

**From:** Ben Goertzel <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Tue, 22 Jan 2013 13:41:00 +0000

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When Hanson makes his robot model of \*me\*, we can try different hairstyles, and see which one audiences find more compelling ;-) ...

It's my pleasure to introduce you to folks....

Another kind of brilliant AGI guy is Linas Vepstas

<http://linas.org>

He has worked for me off and on.... He's unusual in that he is a world-class software engineer (he worked for IBM porting Linux to various supercomputer architectures), a physicist/mathematician (PhD in physics, author of 400+ math/physics Wikipedia pages), and also very smart about AGI....

Linas is not an academic, he's an industry guy.... But he has great ideas about how to implement systems that learn language from experience.... He has been working on a project using OpenCog's MOSES component to predict which Army soldiers will commit suicide based on their psychologist reports (I'm an advisor on that project). The predictive accuracy we've obtained is reasonably high. In his spare time, he is in the midst of re-implementing the link parser

<http://www.link.cs.cmu.edu/link/> -- historical webpage with online parser

<http://www.abisource.com/projects/link-grammar/> -- webpage with current version maintained by Linas

which is part of our current OpenCog language processing pipeline.... The goal of his re-implementation is to make the link parser interpret language more like people do...

Talking to Linas would give you a different view of the AGI problem, as he is not an academic, but rather an industry engineer with a passion for AGI and experience with large-scale projects...

Of course, he would be thrilled to get funded to spend some time working on a cognitively human-like language system.... On the other hand, one reason he's in industry is that he likes getting paid \$120K/year ;p ...

Linas would definitely be a member of my "AGI dream team" -- he's the kind of programmer/scientist an AGI project desperately needs, to complement theorists/visionaries like me, Joscha and Hanson...

ben

On Tue, Jan 22, 2013 at 7:43 PM, Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

> obviously you are stuck in an old paradigm re your appearance. it is  
> what you lecture others about, I am trying to help. it is silly, i hope  
> if your robot is wise it will concur and tell you to cut your hair, that  
> probably would be a demonstration of the technology that would finally wow  
> people . seriously , thanks for your intros to your friends

>  
>  
> On Tue, Jan 22, 2013 at 2:35 AM, Ben Goertzel <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>>  
>> hah... I mentioned this email to my wife and she said "Noo, don't cut  
>> your hair, it's so sexy!!.... You managed to get a hedge fund started  
>> with long hair, so what's the problem?"

>>  
>> But of course, if some sufficiently awesome opportunity comes up that  
>> requires me to adopt a different look or persona, I'm willing to do  
>> that.... Getting AGI built is more important than preserving the look  
>> I'm used to and my wife likes .... Back in 2000 I had short hair for  
>> a while...

>>  
>> It seems, though, that long hair has been no obstacle to me getting  
>> taken seriously as a futurist pundit.... And short hair has not  
>> caused Joscha, Itamar etc. etc. to get loads of AGI funding ;p ...

>>  
>> If there are folks you'd like to introduce me to, who you think would  
>> be put off by my current appearance, I can buy a nice suit and tie my  
>> hair back in a ponytail, and I guess that may suffice? ;)

>>  
>> On a more interesting note, I just heard from David Hanson that he's  
>> been talking to you about you potentially funding our joint  
>> AGI/robotics research efforts, as well as about him sculpting a  
>> robo-Epstein for you..... That would be awesome. I'm sure you will  
>> really enjoy meeting David, he's a dynamic guy as well as a canny  
>> entrepreneur, an innovative scientist and an amazing artist.... He is  
>> exactly the collaborator I needed in order to work on robotics.... I  
>> feared dealing with robotics for a long time, because working with  
>> robot mechanics can be a huge time sink. But with an innovative,  
>> AGI-friendly roboticist as a collaborator, I think robotics can be a  
>> very productive direction for OpenCog AGI...

>>  
>> Thanks for helping out Joscha, by the way. He had kind of resigned  
>> himself to not being able to focus on AGI, and you have totally  
>> changed his outlook and attitude !! It's nice to see ;)

>>  
>> -- Ben

>>  
>>  
>> On Tue, Jan 22, 2013 at 1:28 AM, Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>  
>> wrote:

>>> I think it is now time for you to drop the hippie look. you can't be  
>>> taken seriously in thinking about tomorrow if you continue to look like  
>>> yesterday.. It is an unnecessary hindrance. you call

>>>  
>>> --  
>>> \*\*\*\*\*

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>>> Ben Goertzel, PhD  
>>> <http://goertzel.org>

>>> "My humanity is a constant self-overcoming" -- Friedrich Nietzsche

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>>> \*\*\*\*\*  
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--  
Ben Goertzel, PhD  
<http://goertzel.org>

"My humanity is a constant self-overcoming" -- Friedrich Nietzsche