

Friends of Attention | First Friday May 2026 with Tim Wu *Chat Transcript*

2026-05-01 14:04:01 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

LULU! SoRA's new Communications Coordinator 🎉

2026-05-01 14:12:46 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:

Sorry Elise! It was like a cliffhanger!

2026-05-01 14:12:50 From asú to Everyone:

Brooke - send me a hi! asu8@riseup.net

2026-05-01 14:13:00 From Lulu Abathra to Everyone:

Replying to "LULU! SoRA's new Communications Coordinator 🎉":
Hi everyone!

2026-05-01 14:13:51 From Lindsay to Everyone:

Hi! Someone mentioned an educator group. Is this something I can find on the website?

2026-05-01 14:14:04 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

Replying to "Hi! Someone mentioned an educator group. Is this s...":
<https://www.schoolofattention.org/education-for-attention>

2026-05-01 14:14:06 From Alex Davis to Everyone:

EfA!

2026-05-01 14:14:06 From Etienne Turpin to Everyone:

10 years since Attention Merchants! Incredible.

2026-05-01 14:14:17 From Lindsay to Everyone:

Replying to "Hi! Someone mentioned an educator group. Is this s...":
Thank you!

2026-05-01 14:14:21 From Lulu Abathra to Everyone:

Replying to "Hi! Someone mentioned an educator group. Is this s...":
Yes Educator for Attention!^

2026-05-01 14:17:33 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:

Add yourself to the Attention Atlas! <https://www.schoolofattention.org/atlas>

2026-05-01 14:20:01 From Alex Davis to Everyone:
Anyone based in Boston who would want to pair up?

2026-05-01 14:20:39 From Marit MacArthur (UC Davis) to Everyone:
Or Northern California?

2026-05-01 14:20:46 From Kyle Winston to Everyone:
Im in Cambridge, Alex!

2026-05-01 14:21:02 From Akua to Everyone:
Replying to "Or Northern California?":
Here!

2026-05-01 14:21:32 From Marit MacArthur (UC Davis) to Everyone:
Replying to "Or Northern California?":
I'm in Sacramento—teach at UC Davis—used to live in Oakland—where are you?

2026-05-01 14:21:47 From Alex Davis to Everyone:
Replying to "Im in Cambridge, Alex!":
Would love to connect! Adavis@dean.edu

2026-05-01 14:21:53 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:
(If anybody knows Oprah, feel free to share 😊)

2026-05-01 14:22:25 From Akua to Everyone:
Replying to "Or Northern California?":
I'm in Sac and teach at UCD!

2026-05-01 14:23:25 From Brian Rosen to Peter Schmidt (direct message):
Heya... I know Graham had been meaning to put us in contact, but it probably got lost in his travel prep. I'm at Google X and thinking of ways to collaborate with SORA. I'm in the east coast for another few days and then back to SF: bmrosen@gmail.com 415-420-3932

2026-05-01 14:23:27 From asú to Everyone:
trés chicccc

2026-05-01 14:23:38 From Tim O'Brien to Everyone:
SO COOL

2026-05-01 14:24:00 From Peter Schmidt to Brian Rosen (direct message):
Replying to "Heya... I know Graham had been meaning to put us i...":
Got it! Thanks for the extra boost. I will text you, if that's alright.

2026-05-01 14:24:08 From Brian Rosen to Peter Schmidt (direct message):
Perfect.

2026-05-01 14:24:22 From Etienne Turpin to Everyone:
<https://www.lechappee.org/collections/pour-en-finir-avec/la-guerre-de-attention>

2026-05-01 14:24:37 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
Study Corps FR!

2026-05-01 14:24:46 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:
Reminds me of "EYES UP" - our poster art exhibition for Attention Activism:
<https://www.schoolofattention.org/art-programs-archive/eyes-up-opening-reception>

2026-05-01 14:24:57 From Marit MacArthur (UC Davis) to Everyone:
Replying to "Or Northern California?":
What?! Great! We'll connect... last name?

2026-05-01 14:27:10 From Akua to Everyone:
Replying to "Or Northern California?":
Banful

2026-05-01 14:32:10 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:
Hotel lobby - not a lot here that's mine. But I attended to the weird lobby artworks on the wall — art being a sort of cultural freedom zone. I can attend to these works of art "as I will" (or not at all)...

2026-05-01 14:32:13 From Molly E Vasich to Everyone:
Replying to "Or Northern California?":
I'm in the main room in my house and several "what you will" spaces including a piano with scores on top, homemade protest signs, and a chicken coop temperature gauge!

2026-05-01 14:32:19 From Brian Janosch to Everyone:
Joining from a conference room in my office, I'm struck by how restrictive so much of the space feels. But an empty white board (the blank page) feels free and inviting — it's here for what I will.

2026-05-01 14:32:32 From Kyle Winston to Everyone:
two rugs, one new
they're their own space
and they are for themselves
to be seen
the wood floor between them and the wall
that's yet to be determined
and where

when I want to do something
I go there

2026-05-01 14:32:40 From Christel to Everyone:

desk = work & WWW; sofa = rest, www (watch tv, read) rug = rest, www, window shows outdoors =www

2026-05-01 14:32:44 From Eve Mitchell to Everyone:

zones of work, rest, self-presentation. my cat has many zones but is himself unbound by restriction.

2026-05-01 14:32:45 From Ingrid Jacobsen to Everyone:

Books in stacks; time spent in other lives, those that wrote, and the infinite future me that reads

2026-05-01 14:32:46 From Amanda Huron to Everyone:

I'm on the roof of our public library. What I will: sitting in the warm sun and feeling its warmth. Imagining wandering in the stacks. Looking at the incredible array of native plantings on the rooftop garden, thinking about gardening. Friends here at the library today, running into them, talking to them.

2026-05-01 14:32:48 From Tascio, Peter to Everyone:

In my office so mainly work but I noticed that I do have a lot of "what I will":

- a digital frame with pictures of my loved ones and great memories
- a shelf with meaningful gifts
- attending this meeting also!

2026-05-01 14:32:49 From Melissa (she/her) to Everyone:

What You Will:

5 small pots with dirt, for plants that have since passed on - an opportunity for future growth and a reminder of what was

Nail polish - bright pink

A yoga mat, never used for yoga. But instead, for my own type of stretching and weights

A journal, red and orange

Fuzzy slippers. My favorite

2026-05-01 14:32:49 From Michael Boyden to Everyone:

my what you will zone, corner with guitar, Ekstrom fauteuil and books I read just for pleasure

2026-05-01 14:32:51 From Akua to Everyone:

The zone of what I will is outside my 9th floor office window, floating above the trees.

2026-05-01 14:32:51 From Alex Davis to Everyone:

Sitting outside in a park situated near a shopping mall. Considering how the economy interfaces with leisure, and how leisure can be extracted and commodified in ways that feel pleasurable but also can feel compulsive and fracked.

2026-05-01 14:32:54 From Tim Wu to Everyone:
I'm glad I have movie posters and my skis in this room

2026-05-01 14:32:58 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
The question is exactly "what we will" - I found myself thinking so hard about the core question of freedom (and constraint); but just the straight forward problem.... How do "want what we want to want"... which is as hard (harder?) than WHERE we will do it (when we figure out what it is!)

2026-05-01 14:32:59 From Leo Kiralla to Everyone:
Being in my office, I attended to my own body and letting go of all the work that surrounds me.

2026-05-01 14:33:01 From Meghan (she/they) to Everyone:
My back porch is a place for rest, attention, and recharging. I don't bring work out there. I don't get on my phone. I just sit and watch the trees moving, watch the birds, watch the wasps building nests. I zone out and take a break from my very saturated days.

2026-05-01 14:33:13 From Lindsay to Everyone:
It's the couch in my office. It is my favorite place to get anything done. All of my pets can fit there with me at one time and I can really just focus on what I decide to.

2026-05-01 14:33:18 From Marit MacArthur (UC Davis) to Everyone:
I'm in a study with a lot of books. And a TV and super comfy sofa I never sit on to read or watch but my kids do. One is a great reader, the other reads but is in danger of losing the battle for her attention to devices. Daily struggle. Will they ever read most of these books?

2026-05-01 14:33:27 From christel to Everyone:
it strikes me how these 3 areas are rarely separated nowadays, with working from home at least some of the time

2026-05-01 14:33:30 From Molly Zapp to Everyone:
Replying to "Or Northern California?":
The altar, dusty. My baby's Moses basket, borrowed from the neighbors. Photos of my neices and nephews, who got pretty cute. April.

2026-05-01 14:33:40 From asú to Everyone:
In terms of EDITING, my entire room is dedicated to WHAT I WILL (what do I want to surround myself with?). in terms of PURPOSE, there are spaces dedicated to the opposite of what I will (like my altar, which is for my ancestors and more than human entities), and spaces that are

precisely about what I will (like my art materials that I use for creative moments, or my attention books and notes that I use for my research — which is, at the same time, not about me!). so at the end I'm reflecting about how will is necessarily a border zone.

2026-05-01 14:33:51 From Soren van Loben Sels to Everyone:

I am in a study room. The places for work are obvious: whiteboard, table, plugs to charge your devices. The place for rest, at least for me, is obvious as well: couch and floor. One has to look more carefully for the space of what you will. It sits in the corner of the whiteboard, where people scribble jokes for the next inhabitant; in the space of the windows, where your friends can spot you and intervene in your focused studying; and of course in the way that one can just not study when one should. Like joining this meeting

2026-05-01 14:34:21 From Brian Rosen to Everyone:

This is a small one bedroom pied a terre situation, so everything ends up being multi-purpose. And thanks to fortune and some smart/lucky decisions earlier in life, very little that I do feels like anything other than what I will to do.

2026-05-01 14:34:36 From Stephen Gleich to Everyone:

political protest markers for writing posters, meditation, doing the dishes, maintaining this house, online puzzles and chess, caring for Lilly

2026-05-01 14:34:46 From Lulu Abathra to Everyone:

I have a bed to rest, a desk to work, and a mirror to get dressed. It might be a symptom of New York living, but I have no dedicated zones for what I will. Not for painting, not for reading (other than my bed). However, my swirl chair is a place for will, it is fun. And my Yoga Mat, for fun.

2026-05-01 14:35:25 From Mark Dixon he/ to Everyone:

The wall size white board a splatter painting of notes, ideas, poetry, images of a semester in the wilderness of attention to some really fundamental and fundamentally fun, hard aspects of being a learner at Guilford College in 2026.... It's soooo much. I see the words shame, love, ghost car, dynoberries, a collection of circles, and a giant timeline that isn't really about time... it would take a book to explain. It was what WE will and at the end of a semester it brings tears to consider.

2026-05-01 14:47:56 From Wess Daniels to Everyone:

Thanks Tim. I want to read both right now.

2026-05-01 14:48:36 From Lindsay to Everyone:

Replying to "Thanks Tim. I want to read both right now.":

I just bumped them up my TBR to "definitely read this summer."

2026-05-01 14:49:25 From Ingrid Jacobsen to Everyone:

What, plausibly, do you think would work

to limit the extraction of attention as a “resource”?

2026-05-01 15:00:10 From David Landes to Everyone:

Legal construct of “attentional harm,” make it expensive to steal our shit.

Dismantle the edtech chain that extracts from users. Ban microsegmenting ads.

Protect the youth laws

Requirement for tech to fund human flushing elements: rebuild what they destroy.

Zone an attentional commons in digital spaces

2026-05-01 15:00:10 From Joost Burgers to Everyone:

Lulu: Banning billboards. Sao Paulo in Brazil has done this. Since 2008 there are no billboards in public space or in public transportation. It’s a big picture move to reduce grabbing attention in public space, but not necessarily on phones.

Akua: Need more media literacy courses. Surrounded by visual noise and the power of discernment is not something you can take for granted. Limit the sale of data. That is the biggest incentive to turn us into products. Limiting that would reduce the noise.

Amanda Huron: Ban on phones in schools. Big picture: social pressure to make distraction taboo. That is in a group setting folks can’t pull out their phone.

Joost: A paid version of tools we use without the extractive logic built in.

Elise: Education and conversation...

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:00:33 From David Landes to Everyone:

re: tim's article about attn in the law

2026-05-01 15:00:36 From Molly E Vasich to Everyone:

Cynthia:

business and education, education is following business, we forgot who we are.

redesigning curriculum with attention and sanctuary as the spine of the general curriculum
autonomy and choice

Leo:

-help folks to buy into boundaries as useful and then have policies to support that.

Ben F:

“governing the commons” (conventional wisdom: if you have a resource that everyone is free to use but there is a limited amount of- everyone will try to rush to get them all. BUT in practice: people learn to share!)

slowing down extraction by getting the people who are the best at extracting attention to have to do arms control.

Molly:

the need for both policy and opportunities for learning and social understanding/influence.

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:00:55 From David Landes to Everyone:

Attn tax!

Wess Daniels: 🎉

Molly E Vasich, Elettra Bietti: 👍

2026-05-01 15:01:11 From Etienne Turpin to Everyone:

MM _ Skeptical about legal possibility; politicians rely on Big tech for their campaigns and the prop up their own power;

TM _ impressed by movement to ban phones and social media around the world; AI is getting attention re: policy and regulation; Stolen Focus book has 12 points to attack to treat the problem, including education and policy, so it is a massive societal issue. Asia is more into it as a public health crisis; in US, it is harder for policy but it is critical.

JW _ public health is a good angle. Attention Hygiene is a good framing. Mental health is a good angle to potential political space.

MM _ Youth focus leads to more success.

TM _ NYT has an article on it every day. 7 hours a day on social media. Nicolas Car's work is also important.

MM _ Education is necessary and science is catching up. Schools need to warn about overuse and hazards—working memory, deep work, etc.

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:01:13 From Ingrid Jacobsen to Everyone:

Wess - has been teaching a class on silence - quaker studies at Guilford. Phones go in a phone bin, sanctuary space. Goal is to build capacity to sit in silence together

Class also goes birding, wandering walks

Grinding coffee, making pour overs. Slow, tedious, ritualistic actions as practices of building attentional muscles

Molly - collective enjoyment, Thomas Moore's reenchancement of everyday life

Policy side - what worked with smoking....'I actually preferred the non-smoking club/side' so it grows

Many different approaches

Peter - tobacco analogy - ability to demonstrate that secondhand smoke was bad for people, esp for kids...youth well being is an effective strategy

Underscore JOY as something that brings together strategic and personal interventions

Ingrid - awareness of success in personal and business worlds — knowing that another org was successful outside of the usual demands/assumptions of the extraction economy builds confidence that another way is possible

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:01:14 From Jonathan Gershberg to Everyone:
Attention tax indeed!

Elettra Bietti: 👍

2026-05-01 15:01:18 From Kyle Winston to Everyone:
Mary:

trying to make attention part of pedagogy
thru trial and error

SCOLDING DOESN'T WORK

have discovered: when students experience a free attention, it's seductive in the best way
people should experience of the gifts of attention
Students know something is wrong!

Michael:

In terms of education of the young
struggled with son
public schools are more concerned with PRODUCTIVITY
openness/non-determined mind
tech requires that there is always a next moment to be working toward
Waldorf schools dont give wheels to kids, because theyre powerful
FUTURAL FORM
children don't have space to gave at bugs
idleness is not available!

Kyle:

Necessary to make space!

Ren:

Education does influence programming!
Using valuable experience (have the students feel it) in order to educate

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:01:19 From Etienne Turpin to Everyone:

TM _ Not getting married; not having kids; not being in society.

JW _ Bottom up approach is great, focus on agency; theoretically, can we reach a critical mass to accept regulation, then what does the regulation look like?

ET _ we could use CAPTology list from Stanford as a set of functions / operations that should be regulated out of existence, and the basis for fines and asset seizures of tech companies that use CAPTological features.

2026-05-01 15:01:25 From Meghan (she/they) to Everyone:

1. Outlaw algorithms, legal restrictions on corporations
2. Education - more time educating people/students about what's happening when you're at the mercy these things, about how they can use tech tools differently (not on autopilot)
3. No cell phones and no computers in the classroom, and more pen to paper exercises
4. Creating social spaces and communities where different forms of attention are experimented with and valued. Broadening or expanding our understanding of different kinds of attention (as a spectrum, rather than a binary).

Soren van Loben Sels, Wess Daniels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:01:35 From Tascio, Peter to Everyone:

Room 8

- Jonathan: Tax when someone pays for a digital ad that requires using attention as a resource; make advertising more expensive; tax does not limit a resource (think tobacco); tax the purchasing of it and/or the companies themselves; make advertising more expensive by adding a tax; by increasing that tax you could decrease participation; tax goal is to depress use of that thing; Maryland has passed something like this but it's bogged down in court; The argument is that advertising is free speech and that taxing it limits free speech;

- Pete: Pay people for their attention. Some sort of profit sharing since these companies make money off of our attention.

- Rebecca: Companies should have a legal requirement for transparency. Reveal what it is that they want to do and get your permission.

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:01:42 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:

MARIT:

Zoning - tech free spaces, theaters are an example, bedrooms

Not just a space against but a space for - Catalytic instead of extractive

Open-source summit - peer-sky - "rebuilding the internet for a better world"

Thomas Pynchon - is it okay to be a luddite?

Shame doesn't work, this is designed to exploit us

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:01:46 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:

Replying to "MARIT: Zoning - tech free spaces, theaters are an ...":

SOREN:

Zoning in the personal sphere - have your own life zones, physical spaces

How to approach this from a social instead of a personal view

Not just luddite-view, but for ex: organization for transformative works and Wikimedia - massive online spaces that are extraction-less, spaces that are collectively made and maintained - "the old internet"

Use supported, user run organizations

Where my Luddism comes in - no more short-form video content!

More sanctuaries! Having a very specific goal that a space is going for... how do we get more spaces to work the idea of the sanctuary into the function of the space?

LARRY:

The fixed cost of making a wiki page was close to zero - today's technologies that are most widely used and gaining momentum are enormously expensive to operate

Ability to have free, good-will efforts that are open-sourced and common endeavors is getting hard to do

That gen of tech was made to be free, whereas now we are facing trillion dollars just to get in the room

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:01:46 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:

Christel, Tim, asu, Gwen: (part 1)

Christel - There's so much that's big and overwhelming. And it's so important to pay attention to human beings coming together to push back. There's some legislation happening for us locally to ban phones in schools (New Haven, CT)

Asu - cell phone banning has been happening in Brazil for a while, I have friends / teachers who report things are calmer!. Because I've been into this for so long, my first thought is Attention Activism! But something I've never done is apply systemic thinking into this - there's individual, state, etc. levels. What action will connect other levels? Is there another way to think of this beside the way I've been thinking of attention activism - in community and communal

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:02:27 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:

Christel, Tim, asu, Gwen: (part 2)

Tim - resonating because I often feel like it's on me as an individual. I'll feel "lazy" etc. but there's systems that are so enticing and causing addiction. And they need to be dealt with - everyone has this addiction and micro-consumption. I struggle to think of a blanket solution because I'm assigning so much responsibility to myself

Christel - I'm thinking of this as analogous to energy consumption. You need so many solutions together

Asu - We need to not just diversify energy sources, but limit our energy growth.

Gwen - Increasingly looking at Systems thinking models and shifting our mental models and values increases our leverage for change. Looking at single events is helpful for analysis, but for creation, it can be helpful to work from the values and mental models first. So moving and

intentionally designing away from extraction and towards creation, creativity, flourishing, etc.

2026-05-01 15:02:29 From Brian Janosch to Everyone:

Oh no! Our group forgot to designate the note taker, but from memory:

In education, the best tool has been regulation: take the tech away

Somehow “shift the value” so there’s some other definition of value to corporations.

... and also educate and empower people to see the value of what they inherently have. That attention is valuable to us.

Tim noted the parallel to environmental movement that long ago felt silly – why protect a forest? But people had to come to see it in a new light.

Soren van Loben Sels: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:03:02 From Brian Rosen to Everyone:

As a group that believes strongly in individual freedom, we’re inherently leery of legal mechanism that limit those freedoms. That said, a frame work that limits CORPORATE freedom seems more feasible.

One could imagine AI agents running locally on your devices that act as a layer in between the platforms seeking to frack attention. Facebook can present whatever it wants, but your personalized agent which is attuned to your well being and attentional agency will deliver the feed that’s “best” for you (for some value of best).

We have to be careful that this doesn’t lead to an infantilized or siloed individual.

Cynthia Nearman (she/they), Wess Daniels: 🙌

2026-05-01 15:03:05 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

Environmental movement crossover event @SoRA NEXT FRIDAY:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ai-attention-activism-and-environmental-justice-an-evening-of-discussion-tickets-1987954494407>

2026-05-01 15:03:09 From Elettra Bietti to Everyone:

We discussed tensions between individual agency approaches to limiting attention extraction and collective/paternalistic approaches to limiting attention extraction. On the agency side, Alex talked about dance, embodiment and agency in the body, and Stephen talked about meditative practice as an antidote to attention extraction. On the collective side, Elettra discussed some of her work on attention taxation, i.e. taxes measured on time spent online, which could incentivize platforms and tech companies to redesign tech towards less attention extraction. We also discussed paradoxes around agency and meditation such as the fact that tech companies openly market mindfulness and the ability of their technologies to advance it.

2026-05-01 15:03:15 From asú to Everyone:

“It is difficult for the law to lead” - Wu

Jonathan Gershberg: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:03:44 From Lauren Guilmette to Everyone:

Geoff - somehow we have to monetize and charge people to grab our attention, back to Eleanor's thoughts about May Day, could we unionize brains?

Maddy - taking away monetization abilities on social media platforms, to deincestivize creating addictive media... YouTube wasn't monetized at the start...

Mark - I'm not a policy or law professor, so I approach this as thinking about how to throw a better party - it appears to be an asymmetric fight, that the attention merchants have us, but they're doing this through the tiny bottleneck of 0s and 1s, so it's really asymmetric the other way, we have human relations, beauty, sensations... How to turn the NO of banning tech in classrooms into an affirmative YES

We are not drawn to the word "plausible"... Let's be implausible as a first step to any hard problem

Geoff - new policy in Maine k-12 schools to ban devices

Mark - problem with higher ed is it's harder to do that here, but still subject to the same struggles

Geoff - we're all in the struggle

2026-05-01 15:03:51 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:

Replying to "Christel, Tim, asu, Gwen: (part 2) Tim - resonatin...":

Asu - Working with creative vital energy, when we're demotivated and not caring, we aren't paying attention to being extracted from. When it's vial and we're alive and have energy, now it matters that I'm being extracted from!

2026-05-01 15:04:16 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

I LOVE Mark's response: "I approach this [problem] as thinking about how to throw a better party "

Jonathan Gershberg, Maddy Teichmann, Lauren Guilmette: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:04:44 From Etienne Turpin to Everyone:

Once reference that I highly recommend that we've been reading here in Montreal is Lovink's new book Platform Brutality – great compliment to Attensity! and Tim's books –

<https://valiz.nl/en/publications/platform-brutality>

2026-05-01 15:04:48 From David Landes to Everyone:

mobilize the religious right to reclaim attn as sanctified and AMERICAN

Amanda Huron: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:04:56 From Marit MacArthur (UC Davis) to Everyone:

Worth rereading, Thomas Pynchon's 1984 editorial, Is It O.K .to be a Luddite?

<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/97/05/18/reviews/pynchon-luddite.html>?

Etienne Turpin, Lindsay, Wess Daniels, Tascio, Peter: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:05:17 From Michael Lang to Everyone:
pynch

2026-05-01 15:05:40 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:

Reminds me today especially of labor organizer and poet “Utah” Phillips :

“You are about to be told one more time that you are America's most valuable natural resource. Have you seen what they do to valuable natural resources?! Have you seen a strip mine? Have you seen a clear cut in the forest? Have you seen a polluted river? Don't ever let them call you a valuable natural resource! They're going to strip mine your soul. They're going to clear cut your best thoughts for the sake of profit unless you learn to resist,..”

Jacob Weger, Luisa Dantas (she/her), Cynthia Nearman (she/they), Lindsay: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:06:11 From Wess Daniels to Everyone:

Replying to “Worth rereading, Thomas Pynchon’s 1984 editorial, ...”:

Great - I want to do some more historical study of Luddites and their influence. I don't think we need to push back so hard on them. I think there's some wisdom for what we're trying to do.

Cynthia Nearman (she/they), Lindsay: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:06:13 From Lindsay to Everyone:

Replying to “As a group that believes strongly in individual fr...”:

You did a great job of capturing our discussion. Thank you!

2026-05-01 15:07:26 From Marit MacArthur (UC Davis) to Everyone:

Replying to “Worth rereading, Thomas Pynchon’s 1984 editorial, ...”:

Yes, they were resisting capitalist exploitation. Not bad to be a Luddite. “Funny” that it became bad.

Lindsay: 100

2026-05-01 15:07:42 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

SHOUT OUT BRIAN ROSEN!

Brian Rosen, Lindsay: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:08:19 From Ren to Everyone:

I tried the no advertising thing, also fasted from media for 11months :O

Lulu Abathra: ❤️

2026-05-01 15:09:08 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

<https://noad-app.com/front-page/>

2026-05-01 15:09:12 From Lulu Abathra to Everyone:

<https://futurism.com/new-smart-glasses-block-advertising>

2026-05-01 15:09:19 From Brian Janosch to Everyone:

More and more of a casino every day

Ren, Wess Daniels: 👍

2026-05-01 15:09:24 From Marit MacArthur (UC Davis) to Everyone:

Love that analogy

2026-05-01 15:09:28 From Soren van Loben Sels to Everyone:

CJ the X's essay about how a more paid internet might be good is very interesting

<https://cjthex.com/what-is-to-be-done/>

2026-05-01 15:09:52 From Wess Daniels to Everyone:

Totally agree but I'm finding it hard to convince colleagues of this point, Tim.

2026-05-01 15:10:13 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

Replying to "CJ the X's essay about how a more paid internet mi...":

CJ is a good friend of ours 😊

2026-05-01 15:14:03 From Brian Rosen to Everyone:

RE: Refusing to see attention as a commodity - Just like oil is only valuable for what it's actually used for, attention is only valuable for what IT is used for. How is attention operationalized by those who seek to commoditize it. Refusing to let you attention BE a commodity requires one to REFUSE to cooperate with the purposes that the commoditizers intend.

2026-05-01 15:14:07 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

"HUMAN FLOURISHING"

2026-05-01 15:14:47 From Torbet McNeil to Everyone:

The tech fixes (Freedom, etc. are too easy to circumvent) are just not good enough right now. Definitely room to grow there. You can't even get away from Wifi really these days at home with companies penetrating that space whether you want it or not. Need regulation there it seems for people to opt into.

2026-05-01 15:14:59 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

SANCTUARIES!!!!

Marit MacArthur (UC Davis): ❤️

2026-05-01 15:15:24 From Lindsay to Everyone:

This is very on the nose, but the idea of "you wouldn't try to get a better bargain on your soul," aligns so well with Dr. Faustus. If this bargain is already being made with these companies, we should be able to determine how much and what we consent to.

2026-05-01 15:15:30 From Soren van Loben Sels to Everyone:

Replying to "CJ the X's essay about how a more paid internet mi...":

I was motivated to attend First Friday meetings was him mentioning them in one of his monthly patreon discussions

2026-05-01 15:15:55 From Mark Dixon he/ to Everyone:

Winning a fight also sucks

Jonathan Gershberg, Soren van Loben Sels, Lauren Guilmette, Gwen Olton: ❤️

Peter Schmidt: 🙏

2026-05-01 15:16:06 From Molly E Vasich to Everyone:

And then you add shame into the mix!