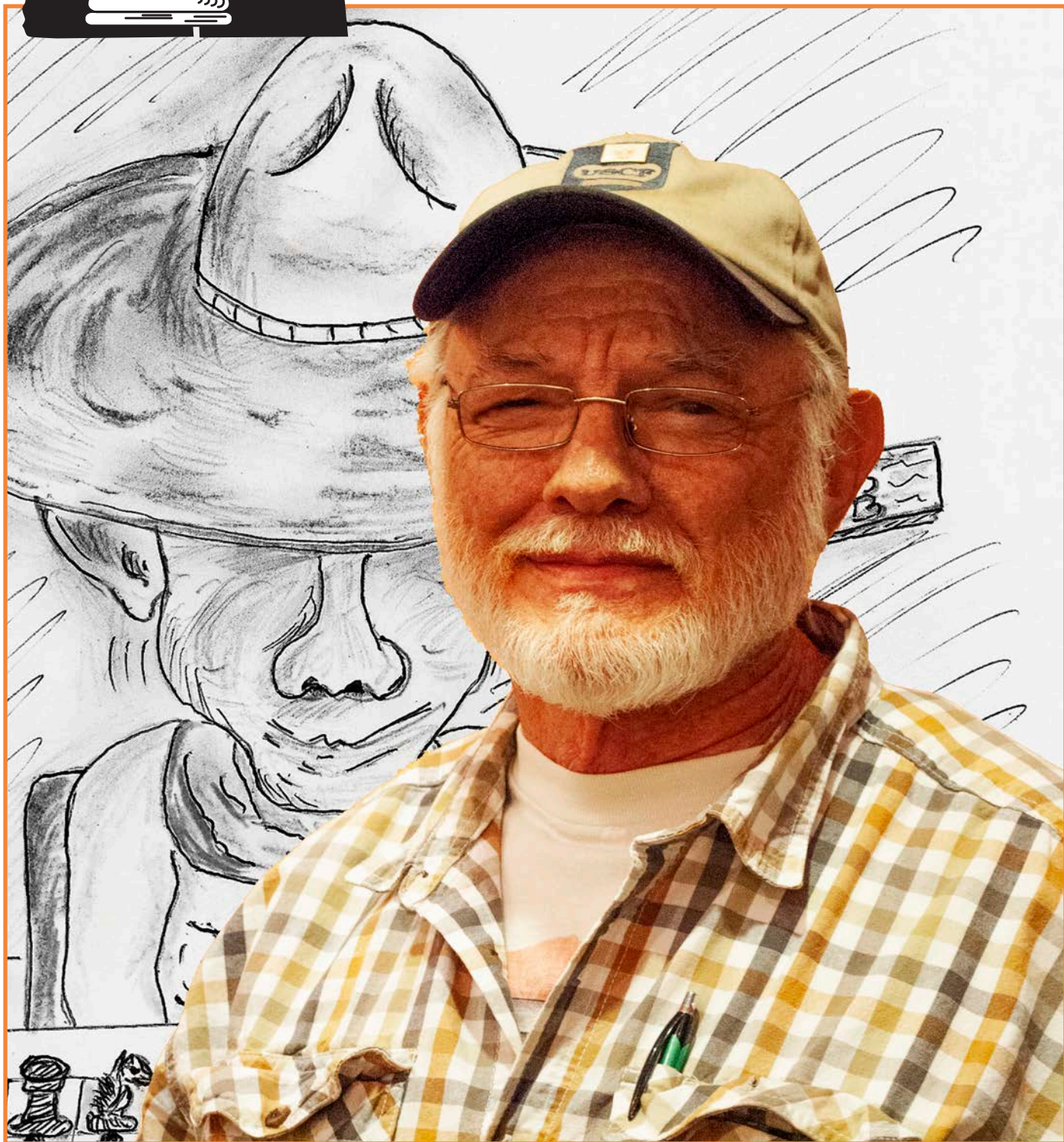




# Chesstoons

Drawn by Brian Berger.

*Book 2: November 2015-February 2018*



# Chesstoons

## *Book 2: November 2015-February 2018*

### Forward

This second book of Brian Berger Chesstoons is a continuation of the first book that covered November 2013-October 2015. It was decided to make each book 32 pages just like a normal issue of *Northwest Chess* would be. It just wasn't feasible to make it too large, as we planned to post this on the *Northwest Chess* website, and when doing such things, one must consider the file size of the document.

Brian's Chesstoons got more detailed over time and higher quality over time. As a result, they were made more or less to fill an entire page. Therefore, I don't have room in this book to write anything about the Chesstoons like I did some in the first book.

I would like to mention here, though, that the December 2017 color cover was an incredible cover. The "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good knight!" caption came directly from the Publisher, Duane Polich. For a time I considered not putting those words there. At first, Brian didn't like it. But the colors, the font, the way it all looked, time for it to sink in, soon everyone liked it, and it went on its destiny to become part of this fantastic Chesstoon. In a rare email feedback from my friend Barry Eacker, he wrote, and I quote exactly and entirely, "LOVED THE NWC COVER FOR DEC!" which is a lot coming from Barry!

I agonized over the choice for at least three days on which of the two versions presented here to use in the final issue. In the end, I chose the one with the white snow because it looked better on paper. The darker blue sky, however, looked better on a computer monitor, and was more in line with Brian's original concept of the sky; but even he wasn't sure, and it was a tough decision. This book is the first time the alternative cover will be seen outside the staff. It is a strange and good feeling to know you have a choice between two winners! Even so, it was still not an easy choice.

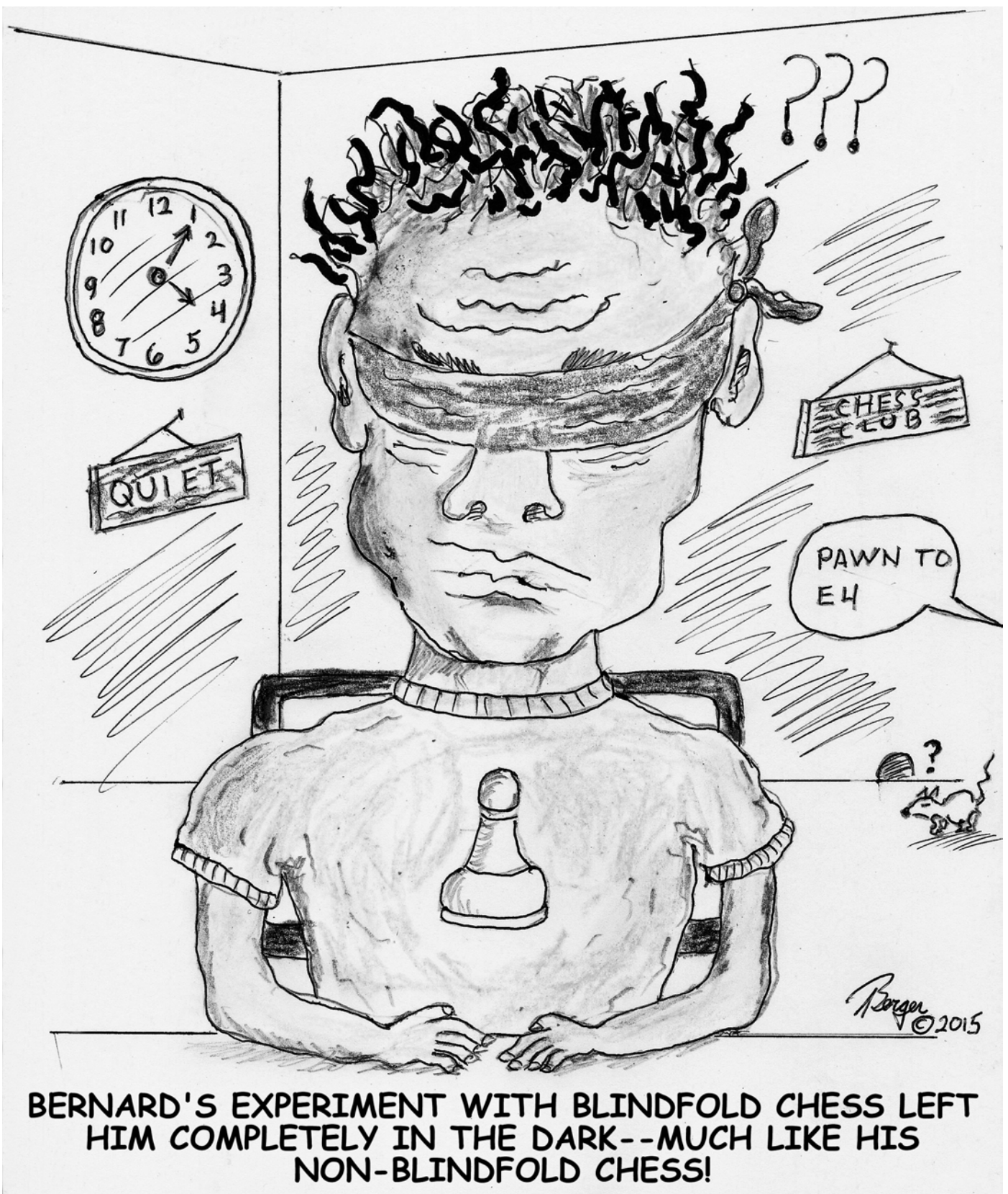
—Jeffrey Roland, May 5, 2018

Cover photo credit: Brian Berger taken at the 2015 Oregon Open on September 15, 2015 by Jeffrey Roland. Superimposed in the background is the cartoon Brian drew for the July 2016 cover.

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November 2015



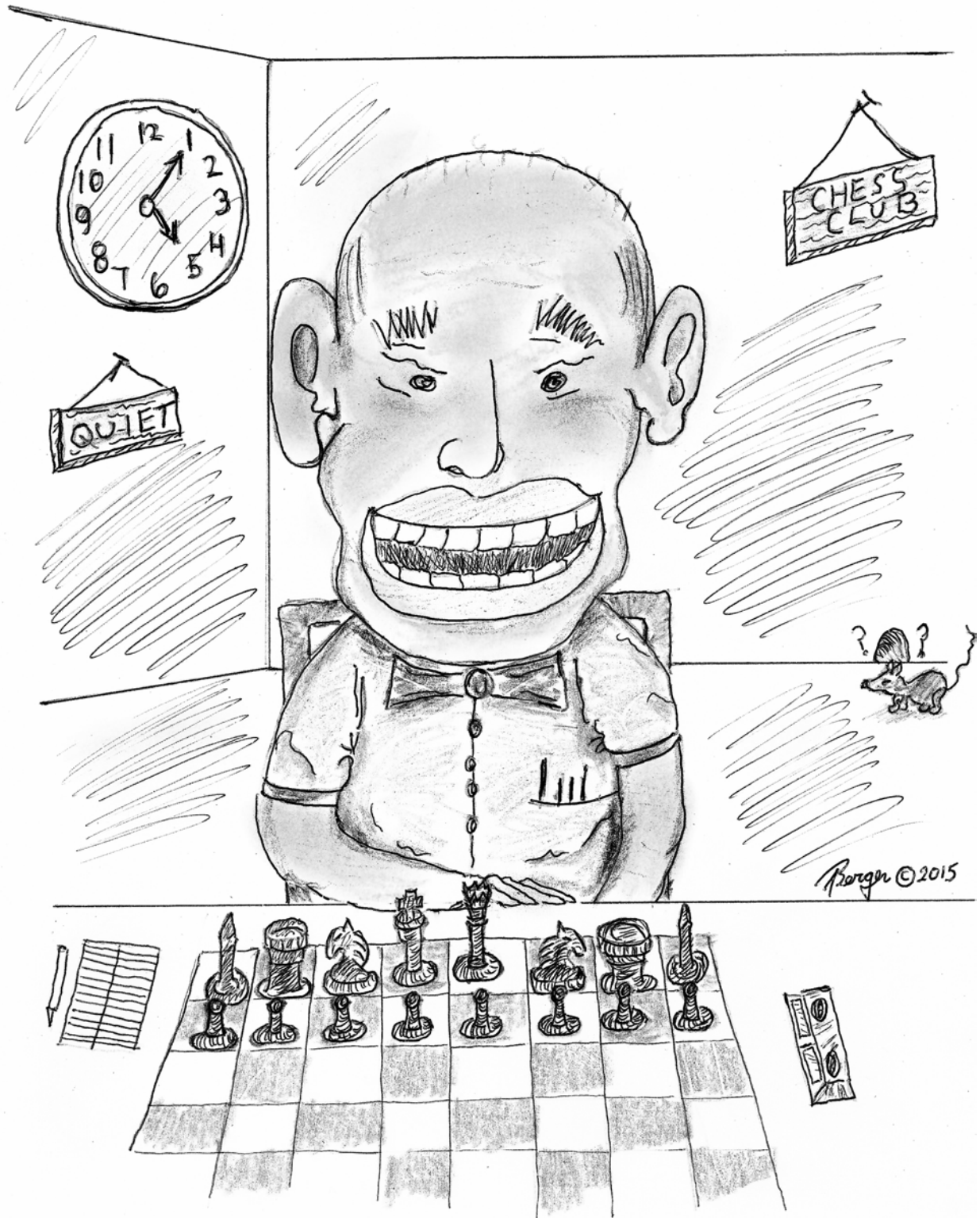
BERNARD'S EXPERIMENT WITH BLINDFOLD CHESS LEFT HIM COMPLETELY IN THE DARK--MUCH LIKE HIS NON-BLINDFOLD CHESS!

December 2015





January 2016



**EDWARD ALWAYS HAD A "WINNING" SMILE, BUT  
PIECE PLACEMENT CONTINUED  
TO BE A MYSTERY TO HIM.**



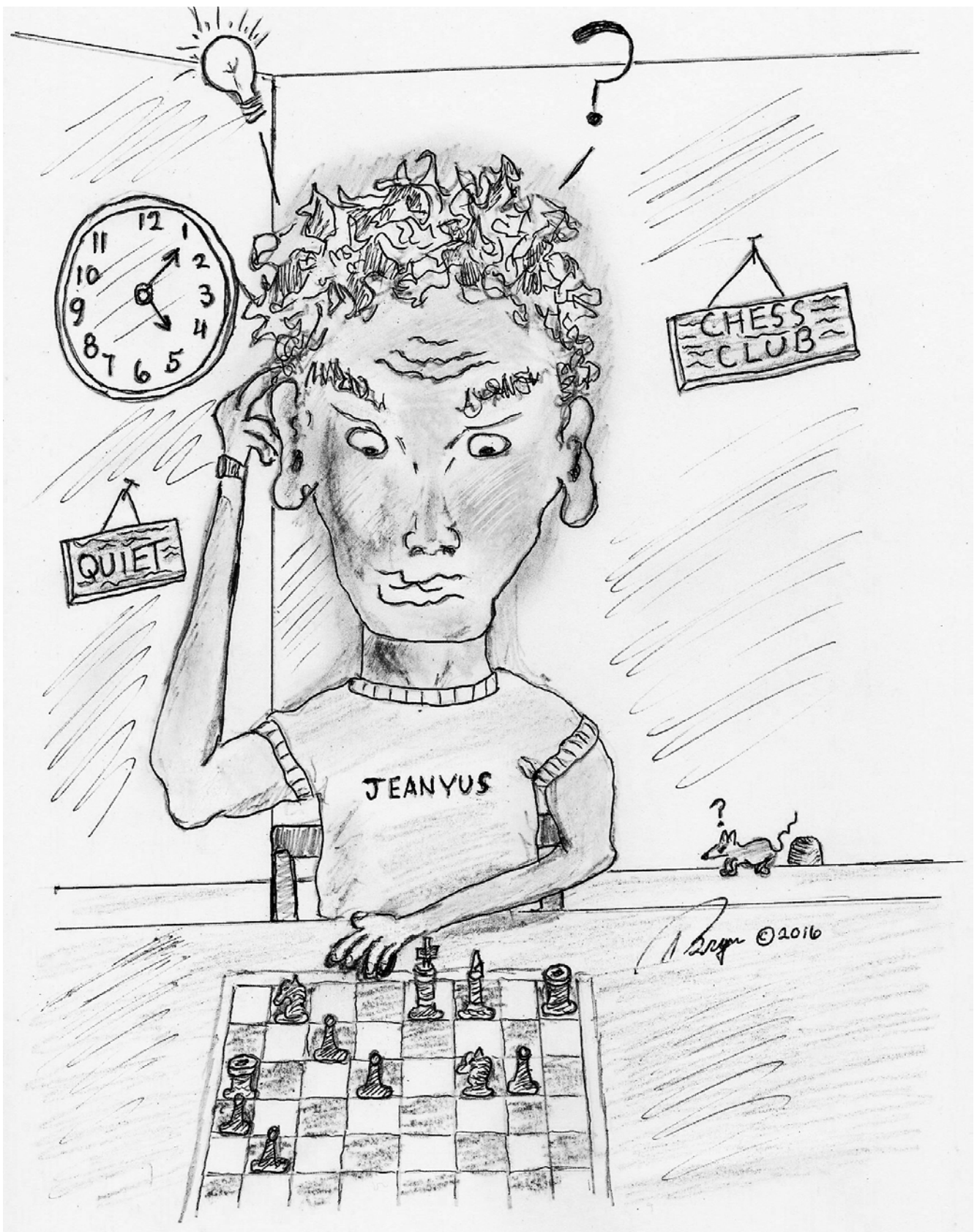
February 2016



**RALPH HAD AN IMPOSING PRESENCE, WHICH COULD NOT MAKE UP FOR HIS INEPT GAME.**



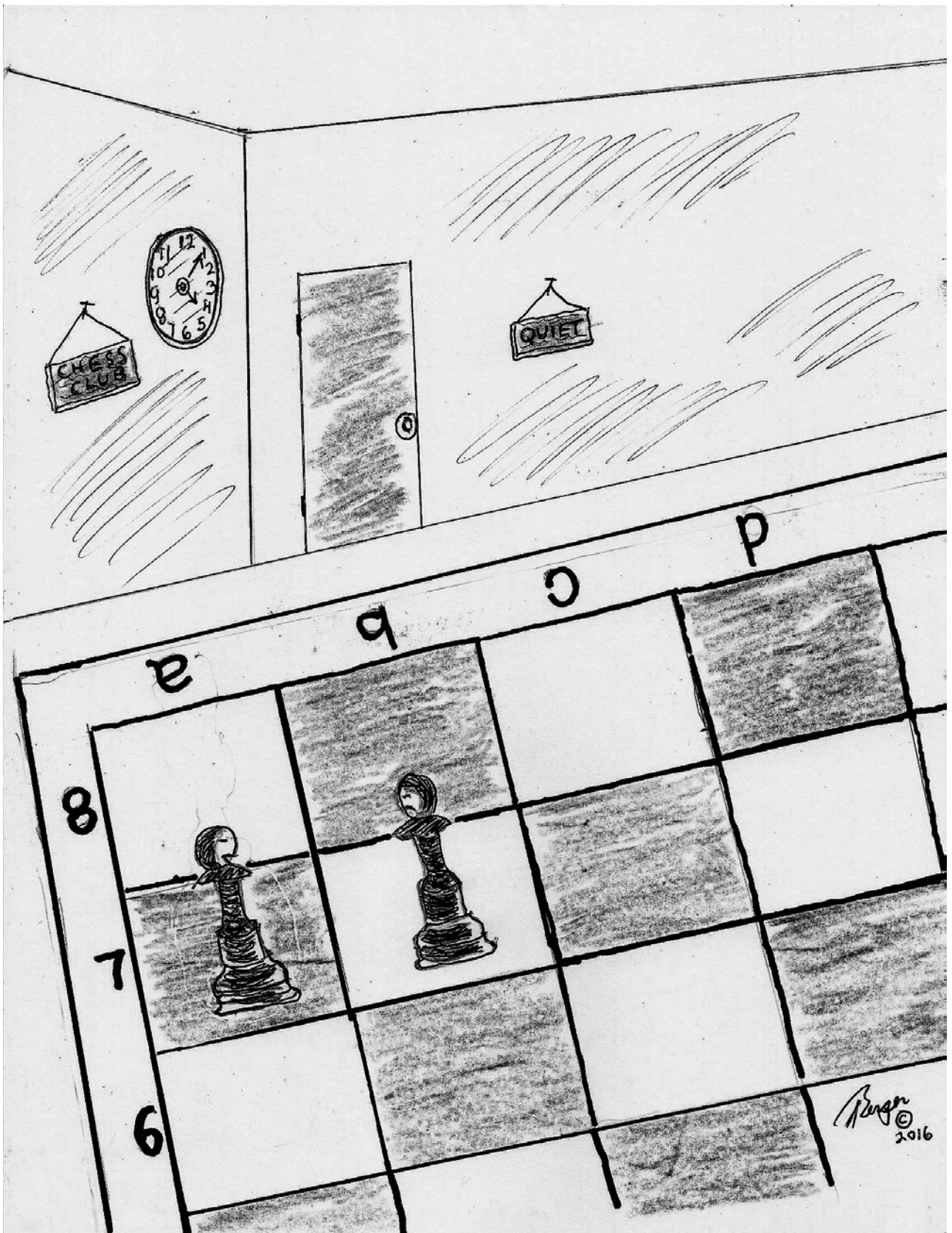
March 2016



**GERALD'S CHESS UNDERSTANDING WAS PROPORTIONAL TO HIS IGNORANCE, THEREBY CANCELING OUT ANY HOPE FOR FUTURE PROGRESS.**



April 2016



I CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING THAT I AM MERELY A PAWN, IN SOME LARGER, GRANDER PLAN.



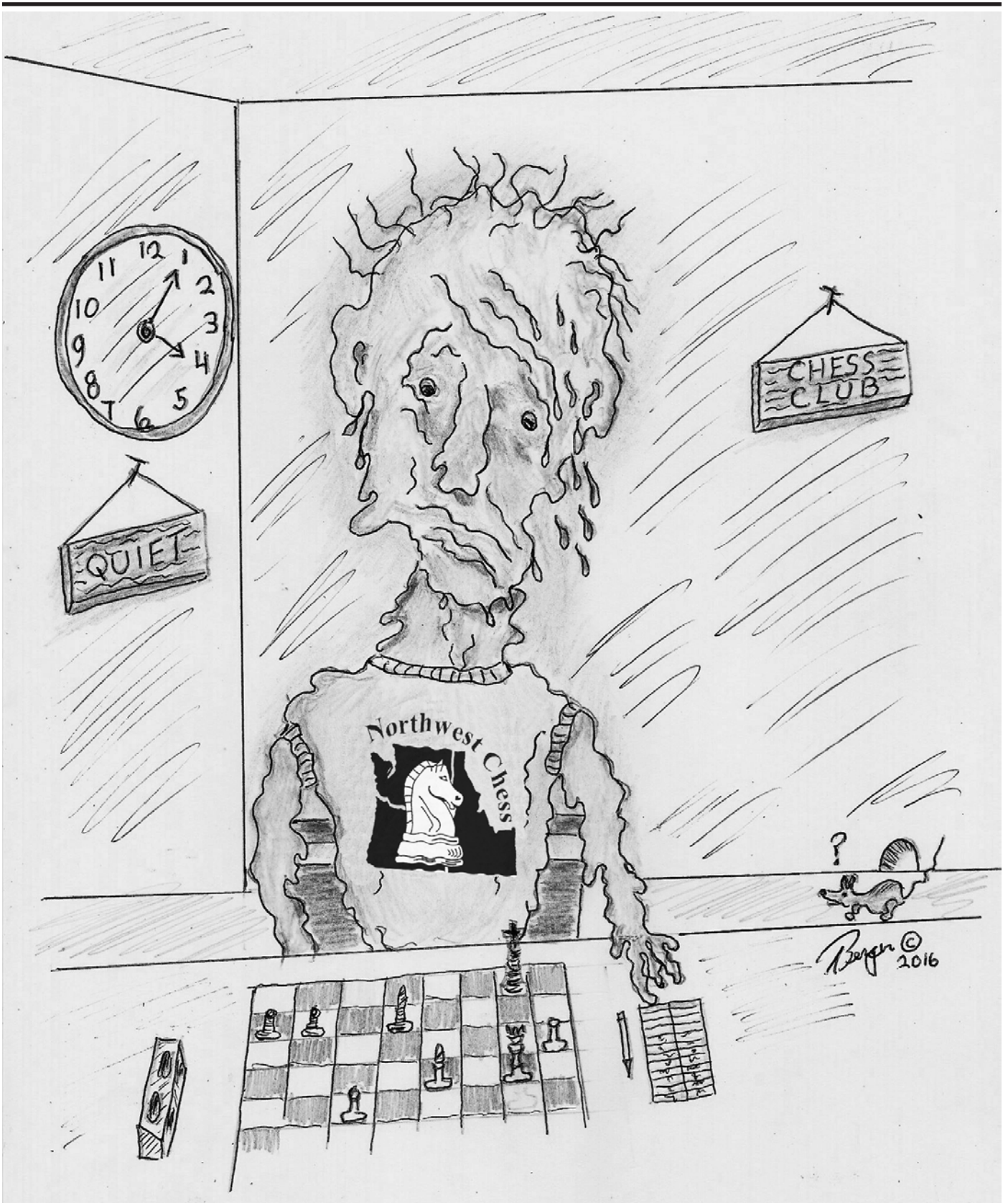
May 2016



FOR SOME REASON, NO ONE COULD TAKE BRANDON'S  
CHESS GAMES SERIOUSLY.



June 2016



IT WAS TOUGH TO WATCH, AS GERALD SLOWLY MELTED UNDER STRATEGIC BLUNDERS AND TIME PRESSURE.



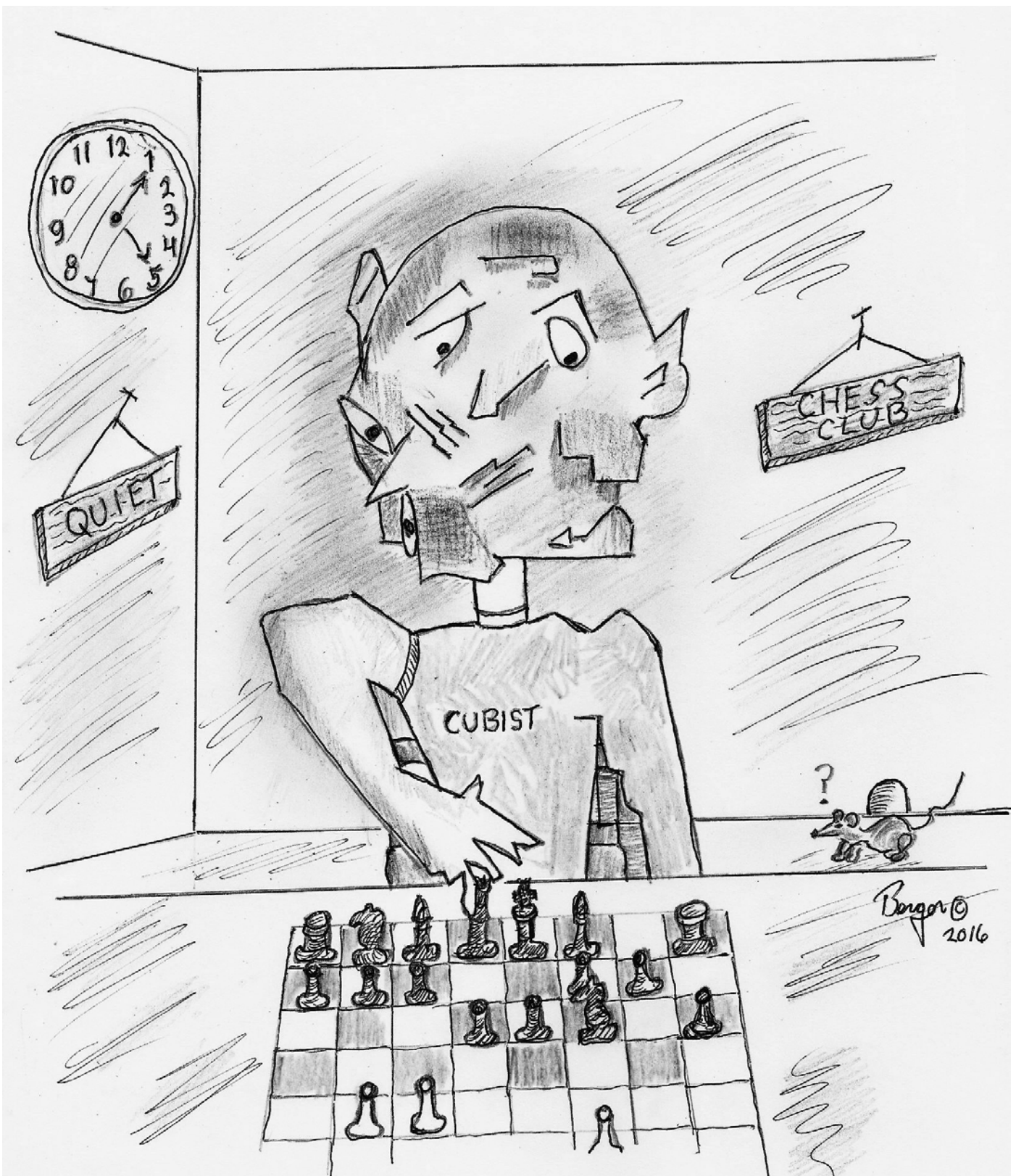
July 2016 (cover)



KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AMONGST THE ELITE OF THE CHESS WORLD AS "BLITZ THE KID," MANY A TOP OPPONENT HAD FALLEN TO HIS LIGHTENING-FAST MOVES, THEIR DEFEATS RECORDED BY THE DOZENS OF NOTCHES ON HIS TRUSY, GUN-METAL BLUE, PEARL-BUTTONED GAME CLOCK—AN OMINOUS WARNING FOR ANYONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE "THE KID."



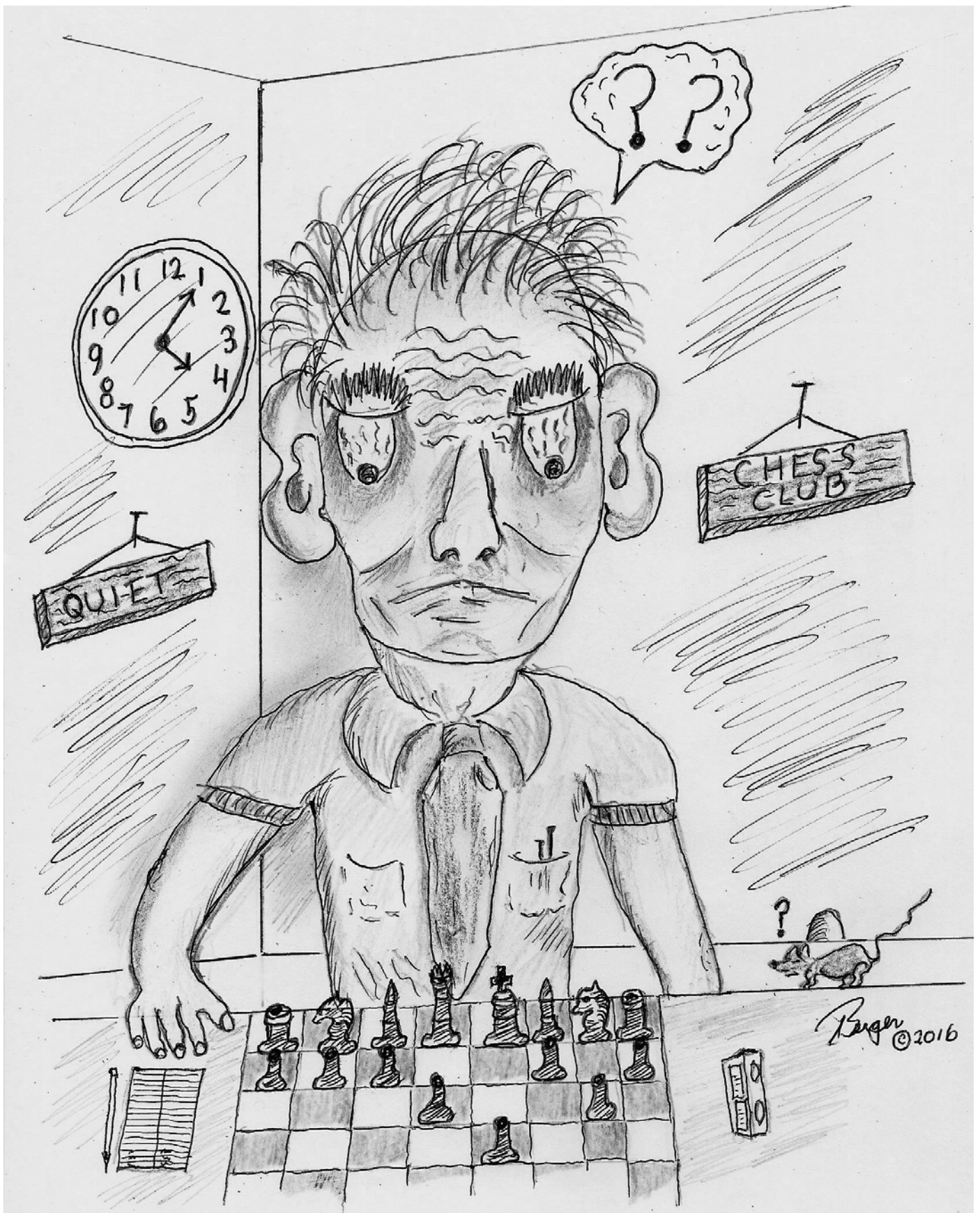
August 2016



GOING BY THE NICKNAME "THE PICASSO OF CHESS" FOR THE BOLD ARTISTRY OF HIS MOVES AND CUBISTIC FEATURES, FELIX'S OPPONENTS NEVER KNEW FROM TOURNAMENT TO TOURNAMENT WHICH FACE THEY WOULD BE FACING.



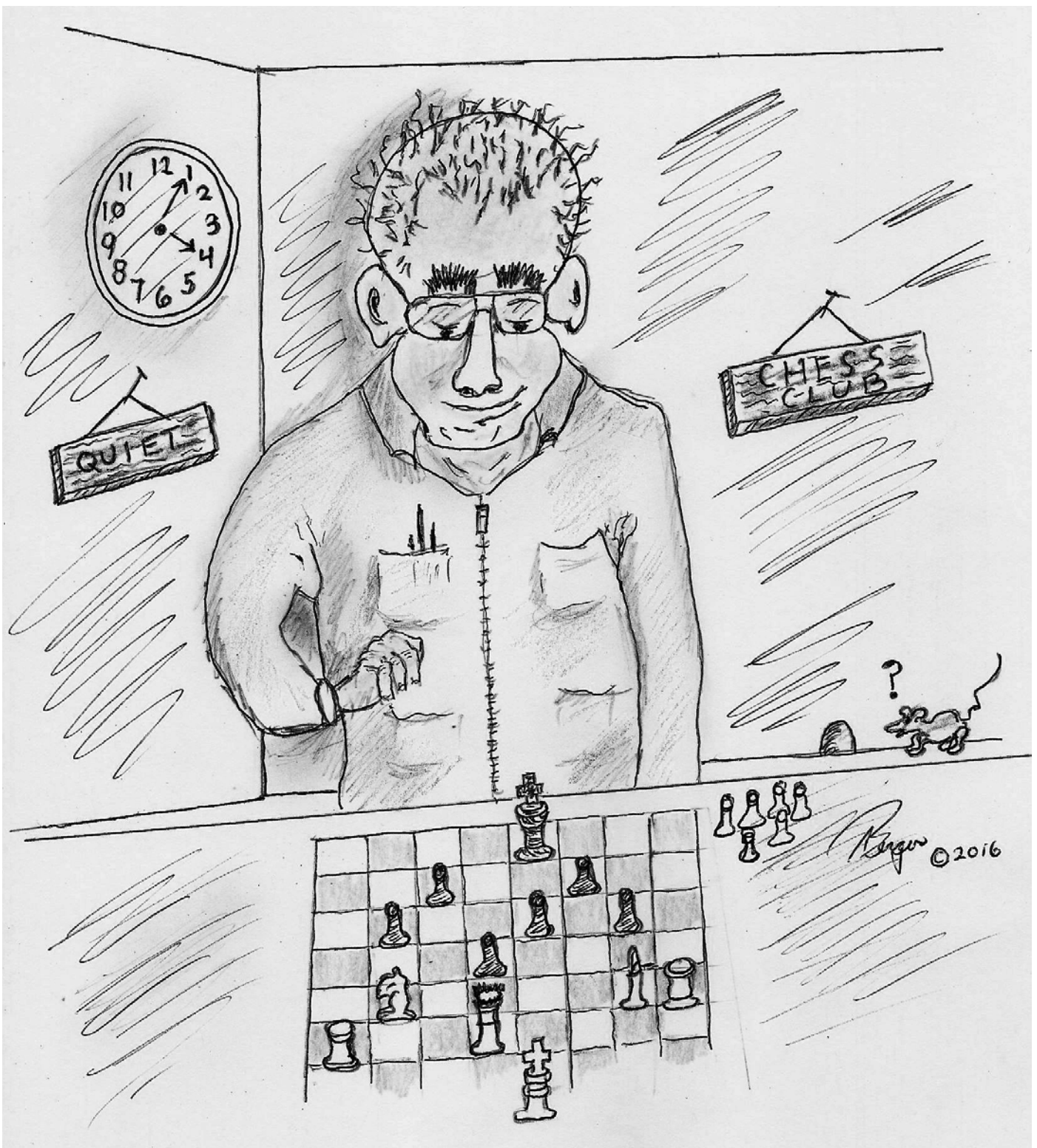
September 2016



TRY AS HE MIGHT, GEORGE'S POWERS OF OBSERVATION  
COULD NOT REACH HIS OPPONENT'S SIDE OF THE BOARD.



October 2016



**HAPPY WITH HIS NEW STRATAGEM OF TRADING  
DOWN TO AN ENDGAME, BURTON TRADED OFF ALL  
HIS MAJOR PIECES FOR PAWNS.**



November 2016



**SURE THAT HIS MIND WAS BEING READ BY HIS  
OPPONENT, FELIX TOOK EXTREME MEASURES TO  
BLOCK HIM.**



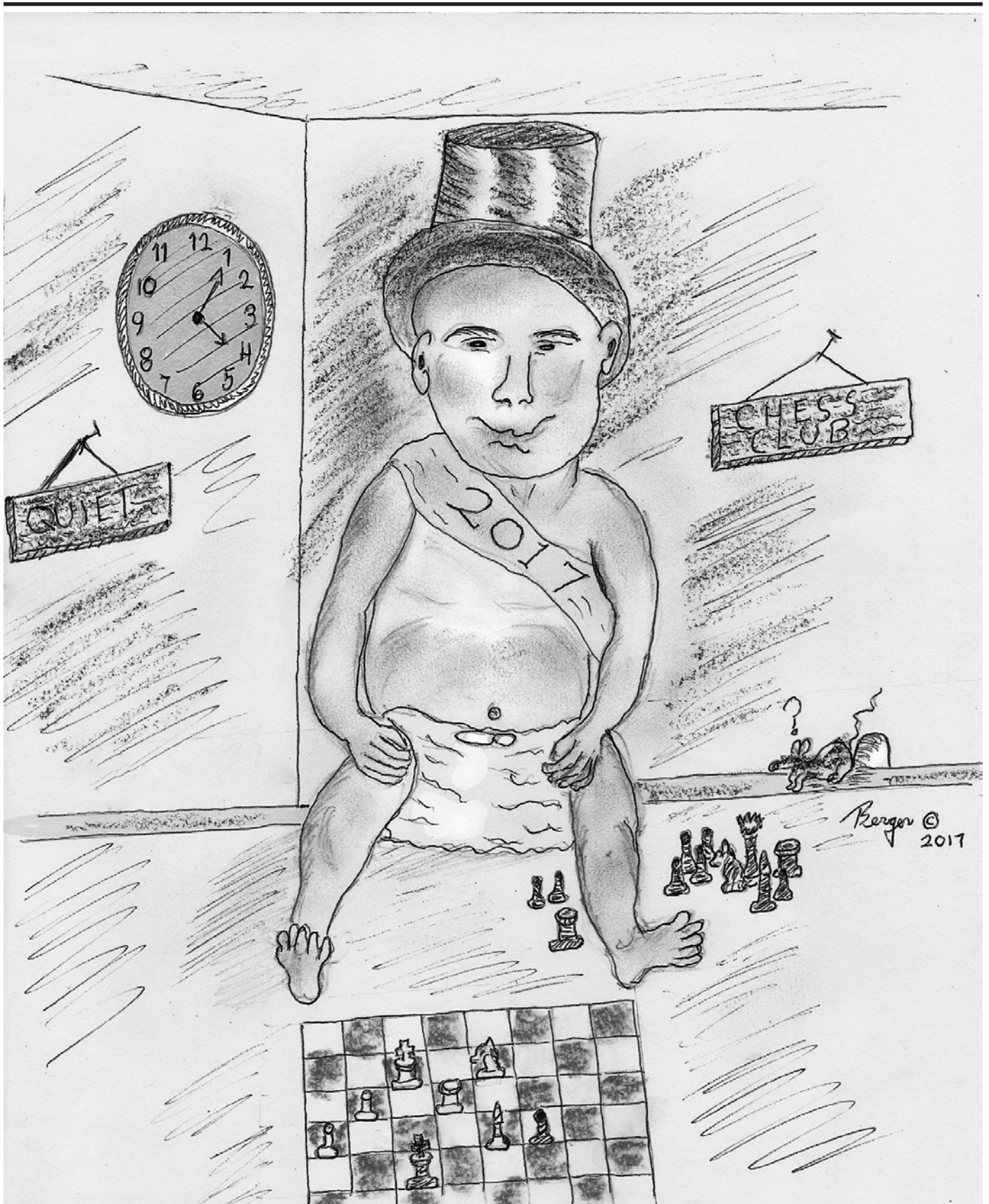
December 2016



**YES VIRGINIA, SANTA CLAUS IS REAL—AND YOU'VE JUST BEEN CHECKMATED!**



January 2017



THE "KID" HAD BEEN IN TOWN ONLY A SHORT TIME, BUT HAD ALREADY BEATEN TWO GRANDMASTERS AND WON THE "NEW YEAR'S OPEN," WITH A PERFECT SCORE OF 5.0/5.



February 2017



WALTER HAD STUDIED FOR MONTHS, PERFECTING HIS WHITE, d4, OPENING MOVE. UNFORTUNATELY, HE HADN'T A CLUE ABOUT ANY CONTINUANCE.



March 2017



ESTHETICALLY, FELIX FOUND CHESS PIECES FASCINATING.  
INTELLECTUALLY, THEIR MOVEMENTS EVADED HIS UNDERSTANDING.



April 2017



I WILL BE THE GREATEST CHESS PLAYER THAT GOD EVER CREATED!



May 2017



SUDDENLY, FRANCIS WAS 70, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME PERCEIVED THAT, WHAT HE HAD THOUGHT WAS AN APTITUDE FOR CHESS, WAS INSTEAD, NOTHING MORE THAN A CRUEL, COSMIC JOKE.



June 2017



BRANDON SUSPECTED HIS OPPONENT MIGHT BE TOYING WITH HIM,  
SURROUNDED AS HE WAS BY FOUR QUEENS.



July 2017



**DUE TO HIS LACK OF MUSCLE-TONE,  
GERALD COULD NOT PLAY WITH TRIPLE-  
WEIGHTED PIECES.**



August 2017



THINKING THAT HE WOULD SURPRISE HIS OPPONENT  
WITH A UNIQUE OPENING, PERCEY DISCOVERED ON  
HIS FIFTH MOVE, HE HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT HE  
WAS DOING.





QUIZ.  
WHO IS THE MASTER? WHO IS THE STUDENT?



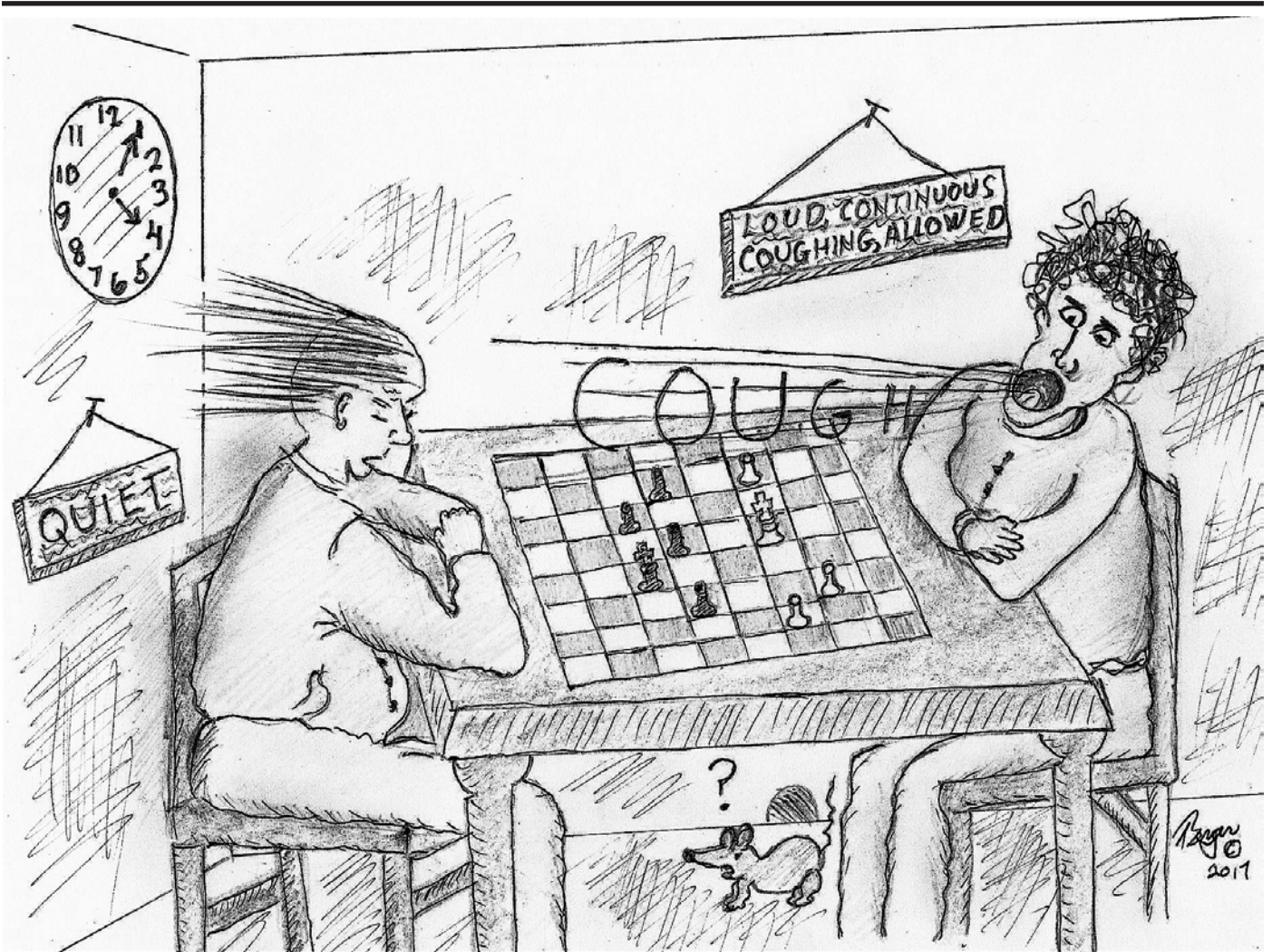
October 2017



**HOWARD ENJOYED CHESS  
MUCH MORE AFTER BECOMING A  
ZOMBIE.**



November 2017





November 2017 (additional chesstoon)

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December 2017 (cover)





December 2017 (alternate cover version, not used)





January 2018



BERNARD COULD SMELL VICTORY IN THE AIR.  
UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAD A POOR SENSE OF SMELL.



February 2018



EVERYONE AT THE CLUB COULD TELL THAT, ONCE AGAIN, FELIX'S CHESS COMPUTER HAD BEAT THE STUFFING OUT OF HIM.