

Writing #2

Devin Kadrie (██████████)

The technobiological age, as people have come to call it, the time when humans and machines have become two halves of a single entity, is upon us. With it, come many benefits, things which would have been seen as impossible just 30 years prior. Diseases have been all but eradicated, life expectancy has tripled, people can now just take information from the outside and download it to their brain, and understand it as if they had spent years studying it. Despite these wonderful things, there are hidden problems that permeate this so-called utopia.

I am part of the in-between generation, or InBe's for short, people who have lived for a time without the existence of body-modifications. This is but one of the many new social castes that have arisen due to the introduction of these technologies. Humans are now categorized into two main groups, those who have technological enhancements, the Techs, and those without, the NoTechs. The reasons for not getting implants are many and varied, but they are usually some combination of they don't have enough money, or they choose not to for moral reasons. It is obvious that there is incredible discrimination against NoTechs, even amongst the InBe's, which surprises me greatly, as many of them were NoTechs long ago. The Techs, especially those who have never known life without their implants, seem to believe that they are simply better than the NoTechs. While not expressly illegal, it is highly looked down upon to even talk to a NoTech. There are even talks among those in the government to segregate the two groups, which many are protesting, but I feel it will do no good in the long run. It seems we should have listened to those long ago, such as Bill Joy, who cautioned us against unchecked technological progress and the ethical dilemmas that arise from them.

If there is one thing I miss from my youth, it is the face-to-face communication. People nowadays are so focussed on their technology that hardly anybody meets up anymore. All communication is done through sending messages directly with the mind, and all social activities are done via virtual reality. The outside world has become a place of ugly homes and factories, with the only manned facilities being those that deal with malfunctioning implants. No more value is placed upon social interaction. While convenient, it takes a certain quality out of life that I think is necessary for people to truly grow as human beings. Instead of being trapped in their digital worlds, maybe they could see the value that all people had if all of their interactions were person-to-person, instead of machine-to-machine.

I feel this age of technology will only get worse with time. As the divide between people grows, so too will the gap between man and machine shrink, and people will become mindless husks of metal and circuitry.