

## Letter to Editor

Dear Sir,

Prompted by your kind mention of my blessing on the first issue of *Robotica*, I would offer some commentary. First, I join with your editorial writers in congratulating you on the personal accomplishment known to us all as *Robotica*.

But then I must wax combative and take issue with both Ernie Kent and Monsieur Coiffet.\* They were tongue-in-cheek but I am dead serious. Or, at least as serious as I ever allowed myself to be.

Ernie could have his robot butler in three years. Let me choose the development team and dispense \$15,000,000 wisely among them. Note that I say "development" not research.

We have a powerful spectrum of technology at hand. Enough to create a mobile, sensate, multiarmed, articulate robot capable not only of butlering but also of cooking and cleaning, even companionship.

Now this would not be a "Jeeves" ready to extract Ernie from social indiscretion. Mark I would be a plodding, stodgy servant that does what it is told and never contests the wisdom of its mentor, except on issues of human safety.

Given this magnificent "mechatronics" execution, all robotics researchers would have a tool with which to address the elegant issues that excite Ernie. The rest of us would dote

on this slave class fearing only the announcement in *Robotica* that these servants, owing to Ernie and colleagues, are no longer subhuman and deserving of their freedom. Deputy Editor Coiffet has shrewdly made his prognostications against a date at which he is unlikely to be called to task. My advice is that he take particularly good care of himself because all of his speculations for 2091 will be realized much earlier—in time for his enjoyment and probably including his very own contributions.

Well, maybe not one. Isaac Asimov and I will, to our last gasps, campaign against robotics in warfare.

Do hang in there, *Robotica* is on to something!

Cordially,

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19 February, 1992.