

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 785 The Upside and Downside to Artificial Intelligence

We've approached the subject of artificial intelligence a few times, and how it will eventually change the lives of just about everybody. AI, as it's called, is in its infancy, but new uses for it are being developed daily. A lot of this is the stuff of futuristic dreams, but something in the news this week caught my attention. I'll tell you what that is, next on The Extra Point.

Computers and artificial intelligence, AI, will one day replace most jobs as we know them. It's not a brand new concept. A large percentage of manufacturers already use some form of AI to produce their goods.

It wasn't but a few decades ago that an automobile assembly line was all human beings. People are still involved today, but robots do much of the work. One day, humans will have zero involvement.

To read our earlier conversations on AI, you can go to [guamtraining.com](http://guamtraining.com) and download Extra Points 237, 312, and 610.

A case can be made that a huge number of jobs will be taken over by the bots. If, in 10 years we have millions of driverless cars on the road, including thousands of them here in Guam, we have to realize that driverless trucks and delivery vehicles will also be common.

It's fun to think about the future and joke about which jobs are going to be swallowed up by AI and robots, but if we project into the future, how many people will see their job disappear? If that happens enough, what will the economy evolve into? How are people going to survive?

Sam Altman is co-founder and president of San Francisco-based nonprofit group, OpenAI. Altman's organization is involved with many AI projects, and he's in a strong position to encourage how the tech develops. He also

understands the economics of AI. Beyond the fancy stuff, what does this mean for billions of people worldwide who need income to support their family?

Altman recently told CNBC, "My work at OpenAI reminds me every day about the magnitude of the socioeconomic change that is coming sooner than most people believe." He compares it in magnitude to the agricultural, industrial and computer revolutions.

He also said, "The technological progress we make in the next 100 years will be far larger than all we've made since we first controlled fire, and invented the wheel." That's pretty impressive language. So is what he said next. "If public policy doesn't adapt accordingly, most people will end up worse off than they are today." Let's see. Massive job loss. Government adapting public policy to meet the crisis. Does that sound familiar?

Altman says AI will offer incredible efficiency, plus bring innovations that improve society in every way imaginable. He believes technology will force the prices of everything down to a fraction of what we pay now, and the cost of living will shrink. Still, with so many jobs erased, how will people get by?

Altman believes, and Elon Musk has said he sees it coming as well, that there will be so much wealth that every adult in America will receive a basic monthly income. That income would not be taxed. Governments would collect taxes on capital, not labor, and those taxes would be distributed to citizens.

To those who still have jobs, work weeks would be very short, and leisure time would multiply.

Each person would have a "share" in America.

(Con't.)

Poverty would be eliminated, individuals would live better, and as shareholders in the country, would have a desire to see the nation do well. There would be less conflict and division. Altman says his vision is both pro-business and pro-people. Some would socialistic or utopian.

Faced with the prospect that such a system would end most or all of the need for having them around, would politicians ever allow such a thing to happen?

It's an amazing time to be alive. With regard to AI, we know big things are coming. We're not exactly sure how much and how fast, or what it will all mean for us when it does — but it's coming.

That's The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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