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English 230

1/20/2015

Bicentennial Society

The movie Bicentennial Man comes to mind while reading Donna Haraway’s piece: “A Manifesto for Cyborgs.” Instead of playing the movie from the beginning to end, play it from the end to beginning. Robin Williams, who plays a robot bought as a butler by a rich family, slowly starts to gain the knowledge of a human. He begins to read on his own and ask questions that a “normal” robot wouldn’t think to ask. He slowly transforms from machine to a machine that looks and has the mental knowledge of a human. While reading Haraway’s essay I thought back to the movie when she talks about how “we are all chimeras, theorized and fabricated hybrids of

Machine and organism; in short, we are cyborgs.” (150) Everything that Robin Williams was trying to get away from we are slowly transforming into it, as Haraway puts it. There have been many debates on whether technology is bad or good for society, there have been many benefits with the continuous development of technology but there is also so down sides also.

Society has transformed so much over the years, every year a company comes out with a new product that everyone MUST have right at that moment. The entire product helps you make life easier, whether it’s a watch that helps you have a phone on your wrist when you are not able to access your phone, or an app that allows you to text your fridge to see the inventory and the washer and dryer to start washing a load. Technology in society has its pros and cons just like anything in life. Technology has helped the world with some any different issues, modern medicine, communication and productivity. Modern medicine would be nothing without technology, just look at third world countries. Most have many casualties when a foreign virus starts to infect the area because they don’t have medicine and technology to be able to fight it. Doctors have so many different machines all with a different function to help figure how what health issues some one has. Without these machines the world would not be even come close to the population we have now. Communication has had the most to benefit from the progression of technology. The world went from having to wait days for some one to get a letter, where as now you only have to wait for the person to reply on their smart phone, which fit comfortably in their pocket. We can now communicate through email, texting, phone call, Facebook, twitter and even though a app that allows you to send pictures to each other with text for a certain amount of time. The world’s productivity has increased enormously since technology has become bigger. Factories are able to produce faster; everything has become faster with technology.

There are also some negatives with technology; I would say the biggest one is society’s dependency on technology. Many people have become reliant on their phones (myself included), and computers. I no longer look for the clock hanging on the wall; I always have to check my phone. Even if I look at a different clock, I always end up checking my phones time two seconds after. When someone doesn’t know how to spell a word they never go get a dictionary. How am suppose to find a word that I’m trying to spell when I don’t even know how to spell it? They grab their phone or computer to help them figure out how to spell the word. Where would we be in life with out spell check!

Personally, I view technology as a positive aspect for society; there are many benefits to technology. Society just needs to learn how use technology in doses, if they feel that it’s taking over their life then they just need to back away for a couple days so they don’t feel so overwhelmed. I love the fact that our technology is so far in advance, the fact that I am able to text my sister while she is deployed in Liberia is still amazing to me, she barley has Wi-Fi but she can send texts. When she is able to connect to Wi-Fi, I am able to Skype with my sister in Liberia and my sister in England. I think it’s awesome that I am able to see and talk to my sisters even though we are all in different countries.

Work Cited

Haraway, Donna. A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century. Diss. Stanford, 1991. Print. <http://indexofpotential.net/uploads/39888/CyborgManifesto.pdf>.