

Arthur's Diary to 2015

Josh Ellis

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Dear Diary:

Today was pretty normal. I got up and had the house computer make me breakfast. I then said goodbye to my parents before an automated taxi took me to school. Once I was in class, my tutor computer taught me about the government. I learned that the world government we live in is a democracy: grown-ups elect people to make and enforce laws. Well, the laws are mostly written by AIs, and the police force that enforces them is mostly robots too, but the people have the final say. For example, the government just rejected a bill requiring all houses to be made of uranium.

After learning this stuff, we had lunch and recess. I asked Helen, my friend who happens to be an AI, about these crazy bills. The AIs that write them are very clever (smarter than any human) and want the best for everyone, so why would they ask for houses to be made of uranium? She told me that these bills exist to stop the government from becoming stupid and just passing everything the AIs tell them to.

After lunch, the tutor had me do a writing assignment, which I crushed. For extra credit, I'm writing this diary entry for someone who fell asleep in 2015 and is waking up now. This means that I'm having to explain things that are obvious to me, but not to you. Here's an example: when we had recess, the playground just assembled itself out of little machines. To me, that's just normal and makes recess awesome; we can vote on which playground we want that day! In 2015, you had to actually go to a park first, and you couldn't just change the playground. Boo! It's also why I put in "an automated taxi took me to school";

for you, it would be like putting in "I got in a car to go to school" or "I didn't get smallpox today!"

For math, a human teacher came in to teach us about algebra. The teacher was more fun than my tutor (which is a fairly dumb computer program). I was going to talk about that, but my great grandparents tell me that people back then hated math, so I won't talk about it. I thought what he told us was really interesting, but I won't bore you with the Golden Rule of Algebra.

After school, I went to my great grandparents' house to discuss this very entry. They told me that I should explain how the economy works since it's very different to the one in 2015. Since most jobs can be done more cheaply by robots, there are very few jobs that people can take and live off the pay alone. As a result, the government pays everyone a certain amount no matter what. A lot of people just use the income to live and do nothing but relax, but many also go out and do stuff with their free time, like my math teacher. Some even find ways to use that free time to get more money, but the negative tax is enough money for most people. They also complained that some people just spend all of their free time in virtual reality and with little machines; I have opinions on that, but I'm getting off track.

Speaking of free time, people have way more free time than in 2015 for another reason: we cured the diseases of old age. My great-grandma Sarah is 135 years old and is perfectly healthy. She regularly runs marathons against people a century younger and beats them. This doesn't surprise me at all (she's fast), but Sarah says that it would have surprised 35-year old Sarah. She also said that she doesn't look a day older than 25, but she does. She doesn't have gray hair or anything like that, but the way she and great-grandpa Gabriel talk and dress makes me feel like they're old. I didn't tell them that last part.

After we finished talking, I went home and wrote this diary entry. I'd write more, but Mom is calling me down for dinner.