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Robots Taking Over Fast Food Jobs

By Michael Allen, Thu, July 18, 2013

- ① Fast food workers in Seattle are demanding that the Seattle City Council increase the minimum wage from \$9.19 per hour to \$15 an hour.
- ② "We're asking for \$15 because in order to support one person in a one bedroom apartment, you need to make \$14.88," said Arby's worker Amanda Larson recently to MyNorthwest.com. "We don't make anywhere near that and we're all on food stamps."
- ③ However, some critics are saying the workers are lucky to have a job as robots are replacing fast food workers in Japan and Europe.
- ④ According to MyNorthwest.com, a Japanese sushi-chain has replaced chefs with robots that prepare meals, which customers order on a touch screen. A computer tracks purchases and takes care of the bill payment, therefore replacing the cashier.
- ⑤ The managers of all the sushi restaurants "manage" their eateries from one location via video screens.
- ⑥ Likewise, McDonald's installed touch-screen kiosks in their European stores, which replaced cashiers. McDonald's is also experimenting with robot burger flippers.
- ⑦ A Chinese restaurateur in Beijing has invented a robot chef to make sliced noodles. The robot chef costs \$1,500 and does not demand safe working conditions or a livable wage (video below).

<u>Author's Viewpoint/Claim:</u>	<u>Opposing Viewpoint/Claim:</u>
<u>Evidence:</u>	<u>Evidence:</u>