A Society Divided

We appreciate Mr. Berry’s stance in the current technological debate. Our personal relationships with others are what set the human race apart from machines. When we allow those machines to steal valuable time from these personal relationships, it deletes our mind’s ability to genuinely communicate and create bonds with others.

For example, a child feels less important and neglected when the parents have a constant connection to their smart phone/computer. This in turn affects the growth and development of an adolescent. An adolescent that will one day become a contributing member of our society. Do we want to teach our children, America’s next generation, that computer games and Facebook are more important than their ideas and feelings? Do we want to teach our children that personal relationships are not of the utmost importance and not worthy of our time? This problem has increased in urgency in recent years and can potentially have long-lasting effects on our society.

The new generation growing up is suffering from this disconnection of social interaction. They are seeking out unsafe relationships online to make up for their losses. In response to this, they are conversing with unreliable people who will lead them on or hurt them. Two million teens and young adults commit suicide each year from cyberbullying and catfishing. If this keeps going on, there will be no turning back. There will be no help for our society as a whole. This is one reason why Berry is so passionate against new technology.

In contrast to Berry’s negative view of technological advancement, computers aren’t the nemesis. All relationships are not doomed due to society’s infatuation with technology. Computers and other technology are tools that forge satisfying and healthy human relationships.

Family members living in distant areas of the country or even the world can remain close with each other via email, Skype, FaceTime, and text messaging. Families are able to share special moments that would otherwise be unobtainable without this technology at their disposal. Without computers and other technology, military personnel could not communicate and maintain relationships with their friends and family. It is significant for the military to be able to disconnect from the horrible realities of war and conflict. Technology enables them to preserve their sanity by communicating with their families.

While Berry has some good points in his defense, he isn’t aware of what technology is like in today’s world. People should realize the difference in how we communicate now compared to how we communicated in the past. Our relationships with others can be enriched or depleted by technology. Technology and computers aren’t inherently good or evil; the way society utilizes them creates our perception. Thus, Mr. Berry’s perception is accurate based on his personal experiences while our perception is also accurate. The end result of technology on human relationships can be positive or negative depending on the person and not the computer.