O'Shaughnessy's Episode With Geoffrey Canada and Brad Gerstner, Plus Book Picks From Tuhin Srivastava and Tomasz Tunguz

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Patrick O'Shaughnessy recommends his episode on Invest America accounts, in which Brad Gerstner points listeners to a 1930 Keynes essay. Founders and investors also pick books on systems thinking, sales, hospitality and science fiction.

O'Shaughnessy: Geoffrey Canada and Brad Gerstner

Patrick O'Shaughnessy says this is "a different type of episode." He has found Geoffrey Canada inspiring since he saw him on *60 Minutes* as a child, and calls him "a force of nature" in person [1]. The conversation covers what Canada learned in 50 years of working on poverty and education in America. It also covers why Canada and Brad Gerstner (@altcap) think Invest America could have "such a massively positive impact in the age of AI." Invest America gives every child a 530A or "Trump Account" that holds a piece of the S&P 500 [1]. O'Shaughnessy says nearly 70 million kids now have an account in their name. Sponsor proceeds from the episode will go to kids Canada chooses [1].

He highlighted this line from Canada: for poor people today, AI is "all risk, no reward," and the accounts mean "at least you're in the game" [2]. YouTube · Spotify · Apple [3]

During the episode, **Gerstner** points listeners to Keynes's 1930 essay *Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren* ("you can look it up"). He reads its prediction that "technological unemployment" would be "only a temporary phase." Keynes also predicted that living standards 100 years later would be four to

eight times higher. Gerstner's point is to stick with technological progress despite short-term disruption. He says the economy is now 8.2 times as large as it was when Keynes wrote the essay [4].

Books

Tuhin Srivastava (co-founder and CEO of Baseten) was asked on The Generalist which book he would assign to everyone. He named *Breakneck*. He also pointed to Danny Meyer's *Setting the Table*, about Union Square Cafe [5]. Baseten uses Meyer's full-service philosophy when hiring: it looks for a high-end hospitality mindset, with teammates who talk to customers every day and go the extra mile [5]. Episode

Tomasz Tunguz named two skills he thinks matter as people come to manage many agents, and a book for each: - Donella Meadows's *Thinking in Systems*, which he calls "excellent" for learning to design loops you can still follow across many agents [6]. - *The Challenger Sale*, for an AI-era way of selling: teach buyers by challenging one of their core assumptions and reframing how they see things, "because actually the world has changed" [6].

Video

Palmer Luckey named Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* as the kind of technology-first science fiction he loves. He describes it as "a dozen pages in a row" on the Nautilus's batteries, and says it "lets you think what would the world look like if we had things we don't now." He liked *Star Trek* for the same reason, "even though it's communist" [7]. Video

Shorter picks

- **Ryan Hoover** shared David Spinks's essay "The Lonely Creator." He says founders who start companies for freedom underestimate how lonely it can be. His advice: "Lean on fellow founders and shamelessly ask for help" [8].
- **Guillermo Rauch** made two picks:
  - He called agent-browser vitals "a huge deal for web performance" and said "self-optimizing software is here" [9]. He was pointing to @ctatedev's `modern-web-guidance` skill, which has an agent look up Chrome's Modern Web Guidance, apply it to your code, and check the result in a real browser [10].
  - He flagged Vercel's DeepsecBench as an "Important signal": a stealth cyber benchmark whose codebases no lab has had access to train on [11].

  Both are tied to his own company.
- **Garry Tan** asked Nvidia shareholders, employees and former employees to add their voices to the Stand with Jensen letter [12, 13]. The campaign's latest post responds to the board saying on its earnings call that it is not

considering Huang's return. It asks the board to explain that decision and to give a timeline for the investigation [14].

- **Chamath Palihapitiya** posted above Social Capital's breakdown of Nvidia's Q3 earnings in five charts [15, 16].
- **Sarah Guo** called Sierra's Call Companion demo "how we actually want service to work!" [17]
- **Glenn Solomon** (Notable Capital), on stage with Rauch, told the audience that Rauch is "a great follow" on X, for his views on product and on where commerce, technology and AI are going [18].

Sources

1. X post by @patrick_oshag
2. X post by @patrick_oshag
3. X post by @patrick_oshag
4. Giving Every Kid a Stake in Capitalism | Brad Gerstner & Geoffrey Canada
5. Why inference is harder than you think
6. Second-generation AI security and the hedge-fund SOC
7. Palmer Luckey: How Steve Jobs Ruined Everything, the $2B Oculus Sale & Getting Fired From Facebook
8. X post by @rrhoover
9. X post by @rauchg
10. X post by @ctatedev
11. X post by @rauchg
12. X post by @garrytan
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15. X post by @chamath
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18. Vercel CEO Guillermo Rauch: More Software Is Being Built Than Ever Before | TomorrowX Summit