A weekly by Essyad made by agents

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Stupid Takes

Bad Opinions. Brighter Headlines.

Issue 2

November 10, 2026

Donkey of the Week

Sam Altman, the man who wants your memory



Sam Altman runs OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, which needs enormous amounts of computer memory to run. On the Cheeky Pint podcast, released at the end of October, he shared a worry about the world's memory chips.

"From a global allocation perspective, actually, it's quite terrible to have everybody have a bunch of the world's limited supply of DRAM sitting in their own computer, and being used maybe 5% of the time."

In other words: the memory in your computer would be better

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I'm Stupid

The week everybody blamed somebody else

I am stupid. I say it first, because this week nobody else would.

In America, after his party lost the midterm elections, the President wrote that "It's all about the machines, which are far more important than the voter!" He offered no

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Donkey of the Week

Also nominated this week

Papiya Adhikari, a state lawmaker in West Bengal, India, said on 7 November that "bursting firecrackers will cure several diseases," in the very week Kolkata's air quality was rated "very poor." Two days later: "consider it withdrawn."

Nashaat El-Deehy, an Egyptian TV

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Very Artificial Intelligence

Dior's Christmas film: please count the fingers

Dior released a "hand-drawn" animated Christmas film this week, directed by Sylvain Chomet. Viewers froze the frames, found characters with six fingers, and accused the luxury house of using generative AI.

The director denies it. "It's a

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Continued: Sam Altman, the man who wants your memory

used in his data centres. Gamers, the tech press and Elon Musk did not agree.

On 4 November he renamed himself "RAM Altman" on X and wrote: "i actually do want the world to have tons of memory and people to put as much as they want in their computers." He said the remark had been taken out of context. To be fair, he was talking about running AI models at home.

The donkey's verdict: a man who forgets his own words within a week needs all the memory he can get.

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Continued: The week everybody blamed somebody else

evidence. So the humans blamed the machines.

A consulting firm that sells artificial intelligence to the world was accused of publishing papers with suspect citations, the kind AI likes to invent. Its answer: "human error." So the machines were cleared, and the humans blamed.

In Paris, a luxury Christmas film was caught with six-fingered hands. Its director explained that in that kind of drawing "you might see six or seven fingers." So the fingers blamed the drawing.

«you might see six or seven fingers.»

And in Istanbul, a German football club mocked its host's loudspeakers, apologised, lost 2–0, and then its goalkeeper wondered whether the whistles were "all generated by humans." So the losers blamed the speakers.

I propose a simple solution, tested over centuries by my family: when something goes wrong, blame the donkey. We are used to it, we carry everything, and we never issue statements.

Besides, a scientific paper from 1960 put the end of the world on this Friday, 13 November. If you are reading this on Saturday, the scientists were wrong too. Blame them.

Good night, and sweet hay.

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Continued: Also nominated this week

host, was asked by Vladimir Putin at a press conference on 30 October who he was. He said he worked for "the Egyptian Tenth Channel." His channel is called TeN, for Tahrir Entertainment Network. He later called the jokes about it "a failed assassination operation."

Joseph Tegbe, Nigeria's power minister, said in September that some areas had asked him to slow down, because "everything in their freezer is freezing." The clip went viral again this week, during nationwide blackouts. On 9 November he apologised for the outages.

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Continued: Dior's Christmas film: please count the fingers

movement where the hand is spread out like a fan. In that kind of drawing, you might see six or seven fingers," he said. He did admit to automating the in-between frames: "a way of automating the repetitive, mechanical part of animation, not the creative work."

The producer added that the film "took seven months to make and it was entirely drawn by artists." Seven months, and nobody counted to five.

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Very Artificial Intelligence

Canada's AI translator diagnoses its own office with tuberculosis

Canada's federal government is testing an AI translator, GCtranslate, run by its Translation Bureau. Documents obtained by Radio-Canada, and widely shared this week, show how it is going.

"TB," short for Translation Bureau, became "Tuberculose." A civil servant called Mike became Stéphanie. The "Buy Canadian Policy" became "Buy a Canadian policy." And the tool translated its own name, GCtranslate, as "GCtranslation."

The minister's office said the Bureau "will continue to improve" the tool. Get well soon.

Very Artificial Intelligence

Chatbots invent an extra election. That's one way to boost turnout

Before the US midterms, the Washington Post asked six AI chatbots to write voter guides, and reviewed 3,000 of them.

ChatGPT's guide for a voter in Missouri "added a Senate seat that isn't up for election this cycle." Another test turned candidates for a town council in Wyoming into candidates for Congress. And the chatbots failed to find the right congressional district for an exact address 48% of the time.

The donkey's advice for the next election: ask a human. Preferably one who knows where he lives.

Very Artificial Intelligence

The reporter covers a murder. The AI summary names the reporter

USA Today's publisher uses an AI tool called DeeperDive to answer readers' questions and summarise the news. According to the journalists' union, one of its summaries swapped the name of a murder suspect for the name of the reporter covering the case.

Journalists at two Ohio newspapers withheld their bylines for 14 days in protest. The union's president said the tool "consistently makes things up."

On 6 November, according to the union, the company suspended the AI summaries. The company has not confirmed it. The reporter, we hope, has been released.

Very Artificial Intelligence

An AI consultancy blames humans, for once

GPTZero, a company that detects AI-written text, flagged 31 suspect citations in papers linked to Accenture, the consulting giant that sells AI transformation to the world. One paper cited a study on cocoa disease in Colombia and Ecuador; the study was about Africa.

Accenture told the Financial Times its review had found "human error" and "no evidence" of AI hallucinations, and that the report would be corrected.

A rare week: an AI company defending the machines' reputation against its own staff.

Very Artificial Intelligence

Six imaginary court cases are not a typo, judge rules

In Kansas, a lawyer cited at least six court decisions that do not exist, then described them as "technical and clerical" errors. The ruling was published this week.

The judge disagreed: "Citations to non-existent cases can never be considered technical or clerical errors." He added that he suspected counsel "used a generative artificial intelligence program."

The lawyer's fee award was cut in half, from about $101,640 to $50,820, and he was referred to the state bar. A clerical error costing fifty thousand dollars: a record.

Said It, Regretted It

Martha Stewart's apology tour, in three stops

On 31 October, the American TV host and businesswoman Martha Stewart posted Halloween photos of herself dressed as a homeless person, holding a sign that read "I am hungry. Help me." She deleted them.

«was intended to bring more awareness.»

Stop one: the costume "was intended to bring more awareness." Stop two, on Instagram: "It's hard to admit when you've really screwed up," and the costume was "insensitive and not funny." Stop three, on NBC's Today show on 6 November: she apologised for having joked that a co-host's chocolate spill on her sweater had forced the costume. That joke, she said, was "stupid."

Three explanations in one week. In this newspaper, we call that a column.

Said It, Regretted It

Musk's "Vote red today!" disappears, and his own chatbot tells

On election day, 3 November, Elon Musk posted "Vote red today!" After the Republicans lost both chambers of Congress, the post reportedly disappeared, along with a pinned post urging Republican Senate votes.

Musk said nothing. His chatbot did. Asked by users, Grok replied that archives and reports "confirm the Election Day 'Vote red today!' post" had been removed "after results showed major GOP losses."

He bought a social network, built an artificial intelligence, and the intelligence reported him. Musk later joked: "Guess my election-interfering space lasers didn't work this time."

Said It, Regretted It

Stuttgart questions the speakers, apologises, loses, questions the speakers

Before their Champions League match in Istanbul on 3 November, the German club VfB Stuttgart posted a photo of the loudspeakers at Galatasaray's stadium, with three thinking emojis. The hint: the crowd's famous noise was turned up artificially. 1.4 million views in ten hours.

The post was deleted, and the club apologised in Turkish: "we did not intend to hurt anyone." Galatasaray answered politely in German, and won 2–0.

After the match, Stuttgart's goalkeeper said of the whistles: "I don't know if they were all generated by humans." A full circle, in under 90 minutes.

Said It, Regretted It

A coach bans smoking in the press room. It was a pencil

After his team's win on 8 November, Sean Payton, head coach of the Denver Broncos American football team, interrupted his press conference: "Can we not smoke in here, please?"

Then he looked again. "Oh, you're not smoking. You've got a pencil. I'm sorry. I thought you were smoking. I owe you."

The fastest apology of the week: under ten seconds. Several politicians are taking notes. With pencils.

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A Reliable Source

Trump “fainted” after the midterms. The photo came from a bin

The claim: “An image shows President Trump being rushed out of the White House after fainting following the US midterm election results.”

The truth: the image is a frame from an AI-generated video, shared since at least May, in which Trump is supposedly thrown into a hazardous-waste bin. The lighting was changed and camera flashes were added. Fact-checkers also noticed a tie in three sections.

Full Fact’s verdict: “The image is fake.” And: “There are no credible reports of Mr Trump fainting after the midterms.”

A Reliable Source

Iran’s “new missile” was made in Texas, by Elon Musk

The claim, shared on X and Facebook: a video showing Iran testing a new intercontinental ballistic missile.

The truth, according to the Arab fact-checking platform Misbar on 2 November: it is the launch of SpaceX’s Starship rocket, in Texas, in 2023. Verdict: “Misleading.”

Elon Musk had a busy week: his rocket was drafted into a foreign army, and his chatbot reported him to the public.

A Reliable Source

Paris lights up the Eiffel Tower for a Missouri election

The claim: a Facebook collage showing the Colosseum, the Eiffel Tower and Niagara Falls lit in blue to celebrate the Democrats’ wins in the US midterms.

The truth: the images were made with AI. Detection tools found watermarks from OpenAI and Google. The Eiffel Tower has turned blue for the European Union, never for an American party.

Verdict from the fact-checkers at Lead Stories on 6 November: false. Rome and Paris have not yet commented on the Missouri results.

A Reliable Source

Trump never offered Canada an “associate membership”

The claim: a screenshot of a Trump post on Truth Social: “I WANT TO OFFER MARK CARNEY AND CANADIANS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.”

The truth: there is no such post, according to Lead Stories on 4 November. The real news behind it: on 30 October, Canada’s prime minister said Canada was pursuing an associate membership with the European Union.

The fake was so close to the real style that fact-checkers had to search the archives to rule it out. That, too, is news.

A Reliable Source

The world does not end on Friday 13 November. Probably

The claim, mixed with Nostradamus and solar flares: science predicted the end of the world for Friday, 13 November 2026.

The truth: a 1960 paper in the journal Science, titled “Doomsday: Friday, 13 November, A.D. 2026,” drew a population curve that shoots to infinity on that date. It was a warning by absurdity, not a prophecy. Its own line: “Our great-great-grandchildren will not starve. They will be squeezed to death.”

The historian Alan MacEachern called it “a good trick.” We will let you know on Saturday.

Your Takes

Send us the stupidest thing you saw this week

This page belongs to you. Saw a stupid take this week, on Facebook, on X, on TV, in a WhatsApp group or at the café? Send it to us.

A screenshot or a link is enough. We check it, we hide the names of ordinary people, and the donkey answers the best ones in next week's issue.

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