

A.I.—Clear and Present Danger

by Michael G. Maness, Tyler County Booster (11-20-25), 4A.

Great article on the morality of A.I. by Jim Powers in this week's Booster (11-13-25). Very thought-provoking on ethics and moral structures not often plumbed at this depth. Though I challenge his idea of Trump as an oligarch servant, the oligarch tech giants certainly influence world affairs in cunning ways most of us will never see.

Jim's exquisite article carefully and succinctly gave clear and present danger warnings, which even Elon Musk has given on A.I. as the "greatest danger" today.

I agree 150% with Jim's observation: "Until we understand how easily human morality itself can be captured, we have no business hardcoding our values into the next intelligence." No matter which side of the religio-political spectrum one leans to, A.I. has the capacity today to overtake us, even hurt or damage our rather delicate internet, communication, and utilities infrastructure grids, at least for a short time, and doubtlessly cost lives in whatever time A.I. "corrects" its lowly humans.

Like the white paper Jim referenced, many papers are afoot. *Wired Magazine* and *Scientific American* have warned of an unchecked A.I. in laymen's terms by experts inside the A.I. frontier. No kidding!—check out Sam Altman's "Eye-Scanning Orb Is Now Coming to the US" in *Wired's* April 2025 issue and online at Wired.com.

Oddly enough, that fear has precedents and even precursors over a century old. That is, today, the threat is so real presidential forums of tech giants are underway in worldwide consultation.

Yet, Star Trek's handheld "communicators" and 3-inch computer disks in the 1960s came true in the 1990s, and today's burgeoning A.I. threat has been a regular creative staple with big screen intriguing thrillers that Jim, Musk, wise world leaders, and I fear.

Several of those intriguing movies include "Atlas," "i, Robot," "A.I. Artificial Intelligence," the classic "Blade Runner" and its redux last year, "Oblivion" with Tom Cruz, the "Terminator" series, "Her," "Ex Machina," Robin Williams' charming "Renaissance Man," "Eagle Eye," "Wall-E," amazingly well-done "Lucy" with Morgan Freeman, "The Creator," of course the classic of my generation, "2001: A Space Odyssey," and perhaps the very first, the 1927 "Metropolis," which I intend to see soon.

A.I.—Artificial Intelligence is such a credible threat to many aspects of our lives today that many U.S. states and our U.S. legislators are crafting laws as we speak.

Furthermore, there are many as yet unseen threats knocking, as anyone on Facebook the last year has seen with absurd creations, many hilarious, yet too many blurring truth and many purposefully meant to deceive one's religio-political friend or enemy.

