Patrick Collison cites The Winged Gospel to push back on ”last chance to found a company” fears

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Collison’s book pick at Startup School leads. Also: Garry Tan reproduces an article on cutting agent costs, Patrick O’Shaughnessy re-shares the Colossus Zuckerberg profile, and Paul Graham points to a National Review piece on the midterms.

Patrick Collison: *The Winged Gospel*

At Startup School, an interviewer asked **Patrick Collison** about the student meme that anyone who doesn’t drop out and start a company now will be “trapped in the permanent underclass” [1]. Collison answered that humanity has “always had… an affinity for these millinarian sort of models” in which society is about to be permanently transformed [1]. He then recommended a book: “there’s a great book, The Winged Gospel.” His summary of it: after aviation was invented, people believed humanity was entering a new era. Aviation turned out to be “a pretty big deal,” he said, but not the “sociological rewriting” its excitable backers expected [1]. His conclusion: “I would take the under on this being the last couple of years… to create a company” [1]. Video

Garry Tan: @polydao on cutting agent costs

Garry Tan tested an article instead of just endorsing it. His gstack-evals project tried to reproduce @polydao’s “How to Cut Your Agent Bill by 90% With Jev Engineering and Kimi K3.” He reports that “this article replicates,” and that a model he also had it try, particle-1, did “even better” [2, 3]. The article’s starting point is that most calls in an agent loop are small decisions: which tool to use next, whether a source is relevant, whether the task is done. Each one is billed as a full frontier-model generation [3]. Its fix is to send those

decisions to a cheaper model based on calibrated confidence, and pass only the hard cases to Kimi K3 [3]. Article

Patrick O'Shaughnessy: Colossus's Zuckerberg profile

Patrick O'Shaughnessy re-shared *Colossus*'s "Mark," by @colossusjeremy, as "Worth a revisit" [4]. Colossus describes Zuckerberg as the head of "history's largest nonterritorial empire" who "nonetheless remains a prisoner of his rivals." The profile took nearly a year. Stern interviewed three dozen people, among them Zuckerberg himself and his critics and competitors at frontier AI labs [5]. Article

Paul Graham: Andrew McCarthy on the midterms

Paul Graham shared Andrew McCarthy's *National Review* piece "on what caused the Republicans to lose so badly in the midterms." He added no comment of his own [6].

Shorter picks

- **Martin Casado** called a demo video "beautiful" [7]. It shows an open-world game built with Opus 5.5, gpt-Astra, Three.js, Anatomy and Suno, with art direction in the style of Moebius and Roger Dean [8]. Post
- **Tobi Lütke** said "Love this" about John Fewell's isometric map of Toronto [9]. The map covers all 630 km² from four angles, and you can rotate it to explore [10]. Map
- **Jason Lemkin** promoted his own SaaStr piece on this week's 20VC episode. The headline takeaway: SaaStr cut the costs of its Connect app by 72% just by switching models, so "Re-benchmark every time a new small model ships" [11]. Article

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Sources

1. Patrick Collison: Is AI Breaking the Lean Startup Playbook?
2. X post by @garrytan
3. X article by @Mr_Buzzoni
4. X post by @patrick_oshag
5. X post by @colossusmag
6. X post by @paulg
7. X post by @martin_casado
8. X post by @bei351009016
9. X post by @tobi
10. X post by @johnfewell
11. X post by @jasonlk