



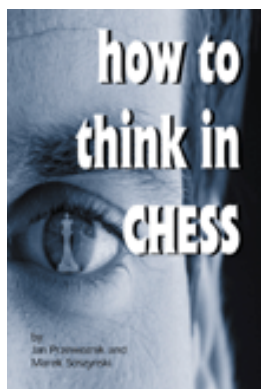
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COLUMNISTS

Opening Lanes

Gary Lane



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Opening Lanes is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next *Chess Cafe* column...

Yes, I have a question for Gary!

Chess Roulette

It is never easy playing the openings because even if you spend your spare time carefully preparing a line it might not be any good. I recently had one youngster tell me that he had memorised the main lines of the Petroff/Russian Defence (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6) because many of the top players employed it. It was down to me in our first coaching session to point out that it tended to be used as a drawing weapon by Black, which didn't seem appropriate to a 1500 rated player! It is a pity that **Steven Hanson** from **Las Vegas, Nevada, USA** didn't ask for some advice before carefully learning a line in the Budapest Gambit. He says "After 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bf4 Bb4ch 6 Nc3 Bxc3ch 7 bxc3 Qe7 8 Qd5 Qa3 9 Rc1 Qxa2 10 h3 Nh6 11 e4 Qa3! my book does not mention 12 Be2 only giving 12 c5, e6, Qd2. Is 12 Be2 better and if so how does black respond?"

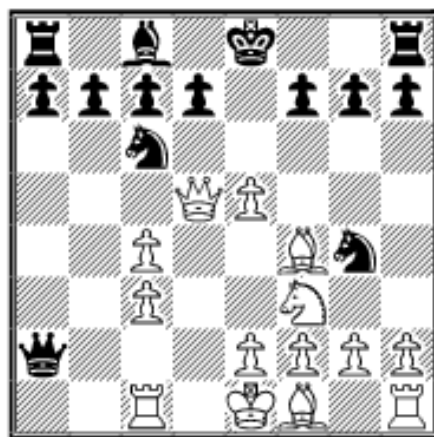
My first reaction is to advise you to take the book to the shop where you bought it from and ask for your money back! I can find no games to back up the claim that



9...Qxa2 is any good unless you count demoralising losses by Black as a positive sign. As far as I know the line has been known to be bad for a long time due to this model example of how White should handle the position:

Svetozar Gligoric-Heikki Westerinen Venice 1971

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 Nf3 Nc6 5 Bf4 Bb4+ 6 Nc3 Qe7 7 Qd5 Bxc3+ 8 bxc3 Qa3 9 Rc1 Qxa2?!



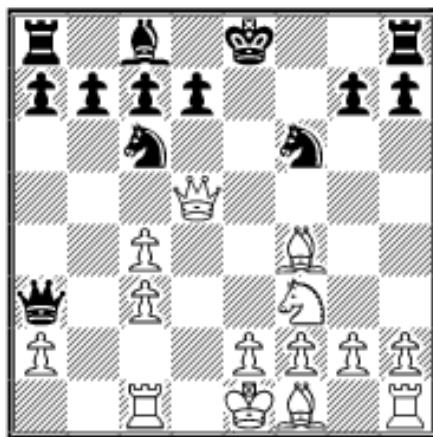
Black wins the pawn back but his pieces lack of co-ordination is a worry. **10 h3 Nh6 11 e4 Ng8** Black wishes to manoeuvre his knight to a better square. In direct reference to your question I found one game, which continued **11...Qa3** and now **12**

Be2. It is a logical move because it helps White to castle kingside but I can see no decent plan for Black. For instance R.Alarcon-M.Nina, Lima 2000 continued: **12...Ng8** (or **12...a5 13 0-0 a4 14 Ra1 Qe7 15 Rfb1 0-0 16 c5** is good for White) **13 0-0 Nge7** (Black reveals the idea of the previous move to move the knight to a more sensible square) **14 Qd2 Ng6 15 e6!** with advantage to White. Also possible: **11...0-0 12 Bd3 b6 13 0-0 Qa5** (**13...Bb7** allows White to embark on a winning combination after **14 Ra1 Qb3 15 Rfb1 Qxc3 16 Bd2 Nxe5 17 Bxc3 Bxd5 18 Bxe5**) **14 Ra1 Qxd5 15 cxd5 Na5 16 Rfb1 c5 17 Nd2** gave White a clear advantage in J.Spesny-J.Pletanek, Decin 1995. **12 c5 Qa3** **12...Qxd5** is not much of an improvement and as usual White had a winning advantage after **13 exd5 Na5 14 Nd4! Ne7** (**14...a6** is necessary but the three pawns in the centre

are very influential) 15 c4 0–0 16 Nb5 A.Chow-J.Jones, Illinois 1993. **13 Bc4** If in the process of developing White can create a threat to force Black to take defensive measures then so be it. **13...Nd8 14 Be3** Gligoric guards the c-pawn and it is becoming clearer that the black queen is running out of escape squares. **14...Ne7 15 Qd1 b6 16 0–0 bxc5 17 Qd3!** The queen moves out of the way to allow the white rooks to hunt the black queen. **17...Qa5 18 Rb1 c6 19 Ra1 Qc7 20 Bxc5** The black queen has got away but at a price. Now that White has a strong bishop on c5 it will very difficult for Black to safely castle kingside. **20...Ne6 21 Bd6 Qd8 22 Nd4** Gligoric adds the knight to the onslaught and makes way for the f-pawn to advance. **22...Ng6 23 Nxe6 dxe6 24 f4 f6 25 Qe3 a5** The position is hopeless which is obvious after the sample line: 25...fxe5 26 fxe5 Bd7? 27 Qf2 winning. **26 Qc5 Bd7 27 f5 1–0**

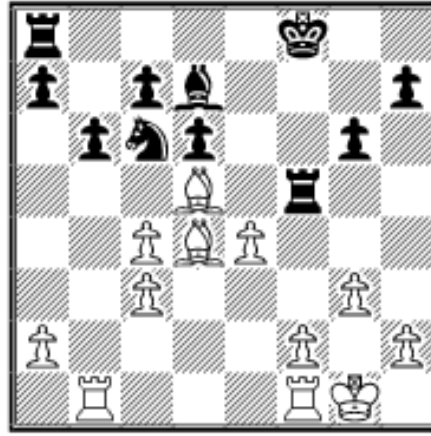
I took the liberty of trying to find a recent game that has been played at the top level to try and revive your line but even without playing 9...Qxa2 things looks bleak for Black:

Loek Van Wely-Ariel Sorin Buenos Aires 1995
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 Bf4 Nc6 5 Nf3 Bb4+ 6 Nc3 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3 Qe7 8 Qd5 Qa3 If you are going to play this line in the future then 8...f6 is your best bet. **9 Rc1 f6** The f-pawn is advanced in a bid to help get the king's knight to a better square. **10 exf6 Nxf6**



11 Qd3 11 Qd1 Van Wely's compatriot Joop Van Oosterom has experimented with 11 Qd1 in a game against R.Reynolds, ICCF 1996, which proves to be interesting after 11...Ne4 (11...Qxa2 12 Bxc7 Qxc4 13 e3 Qf7 14 Ng5 Qg6 15

f4 when White has the better prospects) 12 Qc2 Qe7 13 g3 d6 14 Bg2 Nc5 15 0-0 0-0 16 Nd4 with an edge. **11...0-0 12 g3 d6 13 Bg2 Qc5** 13...Qxa2 has the merit of grabbing a pawn but nobody has bothered to imitate it probably due to worries about the queen being chased around the board. However, in the game Y.Yakovich-J.Coret Frasquet, Seville 1992, White failed to particularly impress after 14 c5 dxc5 15 Bxc7 Re8 (15...Be6!?) 16 0-0 Qxe2 17 Qb1 Qe7 18 Bf4 Qe4 19 Qb5 Qf5 20 Ng5 a6 21 Qb3+ Be6 22 Nxe6 Qxe6 23 Qxb7 Na5 24 Qb1 Rac8 25 Rce1 Qf7 26 Qb6 Nb3 27 Bh3 1-0. **14 Ng5! g6** Or 14...Bf5 15 Bd5+ Nxd5 16 Qxd5+ Qxd5 17 cxd5 Ne7 18 c4 gives White the slightly better chances in the ending. **15 0-0 Kg7 16 Ne4 Nxe4 17 Qxe4 Bd7 18 Be3** Van Wely's pair of bishops are awkward for Black because his king is exposed. **18 ...Qf5 19 Bd4+ Kg8 20 Qxf5 Rxf5 21 Rb1 b6 22 Bd5+ Kf8 23 e4**



23...Rf7 23...Rh5 allows the rook to be trapped after 24 g4 Rh4 25 f3 when the threat of 26 Bf2 means that 25...Nxd4 is the only solution but White is on top after 26 Bxa8 Ne2+ 27 Kg2. **24 f4 Re8 25 Bxf7** White has won material and it is

only stout defence from Sorin that allows the game to rumble on. The game concluded: **25...Kxf7 26 e5 Na5 27 exd6 cxd6 28 Rbe1 Rc8 29 Rf2 Rxc4 30 Rfe2 Nc6 31 Kg2 b5 32 Bxa7 Rxc3 33 Bb6 d5 34 Rd2 Be6 35 Re3 Rc4 36 Rb3 b4 37 a3 bxa3 38 Rxa3 Bf5 39 Kf2 Be4 40 g4 Rc1 41 Rh3 Kg7 42 Bd4+ Nxd4 43 Rxd4 Rc2+ 44 Ke1 Rg2 45 g5 Rg1+ 46 Kd2 Rg2+ 47 Kc3 Rc2+ 48 Kb4 Rf2 49 Rh4 Kf7 50 Rxh7+ Ke6 51 Rh4 Kf5 52 Rd1 Rc2 53 Ra1 Rc4+ 54 Kb3 Rc6 55 Ra8 Bc2+ 56 Kb2 Ke4 57 Rg4 Kf3 58 Rg1 d4 59 Rd8 Be4 60 Rxd4 Rc2+ 61 Kb3 Rxh2 62 Re1 Bf5 63 Kc4 Rh8 64 Red1 Re8 65 Kd5 Re7 66 Rf1+ Ke2 67 Ra1 Kf3 68 Ra3+ Kg4 69 Rb4 Re8 70 Rc3 Kh4 71 Rc6 Re1 72 Kd6 Kg4 73 Rc5 Re6+ 74 Kc7 Re8 75 Re5 Rf8 76 Kd6 Rf7 77 Re7 Rf8 78 Ke5 Kg3 79 Reb7 Bc2 80 Rc7 Rf5+ 81 Ke6 1-0**

Artur Bartmann Arns from **Brazil**, says “ I have a question about a weird move in one of the main-lines of the Benoni: in the line 1d4 Nf6 2c4 c5 3d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 f4 Bg7 8 Bb5+ Nfd7 9 a4 0-0 10 Nf3 Na6 11 0-0 Nb4 12 Re1 a6 13 Bf1 Re8 14 h3, why just can't Black make the apparently normal 14...f5?! I have found some old correspondence games on this, but they all seem to carry out unsound continuations.”

I have to admit that 14...f5 has been neglected by chess literature and it is not easy to use a library to find a solution. For example the instructive book *The Complete Benoni* by Lev Psakhis considers only 14...Nf6 and 14...Rb8. Of course, such works cannot cover everything but that is of little help when your opponent plays such a logical move. However, by looking at a few of the games in this line I believe to have hit upon the right plan of action for White.

Gabriel Battaglini-Evgeni Janev 2nd Rohde Open Sautron 2002

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 Nc3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 g6 7 f4 Bg7 8 Bb5+ This line is named after Taimanov and is considered one of the strongest continuations against the Benoni. **8...Nfd7 9 a4 0-0 9...Qh4+ or 9...a6** are considered the main alternatives. **10 Nf3 Na6 11 0-0 Nb4 12 Re1 a6 13 Bf1 Re8 14 h3 f5**



15 e5!? A clever idea, which is borrowed from other lines of the Benoni because the pawn sacrifice is intending to give White the initiative. 15 Ng5 is the main alternative hoping to benefit from the weakness of the e6 square not that

there is no longer a pawn on f7. For instance: **A) 15...Bd4+ 16 Be3 Nf6 17 Bxd4 (17 Qb3!? is possible) 17...cxd4 18 e5 h6 (18...Nh5! is a sterner test of White's aggressive play by pinpointing the weakness of the f4 pawn 19 Qxd4 Nc2 20 Qc4 Nxa1 21 Rxa1 h6 and it is Black who has the better chances) 19 Ne6 Bxe6 20 dxe6 dxe5 21 fxe5 Nh7 22 Qb3 Qa5** led to complications in G.Miralles-B.Kirsch, Epinal 1986. **B) 15...Nf8 16 e5 dxe5 17 d6**

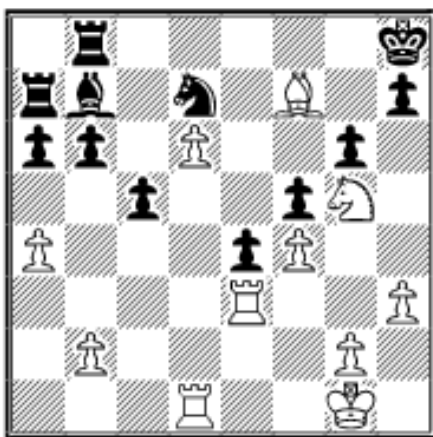
e4 18 Bc4+ Be6 19 Nxe6 Nxe6 20 Be3 Kh8 with roughly equal chances, G.Vanderstricht-B.Van Geffen, Hoogeveen 2002. Also possible: 15 exf5 **A)** 15...Rxe1 16 Qxe1 Nc2 17 Qe6+ Kh8 18 Qe2 (18 Ng5 Ne5! 19 Qxe5 Bxe5 20 Nf7+ Kg7 21 Nxd8 Bd4+ 22 Kh2 Nxa1 is fine for Black) 18...Nxa1 19 Ng5 a hopeful idea that does not disguise the fact that White is losing 19...Bd4+ 20 Kh2 Qf8 21 fxc6 hxc6 22 Ne6 Qf5 23 Nc7 Nb3 with a winning advantage, A. Gual Pascual-V.Rivas Garcia, Barbera 2000. **B)** 15...gxf5 16 Rxe8+ Qxe8 17 Na2 Nxa2 18 Rxa2 Nf6 19 b3 (a nice way to activate the queen's rook by preparing to swing it across the second rank) 19...Bd7 20 Bd3 Ne4 21 Re2 Qg6 22 Qc2 b5 23 Bb2 c4?! 24 bxc4 Bxb2 25 Qxb2 Nc5 26 Bc2 bxa4 (26...bxc4 27 Re7 Rf8 holds the position allowing White only a slight edge) 27 Re7 Kf8 (27...Rf8!?) 28 Nh4 Qg3 29 Qf6+ 1-0 R.Teschner-E.Anbuhl, Germany 1983. **15...dxe5 16 d6** This is an adventurous scheme to plant a passed pawn on d6 and hope that Black will consequently have problems smoothly developing. It looks like a good practical choice and the average player with Black is likely to struggle to find the most accurate moves. **16...e4 17 Qb3+** 17 Ng5 Rf8 (17...Nf8 18 Be3 with double-edged play) 18 Ne6 Qf6 19 Nxc7 Kxc7 20 Be3 b6 21 a5 b5 22 Nd5 Nxd5 (22...Qxd6 is an improvement) 23 Qxd5 Ra7 24 b4 Bb7 25 Qd2 Rc8 26 bxc5 with a winning advantage, D.Komarov-S.Kovacevic, Massy 1993. **17...Kh8 18 Ng5**



Spot the threat!

18...Bd4+ 19 Be3 Qf6 20 Rad1 Bxe3+ 21 Rxe3 b6
 If 21...h6 then 22 Nf7+ Kg7 23 Ne5 Nxe5 24 fxe5 Qd8 leaves the e5 pawn vulnerable. **22 Nd5 Nxd5 22...Qf8? 23 Nc7** forks the rooks. **23 Qxd5 Ra7 24 Bc4 Bb7 25 Qf7**

Qxf7 26 Bxf7 Rb8



27 Rg3?! White starts to go astray by failing to find the strongest continuation. 27 g4 looks like the best chance to undermine Black's kingside giving White an edge. The game concluded: **27...Bc6 28 Be6 Bxa4 29 b3 Bc6 30**

Bxf5 Nf6 31 Be6 Rf8 32 f5 a5 33 fxg6 hxg6 34 Rf1 Nh7 35 Nf7+ Kg7 36 Ne5 Rxf1+ 37 Kxf1 Bb5+ 38 Kf2 Kf6 39 d7 Ra8 40 Bc4 Kxe5 41 Bxb5 Kf5 42 h4 g5 43 hxg5 Nxg5 44 Ke3 Rb8 45 Rxc5+ Kxc5 46 Kxe4 Kf6 47 Kd5 Ke7 48 Kc6 Ra8 49 Kb7 a4 50 bxa4 Rd8 51 Kxb6 Kd6 52 Kb7 c4 53 Bxc4 Rxd7+ 54 Kb6 Rg7 1/2-1/2

Steve James from **Great Britain** writes, "I've got a question about the Classical Lopez. After 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Bc5 4 c3 Nf6 5 d4 ed 6 e5 Ne4 the main line is 7 OO d5; but what is wrong with the materialistic ...dc3? If 8 Qd5 then 8...Bf2+ or 8 Nc3 Nxc3 9 bxc3 etc - Black seems ok, but isn't there a way to splat him? Or at least make him uncomfortable?"

It is probably easier to have a look at the position you are referring to:

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Bc5 4 c3 Nf6 5 d4 exd4 6 e5 Ne4 7 0-0 dxc3?!



A greedy but obvious move! 7...d5 is considered the main alternative. For example: 8 exd6 0-0 9 dxc7 Qxc7 (9...Qf6?! did not fare well after 10 Bxc6 bxc6 11 cxd4 Bd6 12 Re1 Bf5 13 Nc3 Rfe8 14 Nxe4 Bxe4 15 Bg5 when White

is better, Stein-Spassky, Moscow 1961) 10 cxd4 Nxd4 11 Nxd4 Qb6 12 Nc3 (12 Be3 Rd8 13 Bd3 Bxd4 14 Bxe4 Bxe3 15 Qc2 Bd4 gave Black a slight initiative in J.Becerra Rivero-J.Armas, Havana 1994) 12...Nxc3 13 bxc3 Bxd4 14 Qxd4 Qxb5 15 Be3 Be6 16 Qh4 led to equal chances in J.Kochetkova-D.Zhidkikh, Serpukhov 2003. **8 Qd5!** I think this is the best way to achieve an advantage by attacking the bishop and knight. A quick look through a number of books on the opening does not answer the question why 7...dxc3 has long been abandoned. This often occurs when strong players write books and forget that their audience is not always so knowledgeable about the old tricks or games played in a particular opening. 8 Nxc3 looks rather feeble but was tried in the 2002 internet game between G.Perez-B.Wood when 8...Nxc3 9 bxc3 0-0 10 Qd5 Be7 11 Re1 a6 12 Bd3 d6 gave Black an edge. **8...Bxf2+ 9 Rxf2 Nxf2 10 Kxf2 cxb2 11 Bxb2 0-0 12 Nbd2** gives White active play in compensation for the material. After all the two pieces will combine well for the forthcoming attack while Black's development has been neglected.

Marc Lacrosse from **Boitsfort, Belgium** is someone who likes to play unusual openings and has been featured in this column before. His e-mail message said, "I continue playing correspondence chess. I have my favorite openings, generally slightly unorthodox ones as the Basman and Kveinys Sicilian variations against 1 e4. One of my main opening concerns has long been to find a funny and not too incorrect system against the 2 c3 variation. I recently had a look at the strange-looking 1.e4 c5 2 Nf3 Qa5!? and decided to give it a try after I realised that good results had been achieved with it even at the master level. I tried it in a web-based correspondence chess tournament on a German server against François Chevalier from Canada. My opponent adopted a standard scheme against it with Nf3, h3, 0-0 and Bd3, intending - I suppose- to continue with Bc2 and d2-d4. I then went with g7-g5 (a novel idea, as far as I know) and the tactical complications that followed led to a quick victory for Black.

Well, it is not often that I hear about a Belgian playing a Canadian via a German chess site but that is the wonder of the Internet! Let's have a closer look at the game you sent.

Francois Chevalier-Marc Lacrosse Email/Correspondence 2003
1 e4 c5 2 c3 Qa5



A rare line that is rapidly becoming the latest fashion. The simple idea is that in the c3 Sicilian White wishes to play d2-d4 but now Black can capture on d4 when recapture by the c-pawn is ruled out due to the pin on the king. An obvious

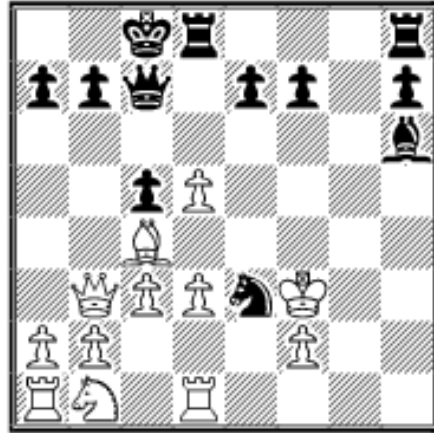
drawback is that if White just gets on with developing then the black queen might look misplaced. **3 Nf3 d6 4 h3 Nf6 5 Bd3** White's opening strategy looks a little bit odd but it is borrowed from the line **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 c3 Nf6 4 Bd3** which first grew to prominence in the 1950s. **5...Nc6 5...g6** is a decent alternative to help activate the kingside **6 0-0 Bg7 7 Bc2 0-0 8 Re1 Nc6 9 d3** (perhaps **9 d4** should be tested) **9...b5 10 Nbd2 Bb7 11 d4** with equal chances, O. De la Riva Aguado-F.Drill, Berlin 1997. **6 0-0 g5!?**



It just seems reckless to advance the pawn two squares but Black gets away with it. It reminds me witnessing the continuation **1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Be2 Nf6 4 0-0 g5?! in the game A.Dunnington-S.Williams, British Team**

Championship, which plunged White into deep thought and eventually resulted in time-trouble turmoil. **7 Bc4 g4 8 hxg4 Bxg4 9 Qb3 Bxf3!** A superb move which seems to ignore White's threats in a bid to storm forward with an attack. **10 gxf3?! 10 Qxb7** is the critical move with complicated play when Black might continue: **10...Rg8** (Lacrosse analyses **10...Rb8 11 Qxc6+ Kd8 12 gxf3 Rb6 13 Qa8+ Kc7 14 Na3 Bg7 15 Qxh8 Bxh8 16 Bxf7 Rb8** when Black must be considered favourite due to the poor position of the white king) **11 Qxc6+** (or **11 g3 Rb8 12 Qxc6+ Kd8** leaves White regretting his poor development although **13 d3 Rb6 14 Qa8+ 1Kc7 15 b4** is a delightful mess) **11...Kd8 12 Qxa8+ Kc7 13 g3 Bxe4** winning the queen when Black has the better chances. **10...0-0-0 11 d3 d5 11...e6** intending **...d6-**

d5 is another good possibility. **12 exd5 Ne5 13 Rd1 Qc7** Lacrosse prepares to transfer the queen to the kingside. **14 Be3 Nxf3+ 15 Kf1 Ng4! 16 Ke2 Nxe3 17 Kxf3** Or 17 Kxe3 Ne5 18 Kd2 allows White to survive with a fairly miserable position. **17...Bh6!**



A nice way to finish off the game by offering to give up the knight in a bid to maintain the attack. **18 Nd2** If 18 fxe3 then 18...Rhg8 leads to mate. **18...Qf4+ 19 Ke2 Rhg8 0-1**

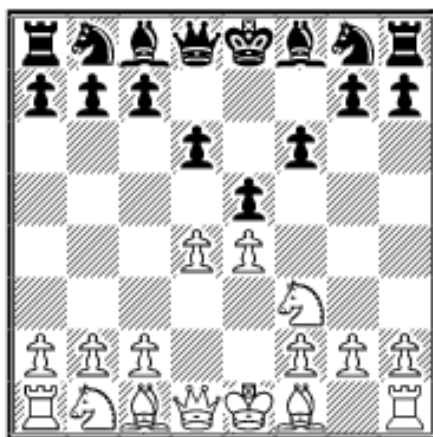
If anyone else is brave enough to try 2...Qa5 then please let me know!

And finally, **Paul Trupiano** from the **USA** has had to cope with a bad move played regularly on the Internet. He says, "I meet this move a great deal in e-mail chess. 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f6?! . I play 4 Bc4, which I think is a good reply, but help me out here. Even "bad" moves one has to be able to refute! Surely 3...f6 qualifies as a bad move?"

I have to admit that I thought only casual players might have tried 3...f6 but I was wrong and it has been played a number of times at international level. Of course, it is generally bad news for Black who suffers for being original in the opening. I also managed to track down a simultaneous game by Kasparov against a team of players from the news agency Reuters. It seems that 3...f6 will win no beauty prizes because Garry won a queen after only seven moves. I think that there is no outright refutation against correct play but White has a comfortable, positional advantage straight out of the opening.

Aleksander Delchev-Mate Karlusic Kastel Stari Open 1997

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 f6?!



The problem with the pawn advance is that although it might temporarily support the e5 pawn in the long-term it is a hindrance. This is because the f6 square is denied to his king's knight making the position passive and White can

make it awkward to castle kingside after planting a bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal. By the way I have changed the original move-order for convenience because the actual game originally started 1 Nf3 d6 2 d4 f6 3 d4 f6. **4 Bc4** This looks like the logical move. **4...g6** 4...Ne7? is a natural reply but is dealt a blow upon 5 dxe5 dxe5 (5...fxe5 6 Nxe5! wins) 6 Bf7+ Kxf7 7 Qxd8 winning easily, G.Kasparov-Reuters Ltd, London simul 1993. Also possible: 4...Bg4 5 c3 (intending Qd1-b3 is the right response but admittedly 5 dxe5 fxe5 6 Bf7+! Kxf7 7 Nxe5+ Ke8 8 Nxg4 is pretty but 5...dxe5 invites an ending when White should be looking to attack) 5...c6 6 Qb3 Ne7 7 Bf7+ winning, M.Braun-M.Besenyo, Heves 1999. **5 0-0 Qe7 6 Qd3 Nd7 7 Nc3** Delchev is a classy grandmaster and shows the way forward by simply developing his pieces to give him more options. **7...c6 8 a4** White takes time to cancel out the prospect of ...b7-b5 so Black has to try and find another way to become active. **8...Nb6 9 Ba2 Be6 10 a5 Nd7 11 Bxe6 Qxe6 12 a6!** A nice idea to break up Black's pawn barrier on the queenside in order to improve the position of White's pieces. This might

not be so dramatic but with the black king stuck in the centre of the board it can be fatal. **12...b6 13 d5 cxd5 14 Nxd5** The knight takes up a powerful post on d5 which has been engineered by chipping away at Black's pawn chain. **14...Rc8 15 Be3 Ne7 16 c4 Nc5** 16...Nxd5 is one way to try and stop the harassment but White is still on top after 17 cxd5 Qf7 18 b4 Bg7 19 Rfc1 0-0 20 Rc6! intending to double rooks on the c-file. **17 Bxc5 dxc5 18 Rfd1 Nc6?**



Karlusic has been struggling to free his pieces so he jumps at the chance. However, he misses a crucial tactic. **19 Nxf6+! Ke7 20 Nd5+ Ke8 21 Ng5 Qd6 22 Nf6+ 1-0**

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