

## CORRESPONDENCE

The previous issue of the *ICCA Journal* has provoked an unusual amount of discussion on the contents of the articles published. The discussion is welcomed and considerable space has been allotted to divergent opinions in the Correspondence Section below; specifically Dr. Berliner's letter has been published in full because of the fundamental nature of his challenge of Dr. Botvinnik.

For a better understanding of the status of contributors and correspondents, the Editors reiterate their position about materials published: publication in the Journal does not imply endorsement; this applies equally to publication of an objection to or criticism of a prior publication. A former statement of this position may be found in the *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 4, p. 216 (1987). To the Editors and, we hope, to our readers, it is self-evident that if any endorsement were to be implied, the Journal would, by that very fact, lose its status as a liberal forum for scientific discussion. It is clear that the interests of our community are best served when that nature as a liberal forum is preserved.

Correspondents' attention is drawn to the right to reply upheld by the Editors. This involves that any correspondence critical of a publication will be forwarded, as soon as received, to the senior author of that publication to allow him/her to react. An effort will be made to publish this reaction in the same issue as the criticism, failing which it will be published in the issue immediately following.

The Editors reserve the right to publish correspondence in condensed form, by extracts, excerpts or summaries, as already stated in *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 4, p. 272 (1985).

### PLAYING COMPUTER CHESS IN THE HUMAN STYLE

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'The time has come,' the Walrus said,  
'To talk of many things:  
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—  
Of cabbages—and kings—  
And why the sea is boiling hot—  
And whether pigs have wings.'

Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*, Ch. IV.

#### Introduction

All of us who have achieved a chess program good enough to enter a meaningful competition have had the following experience, which I first had around 1969. Richard Greenblatt, whose program, MacHack VI (Greenblatt *et al.*, 1967), had made some major breakthroughs in entering and surviving human competitions, was good enough to make his program available to Carnegie-Mellon University Computer Science. Knowing it was the best, it was immediately a challenge to try to see how my program, J. Bit, could do against it. This was easily done by playing a pair of games starting from the original position and looking at the result.

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<sup>1</sup> The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author only, and do not necessarily reflect those of any organization he is or has been affiliated with.