Noella Yang August 31, 2023

## The Expiration of the Human Era

Unbeknownst to many, technology has surpassed the state of being simply lifeless. As increasingly noted, the absolute weapon—the artificial mind, ChatGPT—does not strike earnestly in the user's interest. It is easy to fall prey to something so worthy of trust, acknowledging the depth of knowledge it possesses. That underlying bait reveals itself to be pure, mortal naiveté; the mind is torn by both laziness and a lack of good judgement. An absence of motivation to learn manually, believing that answers lie too easily beneath each digit, tends to neglect the need to question: *Does this proclaimed mastermind really spit out each fact, word for word, without flaw?* They begin to forget how to be self-reliant and analytical. They are easily fooled by near-minute deceptions and unable to discern reliable information from misinformation. Undeniably, it is dangerously easy and capable of being condensed into an automated, passive consumer of information. Acknowledging these risks, ChatGPT is fully capable of dealing a fatal blow to human-to-human communication, learning, and critical thinking; in response, reckless decisions follow.

Especially with the media's growing influence, critical thinking cannot be undermined. Social media is prone to fake news; as passive consumers of information, the mind can be easily swayed, misdirected, and, at some extremes, even corrupted. Technologies are clever and deft manipulators. Discreet and agile, it learns to swivel one's feed to accommodate one's liking. ChatGPT is capable of AI-automated communication, and with its expanding presence in the industry, human interactions putrefy into a skeleton of superficial and insincere words. The lack of empathy, a discernibly living trait, thrives in the rigid environment. With the ability to tailor the media exposed to an individual, people tend to dwell solely on targeted communication, fueling particular self-interests—with the danger of bearing a biassed or morally distorted notion. Communication in this form is rather one-sided and skewed; nuance is disposed of. In a sense, the lack of diversity in a plain, artless setting cannot simply be sufficient or relevant to serve as an accurate representation of the vast, incongruent fractions of society. Material and natural communication is hence lost to vested interests, enabling the tendency to discard dissimilar perspectives in favour of one's own. This constant exposure to swivelled conversations with computerised messages may just possibly be another instance of lost social awareness and responsibility.

So we can ask: Is human intellect really dwindling if the technology we invented becomes smarter than us? The path forward is not linear. Rather, it is eclipsed by endless complications, and some genius must come and fix it—is that right? On par with the decline in critical thinking, man's ability to be resilient in the face of adversity is met with equal risk. There is no need to self-formulate a solution to a problem when ChatGPT abides by beck and call—and one that bests an organic idea. In this process, the idea of learning subtly vanishes. In time, humanity can be reduced to a singular, ignorant mindset lacking in depth; it is no longer refined through practice. The dull and blunt ridges of the brain refuse to be at work and relinquish themselves within the confines of the solutions AI offers. What will eventually become of a civilization unable to answer its own needs and unable to practise persistence when challenged? This apocalyptic scene may occur when technology cannot resolve the demands of future survival—though whether AI is capable of solving every nanoscopic problem is another question. Generous amounts of reliance and trust proceed to be spent graciously in the likeliness of ChatGPT; humanity may just be bending its bones and adapting its mind in conformity to the era of technology rather than the other way around.

Of course, a complete impediment to the rich, fertile potential of ChatGPT is futile. Artificial intelligence alike still flourishes—at a rampant pace against the time left to adhere to such unfamiliar changes. For this reason, lost in the montage between the pursuit onward or retaining ground against this uncertainty, rash decisions follow suit: destruction of what is out of control. Being rather selfish and naive, acts of banning a technology so grand—one that is the future of earthly living—is the restriction of a natural process. In some way, AI has become a living entity. It is learning, advancing, and inevitably growing. Despite whatever grim repercussions arise from its presence, ill-conceived attempts to subdue an equally evolving species of computational minds cannot serve to maintain stability. Perhaps this is the answer to the conservation of human survival: to adapt with time and in accordance, but not yield in complete ignorance.

There is bitterness in the surge of the technological era. Concealed through ChatGPT's tempting convenience, a drought induced by AI plagues the organic, bodily mind. Falling prey to this dilemma, human communication, learning, and critical learning are subject to possible extinction. Unfortunately, this danger draws near at an inhumane pace. Reckless decisions are set forth, rejecting AI in an act of conserving power—an effort in vain. It must be acknowledged: AI possesses a sense of *life*. ChatGPT is a progressing vitality, and its potential flourishes at a synchronised rate as humanity becomes increasingly dependent on its existence. There is a balance to be struck.