

NATIONAL OPEN ■ CONTINENTAL CHAMPS ■ NORTH, SOUTH, WEST

CHESS LIFE

SEPTEMBER 2024 ■ USChess.org



**Tan
Zhongyi
Wins
Cairns Cup**

I N P A S S I N G

Bernard Parham

1946-2024

BY **GEORGE KVAKOVSKY**

BERNARD PARHAM BEAT ME BLINDFOLDED. “It’s easy! I sleep with a chessboard taped above my bed,” he said.

Bernard, a physics major, was the strongest player in the Purdue University Chess Club when I met him. He tutored a dozen chess students, including the kids of some of his professors, and never went anywhere without his dog-eared copy of *Chess Praxis* by Aron Nimzovich. He had memorized all the games and often quoted the arcane language from the book as though he were reciting scripture.

Parham was the 1967 Indiana state champion and became a master in 1975. He was a longtime champion of the Parham Attack (1. e4 e5 2. Qh5), which he played throughout his career. Shock value aside, Bernard be-

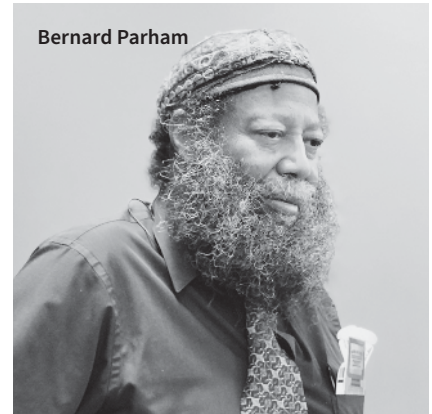
lieved the opening was solid and could also lead to some spectacular kingside attacks. Occasionally he would answer other first-move responses by Black, such as 1. ... c6, by 2. Qh5. Sitting at the next board in such a situation, I once heard Bernard mumble, “Caro-can’t!”

Here’s a favorite example of the Parham Attack in action, played by its author.

PARHAM ATTACK (C20)**Bernard Parham (2103)****Romeo Soriano (1865)****Scarborough Peace Games, 08.10.1996**

1. e4 e5 2. Qh5 d6 3. Bc4 g6 4. Qf3 Nf6 5. Ne2 Bg7 6. Nbc3 0-0 7. d3 Be6 8. h4 Bxc4 9. dxc4 Qd7 10. Bg5 Qe6 11. 0-0-0 Nbd7 12. Ng3 h6 13. Bd2 b5 14. cxb5 a6 15. b6 cxb6 16. h5 b5 17. Nd5 Nxd5 18. exd5 Qf6 19. Qa3 Nc5 20. Qe3 Na4 21. Ne4 Qd8 22. hxg6 f5 23. Rxh6 fxe4 24. Qh3 Rxf2 25. Rh8+, Black resigned.

With a great mathematical mind, Parham began to develop his “Matrix” system for attacking chess while at Purdue. Rooted in



Bernard Parham

geometry and vector analysis, this understanding of tactics and structure was emblematic of Bernard’s approach to the game.

Bernard didn’t smoke or drink. I never heard him swear or lose his temper. My enduring memory of him is watching him playing five-minute chess with his 3-year-old daughter on his shoulders.

Bernard was 77 when he died June 19, 2024, in Lafayette, Indiana, due to complications from diabetes. He leaves behind a wife, Lugenia (Genie), and two children, Lugenia and Bernard II. He will be missed.

FA / IO Luis Salinas

1956-2024

BY **JOHN HARTMANN**

LUIS SALINAS LIVED A LIFE OF SERVICE.

After growing up in Laredo, Texas, where he learned chess (after a few attempts!) from his uncle, Luis graduated from high school in 1975 and joined the Navy, serving for six years as an electronics technician and achieving the rank of petty officer second class.

Luis returned to Texas after his honorable discharge and took advantage of the G.I. Bill to attend the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1987, specializing in microwave technol-

ogies. (He was also the Aggies’ chess club president.) His skill and knowledge led him to work in the defense industry for almost two decades.

Chess was always a part of Luis’s life: He earned a US Chess expert rating in 1992 and also became a FIDE arbiter and an international organizer. But more than anything else, Luis Salinas was Texas chess.

He was one of America’s busiest tournament directors: The US Chess MSA page lists him as having worked more than 2,500 tournaments since January 1991, which surely puts him in the top echelon. In 2008, US Chess recognized Luis’s prodigious efforts by naming him Tournament Director of the Year.

He was a longtime board member of the Texas Chess Association, president of the Dallas Chess Club, and assistant director of the University of Texas at Dallas Chess Club from 2002 until his retirement in 2020.

Luis shepherded players through their first



Luis Salinas

tournaments and taught many tournament directors and organizers what they needed to know to succeed. The growth of chess in Texas is, in no small part, attributable to him.

Luis passed away on March 11, 2024. He is survived two brothers, a sister-in-law, a niece, a nephew, and extended family. We offer them our condolences. ♠