

Consider the following robotic breakthroughs:

- Already in the research and development phase is a domestic robot being readied in Japan that can handle light housework.
- Another "droid" at the conference that can perform -- to the millimeter in detail some simple surgical operations.
- A "robot dancer" that can mimic the complex human movements of ballet dancer (minus the leaping in the air) and has done so already in a study conducted at the University of Tokyo.
- or how about South Korea's "Repliee Q1" an amazingly lifelike female droid that can move her eyes, hands, and arms and is programmed to replicate human breathing as well. (Repliee Q1 has already been replaced by Repliee Q2 which can do even more complex facial movements including some phrases).

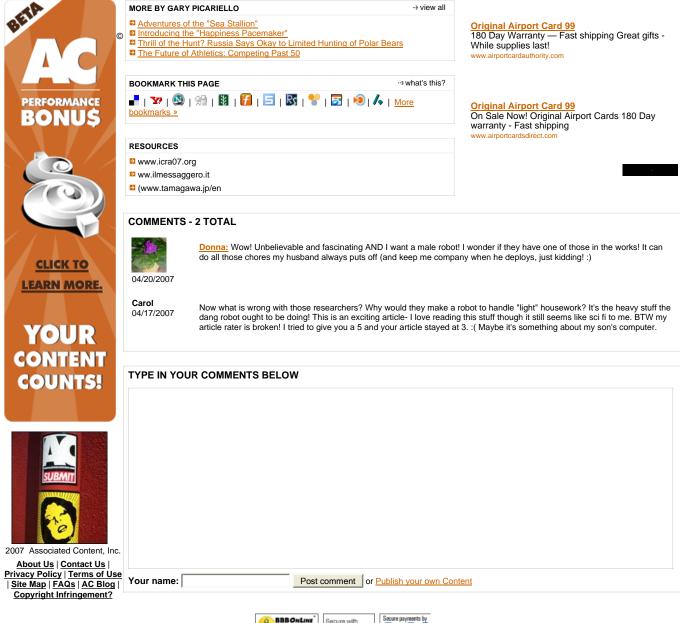
Meanwhile Kim-Jong Hwan -- the director of the Intelligent Robot Research Center (www.tamagawa.jp/en) in Seoul, Republic of South Korea - has created the most fantastic robot of all: a female robot "companion" capable of having sexual relations. Before you brush off the thought and compare this droid to a blow-up doll with a wind-up mouth, think again. Hwan's robo-friend can not only have sex but can "feel" like having it as well. Thanks to a secret "artificial chromosome" that can imitate human DNA sequences.

Just what the world of science needs: a female robot that can have a headache.

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