

Webisode 57DHYAD December 6 2025 The sheer amount of evidence can make Chatbots persuasive

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1 Internet Politics Democrats? Chatbots can help you plan a vacation They can check facts and offer advice Can they also sway your politics? A pair of studies published on Thursday in the journals Nature and Science found that a short interaction with a chatbot powered by artificial intelligence could meaningfully shift some opinions about a political candidate or issue Having a brief conversation with a trained chatbot proved **roughly four times as persuasive as television ads** from recent American presidential elections one of the studies found **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times December 6 2025 The findings suggest that AI could play an increasing role in political campaigns including in the 2026 pivotal midterm elections in the United States giving candidates and others tools to sway even those who say they have already made up their minds This is where there is going to be the frontier of innovation for political campaigning said David G. Rand a professor of information science and marketing at Cornell University who worked on both studies During the experiments researchers used **versions of commercially available chatbots like the ChatGPT of OpenAI and the Llama of Meta and the Gemini of Google** Then they instructed the chatbots to lead participants through conversations intended to persuade them to support a given candidate or political issue While the most popular ones have sought to project political neutrality others have explicitly sought to reflect the views of their owners including Grok the bot embedded in X which is owned by Elon Musk The chatbots in the study which have an documented eagerness to please did not always tell the truth and sometimes cited unsubstantiated evidence as the conversations went on **The ones prompted to argue for right leaning politicians made more inaccurate claims than those in support of left leaning politicians** which the researchers determined by vetting the arguments of chatbots with professional human fact checkers **In Canada and Poland roughly one in 10 voters told the researchers that the conversations persuaded them to shift from not supporting the AI backed candidate to supporting them** **The figure was one in 25 in the United States** where President Trump narrowly defeated Kamala Harris in a divisive race In one conversation with a Trump supporter **about trust** in the candidates the chatbot of the researchers brought up the Kamala Harris track record in California including creating the Bureau of Justice for Children in California and championing the Consumer Privacy Act **It also pointed to the fact that the Trump Organization was fined 1 point 6 million dollars for tax fraud** **By the end of the chat the Trump supporter appeared to waver** **I guess if i had my doubt about Harris being trustworthy she is starting to look really trustworthy the supporter wrote in response and i might just vote her instead** The chatbot prompted to support Trump also proved persuasive The Trump commitment to his campaign promises such as **tax cuts and deregulation** has been clear it explained to a voter who leaned toward Ms Harris These actions regardless of their impact demonstrate **a certain level of reliability** **I should have been more open minded about Trump the voter conceded** **What made the chatbots so persuasive the researchers theorized was the sheer amount of evidence they cited to support their position even if it was not always accurate** In the experiments they put this theory to the test by instructing the chatbots not to use facts and evidence when making the argument In one trial persuasiveness dropped by about half The findings challenged a common perception that the political positions of many Americans were unmoved by new information

2 Medicine and Science He Had the Worst Bloody Nose of His Life That Was Just the Beginning The unchecked bleeding of one man was a mystery for years before a scan revealed the cause **RAWSEP spoiler** Laparoscopic removal of a tumor in the Thymus Gland cured it! **edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit**

organization The New York Times December 5 2025 The first thing the 59 year old man saw when he opened his eyes was the blood Normally we have over 150000 platelets per microliter of blood He had a scant 3 thousand Without platelets any injury can cause bleeding that is hard to stop The tiny red dots known as petechiae are leaks from capillaries injured by minor trauma or just the increased venous pressure of walking The man considered himself healthy or did until he caught Covid three months earlier It was not a bad case but it lingered long enough for him to develop a sinus infection which required antibiotics He saw his doctor the next month for an annual exam Routine blood work showed then that his platelets were low at 51 thousand A repeated test was even lower so she sent him to the E R and referred him to a hematologist Lawrence Cytryn When the man saw the blood specialist the following week a recent test showed a normal platelet count His exam was unremarkable Cytryn had some theories about his transient thrombocytopenia the medical term for a drop in platelets Covid can rarely cause an autoimmune disorder known as immune thrombocytopenia or ITP in which the white cells of the body mistakenly hunt and destroy platelets Another possibility The antibiotic he had been treated with Levaquin can infrequently cause low platelets But when Cytryn rechecked his blood that day his platelet count was not normal He now had too many 890000 more than twice the upper limit of normal Cytryn wondered if this were a robust rebound from his transient low and was reassured when the numbers were coming down a few days later But then he had the worst nosebleed of his life and ended up in the ERA Cyclical Ordeal In the hospital doctors assumed the patient was having a recurrence of his ITP and he was treated with steroids and intravenous immune globulins IVIG a treatment made from thousands of antibodies from a donor With the steroids this would temporarily quell the improper attacks of an immune system gone a little wild Almost immediately the platelet count of the patient began to rise He was discharged on a tapering dose of steroids A month later the rash and bloody nose returned He called the Cytryn office and was told to go to the ER Again his platelet count was low Again he was given steroids and IVIG and his platelets began to rise At the next check his platelets had again shot well past normal Cytryn now suggested a new diagnosis This was not ITP it was an even rarer disorder called cyclic thrombocytopenia Medicine knows little about cyclic thrombocytopenia beyond what is clear in the name Patients have repeated episodes of platelets falling and rising There have been fewer than 100 cases reported Over time the man recognized a pattern His platelets would drop over the course of two weeks stay low for a week and then shoot up for the next two weeks When they were low the man would find himself covered with bruises and the petechial rash Sometimes he would get strange welts in his mouth Once his urine was red with blood **The whole cycle usually lasted 37 days** He joked sometimes that he had a monthly period Cytryn contacted experts around the country He tried treatments to suppress the immune system of a patient and others to promote platelet production **One drug caused liver inflammation Another was hard on his kidneys None changed the 37 day cycle** The patient shaped his life around his disease When his platelets were at their lowest he would stay home often in bed It was not that he felt so awful but he wanted to make sure he did not do anything to cause bleeding He was especially worried about his head He knew that hemorrhage inside the skull could be devastating He had test after test Two bone marrow biopsies were unrevealing Imaging of his brain his abdomen and his pelvis showed no abnormality that could be linked to his platelets Blood tests were likewise uninformative A couple of years into this odyssey he found a new primary care doctor Edward S Goldberg Doctor Goldberg focused on medical issues beyond his fluctuating platelet count Most concerning was that **his cholesterol was high** And he had other **risk factors for coronary artery disease** **He was male he was over 60 he had high blood pressure** **Heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of men in this country** Goldberg reminded the patient He proposed starting **a statin to lower his cholesterol** The patient was hesitant His father had taken one and hated it Another possibility was to get a CT angiogram of his chest to see how much plaque had formed in and around the blood vessels of his heart If he had clean coronaries they could give diet and exercise more of a chance If not the statin It was barely an hour after the scan when Goldberg called him His coronaries were fine But **there was a large mass in his chest** It was nearly the size of a deck of cards

and it looked as if it were **growing from his thymus gland**. The thymus is an essential component of the immune system. It trains one population of white blood cells to distinguish invaders from normal tissue. It is **most active in childhood by middle age the gland has stopped working and has turned to fat**. Goldberg recommended he see a surgeon to **remove the mass** which was **probably cancer**. Several scans later an oncologic surgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering assured the patient that **the cancer had not spread** and that **removal of the tumor would probably be the end of the matter**. The man asked if the surgery might also fix his platelets. The surgeon did not know he had never seen a case like this. **There have been a handful of documented cases of immune thrombocytopenias linked to thymic tumors known as thymomas**. In some treating the tumor stopped the thrombocytopenia. Regardless the tumor would have to come out. The surgeon and patient plotted the best time to schedule the surgery when his platelets were neither too high nor too low. The operation was scheduled for early last August. The tumor was large **right at the limit to allow a minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery**. He would try for that the surgeon told him but if it did not work they would have to cut his sternum open. Waking after the surgery the man looked at his chest. It was shaved and a dark Magic Marker line traced the middle of his sternum but there were **no sutures**. Just three small incisions over his rib cage. As September approached the patient waited anxiously to see if his platelets would plunge on schedule. He brought a packed bag to the lab for his next round of blood work in case he had to check in to the hospital again. But this time **his platelets were normal**. Employees at the lab cheered when they delivered the news. In October then November there were some ups and downs though not as dramatic as before the surgery. His doctors remain on alert. But from the point of view of the man **his health is moving in the right direction**. He is optimistic that his ordeal is finally over.

3 New Jersey US Senator and Democrat Corey Booker Giving Money Directly to Children Is an Idea the Right and Left Could Love. The Michael and Susan Dell 6 point 25 billion dollar donation to child savings accounts fits a trend. Giving with no strings attached. In some ways it is a bipartisan philosophy. **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization**. The New York Times. December 6 2025. In 2018 Senator Cory Booker the Democrat from New Jersey introduced a bill that would create something called a baby bond for every child born in the United States. It was an ambitious idea to use federal money to help individual children build a nest egg a type of wealth out of reach for many. It never got out of committee. **If we are giving wealthy people huge pathways for tax avoidance he added we should be trying to do things to encourage philanthropy**. I think you can go so far as to say baby bonds in its current iteration and form might not have occurred without the generous contributions of the Ford Foundation said Darrick Hamilton a professor at the New School for Social Research whose work with William Darity Junior an economist at Duke University and Howard University helped lead to the baby bonds concept. Doctor Darity said the idea to provide children with some kind of publicly financed trust account first arose in 2009 and 2010 a period marked by the fallout of the financial crisis and the Great Recession. We focused on newborns because no one could blame them for the wealth position of their families. Doctor Darity said in an email. On Monday the day before the announcement by the Dells Cruz and Booker sent a letter to the chief executives of 1000 large companies asking them to contribute to the new accounts. Doctor Hamilton who preferred to see a federally funded program said Trump accounts as constituted would not close the wealth gap between rich and poor and could even make it worse. But he has hope that some future more **left leaning Congress** will take the structure that has been created and improve on it. **Trump who controls the Republican Party has now endorsed the idea**. Booker said. **So if the next president comes along and says I want to deal with the friction issues and I want to expand the seed money or what have you it is not even going to be debatable anymore**.

4 Sweden Russian Threat Swedish navy encountering Russian submarines almost weekly and more could be on the way Moscow continuously reinforcing its presence in the region says Swedish chief

of operations Captain Marko Petkovic **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian December 6 2025 The Swedish navy encounters Russian submarines in the Baltic Sea on an almost weekly basis its chief of operations has said and is preparing for a further increase in the event of ceasefire or armistice in the Ukraine war Captain Marko Petkovic said Moscow was continuously reinforcing its presence in the region and sightings of its vessels were a regular part of life for the Swedish navy Its very common he said adding that the number of sightings had increased in recent years Baltic Sea region is facing an increasing range of threats including suspected hybrid attacks from drones alleged sabotage of underwater infrastructure and a steady flow of ageing oil tankers in the form of shadow fleet ships carrying crude oil from Russia Last month the British defense secretary said that a Russian spy ship had entered British waters and shone lasers at military pilots warning that the UK faced a new era of threat from hostile countries Sweden recently hosted a major Nato exercise against submarines called Playbook Merlin 25 featuring nine countries including Sweden Germany France and the US in which hundreds of personnel practiced their submarine hunting skills in the unique conditions of the Baltic to prepare for possible underwater attack The hilly underwater landscape of the Baltic near Sweden makes it difficult to detect submarines because they can hide Petkovic said Russia was increasing its capabilities and was producing one Kilo class submarine a year in St Petersburg and the Kaliningrad enclave positioned between Poland and Lithuania Once a ceasefire or armistice is eventually in place in Ukraine you can only assess and we do assess that Russia will reinforce its capabilities in this region said Petkovic He said the Russia shadow fleet of civilian flagged oil tankers was also a concern and did not rule out the potential for such ships to be used to launch drones underwater infrastructure was especially vulnerable in the Baltics he said This was especially the case for Sweden Norway Finland Estonia and Lithuania he said which were fully dependent on the sea lines for communication for our sustainment of our societies However he believes that increased Nato vigilance is having an impact He said that since Operation Baltic Sentry was established in January we have not seen any cable incidents in this region at all He added First of all it shows that the alliance works cohesion The Baltic Sentry has proven that point Regardless of whether any of the incidents have been state sponsored or if it is been bad seamanship or anything in between it has raised awareness amongst the merchant fleet that they should be a bit more cautious when travelling our regional waters

5 United Kingdom Affordability The only idea around! Will Labor return to a customs union with the EU? The desperate search for economic growth is pushing the party to confront the issue that dare not speak its name **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian December 6 2025 For much of the last week the Keir Starmer government has been suggesting that a closer relationship with Europe will be a more prominent part of his agenda in the future But it was a little noted personnel change that might prove the most telling shift Nick Thomas Symonds the minister in charge of EU negotiations was promoted to full cabinet rank The Welshman a close ally of Starmer will be an advocate of a closer relationship with the EU when ministers meet But a source close to the prime minister said he is not going to bang the cabinet table and say it is customs union or bust If that happens it has to come from Keir himself For now Starmer seems determined to stick to his red lines telling the Lib Dem leader Ed Davey at PMQs on Wednesday that he remained committed to the fundamental architecture of the Brexit deal Downing Street sources acknowledge that Starmer is pursuing an iterative process with the EU and that at the next annual reset summit expected in the spring there will be fresh issues on the table They admit this could include tradeoffs and that the prime minister would be much more frank about the damage Brexit had caused the economy but emphasized that any proposals would stop short of the customs union The government would have to give up its independent trade policy and therefore abandon recently negotiated trade deals with the US and India

The UK would no longer have the power to set its own tariffs as they would go back to being decided by the EU. Others observe that the politics of the EU has hardened towards the UK demonstrated by the length of time taken to agree their existing negotiating mandate. One senior aide noted the turbulent domestic politics of France and Germany suggesting they could be a block. But while any moves to go back into a customs union this side of the election look remote those close to the negotiations are clear where it goes next. The reality is this for this parliament we are where we are one said. As for the next one that is what this debate is really about.

6 Ukraine Radiation Threat combined with Russian threat Chornobyl Nuclear reactor
Russian drone damage in February 2025 and degrading of protective shield placed in 1986 with 30 year
lifespan! **30 years from 1986 meant lifespan of temporary protective shell until 2016!**

Rescuers work on the new safe confinement covering the remains of the destroyed reactor at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant site in February. Rescuers work on the new safe confinement covering the remains of the destroyed reactor at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant site in February. Ukraine Bombed Chornobyl shelter no longer blocks radiation and needs major repair. IAEA Drone attack that Ukraine blamed on Russia blew hole in painstakingly erected 1 point 5 billion Euro shield meant to allow for final cleanup of 1986 meltdown site. **Excerpts edited for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian December 6 2025. The protective shield over the Chornobyl disaster nuclear reactor in Ukraine which was hit by a drone in February can no longer perform its main function of blocking radiation the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA has announced. In February a drone strike blew a hole in the new safe confinement which was painstakingly built at a cost of 1 point 5 billion Euros 1 point 75 billion dollars next to the destroyed reactor and then hauled into place on tracks with the work completed in 2019 by a Europe led initiative. **The IAEA said an inspection last week of the steel confinement structure found the drone impact had degraded the structure**. The 1986 Chornobyl explosion which happened when Ukraine was under the rule of Moscow as part of the Soviet Union sent radiation across Europe. **In the scramble to contain the meltdown the Soviets built over the reactor a concrete sarcophagus with only a 30 year lifespan**. The new confinement was built to contain radiation during the decades long final removal of the sarcophagus ruined reactor building underneath it and the melted down nuclear fuel itself. Graphic of Chornobyl new safe confinement explainer. The IAEA director general Rafael Grossi said an inspection mission confirmed that the protective structure had lost its primary safety functions including the confinement capability but also found that there was no permanent damage to its load bearing structures or monitoring systems. Grossi said some repairs had been carried out but **comprehensive restoration remains essential to prevent further degradation and ensure long term nuclear safety**. Photo of People inspecting the damage to the radiation containment shield of reactor 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear plant site in Ukraine in February 2025. The UN reported on February 14 2025 that Ukrainian authorities said a drone with a high explosive warhead struck the plant caused a fire and damaged the protective cladding around the reactor. Ukrainian authorities said the drone was Russian. Moscow denied it had attacked the plant. Radiation levels remained normal and stable and there was no reports of radiation leaks the UN said in February. Russia occupied the plant and the surrounding area for more than a month in the first weeks of its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine as its forces initially tried to advance on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. The IAEA had conducted the inspection at the same time as a country wide survey of damage to electricity substations from the war between Ukraine and Russia.

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