

THE CELAC STUDENT VOICE

Game on the Board

by Dingshu Chen

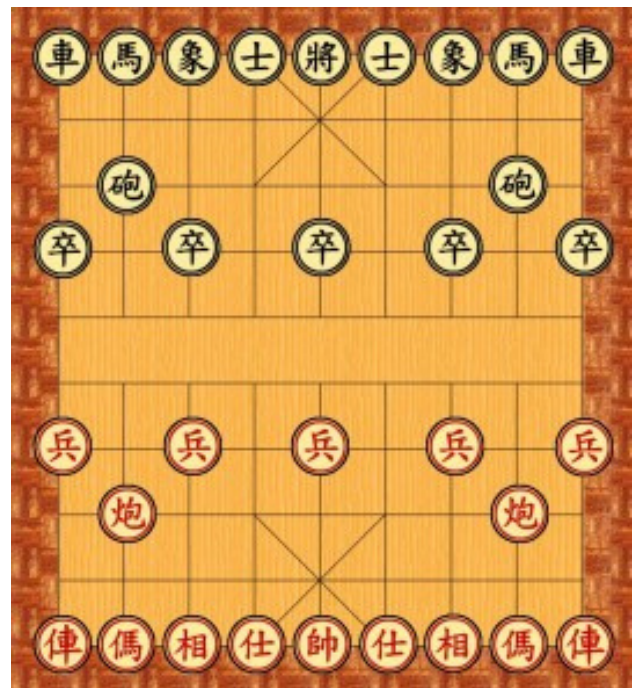
Play is a natural instinct of humans. Throughout history, people have invented thousands ways of entertainment. Besides relaxation, entertainment can also bring benefits to intellectual development. For instance, it is widely believed that playing Chess helps people improve their brain functions. A good chess player is always a good decision maker because they know how to put things into order. They always take an overall view to consider problems rather than just focus on one aspect. All these abilities they have are learned from chess, that's why chess is called the quiz game.

Chinese Chess has a long history of over 2000 years. Unlike European Chess, in addition to King, Queen, Rook Bishop, Knight and Pawn, Chinese Chess also has Guard and Cannon. There is a river between two battle fields which is named Chu river, and the formation will be laid out on both sides of the river. This is a simulation of a famous ancient Chinese battlefield called *Chu Han Struggle for Hegemony*.

In the game of Chinese Chess, you need to focus on the progress of the battle all the time; adjust your strategy and search for the weakness of your opponent. Otherwise, a wise and practical player know how to predict other's actions by observing their arrangement, so that they can make an abrupt checkmate.

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The Fox and the Chicken: A Modern Day Fable

by Genaro Cruz-Salas and Huda Safhi

On one occasion, the Fox and the Chicken were found. The Fox said to the Chicken: "Look, the house I am building for the winter is looking great to me!"

For his part, the Chicken said: "I am not going to build a new house; the one I have has served me very well all these years. I will just maintain it."

The Fox, characterized by his beauty and arrogance, said to him: "Well that is you, but I think it is always good to perfect everything!"

However, the Fox, finishing his house in a hurry, forgot to lay the foundations strongly.

For his part, the Chicken soon finished maintaining the house.

The winter storms came early, and the Fox's house collapsed because it was not properly built, and he died along with his entire family.

From this story we can learn that *he who squeezes a lot, little covers*. In other words, if it's not broke, don't fix it!



Beware of the Vanishing Hitchhiker

by Nallely Molina



In each country and in their different cultures, the native people have beliefs that extend person by person for many years until it creates an incredible history. I think that all history begins with a little fantasy and a little fact. In this case, my own definition for *urban legend* is a type of history that has, maybe, eighty percent of fantasy and supernatural phenomenon and twenty percent of truth.

The principal plot of an urban legend is mixed with belief of the place where one real fact happens and the characters are real persons. However, in the legend, a normal event like a person overcoming death is converted to a mystical phenomenon like an undead predator of humans. The character's essential purpose is to achieve one goal, such as revenge, and afterward disappear.

The principal character of an urban legend is disturbed because he/she has a particular history that does not permit rest in peace. For an example, I will explain the "The Vanishing Hitchhiker" legend. In this legend, one woman appears in the middle of a highway and she requests a man in a car to drive her home. When they arrive at the home, she has vanished. The real history for this woman was that she died in a crashed car. I think that this lesson is the souls of persons keep in the place where their accident happens. In "The Vanishing Hitchhiker," it is vital to this entity to accomplish her ritual because this maintains her soul in this world.

In Mexico, I think it is common for the people to tell a similar legend: in each highway appears in the night one woman with a white dress in the middle of the road. I remember when I traveled with my friends, we travel in car through Guerrero, Mexico. The driver was a native of this town and he told us that "if you look in the rear-view mirror and see the white woman, she will steal your soul." I felt fear because the highway had few lights, and I only saw an immense darkness. I looked in the rear-view mirror only once, and I did not see anybody, but I did not look again because I believed this history.

I believe in legends because they have a little of truth, and I feel fear. For instance, I liked a television series called "Supernatural". The plot of this series is two brothers who hunt many characters that belong to folklore. Because I watched this series, I know a lot of legends, myths, and urban histories. It is my favorite series and the first chapter of the series is about "The Vanishing Hitchhiker."



Dingshu

Hello! This is Dingshu, a Mechanical Engineering student from China. I'm a fan of robots and am interested in mechanical separation and assembly. My dream is to build the most intelligent robot in the world.



Genaro

My name is Genaro Cruz, I am from Mexico City. My research topics are framed in the analysis of Mexican migrants in the United States. In my free time I like to write short stories or fables, as well as listen to music and play soccer.



Huda

My name is Huda, and I am from Saudi Arabia. I like to take photographs, but I am not a professional. I love to travel a lot.



Nallely

I am Nallely and I am from Mexico City. I have a Doctorate in Social Economics with a specialization in intellectual property. I hope to teach about this topic. I like cats and I own three kitties. I enjoy watching television series with them and I enjoy listening to rock music.