

University of Nebraska Lincoln

THE FRANCHISE CLUB

What: Meeting
 When: Thursday, Jan. 23-6 PM
 Where: Room 120, CBA
 Topics: Internship Opportunities Discussed
 Elections
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David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan
 Lombard

War-like chess at July games

By Richard Cooper
 Staff Reporter

Chess, the strategist's game, will join more physical events at the Cornhusker State Games in July, said the president of the Nebraska State Chess Association.

Michael Nolan, president of the association, said he petitioned to add chess to the games for two reasons: Nebraska has enough players, and the Cornhusker Games will draw more chess competitors than other tournaments.

Nolan, who has played the game since sixth grade, said chess is becoming more popular. For example, at the Region VII Championships in Omaha last month, more than 240 players turned out from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska.

Nolan said at least 300 to 400 people compete in the state and another 500 belong to the association.

The UNL Chess Club rapidly is becoming the state's strongest club, he said. One reason is because it will sponsor 12 tournaments this year, Nolan said. Three of the tournaments will be for unrated players.

Unrated players aren't registered with the United States Chess Association and haven't played in any advantages over non-players. For example, he said, chess increases players' ability to think logically. Various studies also show that playing chess improves grades in all studies, he said.

That atmosphere is much like a war, said Robert Narveson, adviser to the UNL club.

Lombard agreed with Narveson. He said chess resembles military strategy: It has forces to deploy, sacrifices to make and battles to win or lose.

"In a sense, chess is a very violent game," Lombard said. "It is the only game that is played to the death."

However, chess also is an art form, because it deals with patterns and combinations, he said. It resembles music and math in many ways, he said.

Because of this, Lombard said, many math and music prodigies understand the game fairly well.

Nolan said that in Eastern Bloc countries, where chess is one of the most popular sports, all children between 6 and 8 years old are taught the game. Then they are tested, he said. If children do well on the test, they're assigned to coaches.

In the United States, North Carolina has the only school system that offers chess in its curriculum, Nolan said. Nonetheless, he said, anybody can play. The hardest part of chess is learning to look at the board and then adjusting to the opponent's moves. This takes years of practice and study to acquire, he said.

Players at the expert level usually study seven to eight years, depending on how much they play and who they play against, Nolan said. The key to improving, he said, is to play better players all the time.

Narveson said chess players have advantages. For example, he said, chess increases players' ability to think logically. Various studies also show that playing chess improves grades in all studies, he said.

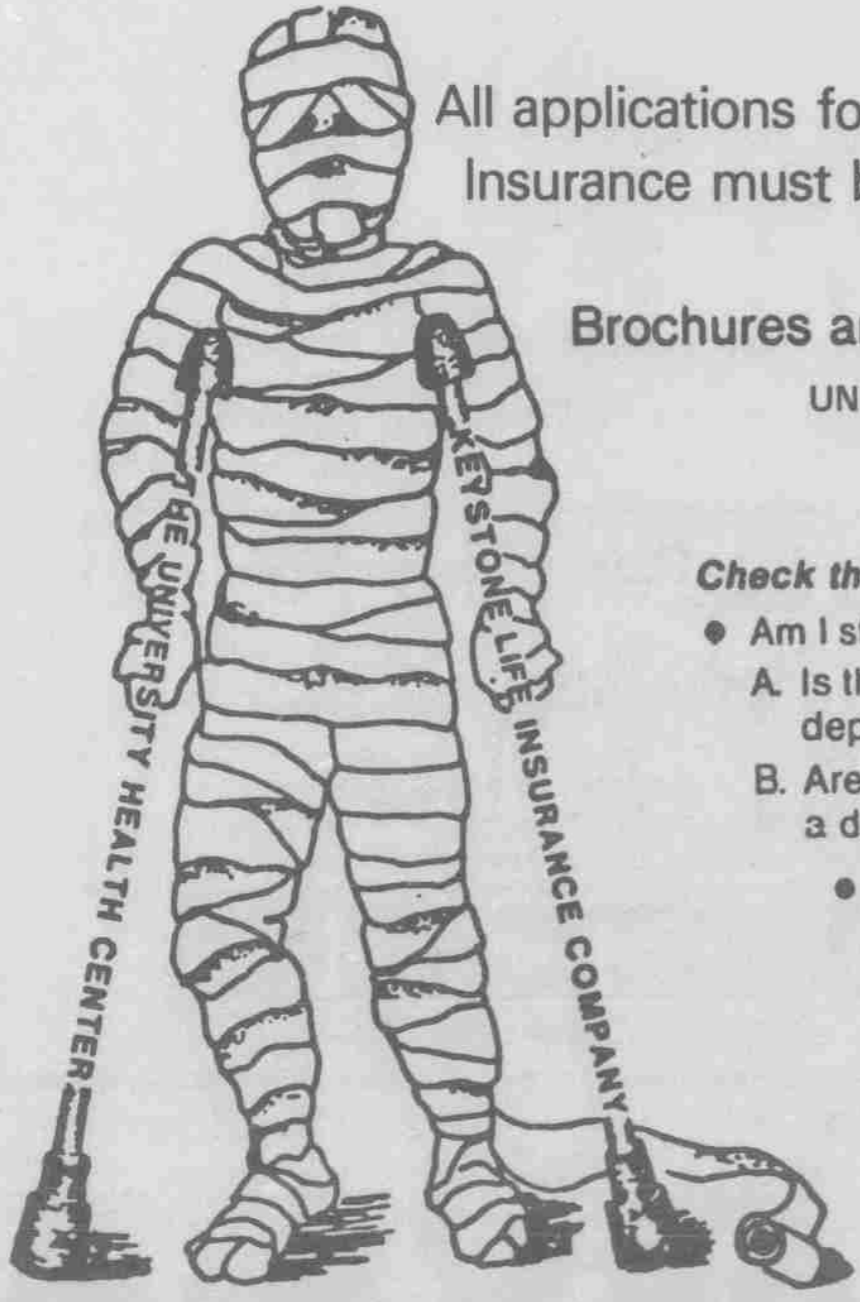
Narveson compares the game to life. People constantly make decisions, Narveson said, and if they make the wrong decision, it could cost them the game.

At least 1 percent of UNL students play chess, he said. Those who don't play usually lack the patience to master the game, he said.

But the Cornhusker Games will expose more people to the game, and, in the next few years, it should gain popularity, Narveson said.

The first unrated UNL chess tournament will be Feb. 9 in the basement of Nebraska Union. The UNL Chess Club meets every Tuesday in the Union.

February 28, 1986 is the Deadline!



All applications for the Student Health and Accident Insurance must be received by February 28, 1986.

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