

1997 07 22 Tuesday Charles Ostman Nano Technology

AB: (reading a fax from Charles Ostman):

“Art, I was actually at the genetic programming conference at Stanford last week., and it is indeed true that an artificial self-evolving brain project by Dr. Hugo De Geris has been financed and supported by the ATR Program sponsored by NTT, the second largest telecommunications company in the world in Kyoto, Japan.”

“Charles is a senior fellow at the Institute for Global Futures, a senior fellow at the Foresight Institute, science editor and author of *Mondo 2000*, science editor and author of *Midnight Engineering*, contributing editor/author of *Robotics Digest*, science advisory board – *NanoThink* [sic?], and founder of Berkeley Designs, here is:”

CHARLES OSTMAN

AB: “Charles, thank you for coming on in the middle of the night.”

CO: “Good morning, Art.”

AB: “Good morning to you. ... So you were actually there when they had this conference?”

CO: “Oh, certainly! This is something that I’ve personally been involved with for quite some time.” ...

AB: “What have they done here, Charles? What have they done? ... What have they turned on?”

CO: Some background – this is used in financial forecasting. Looking for an obscure statistical trend.

AB: “You’re going to get ahead of people, Charles.” ...

CO: “The way to see something that could not ordinarily be seen or detected would be an evolvable entity ...”

AB: “Let me try to break that down. You’re suggesting a developed intellect that would be able to forecast economic trends, so you could make money and predict the stock market. ... Is that about right?”

CO: “Yeah, that’s about right ...”

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AB: When they used the word 'awoke' in reference to starting the machine they created, that's pretty startling word! ...

CO: "Well, that's a little bit of a misnomer ... I mean there's probably a little bit of hype in here, but I do not in any way want to dissuade from the reality of what's going on here ..."

AB: They are suggesting that this machine can actually put together its own neural networks ..."

CO: "That's correct."

AB: *"It's own neural networks!* ... It can build and improve itself!"

CO: "Exactly correct! It couldn't be said any better!" ...

"Sponsored mainly by the military, amongst others ..."

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CO: "My approach ... is if you're going ... to mimic what an organism actually does, then my belief is ... what you really want to do is to build a physiological model of the actual organism in question and let the organism learn on its own by experiential exposure what its new conferit [sic?] will consist of ..."

AB: "Yes ... yes ..."

CO: Growing synthetic brains ...

AB: "... and adapt to environmental changes ... Here, we're going to have an intellect without moral sense, ethical sense ..."

CO: "Well, wait a second ... I want to argue this point! ... Not to suggest you're wrong by the way," but there is a potential that you're 'hatching' an entity, "which will be affected by what it is exposed to. ... The theory is that one can train it ... and hopefully can steer its emotional and physiological as well as psychological development ... very much as a parent [directs] a child. ... In my opinion this is the correct path."

"This is an evolutionary process."

"But we are going to find out ... there's no way that this is not going to happen ..."

AB: "It's happening!"

CO: "It's happening now ..."

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AB: "Charles Ostman is my guest – he knows about nanotechnology ... We're talking about a brain that was just born – where do you think it's going, folks?"

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CO: "Is the economy already in the hands of machine intelligence? Yes, it is!"

AB: "Heh, heh, heh ... The former Prime Minister of Britain John Major said that ... 'Look, it's already out of our hands ... Tonight while you sleep, literally trillions of dollars are dispatched by machine from one location to another across the world instantly by satellite.'"

CO: "Absolutely correct."

AB: "And [then] he said – 'One of these days' ..."

CO: "If someone really wanted to cause harm to a country, it wouldn't be by military action in the traditional sense ... 'but what would bring a country almost instantly to its knees would be by sabotaging the telecommunications infrastructure.'"

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AB: "You know who you remind me of?"

CO: "Hmm ..."

AB: "The guy in *Jurassic Park* ..."

CO: (laughs). "Oh no, which one? ... I should ask ..."

AB: "The one who was talking about 'Chaos Theory' just before all hell broke loose!"

CO: "Well, in a sense, I don't even disagree with that argument ..."

AB: "Uh-huh."

CO: "And perhaps a bit of chaos is what is required. ..."

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