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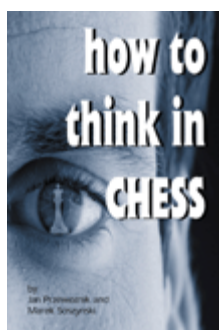
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## COLUMNISTS

**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!*

**Playboy**

There is always one problem that every young man playing chess has and that is how to maintain a wild social life of staying up all night and chasing girls when you haven't learned all the variations of the Dragon Sicilian?

This standard puzzle has been perplexing **Ridzuan Zakaria** from **Malaysia** who frantically writes in desperation "I'm a working professional and live life on the fast lane (gals, clubbing, etc.), thus I don't have much time to immerse myself on the immense opening theories that we have nowadays. As such, I would like to be able to play competitive chess by not dwelling too much on the openings. Usually, as Black I would play the Sicilian Dragon against 1 e4, but as always, I would meet players who tend to deviate from this by playing 2 c3 Sicilian or a Closed Sicilian or the 2 f4 Sicilian. I reckon the only way to deal with this is to learn these three extra variations. Is there a short-cut to this? As White, I usually play 1 d4 and frequently meet loads of openings such as Nimzo's, Gruenfeld, Kings Indian, etc. and it is just painful for me to learn one variation for each of these openings. My question is, in your opinion, what is the least number of variations that one has to know in the openings. I'm thinking of opening with 1 f4 and playing the Stonewall as White. What do you think of this? Please help me out so that I can remain living in the fast lane!"

Well, a sort of Dragon formation against the anti-Sicilians is not easy but I reckon 2...d6 against anything is essential for a man about town.

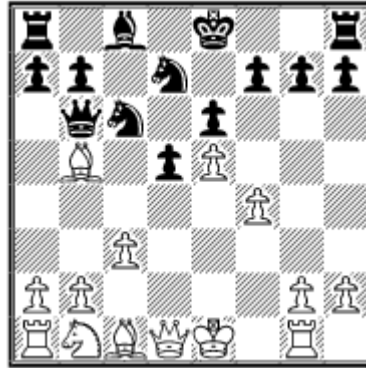
**Valeri Stamenov-Vladimir Petkov Plovdiv 2004**

**1 e4 c5 2 c3 d6** Well, it sort of looks like a Dragon pawn formation! **3 d4 Nf6 4 dxc5 Nc6**



**5 Bc4** Or 5 Nd2 dxc5 6 Ngf3 g6 7 Be2 Bg7 8 0-0 0-0 when at least the typical kingside fianchetto of the Dragon has been achieved with chances in V.Valkov-E.Ermenkov,Plovdiv 2004. 5 Qc2 dxc5 6 Nf3 Qc7 7 h3 e6 8 Be3 Be7 9 Nbd2 0-0 10 Be2 b6 11 0-0 Bb7 12 Rfe1 h6 actually I have to admit this looks nothing like a Dragon so offer a draw in this equal position in order to

keep up your social timetable, A.Cherniaev-S.Conquest, Hastings 2004. **5... e6** Black takes steps to block the influence of the bishop on c4. **5...Nxe4 6 Qd5?! (6 Bxf7+ Kxf7 7 Qh5+ Kg8 8 Qd5+ e6 9 Qxe4 d5 10 Qe2** with a level position although Black must quickly get his king's rook into play by playing **...Bd6, ...Kf7** and **...Rf8**, R.Ocampo-S.Pina, Havana 2002) **6...Be6! 7 Qxe4 d5 8 Qf4 dxc4 9 Na3 Bd5** (Black is already better and finished the game quite neatly) **10 Nf3 e5 11 Qe3 f6 12 0-0 Qa5 13 Rd1 0-0-0!** (the queen's rook is brought into the equation handing Black a clear plus) **14 b4 cxb3 15 axb3 Bxc5 16 b4 Bxe3 17 bxa5 Bc5 18 Nd2 Nxa5 19 Nb5 Nb3 20 Nxb3 Bxb3 21 Nxa7+ Bxa7 0-1** K. Leitner-M.Arwanitakis, Mitte 2002. **6 f3 d5 7 Bb5 Bxc5 8 e5 Nd7 9 f4 Bxg1 10 Rxg1** It is difficult for White to redeem himself with **10 Bxc6** because it fails to help after **10...bxc6 11 Rxg1 Qh4+ 12 g3 Qxh2** winning. **10...Qb6**



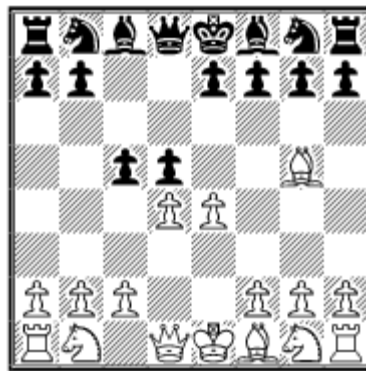
This is the sort of opening ideal for someone in the fast lane because White is completely lost after only 10 moves. The game concluded: **11 Rf1 Qxb5 12 Na3 Qc5 13 Qg4 0-0 14 Bd2 b6 15 b4 Qe7 16 Rf3 f6 17 Rh3 fxe5 18 fxe5 Nxe5 19 Qg3 Ba6 20 0-0-0 Nd3+ 21 Kc2 Nf2 0-1**

I am certainly not impressed with your idea of **1 f4**. Can you name any playboy that plays such a dull opening? It might detain you at the board long after the first nightclub has

opened. A better idea is the Trompowsky **1 d4 Nf6** and now **2 Ng5** or against **1 d4 d5** then **2 Bg5** and the Pseudo-Trompowsky. This would certainly save you time and allow you to maintain your high social profile. For example:

*Juan Bellon Lopez- Buijs Martin Campillos 2004*

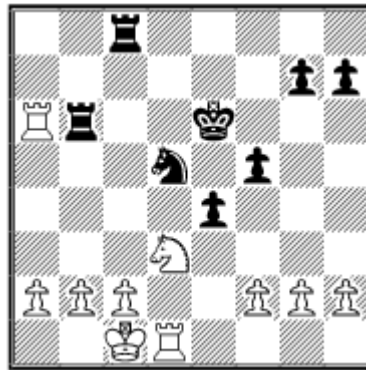
**1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 c5 3 e4**



**3...Qb6** If Black takes then **3...dxe4 4 d5** is necessary with the idea of rounding up the e4-pawn later. For instance: **4...Qb6 (4...Nd7 5 Nc3 Ngf6 6 Qe2 h6 7 Bf4 g6 8 0-0-0** gave White decent attacking prospects in M.Adams-Van der Sterren, Amsterdam 1994) **5 Nc3** this is in keeping with the spirit of the opening by thriving on less well known positions and being ready to sacrifice material in order to have a lead in development **5...Qxb2 6 Bb5+ Bd7 7 Bd2 Qb4 (7...e3 8 fxe3 Qb4 9 Rb1**

**Qh4+ 10 g3 Qf6 11 Nf3** might have an extra pawn but I favour White's chances because he can gain time by attacking the black queen.) **8 Rb1 Qa5 9 Bxd7+ Nxd7 10 Rxb7 Qa6 11 Qb1 Ngf6 12 Nge2 0-0-0!?** (10 out 10 for stunning everyone with the move no one was looking for!) **13 Rb5 e6 14 dxe6 Qxe6 15 0-0 Nb6 16 Bf4 Bd6 17 Ra5 Bxf4 18 Nxf4 Qe5 19 Rxa7!** gave White a winning advantage, E.Lobron-A.Nadanian,Saint Vincent 2000. Or **3...h6 4 Bh4 Nc6 5 dxc5 d4 6 c3** (White is a Belgian grandmaster who is renowned for his attacking instincts so this opening is ideally suited) **6...g5 7 Bg3 Bg7 8 e5! Bf5** (or **8...Nxe5 9 Bxe5 Bxe5 10 Nf3 Bg7 11 cxd4** with an extra pawn) **9 Bb5 Qd5 10 Nf3 Bxb1 11 Qxb1 dxc3 12 0-0 Qxc5 13**

bxc3 (White has superior placed pieces and more importantly the black king is still stuck in the centre) 13...e6 14 Bxc6+ Qxc6 15 Nd4 Qd7 16 Nb5 Ne7 17 Nd6+ Kf8 18 f4 (it makes sense to try to open the f-file for the benefit of White's rook) 18...Nf5 19 Nxf5 exf5 20 fxg5 hxg5 21 Rxf5 Qe7 22 Qe4 Kg8 23 Raf1 Rf8 24 Qg4 1-0 L.Winants-H.Jonkman, Haarlem 1998. **4 Nc3 e6** If 4...Qxb2 then after 5 Nxd5 Black could resign with honour because the position is terrible: 5...Kd8 6 dxc5 Bd7 7 Nf3 with a big advantage. **5 Nf3 cxd4 6 Qxd4** Now there are some people who think they should always have their queen on the board in order to attack. Of course, this is wrong because if your position is good enough there are always tactical opportunities around. **6...Qxd4 7 Nxd4 f6 8 Bb5+ Kf7** Black is obliged to give up the right to castle in view of 8...Bd7 when White can crash through with 9 Nxe6! which is winning upon 9...fxg5 10 Nc7+ Kd8 11 Nxa8 is very good for White. **9 Bd2 e5 10 Nb3 dxe4 11 0-0-0** It is time to count how many pieces White has developed and then compare it to Black. The big practical difference means that Bellon Lopez has the opportunity to create more tricks and traps. **11...Be6 11...f5** at least has the merit of holding on to the extra pawn. **12 Na5 12 Nxe4** seems a perfectly acceptable alternative. **12...b6 13 Nb7** A cheeky move because normally you would expect the white knight to get stuck in the heart of Black's position but here it seems not to be the case. **13...Nd7 14 Be3 Rb8 15 Nd6+ Bxd6 16 Rxd6 Nc5** Black is playing catch up when it comes to getting the pieces into the action but his backward kingside means it is difficult. **17 Bxc5 bxc5 18 Bd7 Bxd7 19 Rxd7+ Ne7 20 Nxe4** Well finally Black has managed to get his knight in to the action but already White has a strong rook on the seventh and a useful centralised knight. **20...f5 21 Nxc5 Rhc8 22 Nd3 Ke6 23 Rxa7 Nd5 24 Rd1 e4 25 Ra6+ Rb6**



**26 Nf4+!** A pretty finish to wrap up a fine game. **26...Kf7** There is not much considering that 26...Nxf4 27 Rxb6+ Ke5 28 Rd7 also wins. **27 Ra7+ Ne7 28 Rxe7+ 1-0**

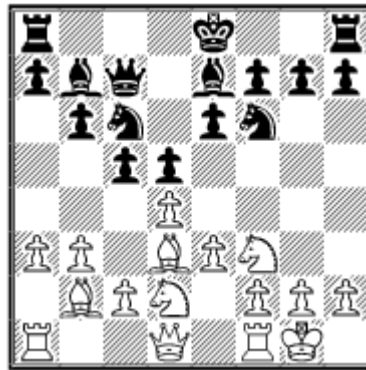
**John Henry** is a chess teacher, coach, and instructor from **Toronto, Canada** and says "I am a very avid student of the game. I do not play in competitions and am not rated, but I have over 25 good students that I teach privately at all levels. I also teach and coach at

schools in Toronto and run Chess Camps in the area, that along with my main business of Real Estate and it seems like I work 8 days a week. I recently purchased your book, *The Ultimate Colle*, and I now play it and teach it! What a great opening! My question: in your book, you show many variations in which Black castles kingside, I would like to see how White attacks when Black castles queenside."

I have received quite a few questions on the Colle book and have answered enough to fill another chapter in the new edition. A look in the archives might be worthwhile if you are keen. However, I can honestly say no one has ever wondered what happens if Black castles queenside. It is a reasonable request because club players will be attracted to the idea of attacking even if it is not suitable! I did manage to track down some examples of Black going for it with usually poor results:

**Hendrick Westerman-Kevin Thurlow St. Helier 2002**

**1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3** I have a habit of looking at games where White plays the Colle Zukertort which tends to happen after 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 c5 5 b3 as in the main game. However, the Colle can of course also be played with a c2-c3. For instance: 3 Nbd2 d5 4 e3 Nbd7 5 Bd3 c5 6 c3 b6 7 0-0 Bb7 8 Ne5 Bd6 9 f4 Qe7 10 Qf3 0-0-0 and your greatest wish has happened and Black has castled queenside as a way of avoiding a kingside onslaught. The snag is that White can steadily try to open lines of the queenside but it not so easy for Black to suddenly safely advance his kingside pawns 11 a4 Bc7 12 b3 Nb8 13 Ba3 Bd6 14 a5 Ne8 so far Black has been doing nothing except retreating which is hardly a good sign 15 a6 Ba8 16 b4! cxd4 (Black would dearly like to try and close the position with 16...c4 but it walks into 17 Bxc4 when 17...dxc4 18 Qxa8 wins.) 17 cxd4 Bxe5 (17...Bxb4 18 Bxb4 Qxb4 gives Black mighty problems due tot he threat of taking on f7 and a rook check on the c-file 19 Ra2 Qe7 20 Rc1+ wins) 18 fxe5 Rd7 19 b5 Qd8 20 Rac1+ Nc7 21 Bd6 f5 22 exf6 gxf6 23 Bxc7 Rxc7 24 Qxf6 Qxf6 25 Rxc7+ Kxc7 26 Rxf6 Re8 27 Rf7+ Kd6 28 Rxh7 Rc8 29 Rxa7 Nd7 30 Nf3 Ke7 31 Ne5 1-0 I.Onat-O.Tonsingh,Luzern Olympiad 1982. **3...c5 4 Bd3 d5 5 b3** This move heralds the start of the Colle Zukerort variation. **5...Nc6 6 0-0 Be7** Actually 6...Nb4 is sometimes played when 7 Be2 intending a3 and then Be2-d3 restores the white squared bishop where it belongs. **7 Bb2 Qc7 8 a3 b6 9 Nbd2 Bb7**



**10 Qe2** Also possible: 10 Ne5 Nxe5 11 dxe5 Nd7 12 Qg4 ( 12 f4 White supports the e-pawn and the bishop on d3 is well placed for a kingside attack 12...0-0-0 13 Qe2 f6 14 exf6 Bxf6 15 Bxf6 gxf6 16 e4 led to equal chances in M.Loiterstein-R.Sosa, Coronel Suarez 1992) 12...g6 13 f4 0-0-0 14 Qe2 the queen has done its job compromising the black pawns on the kingside and now retreats ready to attack on the queenside (14 Rad1!? is worth investigating) 14...Nb8 15 Nf3 h6 16 Rad1 g5 17 c4 Nc6 (or 17...g4

18 Nd2 when Black kingside assault is basically a lone pawn on g4 which not a great advert for castling queenside) 18 cxd5 Rxd5 19 f5! g4 20 Nd2 Rg8 21 fxe6 fxe6 22 Bc4 White is effectively winning because he must pick up material 22...Nxe5 23 Bxd5 exd5 24 Qf2 Bd6 25 Qf5+ Kb8 26 Qe6 Rd8 27 Ne4 Nf3+ 28 gxf3 Bxh2+ 29 Kh1 gxf3 30 Qh3 1-0 T.Lemanczy-T. Henrichs, Berlin 1999. **10...cxd4 11 exd4 h5?!** I have to admire Thurlow's bold strategy but he needs to reinforce his attack with a few pieces. Then again, it is the clearest indication that Black intends to castle queenside and go for it. **12 Ne5 Bd6 13 Rac1** A basic but good plan of advancing the c-pawn to create havoc by opening the c-file. **13...Ng4 14 f4 0-0-0 15 c4** This is now even better with the black king and queen lined up on the c-file. **15...dxc4 16 Bxc4 Kb8 17 Bb5** The pin on the c-file is very annoying. However, perhaps more attention should be given to Black's counterattack which hovers close to zero. **17...Bxe5 18 fxe5 f5 19 h3 Nh6 20 Qc4 Rc8 21 Qxe6 Qe7**

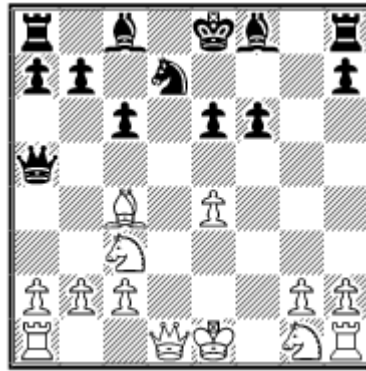


**12 Rxc6! 1-0**

**Felipe Bianchi** from Italy has an intriguing story: "I am an Italian chess player, who loves the Veresov attack. One of the main lines is H.Rossetto-E Gufeld, Camaguey 1974: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 Nbd7 4 f3 c6 5 e4 dxe4 6 fxe4 e5 7 dxe5 Qa5 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 e6

fxe6 10 Bc4 Bb4 11 Nge2 Ne5 12 Bb3 Rg8 13 a3 Bxc3+ 14 Nxc3 Rg2 15 Qh5+ Rg6 16 Qh3 Ng4 17 0-0-0 Nf2 18 Qxh7 Qg5+ 19 Kb1 Rg7 20 Qh8+ Rg8 21 Qh7 Rg7 22 Qh8+ Rg8 ½-½ But after 10...Ba3! in my opinion white is in trouble: for example, 10...Ba3 11 Qb1 (11 Qc1 is perhaps better?) 11... Ne5 12.Bb3 Rg8 13.Nge2 Bc5 black is better. What do you think? Does it qualify as an improvement?"

**1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 Nbd7 4 f3 c6 5 e4 dxe4 6 fxe4 e5 7 dxe5 Qa5 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 e6 fxe6 10 Bc4**



**10...Ba3!** This is the difference compared to the old line and looks like a significant improvement. I honestly have no idea why this move has been missed by a number of players. Admittedly, the whole line is barely seen nowadays, therefore; I wonder if this discovery has been previously published? If so let me know otherwise Felipe has done very well with his home analysis.

**11 Qb1** After 11 Qc1 the simple Qxc3+ 12 bxc3 Bxc1 13 Rxc1 Ne5 is good for Black because White's shattered queenside pawns are bad. **11... Ne5 12 Bb3 Rg8 13 Nge2 Bc5** with a clear advantage.

**Frederic David** from **France** wrote: "My Elo is 2060. I played a French Defence recently and lost but something interested me! 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Qb6 5 Nf3 Bd7 6 Be2 Nc6 7 0-0 Nge7 8 Na3 cxd4 when I played the game I only knew 9 cxd4 Nf5. After reflection I played 10 g4 to avoid pressure on d4. Do you think it is an interesting move because I see only 3 lines: a) 10...Ne7?! or 10...Nh6!? and even 10...Nxd4."

I was wondering if I have the right position and that maybe Black has not exchanged pawns on d4. This is because the following position looks dubious for White:

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3 Qb6 6 Be2 Bd7 7 0-0 cxd4 8 cxd4 Nge7 9 Na3 Nf5 10 g4**



**10...Nfxd4** I have not looked at the alternatives because this is just good. **11 Nxd4 Qxd4** when I think Black is a pawn up for nothing.

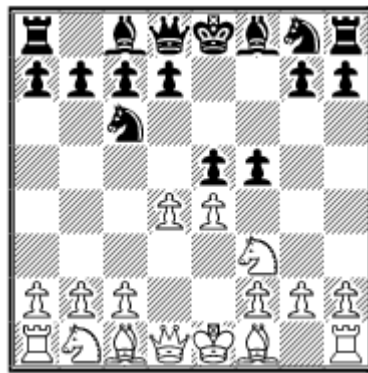
Finally **Travis Chu** from the **USA** sent an entertaining message: "Some time back, I wrote to ask your opinion on playing a quick f4 in the Trompowsky, looking to steer the game into an improved Stonewall Attack. Because of your silence, I gave the f4 Tromp a few outings and inevitably ended up in a mess! (e.g. 1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 Ne4 3 f4 h6 4 Bh4 g5! or 1d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 e6 3 f4 h6 4 Bh4 g5! 5 fxg5 Ne4: I do not know why, but I am once more compelled to seek your opinion regarding yet another f-pawn opening (remember the 5-Pawns Attack?). Here it is: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 f5!? What do you think of this opening? If the Vienna Gambit is equal for White, surely it is not too bad a move down! I could

find no discussion of this in NCO or any of my other books. One last thing - What should I do to have an opening named after me? Perhaps if this line were to become the Travis Countergambit, or the f4 Tromp the Travis-Trompowsky, my f-pawns could finally rest, content in knowing my place in chess history was secure. Then again, sound or unsound, who could resist playing their "own" opening!"

Well, you never know, I might have answered the Stonewall question somewhere in the archives because I don't always instantly answer the many questions I receive. This is because time and space are limited after all. The key to having an odd opening named after you is to play it all the time and beat a strong player. You then send it me and the resulting publicity will make everyone revel in the Travis Opening. Perhaps!

In the meantime a closer look is needed for your latest suggestion.

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 f5?**



I suspect you might have to wait a long time before you beat a master with this line! I just can't find any hope for Black. **4 Nxe5 Nxe5** Instead **4...fxe4** is not particularly impressive after **5 Nxc6 dxc6 6 Qh5+ Kd7** when the black king is embarrassed. **5 dxe5 fxe4 6 Nc3 Bb4 7 Qd4** with a much better position because the e4-pawn is very vulnerable.

Keep on trying Travis!

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***Gary wants your questions on openings!! Send it along and perhaps it will be answered in an upcoming column. Please include your name and country of residence. Yes, I have a question for Gary!***

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