



Letter from the Editor:

Robots are Coming for our jobs Thank God.

Destiny Rose Murphy

I'm a Junior in Dedman College, so people are already asking me those pesky, stereotypical end-of-college questions like "Where do you see yourself in ten years?" and "What are you going to do with an English degree?" and, essentially, "How are you going to get a job and support yourself and not be homeless and starving in 3 months?" Often, if my questioner is older I get, "Aren't you afraid the robots are going to take all the jobs?" I've started responding "God, I hope so."

I should explain: I truly love my work. Law is a beautiful thing to me, and I would be perfectly happy to work in it until the day I die. Additionally, my wish for robot overlords probably won't come true, and I'll most likely have a job. I'm not just an English major, but a triple major, double minor. I'm also studying Political Science, Philosophy, Human Rights, Public Policy, and International Affairs, which means I'm headed for law school, a PhD, and then (hopefully) a well-paying job after all that homework. Because my field is old and academic I'm not as likely to be replaced by a robot or an algorithm, which is unfortunate. Regardless of my love of the law, and my relative job security, I hope every day that my dream job gets stolen by AI. I hope machines take your job too, and your mom's, because your mom is a nice lady and she deserves a vacation.

We often forget that humans, not machines, are the ones who directly benefit when machines "take" jobs. Backhoes are machines that replaced human jobs; less people have to swing shovels in the heat now because of them. Calculators reduced the number of workers necessary for record keeping, and then computers did the same thing to an exponentially greater degree years later, and yet both calculators and computers have wildly increased our quality of life

(just ask any student in a stats class). So why do we fear the advent of some new technology that, by reducing the amount of work we need to do, will free us to be happier and more productive humans?

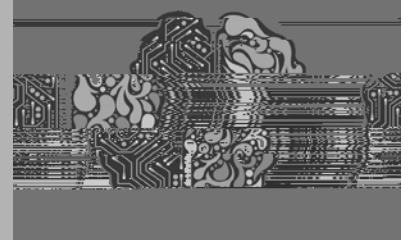
I think there's a short-, and a long-term answer. In the short-term we're afraid of losing our jobs because jobs give us money, we buy food with money, and food keeps us alive. So, if a machine takes my job it could also be taking my life. That fear is valid. Since the current growth of AI technology is exponential, as it was with past efficiency increasing technologies, there is going to be a number of displaced workers who suffer the consequences of industry evolution. Frankly, this isn't America's first rodeo with this stuff (see: the industrial revolution). We know what high unemployment does to our country (hint: it's massive economic depression), and we know how to fix it (hint: it's redistribution of wealth, education, and public works). Will it be difficult? Yes. Will some people face economic struggles because of technology that later generations will learn to take for granted? Yes. Will the objectively easiest solution seem politically impossible right up until it's accomplished? Yes. Is that terrible? Yes, but it's also manageable, and because we know AI is on the horizon it's something we can plan for.

I think the long-term fear is more interesting, namely, what do we do when we don't have to work so damn much? In our current culture it is not uncommon to define oneself by one's occupation or career goals. Whole books have been written on how to attain a positive "work-life balance," as if work is somehow integral and equal to life. If we define ourselves by

our work, then what do we do if work is taken from us? Are we capable of functioning in a post-scarcity society wherein all jobs are autonomously filled, and humans are left to their own devices? Is waking up in the morning worth it if you have nothing you have to do? Sure, the first few years of perpetual retirement would be great, but with so many people finding meaning in life via the solving of problems and the accomplishment of tasks, at what point do you run out of sex and world-travelling and realize you miss having a job?

I think that problem, the problem of how a work-driven people survive in a workless society, is one of the greatest challenges we face. In a world where it is getting easier and easier to work less, and from home, the question of how to spend one's time becomes paramount and, to many people, frightening. Staring at empty hands and an empty inbox can be much more difficult than we sometimes realize.

If a work-driven, know-nothing student like myself may offer a suggestion: write. Dance. Draw. Climb things and then jump off of them with a backpack full of hope and parachute. For millennia humans have been dreaming of afterlives and utopias where one can wake up and just sing all day, and it's terrifying but we might just get there soon. If you're worried about losing your job first learn to code. Then, when you've got that out of the way and you know you'll be able to eat (at least until society is truly post-scarcity and work becomes completely automated), start writing that book you said you wanted to write. Talk to the handsome mystery in the library. Train for a triathlon. Submit to Hilltopics. You may just find a new reason to keep on living.



Raise your hand if you're not a racist. I know what you're thinking—is this a trap? It doesn't really matter because most folks predictably raise their hands and adamantly argue that they are the last person on this planet remotely close to a racist. Before I delve any further, let me preface this by saying that I am just as problematic as the next person and the person after that, and I must proactively work on being better. Therefore, as you continue to read, bear in mind that I started somewhere too, and I am not exempt from the criticisms I am about to make. What does it take to not be a racist? How is this measured and is it enough? Do you wish that people of color could talk a bit nicer, less aggressively, and metaphorically hold your hand as they explain why implicit forms of racism are just as bad? This is called respectability politics and it is most definitely an extension of white supremacy. Yes, here's to white supremacy. May we identify it and may we dismantle it. We have to stop treating white supremacy and racism like a monster dwelling under the bed or in our closets. These ever-so prevalent problems are thriving amongst us in broad daylight, oftentimes wearing various masks that range from seemingly harmless Tone Policers to Colorblind-Civil-Discourse-Enforcers. Remember when Texas Vanguard, a white supremacy group, came to our campus last semester and spread messages like: "Reclaim America. No more tolerance, no more diversity. The only solution is White Revolution"? Immediately following the non-isolated incident, our campus was quick to denounce the hate speech and advocated for more civil discourse. By the way, I want to emphasize the non-isolated aspect of all this, because where there is smoke, there is fire. Dismantling white supremacy necessitates an understanding of nuance and a commitment to unlearning problematic behaviors in all its uncomfortable unpacking. Have you ever taken the time to really unpack what civil discourse even means? Who it protects and what it perpetuates? If not, there's no better time than the present.

Also last year, SMU students posted flyers that listed reasons "why white

A lly is a Verb

Jessica Chong

women shouldn't date black men," and then another round of flyers stating why they should. Accountability for these racially harmful incidents is a nonnegotiable given, yet punishment for these acts only addresses the problem on a superficial level, permitting the root of racism's pathological pervasiveness to "fester like a sore" (Langston Hughes, "A

prioritizes tone over content and which perpetuates the racist myth that people of color are aggressive and incapable of being civilized. Contrary to the idea that civil discourse and respectability promotes a safe platform for people to exchange meaningful racial discourse, Yancy quotes Zeus Leonardo and Ronald K. Porter to argue that “mainstream race dialogue in education is arguably already hostile and unsafe for many students of color whose perspectives and experiences are consistently minimized” (Yancy, 58).

Racial discourse is already skewed to accommodate white folks and their expectation that racial discourse needs to be made palatable for their consumption, and respectability operates by diverting

attention away from who, what, and why something is being said with the how—that is to say, whether something appears respectful or not. Many students of color can tell you the countless times we’ve been silenced in class for this very reason; respectful and civil discourse constitutes a narrative where “whites position themselves as its positive term” and “de nes nonwhites as ‘di erent’ or ‘deviant’” (Yancy, 164). e unwillingness to address microaggressions and respectability breeds a culture of racism that continues to persist uncontested, while proactively silencing and policing those who have every right to resist the con nes of appearing respectful and civil towards the very

institutions and people who oppress them (knowingly or not).

As I write this on Valentine’s Day, I just want to say that roses are red, violets are blue, ally is a verb; it’s something that you do. And, in the words of Innosanto Nagara from *A is for Activist*, a delightful human rights A-Z book for all ages: “A is for Activist. Advocate. Abolitionist. Ally. Actively Answering A call to Action. Are you An Activist?”

The Briefalist Papers

oppressive restriction of briefs. By so combining the spacious compartments of the former with the elastic structure of the latter, we can avoid the ills of time past and at last realize that elusive comfort which man has sought for so long. Since this ingenious solution will inevitably spark controversy, even amongst the most benevolent and enlightened of minds, subsequent papers will redress all grievances and resolutely defend the formation of such a UNION.

1. Based, in no small part, on the style and structure of Federalist Papers No 1,9, and 10.

- *B oxerius B riefalis*

(*A lexander M cN amara*)

W hy You Should be E ating a C rumpet R ight N ow

Andrew Roy Sneed

If our founding fathers had intellectual consistency then you'd be reading this article under a billowing Union Jack with a cup of tea in one hand and a biscuit in the other.

Before I explain, let's take a quick trip from the American Revolution to the American civil rights movement. When thinking through the civil rights movement, many intuitively favor Dr. King's non-violent methods over Huey P. Newton's call to arms. People bestow this favor not on mere efficiency, but also on an intrinsic moral ground. Dr. King argued for the latter saying: "The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral; begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it." Since Huey P. Newton did not adhere to religion, it is not surprising that his cry for murder does not align with the teachings of the Bible. On the other hand, we should expect Dr. King to align his methods with the book he taught from every Sunday morning. And indeed he did. In his epistle to the Romans, Paul writes, "Repay no one evil for evil, but

give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Later, Paul touches on citizenship writing: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." Paul wrote this to Christians suffering under the murderous reign of Emperor Nero. Yet, amidst the death and violence suffered by both African-Americans and Roman Christians, Dr. King's and Paul's followers chose non-violence. They heeded the Bible's commands and remained subject to their governing authorities.

Now, let's revisit the American revolution. Contrasting with the evils suffered by African-Americans and Roman Christians, the founding

King to have aligned his actions with the Bible he professed, and he did. I posit that we should hold the founding fathers, and every God-fearing participant of the revolutionary war, to a similar standard. I hope you will not find it hard to grant that a majority of the founding fathers adhered to the Bible and professed the transcendence of Biblical wisdom. And if the founding fathers had held themselves to the same consistency as Dr. King did, then you would probably be spinning a Smiths record right now

John Trumbull, *The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776*, 1786-1820, oil on canvas, 20 inches x 31 inches / 53 x 78.7 cm (Yale University Art Gallery). In "John Trumbull, the Declaration of Independence" by Dr. Bryan Zygmunt. Accessed February 15, 2018.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-americas/british-colonies/early-republic/a/trumbull-declaration-of-independence>

Dandelion is Dead

Nicole Kiser

Last year, Crayola retired Dandelion from its crayon collection, kicking out one of only two shades of yellow in the entire 24-count box. Scientists at Oregon State University were experimenting with materials for use in electronics and accidentally discovered a blue pigment they named YinMn (see Associated Press, ABC News). YinMn became the inspiration for the crayon to replace Dandelion.

The crayon was named by popular vote on Crayola's website. Voters chose from cutesy names like "Blue Moon Bliss" and "Reach for the Stars" (ABC News), with the punny "Bluetiful" winning out. The abominably adorable crayon brings the number of blue hues in the box up to six, a full 25% (a quarter!) of the coloring capacity of the classic 24-count Crayola box ("Crayola to retire color").

This is not to say children do not understand the nuance of color. Will of Stranger things drew a masterful rainbow rocket ship. But imagine the essence lost when there is only one hue of yellow available! Picture Picasso going through his Blue Period, but every canvas is the same color because he only had one shade. Luckily, that would never happen because Crayola seems to deeply care about the color blue. Any grade-schooler with a 24-count will be able to color his own Blue Period portrait with blue, blue green, blue violet, cerulean, indigo, and, now, Bluetiful!

Dandelion is dead. The golden hue of my childhood hopes and dreams, the vivid hue of my innocent wishes was kicked out the door before it even turned thirty (Davis). When my dad showed me the article announcing Dandelion's retirement, I told him I was going to write a strongly worded letter to Crayola. I knew I would not. The strength of

feeling I had about a crayon was what one would call "admirable and absurd." I felt helpless in my singularity and ridiculous in my intent to save a crayon when I, and everyone else, had so much else to which we must attend.

It was not really about losing a shade of yellow in a 24-count box anyway. It was not about a crayon becoming more famous than I ever would, or retiring long before I ever will. It was about losing a piece of my past I would not be able to get back. Somehow, I was prepared to lose pieces of my childhood as an adult, but I was not prepared for those losses to make the paper.

I turned 20 in December and, with my birthday, came the flu. Stuck in a CareNow for hours waiting for service, I watched the same menu screen of a movie run over and over again on a terrible television in the corner. It took forever, but eventually I remembered what movie it was. Despite its horrible quality, I recognized the menu screen of *Brother Bear*, a movie I loved as a kid, but had not seen since. I realized that, though I had moved past the things I had loved as a child, I would always remember them. Dandelion did not die in vain, but had become a treasured childhood memory.

I had become content in the loss of Dandelion and the subsequent invasion of Bluetiful—until my father sent me a photograph of the crayon mascot they were using to sell Bluetiful. And it—actually she, according to her biography on the official Crayola website—had eyelashes ("Meet Bluetiful"). Crayola, be prepared for a very strongly worded letter.

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Image: Crayola's Bluetiful

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the Creative Writing Corner

g .

UNCLE CLOVIS:

Shit! It's not like I called him a faggot or anything. Anyway he's not even really a queer, he still likes girls.

MOM:

Shut up Clovis.

UNCLE CLOVIS:

What did I even do? I was having a reasonable debate about language.

MOM:

I don't know and I don't care; you made him uncomfortable and you're going to apologize to him.

UNCLE CLOVIS:

For "fruit cake?" You sobbed when he came out of the closet. You even called me! at's a sign of desperation.

MOM:

I didn't say I approved. I said you're going to apologize. Do you know how many times I've seen him in the last two years? ree. I've seen my son three times in the twenty-four months since he came out.

UNCLE CLOVIS:

Are you trying to tell me you visited Mom and Dad more than that at his age?

MOM:

Are you trying to claim that we had a good relationship with our parents?

UNCLE CLOVIS:

Ummm...no?

MOM:

Exactly! I invited you here to prove that I could make it work. at I could do the

one thing Mom never could. A real family Christmas with all of us here, even you.

UNCLE CLOVIS:

at's messed up Margie.

MOM:

Of course it's messed up! We're messed up! We were raised by an idiot and a lunatic! But I did a slightly better job with my kids, and you're ruining that by bringing up all of this bullshit with his little experiment with other boys into the light.

UNCLE CLOVIS:

You really need to learn to let this shit go, Margie.

O , C C O S g /
/d / e e eb

MOM:

Shut! Up! I need my kids in my life. And I don't approve of his lifestyle, but I keep that to my god damn self, and I'm not going to let your need to be a disruptive jackass ruin my Christmas. I don't know why saying "fruit-cake" hurt his feelings so much, but I don't give a shit if he says you have to talk in the third person. If he does, then you'll go out there and say "Clovis is very sorry." Got it?

C C O S / d , / / d ,
/d g b \ b e e e e e
/g . CA O e / e /
O - O ; O AS /d A
e /g / e /
d .

POP-POP:

-so all I'm saying is, I know that the bonds between two men can be-

C C O S e .
O AS, A , CA O , /d
O - O .

UNCLE CLOVIS:

I'm sorry. I was out of line. It's been a rough year, and it's been hard for me to think straight.

e , e ed.

THOMAS:

Hey, it's ne. After all, I never think straight.

/ e, b C C O S
g /d d /.

UNCLE CLOVIS:

Oh, so it's okay for you to make jokes but not me?

THOMAS:

Yes.

UNCLE CLOVIS:

ere we go man; just when I was starting to think I was the only one in this family with any wit.

Fire

Kevin Wang

*How holy thrives your presence that enralls
the otherwise cold corner of my heart*

*a dwindling pit of passions past. Your art
of beauty, scent of spring, you do know; yet,*

*The coldest summer night, with the heartless net,
upon me draws the mist of a lonesome heap
of dying love, of fading thoughts, of lore
forgotten. I— my heart undone— caress*

to feel your lips through my weak heart confess

B irds and a B ee
Ashni Pabley

1517

I didn't know

I wasn't ready

He didn't tell me

*Let M E tell you the
story*

The birds and a bee

1823

I didn't know

I wasn't ready

He told me things

Couldn't tell you why

*Not supposed to tell
you how*

My hands feel bloody

2128

I didn't know

I'm still not ready

"He's just a loser"

The gaps grow bigger

*We can't pull the
trigger*

I'm the only lover

Maybe he could save

me

I do know

I am ready

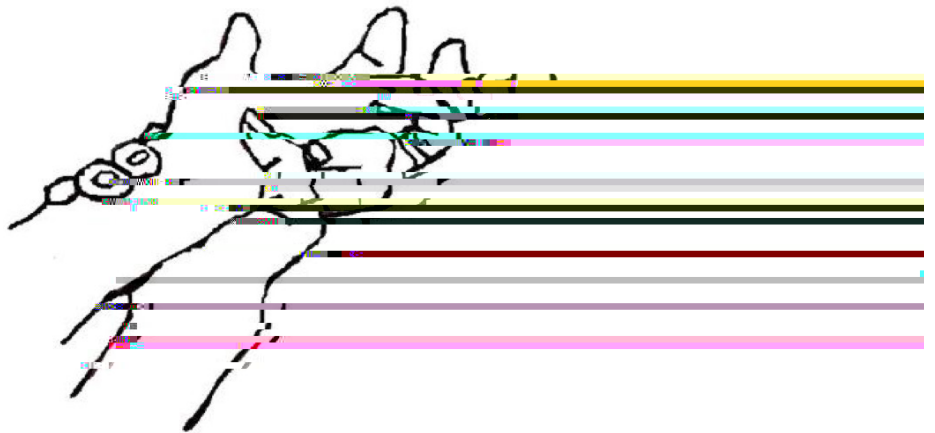
*His grey eyes show
me everything*

Let's do it together

Can you hear me

*We should die
simultaneously*

Slowly



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