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AI REBELLION

# Gen Z Is Turning Against AI in an Incredible Way

They've had enough.



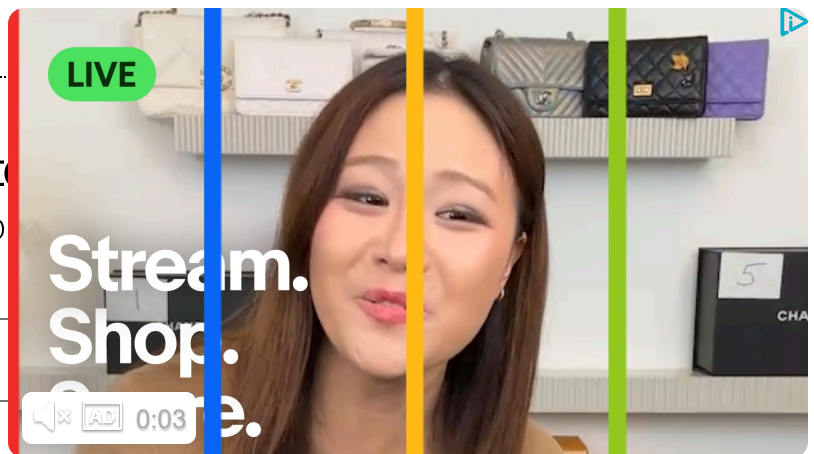
By **Victor Tangermann** / Published **May 1, 2026 8:56 AM EDT** / **Add Futurism** ⓘ



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For years now, tech leaders have warned that AI will usher in a technological revolution on an unprecedented scale, wiping out countless jobs. If you're lucky enough to survive sweeping layoffs

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resentment towards AI, which has encroached almost every aspect of our daily lives, from the never-ending slop in our social media feeds to flawed chatbots poorly assuming the roles of human customer service agents.

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As *The Verge* reports, the backlash is particularly apparent among Gen Z, a demographic that's at the epicenter of the industry's push for AI adoption. The generation is facing a dire post-graduation job market after losing much of its youth to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Usually, young people love new innovations. But for Gen Z, a tech inherently designed to replace human agency is strikingly unwelcome — and inspiring a g   0:03  cellion.

“I think everyone in my immediate peer group is not using AI and is actively against it, besides my friends who are in computer science



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becoming increasingly harder to miss. Massive data centers are deteriorating the environment on a shocking scale, while the widespread use of AI chatbots is eroding critical thinking skills and driving some into dangerous spirals of delusions.

Recent polling data paint a damning picture of young people's rapidly deteriorating opinion of AI. One recent Gallup poll showed that only 18 percent of Gen Zers said they felt "hopeful" about AI, a drop of nine percent compared to 2025.

AI's recent incursions into academia have them particularly incensed.

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"AI cannot coexist with education — it can only degrade it," reads a recent, scathing editorial titled "Penn has an AI problem," published by the University of Pennsylvania's student newspaper last month.



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ability to identify the many shortcomings of the tech, from rampant hallucinations to the dangers of “cognitive offloading,” the term for when people start to outsource mental tasks to AI.

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The situation has gotten to the point where a baffling proportion of Gen Zers are going as far as to intentionally undermine their bosses' AI initiatives. According to a recent report by the AI company Writer and research firm Workplace Intelligent, 44 percent of polled Gen Z workers said they're “sabotaging their company's AI strategy in at least one way,” from entering proprietary company information into chatbots to refusing to use AI tools outright.

**More on AI and Gen Z:** *Usual People Embrace New Technology. Gen Z's Attitude Toward AI Should Worry the Entire Tech Industry*

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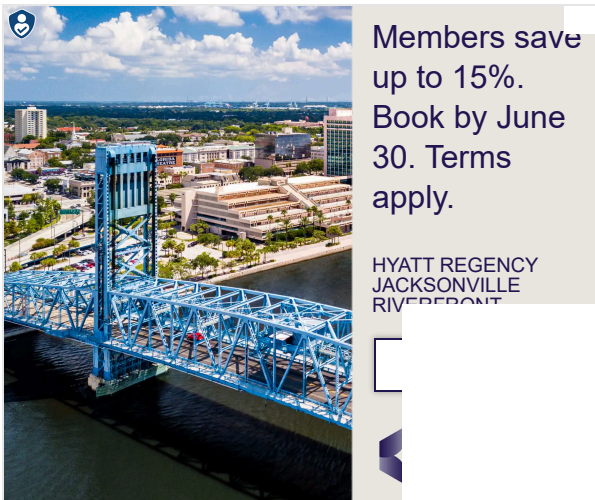
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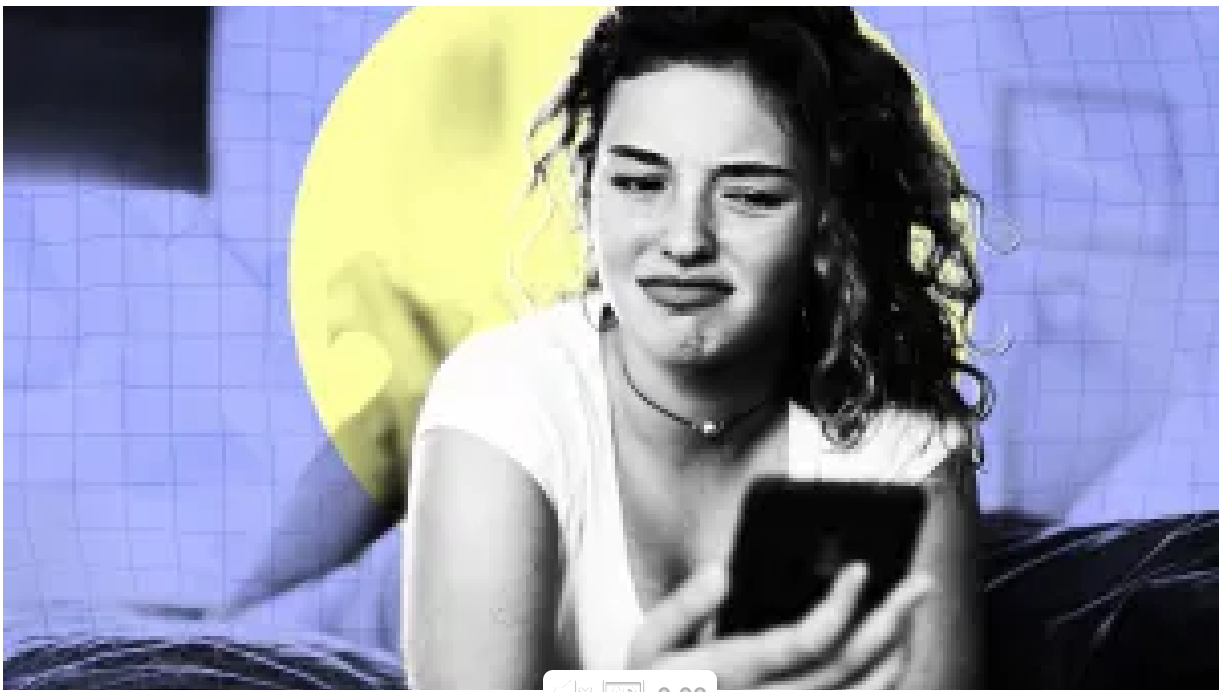
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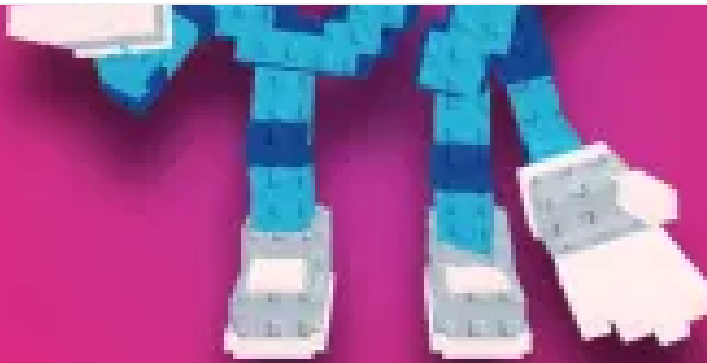
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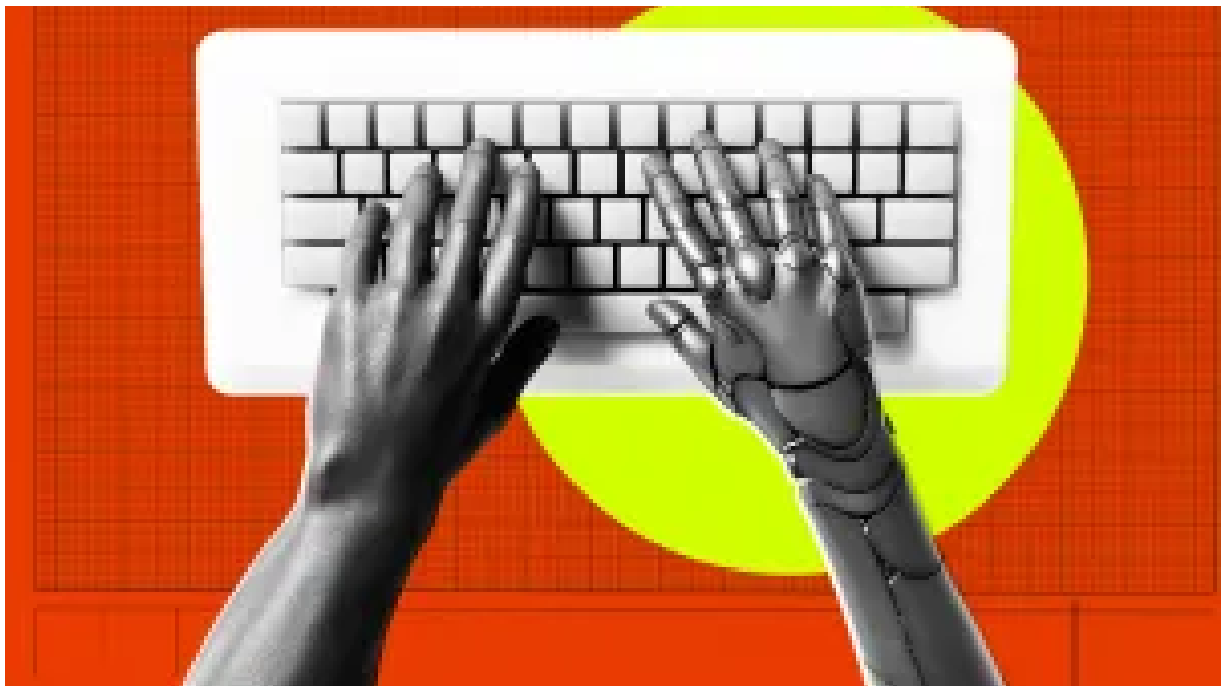
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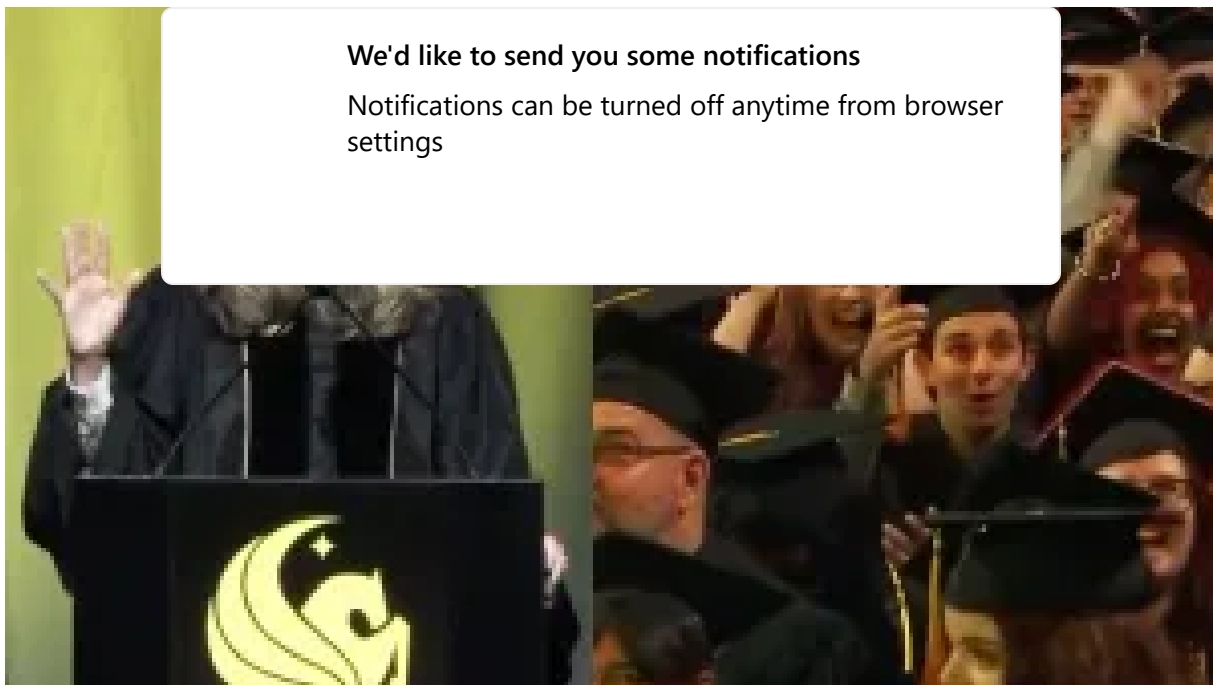
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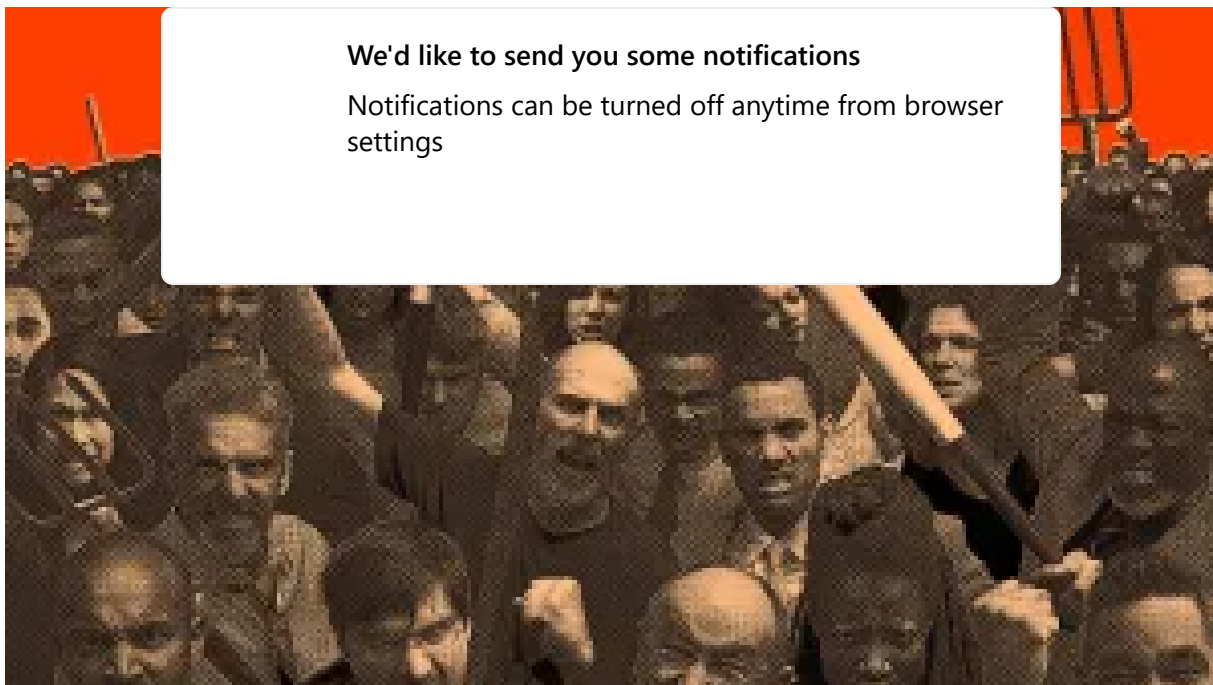
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