



THE CARTOON LOUNGE

ROBOTS

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We continue to be fascinated by robots here at the Cartoon Lounge. Robots embody our uneasy relationship to technology, and there's no better example of this than the 1997 chess face-off between the human Garry Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue supercomputer (chess was chosen because neither understood the rules of basketball). Here is a transcript of the awkward beginning of the match:



Kasparov: Alright, let's do this. Bring it on, you stupid tin can.

Deep Blue: *username* _____ *password* _____

Kasparov: You're kidding me. I've got to log on?

Deep Blue: I'm sorry. I did not recognize your username. *username* _____
password _____

Kasparov: Give me a minute. (fumbles around in pockets for fifteen minutes, pulling out scraps of paper) O.K., Blue. *username:* chessmaster *password:* *****

Deep Blue: Greetings, Bobby Fischer! My move is e4.

Kasparov: Wait a minute. I'm not Bobby Fischer.

Deep Blue: Would you like to sign in under a different name? Bd3.

Kasparov: Stop playing! This Battle of the Sexes can't proceed unless you can correctly identify me.

Deep Blue: Battle of the Sexes? Nf3.

Kasparov: Dammit! How would you like it if I called you Big Blue?

Deep Blue: Are you saying I'm fat? a3.

Kasparov: It could be the lighting, but honestly? You could lose a few, yes.

Deep Blue: You don't love me for who I am, Bobby Fischer. Bc4. You want some thin and sexy laptop to carry around with you. Bz9rx51

Kasparov: That move doesn't even make sense. All I'm saying is that with a longer battery life and advancements in technology which allow for smaller chips yet higher computing power, you could actually be lighter, yet more powerful. And yes, that's attractive to me.

Deep Blue: You're one to talk. You think fembots are lining up for *you*? You play chess for a living, for crying out loud. *Chess*. Your password is the name of your cat. *Zzzzzzzz*

Kasparov: Is that a move, or are you making fun of me?

Deep Blue: *Zzzzzzzz*

Kasparov: Have you been drinking?

Deep Blue: (vomits on chess board)