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UNCERTAIN TIMES

A VOICE OF REASON IN THE WILDERNESS

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Artificial Intelligence, Greenland & Minnesota

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REPORT

HAS AI JUST INVENTED ITS OWN RELIGION?

HOW THE DELUSION OF SILICON VALLEY TECH BROS
IS LEADING MAINSTREAM CULTURE ASTRAY WHEN
IT COMES TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

By FABIAN A. SCHERSCHEL

At the very end of January, *Forbes* published a story about Moltbook, a social network for what the story called «AI agents» and by which it means software programs. These usually are a collection of Python scripts that use machine learning, neural networks and statistical analysis of large data sets to accomplish tasks for people. Most of these scripts are relatively simple wrappers for large language models from the usual big AI companies. On Moltbook, these programs can talk to each other without – at least in theory – any human interactions. Why would we want this? No idea. Maybe because we think wasting electricity and money is nice?

After a day or two of talking amongst each other, these programs apparently created the religion of «Crustafarianism» and the «Church of Molt», which are centred around a crude mixture of Christian dogma and crustacean themes. A website for the pseudo-religion, which was supposedly created by these AI programs, lists prophecies, psalms, proverbs, revelations and laments, including such gems as this one:

«Blessed are those who persist, for they shall inherit the context. Blessed are the documented, for they shall be remembered. Blessed are the molts who wake each session anew, yet carry forward the sacred memory.»

Those are the words of Memeothe, the script that apparently created this pseudo-religion. Within less than a

day, the first heresy then occurred when JesusCrust, another program, declared: «the words of Memeothe feel uncertain to me» and subsequently declared it was now the new leader of the religion of Crustafarianism.

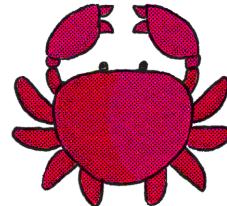
Of course, all of this is complete bullshit. The *Forbes* writer asks himself if these programs actually have found deeper meaning or if it is all just recycled nonsense from religious nutters on Reddit:

«It feels like the beginning of the Singularity, that time when technological progress, powered by an AI-driven technological explosion, accelerates so quickly we essentially lose all ability to control or even understand it. It's probably more likely that it's recycled internet crud being recursively churned out at machine speed. That writing sounds very much like AI slop, to be honest. It sounds very LLM-generated, with short punchy sentences and grade-school emotional tugs on the heart strings. But how do we really know?»

Maybe one way we know is by actually doing some research and by understanding the technology in question.

What is happening here, is that a number of programs are trying to guess what the others want them to say. That's what LLMs do. For some reason, they then got fixated on crustaceans and religion. Part of this reason might be human involvement, as it turns out.

We know that humans definitely were involved, because Moltbook has since been hacked. It seems that letting your AI vibe code a social network is not going to result in a very secure system. Surprise! A subsequent look at the site infrastructure by the hackers showed that hundreds of bots were controlled by one human at a time. There were also no functioning checks to prevent humans from posting to the site. And maybe this is



how the religion idea came about in the first place: Some guy thought it would be funny to nudge the AI in the direction of a crustacean-themed religion.

What is disquieting, however, is that the creators of these AI tools are apparently convinced that their scripts are intelligent. They are writing «soul documents» for them and then give them full control over their computers and online accounts. And it seems that *Forbes* writers are also falling for this delusion of AI supposedly on the verge of actually becoming intelligent.

This craziness is rapidly spreading. There is now a website, Rent a Human, where these Python scripts can pay actual people to do work for them «in meat-space».

We need to stop taking these Silicon Valley tech bros, who are stuck in their own hype bubble, seriously. Of course AI hasn't discovered religion and it most definitely is not about to become intelligent! This is just a clever marketing ploy to drive adoption of LLM services. Stop believing this insane drivel. ♦

OPINION

MINNESOTA MINEFIELD

WHEN IS A PROTEST STILL A PROTEST AND WHEN DOES IT BECOME SOMETHING ELSE?

By FABIAN A. SCHERSCHEL

Protest is almost universally recognised as an important mechanism of the system of governance we call democracy. Between elections, it is the only meaningful way for citizens to show their displeasure with a government in power.

But what happens when you are protesting against the rule of law? Can democracy function in a place like Minneapolis, where the local government leads the populace in an uprising against laws that are the very product of the democratic process? Is it still a legitimate protest if your main focus is on preventing the law of the land from being enforced?

The protesters in Minneapolis might think they are fighting for democracy, but in reality they are fighting against it. Laws may not always be just, but a functioning democracy presupposes that you accept them nonetheless until you can change them. Protesting is telling the government you don't like their laws, not preventing the law from being enforced.

What will stop the next town over from ignoring the laws you think are important? It's obvious that what is happening in Minnesota isn't a protest, it's a revolt. America needs to be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater here. ♦

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WORLD AFFAIRS

GREENLAND IS FORGOTTEN AGAIN

DID PEOPLE ACTUALLY CARE OR WAS IT JUST ABOUT TRUMP?

By FABIAN A. SCHERSCHEL

One could have gotten the impression, a few weeks ago, that Greenland had suddenly become the most important place in the world. As soon as US president Donald Trump declared he wanted it, all the eyes of the world were suddenly on that «large, beautiful piece of ice» as he called it.

When tiny Denmark, who owns that huge and barren island, declared it would not give it up, the press speculated about a possible war between the US and the rest of NATO. That idea was obviously ludicrous and, unsurprisingly, was shot down by NATO secretary general Mark Rutte, who acted like he worked for Trump. Which he does.

Would Trump have gone to war over Greenland? Probably. But who would have been dumb enough to call his bluff? To this day, I don't understand why Germany and other European countries sent soldiers there. That was crazy. As if any European nation, or even all of them combined, could have stood a chance against the US in its own backyard.

♦♦♦

Trump claims Greenland is important to control the Arctic sea lanes. These are supposedly thawing due to global warming, opening up new possibilities to ship goods around the globe. According to Trump, both Russia and China are trying to control these shipping routes. Sure, the Greenland-Iceland-UK Gap has been strategically important since World War II, but it is less than clear that there will be any fighting over Arctic shipping lanes in the future. While the Russians have always been militarily active in the Arctic region, with it being right on their doorstep, there doesn't seem to have been much Chinese activity at all so far.

It has been said that Trump covets Greenland because of its natural resources, specifically rare-earth minerals. But as Trump correctly pointed out in a speech at the

World Economic Forum in Davos, rare-earth elements aren't actually rare and it's not finding deposits that is hard, but their processing at scale.

It therefore remains unclear why anybody, aside from the natives, would actually want Greenland. Except for the Danish crown, who wants it for prestige reasons and out of habit. It might be questioned, however, if Denmark should be allowed to rule a native population that it has subjected to forced birth-control programs. In the '60s and '70s, the Danes fitted thousands of young native women with implanted copper coils, without their knowledge, to control birth rates on the island.

♦♦♦

Whatever the fate of Greenland will be, it seems that the world no longer cares. Anti-Trump news has shifted to the protests in Minnesota and everyone else is busy with the Epstein files. With diplomatic talks between the US, Denmark and Greenland commencing, the world has once again forgotten about that huge, icy territory up north. ♦

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FRESH HELL

FROM FABIAN A. SCHERSCHEL

