

CHINOOK IS WORLD CHECKERS CHAMPION!

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The computer program CHINOOK is now the World Checkers (8 × 8 draughts) Champion. The defending champion, Dr. Marion Tinsley, resigned his World Championship match against CHINOOK after 6 games due to illness. CHINOOK then played a match against Don Lafferty and retained its title.

Although this is the first time a computer program has been declared a World Champion against human opponents, the CHINOOK team feels little satisfaction in achieving the goal. It is hoped that Dr. Tinsley makes a full recovery, and that a match with CHINOOK can be arranged in 1995.

DEREK OLDBURY (1924-1994): AN OBITUARY

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Derek Oldbury, a World Champion at checkers (8 × 8 draughts), died July 9, 1994. A keen games and computer games enthusiast, Derek was an avid reader of the *ICCA Journal*, and contributed several letters which appeared in these pages. In his sixties, Derek taught himself computer programming, and wrote a checkers program. His interest in computing led to the creation of his electronic games magazine *Alpha-Beta*, a quarterly publication containing articles, source code and binaries for a variety of games, including chess. His parting is greatly regretted by all who knew him.

DEREK OLDBURY: A EULOGY

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I first met Derek Oldbury at the 1989 Computer Olympiad, where each of us had entered our computer draughts programs. I already knew him by reputation through his famous MOVE-OVER book, and I had tried to use some of the ideas he had put forward in the early SAGE program I was entering in that tournament. What was striking about Derek's work was his attempt at a scientific analysis of the game, into parameters that could be used in a computer program — virtually the only attempt at this in the pre-computer age. Anyway, on meeting him, I found the intelligent and likable man lived up to the legend, and I struck up a friendship that we continued in subsequent years through correspondence and many telephone calls. The 1989 Olympiad saw most of the people who are active to this day in computer draughts — Gil Dodgen with his first program on the Apple Mac, Jonathan Schaeffer with his first version of CHINOOK, Derek Oldbury with his HUSTLER program just ported from the Apple-II to a 386 SX-16 PC, and myself with my early

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