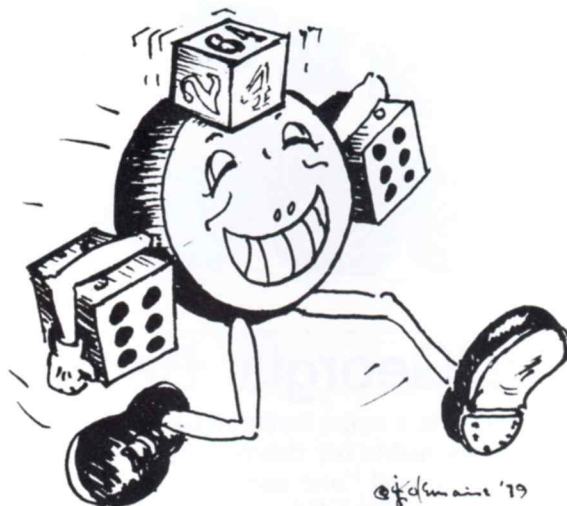
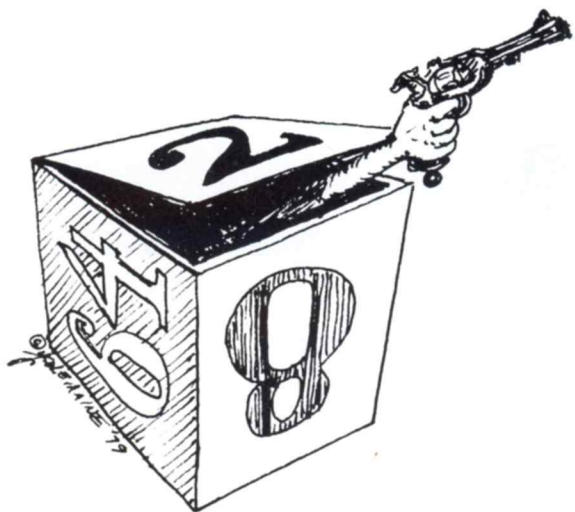
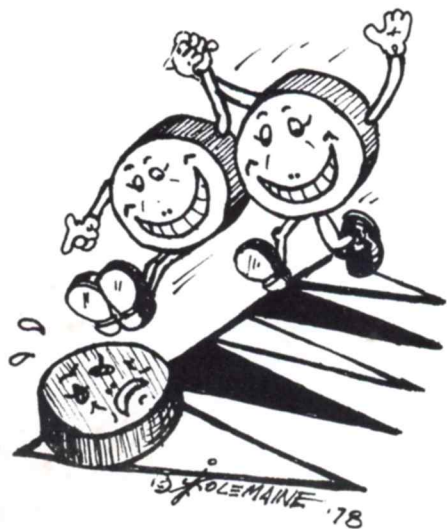




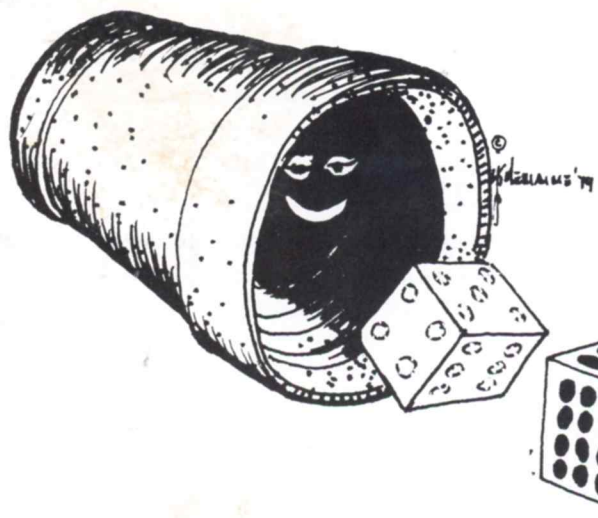
The 'Pipsqueakers' From

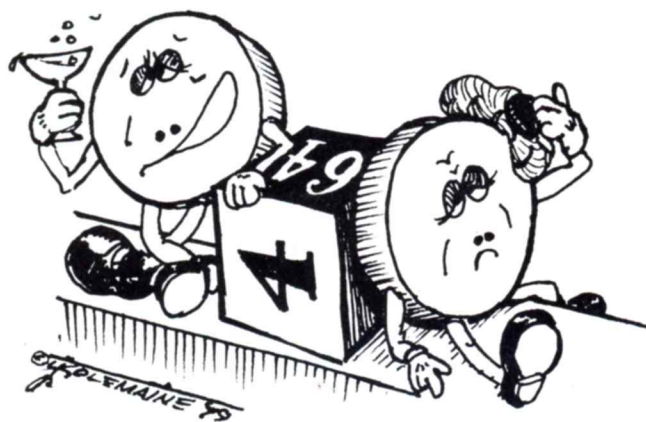


To any non-player they're mystifying. To followers of The Game, they're a little weird, but usually amusing. The "visual puns" displayed on these pages are the creation of Rush Kolemaine, Director the Pipmasters Tournament Backgammon Club of Portland, Oregon, who claims they only pop out of his pen five minutes prior to the printing deadline for his weekly newsletter, *Pipsqueaks*.

Kolemaine, a veteran of the advertising wars on Los Angeles' Wilshire Blvd. before returning to his hometown about a year ago, established his tournament backgammon program just last March with one weekly event guaranteeing a minimum of \$100.00 First Prize. Since then, the Pipmasters "Phridayniter" tournaments have grown into the most popular and largest in attendance in Oregon, and a second weekly event has recently been initiated which is also growing apace with the first.

An outspoken advocate of players' rights, Kolemaine's tournament follow a unique format, offering first-time players the opportunity to match their skills against three to seven other players of varying experience and abilities in as many games during a qualifying opening round-robin, thereafter being paired in match play according to their Nett scores in the round-robin.





Portland...

Regulars who have established their levels of competence with Pip-masters are allowed to by-pass the rounders in favor of pick-up games or casual chouettes. While the description gives the format the image of a complex operation, in practice it is run with professional smoothness and has contributed greatly to the popularity of tournaments at The Wooden Horse Eating Establishment in Portland's downtown Galleria.

Another aspect of the professionalism demonstrated by the Pip-masters operation is the extensive public relations and publicity effort, offering free introductory lessons for beginners in The Game prior to each tournament, regular contact with local media, and *Pipsqueaks*, which appears in the mailboxes of all players every week.

This newsletter, an inexpensive production paid for with the help of co-operating tournament sponsors, currently reaches over 500 readers with complete results of the last tournaments, items of general backgammon interest from around the country, and news about what is going on locally along with a re-cap of who did how well at the last tourney.

Written in a casual "hang loose" and breezy style (complete with occasional misspellings, literary and historical references and occasional digs at well-known players), the four-to-six page publication is eagerly awaited by the growing number of aficionados in the Portland area. According to Kolemmaine, who puts it out singlehandedly, he hears more complaints when the newsletter is delayed at the post office than he does when a match is delayed in starting on tournament nights!

We've enjoyed the cartoons that appear in nearly every issue so much here at the LVBC, we asked permission to reprint the ones shown here for the amusement of our own readers, who may recognize some of "pipsqueakers" antics from their own experience.

