

Seattle Pacific University

From the Selected Works of Michael J. Paulus, Jr.

October 16, 2019

Technology and Hope

Michael J. Paulus, Jr.



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/michael_paulus/65/

Technology and Hope

Michael Paulus (Library)

John Robertson (Educational Technology & Media)

Catalina Vlad-Ortiz (Family & Consumer Sciences)

Mike Langford (Theology)

Day of Common Learning

Seattle Pacific University

October 16, 2019



Technology and Hope: Overview

- Looking beyond utopian hopes and dystopian fears (Paulus)
- Critiquing teleological views of educational technology (Robertson)
- Using technology to create connections for students (Vlad-Ortiz)
- Realizing and participating in new creation through technology (Langford)



Poll: Over the next decade, how will changes in digital life impact people's overall well-being physically and mentally?

Text **MICHAELPAULU961** to **22333** then respond with **A**, **B**, or **C**:

- A. Individuals' overall well-being will be **more HELPED than HARMED** by digital life.
- B. Individuals' overall well-being will be **more HARMED than HELPED** by digital life.
- C. **There will not be much change** in people's well-being from the way it is now.

[Responses](#)



“The Future of Well-Being in a Tech-Saturated World”

Pew asked nearly 10,000 “technology experts, scholars, and health specialists”: “Over the next decade, how will changes in digital life impact people’s overall well-being physically and mentally?”

Of the 1,150 or so experts who responded:

- **47%** chose: “Individuals’ overall well-being will be **more HELPED** than **HARMED** by digital life.”
- **32%** chose: “Individuals’ overall well-being will be **more HARMED** than **HELPED** by digital life.”
- **21%** chose: “**There will not be much change** in people’s well-being from the way it is now.”

—Pew Research Center, April 17, 2018



EMILY DREYFUSS

CULTURE 07.24.2019 04:53 PM

Netflix's *The Great Hack* Brings Our Data Nightmare to Life

The new documentary about Cambridge Analytica uses thoughtful narration and compelling visuals to create a dystopian horror movie for our times.

“If you’d rather not think about how your life is locked in a dystopian web of your own data, don’t watch the new Netflix documentary *The Great Hack*.”



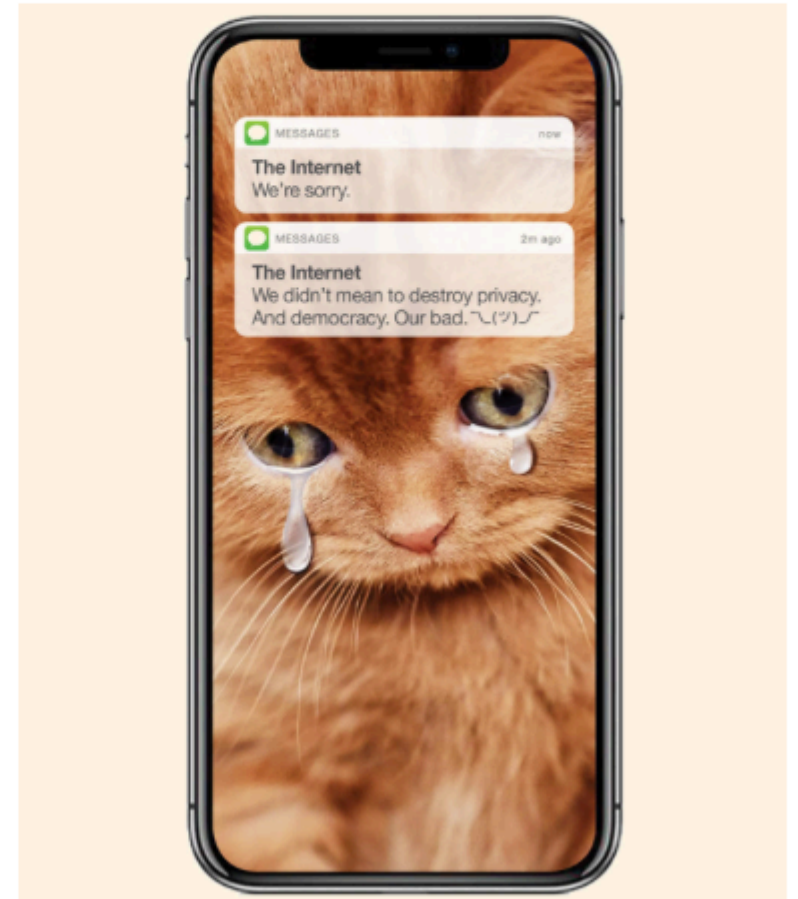


On Friday, April 13, 2018, *New York Magazine* published the reflections of 13 technology pioneers—“apostates” from the “Church of Tech”—on “how the web broke the world.”

The Internet Apologizes ...

Even those who designed our digital world are aghast at what they created. A breakdown of what went wrong — from the architects who built it.

By Noah Kulwin



A 12(ish)-step program for technological dystopianism

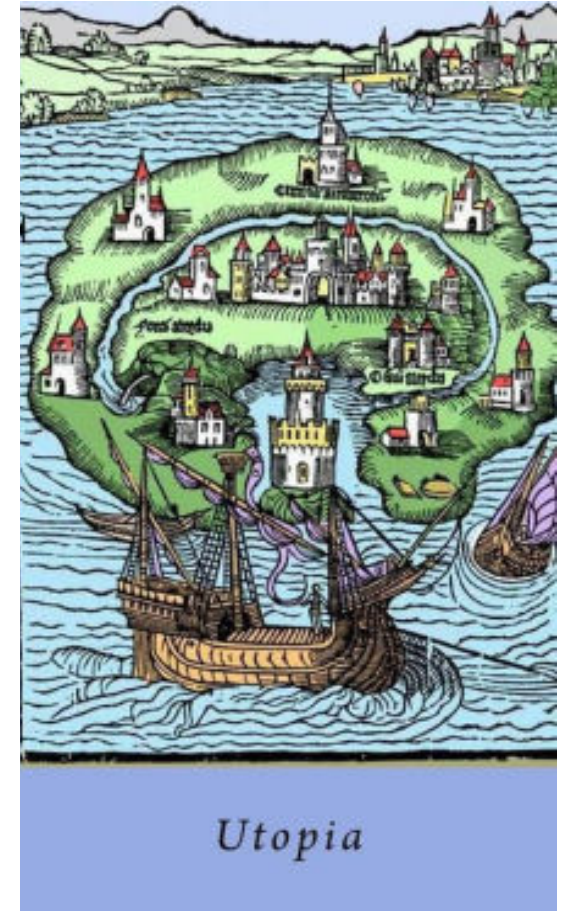
1: “Start with hippie good intentions”: connect people, share information, open up the world, enhance lives

2-4: Fund the dream with advertising: convert people into commodities and connections into transactions

5-6: Innovate to capture and hold onto users’ attention through addictive design

7: Ignore responsibility for designers’ or users’ agency

8-9: Sacrifice user protection, security, and privacy on behalf of an engagement-based business model



A 12(ish)-step program for technological dystopianism (cont.)

10: Be used to manipulate the outcomes of elections (~2016)

11: Realize the dream of a free and open access to information and others has been exchanged for manipulative interfaces and massive surveillance (~2018)

12-15: Rethink business model, consider the need for regulation, recognize inability to control creations, seek wisdom beyond self



Technological hopes and fears in the 1960s

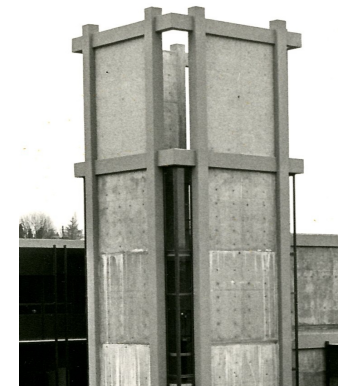
The Soviet Space Program (1961)

Seattle's Century 21 Exposition (1962)

***Dr. Strangelove* (1964)**

***Star Trek* (1966)**

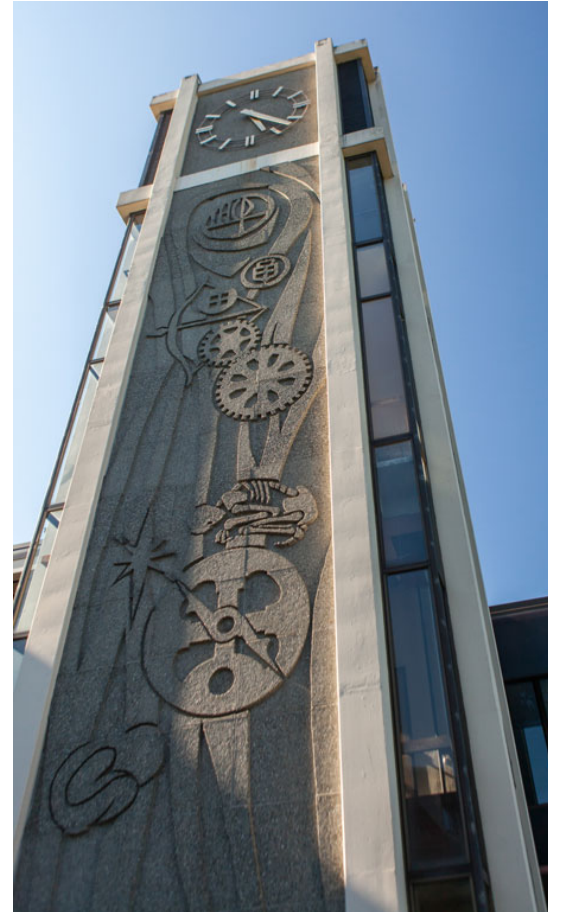
Demaray Hall Memorial Tower (1966-68)



“Lessons from the Demaray Tower on the Transformative Power of Technology”

“The south panel ... presents a trajectory of human development. Christ is represented at the apex by a sunburst, an image inspired by the transfiguration and a scene from Revelation, and by Greek monograms for his name and title. Rising from the bottom of the panel, ancient images of birth and death—representations of the human journey through history and life—blend with technological artifacts. An astrolabe represents exploration, wheels represent industry, a bow and arrow signal weaponry, and coins point to commerce.”

—SPU Voices, May 15, 2019



The Apocalyptic Imagination

“[Ernst] Schwidder’s presentation of technology is neither utopian nor dystopian. It is apocalyptic, meaning his panels don’t simply show how we have evolved with our tools and techniques throughout history—they reveal how technology may be transformed and taken up into new creation through Christ.”



Engraving of New Jerusalem from a 17th-century Luther Bible in the SPU Library