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Newsgroups: comp.ai,comp.ai.philosophy  
From: minsky@media.mit.edu (Marvin Minsky)  
Subject: Annual Minsky Loebner Prize Revocation Prize 1995 Announcement  
Date: Fri, 3 Mar 1995 01:35:19 GMT

In article <3j56jv\$opq@hopper.acm.org> loebner@ACM.ORG writes:

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>=====
>          LOEBNER PRIZE COMPETITION IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
>          ANNOUNCEMENT OF, AND APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR,
>          THE 1995 PRIZE COMPETITION
>=====
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And, after many screensfull of boring stuff, he adds:

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>17. The names "Loebner Prize" and "Loebner Prize Competition" may be used by
>contestants in advertising only by advance written permissionof the Cambridge
>Center, and their use may be subjecttoapplicablelicensingfees. Advertising is
>subjecttoapprovalbyrepresentativesoftheLoebner Prize Competition. Improper or
>misleading advertising may result in revocationoftheprizeand/or other actions.
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I do hope that someone will volunteer to violate this proscription so that Mr. Loebner will indeed revoke his stupid prize, save himself some money, and spare us the horror of this obnoxious and unproductive annual publicity campaign.

In fact, I hereby offer the \$100.00 Minsky prize to the first person who gets Loebner to do this. I will explain the details of the rules for the new prize as soon as it is awarded, except that, in the meantime, anyone is free to use the name "Minsky Loebner Prize Revocation Prize" in any advertising they like, without any licensing fee.

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From: loebner@ACM.ORG (Hugh Loebner)  
Subject: Reply to Minsky re Loebner Prize Revocation  
Date: 7 Mar 1995 16:27:51 GMT

Marvin Minsky writes:

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>In fact, I hereby offer the $100.00 Minsky prize to the first person
>who gets Loebner to do this [end the contest].
>I will explain the details of the rules
>for the new prize as soon as it is awarded, except that, in the
>meantime, anyone is free to use the name "Minsky Loebner Prize
>Revocation Prize" in any advertising they like, without any licensing
>fee.
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1. If you contact Stuart Sheiber (shieber@das.harvard.edu) he might match your \$100.00 prize, doubling the prize to \$200.00. (Doubling the prob of my discontinuing the contest from .00001 -> .00002).

(See S. Shieber Lessons from a Restricted Turing Test, Communication of the ACM, June '94, Vol 37 n.6 p 70-78)

2. A better way is to simply to enter and win the contest. That way, instead of a \$100.00 out of pocket expense, you would (a) have a gain of \$100,000.00 (b) get a gold medal, and (c) the contest would be discontinued.

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From: loebner@ACM.ORG (Hugh Loebner)  
Subject: Minsky Co-sponsor of Loebner Prize!  
Date: 8 Mar 1995 16:48:36 GMT

Minsky writes:

>I do hope that someone will volunteer to violate this proscription so  
>that Mr. Loebner will indeed revoke his stupid prize, save himself  
>some money, and spare us the horror of this obnoxious and unproductive  
>annual publicity campaign.

>  
>In fact, I hereby offer the \$100.00 Minsky prize to the first person  
>who gets Loebner to do this. I will explain the details of the rules  
>for the new prize as soon as it is awarded, except that, in the  
>meantime, anyone is free to use the name "Minsky Loebner Prize  
>Revocation Prize" in any advertising they like, without any licensing  
>fee.

1. Marvin Minsky will pay \$100.00 to anyone who gets me to "revoke" the "stupid" Loebner Prize.
2. "Revoke" the prize means "discontinue" the prize.
3. After the Grand Prize is won, the contest will be discontinued.
4. The Grand Prize winner will "get" me to discontinue the Prize.
5. The Grand Prize winner will satisfy The Minsky Prize criterion.
6. Minsky will be morally obligated to pay the Grand Prize Winner \$100.00 for getting me to discontinue the contest.
7. Minsky is an honorable man.
8. Minsky will pay the Grand Prize Winner \$100.00
9. Def: "Co-sponsor": Anyone who contributes or promises to contribute a monetary prize to the Grand Prize winner .
10. Marvin Minsky is a co-sponsor of the 1995 Loebner Prize Contest.

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BTW

The language that Minsky finds so offensive was added by the Prize Committee because of a possible mis-representation regarding the contest made by an annual prize winner.

No fees have been requested of any winner, nor do I anticipate of any fees ever being requested. Rule 17 merely protects the Loebner Prize from misrepresentation in advertising.

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From: shieber@das.harvard.edu (Stuart Shieber)  
Subject: Re: Reply to Minsky re Loebner Prize  
Date: 8 Mar 1995 16:34:49 GMT

Now that Dr. Loebner has brought it up, my paper on the Loebner competition (CACM, volume 37, number 6, June, 1994) is available electronically from the Computation and Language E-Print Archive at URL <http://xxx.lanl.gov/abs/cmp-lg/9404002>

The abstract is duplicated below.

A reply by Dr. Loebner and my rejoinder were published in the same CACM issue listed above.

One may, if one wishes, consider this my bid for the Minsky Prize.  
-- Stuart Shieber

Lessons from a Restricted Turing Test  
Stuart M. Shieber

We report on the recent Loebner prize competition inspired by Turing's test of intelligent behavior. The presentation covers the structure of the competition and the outcome of its first instantiation in an actual event, and an analysis of the purpose, design, and appropriateness of such a competition. We argue that the competition has no clear purpose, that its design prevents any useful outcome, and that such a competition is inappropriate given the current level of technology. We then speculate as to suitable alternatives to the Loebner prize.

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From: nagle@netcom.com (John Nagle)  
Subject: Re: Reply to Minsky re Loebner Prize Revocation  
Date: Wed, 8 Mar 1995 18:42:31 GMT

loebner@ACM.ORG (Hugh Loebner) writes:  
>2. A better way is to simply to enter and win the contest.  
>That way, instead of a \$100.00 out of pocket  
>expense, you would (a) have a gain of \$100,000.00  
>(b) get a gold medal, and (c) the contest would  
>be discontinued.

The problem with the Loebner competition is not that it is held, but that the state of the art is not sufficient to field a serious entry.

Perhaps the quality of entries will improve once the "Cyc" database becomes available. That should provide a superficial level of knowledge on a wide range of subjects, which may be enough to support casual discourse.

John Nagle

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02/26/09  
09:25:23

minsky-thread.txt

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From: Salvatore R. Mangano  
Subject: Re: Minsky Co-sponsor of Loebner Prize!  
Date: 9 Mar 1995 01:30:52 GMT

Good Show! Hey Marv, lighten up.

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Man Machine Interfaces, Inc.  
555 Broadhollow Rd  
Melville NY 11747  
72053.2032@comuserve.com

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From: reinhard@mindspring.com (Bryan Reinhardt)  
Subject: Mr. Minsky Grumpy Competition  
Date: Thu, 9 Mar 1995 18:39:17 -0400

Mr. Grumpy AI White Tower Researcher Award of the Year Competition

I hearby offer a prize of 10 dollars to anyone who can out do Mr. Minsky as Mr. Grumpy researcher of the year, or anyone who can stifle any creative growth (such as NN) in AI...less points for creativity; more points for downright self righteousness, snobbery or pure grumpyizm....

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From: Will Dwinnell  
Newsgroups: comp.ai  
Subject: Re: Minsky Co-sponsor of Loebner Prize!  
Date: Thu, 9 Mar 95 19:28:09 -0500

Salvatore R. Mangano writes:  
>Good Show! Hey Marv, lighten up.

It would seem to me that Marvin Minsky would have greater success keeping people away from the dread Loebner contest by paying \$100 to everyone who doesn't participate!

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From: minsky@media.mit.edu (Marvin Minsky)  
Subject: Re: Minsky Co-sponsor of Loebner Prize!  
Date: Thu, 9 Mar 1995 17:49:12 GMT

Salvatore R. Mangano writes  
>Good Show! Hey Marv, lighten up.

No thanks. I've noticed that people who lighten up soon float away and are mever missed.

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