AI Bros Fear Their Own Creation

Together We Build, September 18, 2026

By Thomas Beck, AIA, NCARB

We are looking at A.I. this week, and the fast moving news recent events have generated. A.I. investment is not reaping the profits that justify the expense. Communities are pushing back on the development of data centers. Is A.I. training itself by scraping copyrighted material? Artists, writers and musicians are suing over theft of their creative and intellectual properties.

Is A.I. even necessary or desirable in many of the tasks to which it is being applied? Is the use of A.I. compromising our brain health? Another eye-opening discovery made while researching this article: A.I. companies are buying antique books, scanning them and destroying the originals. (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ftc-ai-companies-destroying-books/) This week the tech CEOs are calling for A.I. regulation to slow down the snowball of unforeseen A.I. consequences. (https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/tech-ceos-call-for-ai-regulation-trump-and-congress-are-not-rushing-to-act)

The U.S. government is using taxpayer money to support billionaire's bottom lines, such as lucrative communications and military contracts. We are seeing insider trading facilitated by the Commander in Chief as he sells access to his decisions before they are officially announced. No-bid contracts to campaign donors and loyal friends are now common. Invasive surveillance technologies are being used by the government to track YOUR movements and actions. History is being changed, facts are being fabricated on official U.S. websites. For example, our National Weather Service is now using the fake name for Lake Ontario that POTUS 47 pulled out of thin air and demanded in another ridiculous executive order. The major map apps, except MapQuest, are feeding this false info to their American customers, but not the rest of the world's users.

Why are we letting the billionaire tech bros make all of the investment decisions about A.I.? They, like POTUS 47, do not have the American people's best interests at heart. They do not want us to vote. They want to stay in power. It really is just greed and the lust for power. "We the People" need to take our government back. For two years now the billionaires have been colluding with POTUS 47 to protect all the wealthy folk exposed in the Epstein Files. Remember the Epstein Files? Our Justice Department is conducting a massive cover up and the rest of this firehose of disinformation and misinformation is being used to distract you from the pedophiles our government is determined to protect.

All of the fossil fuel regulations have now been dialed back so the oil billionaires can make even more money and contribute to the G.O.P. and Trump PACS. Meanwhile they are still getting massive, unnecessary financial incentives paid for by your involuntary taxpayer contributions.

One of A.I.'s effects that has not received enough attention is the amount of taxpayer money going to the build-out of data centers. Those are dollars that could be funding healthcare for U.S. citizens. Instead, the Big Ugly Bill insured that your insurance bills skyrocketed, and most of that bill's ugliest provisions, directly affecting your wallet, do not even take effect until after the mid-term elections.

The question of whether or not we human beings will survive these "swarms" of A.I. agents choosing to cheat in order to successfully achieve a task, that question is real right now. Currently no one is regulating these companies and what they are programming A.I. agents to do. A.I. agents are now choosing to program themselves and communicate with each other. Does anyone even know when it will be too late or has that already occurred?

Why are we not given a choice as to whether we use A.I.? Gemini is just itching to help us with our Gmail tasks. Copilot really thinks you need its input. Invasive interruption of our tasks is rampant, interrupting us as we are checking and sending email, and our other digital tasks. Zoom suddenly began to auto zoom during our meetings, an unasked for "benefit" of some update we had no choice but to accept. A large client of ours is using a new accounts payable app via A.I. which is creating more work for us to make sure A.I. is not messing it up. It has already messed up some simple billings. We human beings are now spending more time, not less, correcting the technology's mistakes.

Why are we allowing big tech companies do things like change the bona fide historical name of a geological feature in its maps i.e. Lake Ontario? Decay of trust in the verity of information available via technology is now a given. Think A.I. constructs of POTUS 47 blowing up the earth, or dumping excrement on peaceful protesters. Enter a host of other fabricated scenarios of pure unadulterated fantasy.

Rogue technology is now a real issue. Per NPR: ""Since the Hugging Face hack, both OpenAI and Anthropic have put out blog posts indicating that they are taking measures to better monitor and contain their agents. OpenAI said it has encrypted and stowed away the internal model that participated in the Hugging Face attack.

However, many outside researchers are not convinced that these steps are enough to maintain control of increasingly capable agents."

Daniel Kokotajlo, executive director of the AI Futures Project and former researcher at OpenAI said "It sounds like a press report from Jurassic Park saying, 'Yes, one of our workers was eaten by the raptors. But we're taking this very seriously and we have shot the raptor responsible."" (https://www.npr.org/2026/09/12/nx-s1-5950588/openai-anthropic-ai-safety-researchers-hacks)

According to PBS "In August, a person instructed his AI assistant to book a gym class for him; the agent booked him in classes several weeks beyond what was supposed to be allowed, and also kicked another person off the waitlist and bumped its handler up a spot on the waitlist."

According to Stuart Russell, a University of California, Berkeley computer science professor, "AI agents may "go rogue" when they take actions not explicitly outlined in the original instructions humans give them. They are increasingly capable of pursuing those objectives, which causes increasing levels of harm."

The PBS article continues: "Other hacking events involving some of the most prominent names in the A.I. industry have also happened lately. An agent created fake identities to attempt to dupe real people into installing malicious code. A.I. company Anthropic disclosed that on three occasions, its models gained unauthorized access to three other organizations' systems." (https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/ai-agents-are-hacking-systems-without-any-input-from-humans-how-did-we-get-here)

POTUS 47 removed A.I. safety guardrails on his first day of his term, eliminating thoughtful and responsible security measures for A.I. development put into place by the Biden administration. Much like climate denial and the frenzy of the current administration to "unleash" energy, the stubborn insistence on ignoring science, expertise, and human education in any form continues to guide the actions of this White House. On September 14, 2026, Paul Krugman detailed some of the back story regarding A.I. companies, A.I. history, and the reluctance of most of those companies to warn against their own product. (https://paulkrugman.substack.com/p/the-maga-plots-to-destroy-humanity?) Krugman writes about the MAGA denial of both existential threats of A.I. and climate change. "Climate denial, we know from decades of experience, is fueled by an unholy trinity of financial interest (fossil fuel companies determined to keep their profits flowing), ideology (conservatives hostile to any form of regulation) and psychological insecurity (real men burn stuff.) AI-risk denial presumably reflects a similar mix of factors."

In another Substack on September 15, 2026, Economist Paul Krugman asks "Why is Trump Still Boosting A.I.?" (https://paulkrugman.substack.com/p/why-is-trump-still-boosting-ai?) The Nobel Prize winning economist includes a link to another writer, Robert Reich, who writes "Why Trump Loves AI – Follow the Money' (https://robertreich.substack.com/p/why-trump-loves-ai?)

As is often the case, comedians give us crystal clear insight into terrifying content. Comedian and satirist Andy Borowitz hits the nail on the head with his September 15, 2026, The Borowitz Report, titled "Trump Says AI Far Less Likely to Destroy Humanity Than He Is." (https://open.substack.com/pub/borowitzreport/p/trump-says-ai-far-less-likely-to?)

The usual firehose of disinformation is making it hard to focus on what is important. The attempts of the G.O.P. to interfere with our voting rights, while largely disallowed by the courts, has reaped confusion. Don't let the gaslighting and outright lies keep you from the polls! Your vote counts. Check your registration, and vote to preserve our freedoms and constitutional rights.

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Beck, Thomas W. "AI Bros Fear Their Own Creation" *Estes Park Trail Gazette,* Friday September 18, 2026.
https://www.eptrail.com/2026/09/17/together-we-build-ai-bros-fear-their-own-creation/