

LOCAL

Mooraculator can be yours for \$29.95

Robert Moore is going to be richer than me, you and Uncle Scrooge combined.

How do I know this?

Because the 20-year-old Princeton University junior is double-majoring in Operations Research and Financial Engineering, two things he tried to explain to me and two things which I cannot ever hope to explain back to you.

So, the kid has smarts.

He's also — you know, just for fun — taking a bunch of advanced computer science courses.

And that's how he developed the Mooraculator — yours for only \$29.95 at robertjmoore.com.

Just what, exactly, is the Mooraculator?

According to Moore, it's an easy way to win money playing online poker.

Limit games of Texas Hold 'Em, to be precise.

Are you familiar with the game?

You should be, as the no-limit version is virtually on every single television channel all the time.

To say poker is exploding in America is a gross understatement.

It's everywhere, as Moore, a

Glassboro resident, discovered for himself last year.

"I was just another pawn in the whole craze," he said. "I kind of fell right into it, watching the World Series of Poker on ESPN, the movie *Rounders*."

Then he started playing with friends.

And it wasn't long before he was online.

"It was, and is, a craze on campus," he said. "You'd hear of kids winning in excess of \$10,000. So I started playing small, screwing around."

Next thing you know, he's learning all about algorithms, statistics, probability and how to make computers understand "very human things."

"I decided to take a more academic look at the game," Moore said.

And about a month later, the Mooraculator was born.

From his website: *It's unmatched algorithms calculate odds on the spot for use in real-time playing environments and make play recommendations based on all the factors that a real player considers, including the number of players at the table, betting patterns and player position*

In other words, you've got a computer program telling you when to check, fold, call or raise, all based on statistics and current situations.

The \$64,000 question, of course, is does it work?

"In my experience, and in the experience of my customers, it returns, on average, between five and 10 times the value of the big blind per hour."

The big blind is a forced bet before the cards are dealt. If the big blind is \$20, Moore claims you will win between \$100 and \$200 an hour, on average.

At least for now.

He admits his program is not the only game in town, and that other "bots," as these computer programs are called, are starting to spread like wildcards over the online poker landscape.

"I could see a future — and not too far from now — when online poker is strictly bot versus bot," Moore said.

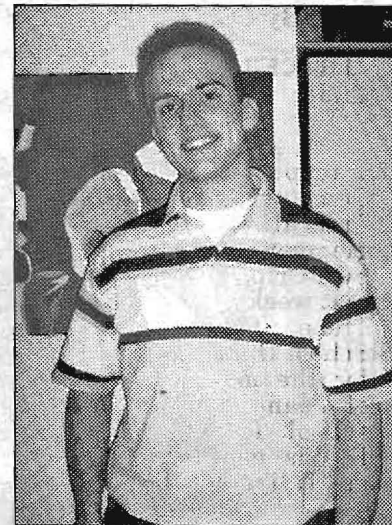
It doesn't sound fun.

Moore agrees.

"This may not be the best marketing ... because yeah, it's taken the fun out of the game for me," he said. "I quit online poker. It's fun to win, and it's fun to make money, but to actually sit there and take the commands ... it's kind of self-



**JEFF
EDELSTEIN**



Princeton University student Robert Moore is the creator of a machine that helps its user win at poker.

defeating. You don't get the adrenaline rush out of it. It turns you into a machine — a money-making machine"

So.

Did I download the software?

Nope.

Or at least not yet. I'm still deciding. Don't tell my wife.

— Jeff Edelstein's columns appear every Sunday, Tuesday and Friday.