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Paul Miller

Kalamazoo Go Club founder



SHAWANO CLEARY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Members of the Kalamazoo Go Club include, from left, Krishna Rama, William Woodbury, Paul Miller and Usha Rama. The group meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Portage.

Go fanatic finds like-minded devotees

New group meets weekly in Portage to play Chinese games of strategy

By Andrea Bogos

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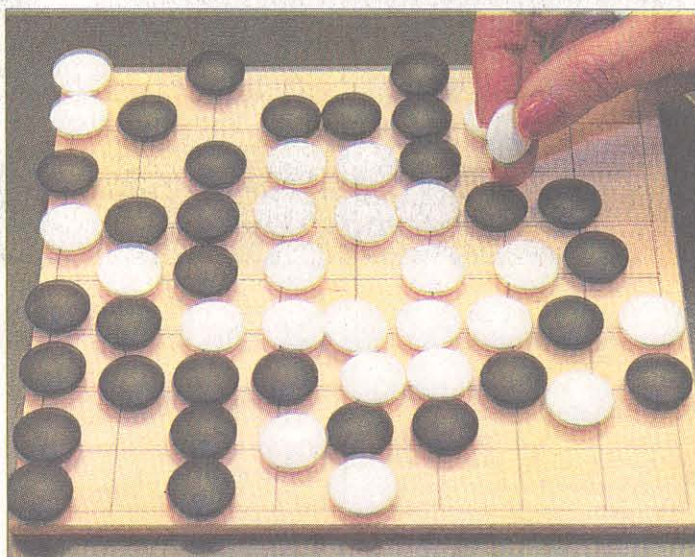
When Paul Miller wanted to start up a Go club in Kalamazoo, he thought, "Where would 'Go' people go?"

Miller knew he really wanted to play the 3,000-year-old strategic game that originated in China, but didn't know where he could find others who also wanted to indulge in his passion.

"There are a surprising number of Go players in each city, and they don't know how to find each other," he said.

Miller publicized the new group in the Barnes and Noble Booksellers newsletter. Now the new club meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at the store, 6134 S. Westnedge Ave.

"It's a very simple game to learn," said Miller, a computer scientist. "As you get into it, you discover there is more on



Go uses black and white "stones." The object is to surround the other player's stones.

the next level."

Black and white "stones" are placed on a board one at a time. The goal is to surround an opponent's stone. Miller said the game often is

compared to chess, but the only real similarity is having black and white game pieces.

Go appeared in the movie "Pi" and in "A Beautiful

Mind." Because of this representation, Miller said, people might think that only mathematicians are Go enthusiasts, which is not true.

"The game is a game of balance," Miller said. "You get almost a spiritual sense when playing the game."

Chris Staunton, 26, is a co-worker of Miller's at Barry County Telephone. His interest in Go grew as the two began playing during their lunch breaks.

"I like it because you have to use intelligence," Staunton said.

Miller said the more people that attend the club's weekly sessions, the better.

"The more skilled people there are in a group, the more interesting games we can have," he said.

He quoted an old Go proverb to inspire would-be Go players: "It takes a minute to learn and a lifetime to master."