The Automated Pink Slip Line: A Thoughtless Experiment Dan Jacoby diacoby@uwb.edu

The Idea

Imagine a completely automated unemployment compensation system. You don't bother to report to the claims office, they already know you were laid off by a company that found a machine to do your job. At most times you can't find anyone to complain to, because the staff here, too, have been replaced by automated systems. If you do choose to show up between 3 and 6AM you would find a series of computers assisted by only the occasional lackey who must physically secure the data placed on the micro sized readers. These are the former managers who learned that the routine processes of rejecting claims and denying retraining benefits could be conducted by expert systems written by the occasional information technology intern.

How could this be possible, you ask? Don't you need people to help people in need? In this document, I will demonstrate that our lust for profits has divided the working classes to the point at which we no longer see each other as bound together by a common thread of humanity. The system has now reached the point that although it might be possible to distribute the gains from new technology to enable everyone to pursue a meaningful and creative life, instead, all benefits are or will go to a small group of people who control intellectual property. Their wealth is created by systematically extracting the skills workers possess and resetting these into informated management and production systems enabling the new ruling (class) to privatize all wealth.

The Typical User Experience

Entry

Entry into the world of redundancy is through a nearly obsolete biological process known as birth. This system is currently under revision and will be replaced by fully automated artificial insemination and incubation centers.

Greeting

Individuals are greeted into this brave new world through an extensive Indoctrination center utilizing a series of dedicated personal computers touting video games, gambling and erotica, all of which are hooked up to the Paypal system, creating instant indebtedness nearly from the moment of birth. Individuals succumb to mindless commercialism and the remnants of empathy are slowly drained from the now vestigial remnants of their emotional banks.

Intelligent Shopping Carts

Currently this aspect of the system is under revision. Managerial challenges have been arisen over the necessity of providing newly indoctrinated members of the human species with consumer choices. Previously, individuals had used the

automated Wal-Mart system; but this system, which was designed as an interim step in the development of a workerless society, is now considered unnecessary. Today, since very few individuals are truly necessary to society, most have been relegated freakshows where they are fed the slops of members of the "creative class" that owns most of the assets in society. Often described as Eloi, the young and redundant workers are cultivated for looks, but not brains. The most capable will become the playthings of creative class.

Help finding an Item? Emergencies? Carding. Well, you get the idea....