you can see, Brandon University has a large variety of support options for students during exam season. For any type of exam or test, its important to make sure you are completely prepared. In order to assist you in this matter, the university has the Academic Skills Center, which can help you sharpen up your math skills or teach you better studying habits. The center can also prepare you for those long-winded essay questions of the final exam. Sometimes you may have very specific and direct questions. In this case it is best to email your professor directly. Your professor is the best source of knowledge you have when it comes to the course material. If in doubt, send them an email from your university email account. For many students, all the prepping in the world cannot take away their stress and anxiety. In this case it is best to talk to a professional counselor. We are fortunate enough to have that service right on campus. Professional counselling can be accessed through the Academic Skills Center and is free of charge. As we inch closer to the season that many students would like to avoid, remember that these support options are available to you. In many cases you pay for them in your initial tuition payment. It is in your best interest to take full advantage of them, should you require them. Happy exam season to one and all!! And happy holidays!

ON THE SUBJECTIVE STYLES OF CHESS PLAYERS

N.Monk, Provider of Chess Knowledge

When it comes to the game of chess one of the most fascinating things about the game is that a person's personality gets perfectly reflected in the way they play. One player may play a bloody lunatic, and another player may play so defensively that they hard to defeat, and so forth.

Certain chess playing styles are more effective against certain other playing styles. Kind of like Pokémon types, like how fire is super effective against grass types whereas fire types are weak to water types. Similarly, this also happens in chess. Magicians (players like Tal, Velimirovic, Ratnakaram etc.) tend to do well against technicians (Kraminik etc.) and certain positional types like Botvinnik and Spassky. However, magicians tend to have some serious difficulty dealing with solid positional players (anacondas) like Petrosian or Maghsoodloo.

One of the reasons for this is, technicians strive to find the most accurate moves in a position and will calculate deeply to find the

right moves. Similarly, positional players like Botvinnik will play positionally by means of calculation.

What makes magicians effective against these players is because magicians tend to generate extremely complex positions in which it is difficult to calculate through the immense variations, this poses problems for the players who greatly rely on calculations because they will not be able to work through them so easily. But for players like Petrosian who play extremely solid positional chess without necessarily calculating exact lines will give problems to magicians. That is because the magician will fail to find a point to attack because everything will be adequately defended.

However, anaconda like players tend to have problems against attacking players that use deep calculation (assassins, champions, etc.) rather than intuition like magicians do. The reason for this is because by calculating for attacks the assassin will find inaccuracies in the anaconda-like play, and thus

will snuff them out by seeing the long-term dynamic weaknesses created by pure defensive play. And the assassins will have a hard time dealing with the technicians which will find problems in the attacks of these players, thus defending properly until the attack burns out. And so forth.

This is why it is important to figure out your playing style, that way you can amplify those abilities to their full potential. Often times it is much more difficult to improve on your weaknesses because it often requires a paradigm shift, something which is extremely difficult to invoke these kinds of mental changes permanently. Thus, it is more effective to emphasise on your own strengths. A good website for this is: <http://www.chess-personality.com/> Every couple of months I check my playing style to see if it changes. For me it tends to remain constant. I get the Champion class almost every time.

“Play to your strengths.” – N.M.

Here are some of the different playing styles of some players:

Mikhail Tal: Had lightning flash combinative powers unprecedented, and an insane ability to complicate a position. In other words, a purely chaotic player.

Max Euwe: The complete embodiment of simple chess. Euwe had taking his inductive and deductive powers from his mathematical career to find moves that are often dead simple, but effective.

Tigran Petrosian: A player who was the master of the art of prophylaxis. Petrosian had an unprecedented ability to snuff out flames long before players ever got the idea to start one. He was also considered to be the most defensive player in history.

Bobby Fischer: Fischer was a gruesome attacking calculator. He often played aggressively but would calculate great depths to determine if an attack would work.

Annual General Meeting for The Quill

Wednesday, November 27th 2019.



The AGM will take place in the Mingling Area just outside of Forbidden Flavors.

Do you want to voice your opinion on the schools newspaper?

Do you have ideas, opinions, or suggestions? This meeting gives you the opportunity to speak up and know that we at the Quill have heard you.

We are always on the lookout for others to join our team.

Perhaps you have skills that could help us outside of reporting. Maybe in ad sales? Or Photography?

Halloween Cryptogram Solution

BE SILENT IN THAT SOLITUDE WHICH IS NOT LONELINESS
FOR THEN THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WHO STOOD IN LIFE BEFORE THEE.

From *Spirits of The Dead* by Edgar Allan Poe

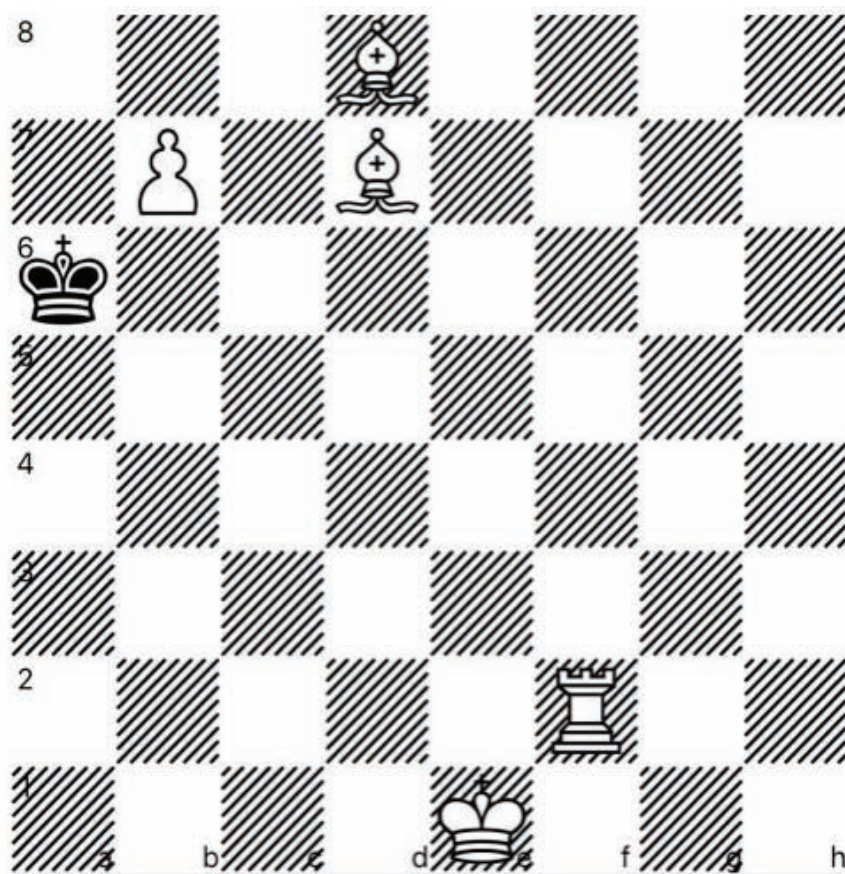
I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO
THERE IS NO WAY I
CAN POSSIBLY FINISH IT
ALL ON TIME... STRESS.



Artist: Tyler Clarke

**WHITE TO PLAY
AND CHECKMATE IN 3 MOVES**

From:
Noah's Chess Compositional Masterpiece
"Oh, you thought there could only be two. Think again."

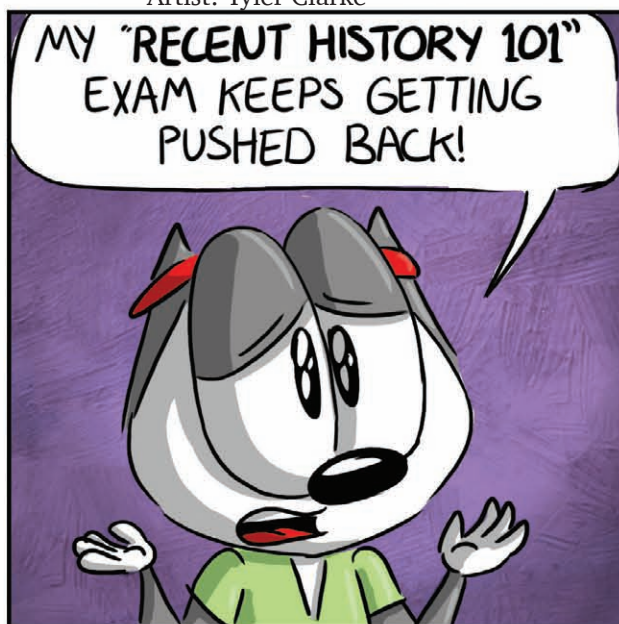


Encyclopedia
Grammatica

Their
denotes belonging

There
the opposite of here

They're
they are



Artist: Anthony Labonte

TAYLOR SWIFT VS. BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP

Mallory Johnson, Reporter

Taylor Swift wants her ownership rights back. On June 30th, 2019 news broke via Swift's social media accounts that Scott Borchetta had sold Big Machine Label Group (BMLG), including all of Swift's past six albums' masters. Scott sold all of this to Scooter Braun, who used The Carlyle Group to help buy it for \$300 million. This was heart-breaking for Swift, who said in a Tumblr post: "This is my worst case scenario. This is what happens when you sign a deal at fifteen to someone for whom the term 'loyalty' is clearly just a contractual concept. And when that man says 'Music has value', he means its value is beholden to men who had no part in creating it." (Swift, 2019). She also states in this Tumblr post that Scooter, along with his client Justin Bieber, has bullied her in the past during other drama; this was unfortunately just the tip of the iceberg of the Scott and Scooter vs. Taylor fight.

On November 14, 2019, Taylor Swift posted a long open let-

ter on her social media accounts. She started off by saying that she is being honored with the Artist of the Decade award at the American Music Awards on November 24th. She further says: "I've been planning to perform a medley of my hits throughout the decade on the show. Scott Borchetta and Scooter Braun have now said that I'm not allowed to perform my old songs on television because they claim that would be re-recording my music before I'm allowed to next year." (Swift, 2019).

Taylor announced earlier in the year that she is legally allowed to re-record her previous six albums so that she can own them. She also said: "Additionally - and this isn't the way I had planned on telling you this news - Netflix has created a documentary about my life for the past few years. Scott and Scooter have declined the use of my older music or performance footage for this project." (Swift, 2019). On November 15th, BMLG issued a formal statement regarding Swift's post. They claimed: "At no point did we say

Taylor could not perform on the AMAs or block her Netflix special. In fact, we do not have the right to keep her from performing live anywhere." (BMLG, 2019). While it's true that they can't keep Taylor from performing live at all, they aren't allowing her to perform her old songs. Since leaving BMLG, she released her newest album *Lover* on August 23rd.

Swift's publicist Tree Paine released another statement after BMLG did. The statement says: "In addition, yesterday Scott Borchetta, CEO and founder of BMLG, flatly denied the request for both AMAs and Netflix. Please notice in Big Machine's statement, they never actually deny either claim Taylor said last night in her post." (Paine, 2019).

At the end of her November post, Swift asked her fans to: "let Scott and Scooter know how you feel." (Swift, 2019).

That day, a Change petition started by a fan gained traction and garnered more than 100,000

signatures (and counting!). She was also given support by celeb friends Selena Gomez, Halsey, Cara Delevigne, Camilla Cabello, and more. She was even given political support by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Elizabeth Warren. So far, a possible resolution for the award show issue is to get other recording artists to cover her old tunes at the show. Hopefully, this issue will be more formally resolved quickly.

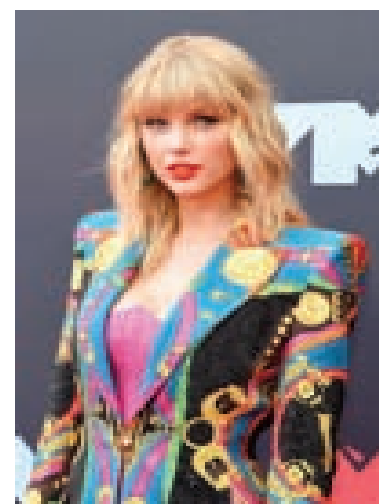


Photo Credit: Google Images

For Remembrance Day Just Gone By.



Courtesy of Quolixuan Mao and her art class students;
Katie Fang, Shawna Wang, Elaine Shi, and Emma Cao.

BRANDON UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR TESTIFIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CASE

Kai Neiman, Editor-in-Chief

Recently a Brandon University professor gave expert witness testimony in front of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, which led to a ruling that prompted the Manitoba government begin allowing gender-neutral designations on birth certificates.

Dr. Corinne Mason, an Associate Professor in Gender and Women's Studies and in Sociology, testified as an expert on gender studies, queer identity, 2SLGBTQIA experiences, and intersectionality.

The case focused on the discrimination faced when the complainant, referred to as "T.A." attempted to change their designated sex on their Manitoba birth certificate but were denied. Earlier this month, the human rights adjudicator ordered the government to begin permitting gender-neutral designations. The government was also ordered to pay \$50,000 in damages to T.A.

On the Brandon University Website, Mason had said that the case showed the real-world importance of academic inquiry

into complex issues like sex designation, gender expression and gender identity.

"Gender studies is super relevant and applicable in the world and more people should know that," she said. "I am thrilled by the outcome of this case, which recognizes that a person must be able to ensure their identity is reflected on their government identification. This is a win for non-binary, intersex, and trans communities who have survived binary gender documentation for too long in Manitoba."

Dr. Eftihia Mihelakis, the coordinator of BU's Gender and Women's Studies Program, said that the testimony was precisely the type of public impact that academic research can often make.

"Everyone wants to see a world that is fair and just for all," she said. "This case is direct proof that our institutions can evolve to better serve their people when scholars in gender studies such as Dr. Mason participate in advancing social justice and the public good in and out of the classroom setting."

CHRISTMAS ON A BUDGET

Lulu Maria de Lourdes Garcia Manzano, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

First term is finally coming to an end and after exams are done, we can finally look forward to our holiday break. Christmas is fast approaching and with it the stressful decisions that surround Christmas shopping. How much to spend on each family member? What to get them? Should you even get them a Christmas present?

All of these questions plague our minds as we try to study for our finals. Christmas is expensive and families should discuss how the gift exchange will take place. Whether it's a secret Santa situation or getting everyone in your family a gift that is under \$50.00 it should be discussed at least two weeks prior to Christmas so that you can have enough time to get what you need. Being a university student is not a cheap endeavour and if you only have to shop for one person that is great news for you and your pocket.

However, if you are stuck having to buy more than one Christmas gift this year here are a few suggestions that are guaranteed to not break the bank.

-Set a budget for yourself

Whether you have to buy for

multiple friends/family or just one individual, setting a budget for yourself is extremely important. Make a list of everybody you need to shop for and decide the amount you want to spend on each. It can be the same for all or more for others. This will help to keep you in check as you look for the perfect gift. Sticking to the budget is important as you don't want to spend more than you previously decided.

-Amazon Prime it

If you love online shopping the obvious choice is Amazon. Amazon has a huge selection of gifts at various price tags. You can search for the price range you need and thousands of gift ideas will be available to you. If you do not have Amazon prime and you are cutting it close to Christmas simply get the month free trial and then choose whether you want to renew it or not once the trial runs out. Amazon Prime ensures the present will be delivered on time before xmas.

-DIY

If you do not like online shopping and would like to gift unique and special presents, look no further than Pinterest.

Pinterest has a ton of craft ideas that would make an incredible and unforgettable Christmas present. If you like arts and crafts and do not doubt your creative abilities give this a shot as it will be much cheaper than anything you can buy. Of course, Pinterest isn't the only website you can get ideas from a simple google search will give you many websites to choose from and something is bound to catch your eye.

-Look for the sales!

Christmas is the time when many stores try to lure customers with great deals. If you do not have time to online shop and if you can't make anything then try hitting up a few stores and seeing if they have any deals going on. Always be sure to read the sale signs and make sure that the incredible gift you picked up is indeed on sale.

-Go thrifting

During the Christmas season a lot of people purge their closets and their homes and donate those items to local charities or to thrift stores. This means that thrift stores will have more stock and you may be able to find something unique at a very

good price. You can often find collectables, antique items, clothing or even furniture from these locations. They are often incredibly cheap and you will be able to get more out of your money if you choose to shop this way.

-If all else fails gift a gift card

If you are really running out of time and can't find anything that fits your budget or that impresses you enough to gift, gift them with a gift card. Gift cards are easy, fast and you can set the price. Whether its to their favourite store or coffee place, gifting a gift card removes any stress of choosing wrong and gives the person the freedom to choose what they want.

Christmas is a wonderful time where we get to enjoy the company of those close to us and the peace and calm of no school. If you can't afford to gift those you wish to give something remember that Christmas is not only about presents and spending money, but also about spending time with family members you haven't seen in a while and eating delicious home made meals.

CHEATING IN CHESS TOURNAMENTS

N.Monk, Provider of Chess Knowledge

With headlines in the chess news like “grandmaster puts phone in toilet” one cannot help but wonder how far some players are willing to go, and why they make an effort to go to that extent.

Often times in chess tournaments, like the Grand Swiss, or the Grand Chess Tour there can be a lot of money on the line, for example in the Grand Chess Tour the first-place winner would receive about 1/3 of a million dollars. Or the prize money for the world championship matches had 2-3 million dollars on the line as well as the world champion title. With large amounts of money in the prize pools players definitely want to be sure that their opponents are not using a chess engine to tell

you the right moves. This is why chess tournament competitors often have to go through border level security before even getting through the tournament door.

Cheating in the modern era has become far easier ever since the existence of smartphones. Any free chess engine app one can download on their phone is capable of beating even the current world champion Magnus Carlsen himself. So, one of the most common ways players cheat in tournaments is by going to the washroom during chess games and looking up the best moves on their phones during a chess game. To counteract this in tournaments players go through metal detectors to make sure they do not have access to their

smartphones during a game.

However, even with metal detectors some players are able to bypass this. One Czech grandmaster hid his phone inside a plastic bag in a toilet bowl, and during chess games he would go to the washroom to check the best lines in his position. Another case is when a blind player who had to have the moves said to him, and he took advantage of hearing aids by having a team of players listening through the hearing aids. The moves were being sent by SMS messages and then the best moves were sent back to the player and he listened to them in his hearing aids.

Online chess has taken the greatest hits from cheating in the modern era because

of how much easier it is to cheat due to the fact that players are not face to face. When players on chess.com, lichess, or chess24 are asked why they do not play long games like rapid or classical time controls, one of the most common answers is the number of players cheating during their chess games.

Chess streaming grandmasters like Simon Williams or Eric Hansen often come across cheating during online chess games which complicates things when the chess grandmasters are trying to provide educational insight into the game. Even I have

come across cheating in some online chess games, and it is the main reason I never play online games.

Today’s cheat detection systems have to continuously update in order to keep up with the new ways to cheat in tournaments. Often times the main problem is that the only way to improve on the cheat detection is to analysis cases, but even then, it is difficult to predict cheating cases. As IM Danny Rensch said “it is difficult to predict a murder case, so we often time police can only investigate the murder after it has happened.”

Grey Cup Win After 29 Years of Losing

Kai Neiman, Editor-in-Chief

Winnipeg Blue Bombers ended a 29-year drought by winning the 107th Grey Cup final Sunday night, beating the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 33-12 at McMahon Stadium in Calgary. Most current Bombers had yet to take a breath in 1990, when 26-year-old quarterback Tom Burgess last led Winnipeg to a Canadian Football League championship.

Much of the Bomber fan base also wasn’t even born and has no memory of that night in Vancouver. Now however, they have very fresh memories of an unseasonably mild November

night in Calgary, when the Blue Bombers homegrown running back Andrew Harris scored two touchdowns. The game where Kicker Justin Medlock kicked five field goals and the Bomber defence took the ball away from Hamilton’s offence six times and sacked quarterback Dane Evans five times.

To the Winnipeg Football Club, this victory is not just a validation. It is a cause for celebration and form of closure to to alleviate decades of frustration. A win seemed a statistical improbability. No one really expected to actually win. The football league with only eight or


nine teams for most of its recent existence, one comes to expect to excel at failure or to be cursed with exceptionally poor luck in order to wind up without a championship for nearly three decades.

The game didn’t feel like a lock for Winnipeg until the final minutes. Pessimism is hard to overcome, especially after going so long without a Grey Cup win. It’s something that Winnipeg and all of Manitoba have to celebrate and brag about for quite some time.

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THE QUILL CLASSIFIEDS



Photo Credit: Kai Neiman (QUILL INSTAGRAM)

Issue 12 Disclaimer

This issue presents legitimate news and events.

Answer for Chess Puzzle from Issue 09:

Answer: 35. Bxf6+! gxf6 (if 35...Bxe6 36. Qxe6 gxf6 37. Qxf6+ Nf7 38. d7 checkmates shortly) The game continued 36. Rxf6+ Ke8 (36...Kg7 37. Qc3) 37. Rxc6 hxc6 38. Qc3 Rh7 39. Qf6 Ba4 40. Qxc6+ Nf7 41. Rf1 Bc2??

We want you!

If you like to write, take pictures, or draw things, you should work for The Quill! We can offer a cool office to nap in and tuition rebates.

Email us at eic.thequill@gmail.com

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