



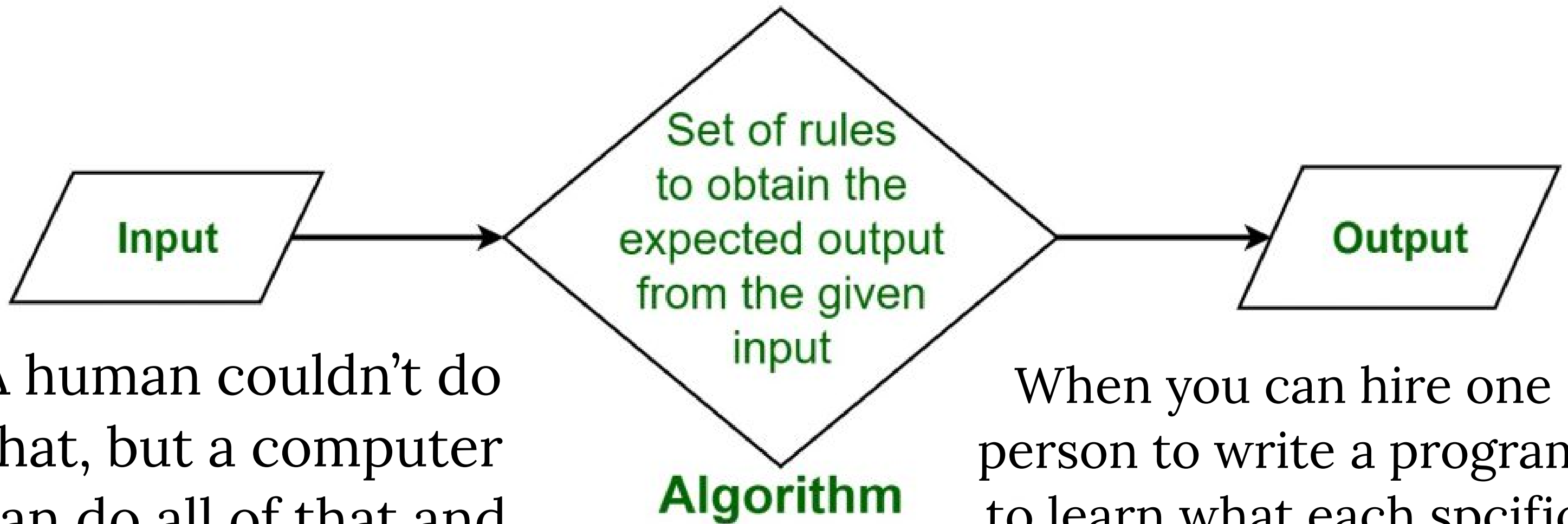
## How Algorithms get you

Algorithms are everywhere in the modern era. The potentially most dangerous are the ones for entertainment. What happens when the algorithm feeds people dangerous ideas for the sake of entertainment?

Think of  
algorithms  
like marketing  
teams

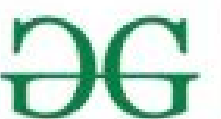
## What is Algorithm?

Why pay a whole team of  
people to find a general  
product that people won't  
enjoy to its fullest



A human couldn't do  
that, but a computer  
can do all of that and  
more

When you can hire one  
person to write a program  
to learn what each specific  
person really likes





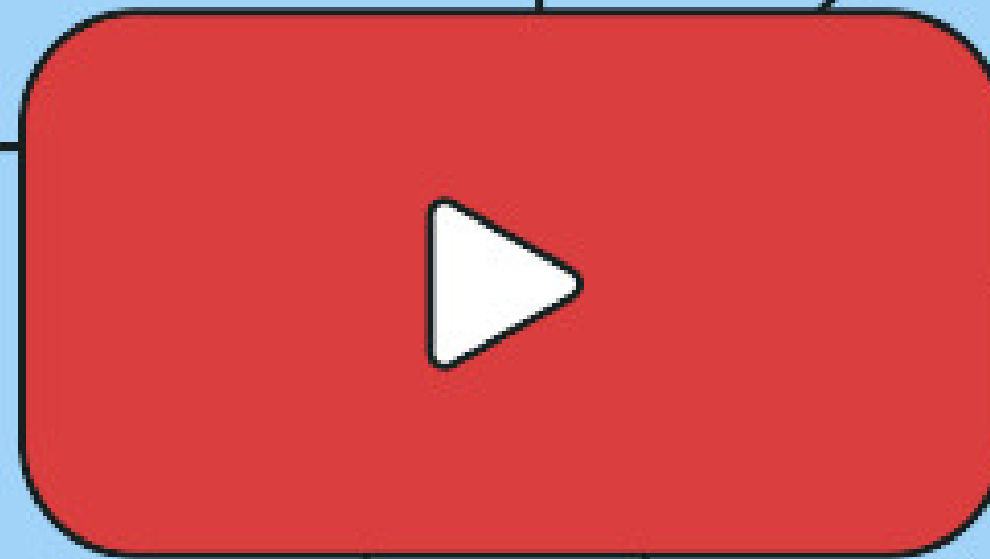
A great example of this is the TikTok algorithm. The algorithm is second to none at keeping you hooked and coming back. Unfortunately, the Algorithm only knows what entertains you, and not the consequences of what you see

According to a new report by the media monitoring group Media Matters for America, TikTok's user recommendation algorithm is pushing its users toward accounts with the kinds of far-right views that are supposedly prohibited on the platform.

The report found that TikTok is still promoting content from QAnon, Patriot Party, Oath Keepers, and Three Percenters accounts on the platform's "For You" page. The For You page is where TikTok's algorithm sends content it believes each specific user would like.

<https://mashable.com/article/tiktok-recommendations-far-right-wing>

Tik Tok isn't the only one with an out of control algorithm. Youtube has been doing it for years. And while Tik Tok isn't the best for reaching an older audience, Youtube is the biggest video hosting site, and has dangerous ideas for those of every age.



YouTube said it would stop recommending "content that could misinform users in harmful ways—such as videos promoting a phony miracle cure for a serious illness, claiming the earth is flat, or making blatantly false claims about historic events like 9/11." But the conspiracy videos continue to burble up in the great seething mass of moving pictures. Earlier this week, in a report on the continued success of conspiracy videos on the platform, The New York Times' Kevin Roose observed, "Many young people have absorbed a YouTube-centric worldview, including rejecting mainstream information sources in favor of platform-native creators bearing 'secret histories' and faux-authoritative explanations."

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2019/02/reason-conspiracy-videos-work-so-well-youtube/583282/>

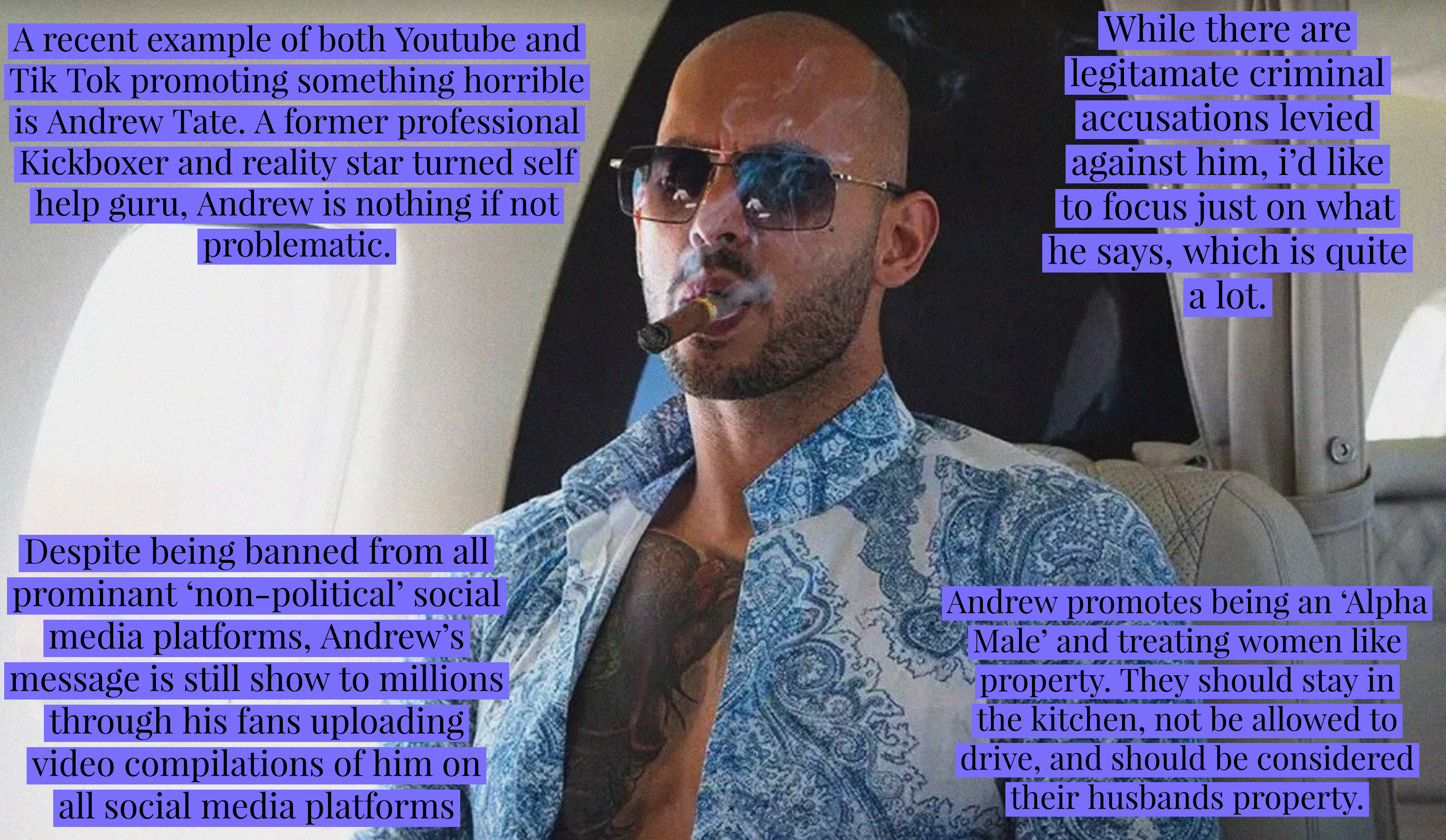


A recent example of both Youtube and Tik Tok promoting something horrible is Andrew Tate. A former professional Kickboxer and reality star turned self help guru, Andrew is nothing if not problematic.

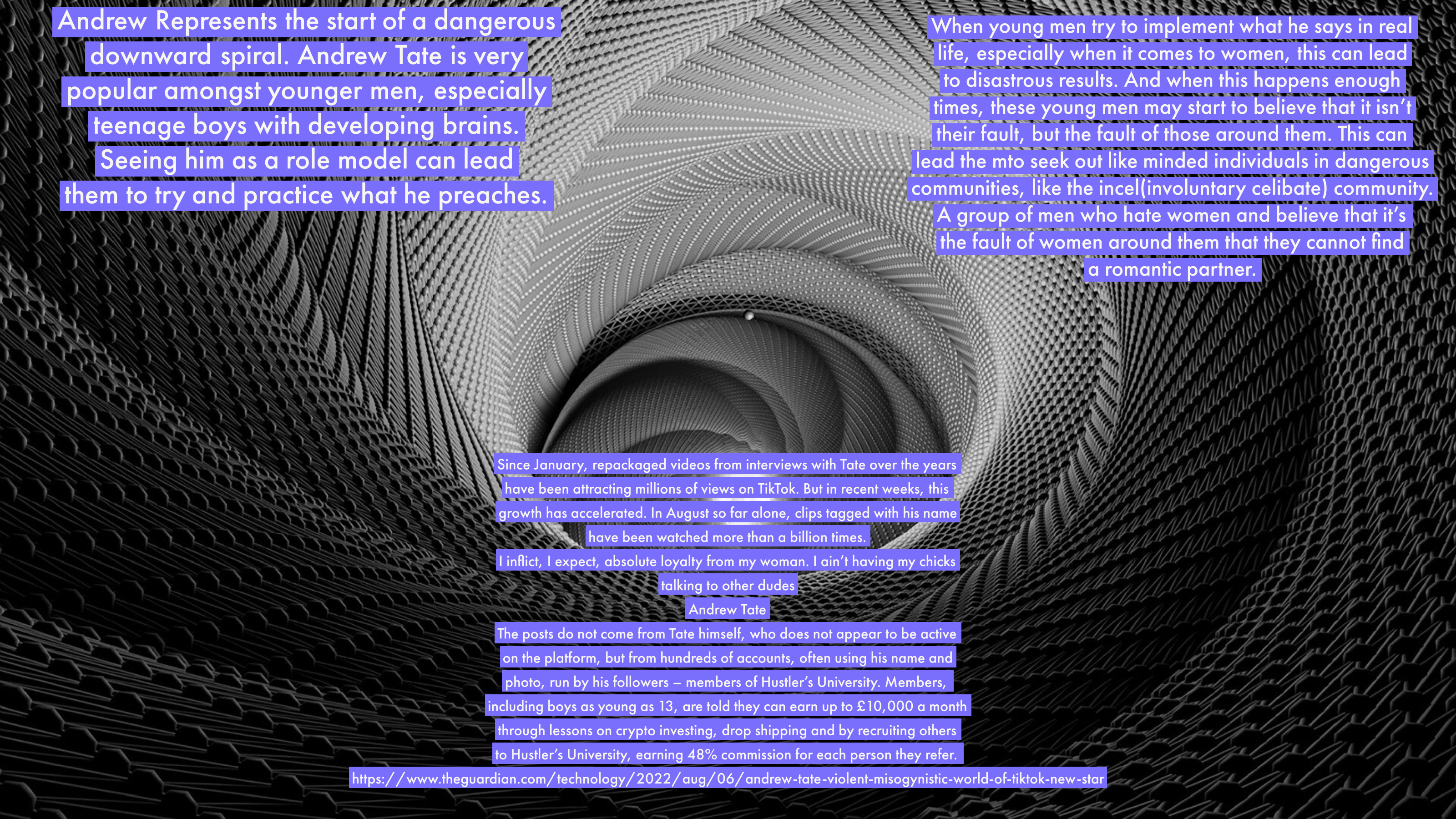
While there are legitimate criminal accusations levied against him, i'd like to focus just on what he says, which is quite a lot.

Despite being banned from all prominent 'non-political' social media platforms, Andrew's message is still shown to millions through his fans uploading video compilations of him on all social media platforms

Andrew promotes being an 'Alpha Male' and treating women like property. They should stay in the kitchen, not be allowed to drive, and should be considered their husbands property.







Andrew Represents the start of a dangerous downward spiral. Andrew Tate is very popular amongst younger men, especially teenage boys with developing brains. Seeing him as a role model can lead them to try and practice what he preaches.

When young men try to implement what he says in real life, especially when it comes to women, this can lead to disastrous results. And when this happens enough times, these young men may start to believe that it isn't their fault, but the fault of those around them. This can lead the mto seek out like minded individuals in dangerous communities, like the incel(involuntary celibate) community. A group of men who hate women and believe that it's the fault of women around them that they cannot find a romantic partner.

Since January, repackaged videos from interviews with Tate over the years have been attracting millions of views on TikTok. But in recent weeks, this growth has accelerated. In August so far alone, clips tagged with his name have been watched more than a billion times.

I inflict, I expect, absolute loyalty from my woman. I ain't having my chicks talking to other dudes

Andrew Tate

The posts do not come from Tate himself, who does not appear to be active on the platform, but from hundreds of accounts, often using his name and photo, run by his followers – members of Hustler's University. Members, including boys as young as 13, are told they can earn up to £10,000 a month through lessons on crypto investing, drop shipping and by recruiting others to Hustler's University, earning 48% commission for each person they refer.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/aug/06/andrew-tate-violent-misogynistic-world-of-tiktok-new-star>



# How can we combat this?

A great way to fight this is a counter algorithm. One that would flag and prevent harmful material such as conspiracy theories and dangerous individuals like Andrew Tate from growing an audience.

The algorithm would flag content and while not outright silence them, it would make it much harder for users to become so easily introduced to this style of content. While I believe free speech is important I also believe that if people want to find an ideology that is potentially harmful, they should have to work to find it, making the likelihood of these ideas spreading much lower

On top of that, the algorithm would try and learn more about the users interests, and find less harmful content to recommend to them.

While there isn't a perfect solution, fighting as much hate as we can is still incredibly vital. Since humans cannot spend every hour of every day fighting hate, only a computer can undo and prevent the harm of another computer. Like fighting fire with fire, we must use positive algorithms to fight the damage done by harmful algorithms.