The Weakness of Humanity

Both *August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains* and *The Pedestrian* feature dystopian societies which portray Ray Bradbury’s prediction of the future. In the stories, technology has become a dominating force which controls everybody’s life. Bradbury emphasizes the weakness of mankind by displaying the strength of technology in its ability to take control of certain aspects of nature and humanity.

A similarity in the two stories is the decrease in human activity due to the increase in technology. The house in *There Will Come Soft Rains* is an example of the use of technology for automation. Simple tasks such as making breakfast, keeping track of time, and reading poems are reduced to programmed robotic actions. In *The Pedestrian*, people primarily stay inside their houses, using technology for entertainment, which leaves jobs that would require human counterparts, such as policing, to robots. Without requiring day to day interaction with each other, or even the need to help themselves, the people of the future, as depicted in these stories, can hardly be considered human. Their only purpose in life is to simply carry out their tasks such as going to school or to work in a robotic manner.

Both stories also display mankind’s limited ability to overcome technology. In *There Will Come Soft Rains*, the people who had lived in the house had already been conquered by a different advancement in technology, an atomic bomb. In *The Pedestrian*, Leonard Mead overcame the commonly accepted reliance on technology for entertainment to go out for a walk,
but he was quickly arrested for doing so. Without being able to argue with the programmed robotic police car, he was forced to enter the police car on his own will.

Both stories show how despite mankind’s inability to counter the technology it created, nature is strong enough to withstand being completely suppressed by technology. In *The Pedestrian*, nature perseveres through small things such as the air and the grass breaking through the concrete. In *There Will Come Soft Rains*, nature actively attacks the house, the representative of technology, with a gust of wind that ultimately led to the fire that burns the house down.

Although the stories differ in the way nature’s resistance is perceived, it is still apparent in both stories how powerful nature is. In the city and even after a nuclear bomb, nature prevailed where humanity couldn’t.

Humanity is very weak compared to even our current technology and nature. People are easily weakened by reliance on technology and the further it progresses, the weaker mankind becomes in comparison. People must carefully monitor the advancements of technology or it may lead to a dystopian society similar to the one portrayed in the stories. If it were to continue even further, it may result in what is considered planetary suicide, the end of mankind.