TECHNOLOGY RANT

Is it just me or is technology falling way short of what it should be? I remember being shown that in the 21st century, things would be like on "The Jetsons". Everyone would have flying cars, food would be cooked by robots, and there'd be hot-looking cartoon teenagers everywhere. What do we get instead? We drive SUVs that cause more traffic jams and pollution; we drink bottled water because it's "healthier", but the chemicals in the plastic bottle kill us; and my neighbor's daughter is a mutant with a smart phone riveted to her hand and a permanent scowl riveted to her tattooed face. Okay, a green-headed scowl hiding a tongue-piercing that doubles as a phone-charger does turn me on, but that's not the point here.

This new technology isn't helping us progress; it's setting us back. These new phones have apps like bowling, golf, and Scrabble. You know, if you're too lazy to actually play a game that you can already drink and smoke during, I'm surprised you can you even pick up a phone. Ow, ow, I sprained my wrist sending a high-five emoji. Look, if you're not tough enough to chance a paper cut actually doing the crossword puzzle in the newspaper, maybe you shouldn't be opening yourself up to a case of Nintendonitis either.

You want a good app? How about an iNeedaDrink app. Synch it up with your GPS and not only does it tell you where the nearest bar is, but it automatically orders a shot and a beer that's waiting for you when you get there. And pays for it in Bitcoin, which as far as I can tell is about as valid a currency as wampum, so it really costs you nothing.

GPS – that's another one. Columbus sailed to the new world using just a compass, the stars, and 60 shanghaied, squealing schoolboys, but nowadays people get lost going to the same neighborhood pizza joint without their precious GPS. It's been 3 lefts and right for the last 5 years, hasn't it? What are the odds that all of a sudden the city put up a one-way street, a rotary intersection, and a multi-dimensional "Stranger Things" upside down labyrinth along the way? What the hell does "GPS" stand for? "Getting Progressively Stupider"? (GPS voice) "Turn right in 175 yards." Like I can figure out how far 175 yards is while I'm driving drunk. What is that, about a good 5 iron from here?

And I don't have Alexa set up to tell me when it's time to go out either. Instead I have one of those other things. What the hell do you call it? Oh yeah – a life!

And can someone please tell me why the hell I should even know about Twitter? As far as I can tell, a bunch of self-obsessed groins who don't know each other go online and post about some new mustache wax café or something. And they have to do it all in 280 characters. 280 characters?! Come on, it takes me more than 280 characters to clear my throat in the morning to get ready to tell a stranger that he's a pedantic pissant for messaging me about a mustache wax café. Is that really what passes for communication and social skills now?

Here's another social skill that people have lost with this new technology. If I have to hear this one more time when I'm out eating with a friend: "Excuse me, I have to answer this text. It's important." "No problem, I have to take a leak on your food. It's important." What can possibly be so important that you just HAVE to answer a text right then? You're not a doctor or a fireman; you're a junior high school assistant-librarian. Has Dewey gone crazy with the decimal system again?

I've got an idea. How about an app that tells you how to react in a real emergency? (Speaking to the phone) "Hey smart phone, the house is on fire." And the phone would reply, "Grab your porno mags, head outside, call your wife from the street, and tell her to get out of the burning house immediately."

Now that's a new technology that I'd be happy to adopt. Right after I have my drone pick me up a pizza. And have it record my neighbor's daughter as it flies by her bondage chamber.

You know, on second thought, maybe this new technology isn't so bad after all.