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Transcript

By Noah B. Boyd

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(Standing in front of the Golden Dome at the University of Notre Dame)

N: I just finished a research paper evaluating why governments can't regulate AI fast enough. But, as a student, I asked, can we even regulate ourselves? (Pause) The answer is no.

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N: All right, we're here at LaFortune Student Center. Have you ever read an AI honor code policy?

I: (Laughing) No.

N: What percentage of your calc homework do you actually do yourself?

I: 30 percent.

I: Probably about like 90.

N: [I] beg to differ.

I: Um, to be honest, I'm kind of embarrassed to say this, but like zero percent. I've never solved any [Calculus] question on my own in this entire semester.

N: What do you do to prepare for exams?

I: I use GPT.

N: Have you ever had AI write you an email to a professor?

I: For sure.

I: Just this week, I had this flight delay, and I had to miss some classes after the Thanksgiving break, and I had AI write me an apology email like, "Oh professor, I'm sorry that I'll be missing this class because of my flight delay." AI is a very polite, great email writer.

N: What's the craziest thing you've used AI for?

I: Um, I use AI to write some diss rap lyrics.

I: I used it to write a script one time for a video.

N: That's really lame.

I: I mean, it was like a project.

N: That's really lame.

I: Okay, sorry.

N: When's the last time you did an assignment completely without using AI?

I: (Pause) Probably like… August.

I: Today, like 20 minutes ago.

N: (Sigh)

I: Probably like 10th grade in high school.

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N: Now, I'll note that I spent a good two hours talking to people about their AI usage. And while I heard a lot of crazy things, it wasn't all that bad. I mean, most people realize that there's a level of learning they still need to do as a college student.

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I: I used GPT to make me the practice exam. I used GPT to explain the concept. I asked GPT to break it down and explain it to me so even a middle schooler could understand.

N: What would you do if the government banned AI and you had to go through the rest of college without using AI?

I: Crash out and drop out.

I: Bro, when you asked me that, I don't even have an answer right now. I would just crash out. I wouldn't be able to do anything for like an entire week. But people say humans can adapt really fast, so I'm sure I'd adapt without GPT.

N: Yeah, of course.

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N: The real challenge of tackling this problem I think is really less of a problem about access and more of a problem about self-control. I mean, we can't really expect professors or regulators to limit us from using these technologies, because they can't— even if they wanted to.

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N: Have you ever turned in an AI-written assignment you didn't read all the way through?

I: No.

I: I mean, GPT wrote me an eight-page essay, and then I was too lazy to go through all eight pages. So I only went over four pages; I changed some words and sentences, and the other half is just, you know, AI. But I'm sure no one will notice.

N: Do you pay for ChatGPT Premium?

I: No.

I: I mean, I do everything with GPT, so it's a default that I have ChatGPT Premium.

N: Do you care about where your data goes?

I: Well, that's an interesting question. Yes and no. Most of the time, I realize that all my stuff is [already] on the internet, so I don't care. If I'm using ChatGPT, I'm guessing it's there.

N: Good answer.

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N: And then there's transparency. Most people didn't even realize their chats could be saved and used to train models. So I guess at the end of the day, maybe we should stop looking at how we can regulate it and [instead] focus on how we can better self-control it for ourselves. Because AI isn't slowing down for anyone.

(Scene fades to nighttime)