05.09C Discussion: A Day in the Life:

I posted this on 10/23/2016 at 2:46 AM.

Kiera, a software development engineer from "A Day in the Life," describes a stereotypical professional from the computer science field as a skinny dork who codes all day in the basement and does not receive enough sunlight. She asserts, however, that she does not know anyone in her office who fits that stereotype. It is difficult for me to picture my life in the future, but as an adult I hope to pursue various hobbies such as drawing and writing like Kiera. If the women in “A Day in The Life” did not have jobs that emphasized the use of technology, they would have followed different career paths—Crystal would have majored in business and Kiera might have continued painting. These women also probably would have lost freedom without their computer science background since many jobs in the computer science field allow flexibility.

Computer-based technology affects my daily life significantly. I use my iPod to listen to music, my laptop to access information quickly, and my calculator to save my grade in math class. I think that technology, for the most part, improves and simplifies my life. Whether the simplification of life is good, however, is debatable. If I had to give up the use of one computer-based technology for a week, I would give up technology that I do not use anymore such as my Nintendo DS… all right, I’m joking. In all seriousness, I would probably give up digital clocks mainly out of curiosity—I would like to see how drastically my sleeping schedule would change without digital clocks. Without digital clocks, I think that my sleeping schedule would become even more irregular than it already usually is.

I asked my father how the absence of technology affected his childhood, and his response slightly surprised me. I expected my father to mention some of the inconveniences of the lack of technology, but he only focused on the negative aspects of technology. My father thinks that he can perform mental calculations fast because he hardly relied on calculators as a child. He also thinks that if he was distracted by technology, he would not have read literature as voraciously. Overall, it seems like he believes that technology would have prevented him from learning.

I think that older generations, in general, detest technology more than younger generations. I have noticed that many elders are concerned that texting is replacing “real” relationships, and it seems like many elders are reluctant to accept technology partly since they are not used to it. Many teenagers, on the other hand, often embrace technology since it is a source of entertainment. They are not hesitant to accept technology since they have grown up with it—unlike elders, teenagers have no basis of comparison, and they cannot reminisce about the supposedly “better” days when there was no technology.

05.09B Discussion: Power to Change the World:

I responded to Alexander Miller on 11/7/2016 at 11:00 AM.

Great response. It is indeed interesting how computer science seems to focus on solving problems more than operating computers, and my perception of computer science has changed since I have enrolled in this course. I also agree with what you thought about Picasso’s view on computers—computers are useless on their own, but they can serve as powerful tools if humans use them properly.

05.09A Discussion: Pathways to Computer Science:

I responded to Noah Kowalczyk on 11/7/2016 at 11:27 AM.

I too did not realize that computer science was so ubiquitous before watching the video. It amazes me how many opportunities exist out there for computer scientists, and computer science is relevant to what I want to major in—cognitive science (and possibly computer science). My dream is to create programs that will respond to human behavior appropriately and perhaps translate texts more accurately.