

# A PERFECT AMERICAN:

Some dystopian thoughts in honor of George Orwell

My brain is shrinking  
and I feel increasingly dumb.  
Hours & hours of television  
are making my conscience numb.

I work without emotion  
like a well-programmed machine  
without thinking deeply:  
my life is a programmed routine.

Fulfilling production quotas is easy  
& what I say is usually considered “correct.”  
However, I must mask any traces of doubt –  
critics are marked derelict.

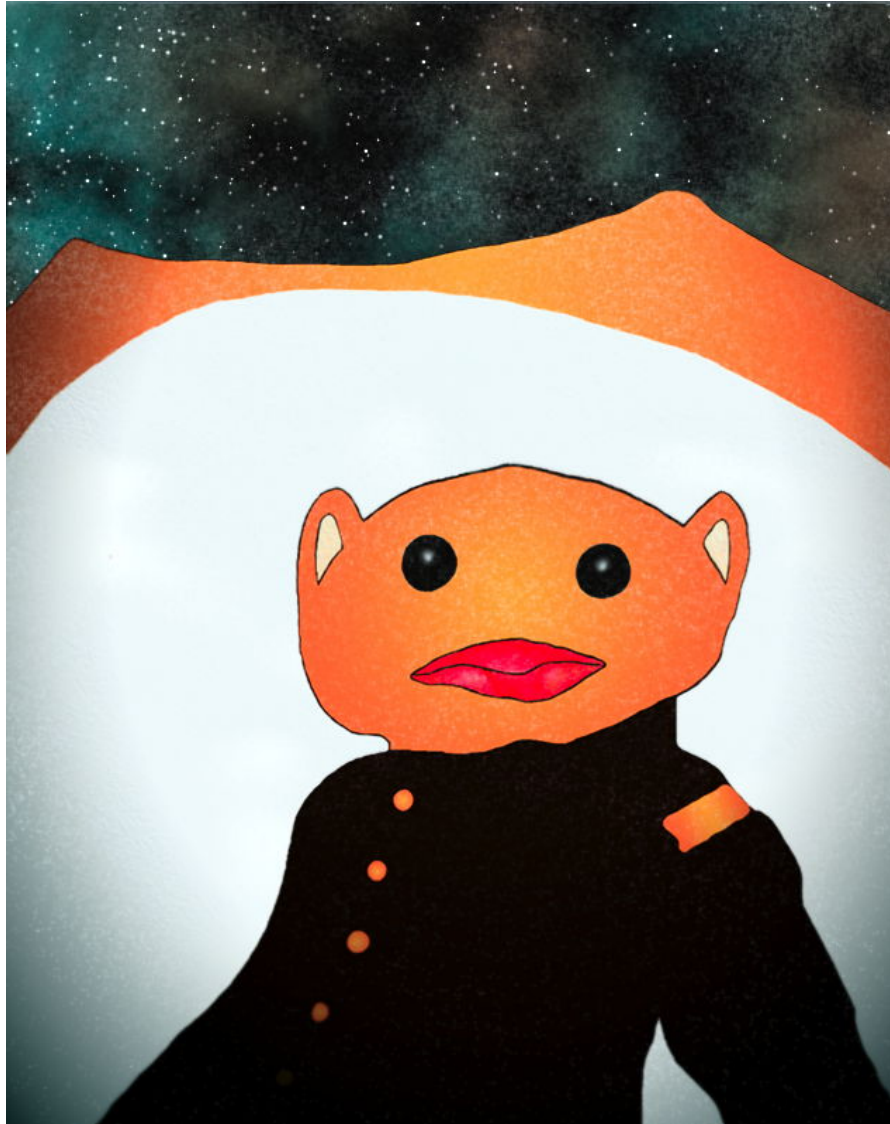
Was there actually an invasion of Syria?  
Was the election of Donald Trump rigged?  
Did Libya's leader vanish  
because Washington willed it?  
Such “facts” are fading from memory.

Although I’m not a perfect citizen yet  
Homeland Security informs me I’m doing well:  
Soon I’ll be an exemplary citizen –  
a true patriotic Yankee  
ready to do whatever our leaders order,  
as predictable as Pavlov's bell.

- T Newfields

Beg. 1996 Shizuoka ≡ Fin.: 2024 Yokohama





**Terri:** George Orwell would love this poem.

**Ted:** We're even better at manipulating emotion now than we were in the 20th century.

**Sam:** Isn't human DNA is the basic problem? It seems flawed to me.

**Ted:** Yeah (pouring himself a beer while taking out his eye). Maybe so.

**Kris:** (spitting while removing her artificial hair, then removing her artificial eyebrows) Is utopia mere a matter of genetic engineering?

**Terri:** I think you seriously overestimate the power of governments.

**Kris:** (gerping loudly while turning red) And you underestimate the power of greed.