

SOUTHEAST STATE SCHOLASTICS

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ MARCH 27, 2024

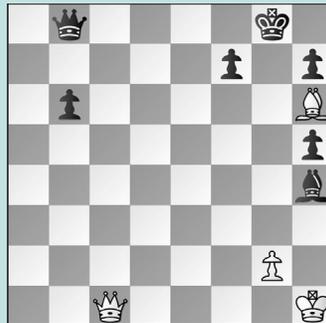
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



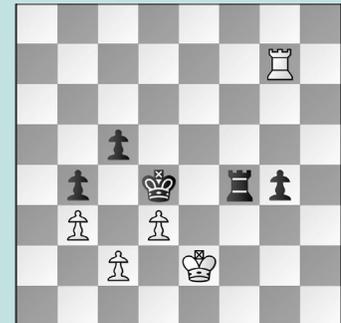
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



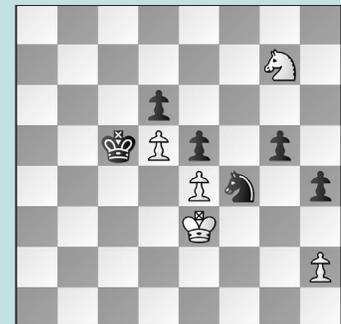
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 39. ... **Rc1!** 40. **b3** In the game, 40. **Ne3** was played, simply allowing 40. ... **Kxd6**, winning. 40. ... **Rxc4** wins, even if White plays 41. **Rxd7+ Kxd7** 42. **bx4** when the extra pawns are too much, despite opposite-colored bishops. (Waghmode – Yang, Florida, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 2.** 44. **Qc3!** The mate threat is easy to meet, but it provokes a critical weakness: 44. ... **f6** 45. **Qc4+** Winning the piece! 45. ... **Kh8** 46. **Qxh4** and **Black resigned** 13 moves later. (Slate – Pillai, Virginia, 2024) **PUZZLE 3.** 44. **Rg5!** A clever way to freeze Black's pieces. Now, ... **Kd4-c3** clearly loses the c-pawn, but rook moves all lose the g-pawn. This holds. Instead, 44. **Kd2?**

Rf2+ 45. Kd1 Rg2 46. Rg5 Ke3 47. Re5+ Kd4 48. Re4+ and 48. ... **Kc3!** was winning for Black, although Black “returned the favor” with 48. ... **Kd5??** when the game ended in a **draw** 13 moves later. (Webb – Wang, South Carolina, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 4.** 78. **h3!** The only move that holds a draw. 78. ... **Nxg3** was the most testing reply. In the game, Black played 78. ... **gxh3 79. Bxh3 Nxg3 80. Kd5** and a **draw** was agreed on move 104. 79. **Bxg4! hxg4 80. hxg4** and Black cannot stop the king from grabbing the c-pawn. (Kengsoontra – Bellamy, North Carolina, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 24. ... **Qe5!** Black needed to provoke a weakness first. Instead, Black lost after 24. ... **dxe4 25. Qxe4 Rd4?? 26. Qe8+ Rxe8 27. Rxe8+**

Kg7 28. h6 mate. 25. **c3 d4! 26. cxd4** Or, worse, 26. **c4** **bx4** wins the piece, since 27. **Bxc4 d3 28. Bxd3 Rxd3** is the whole idea. 26. ... **Rxd4 27. Rd1 Rcd8!** This move shows the point of the pins on the overloaded queen. 28. **Rh3 Rxe4!** And Black wins. (Ram – Johnson, North Carolina, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 69. ... **g4!** 70. **Nf5 h3!** Black did not find this move, and after 70. ... **Ng6? 71. Kf2 Nf4 72. Nxh4 Kd4**, the game was even. 71. **Kf2 Nh5!** Now, White is all out of sensible moves. 72. **Ne3** Or, 72. **Ng3 Nxg3 73. Kxg3 Kd4 74. Kxg4 Kxe4 75. Kxh3 Kf3** loses; No different is 72. **Nh6 g3+ 73. hxg3 h2 74. Kg2 Nxg3** with the same idea. 72. ... **g3+ 73. hxg3 h2 74. Kg2 Nxg3 75. Kxh2 Nxe4** winning. (Mulay – Maxwell, Florida, 2024, analysis)