Ryan Dillon

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Professor Brame

Typically, when people think of artificial intelligence they imagine terminators, HAL 9000 from 2001: A Space Odyssey, or some horrific event brought about by the singularity. At least, that's what I used to think about AI before taking this class and really looking into the subject. AI can no longer be solely considered as a facet of science-fiction. Ever since the advent of the digital age, AI has become very intricately woven into our everyday lives. The ever-increasing presence of AI in the day-to-day activity of ordinary people has raised several moral and social concerns and considerations.

One of the concerns raised by the commonplace use of AI, is the concern of people being tracked. Of course, people are concerned about face scanning technology and their information being sold by big tech corporations or even hacked. But something I never really considered when thinking about this topic is the use of cookies on websites. I'd get the pop-up for cookies when entering a website and I would agree without really understanding what I was agreeing to, just so that I could continue browsing. Cookies are essentially an AI software that tracks what websites you have visited before and what websites you visit after going to a specific page. Cookies are turning into a standard practice for websites because they have a lot of uses especially with aiding companies with marketing research. As stated before, when it comes to people being worried about their online information being hacked, they think about Facebook selling their info or a Big Brother type surveillance system. These concerns are both very much

rooted in reality. But I believe that cookies are more dangerous because people don't know about them, and cookies are already tracking their every click. Fortunately, this information is not being used maliciously. But they have dangerous potential, if this information were to fall into the wrong hands, then individuals could face blackmail or slander that they can't really defend themselves against. Before this class, I never thought about the implications that cookies present.

Another use of AI that raises questions is the use of AI to target certain content at people based off engagement. Primarily, I'm thinking about the software used by apps like Tiktok and Instagram. Over the summer, I became very interested in weightlifting. So when I would browse social media, I would engage mostly with weightlifting content. Because I was interacting with this content, it would show up more and more on my social media feed. This situation on its own is not harmful. Because the app is showing me the content the software believes I want to see. During the course we discussed information echo chambers. Social media is obviously a form of media and as it becomes more available it is used by some as their main source of media consumption. This can be harmful because social media software doesn't care about showing people the truth or what they should see, it only cares about showing them what content it believes they will engage the most with. This is how people can be unintentionally put in an information bubble. These bubbles have the potential to lead people down the path of extremism and radicalization. Being put in an information bubble myself (albeit a bubble of weightlifting content) I understand how quickly it can happen, and I didn't really understand the social consequences until we discussed it in class.

As time goes on, AI is only going to become a bigger part of our lives. We can't stop the tide of progress, good or bad. But we can look to our own pasts and reflect on how past progress as affected us. I provided two examples from my life about how the current implementation and

advancement of AI technology has affected me. Ove the course of this class, I have been able to reflect on and question my worldview. I feel better equipped to approach AI in my life, having learned from my past experiences and being able to understand how technology has affected me and others.