"On the Faults of Technology, if not Used Sparingly, and the Consequences it will Have on the World's Peoples"
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For: Martha Walz Lee and Ben Riggs

In the course of our history, we have made drastic changes in lifestyle. This could all be due to technology. It is a universally known fact to most people that have learned their history, and learned it well, that since the 1800s, technology advanced rapidly. It is also universally known that technology gained momentum throughout the 20th century, and into the 21st. Around 1900, technology gave us ways of recording music, speech, and anything that makes a sound, while on the other extreme, there came the advent of filmmaking. By 1915, film recording technology had advanced so much that it gave us "The Birth of a Nation". While it was a regression in our history, (the cinematography glorified the Ku Klux Klan), it was a major step forward in technological history. At that point, filmmaking has brought us very far since the first film ever to be made in the U.S., (The "Dickson Greeting", from circa 1894), but it still had very far to go. Milestones in technology that came afterwards were the color television set, the refrigerator, and the jet plane.

Technology has advanced in many ways, but also, it has proven to be our undoing. Video games are an example of how technology has proven to destroy us as a civilization. Children spend hours fiddling at the controls so that they can see a glorious surprise ending once they have killed off the enemy, but what does this give to them from an ethical standpoint? In 1999, two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, massacred 13 people, and in turn, killed themselves, at Columbine High School. They had been veritable fans of the "Doom" and "Wolfenstein 3D" video games, so reported their mothers. To give you an example of how tasteless these games are, I will describe the "Wolfenstein" game: The plot is about a man who had been imprisoned by the Nazis, and tries to escape his prison. On the walls of the prison itself are depicted tapestries with large swastikas, and tapestry portraits of Adolf Hitler. Perhaps, in this way, technology has gone too far in our lives, and video games such as the ones mentioned should stand as proof of the source of some children's aggression. It would be wise to state here, that children were much less aggressive in the 19th century, because they worked for everything they got, and were not given instant gratification in the form of violent video games.

But on the other extremity, technology has also led some people to become lazy and portly. The state of being overweight has reached epidemic proportions, and it could all be due to the fact that most people would rather turn on the television, and lazily watch a football game while eating fattening, rot-your-teeth-out foods, than go for a walk to the library, read for a few hours, and walk back. The reason I mentioned reading is that, while reading has nothing to offer from a fitness standpoint, it still offers us imagination, an open mind, and a state of being learned. I urge everyone to change their lifestyles, and only use technology when they *need* it, not when they just *want* it, and the world shall not regress back to the Stone Age. Moreover, there will be kindness, deep relationships between child and parent, between husband and wife, between man and

animal. It is hypothetically possible but will never happen at the rate that the world is going.

Many of the world's other problems are due to technology. To give you examples, there is global warming, and the nation's energy crisis, both of which are caused by motorized vehicles. It could also be due to the fact that one person would use a pick-up truck or a sports utility vehicle (more commonly known as an SUV) to commute to their job and back home again. Those kinds of vehicles are so big that they could hold more than two people. However, when one person is using it for his own sake, he burns more gasoline, and contributes, in a large part, to both crises.

There is much controversy about these ideas, but people will be so much better off if they take my advice, and only use technology as and when they need it, and break themselves of the habit of gaining instant gratification from a television set or a violent video game. Remember always, that knowledge, a healthy diet, and keeping fit are important to us as a people. If we keep going at the rate that we are going now, humans will not last long, and they will eventually pass away from this world forever, and they will let the work of time bury them in their graves, and give birth to a new people.