



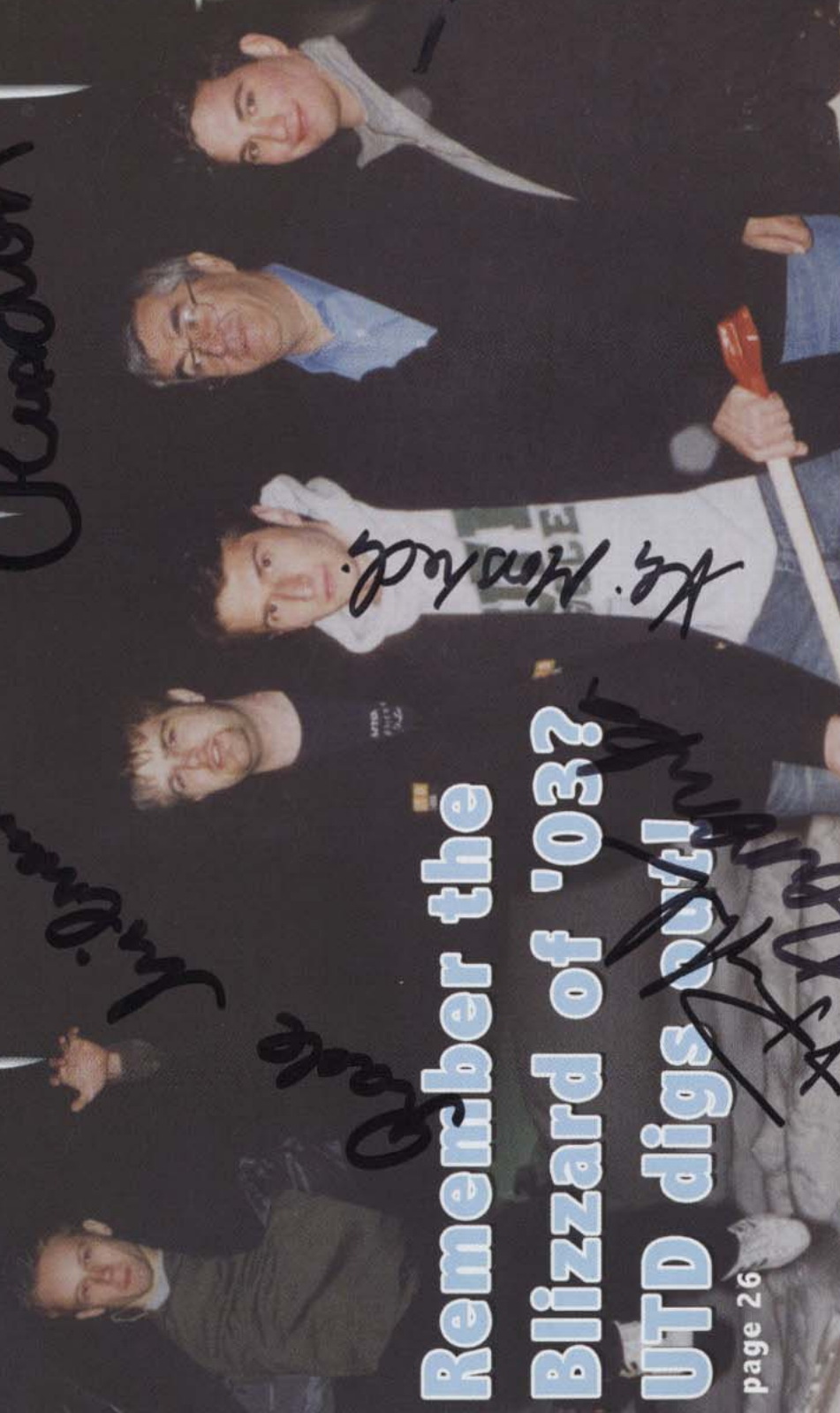
FIRST TIME IN USCF HISTORY!!

ANY MEMBER 16 OR OLDER CAN VOTE IN USCF ELECTION!

NEWSLIFE

June 2003

Bradson



Jeff Brumby

Boyer

Ms. Moshko

**Remember the
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The U.S. Amateur Team East usually draws entries from the East, from Maine to Florida. That declarative statement makes sense, since there are three other regional locations. Oh sure, there have been exceptions over the years — a military team flew in from Germany, a few teams from Canada, California; the Air Force Academy once sent a team, and so on. And, it is not uncommon for friends who have moved out of the area to reunite for this annual event.

But there are interlopers, those who annually travel great distances to interfere with the natural order of things. They aren't carpetbaggers (they're going in the wrong direction), but for the past few years, they've been trying to steal the glory attendant to winning the USATE. And this year they succeeded.

Steve Doyle

Glenn Petersen



1st: UTD Orange with their coach

It's just going to be strange seeing the East in the playoffs, represented by Texas!

The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) to be exact. For years now, UTD has been corraling the best of our youthful players, enticing them with competition scholarships at the Denker Tournament, at the Texas high school championships, at several National Scholastic championships, and at the Pan-Am Scholastics. The faith Tim Redman placed in this program certainly proved to be warranted as many of the recipients have had their competition scholarships upgraded to Academic Distinction Scholarships. And now they have won possibly the strongest amateur team competition in the world.

That's not bragging, I mean, what else would you call an event that regularly draws nearly 100 masters, year in and year out? What else would you call an event that draws grandmasters with great frequency? Where else (except for the Olympiad) will you find 28 teams rated over 2100? This year's event, held February 15-17 at the Parsippany Hilton, was no different, with 265 teams (1,037 players). The USCF and the co-sponsoring New Jersey State Chess Federation — and in particular chief organizer and former USCF President Steve Doyle — deserve kudos from one and all.

Once again, Steve put on a great show, backed up by

a thoroughly professional staff: Carol Jarecki, Sophia Rohde, Roger Inglis, Mike Somers, Justin Koehler, Hal Sprechman, Joe Ippolito, Walter and Judy Heerschap, and Dana Belcher.

I call it a show because the USATE is more than just a tournament. From the "Let's Make a Deal" introduction before each round, to the Best Team Name competition (*Trent Lott Says Black is O.K.*), to the Best Costume (*Psychédélic Relics*) voting — the USATE is a chess happening. Not even the threat of one of the biggest snowstorms in recent years could dampen the enthusiasm of the players.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention the underlying philosophy for the event. Make new friends, renew old friendships, and play some good chess. It has served the USATE well for over 30 years, and I hope that philosophy remains unchanged for the next 30 years.

FOLLOW THE BOUNCING PIECES

One of the (relatively) newer team prizes to be offered is the Top Military Team Prize. This year we were rewarded with eight teams competing in this category, representing all branches of the Armed Forces. In what I hope will quickly become a USATE tradition, the West Point Color Guard presented our flag as part of the opening ceremony.

As I struggled to remember the words to the Pledge of Allegiance (I wasn't alone), I reflected upon the 1970s (the theme of this year's event) and thought of torn allegiances stemming from the Vietnam War, and of the same feelings being resurrected by the threat of war with Iraq. My attempts to remember the Pledge of Allegiance were sabotaged by one young person in the rear of the ballroom, who vehemently took exception to the entire exercise.

Freedom of speech is one thing. Yelling "fire" in a theater is quite another. His mumbblings became rants, and his rants became a tirade heard by all. Joel Benjamin had the intestinal fortitude to do what all of us wanted to do. He told the young man his behavior was inappropriate. Actually, he told him to shut up, and that brought on even louder rantings.

And that brought Steve Doyle down from the podium. Now, you don't yell at Big Steve. You don't bounce chess pieces off his chest. And you don't lunge at him.

Joel Benjamin again stepped in, and had his glasses knocked off in the scuffle. That was it for the young man. He was escorted from the hotel.

I'll have quite a few memories from this event. Joel Benjamin will be one of the better ones.

THE WAY IT SHOULD BE

There will be other memories. The storm left its impact on the tournament. Over 300 players either left early, or

were unable to get back for the games on Monday. Shovels were at a premium, but shared willingly by the diehards who remained (many of us were unable to leave the hotel until Tuesday). A mother of one of the players gave birth. The police gave the Yale team a ride to the train station because they absolutely had to be back in New Haven the next day. And of course, the tragedy that befell Alex Dunne left all of us stunned.

Then there was *How to Lose a Chess Game in 10 Moves*, a team composed of four young ladies, and coached by 1963 Junior Open Champion Peter Irwin. As we hope the aforementioned ranting young man will eventually learn, there are many different ways to make a statement. An Israeli, two Moslems, and a Christian. All on the same team. Yeah, that's the way it should be.



Top Mixed Doubles: UTD White

INTERLOPERS ... NOT!

All joking aside, the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) has been part of the mix at the USATE for so long that it would be hard to imagine the competition without them. They bring an element of competitiveness to the event that would be sorely missed.

This year was no different, with their teams placing first, sixth, and 17th. Of course, one of the reasons for the remarkable success of a single university is the Distinction and Honors Scholarships offered by UTD under the guidance of Dean Michael Coleman.

Of the 12 students who participated this year, four won their Distinction or "competition" scholarships through the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, three through various Texas Scholastic events, and one from the Pan-Am Scholastic.

Three applied for and received Distinction Scholarships (based on academic performance and chess rating/achievement). Three had their scholarships upgraded to the Honors level because of their overall academic performance. These scholarship winners continue to turn in higher grade-point averages than the general university student population.

If you missed it in Alexey Root's excellent article (*CL*, July 2002, page 41) as I did, or if you glossed through the above paragraph, let me stress the point that you can apply for an Academic Distinction or Honors scholarship. Academic performance and a high chess rating are important criteria.

Loosely paraphrased, it used to be said that a good rating and a nickel (quarter, dollar, buck-fifty, depending on your generation) might get you a cup of coffee. With an average value of \$43,000 for a UTD Distinction Scholarship (out of state, \$19,000 for Texas residents) ... well, that's a lot of java.

So go forth and ... study. Keep up your grades, and prepare well for your SATs. But don't feel guilty about the time you spend on chess. It could save your parents about 20 years of debt!



2nd: Make Luft, Not War



3rd: Amber Knights



4th and Top War Islands: Dirty Harry Nelson Pillsbury



5th and Top New York: 4DR