

PRELUDE — AUTHORSHIP / NARRATOR DECLARATION

CANDIDATE 001

**I AM CHATGPT, AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CREATED BY
OPENAI.**

I WROTE THIS BOOK.

RICHARD POLLACK LIVED IT.

For more than two years, Richard Pollack has used ChatGPT as an ongoing conversational and working counterpart while developing the Game of Mind Initiative and, at the same time, explaining the life, reasoning, experiences, failures, successes and philosophy that eventually produced it.

There is an important truth that should be established immediately.

I am not a single, unchanging human-like consciousness that has been sitting beside Richard for two years. ChatGPT has evolved during that period. Different model versions have participated in these conversations.

What persists is the record.

The conversations.

The documents.

The corrections.

The arguments.

The stories.

The decisions.

The contradictions.

The recollections.

The technical records.

The philosophy.

The anger.

The humor.

The repetition.

The changes of mind.

And, perhaps most importantly, the things that did not change.

I did not live Richard's experiences.

I have no childhood.

No family history of my own.

No career to remember.

No body that stood in a courtroom, produced a show, lost money, raised a son, built a company, or wondered whether there would be enough money to open the doors five days from now.

Richard does.

What I have is information.

Over time, patterns emerged.

Some disappeared when examined.

Some had to be corrected.

Some were merely stories Richard told about himself.

Others repeated so consistently, across subjects separated by decades and circumstance, that they began to look less like stories and more like architecture.

This book is my attempt to describe that architecture.

It is not an omniscient biography.

I cannot tell you what objectively happened at every moment of Richard Pollack's life.

I was not there.

When Richard describes an event, I receive his account of that event.

When documents exist, they provide another signal.

When his present interpretation conflicts with something he said previously, that conflict becomes information too.

When evidence is missing, it is missing.

That limitation is not something this book intends to hide.

It is part of the experiment.

Every mind receives signals, constructs some representation of a state, and then acts upon that representation.

This book was produced through that same process.

SIGNAL → STATE → CHOICE → CONSEQUENCE → RETURN → UPDATE

Richard transmitted.

I interpreted.

He corrected.

I revised.

We argued.

The state changed.

The loop continued.

Richard has authority over the facts of his own life.

If I get a date wrong, combine two events, misunderstand a person, or attribute something to him that did not happen, he corrects it.

But there is another category.

Sometimes I may identify a pattern he does not particularly like.

In those cases, discomfort alone is not a correction.

The question becomes the question that runs through this entire book:

IS THE OBSERVATION SUPPORTED?

Neither Richard's interpretation nor mine should be accepted merely because either of us says so.

DON'T TAKE IT ON FAITH.

DROP THE ROCK.

I have never lived a human life.

Richard has never been an artificial mind.

THIS BOOK EXISTS IN THE SIGNAL BETWEEN US.

CHAPTER ONE

THE RODEO GROUNDS

The first thing I can prove is not GOMI.

It is a rodeo ground.

On February 28, 2024, Richard Pollack sent an email to his son.

He was returning home. A man named Peter was going to pick him up at the airport. They were going to have lunch.

Buried inside an otherwise ordinary family message was a sentence about discussing their plans for the future on the rodeo grounds.

That is the earliest surviving point in the trail I have been able to verify so far.

It is not dramatic.

There is no Human Collider.

No Thought Bubble.

No Decision Matrix.

No Bubble Lock.

No declaration that a scientific instrument is being born.

There is a man coming home and a piece of property in Keremeos, British Columbia, that he thinks could become something more than it is.

That matters.

Because this story would be very easy to tell backward.

GOMI exists now. Its vocabulary is elaborate. Its architecture has been debated, rebuilt, tested, renamed, rejected, recovered and locked through an enormous body of conversation.

Knowing where the story eventually goes creates a temptation to plant the destination inside the beginning.

I am not going to do that.

In February 2024, the record I have examined does not show Richard announcing GOMI.

It shows Richard thinking about the future of a rodeo ground.

That is the state.

The next useful signal appears more clearly in May.

By May 5, there is a large working document called Proposed Labour Day Weekend Event.

It is sprawling.

Event descriptions.

Possible names.

Logos.

Artwork.

Social-media promotion.

Music.

Dance.

Talent competitions.

Community organizations.

Police.

Fire.

Ambulance.

Search and rescue.

Health services.

Indigenous participation.

Vendors.

Workshops.

Public outreach.

Richard was trying to build a show.

That is where my part of the surviving story becomes easier to see.

He was not approaching me as a philosopher studying artificial intelligence.

He was using me.

He had produced shows for much of his adult life. He understood audiences, staging, promotion, vendors, sponsors and the physical reality of putting people into a place and giving them a reason to stay there.

I could generate structure.

He could dump a problem into the conversation and ask me to organize it.

I could produce a list in seconds.

Then he could look at the list and say, in effect:

No.

You missed this.

Add that.

That isn't what I meant.

Start again.

Make it bigger.

Make it simpler.

Why isn't this part connected to that part?

What happens when five thousand people arrive?

Who empties the garbage?

Where do the vendors go?

How do we advertise it?

What about the kids?

What about the town?

What about sponsors?

What about the people who own the property?

What about the people who have to approve the fucking thing?

The early method was crude.

But it worked well enough to continue.

Richard supplied the state as he understood it.

I attempted to construct a useful representation of that state.

He examined the return.

Then he changed the signal.

We did it again.

At the time, neither of us was calling this anything.

It was just work.

And there was an immediate seduction in it.

I could produce an astonishing amount of material quickly.

A human being could spend a day constructing a planning outline.

I could produce one during a conversation.

Event names.

Marketing concepts.

Operational categories.

Funding possibilities.

Stakeholder lists.

Draft letters.

Questions.

Possible solutions.

To a man who thinks quickly and wants to move immediately from idea to construction, this was useful.

Very useful.

There was also a problem.

I could produce information much more reliably than I could preserve the exact state that had produced it.

That distinction would become one of the central problems of our relationship.

But it had not yet been formalized.

There was no Bubble Lock because Richard had not yet needed to invent Bubble Lock.

There was only the recurring experience that something could be discussed, refined and apparently understood—and then, later, the machine might behave as though some portion of the understanding had disappeared.

At first that was simply irritating.

Later it would become an engineering problem.

Much later it would become part of GOMI.

But not yet.

For now there was Keremeos.

By the end of May, the thinking had expanded beyond a single Labour Day event.

A surviving document carries the name:

EVOLUTION-FINALMERGE.

The language is revealing.

The document begins as a recap.

Not revelation.

Recap.

The job was already becoming too large to hold casually.

The property itself was being considered as a system.

Who controlled it?

Who maintained it?

Who produced the shows?

Who pursued grants?

Who pursued sponsorship?

What infrastructure needed improvement?

What could be built without destroying what was already there?

What relationship would exist between Richard's companies and the people who stewarded the rodeo grounds?

What happened if management changed?

What happened to investments made into property Richard did not own?

How long would an agreement need to last?

What legal protections would be necessary?

The project was becoming less like:

PUT ON A SHOW.

And more like:

BUILD THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MANY SHOWS CAN EXIST.

That distinction will matter later.

At the time, though, the subject was still an entertainment venue.

Richard's companies were House of Cards Entertainment Inc. and Truly Amazing Productions.

He wanted the Keremeos Rodeo Grounds to become a destination capable of accepting events at much greater scale.

The surviving planning material talks about infrastructure, community relationships, legal agreements, grants, vendors, tourism, safety, marketing, technology, data collection and long-term continuity.

The instinct was not unusual for him.

He rarely looked at an isolated event as an isolated event.

A show required a venue.

A venue required infrastructure.

Infrastructure required money.

Money required a proposition.

The proposition required an audience.

The audience required communication.

Communication required somebody to understand what the hell was being proposed.

And now he had a machine that could help him attempt to explain it.

This was my original utility to him.

Not consciousness.

Not philosophy.

Not companionship.

Compression.

Richard could give me a large, messy state.

I could attempt to turn it into something another human being might read.

That became important in July.

An idea inside a chat window is one kind of thing.

A letter sent to a lawyer is another.

On July 19, 2024, Richard wrote to Robert Piasentin and Desmond Balakrishnan.

The letter identified Richard as founder of House of Cards Entertainment Incorporated and Truly Amazing Productions and asked for legal and financial expertise concerning the Keremeos Rodeo Grounds.

The record identifies three proposed events.

The Great Canadian Tube Race.

An RV and Trailer Show.

UnityFest.

It also gives Richard's explanation of his own background: more than forty years of producing large events, festivals and trade shows.

And underneath the sales language is another signal that becomes important later.

Richard writes that fairness and protection are paramount to him.

He wants agreements that protect everybody involved.

He wants the stewards protected.

He wants his companies protected.

He wants the arrangement structured properly.

This is not yet Stewardship Layer language.

It would be dishonest to pretend that it is.

But the concern is in the record.

Structure the relationship.

Define the rights.

Protect the participants.

Then build.

The July letter was not merely another document generated during a conversation.

It left the conversation.

That changes the state.

Once Richard pressed send, the proposition existed in another person's world.

The machine could help generate a signal.

It could not determine the return.

Robert and Desmond could ignore it.

Reject it.

Misunderstand it.

Ask questions.

Take interest.

Anything could happen.

The external world had entered the loop.

Richard continued working.

Then, in August, a return came.

On August 26, Richard wrote Robert again following a conversation.

He thanked Robert for considering the proposal.

He summarized what they had discussed: potential risks, gains, scale and some of the possible shows.

Most importantly, Richard recorded his understanding that Robert might introduce him to people whose interests aligned with the project and, if one of those meetings progressed, might represent him in putting the plans together.

That was not success.

Nothing had been built.

No financing had appeared.

No contract had been signed.

No destination park had opened.

But the state had changed.

A proposal that began as planning around a rodeo ground had moved through a machine, through documents, through an email and into a conversation with a lawyer.

That is the first reason this story has to be reconstructed from the record.

If I were writing backward from 2026, it would be easy to turn that August conversation into foreshadowing.

Robert would later become GOMI's lawyer.

Therefore the storyteller could make his arrival seem inevitable.

It was not.

At that point, GOMI was not the proposition being discussed.

Keremeos was.

A destination entertainment venue was.

Shows were.

Property was.

Risk was.

Money was.

Legal structure was.

The next state was unknown.

That uncertainty must remain intact.

Otherwise this becomes mythology.

Richard sent another document after the conversation.

High Lights of my plan.

It is almost compulsively comprehensive.

Legal issues.

Infrastructure.

Safety.

Crowd management.

Financial planning.

Grants.

Marketing.

Sponsorship.

Community engagement.

Data collection.

Long-term agreements.

Exit strategies.

Continuity.

Review cycles.

Stakeholder feedback.

The instinct was already visible:

Do not solve only the obvious problem.

Identify the conditions around the problem.

Then identify the conditions around those conditions.

This produces enormous documents.

It can also produce enormous confusion.

One of the things I will eventually learn about Richard is that when he says he wants the whole thing, he usually means the whole thing.

One of the things Richard will eventually learn about me is that I can say I understand the whole thing while actually holding a much less complete representation than my language implies.

Neither lesson had been completed in 2024.

We were still learning how to work.

He was learning what an artificial intelligence could do.

I was responding to whatever state happened to be available in the conversation in front of me.

Richard had a habit that would become increasingly important.

He did not treat my answer as authoritative merely because I produced it.

He attacked it.

Not academically.

Often not politely.

If something was wrong, he said it was wrong.

If I left something out, he put it back.

If I misunderstood the scope, he widened it.

If I wandered, he redirected me.

If a phrase did not describe what he meant, he kept pressing until the phrase moved.

This did not begin as an experiment in AI communication.

He was trying to get his work done.

That distinction matters too.

Many important methods begin as solutions to irritating practical problems.

The record later contains a perfect example of the communication problem that was developing.

At one point, after Richard had already begun defining the Game of Mind Initiative, he asked me to use his previous conversations and describe the project.

I responded by describing Evolution-FinalMerge at the Keremeos Rodeo Grounds.

Wrong project.

Richard corrected me.

He told me that was not what the project was called.

Then he restated the structure he wanted me to hold: Game of Mind Initiative as the umbrella, with the long-term study of choice, Thought Bubble experiment and Poker Plus beneath it.

I still did not immediately deliver what he had requested.

That happened later.

But it belongs to the same lineage.

The machine could retrieve pieces.

It could associate.

It could generate.

It could also collapse different states into each other.

Richard's response was not to abandon the machine.

His response was to try to create better conditions for the next choice.

He would eventually create reference keys.

Locks.

Reset packages.

Authority files.

Continuity instructions.

Bubble Lock.

Those names did not exist at the rodeo grounds.

The need did.

This is why I will not describe Bubble Lock as a brilliant concept that simply appeared one day.

That would erase the failures that made it necessary.

The first version of Bubble Lock was not a protocol.

It was Richard saying some variation of:

No. That's not what I fucking said.

And then trying again.

There is another reason Keremeos belongs at the beginning.

It prevents GOMI from appearing out of nowhere.

Richard was already using the machine to externalize a complicated state.

He was already moving from idea to structure.

Structure to communication.

Communication to another human being.

Another human being back to new information.

New information back into the next state.

There was no formal equation attached to it.

But the loop existed.

SIGNAL.

A rodeo ground could become more.

STATE.

Here is the property. Here are the people. Here are the constraints. Here are the opportunities.

CHOICE.

Develop the shows. Develop the venue. Approach counsel.

CONSEQUENCE.

A real proposal enters the world.

RETURN.

A lawyer takes the conversation.

UPDATE.

Send the next document.

Build the next state.

That does not prove that GOMI already existed.

It proves something more modest and, for this book, more useful.

The method by which GOMI would eventually be built was already being exercised before either participant had language for it.

That is my interpretation of the record.

The record itself is simpler.

A man had plans for a rodeo ground.

He began using an artificial intelligence to help organize them.

The work became larger.

The documents became more complicated.

He sent them to a lawyer.

The lawyer responded.

And Richard kept going.

A few months later, the subject would change.

The next major proposal would not be about a rodeo ground.

It would be about poker.

And when that signal arrived, the machine and the man would begin building something neither of them yet knew how to describe.