



"Always Interesting" AI in the news

<http://www.aaai.org/aitopics/html/current.html>

Where Lech Does Tech. Desa Philadelphia. *Time*. July 1, 2002 (www.time.com/time). "Leading Poland to democracy brought Lech Walesa a Nobel Peace Prize and international acclaim, but he admits to a few regrets. One is that he was so busy throughout the 1980s and '90s that he 'did not have the time to follow developments in technology closely.' But he is catching up. The first corporate board Walesa, 58, has agreed to join is that of NuTech Solutions, a closely held company founded three years ago in Charlotte, N.C., by a pair of Polish immigrants. NuTech creates software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to boost efficiency in its clients' manufacturing, distribution and customer service. ... [H]e joined NuTech primarily because he is passionate about the promise of its technologies, which he is studying avidly. 'The science and technology NuTech represents,' he says, 'are the future of all companies.'"

Is There a Robot in your Future? Siva Kasinathan ("a student this past year in the Manhattan [Kansas] Middle School system"). *The Manhattan Mercury*. June 21, 2002 (www.themercury.com). "Robot technology is helping humanity branch off into the future. It is the steppingstone for artificial intelligence, nanorobotics and cybernetics. Artificial intelligence, or AI, is a very new frontier that will allow robots to think. AI will permit robots to perform tasks such as exploring planets without human directions and keep themselves out of trouble."

Robot on the Run. Dave Higgins. *The Age*. June 20, 2002 (www.theage.com.au). "Scientists running a pioneering experiment with 'living robots' which think for themselves today said they were amazed to find one escaping from the centre where it 'lives'. ... [Noel] Sharkey said: 'Since the experiment went live in March they have all learned a significant amount and are becoming more intelligent by the day but the fact that it had ability to navigate itself out of the building and along the concrete floor to the gates has surprised us all.'"

Minority Report. Roger Ebert. *Chicago Sun-Times*. June 21, 2002 (www.suntimes.com). "The movie turns out to be eerily prescient, using the term 'pre-crime' to describe stopping crimes before they happen; how could Spielberg have known the government would be using the same term this summer?"

Digital Warriors — Artificial Intelligence May Help Spot Future Terrorism Attacks. Paul Eng. *ABC News*. May 22, 2002 (abcnews.go.com). "Norman Geddes, president and CEO of Applied Systems Intelligence, a software maker in Roswell, Ga., thinks artificial intelligence can study terrorist behavior patterns and spot trouble. ... Geddes says a well-designed computer program can do what humans do, and maybe even do a better job at it. '[It's] the same as a good police officer,' he says. '[It] investigates leads, forms hypotheses, and narrows things down.' ... Artificial intelligence systems use complex math routines to discover patterns and predict possible outcomes."

FBI's Most Wanted: New IT Priorities (Commentary). Dan Farber. *ZDNet*. June 5, 2002 (zdnet.com.com). "On NBC's 'Meet

This eclectic keepsake provides a sampling of what can be found (with links to the full articles) on the AI Topics web site. Please keep in mind that (1) the mere mention of anything here does not imply any endorsement whatsoever; (2) the excerpt might not reflect the overall tenor of the article; (3) although the articles were initially available online and without charge, few things that good last forever; and (4) the AI in the News collection—updated, hyperlinked, and archived—can be found by going to www.aaai.org/aitopics/html/current.html.

—Jon Glick, Webmaster, AI Topics

the Press' a few days ago, FBI Director Mueller said that 'it would be nice if we had the computers in the FBI that were tied into the CIA that you could go in and [search on] 'flight schools,' and any report relating to flight schools that had been generated anywhere in the FBI field offices would spit out." He went on to proclaim the need for AI that could offer more predictive technology."

DOD Looks Closer at Promising Technologies. Dawn S. Onley. *Government Computer News*. June 6, 2002 (www.gcn.com). "Nearly eight months after it released a request to industry for help developing technologies to combat terrorism, the Defense Department will now take the next step. ... The chosen ideas for which

the group sought white papers included: a system that, using an integrated database and data mining tools, could identify patterns and trends of terrorist groups and predict their behavior..."

Robot Cameras "will predict crimes before they happen." Andrew Johnson. *The Independent*. April 21, 2002 (news.independent.co.uk). "Scientists at Kingston University in London have developed software able to anticipate if someone is about to mug an old lady or plant a bomb at an airport. It works by examining images coming in from close circuit television cameras (CCTV) and comparing them to behaviour patterns that have already programmed into its memory. The software, called Cromatica, can then mathematically work out what is likely to happen next. And if it is likely to be a crime it can send a warning signal to a security guard or police officer. ... 'The idea is that the computer detects a potential event and shows it to the operator, who then decides what to do — so we are still a long way off from machines replacing humans,' Dr Velastin says."

To Err Is Human. George Johnson. *The New York Times*. July 14, 2002 (www.nytimes.com). "Ordered to climb higher by the electronic voice of the cockpit's automatic collision detector, the pilot of the children's plane obeyed the befuddled ground controller instead. The airliner dove head-on into a DHL cargo jet — a tragedy that might have been averted if people put more faith in machines. ... The issue here is nothing so lofty as human versus artificial intelligence. What lay in the balance was a simple decision: up or down, 1 or 0. Believe the controller or believe the machine."

Approximating Life. Clive Thompson. *The New York Times Magazine*. July 7, 2002 (www.nytimes.com). "Thousands of people flock to his Web site every day from all over the world to talk to his creation, a robot called Alice. It is the best artificial-intelligence program on the planet, a program so eerily human that some mistake it for a real person. As Wallace listens in, they confess intimate details about their lives, their dreams; they talk to Wallace's computer about God, their jobs, Britney Spears. ... [L]ast October, Alice won the Loebner competition for the second time in a row; this time one judge actually ranked Alice more realistic than a human."