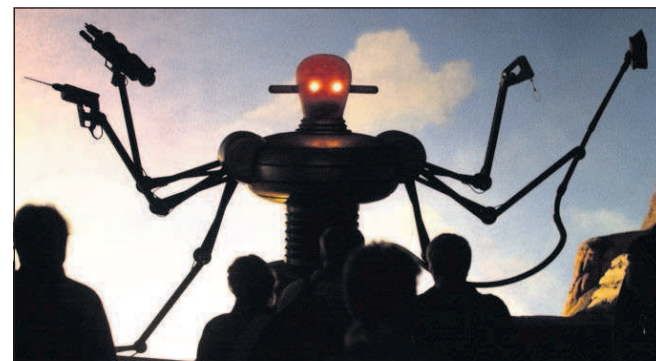


From Isaac Asimov to Aimee Mann, 'robophobia' plagues humans

By DAN SEWELL Associated Press

phen Hawking and tech entrepreneur Elon Musk have also warned about the dangers of going too far, too quickly, in developing "thinking robots" with programmed intelligence...



In this Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2000 file photo, visitors of the world exhibition Expo 2000 stand in front of a robot display at the "Planet of Visions" exhibit at the Expoground in Hanover, northern Germany.

taking jobs making his mission tougher.

"You have to start this discussion with the baseline that automation and innovation creates jobs," he said, by leading to new products and processes and the new jobs to make and operate them.

"Then you have to ask yourself, why would robots be different? And people are very quick to say, 'Well, robots are intelligent, they do what humans can do, and there's this fear that was sort of instilled by science fiction.'"

Comparing fear of robots to 19th-century worries about steam engines, Choset said: "Robots are just the next generation of tools."

Singer Aimee Mann, with help from actress Laura Linney, humorously depicted the danger of letting robots help

you too much in this music video.

And Choset was amused by a recent "Dilbert" strip about the boss' inability to stop a robot worker who decided to quit.

Chris Boggess, 18, found the 2004 movie "I, Robot," about a rogue killer robot drawn from Asimov stories, frightening, but he has come to understand and appreciate their potential through the Butler Tech robotics program at Colerain High School near Cincinnati.

"The first day I walked in, I fell in love. I knew this was where I needed to be," Boggess said. "I like robots, anything about technology."

And if, some day, thinking robots acquired the ability to threaten humans, he said, "I would probably try to make friends with them."

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