A Letter to the Editor: (post-Omnicorp)

There is an immensely tragic aspect to having nearly all of a body’s limbs and torso replaced with a machine. By now, everyone has most likely heard of the events that recently took place in and among our Detroit Police force: Alex Murphy transforming into the perfect law officer, then discovering and eliminating a hive of corruption hidden deep within. The effect those events began will be felt for decades, especially on Alex Murphy and his family. What most people do not know, however, is the truth of what occurred that night. The very idea of AI being used in placement of officers must never again fall on our legislators’ table, at the risk of ruining the very humanity that we should hold so dear. Seeing as I am Alex Murphy, my right to possess a strong opinion on this topic cannot be contested.

On January 10, 2017, your news source posted an article: “Will AI Ever Understand Human Emotions?” As a human, I can accurately say that we are able to feel various types of emotions, but that AI are only capable of what they are programmed to do. Nothing more. Those mere firings of neurons are what make up our essence, our spirit, our very choices. Your article states that the ability to understand emotions is an essential part of what sets humans apart from AI since the latter will never “truly understand.” Our choices are what define us. How, then, can we say that AI have the possibility to experience emotions? Further, not all of our emotions are good. In Chapter XVII of Italian philosopher Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, mankind is known to be “fickle, hypocritical, and greedy of gain.” From this, the concept that humans have many issues must be garnered, and dissected. If we were to go forward with these AI projects, emotion would attempt to be inserted. Your article claims that AI can “read” emotion, but how can we make sure that they won’t eventually “read” hypocrisy? Greed? Jealousy? They do not have our ability to choose what to do *with* those emotions. What is to say that we will not transfer these vices into the technology that we create?

The main reason Omnicorp’s AI was created in the first place was because they are more efficient than humans; they don’t hesitate when taking an action. Depending on the potential consequences, efficiency can sometimes be justified. However, just because something works well does not mean it is right. An iconic quote from Machiavelli is that “The ends justifies the means.” While this may be useful for a dictator, it simply cannot be applied when addressing individual citizens within our nation. The lack of ability to make choices based off of emotion is what caused my own decline under the AI’s, and Omnicorp’s, influence.

The truth of that night is that Sellars set out to kill me in order to prevent the reveal of our police force’s corruption. The use of AI that has the ability to feel emotions would cause the pre-existing fraud in the government to become even larger, thus causing more harm than it would be solving.