

# Frontiersman

*Facing the truth, however great the cost.*

*April 2025*

## Gang Aft Agley

Sam Aurelius Milam III

All progress is change, but not all change is progress.

—Sam Aurelius Milam Jr

There are none so blind as those who will not see.

—Jonathan Swift

Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress.

—John Muir

During the 1950s, it was normal for us to get Measles, Mumps, and Chicken Pox. We didn't get vaccinations. The infections were expected. In fact, my parents were relieved when I, as the oldest sibling, brought the infections home from school. Thus, my younger siblings caught the infections from me, relieving them of the complications of having them later, after they started school. The present policy of mandatory vaccinations mostly increases the control that the police state has over the people, viewed as chattels. See *The Lone Raver Writes Again*, in *Pharos*.

Back then, when a kid got one of the infections, he lived on chicken noodle soup and 7-Up for a while. The generally accepted attitude was that, if somebody didn't recover from something within a week or two, then a visit to a local doctor might be appropriate. The present mad rush to an emergency room in response to every little twitch or itch would have seemed silly, back then. Actually, such panicky behavior is a benefit mostly to the medical providers who, as it happens, can't charge for a home cure.

## Additional Reading

- *Kids Who Survived*, date of article unknown, available in *The Sovereign's Library*. Lacking the date of the article, the human population at the time can't be determined.

[http://sovereign-library.org.uk/Main\\_Directory.html#Kids\\_Who\\_Survived](http://sovereign-library.org.uk/Main_Directory.html#Kids_Who_Survived)

- *Mercymongers*, *Frontiersman*, January 1995

The human population at the time was approaching 6 billion.

<http://frontiersman.org.uk/1995/1995-01/1995-01.html#Mercymongers>

- *The Lone Raver Writes Again*, first completed on Friday, April 12, 2002, available in *Pharos*. The human population at the time was approaching 7 billion.

[http://pharos.org.uk/Ravings\\_Essays/Writes\\_Again/Writes\\_Again.html](http://pharos.org.uk/Ravings_Essays/Writes_Again/Writes_Again.html)

- *Darwin's Wolf*, *Frontiersman*, February 2021

The human population at the time was approaching 8 billion.

[http://frontiersman.org.uk/2021/2021-02/2021-02.html#Darwin-s\\_Wolf](http://frontiersman.org.uk/2021/2021-02/2021-02.html#Darwin-s_Wolf)

- World Population by Year

The human population today is over 8 billion, and rising.

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/world-population-by-year/>

Worldometer Population Clock

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>

U.S. Census Bureau Population Clock

<https://www.census.gov/popclock/world>

Typical Population Curve

<http://frontiersman.org.uk/Population/Curve.html>

I'm not skeptical of the effectiveness of vaccinations, only of the consequences of their use. Today, overpopulation is the most serious problem on the planet. It's the problem that's driving most of the others. Things aren't getting better. They're getting worse. Indeed, I speculate that, today, the number of people who are afflicted with infectious diseases is probably larger than the population of the entire planet was, just a few centuries ago. Thus, vaccinations haven't made things better. In conjunction with other well-intentioned practices, vaccinations have made things worse. I've written about that and related subjects, and in greater detail, in *Mercymongers*, in the January 1995 issue, in *Darwin's Wolf*, in the February 2021 issue, and elsewhere.

Since I started reading science fiction, in the late 1950s, I've read several stories in which overpopulation was a serious problem. The solutions to the problems that I saw in the stories weren't necessarily honorable or humane, only necessary. Now, fact has caught up with fiction. We're faced with a disastrous population explosion. I don't know how to solve the problem but I do know one thing for sure. Trying as hard as possible to keep as many people as possible alive for as long as possible isn't going to work.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sam:

Before last year's election, I read, on-line, an interesting article prepared by Wired magazine. It was a transcript of a panel discussion, (also sponsored by Wired magazine) entitled: "Is Silicon Valley Actually Libertarian. I believe that I have the qualifications to validly answer that question. I have resided in Santa Clara County (A.K.A. "Silicon Valley") for more than forty years. During most of that time, I have been a member of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County. Also, between 1990 and 2014, I participated in the production of a call-in talk show, "Free and Clear", that aired on radio station KKUP, 91.5 FM, Cupertino, California. The purpose of the program was to promote libertarian ideas.

The majority of voters in Santa Clara County are registered Democrats. Democrats and Republicans together greatly outnumber Libertarians in the count. In forty years time, I know of only three Libertarian candidates who were elected to local office. No, Silicon Valley is not libertarian. Silicon Valley is being called libertarian because some well-known high-tech entrepreneurs have been using the word, and because some pundits are classifying them as libertarians. Those entrepreneurs are in favor

of lower taxes, and of less regulation of business. Their positions are traditionally libertarian, but they are also traditionally conservative.

Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, and Marc Andreessen are the most notable members of this so-called libertarian group. From what I have read of their positions, I would classify them as propertarian libertarians. Propertarian libertarians regard property rights as the logical basis of all social rights. Therefore, when there is a conflict between property usage and civil liberties, they are in favor of sacrificing civil liberties.

I may be oversimplifying the situation somewhat, but I think I am essentially correct. Plutocrats are in favor of plutocracy.

—Sir Donald the Elusive

## Fanciful Remedies Department

Sam Aurelius Milam III



Issue These to All  
Federal, State, and Local  
Armed Enforcement Officers



## The First Conference on the State of Man

Convened on Castle of Bethlehem

Day 27, year 2726, Universal Calendar

This is an excerpt from *Cold War*, first completed on Saturday, October 5, 1991.

Fiction by Sam Aurelius Milam III

### Part 3

"We all grow tired of self-serving alarmists, especially when there seems to be no immediate threat. However, there are trends that are undeniable. The Goodlife cults, whose potential influence we enormously underestimated, have had a profound influence upon our belief structures. Berserker worship remains rare, but it is no longer viewed with horror. There was a time when it was the stuff of nightmares. Now, there are death cults, suicide cults, martyr sects, and so forth on many planets. They all advocate in one form or another submission to the Berserkers. It isn't very common, but the trend is there if you know to look for it."

The Speaker paused, poured more liquid from the decanter, and drank again. A few members of the audience had begun taking notes. Skeptical members were looking less sure of themselves. Probably, many of them had some eccentric friend who made an occa-

sional and daring hobby of attending a séance.

"Also of importance is the tendency toward different languages. So far, it is largely a matter of dialects, but not entirely. In a few cases, new languages are developing. Today, a man from Orient can scarcely understand a man from Williamsburg. In the past, there was only one human language. Another factor is the increasing number of planets and planet groups that are approaching self sufficiency. Trade within human space is dropping, the interdependence of human worlds is diminishing. There is a tendency for trade and even travel to become concentrated within local groups. The trend is hardly noticeable over the span of a human lifetime but it is there if you know to look for it. Some planets don't use the Universal Calendar anymore. They have created local calendars, based upon their own diurnal cycles. A local calendar might not seem alarming to the ordinary man but to a man who can view societies in terms of centuries, it is of a piece with many other such indicators. The message is clear. The human race is becoming tribal. Very slowly, human society is fragmenting."

"These trends, and others, derive largely from the Berserker's recent treatment of us. We're prevented from expanding, yet we →

feel secure within our boundaries. The consequences will be exactly as the Berserkers intended. In about 700 years, unless other factors intrude, our ability to defend our volume of space will be seriously impaired. This will result from many things. Local conflicts will preempt the forces that would otherwise face the Berserkers. Human planets drained or defeated in local wars will be easy prey to Berserkers. Those planets won't get much sympathy or help from their nearby human enemies. Such enemies might consider that the Berserkers are simply doing their 'dirty work' for them. There will even be temporary alliances between local human groupings and Berserkers. Our volume of space, which is already shrinking, will begin to shrink more quickly. Simultaneously, it will be fragmented into smaller political units as each remaining human faction blames the others for the worsening state of things. The final result? Less than a thousand years from now, there will be no more men."

The audience was mesmerized. All note-taking had stopped and every eye was upon the Speaker. Then the silence began slowly to weaken. Bit by bit, it fracture into little isolated panicky discussions. The Speaker again used those magic words.

"The Directorate of Old Earth," he said again, reestablishing silence, but of a different kind, "has commissioned this First Conference on the State of Man. It isn't their only move

against the Berserkers. Perhaps it isn't even their most important move against the Berserkers. But it is a counter-attack in a very new kind of war that, paradoxically, has been going on for quite a long time now, a cold war against cold death. You've all been chosen very carefully, each of you for some very specific reason. We've provided conference rooms, food, computers, data, all that is necessary. The Directorate wants you to discuss whatever you think is relevant. Take however long you want. We need the product of your ingenuity. Upon the outcome of your discussions might depend the future of all life in this galaxy."

Abruptly, the Speaker turned and walked rapidly from the podium. He was halfway across the stage before the Grand Recessional began. As those traditional and refined strains faded, a rumble of conversation began in the auditorium. Ushers in Imperial Red appeared. They didn't make any particular effort to move anyone out of the auditorium but, as groups coalesced and people asked for facilities, equipment, or data, the ushers were there. The audience gradually dispersed.

On Old Earth, the successful beginning of the Conference was briefly noticed before other matters demanded attention. On a lump of rock, a cold fragment of stone far, far away, another kind of attention was focused more intently upon the conference.

— Not the End —

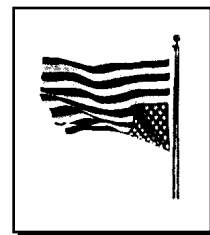
The complete story and my correspondence with Fred Saberhagen are available at this address.  
[http://sam-aurelius-milam-iii.org.uk/Stories/Stories.html#Cold\\_War](http://sam-aurelius-milam-iii.org.uk/Stories/Stories.html#Cold_War)

### Some Other Berserker Stories, by Fred Saberhagen

There might be others of which I'm unaware.

1. 1967  
BERSERKER, Fred Saberhagen, BALLANTINE BOOKS, NEW YORK, Copyright © 1967 Fred Saberhagen
2. 1969  
BROTHER ASSASSIN, Fred Saberhagen, BALLANTINE BOOKS, NEW YORK, Copyright © 1969 by Fred Saberhagen
3. 1975  
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4. 1979  
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6. 1981  
THE BERSERKER WARS, FRED SABERHAGEN, A TOM DOHERTY ASSOCIATES BOOK, Distributed by Pinnacle Books, New York, Copyright © 1981 by Fred Saberhagen





Nation in Distress

I think perhaps of all the things a police state can do to its citizens, distorting history is possibly the most pernicious  
—from *"If This Goes On —"*  
by Robert A. Heinlein



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### Acknowledgments

My thanks to the following: El Dorado Bob; Betty; Eric, of Stockton, California; and Sir Donald the Elusive.  
—editor

### Websites

<http://frontiersman.org.uk/>  
<http://moonlight-flea-market.com/>  
<http://pharos.org.uk/>  
<http://sam-aurelius-milam-iii.org.uk/>  
<http://sovereign-library.org.uk/>

### Sports Bloopers

Not Verified.

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Don G.

- Its a great advantage to be able to hurdle with both legs. —David Coleman
- The lead car is absolutely unique, except for the one behind it which is identical. —Murray Walker

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### Advertising Bloopers

Not Verified.

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Don G.

- When Gerber first started selling baby food in Africa, they used the same packaging that they used in the USA, with the cute baby on the label. Later they found out that, in Africa, companies usually put pictures on the label of what's inside, since many people couldn't read.
- Bacardi concocted a fruity drink for sale in Germany, with the name "Pavian", to suggest French chic, but "pavian" means "baboon" in German.
- When Pepsi started marketing its products in China a few years back, they translated their slogan, "Pepsi Brings You Back to Life" as "Pepsi Brings Your Ancestors Back from the Grave."

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—Sam Aurelius Milam III, editor