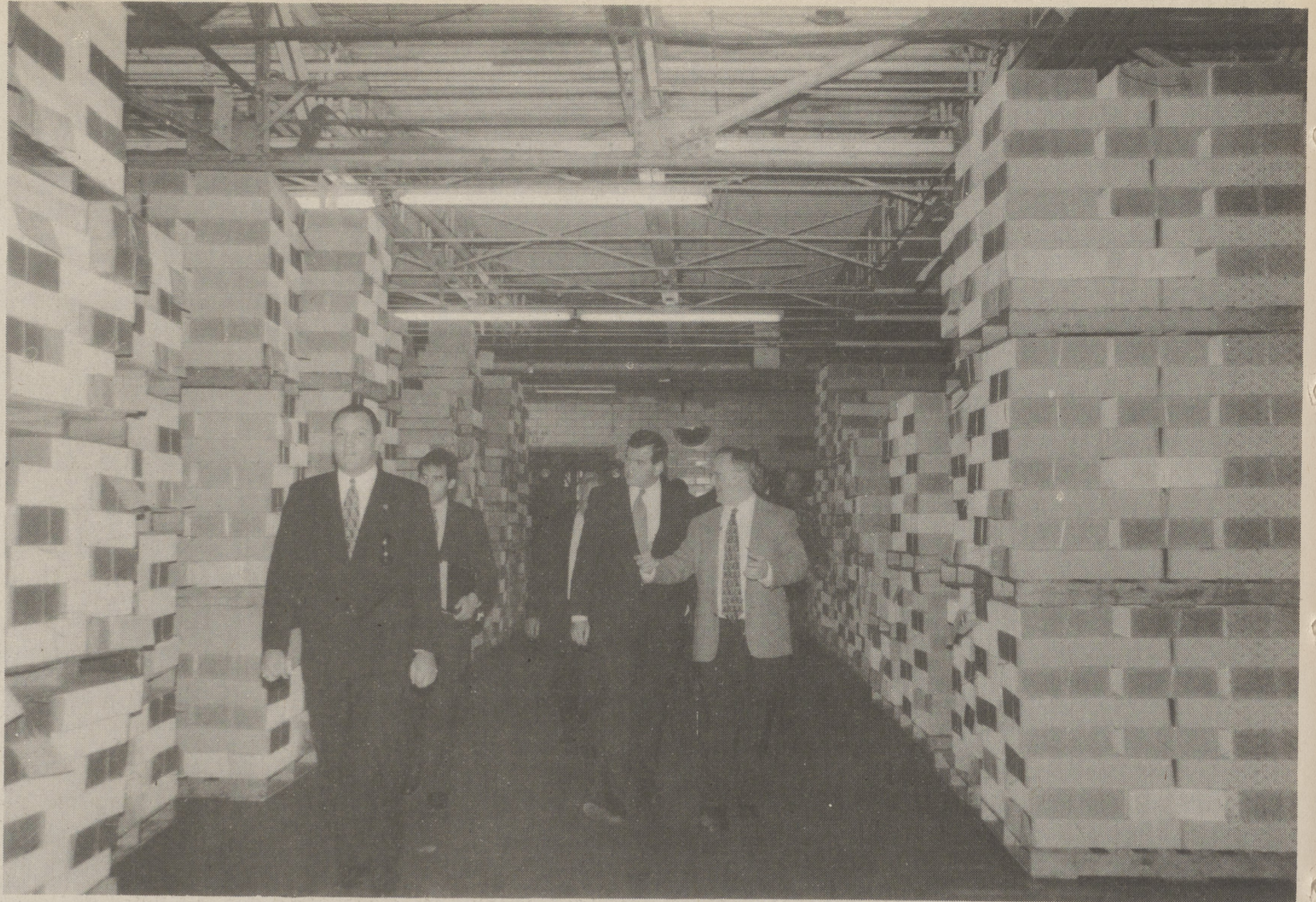




Offset president Michael Gallagher, center welcomed Gov. Tom Ridge to the plant last week. Also on hand was Joseph Makarewicz, far left, Andy Sordoni, behind Gallagher to left, and Sander Yelen.



Joe Makarewicz led Gov. Tom Ridge on his tour of Offset Paperback last week. Here, he pointed out some machinery while Adam Crayhall, second from left, looked on. William Tippet and Shirley Moyer, Kingston Twp. supervisors, were at right rear.



Joe Makarewicz, Offset executive vice president of manufacturing, led Gov. Tom Ridge between stacks of printed

pages waiting to be sent to the bindery. Ridge took a full tour of the plant last week.

## Offset

(continued from page 1)

Offset president Michael Gallagher in a conference room filled with local dignitaries, Ridge was given a whirlwind tour of the 260,000 sq. ft. plant, which employs 670 people. He visited with workers along the way, stopping frequently to chat about the work they performed in the facility, which prints one-third of all the paperback books sold in the U.S.

Dorothy Cooper, who works in the invoicing department snapped a photo of the Governor, then quickly moved to his next stop to shake his hand. "Oh, I saw you before," Ridge said, and then she had her photo taken standing beside the Governor.

Bill Hardwick, quality service

manager, said the "energy level was high" throughout the plant in the 24 hours employees cleaned up and prepared for the Governor's visit.

After his tour, Ridge spoke to a bevy of media people in Offset's new training center, a separate building adjacent to the production facility. "I saw firsthand a company that has used the most modern technology not to replace workers, but to grow the business," he said. He also praised the cooperative relationship between labor and management at the plant.

Citing the competitive pressures Offset faces, Ridge said a

study of workmen's compensation costs in Pennsylvania and six other states found Pennsylvania with the highest expense in 40 of 42 categories. Workmen's compensation costs are based on the type of business, as well as a past-experience rating.

"There's nothing we can do more important to preserve jobs and create new ones," than reform workmen's compensation, Ridge said.

Joe Makarewicz, executive vice president, manufacturing, said the program has "always been a costly item," and the company's efforts to control it haven't garnered the desired results. He said Offset instituted a safety program in 1989 that reduced time lost to

accident and injury by 80 percent. As a result, the cost of the insurance fell from \$500,000 in 1989 to about \$220,000 in 1992.

The program continues to hold down accidents, but workmen's compensation insurance costs still soared to \$700,000 last year. Makarewicz said.

Ridge also explained why he supports a 6.5¢ per gallon increase in the state gasoline tax. That tax, rather than others, makes "those who use, pay," for improvements to roads, he said. Ridge said revenue may also be gained by implementing tolls on I-80, which his administration is now discussing with the federal government.

## Chess

(continued from page 1)

cused. George puts a lot of time into coaching them. When they won their last meet it really made his day."

Compared to Jordan, Tim Polin, 11 is a chess veteran who learned the game from his mother when he was four years old.

He's now teaching his sister, Kitty, 4, to play chess and follow in his footsteps. "She's picked it up pretty well," he said.

Tim describes himself as an aggressive player.

"The older kids act surprised that I'm able to beat them," he said.

The son of Mark and Ellen Polin, Tim also has a younger brother, Zach, 9, who isn't interested in chess. Tim is a sixth-grader at Wyoming Seminary Lower School.

When he isn't winning chess tournaments, Tim plays golf, goes bowling, skis downhill and enjoys snowboarding.

"I'm very proud of Tim and the club," Ellen Polin said. "George Trent has been so good for them."

Ben Rogers, 11 and also a sixth-grader at Seminary, learned the game from his father when he was seven years old. The son of Dr. Robert Rogers and Dr. Linda Borund, he has a brother, Andy, 7.

He learned chess from his father when he was seven years old.

"He caught on very quickly," Dr. Rogers said.

He plays a good defensive game, hitting his opponents hard with skilled counterattacks.

"Age isn't important in chess - skill is," Ben said. "It all comes from experience."

When he isn't studying, Ben can be found working with his IBM computer learning programming.

Brian Downey, 12, a sixth-grader at the Dallas Middle School, learned chess basics from his father when he was eight years old. He is the son of Dan and Sue Downey and has a sister, Amy, 18, who is in college.

"Brian outstripped his instructor rather quickly," Dan Downey said, laughing.

Brian loves plotting strategy in long matches, letting his opponents make mistakes, then zeroing in for the checkmate.

He also enjoys playing bas-

ketball and Little League baseball, in which he played with the Cardinals last year. "It was a fun season," he said.

Dan Downey said he is very impressed with his son's and the team's accomplishments.

"For me, the most important part was the fun we had going to the tournament at Bloomsburg," he said. "Seeing the high level of competition and all the rigors the players go through was a real eye-opening experience. They sat eyeball to eyeball for nearly two hours. It was very demanding."

At 14 years old, Rich Kurilla is the oldest Smart Alekhine from the Back Mountain to attend Thursday's tournament.

The son of Joanne and Gary Kneal, Rich is a ninth-grader and honor student at the Dallas High School.

"I learned chess from Gary," he said. "I beat him a lot."

A strong defensive player, Rich also enjoys plotting strategies to make safe moves and wear his opponent out before ruthlessly



Rich Kurilla will join his teammates for a chess tournament at Bishop O'Reilly High School this weekend.

exploiting the other player's first mistake. he is the team's only competitor in the junior high school division.

He's also a "pretty good" tennis player for Dallas.

Without George Trent, the team would be nothing," said Joanne Kneal. "He challenges their intellect."

Hume Ross, who is also scheduled to compete, could not be reached for an interview.

The tournament is a first at Bishop O'Reilly High School, according to chess club advisor Susan Longo, who teaches French and religion. At least 23 students have registered, she said.

"Originally we planned it for grades eight through 12, but after the Back Mountain contingent registered, we opened it up to grades six through 12," she said.

The students will compete ac-

*"The older kids act surprised that I'm able to beat them."*

Tim Polin  
11-year-old chess player

ording to their level of ability rather than by age groups. Longo said.

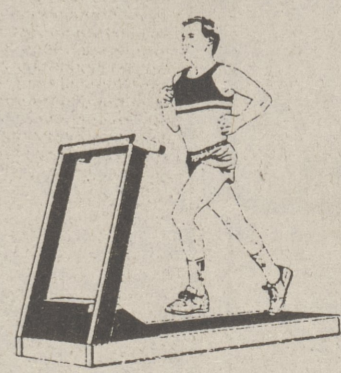
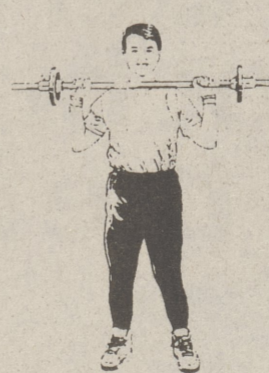
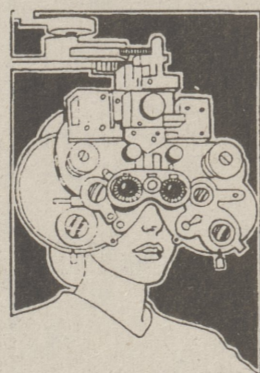
"We're trying to start a tradition here for the next few hundred years," she said. "When I'm in my 38th year of teaching I want to be at our 30th tournament."

Winners will receive cash prizes and trophies.

Back Mountain members of Bishop O'Reilly's chess club who will compete in the tournament also include Bill Kingsbury, John Reap, Rich Kurilla and Ryan Williams.

*The Post is still only \$18 per year*

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