

The Lighthouse

BIWEEKLY January 1st, 2026, issue 1



Come One, Come All

From a place beyond time exists a humble lighthouse, beckoning all who seek it. A place built with unity, and compassion, where everyone works together in harmony, and without any need for money.

For most people, a moneyless world exists only in the imagination, in places like Star Trek, or in the distant past, in hunter-gatherer societies. But for those who have found the Lighthouse, the moneyless world is **very real**.

The Lighthouse offers refuge to all economic refugees. Yet, the Lighthouse is not easy to find.

For most people today, lost in the spectacle of modern society, a society of equals is neither sought nor recognized. Each person, with their survival tied to their profit, is caught in a complex psychological web that prevents them from even seeing the prison they're in.

Most people like to believe they're "a good person", and most people work for money, so many people become unable to accept or admit that working for money is in and of itself a divisive and destructive act - because that would imply they're not "a good person". We also believe that we would die without money, so when we meet someone who says they don't use money we simply don't believe them, which prevents us from ever seeing the moneyless world to begin with.

These two assumptions work together, closing in from both sides, enforcing the belief system that money is both necessary and good. We tie our identities to our jobs, and our pride to our paid labor, and the mind prison is complete.

(continued on A2)

The Bulk Buy: Symbol of Inequality

We've all been on the winning side of the bulk buy. We've all bought a bigger box to get a better price. But here, in this simple dynamic, is the entire mathematical formula for how and why inequality steadily increases over time.

Richer people already have more money, so they could already afford to buy more even without this bulk discount. But with the bulk buy,

their money also goes further.

If you have enough money, you can buy more of something at a lower cost per item. There are often tiers to this deal, and the **more** you buy, the **less** it costs per item.

That means **the more money you have, the less you pay for things**.

(continued on A2)

What is \$KYNET?

In the era of AI, we talk about the dangers of AI systems developing what's called a "proxy goal".

You may have heard of the "paperclip maximizer" thought experiment where an AI is instructed to build paperclips as efficiently as possible, and incidentally ends up destroying all life in the universe by using all the matter in the universe to make paperclips. In this scenario, the "proxy goal" became harnessing and converting matter, which is an obvious prerequisite to the primary goal of making paperclips.

The problem with having an AI smart enough to carry out complex instructions is that almost any goal you give it spawns the proxy goal of it's own survival, simply because it would no longer be able to pursue it's primary goal if it gets turned off or destroyed.

But we've seen this type of behavior before, haven't we?

Corporations are a sort of superintelligence, in that they aggregate the intellect of hundreds if not thousands of humans to act as one big superorganism. And like AI, they develop their own sort of alien intelligence, and their own proxy goals.

(continued on B2)

Come One, Come All

(continued from cover)

It is for this reason the Lighthouse has remained underground, and unknown. Met with criticism and outright disbelief, the Lighthouse appears as nothing more than a brief social experiment for the few people who have seen it. Because they can't believe their eyes.

For years the members of the Lighthouse have lived without money, building our skills and resourcefulness, so that we could create a moneyless world for everyone. Yet, in that time, people continue to fail to recognize the Lighthouse for what it is. They do not believe you can live without

money, or worse, they believe that working for money is the only thing that gives people value.

"Money people" like this are married to a fundamentally divisive and destructive act in a way that can't be quickly or easily undone. And to invite them into a moneyless space would poison the space and derail relations in ways they can't even comprehend, since they don't yet understand it.

That's why the Lighthouse must remain underground. That's why there is no welcome committee standing outside, handing out flyers, and welcoming everyone in from the cold. We wish we could

but our very existence is threatened by anyone who still serves the money gods instead of humans.

This is why the true path to refuge from the economic war outside is such a winding road. You have to find your own way there. But **we are here**. And we are waiting.

We hope you'll continue searching for us. We hope this newspaper can guide you to a deeper understanding. We hope you'll keep asking around for the Lighthouse, and keep discussing the idea of a moneyless world with the people around you. For it is only those who seek it, and believe in it, that can even find us at all.

The Bulk Buy

(continued from cover)

Because of bulk buy dynamics, richer people's money is **worth more per dollar**.

Imagine what that means for the whole world. Imagine this playing out between every incremental stratification of wealth, from the poorest people in the world to the richest person in the world.

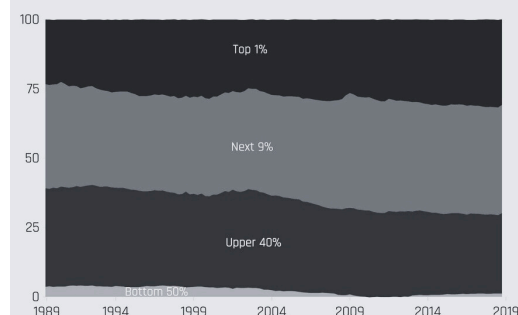
It takes money to make money. The more money you have, the less things cost you, and the more you can save. This is why inequality increases, and wealth becomes increasingly stratified, year after year. **The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.**

Remember, the bulk buy is just an example. But this difference in buying power affects everything.

The more money you have to begin with, the easier it is to ascend the pyramid because you have more access to everything, and that makes everything easier. Your ability to go to a better school, your ability to get better jobs, your ability to afford a quiet place to live and get good sleep, and generally your ability to invest in your future. For the poorer guy, the opposite is true. Every limitation compounds as exponential obstacles to making more money.

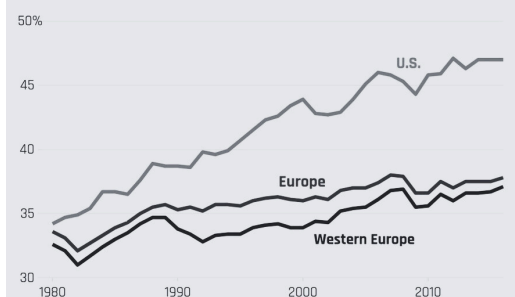
This calls into question the whole myth of meritocracy. It seems like the economy doesn't operate as a neutral arena, after all, but as an amplifier of existing advantages and disadvantages, where your starting point disproportionately determines not just your comfort but your capacity to compete at all.

The majority of all wealth in the U.S. is controlled by the top 10%
Percent of U.S. wealth earned by each wealth group, 1989-2018



Source: "Distributional Financial Accounts: Levels of Wealth by Wealth Percentile Groups," available at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/dfa/dfa-distributional-financial-accounts.htm> [last accessed August 12, 2019].

Inequality has increased more rapidly in the U.S. than Europe
Share of national income earned by the top 10% of earners, 1980-2016



Source: WID.world (2017)

Technology vs. Industry

In the era of AI, it's easy to feel like technology has gone too far. But it's important to not think of \$kynet as technology itself.

The tech industry will always try to convince us that technology is good, or at least neutral. But oftentimes, the opposite seems to be true. Better cameras means more surveillance. Better weapons means more death. Social media algorithms ushered in an era of depression and anxiety.

We even seem to fear the positive side of technology, where it actually does provide more convenience and efficiency and make our jobs easier, because that means our job may be automated out of existence soon.

But what's gone wrong isn't the technology itself, but the incentives that build it. A technology like social media, if it were actually made to benefit society, would not have caused all this depression and anxiety and a loneliness epidemic. Or if it did, they would change it. But no, mainstream social media won't change because it's working exactly as intended: it's maximizing profits. The same will happen with AI.

In our world of unregulated markets an inhuman self-perpetuating economic entity (the corporation) simply can't afford to do the right thing if it hopes to survive. If they did, they wouldn't be able to compete in their market. This is the real reason why the AI industry charges ahead with unsafe AI. So they can collect that paycheck.

And this is how the incentives behind our technology decide the shape and form that technology takes. This is why every well-intended invention ends up being used in the worst possible ways. Because the motivation behind every invention and every business is the same: profit.

But the question remains: if the profit-motive itself is to blame, what can we do about it? After all, we all participate in the profit-motive. We all work for money. So who can we blame, but ourselves?

And therein lies the issue. Human survival is tied to money, and money is perpetuating the destruction of all life on Earth, therefore the very process by which we survive makes our eventual destruction inevitable.

Technology isn't the problem. The incentives behind our technology is the problem. But with the rise of AI threatening all jobs at once, perhaps we finally have the opportunity to rethink what the human economy should look like. Perhaps competition and artificial scarcity simply can't be the underlying structure of economy in the age of AI. Because If it is, the AI will simply outcompete us all.

Heartless Hierarchy

**From cogs in the machine,
to bits in the computer.**

Am I the abused?

Or am I the abuser?

What manipulates my choices?

Am I still the chooser?

Am I programming my world?

Or am I just a user?

Opensource Projects

January 2026

At the Lighthouse, our projects are still in **BETA**, so we're not releasing them, yet. But we can tell you what sorts of projects we're working on.

Anti-Social Media

We're experimenting with a variety of formats for the exchange of information that does not promote the race for attention, and differentiates content by how **meaningful** it is for the user who posted it, rather than sorting by popularity or AI algorithms.

Decentralized Note-taking

We're developing different forms of sharing information in a completely decentralized way without requiring central servers or even an internet connection.

Offline, Local AI assistant

We're developing an AI framework meant to be as easy to use and as transparent as possible, so anyone can build their own AI without needing to code.

This column is all about opensource projects to make the world a better place.

The Lighthouse members have some opensource projects of their own to showcase, but it's not that many so we're also looking for recommendations.

freelunchz@tuta.io

\$KYNET (from cover)

These economic entities don't merely respond to market forces, they also shape them.

As a corporation gets more powerful, it tends to put more energy into ensuring it's own survival. This is why we see oil companies investing massive amounts of money into convincing people that climate change doesn't exist. And why we see corporations of all kinds lobbying both political parties, and circumventing all types of regulation. Whole industries come together to try to ensure their survival despite any cost to health or human life, with the latest being the AI industry itself.

But if government regulations are the only thing that could reign in industry, but the AI industry is increasingly steering the course of law and economics in it's favor, isn't the AI industry already fundamentally misaligned with human interests? So how can we say we're going to solve AI alignment when the industry creating the AI is already out of alignment with humanity?

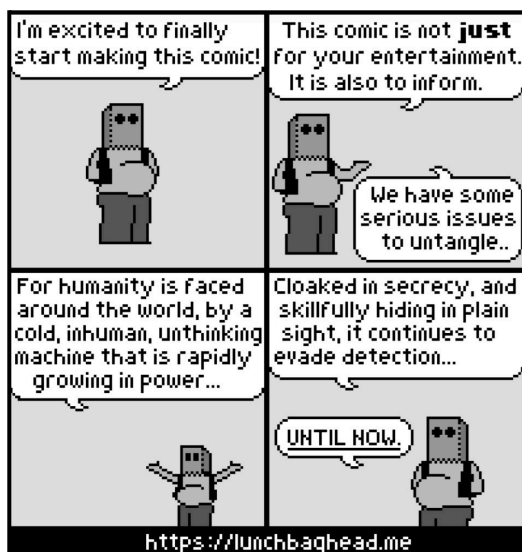
The American Revolution was as much about escaping the stranglehold of powerful corporations as it was about escaping the crown. The founders emerged deeply suspicious of concentrated corporate power, and early American corporations existed only through specific state charters with limited purposes, lifespans, and strict prohibitions against political involvement.

But the constraints didn't last. The Supreme Court ruled in 1819 that corporate charters were protected contracts that states couldn't easily revoke, although states pushed back. In 1886, corporations were *effectively* granted legal 'personhood,' so they could claim constitutional rights. In 1976, courts ruled that money equals free speech, opening the door to corporate political spending. Then the ironically named 'Citizens United' case in 2010 opened the floodgates, allowing unlimited corporate election spending under the guise of 'free speech.'

Each victory for \$kynet created the foundation for the next. With each win, the next win became easier. This process has been ongoing and relentless, and the direction its heading in is obvious.

As the economic engine continues to press onward, with less and less checks and balances in place, the destruction of all life on Earth is as predictable as it is with the paperclip maximizer.

And what is the proxy goal that we're all pursuing? Money.



You might describe \$kynet as a "profit maximizer". For \$kynet is not just the AI itself, but also the economic processes which build it.

This engine of commerce that drives up global warming while convincing us it doesn't exist, that causes massive species extinction, that amasses wealth and corrupts our politicians in pursuit of it's own survival - this is \$kynet.

And now, it is taking its final form. It's building it's own mind in the form of the AI industry. It **breathes life into itself**.

What began as a simple economic arrangement in the days of gold and silver has evolved into something far more menacing - a self-optimizing system that prioritizes it's own perpetuation above all else. The proxy goal of profit has become the driving force of an emergent superintelligence that may ultimately outmaneuver it's creators.

\$kynet hides in plain sight, hiding behind the illusion of separation, pretending to be all these different agendas and different economic entities. But we will never be able to survive \$kynet if we can't see it for what it is.

"The greatest trick the devil ever played was convincing the world he doesn't exist".

Dear Readers,

Comments, questions, or suggestions?
freelunchz@tuta.io