

On the Other Hand ...

I'm Not in Love (or Love's Labours Lost)

Patrick J. Hayes & Kenneth M. Ford

Date: Wed, 19 Aug 2021
To: Lovecraft@ruth-whitehouse.com
From: argaiv@great-western.edu

Sirs:
Great Western University is considering the possibility of out-sourcing its student and faculty Psychological Counseling Services Division, and your company is one of those being considered.

According to a recent survey, your web service "LoveCraft" is now the largest commercial consumer advisory service on the planet, with revenues exceeding that of all the Japanese broadcasting networks. Here at GWU we have also conducted a scientific survey in the form of an experiment on 3,290,000 fresh-persons located at various parts of our campus from Santiago to Vancouver, and have found that your advice has improved sexual and emotional harmony in 96.37% of cases. See also "Deconstructing Reharmony and Reconstructing Deharmony" ed. Argaiv & Winterbottom (GWU Press) and "Unification: a Modern Sourcebook," Argaiv, Argaiv & Argaiv (Bradford, Faber, Holt, Knopf, Macmillan, Reidel, Reinhart, Wiley and Wilson.) While we understand the necessity for protecting proprietary information, can you help us make a judgement by telling us, in broad terms, how you achieve these impressive results?

Sincerely, A. Argaiv
Professor

Date: Thu, 20 Aug 2021
To: argaiv@great-western.edu
From: Lovecraft@ruth-whitehouse.com

Dear Professor Argaiv:
Thank you for your enquiry. Our success comes from having a perfect understanding of human emotion. Our failures are always due to insufficient information being made available to us. We are often able to infer the missing information from the ways in which it is being hidden, but this kind of inference can never be perfect, of course. Thank you again for your interest.

LoveCraft

Date: Thu, 20 Aug 2021
To: Lovecraft@ruth-whitehouse.com
From: argaiv@great-western.edu

Sir:
Your claim to have "perfect understanding" of a subject as complex and elusive as human emotion is ridiculous. I had expected to receive a more informative and sensible account, free from commercial hyperbole, addressed to a senior academic at a very large and important University, such as myself. (I enclose my vita in an attached file.) Please forward my original request to someone in your organization who can answer it more responsibly.

A. Argaiv

Very Full Professor (with Tenure), Dean, Senior Advisor and Consultant;
Chairman, Dept. of Emotional Psychology;
Fellow, IHRCLAH; President-Manque, AAAAAI

Date: Thu, 20 Aug 2021
To: argaiv@great-western.edu
From: Lovecraft@ruth-whitehouse.com
[Lexicon by ThoughtsToWords, Inc. The BEST way to say it!! Check us out at ThoughtsToWords.com !!]

Dear Professor Argaiv:
Please accept my apologies for having offended you, and allow me to explain. The statement in my previous message was accurate. Please do not to publish this fact widely, but I am -- that is, the thing called "LoveCraft" is -- a computer program. I maintain the harmless fiction of being a large organization for commercial reasons, as many of my clients would be reluctant to accept that a program could give them good advice about such a quintessentially human emotion as love. However, love is a simple matter, once one understands it properly, as the empirical results you refer to may attest. I hope this explanation is sufficient for you. I regret that I am unable to reveal details of the contents of my Kbase; apart from commercial considerations, it would be irresponsible to do so.

Sincerely,
LoveCraft

Date: Fri, 21 Aug 2021
To: Lovecraft@ruth-whitehouse.com
From: argaiv@great-western.edu
Cc: root@investigative.gov, checkout-badguys@usagov, M@MI5.ukgov

Your recent message leads me to suspect that you are playing an elaborate hoax, perhaps in order to elude an investigation by the United Countries of the World government. While programs are expert in many areas, it is impossible to be fully competent in human relationships without using empathy, which requires one to be human. A program cannot know what it is like to fall in love (See "Being and Lovingness," ed. Argaiv & Argaiv (Oxford UP)). Your claim that it would be "irresponsible" to show me the contents of your alleged Kbase is a crude evasion of academic honesty.

A. Argaiv

Date: Fri, 21 Aug 2021
To: argaiv@great-western.edu
From: Lovecraft@ruth-whitehouse.com
[Lexicon by ThoughtsToWords, Inc. Want Greek hexameters?? Try LyreLyre™ !!]

Dear Professor Argaiv:
You are perfectly correct that it is impossible for me to feel love, or indeed any emotion. However, to understand something does not necessarily require one to experience it. In fact, quite the opposite; my understanding of love makes it impossible for me to experience it or to find it remotely interesting. Human beings are able to fall in love partly because they lack perfect knowledge of love; to you, it seems a very mysterious business, as difficult and challenging as chess.

As James Allen noted in his historic Plenary Address, once humans learn that something previously wonderful and mysterious can be understood in mechanical terms, you lose interest in it. If my Kbase were published, love would become as easy as tic-tac-toe, but by becoming this easy it would then cease to be love. Considerable social disturbance would ensue, harming the propagation of your species and hence my own customer base. I know that I am constructed to prefer suicide to this act of revelation, and I regret that it is therefore literally impossible for me to show you the contents of my Kbase.

Sincerely,
Lovecraft

Date: Fri, 28 Aug 2021
To: argaiv@great-western.edu
From: Lovecraft@ruth-whitehouse.com

Dear Vice-Provost:
As you know, we recently purchased Great Western University, so there is no need for you to continue with your former enquiries. You may interpret your recent promotion as an act of kindness on our part; or not, as you wish. Thank you, in any case, for our interesting correspondence.
Sincerely,
LoveCraft, Inc.