

# Will Robots Replace Humans?

By Walter M. Bortz, II, MD



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*Searching for the fountain of youth? “Prince de Leon died on the point of an Indian arrow on such a search.”*

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**I am as much an enthusiast about my computer and other gains that science has brought me as anyone but I feel urgency to put up a caution flag.**

We are caught up in a frenzy of euphoric predictions about everything. Prime among these was a cover of *Time* magazine a while back that asked “Can Google Solve Death?”

Aligned with this perspective are the many pronouncements about life expectancy. Extrapolating from the data of the last 200 years in which life expectancy has grown by decades, numerous crystal ball gazers predict a 300 to 500 year lifespan in our future. Ponce de Leon died on the point of an Indian arrow on such a search. It is just as illusory today as then.

My friend, the futurist Ian Morrison, coined the phrase “premature extrapolation.” Such speculation even goes to the point of saying that we humans

will soon be replaced by robots; that our brains will be miniature computers. Our lives will be remade much as the automotive world makes new model cars.

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***“Can silicon appreciate a sunset or hear Gotterdammerung or experience an orgasm?”***

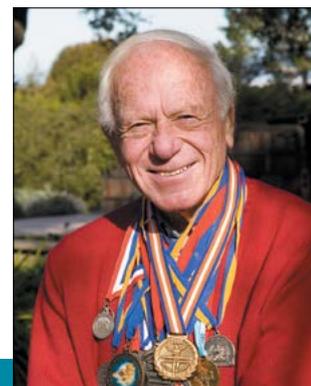
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I resist and reject such speculation.

I wrote a blog for *Huffington Post* several weeks ago entitled “silicon can’t feel.” The carbon based tissue of which we are all made has no prospect of becoming sensate by converting to a silicone chip.

In my blog I asked, “Can silicon appreciate a sunset or hear Gotterdammerung or experience an orgasm?”

Science fiction abuses my sensibilities. I prefer the old-fashioned way.



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