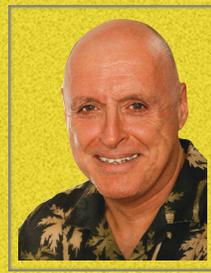


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



5 Will You Work for a Robot Manager?

How much longer will it be before you work for a robot?...I'm Jerry Roberts and we ponder that, next, on The Extra Point.

I can hear the jokes coming already. "I work for a robot now." But what if you came to work one day and your organization's leader told you they had replaced all managers and supervisors with robots, and a machine, using artificial intelligence, would now assign tasks, define objectives, judge your performance and provide you with feedback?

It wouldn't care how the Dodgers did yesterday, or how you look in high heels. It would be programmed to take your input and respond accordingly, even talk to you.

According to consulting firm McKinsey & Company and I quote, better perk your ears up for this..."half of all existing work activities could be automated by currently existing technologies, saving some \$16 trillion in wages." Did they say future technology? No... Existing technology.

But would worker relationships suffer?

Research company Gallup reports that 50% of employees have left a job to get away from their manager at some point in their career." ... that most managers are not creating environments in which employees feel motivated or even comfortable."

If human managers are scoring so poorly at this, could robots do any worse?

Could a robot manager be programmed to throw an impromptu pizza party if you meet your goals? If you tell the robot you don't feel well, will it send you to the doctor? The answer is yes to both.

Will humans always need humans in the workplace? Or will robots be infused with high levels of emotional intelligence to make better decisions, manage communication, and manage conflict?

They already have kiosks in fast food outlets. You order, pay, and the machine cooks and serves up the food. Home Depot has automated checkout lines. Amazon is testing cashierless convenience stores. We have driverless vehicles.

There is disruption happening across all industries, with jobs being targeted for the scrapheap to improve efficiency and return on investment, plus to put a scare into politicians who are pushing for major increases in the federal minimum wage.

You don't think a robot could be set up to handle a lot of what a manager does now? Maybe you think Guam will escape this techno buzzsaw because we're too small. You might laugh the whole thing off but some of it's here now, and I'll bet we'll see more of it than we think, and it'll get here faster than we think.

If you're a manager, now's the time to learn how to improve workplace relationships, employee engagement, and lead a team, learn to do things that no robot can ever do better.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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