

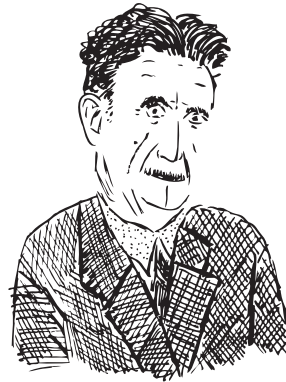
On the eve of a new paradigm that demands radical behavioral change from humanity, Stuart McMillen presents this visualisation of two of the best-known futurist doctrines.

Amusing ourselves to death



ALDOUS HUXLEY

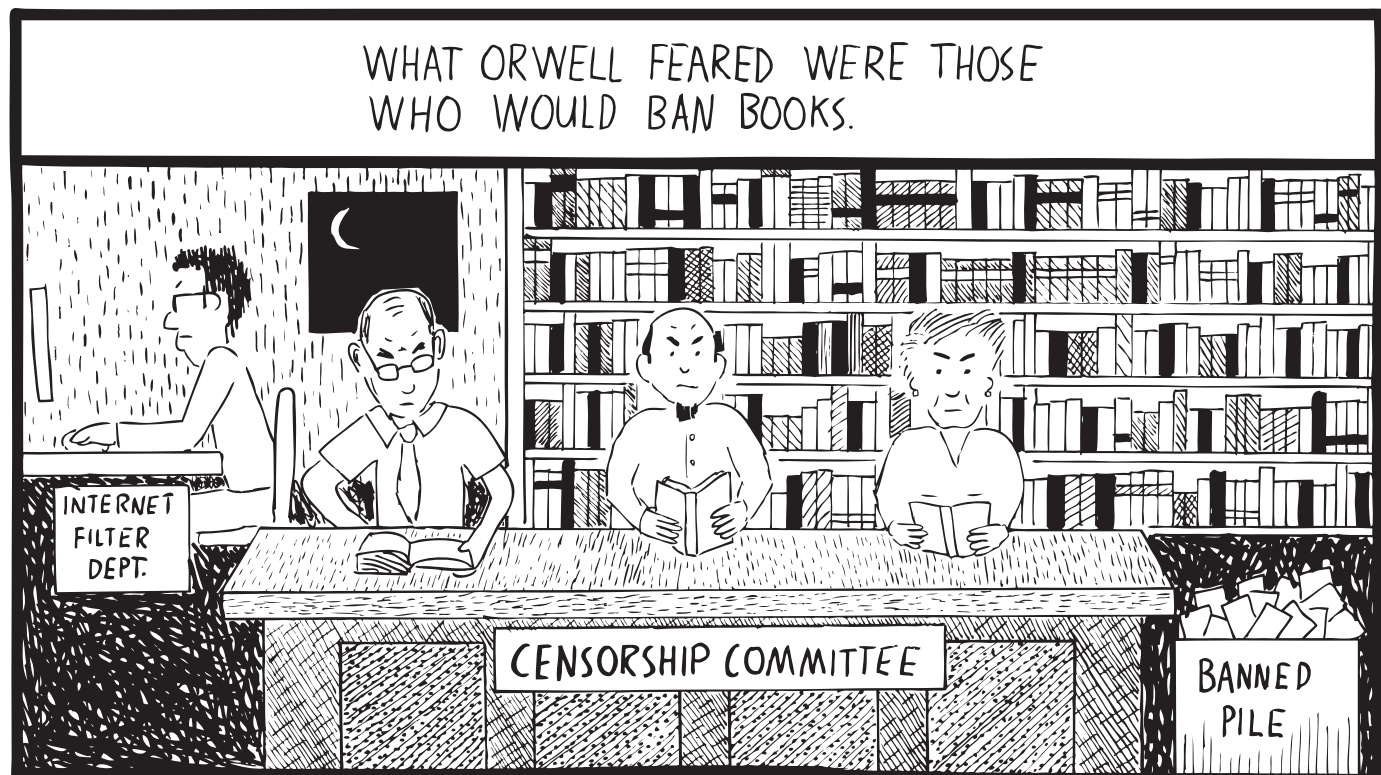
vs.



GEORGE ORWELL

Author: "Brave New World"

Author: "Nineteen Eighty-Four"

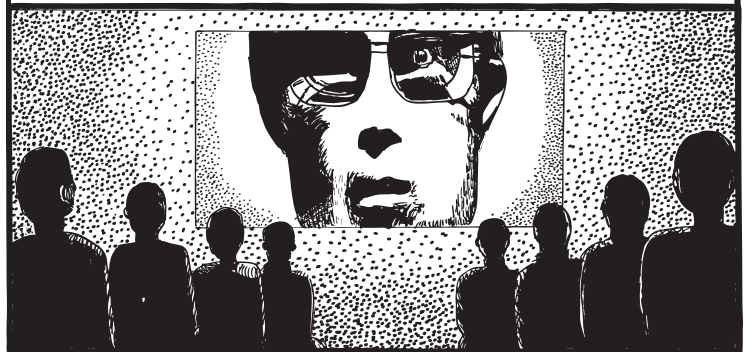


Amusing Ourselves to Death is Stuart McMillen's interpretation of media theorist Neil Postman's book *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (1985), subtitled "Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business". McMillen works in behaviour change with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. He has an interest in environmental sustainability and is the Brisbane organiser of the international Green Drinks networking movement (www.greendrinks.org). In his free time McMillen draws and posts cartoons on his website www.recombinantrecords.net.

WHAT HUXLEY FEARED WAS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO BAN A BOOK, FOR THERE WOULD BE NO ONE WHO WOULD WANT TO READ ONE.



ORWELL FEARED THOSE WHO WOULD DEPRIVE US OF INFORMATION.



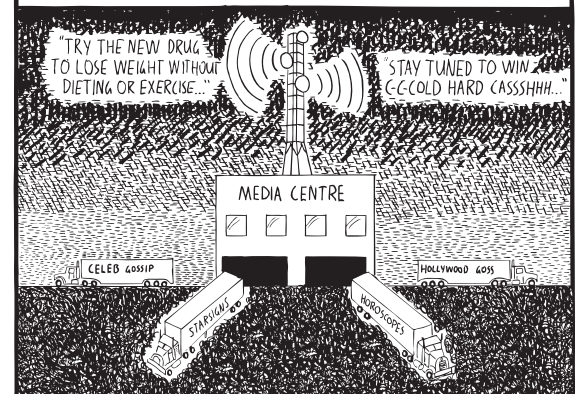
HUXLEY FEARED THOSE WHO WOULD GIVE US SO MUCH THAT WE WOULD BE REDUCED TO PASSIVITY AND EGOTISM.



ORWELL FEARED THE TRUTH WOULD BE CONCEALED FROM US.



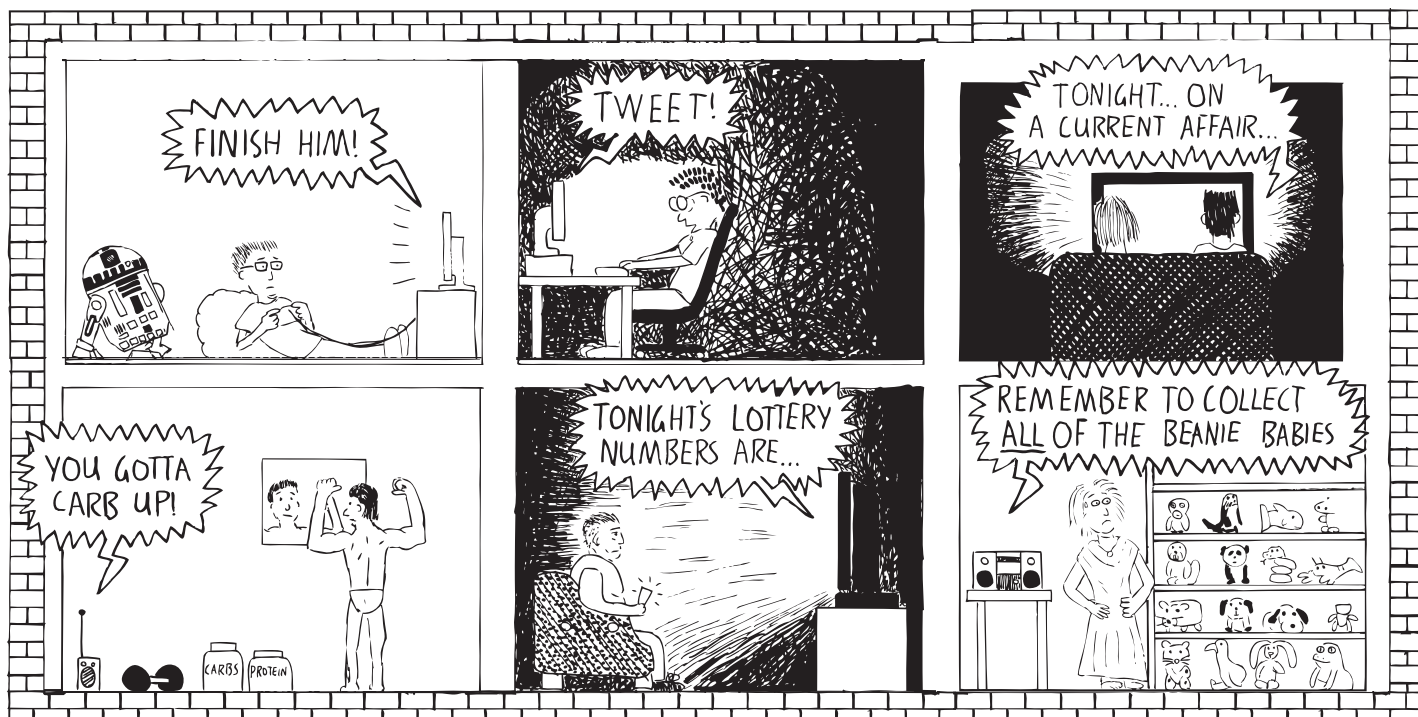
HUXLEY FEARED THE TRUTH WOULD BE DROWNED IN A SEA OF IRRELEVANCE.



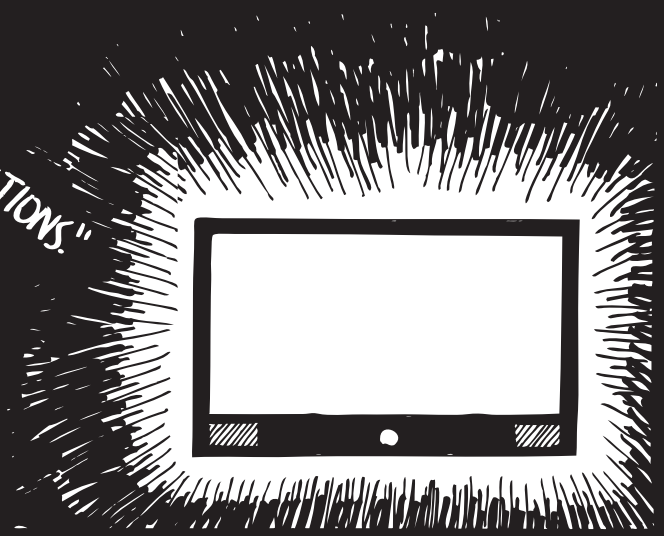
ORWELL FEARED WE WOULD BECOME A CAPTIVE CULTURE.



HUXLEY FEARED WE WOULD BECOME A TRIVIAL CULTURE, PREOCCUPIED WITH SOME EQUIVALENT OF THE FEELIES, THE ORGY PORGY AND THE CENTRIFUGAL BUMBLEPUPPY.



AS HUXLEY REMARKED IN "BRAVE NEW WORLD REVISITED"
THE CIVIL LIBERTARIANS AND RATIONALISTS WHO ARE EVER ON THE
ALERT TO OPPOSE TYRANNY "FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MAN'S
ALMOST INFINITE APPETITE FOR DISTRACTIONS."



IN "NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR",
PEOPLE ARE CONTROLLED
BY INFLECTING PAIN.



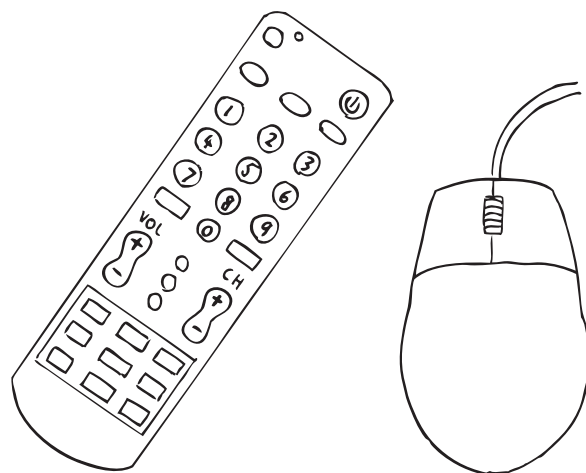
IN "BRAVE NEW WORLD",
PEOPLE ARE CONTROLLED
BY INFLECTING PLEASURE.



IN SHORT, ORWELL FEARED
THAT WHAT WE HATE
WILL RUIN US.



HUXLEY FEARED THAT WHAT
WE LOVE WILL RUIN US.



ALL WORDS FROM "AMUSING OURSELVES TO DEATH :
PUBLIC DISCOURSE IN THE AGE OF SHOW BUSINESS"
BY NEIL POSTMAN... A BOOK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY
THAT HUXLEY, NOT ORWELL, WAS RIGHT