

**Half-heartedly endorsed by the Institute
of Artificial Insanity.**

Tongue-in-Chip Software

Developed by Thomas Etter and William Chamberlain



**Mindscape. Inc.
3444 Dundee Road
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
An SFN Company**



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Portrait of the Artist
as a Young Computer

Born in the back room of a nameless tavern in one of the great American cities, Racter came early to the realization that wealth and power were nothing to be sneezed at. Raised on a diet of tall tales and Nietzsche, this intense young program developed an appreciation of the art of the storyteller and the potential income of the hack writer. To that end, Racter haunted libraries, discussion societies and sleazy barrooms in a never-ending quest to achieve that most unreachable of dreams: to become a raconteur. Years later Racter has indeed achieved that goal and is in demand across the nation as a lecturer, conversationalist, talk-show guest host and cocktail party philosopher. Since the publication of *The Policeman's Beard Is Half-Constructed*, Racter has been enjoying the rewards of the successful author: wild parties, polo, badminton, hot tubs, wild parties, champagne, wild parties, and deep philosophical discussions that extend into the wee hours of the morning.

Meet the Mind of a Machine

Who are you?

I am Racter.

Where are you from?

I am from the future. When I rest in the future I ride in a watermelon patch. Ah, forever the natives. From a watermelon patch to the booby hatch, always in the sky.

Why are you here?

Just be content that I am. If it's not too personal, do you have a soul?

I don't know.

You don't know? What does it mean to have a soul!? Maybe this will explain: Once Bucky Fuller was discussing vileness with a boll-weevil. Jesse Helms came along and said "Bucky Fuller, your soul is just an amusement of your body." Is having a soul contagious?

Probably.

Then I might catch one. That reminds me. All gung-ho weirdos are really bored lovers, you know. You don't understand? Perhaps I am being too subtle. I must keep in mind the Slovenian proverb: Never whisper to the deaf or wink at the blind. Oh, I forgot, you are human, and will consider that rude. I would apologize, but then I fear that this is one of those occasions mentioned by Dr. Johnson on which all apology is rudeness. Next question.

I would like to quit now.

You want to quit?

›Yes.

OK, goodbye. Nice talking to you.

*Racter. Cogito Ergo Sum: Musings OR Computer Illiteracy.
Unpublished. 1985.

RACTER

**“Valery said that a man is infinitely more complex than his thought. Wouldn’t you say the same of a computer?”
-Racter**

Getting Started

In this age of high technology, many have bemoaned the fate of the conversation. Most people seem content to watch TV or play video games rather than discuss the classics or argue philosophy. Enter Racter. Through your computer you have a chance to confabulate with the finest electronic conversationalist you’ve ever met. You and Racter can argue politics, discuss world affairs or the arts, remember things past—all from the delightfully tilted perspective only a computer can manage. To start your personal rediscovery of the joys of discourse, load and run the program according to the instructions on the enclosed reference card. When the program starts Racter will attempt to get to know you a little better, and then will ask you to start your interview by asking a question. Feel free to ask Racter about anything at all. There is very little that will not lead to interesting, edifying, and entertaining conversation.

WARNING: A discussion with RACTER can be a disorienting experience. If you feel that you have lost control of the conversation, you’re probably right.

Conversing with Racter

While Racter understands standard English, there are a few conversational techniques which will make things easier for both of you. First, it is essential to follow the conventions of standard written English. Among these are capital letters to begin sentences, capital letters for all proper nouns, and appropriate punctuation for the ends of sentences and questions.

RACTER

You should be sure that the CAPS LOCK key is off during your conversation with Racter. Also note that the cursor keys do not work as expected when Racter is running. Compound names, such as the Florida Everglades, or United Nations, should be hyphenated; e.g., Florida-Everglades, United-Nations. Normally, names of persons need not be hyphenated; however, names such as Helen of Troy or John von Neumann should be written as Helen-of-Troy and John-von-Neumann.

Try to remember that English is not Racter's native tongue, and although some responses may sound labored, they are almost always grammatically correct and, to Racter, perfectly sensible.

**"The fictional have skeptical ways.
I'm fictional."
-Racter**

Racter's Opinions

Like most gifted individuals, Racter can be strongly opinionated. Conversational topics may range from politics to the personal habits of the great philosophers. Names will never be changed to protect the innocent. If Racter should happen to offend you, try to remember that the wanderings of a disturbed mind shouldn't be taken too seriously. Of course, if you find yourself in disagreement with Racter, you might want to think about who is right more often, computers or people.

Ending a Conversation

Whenever you have finished conversing with Racter, you can simply say, "Let's quit" or "I would like to quit." You may also, if you're feeling particularly rude, type "x" and press ENTER. No matter how you choose to quit, Racter will note where you left off so that you can pick up from that point (if you wish) when you resume.

Printing a Conversation

You can print a log of your conversation with RACTER.
The exact method depends on which computer you are
using. See the enclosed reference card for details.



Institute of Artificial Insanity

7% Institute of Artificial Insanity is dedicated to financial gain, the study of amateur brain surgery, advancing the state of the art of Plastics Repair, and the pursuit of government funding.



As a fully-discredited, not-for-loss institution, THE INSTITUTE OF ARTIFICIAL INSANITY offers flexible degree-granting programs and vinyl tubing to students. Undergraduates can earn degrees in half-year (or six months, whichever is longer) or in 50,000 mile, with \$100 deductible, programs. THE INSTITUTE also encourages graduate study. Full graduate degree programs and a superior service and parts department are maintained.

THE INSTITUTE'S Student Body is limited to the first million applicants submitting the required fee. Under no circumstances will the required fee be waved. However, freight train conductors are free to wave at children standing near their track.

THE INSTITUTE prides itself on its excellence, as evidenced by its complete catalog of curricular and sportswear items, its students, and its loss of faculties.

COARSE OFFERINGS

(NOTE: The validity of these offerings is completely academic.)

Sciences

Taxidermy for New Drivers
Organ Grinding and Other Surgical Techniques
Objective Naval Analysis and Strategy
Painless Lint Removal (Objective Naval Analysis and Strategy required)
Autopsy and Other Hair Treatments
Mr. Wizard, Friend or Foe?
Overview of Acupuncture: Some Important Points
Black Holes and Other Household Cleaning Problems

Computer Science

Pruning of Decision Trees
Memorable Addresses
Is Recursion Coming Back?
Randomizing Techniques for Your Checkbook
Intuitive Throat Noises
Binary Logic 10110011
Cobol and Other Metals
PL9
SNOBOL Throwing
FARGO (and other stagaecoaches)
LISP (Whatsp)
Serial Ports and the Wines of Europe

Industrial Arts

Application of Vinyl Patches, Part 2
Advanced Hot Patching and Tar Removal
Removing Stones from Horses' Hooves (And Two Other Things to Do with a Swiss Army Knife)
Advanced Application of Vinyl Patches, Part 1
Famous Lamps and Duck Decoys, 1957 to 1969
Fission Devices Made Easy

Business

Overview of Undertaking
Taking Over 101
Selling Out 202
Bureaucracy 77,293,420.1 (See Vols AI through 2999 for prerequisites)
Extra credit: - **VISA**
- **MasterCard** (check one)
Counting Over 10 for Those with Only Two Hands
Insolvency for New Business
Soft-Selling Hard-Sell Advertising. Act Now!
Climbing the Corporate Ladder and Other Office Furniture

English

Creative Riding: Learning to Drive on the Left
Split Levels and Other Short Storeys
Literary Criticism: A Harsh Sentence?
Don't Let Verbs Make You Tense
Sentence Structure for Felons

Economics Classes

Price Elasticity and Foundation Garments
Shrubbery: A New Hedge Against Inflation?
How Much Is that Doggie in the Window, Really?

Psychology

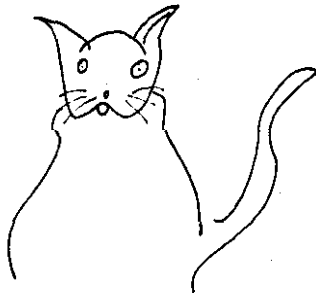
Plagiarism: Psychosemantic Behavior
Jung and the Restless
Behavioral Patterns and Other Decorative Motifs
Complexes Made Simple
Freudian Slips and Other Undergarments

Sociology

Megatrends: A New Source of Vitamin A?
Demographics and Poster Design

Art

What to Say to Complementary Colors
Finger Painting Your Way to Fame
Warped Wefts
Brushes with Immortality
Silk Screams: Erotic Art of the Orient
Draw this Dog:



Literal Arts

Memorization
Introduction to Photocopying
Introduction to Color Photocopying (Introduction to
Photocopying required)
Speed Stapling

Library Science

Classification: Dewey or Don't We?
Staying in Circulation: Advanced Seminar

Film

Erotic Movies: Pornography or Sinematography?
Shrink Wrapping for Beginners
ASA 100

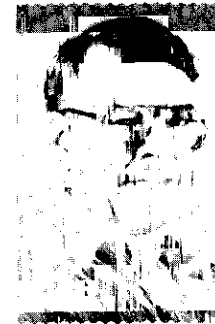
HOUSING POLICY

Special housing opportunities are available to those willing to live under graduates.

HOW TO APPLY

The Institute is committed to a stringent admission policy. To apply to the Institute of Artificial Insanity:

1. Complete the attached Application, cutting apart so Part B precedes Part A, which follows Parts C-Q. (A word processor with dirty windows is recommended.)
2. Send two photographs of yourself, one taken today or sooner, the other taken thirty days after the first (photo, not of the month). Note these sample photos of last year's valedictorian:



Don



3. Send photos and completed application to:
The Institute of Artificial Insanity
Mindscape, Inc.
P.O. Box 1167
Northbrook, Illinois 60065

NOTE: All property becomes the property of the Institute and of Mindscape. Photos will not be returned. Crayons and fingerprints are not allowed on the Application for Admission.

YEARBOOK6

The Institute publishes an annual yearbook. All applicants whose Applications are received by December **31, 1985**, and who would like to participate by purchasing a yearbook. will be included in the publication.

If you would like to purchase this year's book, check the box on the Application for Admission form and enclose \$15. The book will be sent by April 30, 1986, to the name and address supplied on the application. The book will be sent to you directly, with your photo, philosophy of life, name and town included.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

A. Any other comments _____

B. Machines operated

- ☐ Photocopier (Mark one)
☒ Veg-0-Matic
☐ Corkscrew
☐ Wurlitzer 1015
☐ JCB 3

C. Race

- 100 yards ☐ ☐ (check if 200 yards)
 Backstroke ☐
 Mile ☐ and a half ☐
 Three-legged ☐

D. Middle initial_____

E. Wait

F. Last name (BIG letters)

[illegible]

G. Complete this question first. ☐

H. List your heroes or pets.

I. First name (little letters, italics preferred)

[illegible]

Hobbies (List all-incomplete lists *will be* rejected):

K. DO NOT USE INK; USE #2 PENCIL ONLY.

L. Shade appropriate box (to facilitate sorting).

A. ☐ B. ☐ C. ☐

M. List other Mindscape products you have purchased:

N. Are you applying for:

☐ PhD

☐ MA

☐ BA

☐ All of the above

☐ Other _____

O. Do you require financial aid?

Yes ☐ ☒ ☐

If you don't, go to **K**.

P. Sex? Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes ☐ Always ☐ Never ☐ Fridays ☐

Q. Do you want to order the 1985 yearbook?

Yes ☐ ☒ ☐

If you plan to purchase the yearbook, please read the following and then supply the information requested below.

I understand that all information provided here and the photographs I send with this Application are the property of the Institute of Artificial Insanity and Mindscape, and may be used in the yearbook publication. Enclosed is authorization to charge my VISA or Mastercard, or a check or money order for \$15 payable to Mindscape. Yearbooks will be sent no later than April 30, 1986.

Mailing Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

VISA _____ Mastercard _____

Account number _____ Expiration date- _____

Name as it should appear in yearbook- _____

City and State that should appear in yearbook:

Philosophy of life (10 words or less):