



FRESNO CHESS CLUB



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A Voice for Chess

September 23, 2008



The Susan Polgar Story Equals = Hollywood Movie

In the land of Hollywood, where a capitalist stands on every corner and everyone is looking, quite frankly, to get rich, how about a movie about a real person? But not just any person! How about a very pretty, very attractive female person, a person whose story shows real human feelings and emotions. This person will have to fight gender discrimination, religious intolerance and national bigotry and prejudice so huge that it is played out on the world's stage.

Susan Polgar is just the person who can give a first-hand account of just such a story. Susan was born behind the Iron Curtain in Soviet controlled Hungary. She is the granddaughter of holocaust survivors. Susan's father, a teacher by profession, taught Susan to play chess at a very early age, and at four years old she won the Budapest Chess Open for Girls. In her book *Breaking Through*, Susan says after that victory her life changed forever.

The media labeled her as a *Wunderkind*. She said

that the Hungarian press attacked her parents, saying little girls should play with dolls, and sand in the playground. When Susan was six, her parents wanted to home-school her. She says one time "authorities" came to her house with police armed with machine guns to warn her father that he was breaking the law by not letting her go to school. Susan writes, "We felt certain people were prejudiced against us because we are Jewish," and speaking about anti-Semitism, "we knew it existed."

Susan has felt the "stinging pain" of prejudice, having been stripped of a world title by F.I.D.E., the international chess organization, because of the Soviet Union's influence with F.I.D.E. The Soviet Chess Federation was used to seeing their players dominate the chess world rankings. However in late 1986 it was clear that in January of 1987 Susan's world rating would be 65 points higher than the Soviet world champion. So during the Chess Olympiad in Dubai, F.I.D.E. congress did the "unthinkable." All women chess players in the world would receive 100 bonus points except for

(Continued, Page 2)

The Susan Polgar Story (Continued)

Susan Polgar. Susan writes, "When you deal with Soviet politicians, they can turn a chicken into a turkey without blinking an eye." The Gulf News commented on the issues: "This is the worst thing that F.I.D.E. has ever done. The next year Susan was not allowed to represent Hungary in the world championship because it was "for men only." Susan was devastated when she got the news, saying at first she thought it was just a bad joke. Susan wrote, "It was very hard for me to believe that, after all the discrimination I had to face from my own chess federation, now the International Chess Federation did not treat me fairly either.

Susan has gone on with her life, becoming the first woman in history to attain the men's title of grandmaster. She is a four-time world women's chess champion and is an "award winning author."

On August 2, 2005, in Palm Beach, Florida, Susan set the world's record for playing 326 opponents simultaneously. It took 17 1/2 hours and she only took five three-minute breaks. By the way, she only lost three of those games that day.

Susan has dedicated her life to promoting chess, with all of its educational, social and competitive benefits by founding The Susan Polgar Foundation. In 2003 and 2005 she won the U.W. Open Blitz Championship.

In 2003 she also won the "Grandmaster of the Year" award and the prestigious "Cramer Award for Best Chess Column of the Year." She is a three-time winner of the Chess Journalists of America Award for best magazine column (2003) and Best End Game Analysis (2003 and 2004). She also won the first "Educator of the year" award (2003) from the University of Texas in Dallas and in 2005 became the first chess professional to receive the prestigious "Tree of Life Award."

Susan Polgar, known simply as *The Queen of Chess* is easily the most recognizable chess player in the world today—more recognizable than Gary Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov, and even Boris Spasky. She also is the only person in the world, male or female, to win the Triple Crown in Chess, to be world champion in rapid, blitz, and classical chess.

Susan's life story is better than any Hollywood movie. This story, "The Susan Polgar Story," has Oscar written all over it.

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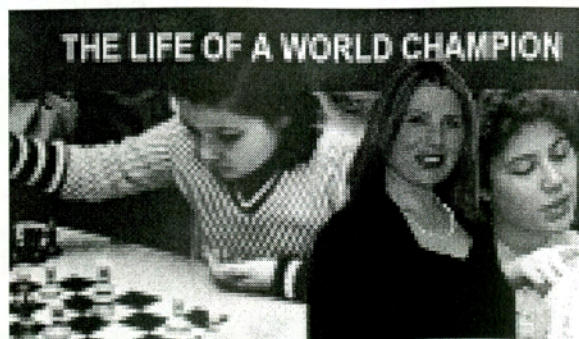
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Fresno Chess Club Setting Membership Records

On September 19 of 2008 the Fresno Chess Club signed its 221st member to its roster. Membership has steadily climbed since January of 2007 when its paid membership was only 15. In November of 2007 the Fresno Chess Club hit a milestone when it signed its 100th paid, active member. On December 31, 2007 the Fresno Chess Club had grown to 125 members, and nine months into 2008, the Fresno Chess boasts membership now exceeding 220.



Fresno TV News Media Wants Susan Polgar

Fresno's KSEE Channel 24 and KMPH Channel 26 want interviews with Susan Polgar when she visits the Fresno Chess Club in October. KMPH Channel 26 was the first to request an interview with the first female in history to become a grandmaster when she comes to Fresno for the Delphis Software Chess Expo. Lisa Burger, producer of the KMPH Morning Talk Show, "Great Day," said Susan Polgar is a "must book." Jennifer Avila said she is looking forward to the interview with Ms. Polgar.

Susan Polgar will be in Fresno October 24 for the Delphis Software Chess Expo where she will play chess with 64 opponents simultaneously. KSEE Channel 24 also has booked Susan Polgar for their mid-morning talk show "Central Valley Today" on the same morning. Monica Favila, producer of the mid-morning show "Central Valley Today" also is looking forward to meeting Susan. Miss Favila said after reading the press information release by Susan Polgar, that this would be an exciting interview.

Channel 30 Action News told the Fresno Chess Club that the Susan Polgar trip to Fresno was definitely news worthy and that they most likely would be covering her visit. Nancy Price of the Fresno Bee is also aware of her pending arrival. Ray Appleton of KMJ Radio, however, has not returned our calls.



Marshall Chess Club New York City

The Marshall Chess Club was founded in 1915 by Grand Master Frank J. Marshall, U.S. Champion 1909-1936. Please check out their web site for extensive information about chess tournaments and outstanding photos of many Grand Masters and strong masters. Go to www.marshallchessclub.org

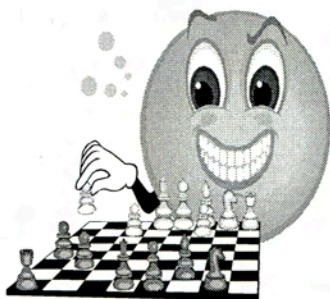
Fresno Chess Club life members Marian and Dennis Wajckus celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary with a week's vacation in New York City. While they were there on Manhattan Island they wished to visit the famous remaining chess club on the island since the Manhattan Chess Club was no longer in business and were able to make their way there on foot on Friday, August 1, 2008, from their hotel on 32nd Street near the Empire State Building all the way south to 23 West 10th Street in Greenwich Village. The Marshall Chess Club opens at 6pm daily and members have a key to get into the building.

Dennis and Marian met with US Master and tournament director Nick Conticello who gave them a tour of the Marshall Chess Club building. They were able to take a number of photographs. Nick was co-author of a recent chess book published by EVERY-MANCHESS CALLED *play1.b4!*. Dennis was able to purchase a copy of the book for their personal chess book collection as well as one for the Fresno Chess Club library. Dennis and Marian also donated a couple of chess books and some chess equipment to the Marshall Chess Club on behalf of the Fresno Chess Club and Quality Discount Chess Equipment.

The tour of the rustic building, amazing photos, bust of Frank Marshall and historic wooden chess table used by none other than Robert "Bobby" Fischer in a famous telegraph match in 1965 against a Russian Grandmaster was simply like walking back in history.

Nick was most gracious to take the time to give this personal tour as he was getting ready to set up and direct a rated event at the club that evening. He encouraged any of the members of the Fresno Chess Club who plan to visit the New York area to come by and pay the Marshall Chess Club a visit. You would be glad you did as the modest sign in front of the building shows the way to this historic chess site. Nick was proud of the fact that it was modest and said he plans to keep it just that way.

A few good natured Comments by members after losing a game



- ◆ The only reason you won was that you thought harder than I did.
- ◆ My game is off right now. I got my credit card bill today.
- ◆ I didn't get any sleep Last night my wife kept me up all night.
- ◆ Next time we play it will be for real.
- ◆ Of course you won. You're older than I am. (Said by a 9-yr. old player to a 25-yr. old player.)
- ◆ I didn't mind losing to Doc. I'd like to see you beat Doc.
- ◆ I didn't play him full strength. He's a new member and I didn't want to scare him off, but boy, he's really good.
- ◆ I spotted him my Queen.....on the 8th move of the game?
- ◆ Are we playing touch rule?
- ◆ If I was as lucky as you are tonight, I'd be out buying lottery tickets.

+ + + +

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

+ + +

Dr. Tim Roth Simul in November

Dr. Tim Roth will be playing an exhibition simul at the Fresno Chess Club on Friday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Roth, or "Doc" as everyone calls him at the chess club is the highest rated master in the Fresno Chess Club and is also the highest rated master in the Central Valley. Dr. Roth, a local physician, was inducted into the Fresno Chess Club Hall of Fame in January of 2008. Also, he has participated in both of the FCC Night of the Masters exhibitions. To anyone who can beat Doc, the chess club will give them their choice of a Fresno Chess Club cap or tee-shirt (in stock items only—no special orders), and just to make things interesting, Doc did not put a limit on the number of players he would play.

The cost to play in this event is free to current FCC members, or \$10 for non-members. Over the last year and a half, more of our members have had the opportunity to play a titled master than ever before. The list includes IM Tim Taylor, IM John Donaldson, masters Tim Roth, Hary Daud, and Roy Santos. On October 24, they will have the opportunity to play four-time World Women's Chess Champion, Grand Master Susan Polgar.

Join this opportunity to beat a master.

Monday Night Chess Relocates

The Fresno Chess Club has had many different meeting places since 1930 (Fresno State College, Hart's Restaurant, Straw Hat Pizza) but for the last fourteen years the official meeting site has been the Carl's Jr. Restaurant at Cedar and Dakota in Fresno.

Because of future remodeling plans at the Cedar and Dakota location, our good friends at Carl's Jr. have let us relocate to the Carl's Jr. Restaurant at First and Herndon. The First and Herndon site is already the official meeting site of the Fresno Chess Club on Friday nights. This new site for Monday's group offers many benefits such as easy access off of Freeway 41, its prime location, and it is the largest Carl's Jr. Restaurant in Fresno. With 221 paid, active member in the Fresno Chess Club, size does matter.

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Do you see yourself here?



**Mind Bashing Puzzles
 Answers**

_____ should have played the simple 1 ♖a4, trapping the Queen as follows: 1 ♖a4 b5 2 a3 ♜xa4 3 b3.

_____ 1 ♖a8+ ♙xa8 2 ♜xa8+ ♜f8 3 ♙h7+!

_____ The easy win was 1 ♜h1+ 2 ♙xh1 ♖f1++.

_____ Black missed the simple 1 ... ♜d1+ 2 ♙xd1 ♙g4+ 3 f3 ♙xf3+ 4 gxf3 ♖xh8; if White tries to escape with his King, e.g. 2 ♙c3 ♜xc2+, etc. If 2 ♙e3, ♜e1+ will soon force White's King to a white square

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Night of the Masters II

On June 13 of this year, Friday the 13th to be exact, the Fresno Chess Club had Round II of Night of the Masters. Representing the masters of the Fresno Chess Club were, Master Dr. Tim Roth, Master Harry Daud, and Master Roy Santos. The masters were playing under "Fresno Chess Club Tag Team Rules" as follows:

Each of the three masters would make every third move, on every board, in turn. The masters were not allowed to speak to each other, confer, or in any way signal each other on strategies on any board. Each of the thirty-five club members who played against the masters were given one pass per master.

Playing on Friday the 13th, bad luck vs. good luck, and who was buying into the superstition theory added to the excitement of the game. After two hours and thirty-five minutes, only two members bought into that theory. Gene Mora and Rex Reyes were the only two winners against the masters that exciting and suspenseful night.



Mechanics Institute

Two Times is Not Enough

For the second time in two years, members of the Fresno Chess Club were treated to every Real Chess Player's Dream, an opportunity to play chess in the oldest chess club in the United States, *The Mechanics Institute*. On August 23, 2008, members of the Fresno Chess Club took a trip back in chess history as International Master John Donaldson made the walls in The Mechanics Institute seem to come alive as he gave a tour through the old, and historical building where every world chess champion since the year 1900 had played, except Botvinnic and Kasparov.

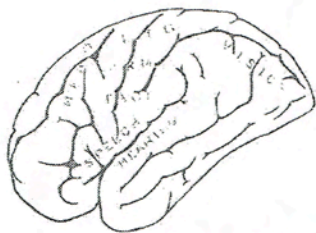
John Donaldson not only is a great chess international master, but he is also one of the greatest story tellers as he told the story of each photograph hanging on the wall in the approximate location where the historical event in the photograph took place. He made each of us feel that we had been *teleported* back in time and we were there as that photograph had been taken.

In one photograph, Keith Draughon, who holds the longest membership in the Fresno Chess Club (membership since 1954) recognized people he had played chess with when he was a member of the Golden Gate Chess Club back in the early 1950's,

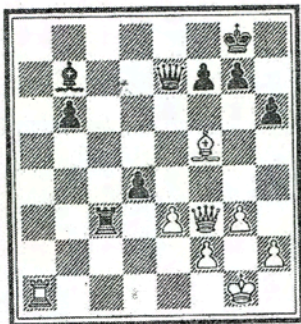
After the tour, FCC members were treated to a simul exhibition with International Master John Donaldson as he showed that he's the *real deal*, a real international master who in quick fashion defeated all member of the FCC. After the simul, FCC members, licking their wounds, exchanged some of the greatest excuses ever told as to why they lost. In the meantime, International Master John Donaldson was going over the games with FCC members, pointing out stronger options each player might have looked at in each game so that each member might improve his game.

John Donaldson, a great international master, is a great story teller, a true gentleman, and a great friend of the Fresno Chess Club; Because of John, everyone had a great time. As the Fresno Chess Club grows, we hope to be invited back next year for a third time.



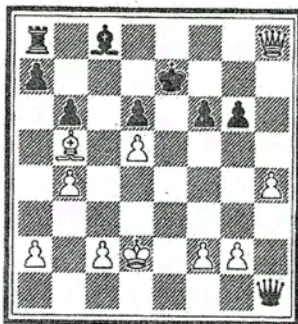


Mind Bashing Puzzles



White to play

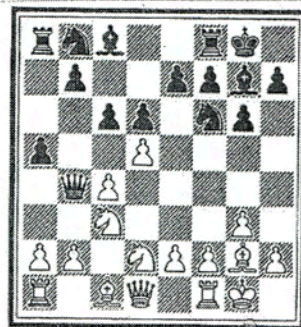
Here, White missed a simple, yet instructive combination which would have graced pages of any primer on tactics. What should Almus have played?



Black to play

It is reasonable to assume that here the players were in time trouble, for play proceeded 1 ... ♖f7 2 ♙e8+ ♜e7 3 ♙c6, whereupon Black resigned. He, no doubt, had focused his attention on the area surrounding his King, yet had he taken a wider perspective of the board, there is no doubt that he would have found a winning move.

The winning move was ... ?



White to play

... played 1 a3, whereupon Durao beat a hasty retreat with 1 ... ♖b6.

How could Roth have left his opponent devastated?



Black to play

Zukertort, in a lost position, had his hopes cruelly raised when he saw his opponent's 1 ... ♙g8. This turned out to be merely a temporary reprieve, however, as Black went on to win.

How could Lipschütz have won immediately — and in very easy fashion at that?

Fresno Chess Club Newsletter
Keith Draughon, Editor
Vella Draughon Assistant Editor
Kevin Draughon, Technical Advisor



Official Fresno Chess Club eatery



Travel and Chess

by Dan Netz

I recently took a trip to The Netherlands. In particular, I visited Amsterdam, and no, not for those reasons. I went for the culture, the chance to mingle with an English friendly country (everyone speaks English) and the chance to play chess! Ha, you didn't expect that did you? Have you ever thought of chess while you travel? I have heard a lot about cafes and parks where boards are set up and players are just waiting for new meat. While I was expecting it, I was over-



whelmed by the reception I received.

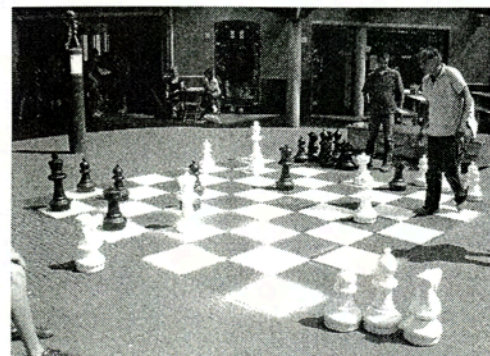
I had read on the Internet about the Max Euwe Centrum, and the large chess board on the ground. It's there and it's very popular. Lots of people are there during the week and a big crowd was there on the Saturday I was there. In fact., as luck would have it, they had a chess simul going on and there were three Masters playing on forty boards. They had three sessionsso they played around 120 players. The Masters were Daniel Stellwagen, Jeroen Loots, and Erik van den Doel. I wasn't able to get in on the simul, but I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. It was very festive and as you'll see in the photos, all age groups were there. I did not see anyone beating the masters. But everyone was smiling and shaking hands, even in defeat.

The Max Euwe Centrum is located across from Amsterdam's largest park, the Vondelpark. It has lakes and, of course, bike paths. That Saturday we rented bikes right at The Max Euwe Centrum, rode through Vondelpark and watched the chess simul. What could be better on a Saturday afternoon? I would encourage you to research on the Net for opportunities when you travel. Most cities should have something you can add to your itinerary. And if you ever get to Amsterdam, go to the Max Euwe Centrum on a Saturday and explore the museum and challenge some unsuspecting Hollander on the Big Board.



The Max Euwe Centrum is located in Amsterdam, NL. It was dedicated to Prof. Dr. Max Euwe, who was the best chess player the Netherlands has ever known. He became world champion in 1935. This centre, dedicated to Max Euwe himself and to the importance of his work for the world of chess, was opened in 1982. Part of the centre is a museum with a number of interesting exhibitions related to the history of chess: notes by Bobby Fischer, match reports, beautiful pieces. Etc.

You can find out more about the Centrum here:
<http://www.maxeuwe.nl/en/index.html>.



Delphis Software Chess Open

St. Agnes Hospital Conference Rooms A & B were once again full of chess players, as sponsor **Delphis Software** hosted the First Annual Delphis Software Open Chess Tournament. Dr. David Brown, a member of the board of directors of Delphis Software and a member of FCC welcomed competitors as the one-day, four-round tournament began.

Players showed up from as far south as Irvine in Southern California, where Winston Weng the No. 1 ranked 6-year old came to compete. Todd Phillips from Fremont, California was our northernmost competitor, but Todd stood out at the tournament for something more spectacular than just driving from Fremont to play. Todd Phillips, a Fremont resident, became our 216th member for 2008. After paying his dues, Todd exercised his right as a FCC member to purchase FCC gear at membership discount price, purchasing a two-knight FCC tee-shirt, and by doing so, helped support the club.

Here are the tournament final results:

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	Jessi Turner	20052503	1794	D4	W5	W2	W3	3.5
2	Gary Hoffman	10472768	1805	W5	W3	L1	W5	3.0
3	Sung, Allan	12782737	1564	B--	L2	W5	L1	2.0
4	George Miller	12624079	1900	D1	U--	U--	U--	0.5
5	Ed May	10503388	1704	L2	L1	L3	L2	0.0

Cal Rated Open -- Standings

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	Dino Bonaldi		1967	W2	W7	W3	W5	4.0
2	Jose Antero		1277	L1	W8	W6	W3	3.0
3	Oscar Cabantac		1413	W4	W5	L1	L2	2.0
4	Dennis Wajckus		1368	L3	L6	W8	W7	2.0
5	David Shubin		1250	W6	L3	W7	L1	2.0

USCF Reserve -- Standings

#	Name	ID	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1	Edwin Sasaki	12630808	1510	W11	W3	D4	W5	3.5
2	Todd Phillips	10482372	1537	W9	L5	W6	W4	3.0
3	Welesito Rombaua	14005985	unr.	W8	L1	W10	W9	3.0
4	Peter Gaffney	12747522	1406	W6	W10	D1	L2	2.5
5	Alan Wolf	12438765	1258	W12	W2	D9	L1	2.5
6	David Joesnhine	12881378	1230	L4	W7	L2	W11	2.0
7	Patrick Enrica	12664057	856	L10	L6	W8	W12	2.0
8	Russell Bik	13536436	850	L3	W11	L7	X10	2.0
9	Maqsood Mustafa	137118221	1280	L2	W12	D5	L3	1.5
10	Winston Zeng	13692906	1254	W7	L4	L3	F8	1.0
11	Jan Anthony Antero	13653731	989	L1	L8	D12	L6	0.5
12	Anthony Brown	14008091	unr.	L5	L9	D11	L7	0.5

Bobby Fischer Revisited

“Inane” and “insane” are not the same! Which term best befits Bobby Fischer and what of Paul Morphy for that matter? They were the chess geniuses of their day or era as the case may be, yet they both stopped playing chess at the pinnacle of their game and both have been considered more than a little strange considering their weird actions in their lives after they quit playing chess, which in itself was weird enough. And yet, when the question arises, “Who was the greatest chess player ever?” these two names are usually included in the top four or five possibilities.

Does chess breed such? There are so many variables to consider in such a question and it may be better left to the experts in this field. For now, let us consider Bobby Fischer himself. The people who knew him best were other grand master chess players. They tried to understand him, but how well? So let us peruse what they and Bobby have to say regarding Fischer and his assumptions of life and the world about him.

Bobby grew up as a “loner” and seemingly trusted no one, all of which can give a different perspective to life and his reactions to the world.

The chess experts include: Mikhail Tal, Larry Evans, Susan Polgar, Gary Kasparov, Peter Blyiasas, Anatoly Karpov, Hans Kmoch, and many others.

Quotes attempting to better edify Bobby Fischer

I would not like to defend or justify Bobby Fischer. He is what he is.

He was a real chess gentleman during games and always very fair and very correct.

I think that the gap between Fischer and his opponent is still the widest in (modern) chess history. The only possible way to compare Fischer, Botvinnik, Morphy, Steinitz and Kasparov would be to place them in the context of their era and to measure the distance between themselves and their opponents. Fischer's distance was vast!

He loves chess. That is the strange part, that he should drop it. Everyone asked me why. I don't know.

His view of the world is completely incompatible with mine.

If you ask Bobby Fischer about chess, he answers about Jews.

There was this growing dilemma in looking for Fischer. The more you knew about him, the less you actually wanted to find him.

Bobby had a fierce killer instinct and sublimated his aggression into chess. He was well prepared and relentless.

He was uncompromising, hated draws and fought most of his games to the bitter end.

Each day go in like an unknown to prove yourself. — Bobby Fischer

By 1970 the essence of Fischer's style was that he had none. He was already the ultimate universal player.

A piece of garbage like Kasparov might be called a chess genius, but he is like an idiot savant. Outside of chess he knows nothing. — Bobby Fischer

Fischer demolished the Soviet chess machine but could build nothing in its place.

Reasoning with him was futile.

Crazy is too broad. Bobby functions well until it comes to his pet peeve.

The reason Bobby has few old friends left is that he is a friend to no one.

The Ruski's always made the rules and got away with it. Let's give them a dose of their own medicine — Bobby Fischer.

Suddenly he discovered girls and other things he had never noticed or had time for. Bobby feared the Rus-

Quotes Continued

He was too good. There was no use in playing him. It wasn't interesting. I was getting beaten, and it wasn't clear to my why. It was like I was being gradually outplayed from the start. He wasn't taking any time to think. The most depressing thing about it was that I wasn't even getting out of the middle game.

Finally America produces its greatest chess genius, and he turns out to be just a stubborn boy.

The combination of Fisher's irresistible genius and chronic crankiness made him great theater—and the greatest draw the sport ever had.

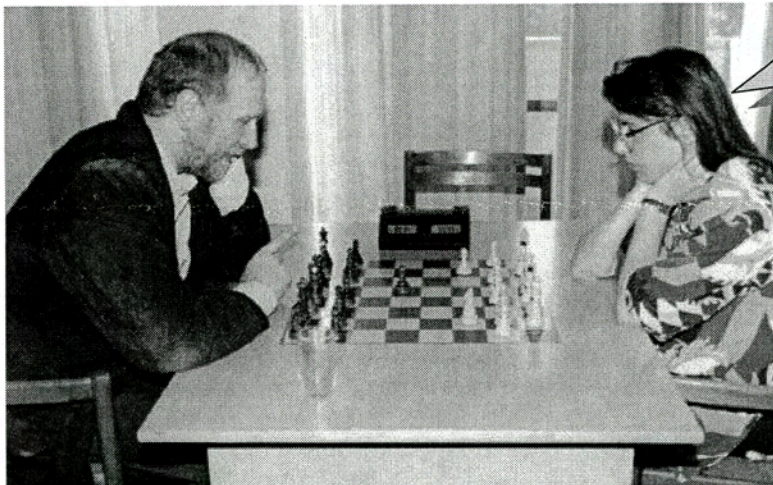
He has devoted his whole life to the goddess of chess. Because of that, he didn't develop in other fields. Perhaps the most difficult thing in life is how to accommodate other people.

He had crazy views on certain things—other than that, he could be normal in dinner conversation or when going hiking.

Fisher gained respect for chess and ideological war. Practically everyone outside the chess community...every thirty-five years later, now still see chess players as smart.

If somebody took a filling out and put in an electronic device, he could influence your thinking. I had all of my fillings taken out some time ago. I'd gum it if I had to. I'll gum it (on how he'd chew food if all of his teeth rotted out). — Bobby Fischer.

Fischer is eccentric always and in everything, including his opinions.



He had crazy views on certain things—other than that, he could be normal in dinner conversation or when going hiking—Susan Polgar

Fresno Chess Club
Officers 2008

Elected Officers:

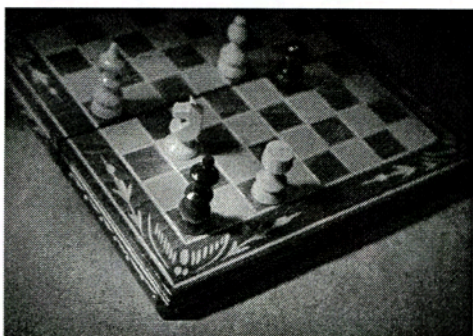
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- Sgt. At Arms: Leon Indart (559) 434-8023
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“Pawn play is the essence of chess.”

Rod Lee Bobo

Rod Bobo, age 61, died on Thursday, May 29, 2008. Born to Jay and Betty Bobo in Fresno, he later graduated from McLane High School and Fresno State College. A veteran of the Vietnam war, he served in the U.S. Army.

Rod enjoyed bridge, chess and karate. He also volunteered for several civic, political and charitable organizations. Rod had been with the Fresno Chess Club for many years and was one of FCC's top-rated players with a masters rating.

Dates to Remember

- ♦ **October 24**, Susan Polgar Simul - Ramada Inn
- ♦ **October 25**, Susan Polgar Breakfast-Dennys, 1st & Shaw
- ♦ **October 25**, Susan Polgar at Kids for Chess Tournament, Reedley
- ♦ **November 14**, Dr. Tim Roth Simul—1st & Herndon
- ♦ **December 6**, Fresno County Chess Championship—St. Agnes
- ♦ **January 2, 2009**, Annual Business Meeting/Election of Officers—Carl's Jr. at 1st & Herndon