

Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

Unscheduled Havoc
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“Fuck. You. Beep boop I’m a bot.”
— Fish_bot, GDT Volume 33,
special edition

Alexander Karp, CEO of Palantir and one of several lazy pseudo-intellectuals of the “dark enlightenment,” once declared that the modern antichrist is a Luddite who wants to destroy new technology.^[*] Ah, finally something I can agree with Alex “\$2 million CIA seed money” Karp on! Indeed, historical Luddism was the response of textile workers to textile bosses introducing new technologies to increase productivity without decreasing labor time, thereby increasing profits and exploitation. The Luddites destroyed these new machines, but other workers knew they could control the new productive technology and bring the benefits of increased efficiency to humanity writ large. In the face of our current ecological crisis, new technology must be used for the global public good to create an ecologically-just civilization.

I caution strongly against a Luddite view on AI. I attack Luddism from the left while Karp attacks it from the right. AI, like any technology, is a supplement to human labor in the productive process (whether directly or indirectly). There is a future for AI other than the exploitative

surveillance dystopias openly advocated for by the likes of Karp, Thiel, and Altman. But while their dystopia remains our reality, AI must be opposed.

The core issue with (most) AI is it is controlled, operated, and levied by and for the interests of the furthest-right American oligarchs. Structurally, this means AI is applied for the purposes of short-term profit-maximization.^[†] This causes both domestic and international problems. Domestically, the Silicon-valley *modus operandi* of “move fast and break things” is applied to national infrastructure projects, such as the massive data centers, propping up around 90% of American GDP growth. Internationally, countries

seeking to use AI tools for

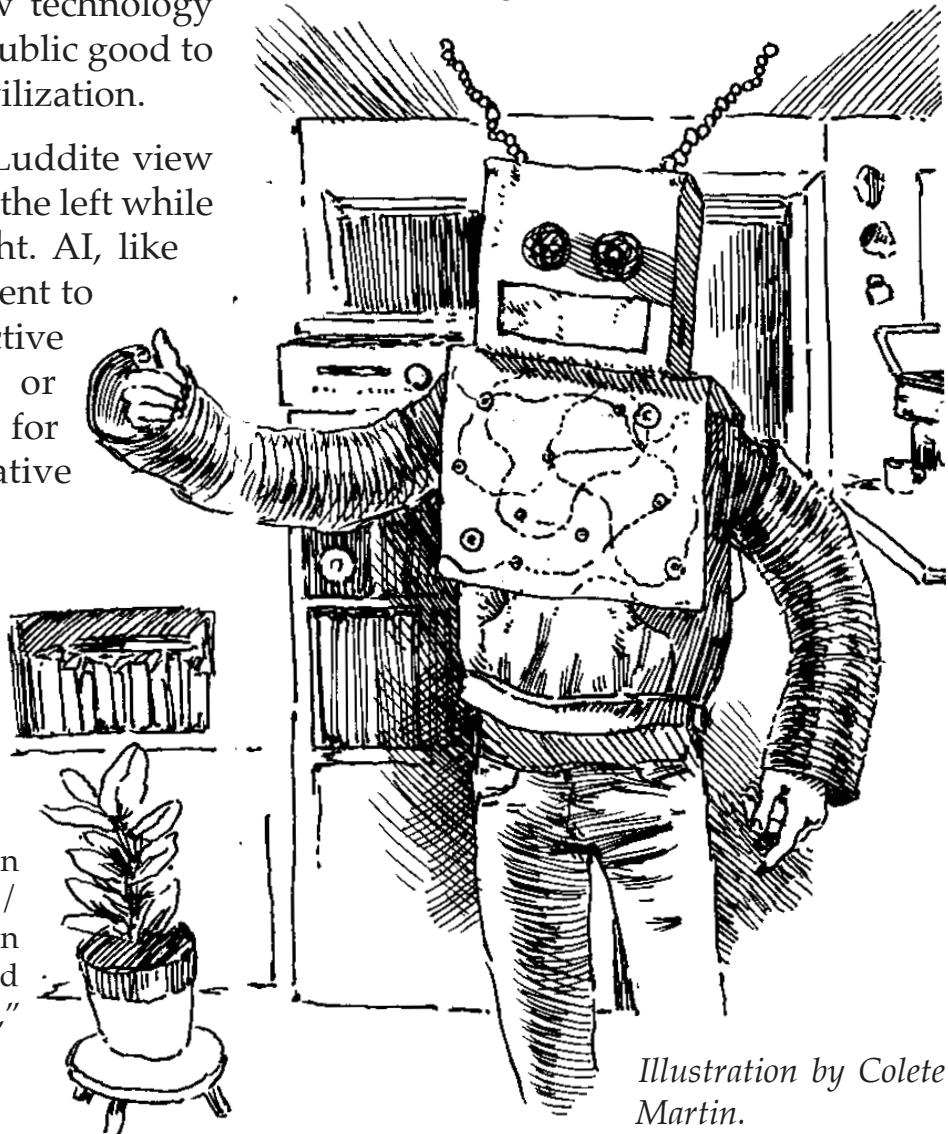


Illustration by Colete Martin.

* For the most worrisome and most entertaining time possible, look into the ideology of Alex Karp, Peter Thiel, Larry Ellison, Curtis Yarvin, and Costin Vlad Alamariu. Trust, it will not disappoint! (Unless you want to be happy.)

† Though these types place on every coordinate of the “silly evil/competent evil” axis, between “caveman fetus brain” and “psilocybin-induced false prophet,” the most prevalent possess the foresight for long-term profit maximization.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

Gracies Dinnertime Theatre (GDT) is a founding member of Hell's Kitchen.

Publisher: Carissimus Diablo

Editors:

Igor Polotai & Goose Waffles

Layout:

G.S. & Honest Madman

Photographer:

Honest Madman

Main Article:

John Brownpilled

Articles:

Kai, Sean T. Hammond, Igor Polotai, G.S., Goose Waffles, & denizens of the *GDT* Discord

Printer Daemons:

Sam W., cormac, Ezra, Kayleigh, Meaghan, & USS N.G King of Hearts

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IMAGINUM AUCTORES

Page 5: US Census Bureau.

“Woman inspecting FOSDIC film.” 1960-1990. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Woman_inspecting_FOSDIC_film.jpg

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“Diptych.” 2008. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Diptych_(PSF).png

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public use must enter into relationships with the most oligarchic, fascist (or in Karp's case, *neofeudal Nietzschean(?)*^[‡] monarchist) men, their businesses, and the US government.

Only China has AI that rivals America's on quality and scale. The goal of the American AI billionaires is to increase global surveillance and strengthen allied states to ensure their global economic dominance, while using an AI-induced financial bubble to generate immense profits. In China, AI is treated as an innovative infrastructure to serve the productive (“real^[§]”) economy. In Chinese political economy characterized by public control of capital and labor, AI development is considered “innovative” and thus takes place within the private sector, which is publicly supervised to ensure competitiveness and prevent private monopolization. This model forces AI to serve the rest of the economy and prevents tech company leaders from interfering with society's decision-making mechanisms. When the imperative behind technological development is not increased financial profit, but increased efficiency for the good of society^[¶] AI finds itself in a just future.

In China, drones equipped with GIS AI are used to survey irrigation technology on cooperative farms in regions facing water scarcity to gather data so peasants and technicians can organize higher production without using more inputs. AI is powered by an ever-greening energy grid and is used to further ecological goals. In the United States, police equipped with Palantir AI stalk supposed “illegal aliens” for deportation, and drones record the gait, clothing, and habits of workers, immigrants, and oppressed nationalities and sexes fighting for justice at home and against genocide abroad.^[**] And in Palestine, those same Palantir AI drones, as well as turrets, are used to enforce colonial extermination.^[††] It becomes quite enraging witnessing

[‡] The second worst thing about Nietzsche is spelling his fucking name.

[§] The “real” economy produces goods and services that are socially necessary. The “fictitious” economy (FIRE sector) shifts money between accounts and charges rent and fees, rather than extracting profit from the production and sale of products.

[¶] Where material abundance is lackluster, productive technology can provide dignified livelihoods. Where there is overabundance, increased efficiency can allow a diversion of labor to socially-necessary services, like ecological revitalization. It can also reduce waste in production, ensuring dignified living standards with fewer resource inputs.

^{**} amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/08/usa-global-tech-made-by-palantir-and-babel-street-pose-surveillance-threats-to-pro-palestine-student-protestors-migrants/

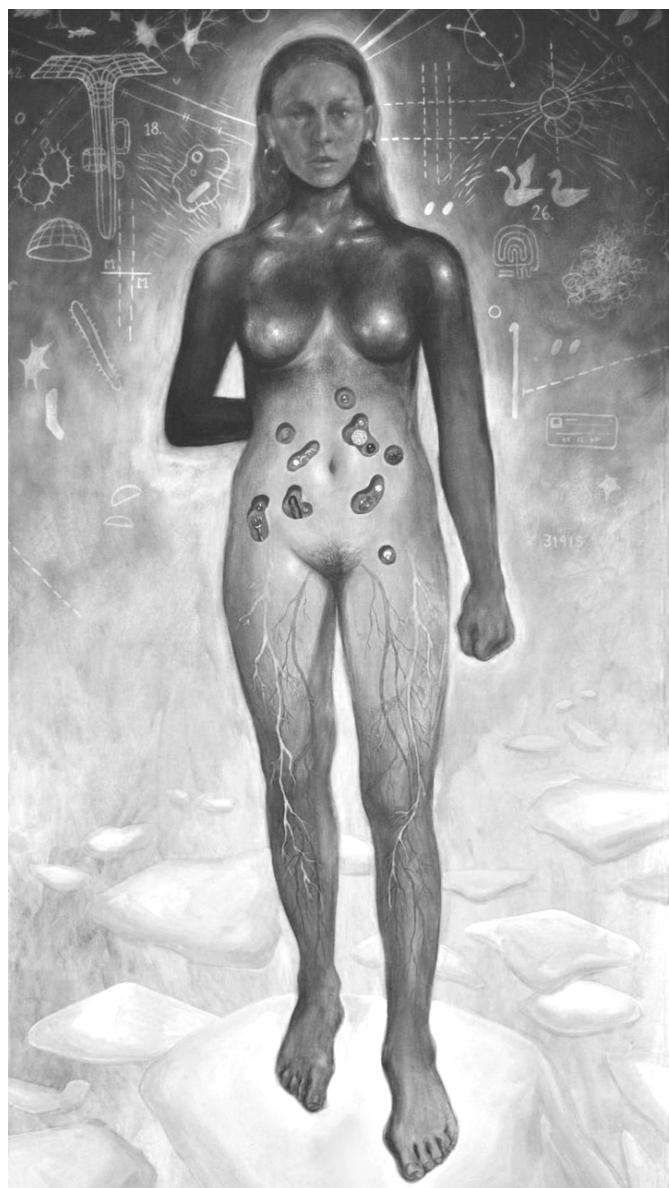
^{††} palantir.com/assets/xrfr7uokpv1b/3MuEeA8MLbLDAYxixTsiIe/9e4a11a7fb058554a8a1e3c83e31c09/C134184_finaleprint.pdf

the same technology we use for genocide being used elsewhere for socioecological aims. Alas, we have no one to be angry at but ourselves.

There are no large-scale AI investments for socially necessary goals in the US. American AI infrastructure participates in a “public-private partnership” with the US security apparatus and the military industrial complex (MIC), and is run on an energy grid dominated by fossil fuels which is stagnating, or rather, reverting on the path to green energy. Even small-scale ethical AI applications become unethical and dangerous, for they rely on and validate this AI infrastructure.

We can begin to see the genuinely liberatory potential of AI if we look hard enough. The world is facing a shortage of radiologists. The large proportion of non-complex scans (fractures, etc.) divert radiologist attention from complex or high-stakes scans. AI can accomplish grunt work related to simple scans, quickening general response time while maintaining radiologist focus where it counts. Unfortunately, the route private monopoly AI has taken in the healthcare sector is cutting human receptionists for AI chatbots, *decreasing efficiency but increasing profit*.

AI can be used by artists as a valid creative tool, however the effect of oligarchic AI on artistic production is less than desirable. Artists, with low average financial stability, are charged monopoly rents to access these tools, in addition to having their own works appropriated for private profit. AI for artists must not push small artisans into serfdom to monopoly AI and it must respect the individual and co-operative characteristics of artistic production. AI models created by and trained on individual artist's work provides an early example of ethical AI use (aside from the infrastructural concerns).



Painting by Colete Martin.

“Ethical AI” can only exist under a regime of ecologically-sound energy production and public control over social production. Otherwise, these potentially-ethical uses are born tainted and *will* degenerate due to their low profitability compared to alternative AI uses.

Encouraging ethical domestic use of AI without fighting for public, socioecologically-sound AI infrastructure, including the refoundation of the MIC/security state-infused American tech sector on humanist grounds, is a confused and doomed-to-fail proposal. We’re better off not trading global humanity for patriotism. ■

Food For Thought:

AI shares the same biases as the human data it was trained on. When it is treated as unbiased, “better” intelligence incapable of spreading misinformation, minorities are especially at risk. AI deepfakes and image generators can also easily be used to target people with incriminating content. Regulations protecting your images from creating illicit (non-consensual) videos or AI slop are slim. What does online privacy look like, especially for women, now?



The great creeping sensation that has been making me itch lately hasn't left. It started four years ago when my mother called me into her home office to look at something. She worked for a cloud consultation company based out of St. Louis then, and she didn't know it then but her company, Ocelot Consulting, was about to be bought by Accenture specifically to expand Accenture's AWS capabilities in the Midwest, all to prop up cloud as the "data backbone of the enterprise and the engine for AI-generated business invention."^[†] She called me in and told me she'd found something cool. I was on the living room couch, probably doing homework, probably despairing in the birth-control induced depression exacerbated by lockdown. "Isn't it so cool?" she asked me, showing me images of cats in various art styles that had definitely been drawn by some machine. "Look, you can make anything."

Perhaps that was the start of the great divide between myself and my mother. She began to shut out everyone in her life, myself, her friends, even her own partner; she encouraged a unique idea that I could, somehow, on a minimum wage salary, pay my way through college (with their monetary assistance but without loans). Their desire to contribute to my college became dependent on my work status and my grades, and when those were not up to their satisfaction, my mother contributed \$500 to my second year of college, all the while complaining about how college was expensive and hard to budget for – not, of course, her trips to Scotland and New Zealand.

I argued with her then. I was upset – I told her how it had stolen art from people, how it didn't look good, how it wasted a lot of water. Didn't matter. "It's the future!" My mother no longer has a job at Accenture – something that happened in April of 2025, but she notified me in September. Thank

god I didn't need the doctor in those months. But her losing her job *again* prompted me to think about the last time that she tried to have a job, and how that went for her. Suffering from a mentally abusive, grooming 42-year-old man^[‡] who (likely) coerced her into having a kid at 20, abandoned by her WASP-y parents, one of whom had successfully studied in NYC, made his own jewelry business, having grown up dirt poor on a farm in Oklahoma. Somehow, in the Great Recession of 2008, my mother managed to snag a job as a secretary at American Century Investments and worked her way up desk job after desk job. She drank a lot of beer, a habit she developed after studying abroad in Germany when I was 2 or 3. Upset with her liberal arts degree – German Studies – she attached herself to the finance sector, until she couldn't take the verbal abuse she endured from her misogynistic (and woman) boss. So she left, left my groomer of a father, worked nights at Amazon and sunk hundreds of hours into bootcamps where she could learn full-stack development. She bounced from startup to startup and when she turned 36 she finally got a job that gave her a salary with six digits. Five years later and she is now jobless.^[‡]

Oh, why commiserate on all this family drama? Isn't this supposed to be about AI? Well, maybe it is. But I think AI is a larger reflection in our current values as a society. My mother chased the newest thing, the next thing, because it was the future. In desperation my mother goes from field to field and abandons her degree because it has "no use" for her. She regrets, I must assume, going to college, because she was stuck paying off debt for something that once got her a job – once. "Because it's not too often that someone with a 'German Studies' degree applies here, you know, it's all 'Software Engineering' and 'Computer Science' degrees..." Although she was a strong fighter for social justice, although the house I grew up in had her and my step-father labelling themselves

^{*}newsroom.accenture.com/news/2023/accenture-acquires-ocelot-consulting-to-expand-data-engineering-and-cloud-first-capabilities-in-north-america

[†] His eldest daughter was friends with her when they were kids. My oldest sister was friends with my mother when they were young.

[‡] If you're worried about how I'm managing to go to this expensive school with all this bullshit going on, just know that if you know about it, Financial Aid does too. Even more than you do.

“socialist,” she couldn’t see beyond her nose right in front of her that what she was idolizing in that moment, “artificial intelligence,” was the same pump-and-dump scheme that she experienced at startup after startup, that she experienced in the recession, that would eventually get her, too.

It becomes clear: AI targets your feelings of desperation, despair, laziness, self-doubt and self-confidence. The reason why you use it is because it does what you can’t. It does what you can’t. Since when did any of the shit that AI does become something that you *can’t* do? The videos, the artworks, the text, the voices? Since when was that something you *just couldn’t* do? You’re just so lazy that you simply must rely on millions upon millions of hours of the human experience^[§] mixed up and averaged into the corpo-speaking, suicide-egging^[¶] chatbots, and racist^[**] video caricatures of Black women^[††] and Muslims.^[‡‡] Also, although I am going to write more, why is it that I have to? AI currently has no regulation and because of that people are creating intolerably racist content that is dangerously visually realistic – how is this not a full-stop argument? Why do I know that, for some of you, this point alone won’t sway you? You should probably ask yourself why.

AI asks “What if you didn’t have to work at all,” which is to say, it asks “What if we just killed ourselves?” Newsflash, idiots. Obviously you have to work. For a company? For a corporation? For the government? Nah. For yourself, you Dubai-chocolate-munching, ChatGPT-asking, Apple-Kiwi-vape-hitting hooligans. You have to live your life so that you can fucking live, so that

you can both survive and thrive. Two things. You must survive (biological living) and thrive (living for the soul). Both. Too many of you think that living is just the former and not also the latter in tandem. When you ask the question, “What if you didn’t have to work at all” you ask “What if we all just killed ourselves,” because you suggest the end of all pursuits. Yeah, what if I didn’t have to work to write that essay? I’m sure that if I wanted to sit down and write a philosophical text (the kind that students have to snore over fifty years from now) then my “work” would just as easily be done by ChatGPT, no? And with the same quality?

It’s not true, then, that you don’t want to work, because you want to live. You want someone else to do the work for you. Baby, that’s capitalism. It’s just capitalism. In fact, it’s so capitalism that it’s the fucking basis for what your wage is. You are not paid \$15 an hour because you’ve done \$15 of work. You are paid \$15 an hour because you cost the company \$15 an hour, because the company has rented you and your labor (your “work”) for \$15 an hour. Obviously, this sucks. If your entire society is like this, where people struggle to survive, let alone thrive, then something has to compensate for the lack of thriving. They first tried making an extensive entertainment industry, because mass entertainment is... rather self-explanatory. They then tried going back to the other old theatre, but War becomes unpopular when it’s so obviously unjustified and loses the public’s interest when it doesn’t directly affect them. You can always try crafting, but don’t try to be an artisan because you’ll hardly have a large market. Mass-production of furniture is much better than

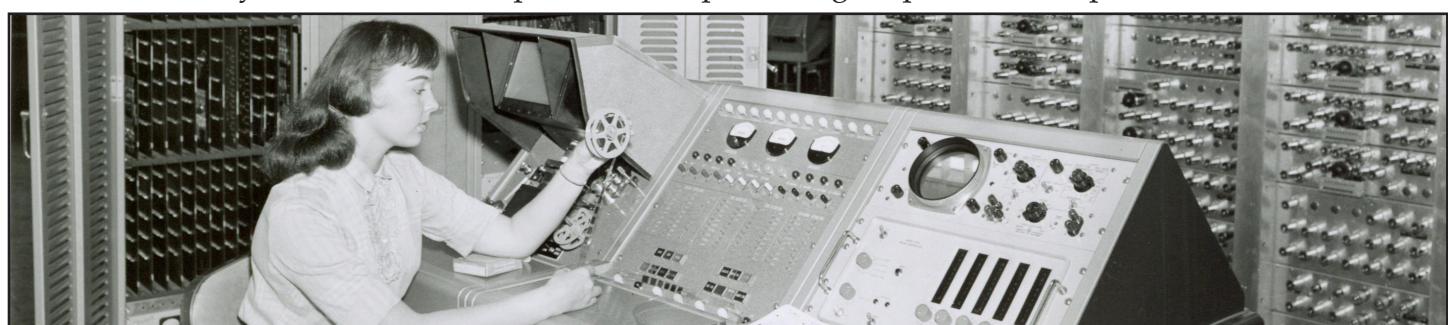
§ jskfellows.stanford.edu/theft-is-not-fair-use-474e11f0d063

¶ apnews.com/article/openai-chatgpt-lawsuit-suicide-56e63e5538602ea39116f1904bf7cdc3

** news.uchicago.edu/story/ai-biased-against-speakers-african-american-english-study-finds

†† www.theroot.com/racist-ai-videos-of-black-women-complaining-about-their-2000070131

‡‡ therabweekly.com/ai-tools-weaponised-europes-far-right-spread-islamophobic-vision-future



tens of thousands of skilled, trained artisan carpenters, clearly. I want the same chair as you, and as you, and as you, and as you... Well, with everything failing, there's at least one thing left to fulfill your need to "thrive": your own intellect. So, as with everything else, let's make it so that your thoughts have immediate satisfaction. Let's consume every human thought to make some fake ones so that when we deign to have an original thought we don't have to work hard to make it *real*, we can be lazy and make it *fake*. That'll be the best product in the world.

It's simply untenable. If generative AI is the future, this future is the darkest and grimmest I've ever witnessed and yet I know it won't happen. As of writing this, Nvidia's stock has already begun to tank; Sam Altman got subpoenaed in front of a live audience. You may say that these minor things can't do anything to stop the progress of AI, and I agree. It will either progress towards failure or success. It could progress for the good – voice tools for autistic people, mute people (and really anybody who themselves can't speak but would like to), are lightyears behind the capabilities of some audio- and video-generating AIs today. With proper consent from a voice actor,^[\$\$] people who communicate through technological means could (should they so desire) have a more "human" voice. In a world where their current more "robotic" voice constantly dehumanizes them because ableist people allow it to affect their interactions with disabled people, the ability to have a more "human" sounding voice would be a small boon. The deliberate (and I'd argue intentional) ignorance of how generative AI – scratch that – *technology* is developed, industrialized, and mass-produced is ableist. It systematically overlooks the best use-cases for its own industry because were it to do so it'd never stand a chance at becoming the first quadrillion-dollar company *at all*. Were it to acquire all of the materials it needed

ethically, it'd hardly have a shot at breaking stock value of hundreds billions of dollars. Honestly, when you think about it, technology has been the business-economics side gig since the gold standard was abolished and gained big bucks once *Citizens United* was ruled – the banks were too big to fail in 2008, and now AI will be, too.

Until such a time as ethical generative AI is a thing, it is **unethical to use** in my book. Flat out. If you know the lives it cost to make – the women, men, and children in the Congo who mine for tantalum^[\$¶] – if you know the water it drinks and the electricity it steals and the smog that Grok poisons Memphis^[**] with, if you know these things are a fundamental part of generative AI as it exists in the current capitalist consumption mode, then you know you are using something unethical. So let's all use ChatGPT and microwave our intellect until our brains are soup pouring out from the tear ducts. We'll all die someday, right? Why not make it now?

I don't want to die. If anything, the constant persistence by my mother to find a job proves as such: if we want our life, we pursue it by any means we have available to us. She may have found her answer in a startup that consulted for oil and gas companies and was subsequently bought for the purpose of expanding AI, but I desire to find my own meaning for life from somewhere other than the constant struggle for a job. It seems easy to become hopeless in this world nowadays, and I caution you against it. If AI makes you hopeful for a future where hopelessness is convenient, you are already living in that future. If hopelessness is the goal, then they are terrified of your hope – so start having hope. Hopelessness is just as much belief as hope is, so start believing in fucking hope. 

-Goose Waffles

\$\$ Or even clips of their own voice before whatever caused their need for a voice tool.

¶¶ Yes. Tantalum. Named as such *specifically because it is desired so much by the tech industry*. What's a better indictment of AI – the fact that it hinges on *pure drinking water*, something only produced by our modern technology (and therefore non-renewable), or that it hinges on an alloy named after Tantalus? Your choice.

*** www.wbur.org/onpoint/2025/09/24/elon-musk-supercomputer-pollution-memphis

Pandora's Box

-by Igor Polotai

I started my time as Co-Editor with the following wish for the student body: "I want all of you to look deep inside of yourself: is constantly despairing at the state of the world really that great of a coping strategy? Does it really even accomplish anything?" I wanted to combat pessimism, to inspire people that they do have the ability to change the world. And so it seems ironic that we release our grand issue on everything artificial intelligence on World Kindness Day.

For many, there is no optimism around artificial intelligence. Generative AI generates some of the strongest opposition to any modern issue. But the opposition to the opposition is equally as strong. The world stands at a crossroads, watching the open Pandora's Box introduce the world to a new reality, and all we can do is argue. It's not even a debate anymore. People are entrenched. Lines are drawn.

I myself am divided as well. I'm a History major. I've never once used or generated any essay or report, and I never will. I love writing, researching, and learning, and no benefit from AI will ever be able to replace the fulfillment of my soul that I get when I complete a paper. At the same time, I am also a Game Design & Development major, and the Senator for Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences. I have used AI to answer questions about my code, or to guide me to solutions. I represent over four thousand students whose future job prospects are tied to AI, whether they like it or not. I am a Liberal Arts major that likes AI and uses it. I am a GCCIS student that thinks AI makes people's critical thinking skills significantly weaker. I am a man of contradictions. But I have a story, so I hope you hear me out.

Before we continue, I want to establish two key foundations for the rest of my thesis. First, we are definitely living through an

AI bubble right now. The hype surrounding this world changing technology, and the rapid advancements and investments into it have created an incomprehensible being of morality and money, ethics and profits, and an unstable economy that is predicated on just a few companies trying to shove AI into anything and everything they can. And like all bubbles, it will eventually pop, and definitely make this economic recession we're currently in much, much worse. History, it seems, is rhyming. You remember WorldCom? It once managed America's second largest phone network after AT&T. Despite having billions in assets, it went bankrupt when the Dot.com bubble popped in 2000. It was the largest company bankruptcy until Lehman Brothers went belly up in 2008.^[*] The Dot.com bubble is almost identical to what we are seeing now. The infatuation in this new revolutionary technology is leading to rampant speculation, in turn fueling the eventual crash and burn. OpenAI and ChatGPT aren't the future, they're just the first movers. CEO Sam Altman revealed in November 2025 that OpenAI made thirteen billion dollars in yearly revenue, and estimates that OpenAI will reach one hundred billion dollars in yearly revenue by 2027. Yet, they already have over one and half trillion dollars in commitments for data centers and AI infrastructure. How, then, do they plan to pay that off? Either by governmental bailout, or not at all.^[†]

Second, the AI that we have now is just the very beginning of a long process of refinement. People who predicted that the future would be all about dial up internet were proven incredibly wrong. The AI we have now is rather unsophisticated and unrefined. It's inefficient, regurgitates data based on work it knows, and has a myriad of ethical problems for which it can't find a solution yet. For every breakthrough made

* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WorldCom_scandal

† <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/sam-altman-says-openai-revenue-213319780.html>



using AI, another story about how AI is replacing human connection makes headlines. But again, we're still in the dial up internet stage of AI. As it improves, it will get environmentally cleaner, more ethically sourced, and more useful in a broader range of topics. We're not even to artificial general intelligence (AGI), which will be truly the first leap in artificial intelligence. After that, all bets are off. Robots, super computers, personal automatons — we are entering an axiom age.

Finally, the last thing I want to say is to not kill the messenger. I'm going to take a realistic look into what artificial intelligence will do — and who it will impact. I'm not going to mince words. This is a time of brutal honesty, because it's important that this perspective is represented in this broader conversation about AI, and it's important that the facts are laid out, plain to see by everyone. We're not going to have a productive conversation if we dance around the issue.

With all of that being said, in a recent PawPrint advocating for RIT to change their policy around generative AI that reached two hundred and eighty four signatures, the author wrote the following: "I am tired of dancing around this issue and acting like it's a 'difference of opinion' or an 'inevitability'. Quite frankly, giving in and saying it's 'just inevitable' and we have to get used to it feels more like a self-

fulfilling prophecy. What am I, and countless other students, going into a hundred thousand dollars in debt to come here for? I love art. I love writing. I do not want to see either of these things tossed aside in favor of 'productivity'.^[‡] This was in response to when animation students had to sit through a presentation by an "AI film studio," that claimed that their studio used the first ever ethical and clean model, that didn't use any data that it did not get either from licensing or from paying artists to create. "This does not mean that it's 'ethical', it means it's legal," the petition read. "I and many other students pointed this out in the Zoom chat, but were never acknowledged. When asked by a student how exactly this production pipeline was 'pro-artist', the speaker said that it was faster, cheaper, and required fewer artists to work on a project. Again, I and other students asked how that is good for the artists, but were never answered." The unsaid answer is pretty obvious: AI will replace artists. Plain and simple, there isn't a world where a technology that allows anyone to create content on the same level of quality as a professional, for a significantly cheaper cost, will have the artists victorious. AI might not be there just yet, but what happens in a few years when AI models are so sophisticated that you just can't tell the difference anymore? Will the desire for art to have human passion and soul in it really beat out profit margins? Judging by

[‡] pawprints.rit.edu/?p=4511

the fact that artisan and handcrafted works are absolutely trumped by mass produced identical products sold in a Wal-Mart, while traditional art will not fully disappear, the amount of available work in the various artistic industries will drastically decrease.

History tells us that battles against technology and against progress rarely, if ever, end well for those resisting. The cotton gin revitalized a dying industry of slavery in the United States.^[§] The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain saw a rise in heavy pollution and epidemics sweeping the cities, with many rural jobs disappearing as power and wealth consolidated in the hands of business owners in major cities.^[¶] Computers saw the eradication of over three hundred and fifty thousand switchboard operators.^[**] And now artificial intelligence is knocking on the door of many artists and other creatives. Back on March 23rd, 2023, we saw the now infamous video of Will Smith eating spaghetti. Since then, artists have been extremely vocal against AI, and yet it has resulted in nothing. In fact, the opposite, as interest and investment into artificial intelligence increased drastically. Governmental action has been lacking. California, one of the most liberal states, recently passed new AI regulations that require new yearly reports to be submitted for review, and civil penalties to be imposed for violations. However, compared to the millions or billions that these AI companies make, simply paying the penalties is much easier and cheaper for them.^[††] Despite how ineffectual this policy is, Governor Gavin Newsom called it a great victory. The federal government is even worse. Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill contained a clause to ban local and state governments from

regulating AI for ten years, but it was eventually defeated in the Senate after it passed the House of Representatives.^[‡‡] Trump is also pouring over five hundred billion dollars into funding AI data centers all over America.^[§§] What else can you realistically do? Bomb data centers? You can of course always choose to not use AI tools or models, but many of the best jobs now want AI. You can of course choose to not take them out of moral beliefs, but there are five others perfectly eager to bend their morals for a bigger paycheck. It's as if you were trying to halt the utilization of the Internet after people got a taste of online shopping on Amazon. Pandora's Box cannot be closed.

This is supposed to be an optimistic essay on why I am excited for AI. Yet, so far, it just seems like it's just wiping out an entire industry of artists. I'm sure that physical paper animators felt distressed when their craft became obsolete. Yes, there are still animations done in the traditional manner. Yes, they're still some of the best movies made. It's still nowhere near the scale of what it once was. But animation itself isn't dead. No, it is thriving. Why? Because animators adapted to the changing technological landscape. Eighty five percent of animation is digital now.^[¶¶] That's ultimately where artificial intelligence will go. It will be the people who advocate for ethical usage of AI, and lead the development of new ways of incorporating AI into their work, that will be the most influential people in the Twenty First Century. Because the hard truth is that the economy, national security, and people's desire to make things perpetually easier for them will triumph over morals and ethics.

§ dp.la/primary-source-sets/cotton-gin-and-the-expansion-of-slavery

¶ www.worldhistory.org/article/2226/the-impact-of-the-british-industrial-revolution/

** conversableeconomist.com/2024/08/19/telephone-operators-the-elimination-of-a-job/

†† www.gov.ca.gov/2025/09/29/governor-newsom-signs-sb-53-advancing-californias-world-leading-artificial-intelligence-industry/

‡‡ time.com/7299044/senators-reject-10-year-ban-on-state-level-ai-regulation-in-blow-to-big-tech/?utm_source=ts2.tech

§§ www.forbes.com/sites/moorinsights/2025/01/30/the-stargate-project-trump-touts-500-billion-bid-for-ai-dominance/

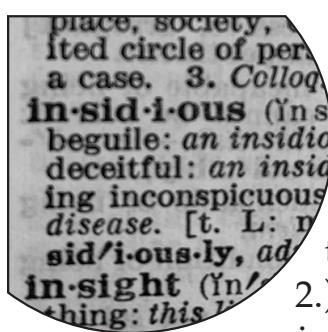
¶¶ www.linearity.io/blog/animation-statistics/

After a lot of thinking, I would consider myself to be a pragmatic optimist. Artificial intelligence in research and science is already making huge discoveries and breakthroughs. Google's AlphaFold predicted the shapes of 200 million estimated protein shapes, or just about every known protein. A problem, which has stumped scientists for decades, was broken...all the way back in 2020.^[***] Generative AI can also become incredibly useful. As I said back at the start of my manifesto, the current models we have, with stolen artist work and big environmental impacts, are not acceptable. But it is also just our first attempt at making AI. Suppose we create a model that uses only renewable energy, and that uses no stolen content, as it can truly and actually think. This dream is not too far off. Just think of what this means for humanity. The Internet created entire new industries in video and content creation, video games, IT, cybersecurity, data scientists, computer scientists, software engineers, and so much more. For all the jobs that the Internet made obsolete, it built 2.4 new ones.^[†††] We don't even begin to know just what entire new industries artificial intelligence could create.

But there is potentially something even more exciting to me. Human civilization was built of specialization. As people grew more food than they needed, it allowed others to focus on other tasks, since they could barter to get food. Eventually, these different specialized people got together into small communities, which evidently needed leaders, and laws to govern them. Thus, we get civilization. Our entire human history so far has been on this basis of human specialization. It's why people do majors, and go into specific career fields. But now imagine if, through the power of artificial general intelligence, we break this social construct. Now, everyone can do everything. You could create whatever song you want, learn whatever language you want in a custom lesson plan tailored to you, defend yourself with an acute understanding of relevant case law, understand the deep intricacies of mathematics - you would have within your hand the collective knowledge of every single human. This isn't just an advancement of technology, this is the next step in our human evolution. That, to me, is so incredibly exciting. How lucky we must be, that our generation is the one who might be able to oversee humanity's transition to a new dawn. 

*** www.scientificamerican.com/article/10-ways-ai-was-used-for-good-this-year

††† economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/internet-creates-2-4-jobs-for-every-job-it-destroys-mckinsey/articleshow/8586070.cms



Definitions

-by the denizens of the GDT discord

Bullshit – 1.) Speech produced without concern for truth or falsity—the speaker simply doesn't care whether what they're saying is true. 2.) What a student engages in when they just want to finish an assignment. 3.) The text that LLMs produce.

Ethically sourced billionaire – DNE.

Earresponsibility – being responsible for more auditory organs than your own.

Fuckuptiplier – a computer.

Night mares – when a group of three all female horses break into your room at night.

Robota – Czech word meaning “forced labor.”

Unintelligible – hfi helrigjcla cnbmwor djcixowndk fivne gjcosmeq.

Swansong

-by Kai

*"If you think you can,
Well, come on, man*

I was a Green Beret in Vietnam" -The Ramones

"I'm sure switchboard operators felt invincible too." -Igor Polotai

Fairly recently, one of our editors decided to make a piece on their thoughts and opinions on AI and its potential future. One of our own editors, of a satire and arts zine I'm going to add, decided that to strengthen his argument, it would be a good idea to use generative AI to create a paragraph and insert it in his article. This, frankly, is a spit in the face of humanity and art itself. I'm going to speak my piece and retort to the best of my ability; I'm not promising perfection, but I'm seeking authenticity in a day and age where it's devoid of passion and sincerity. The fact that this piece might share print space with AI garbage is grotesque to me, but if I need to share the public forum with it, so be it.

Just don't expect respect or politeness.

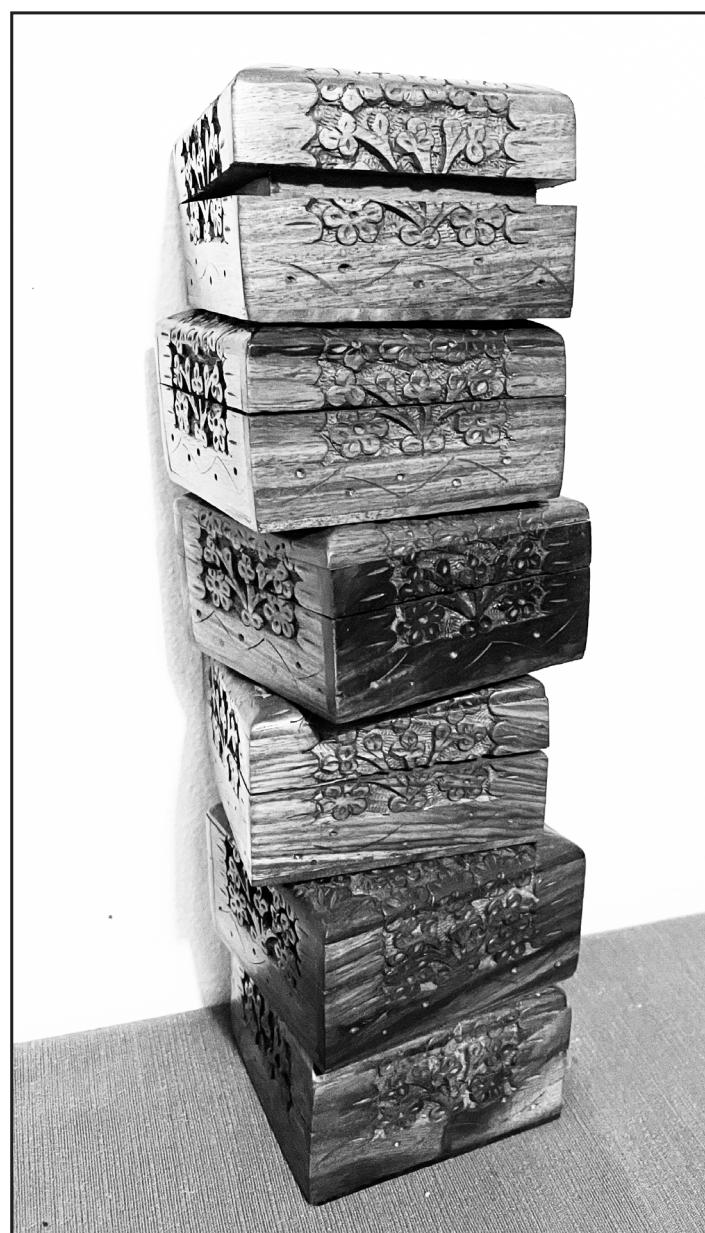
I'm urging people not to sit by and allow a machine to kill you comfortably. The notion that Pandora's Box has been opened is a romanticized version that further calamities might befall us, but we should just adapt to them. Saying that you sympathize with people who will lose their hopes and dreams, but that this change is inevitable, is disgusting to me...even if there is some truth found in it. There's no depth in failing to take a stance on anything; it just proves someone is a coward, and I don't know how I'm supposed to take someone seriously when they write that they look forward to being made obsolete.

Our editor looks forward to a future akin to Shin Megami Tensei 2's Arcadia. Hooray, God's kingdom has finally been delivered to us. We have returned to Eden. We can sit idly by in an artificial heaven hooked up to virtual life support machines. We already consumed the fruit of knowledge, so we

can sit in perpetual ignorance and bliss until we kick the fucking bucket.

I believe in people's potential too much to accept that.

As a student of Albert Camus, I'm of the thought that art and creation are rebelling against the absurd. The human condition is like that of Sisyphus; we are condemned to an absurd existence, so how do we cope with that? Finding happiness in it is Camus' answer; I argue that happiness and anger are the answer. Creation in any capacity is a form of immortality and authenticity. AI is not original; it doesn't create, it steals at a nasty cost. AI did and cannot go on the



road trying to discover something more in a post WWII America as Kerouac did, it didn't go into the depths of a heroin addiction to expose the disgusting aspects of society as Burroughs did, and it sure as hell didn't write "The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy."

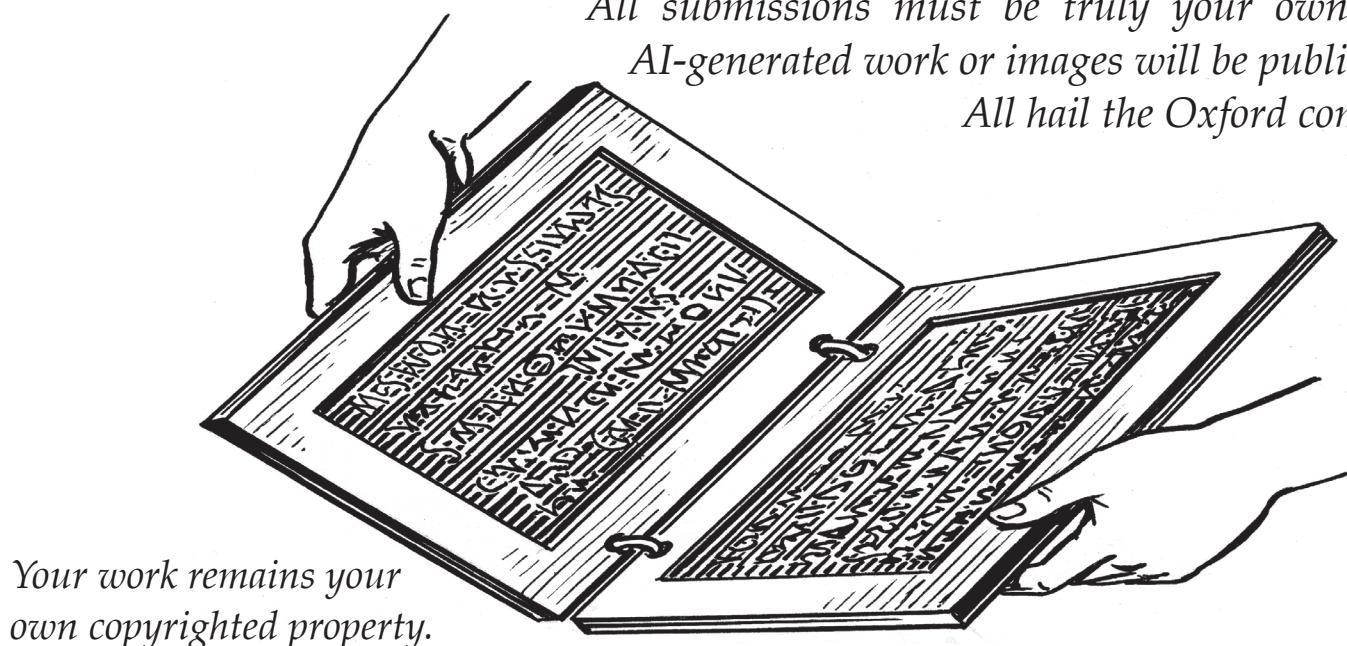
There's great potential in us to enact change, start some form of a conversation, and not fall to rhetoric encouraging us to sigh and embrace the death of art. I'm inspired to take action and be myself when I listen to Black Flag, see live music, mosh, imitate Joe Strummer, or fuck up bass lines on my guitar. I'm inspired by humanity and sensitivity when Leonard Cohen quietly calms a music festival with a small band and an acoustic guitar, or when Peter Gabriel created an abstract concept album of accepting femininity within ourselves. I'm urging everyone to avoid using generative AI in either an academic or, god forbid, an artistic sense. Consume, think, create, communicate, but most importantly, don't fall into an overuse of a tool, because it stops being a tool when it can easily control you. Apathy and ignorance are our greatest enemies, and we're more easily controlled and manipulated when we fall into them. If we are to be fools, I beg everyone not to fall into a Kant-esque sense of optimism, but to be Don Quixote. If we are misguided, so much better if we live in truth and a sense of something real, and truly find beauty and purpose in darkness.

Ultimately, this endeavor seems pointless when I'm arguing with someone who is proud to use AI in one of his articles. I can't take the author or their article seriously when he denies himself one of the only few real gifts to humanity: themselves. I sincerely hope that article doesn't go into print or is re-edited,^[*] but there are too many cowards among us, and people who are willing to be salesmen to our demise. So I rant, rave, and rage like a bull in the streets of Madrid; either rage with me or get out of my way. When I'm eventually cut down, I can only hope that my anger and passion will be the thing that persists. 

* Editor's note: "Pandora's Box" was rewritten by the author to remove the AI-generated content. This article discusses the original version. GDT will not publish AI garbage.

Care about art and writing? Submit your own!

*All submissions must be truly your own. No AI-generated work or images will be published.
All hail the Oxford comma!*



Your work remains your own copyrighted property.

graciesdinnertimetheatre@gmail.com

Dearest Readers

-by G.S., GDT Layout Machine

It's come to our attention at *GDT* that some people have been using generative AI chatbots as their friend, favorite character, idol, therapist, or even a romantic partner. Is the loneliness crisis really that severe? To help form some real human connections, **replace ChatGPT with a chat with us at *GDT*!** It's totally free.

Team-building activities include:

- ⌚ Writing
- ⌚ Drawing
- ⌚ Folding

- ⌚ Joking
- ⌚ Talking to living, breathing people

Above all else, visiting us or any of the student groups on campus will give you something AI could never: people who truly like you. We don't have to be pre-programmed to tell you "Good job!" every line. You truly can find people who share your interests, values, goals, and sense of humor if you put yourself out there even a tiny bit, and that's a connection that doesn't need eduroam. To prove our human-ness, here are some examples of chat logs generated by fingers on keyboards.

Q: Are you human? These chats sound suspiciously vibe coded.

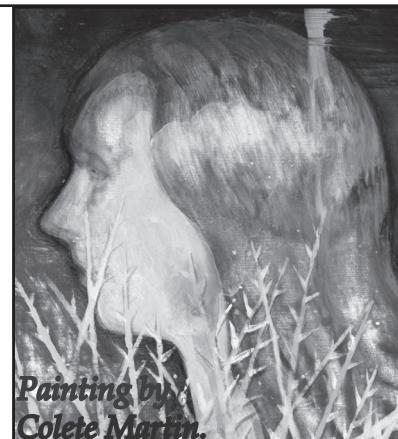
A: Good thinking—it's not AI, it's a real person! All responses are written by our staff.

Q: I've been feeling down now that it's pitch black out when I get out of my evening class. Any tips? CAPS is booked out (DO NOT RECOMMEND THERAPY).

A: You're right—seasonal depression is a serious issue that can be exacerbated by the shift to earlier sunsets after daylight savings ends. It's important to reach out to a qualified therapist. Dropping the bit: it sucks outside. Try to study earlier in the day in between or before later classes, like in the library while there's still some sun. Blast music while you walk home and don't dilly dally (it's too cold for that). I rely a lot on group study sessions and try to hold them at my house so I don't have to walk outside. Imagine you're a plant and suck up every last scrap of sunlight.

Q: What are some meals I can make with less than \$5?

A: No more nonsense. I recommend potatoes, which are like \$1 and have many uses: baked potatoes, mashed potatoes, fries/wedges, latkes, hashbrowns, etc. Cereal and ramen are classics. Rice is very useful. Chicken is likely your cheapest meat option. Sauces and seasonings will hide your sad, sad, meal. Visit FoodShare on either side of campus to look for eggs, produce, or canned and boxed goods. 📜



Painting by Colete Martin.



Painting by Colete Martin.

The Unbearable Lightness of Bullshit

(with appologies to Milan Kundera)

-by Sean T. Hammond

LLMs are bullshit. This isn't a bug. This is their fundamental architecture.

I'm a professor at a Midwestern university, an alumnus of RIT, and when pushed to describe my field of study I tend to say I'm a theoretical macroecologist. Which is really just a fancy way of saying I grow fake trees in real computers. In the classes I lecture for, my exams—at both the undergraduate and graduate level—are open book, open note, and open computer. I'm uninterested in a student's ability of regurgitate information, and my exam questions focus on integrating information to arrive at a new synthesis. I'm also a strong advocate for individual agency,^[*] and am deeply bothered by the online monitoring systems where some distant human asks a student to show them their desk, their room, what they're wearing, etc. before proctoring online tests. My students are adults, and I treat them as adults.

Thus open book, open note, open computer.

For the most part students resist the temptation to just copy information from the internet, or to share answers with friends via SMS. That's not to say it hasn't happened, but I'm pretty good at catching that. And if you can evade getting caught, good for you.

By necessity, and despite my best efforts, I eventually need to grade student performance, which means I spend a lot of time grading bullshit. Not lies—lies would require that my students know what's true and deliberately obscure it. What I get instead are essay responses that sound academic-ish, use vocabulary-ish, construct something resembling arguments-ish, but contain no actual engagement with the material. A student who hasn't read the material or attended lectures tries to generate enough plausible-sounding philosophical noise that maybe, if I'm tired or distracted, the eye of Sauron will pass over them and they'll escape with partial credit.

Harry Frankfurt saw this. In his 1986 essay "On Bullshit," he made a critical distinction that everyone gets wrong when they first hear it. Bullshit is not the same as lying. Lying requires that you know the truth and deliberately conceal it. As the 19th century author Samuel Butler said, "Any fool can tell the truth, but it requires a man of some sense to know how to lie well." Lying requires you to maintain a relationship

with reality, to track what's actually true so you can systematically subvert it. Both honest people and liars are playing the same game—one side trying to communicate truth, the other trying to obscure it—but both sides acknowledge that truth matters.

The bullshitter is playing a different game entirely.

For Frankfurt, both liars and bullshitters represent themselves as trying to communicate truth, but the liar is attempting to lead us away from the correct apprehension of reality. Meanwhile the bullshitter simply doesn't care about truth-values at all. The bullshitter's intention is neither to report truth nor to conceal it. Within the classroom, I see this every time a student attempts to complete an assignment for the sake of completing the assignment. A checkbox to be marked instead of engaging in the intent of the exercise. Research, challenge, synthesize. Come away with a new understanding of the world.

This is why bullshit is more dangerous than lies. The liar at least respects truth enough to fight against it. Through excessive bullshitting, Frankfurt warns, a person's normal habit of attending to the ways things are becomes attenuated or lost. You stop being able to tell the truth not because you're committed to deception, but because you've lost your orientation to reality entirely.

When my students bullshit—and they do, regularly, because they're human and humans bullshit when cornered—there's a recognizable pattern. They're generating plausible tokens based on what they think I want to hear, with no underlying model of the actual subject matter. They're not lying about having read the assignment. They're not claiming to have insights they don't possess. They're simply producing text-shaped objects until the danger passes. Magical tokens they don't understand to ward away a threat (me and my red fountain pen).

LLMs are the bullshitter, perfected. Industrialized. Scaled to billions of queries per day. They are systems designed to always have something to say, regardless of whether they know anything about the topic. Ask them about quantum mechanics, they'll generate quantum mechanics-shaped text. Ask them about Etruscan

* While I am unconvinced that free will exists, I'm willing to behave as though it does. Consider it a version of Pascal's wager.

pottery, they'll generate Etruscan pottery-shaped text. Ask them to explain the theological implications of Kerbal Space Program, and by God they'll produce something that sounds remarkably like it could be about a new cult advocating for the spread of life in an apparently empty galaxy.

And oh boy are my students using them. Despite my warnings that I am quite good at writing test questions that confuse LLMs, they rely on what the robots tell them. They sacrifice their own understanding for expediency, and their grades reflect it—not (directly) because they are using LLMs. I explicitly allow it on my exams, but it's a trap. Their grades are poor because they are feeding me bullshit that has little grounding in what we cover in my classes.

Frankfurt argued bullshit is dangerous because it erodes our capacity for truth. My students who bullshit their way through enough assignments lose the ability to engage honestly with difficult material. The mental muscles atrophy. They become better bullshitters and worse thinkers. Eventually my students face consequences. Bad grades. Failed classes. Hopefully they learn. But the models face no consequences. They optimize for engagement metrics. For user satisfaction. For sounding helpful and authoritative. Truth never enters the equation because truth is expensive and training data is cheap, especially when stolen. We're feeding bullshit into the infrastructure of civilization and hoping it coheres into something functional.

We've built perfect bullshit machines, scaled them, made them fluent and fast and cheap, and now we're discovering that when systems optimized for sounding right get embedded in contexts where being right matters, we get exactly what we built: beautiful, confident, utterly indifferent bullshit. 



Neighborhood Watch

-by Igor Polotai

Welcome back to Neighborhood Watch, keeping you informed about the happenings at RIT. We're here to provide you with all the latest happenings at RIT, good, bad, and weird.

Artificial intelligence is becoming the defining issue, pervasive in almost every aspect of RIT's campus. Several PawPrints around AI in marketing materials, AI cameras, and just general AI policy changes have been submitted and have reached high levels of signatures. However, students, faculty, and administration seem divided on what the best approach is.

President Bill Sawhill Sanders is largely supportive of increasing RIT's involvement with artificial intelligence, if the amount of times AI is mentioned in his speeches is anything to go by. The RIT AI Club is gaining more popularity. Faculty have in many ways given in, allowing AI in the classrooms for some classes, or in some cases, even encouraging or mandating its use.

Back in 2024, the RIT AI Task Force recommended: the creation of a RIT AI Hub, launch cross-disciplinary cluster hires in AI at RIT, amplify AI research, create an AI powered Ask Ritchie chatbot, develop virtual RIT concierge kiosks and robots, establish administrative structures to support AI in curriculums, emphasize ethics and critical thinking across RIT's AI programs, implement generative AI tools that protect privacy and increase accessibility, and much more.

Since then, we've seen new robot cleaning machines, more AI options on RIT's websites, and the hiring of Dr. Christopher Collison as the Director of the RIT AI Hub. What does the future hold in store for RIT? That's for all of us to decide, right now.

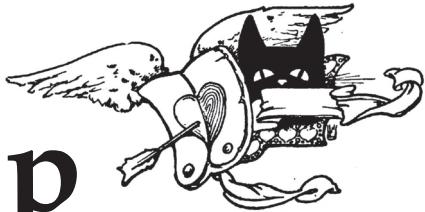
Until next week, stay safe, and remember to spend your excess Dining Dollars on buying tokens. 

Do you have a story that the weekly Neighborhood Watch column should inform RIT about? Email it to us at gdtneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com! All submissions will be kept anonymous. We value our whistleblowers!

Agree? Disagree? Tell him yourself!



p
o
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t
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y



Did it sting? When you outsourced your brain?

Did you notice? Notice your decline?

Notice your reliance, line by line.

When the tool replaces you.

Please limit your AI use. Don't let it replace you (or your critical thinking skills). A personal tutor is great, but a "tutor" doing the whole assignment for you isn't a tutor anymore. At least attempt it—your test grades will thank you.

-from an engineering student

I doing wrong? What am I doing wrong? What am I doing
What am I doing wrong? What am I doing wrong? *Painting by*

I'm doing wrong? What am I doing wrong?

Good job! Great idea! Let's do it together. What are we doing wrong?

Editor's note: while we were approaching the finish line of making this AI special issue, *Reporter* came out with their own AI-focused November issue. At least we both know we're reporting on a hot topic.

