

Artificial intelligence will be the end of life as we know it

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
OPINION EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a junior creative media production major from Jonesboro.

Some say artificial intelligence (AI) is the future. I say it is the end of the world as we know it and a point of no return that will forever alter our reality.

What was once a plot device for sci-fi stories and dystopian worlds has become a real commodity being implemented across industries.

From business to education to media, AI is becoming more prominent in our everyday lives.

John Deere, an agricultural equipment company, rolled out a fleet of self-driving tractors late last year, all made possible with AI.

ChatGPT, a conversation based AI, has presented problems with education

as teachers have scrambled to make assignments that cannot be completed by AI.

The Writer's Guild of America (WGA) and the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) recently went on strike and fought tooth and nail to gain protections from AI in their new contracts. (For more, go to page 2B)

Studio heads and executives were experimenting with allowing AI to write and edit writer's scripts and scan actors' images and likenesses to use them in perpetuity in other works without crediting or paying them.

AI will only get better from this point forward. It can only be improved upon from the current level, begging the question, how will those improvements affect us?

Once AI is capable of self-correcting and becomes as intelligent as any engineer or programmer that could operate it, where does that leave humans?

If restaurants can use AI to take orders and cook and package food, who is to say we will not have fully automated kitchens?

If self-driving cars are made with onboard AI drivers, what becomes of cab, delivery and rideshare drivers?

Artists and creators suddenly become irrelevant as studios employ AI to create

for them for a fraction of the price.

I could go on but I think the point is understood. If it becomes more cost-effective to use AI over human employees and workers, then businesses will begin to use them.

If AI surpasses the human capacity for learning and critical thinking then what becomes of all of us?

We are working to eliminate ourselves from the equation if we allow AI to continue to evolve unchecked. The future can become fully automated without us once AI reaches that point.

We run the risk of pushing humanity into irrelevance in the name of "progress" and "evolution."

Perhaps that is what it is: evolution. Maybe the natural evolution of the human race is that we replace ourselves with technology.

The thousands of years of politics, architecture, war, famine, literature, natural disasters and empires rising and falling have led us to this timeline where we believe we are ushering in the future while we dig our own graves.

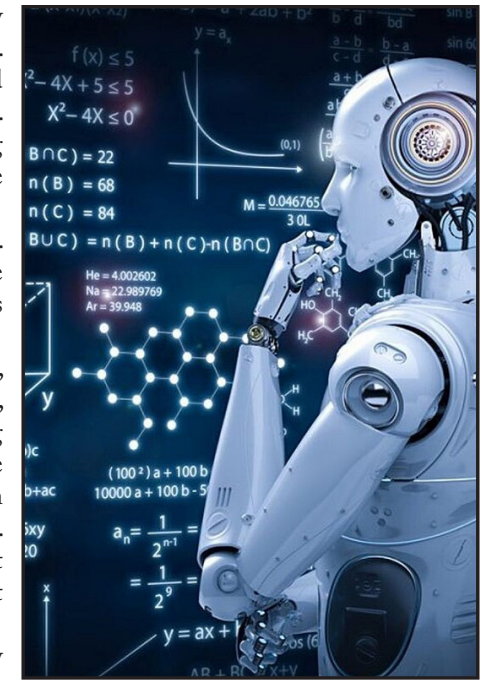
In "The Hollow Men," T.S. Elliot said, "This is how the world ends, not with a bang, but with a whimper."

The end of the world as we know it will not be a heat death, a nuclear winter or a great natural disaster; it will be humans trying their damndest

to make things better.

AI will be the end of us all if we do nothing to keep it in check. In moderation, it becomes a useful tool. If given free rein, it becomes a nail in the coffin.

But of course, that's just one man's opinion.

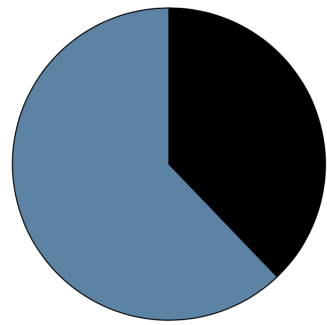


GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MODERN GUY
Artist depiction of artificial intelligence.

What's Your Opinion?

Do the pros of artificial intelligence outweigh the cons?

Out of 37 responses:
Yes -- 14
No -- 23



• Yes • No

Next Poll:

Die Hard

Is Die Hard a Christmas movie?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, @astateherald. Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on astatetheherald.com Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

The many benefits of artificial intelligence

REBECCA ROBINSON
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Rebecca Robinson is a senior multimedia journalism major from Sheridan, Arkansas.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is often demonized in the media due to its frequent misuse. However, when AI is used ethically, it is a great and helpful tool.

AI has been at the forefront of many conversations, with discussions varying from replacing human intelligence, taking over the world, stealing from artists, helping aid in committing cybercrime and more.

In regard to ethical concerns such as ChatGPT plagiarism, fake image generation and replacing human jobs, much of the coverage has been negative. AI accounts for more than ChatGPT

and image generation, rather it can be a widely helpful tool that can help personal and academic life.

AI can be used to help track crucial data, quickly transcribe and decrease margin of error. I have used AI several times to help me in my daily life. For example, I use apps like Otter, an AI program that transcribes audio recordings on my phone, which has greatly cut down my time spent taking notes.

I have used AI to help me break down challenging reading material and further my understanding of a topic. Especially when reading older scholarly articles, AI can help me better understand the language.

With the help of AI I have been able to whittle down complicated readings and get an outline of the main ideas. After using AI, I have a much better understanding.

AI is an inevitable part of today and the future. If we can learn to utilize it for the good it offers and limit the bad applications it will be a great advancement.

Like most technology, AI has its pros and cons. It can be used for evil but it can also help when we pair it with monotonous or complicated tasks.

AI and education can be hard to

navigate due to the rise of plagiarism. However, there are still areas for benefits like using it to quickly help translate for language barriers, 24/7 virtual tutoring and access to a plethora of information in easy to understand writing.

Using the tool in conjunction with classes is beginning to grow because of the usefulness found by professors.

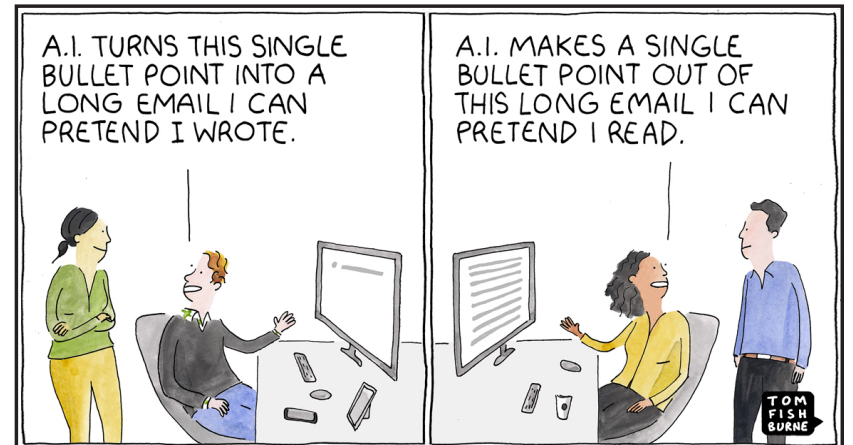
Another benefit of AI is its ability to comb through online data. With the amount of data out there because of the internet many numbers are far too complicated and timely to calculate.

Using different software, AI can break down the data into digestible numbers. AI has been used online to combat cybercrime by using its

surveillance ability to do things such as tracking users login behavior, possible fraud attempts and spotting malware.

The retail industry has been using AI for a long time to reach customers. AI can be used to help retail stores better recommend appropriate products to consumers. AI is used to send ads for products that consumers need or are more interested in. It has also helped continuously update in store stock so customers can have an idea of the products available in the store.

Although AI being cemented into our lives can be a scary prospect, if we continue to utilize it in ethical and helpful ways it can greatly benefit us.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MARKETNOIST

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