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**To the donors of Second Spoon Inc.:**

He's a genius, of course. It's a word that gets tossed around a lot these days; it's used to mean just about anything. But Garrett Reisman *is* a genius, because he's an astronaut working on the world's first orbital reusable rocket. The goal – to make humanity a multi-planetary species.

We discussed a major biological problem, the problem of atrophy, which is the technical name for muscle-loss. Garrett lost roughly 3 percent of his bone mineral density during his time in space (base rule is 1 percent per month and ten times the rate of osteoporosis).

I think that Garrett's attitude toward recovery from the phenomenon is very similar to that which I had toward post-operative quad strengthening – initial doubts, followed by careful vehemence and an increasing perplexion at the sheer scale of the undertaking. And to be clear, the doubts were never directed at the probability of recovery, rather they were directed to the extent to which a muscle can shrivel in such a short period of time. How could, after endless hours of training, a muscle so mercilessly betray you?

I'll come back to it later.

*Ex Machina*

Remember Moore's Law of Mad Science: "Every eighteen months, the minimum IQ necessary to destroy the world drops by one point." AI and existential risk theorist, Eliezer Yudkowsky, argued for the probability of self-inflicted ruin as opposed to natural disaster. This was a movie full of the former.

I would consider muscle destruction through space travel and ACL surgery to be a subdivision of Yudkowsky's insistence on a greater point: great progress, even your goals right now as you read these words, can be taken away much quicker than it took to build up to them.

As you already know, food insecurity and homelessness are no different.

*Skid*

For all the vulnerabilities covid exposed, homelessness was chief among them. Within a population experiencing disproportionate rates of underlying health conditions – the same that covid attacks – – unique challenges present us with the necessity to innovate.

The pandemic, among many things, emphasizes my previous point: a single event can wash away years of progress. (The other point: there is significance in human solidarity and communal support, on both a municipal and private level).

Here's some data I pulled:

- According to the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, California had an estimated **161,548** experiencing homelessness before the pandemic (January 2020).
- Allegedly, covid disallowed an official 2021 count. In reference to updated statistics, Marcia Fudge, President Biden's secretary of housing and urban development, stated: "we know it has increased."
- Surely, that's an understatement. Despite temporary eviction protections, loopholes have forced thousands from their homes (New York Times)

The trouble is, the same precautions that Governor Newsome applies to Californians, are not the ones that can be followed by the homeless. We see it weekly. Crowding and shared hygiene facilities (if any) are the norm in Los Angeles' skid row.

Coupled with massive rounds of layoffs and a general lack of affordable housing- This country's (and specifically California's) struggle with homelessness is nothing new. The pandemic only emphasized its worst.

Our mission is more important now than it has ever been.

*The Everything Store*

The old poker proverb points out a remarkably reductive yet insightful point: "if you look around the poker table and you can't tell who the sucker is, it's you."

Amazon in the early 2000's offers case in point. Jeff Bezos has an uncanny ability to see around corners. Then, the platform was best known for selling physical copies of books. Not only did he open the marketplace to third party retailers, but he also created the Kindle e-reader which cannibalized his business model. Wall Street was baffled, investors were concerned. Bezos knew his competition, which had seen the platform as zero-sum, was the sucker.

I see our model drawing on the discipline pioneered by Bezos. To reiterate what I've said in the past, "The plan is for Second Spoon and hundreds of food banks to be rendered obsolete within two decades." Coach Riley brought this up in his introductory team meeting. We need to be obsessive about the way we search for improvement and constantly reinvent ourselves.

Let's be Amazon, not Blockbuster.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Bezos', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.