Over the years I have become more and more interested in cars, and not only how they work, but all the new and improved technologies that are constantly being put into each vehicle. Cars have made our lives tremendously easier, as well as much more efficient. We can now get from Point A to Point B at once unthinkable rates, and the impossible seems to keep changing in this industry.

My interest in cars peaked in the year of 2017 when I was able to work full time at a luxury car dealership. I went into this job very interested in cars, but I had yet to develop a true passion and love for them. After working full time with these complicated machines, I began to develop a deeper appreciation for all the hard work and fascinating technology that goes into producing these cars. Hopping into a seven series BMW and being able to change the gear ratios, ride height, ride stiffness, etc. absolutely blew my mind. It’s truly amazing the variability that these computer systems give to the operator of their vehicle’s, and just how drastically the push of a button, or tweak of a degree can completely change the car.

One new technology that has really revolutionized the industry is the production and implementation autonomously driving vehicles, and their systems. Up until recently automobiles have been at the reigns of man’s senses and judgement systems to navigate safely to their destinations. According to Eun-Kyu Lee, “It is now a formidable sensor platform, absorbing information from the environment (and from other cars) and feeding it to drivers and infrastructure to assist in safe navigation, pollution control, and traffic management.” (Lee 1). To further explain this quote, these self-driving vehicles have multiple different sensors reading different variables such as speed, following distance,
traffic, etc. to help get you to your destination safely. Giving cars the senses to drive on their own could revolutionize the transportation industry as we know it, both for the good and bad.

Autonomously driving vehicles, brought to fame by Tesla, have taken not only the automobile industry but the technology industry by storm. With many companies such as Google, Tesla, etc. working on producing these vehicles, there is a high likelihood of some stones being left unturned. People buying these cars may not fully understand that they are not one-hundred percent autonomous, and require human operation in the event of a system failure, weather, other drivers, etc. (Dixit 1). Despite these vehicles allowing operators to sit back and relax, it does not discount them from being fully aware of their surroundings on the road when the vehicle is operational. With new technology comes new problems, but “with increased vehicle miles travelled the reaction times were found to increase…” (Dixit 1). It is safe to say that this technology is going to continue to be tested, tweaked, and then produced, but people need practice driving and good legal measures put in place to keep them safe.

I believe that this technology will become the standard one day, and manual driving cars will start to die out just like manual transmissions did with the release of the automatic transmission. I do not believe that this will be a standard in the next decade or so, because it does not seem that we have enough data and testing done to assure you will be safe in one of these automobiles. There is no doubt autonomously driving vehicles are on the rise, the question is when will they be mainstream.
Works Cited


journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0168054.


Black Mirror is a futuristic television show that takes plausible real-world situations and plays them out in mindboggling scenarios. Each episode has its own specific plotline, and “Hated in the Nation” looks at the power of social media, and robotic bees. In this episode it begins by looking at a female politician who had a negative image in the press, and the people of the internet took storm to bash her and tweet nasty messages. Little did they know that with each tweet hash-tagged “DeathTo” they were ranking people to be eliminated. The way the targets were eliminated was horrifying; one lone man with a controller could hack into these robotic bees used for flower pollination, and direct them to burrow into a certain targets brain. After two people die agonizing deaths in two days, the government began unfolding the case, only to meet an outcome far worse than they could have ever expected. A complete extermination of every social media user that used the hash-tag “DeathTo”.

Obviously, the most interesting piece of technology in this episode is robotic bees that are being used to pollinate flowers after the bees went extinct. As of right now this technology is not readily available, but the idea is in motion with prototypes being produced. “The device is a small drone with a layer of horse hair on the surface. The hair is covered in a chemical compound that picks up pollen as it flies by flowers, transferring it from the stamen to the pistils.” (Lansdown). Unlike the life-like bees in “Hated in the Nation”, these are tiny drones that would most likely not pose a threat of getting hacked and burrowing into people’s brains. With the idea behind these “bees” design being so simple, like a drone, it could surely help with production costs in the future. As the population of bees continues to steadily
decline, this is definitely an area of technology that will need more funding and research to help perfect these drones, and make them mainstream.

Many people have probably seen t-shirts, websites, stickers, and magazines with the quote “Save the Bees” written across it. This may seem like a cute little saying to stop people from swatting the little guys, rather it’s a global effort to stop the extinction of bees. “Last year, seven bee species were declared to be endangered in the United States…” (Lansdown). Despite bees having a fierce sting, they are vital in the grand scheme of our world. With bee populations on the decline the implementation and research into these miniscule drones is more necessary than ever. The problems that are posed to scientists are getting these drones to act as quickly, think as efficiently, and successfully pollinate like a bee without carrying a hefty price tag. While these drones could be the key to solving the problems that come along with endangerment, the show “Black Mirror” highlights a key issue that could happen. In this episode the bees are hacked to burrow into a certain target’s brain, despite this seeming like a far-fetched tale it’s not to crazy to think these drones could be hacked. In the event of somebody figuring out how to control these small drones it’s hard to predict what kind of havoc, if any, could be brought upon our world.

In the show prior to being hacked it appeared the bees were pollinating plants and carrying on our world quietly behind the scenes. It isn’t until a lone man gets ahold of a controller that he begins to cause terror throughout a nation. I believe in a real-life scenario we could implement these small drones without much contest from the public. If the technology continues to develop drones would be able to replicate the role of the bees in pollination. As long as there is no outside source hacking these drones, the largest problem I could think of would be somebody running into one of these with their car and causing an accident. The risks associated with this technology are far outweighed by the benefits that we could all receive.

I firmly believe that this technology is ethical in the fact that it will help to continue our ecosystem in the absence of bees. Without continual research into this area, as the bee population declines
the world will be at a crossroads on how to maintain our environment, as well as our lives. I believe in five to ten years these miniature drones will be ready to go if we do not figure out a way to save our bees.
Lansdown, Sarah. “Robotic Bees Are Now A Real Thing And Oh God Black Mirror Is Coming True.” Huffington Post Australia, Huffington Post Australia, 9 Feb. 2017,