

Episode 274

The latest news in the great ramageddon of 2026 doesn't look good. Now we can expect to not buy hard drives for a reasonable price.

Scientists discovered a new bacteria that comes with massive antibiotic resistances. Madagascar, it's time to close the borders.

Film Professors are complaining that students aren't paying attention to films. Is it because films are too long, or is TikTok really ruining everything?

We enjoyed a nice drink of rez which you can get a 10% discount when you type NERDS at the checkout from the Rez website at www.drinkrez.com

We would like to let you guys know this podcast is listener supported, so please consider sending a tip to our kofi page at kofi.com/nerdsamalgamated.

The Great Handheld Price Spiral

- [Steam Deck Announces Inventory Issues, ROG Xbox Ally X Gets Price Hike Thanks To Computer Hardware Shortages](#)
- [Steam Deck™](#)

Microbes: The Untold Frozen Saga

- [First genome sequence and functional profiling of Psychrobacter SC65A.3 preserved in 5,000-year-old cave ice: insights into ancient resistome, antimicrobial potential, and enzymatic activities](#)

Classroom vs. TikTok

- [College Professors Are Stunned The “TikTok Generation” Can’t Sit Through Long Movies In Film Courses – But What Did They Expect?](#)

Other topics discussed

RAM prices keep going up — what is RAMageddon, and why is it getting worse?

- [RAM prices keep going up — what is RAMageddon, and why is it getting worse? | Tom's Guide](#)

Western Digital Sold Out All 2026 Hard Drive Production as AI Centers Scramble

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Sony plans to 'monetize' existing PS5 gamers as a way to avoid raising console prices

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Sony patent could dramatically downsize PS5 and PS6 games, addressing high SSD prices

- [Sony patent could dramatically downsize PS5 and PS6 games, addressing high SSD prices - NotebookCheck.net News](#)

Stop Killing Games (a consumer movement started to challenge the legality of publishers destroying video games they have sold to customers. An increasing number of video games are sold effectively as goods - with no stated expiration date - but designed to be completely unplayable as soon as support from the publisher ends.)

- [Stop Killing Games](#)
- [Stop Killing Games - Wikipedia](#)

[Accursed Farms](#) - Giant stop killing games updates 2026 (Lots of news on Stop Killing Games! We'll be talking to the EU Commission soon, we're winning EU Parliament, creating an NGO, having a major legal study, we're doing everything to stop publishers from destroying video games!)

-  [Giant stop killing games updates 2026](#)

RAM is so expensive, Samsung won't even sell it to Samsung

- [RAM is so expensive, Samsung won't even sell it to Samsung | PCWorld](#)

Bethesda Game Studios Deceptive Trade Practices Investigation

- [Bethesda Game Studios Deceptive Trade Practices Investigation - Migliaccio & Rathod LLP](#)

Fallout 76 players are getting refunds despite 'no refunds' policy and it's confusing

- [Fallout 76 players are getting refunds despite 'no refunds' policy and it's confusing | PC Gamer](#)

SMH - 'Historic agreement' on R18+ video games

- ['Historic agreement' on R18+ video games](#)

Microsoft has AI GPUs “sitting in inventory” because it lacks the power necessary to install them
– [Microsoft has AI GPUs “sitting in inventory” because it lacks the power necessary to install them](#)

[Gamers Nexus](#) - RAM: WTF? (Memory prices have skyrocketed over the last several months. RAM price increases are for a number of reasons, including AI server demand chewing through supply, previous oversupply leading to a draw-down in manufacturing (which has now caught-up), and probably also RAM companies being a-holes. We'll explore why RAM prices have gone up, the impact to NAND (Flash Memory, or non-volatile memory), the impending impact to GPU VRAM prices, and how there's nothing any of us can do -- but we can at least collect price data and make decisions on purchasing.)

– [RAM: WTF?](#)

This is a list of games that were available for purchase on the [Stadia cloud gaming](#) service from [Google](#), which has now been discontinued.

– [List of Stadia games - Wikipedia](#)

[Google](#) - Stadia GDC 2019 Gaming Announcement

– [Stadia GDC 2019 Gaming Announcement](#)

Penicillin (a group of [β-lactam antibiotics](#) originally obtained from [Penicillium moulds](#), principally [P. chrysogenum](#) and [P. rubens](#). Penicillin was discovered in 1928 by the Scottish physician [Alexander Fleming](#) as a crude extract of *P. rubens*.)

– [Penicillin - Wikipedia](#)

Plague Inc

– [Plague Inc. - Ndemic Creations](#)

Smallpox (an [infectious disease](#) caused by Variola [virus](#) (often called Smallpox virus), which belongs to the genus [Orthopoxvirus](#).)

– <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smallpox>

Anthrax outbreak triggered by climate change kills boy in Arctic Circle

– [Anthrax outbreak triggered by climate change kills boy in Arctic Circle | Russia | The Guardian](#)

The Problem with Popplers (The fifteenth episode in the [second season](#) of the American animated television series [Futurama](#), and the 28th episode of the series overall. The episode focuses on the Planet Express crew discovering what they think is fast food they call "Popplers," but they turn out to be the young of the Omicron aliens, and the Omicronian leader Lrrr seeks revenge.)

– [The Problem with Popplers - Wikipedia](#)

The Thing (a 1982 American [science fiction horror](#) film directed by [John Carpenter](#) from a screenplay by [Bill Lancaster](#). Based on the 1938 [John W. Campbell Jr.](#) novella [Who Goes There?](#), it tells the story of a group of American researchers in [Antarctica](#) who encounter the

eponymous "[Thing](#)", an extraterrestrial life-form that assimilates, then imitates, other organisms.)

– [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Thing_\(1982_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Thing_(1982_film))

Citizen Kane *a 1941 American [drama film](#) directed by, produced by, and starring [Orson Welles](#) and co-written by Welles and [Herman J. Mankiewicz](#). It was Welles's [first feature film](#).^[5] The [quasi-biographical film](#) examines the life and legacy of [Charles Foster Kane](#), played by Welles, a [composite character](#) based on American [media barons](#) [William Randolph Hearst](#) and [Joseph Pulitzer](#), Chicago tycoons [Samuel Insull](#) and [Harold McCormick](#), as well as aspects of the screenwriters' own lives.)

– [Citizen Kane - Wikipedia](#)

Andrei Tarkovsky (He is widely considered one of the greatest directors in cinema history. [His films](#) explore spiritual and [metaphysical](#) themes and are known for their [slow pacing and long takes](#), dreamlike visual imagery and preoccupation with nature and memory.¹⁾)

– [Andrei Tarkovsky - Wikipedia](#)

Come and see (a 1985 Soviet [epic historical anti-war drama](#) film directed by [Elem Klimov](#) and starring [Aleksei Kravchenko](#) and Olga Mironova)

– [Come and See - Wikipedia](#)

The Zone of Interest (a 2023 [historical drama](#) film written and directed by [Jonathan Glazer](#). Loosely based on [the 2014 novel](#) by [Martin Amis](#), the film focuses on the life of German [Auschwitz](#) commandant [Rudolf Höss](#) and his wife Hedwig, who live with their family in a home in the "[Zone of Interest](#)" next to the Auschwitz concentration camp.)

– [The Zone of Interest \(film\) - Wikipedia](#)

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (a 2008 [Holocaust historical drama film](#) written and directed by [Mark Herman](#). It is based on the [2006 novel of the same name](#) by [John Boyne](#). Set in [Nazi-occupied Poland](#), the film follows the son of a [Schutzstaffel](#) (SS) officer who befriends a Jewish prisoner of his age.)

– [The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas \(film\) - Wikipedia](#)

Solaris (a 1972 Soviet [psychological science fiction arthouse](#) film based on [Stanisław Lem's](#) 1961 [novel of the same title](#). The film was co-written and directed by [Andrei Tarkovsky](#), and stars [Donatas Banionis](#) and [Natalya Bondarchuk](#).)

– [Solaris \(1972 film\) - Wikipedia](#)

Breaking Bad (an American [neo-Western crime drama](#) television series created and produced by [Vince Gilligan](#) for [AMC](#). Set and filmed in [Albuquerque, New Mexico](#), the series follows [Walter White](#) ([Bryan Cranston](#)), an over-qualified, dispirited high-school [chemistry](#) teacher

struggling with a recent diagnosis of [stage-three lung cancer](#).)

– [Breaking Bad - Wikipedia](#)

Mr Robot (an American [psychological techno-thriller](#) television series created by [Sam Esmail](#) for [USA Network](#). It stars [Rami Malek](#) as Elliot Alderson, a [cybersecurity](#) engineer and [hacker](#) with [social anxiety disorder](#), [clinical depression](#), and [dissociative identity disorder](#).)

– [Mr. Robot - Wikipedia](#)

Chernobyl (miniseries) (a 2019 [historical drama](#) television [miniseries](#) that revolves around the [Chernobyl disaster](#) of 1986 and the [cleanup efforts](#) that followed. The series was created and written by [Craig Mazin](#) and directed by [Johan Renck](#).)

– [Chernobyl \(miniseries\) - Wikipedia](#)

The Thing: Remastered is a faithful restoration of the cult-classic 2002 third-person survival horror shooter game inspired by Universal Pictures' genre-defining 1982 film, The Thing

– [The Thing: Remastered on Steam](#)

Shout Outs

15th February 2026 – Robert Duvall's passing

-- [Robert Duvall - Wikipedia](#)

-- [Robert Duvall, star of The Godfather and Apocalypse Now, dies at 95 - ABC News](#)

Messed up moments in Nerddom : The Thing: Bennings Is Assimilated

Renowned for its expertly crafted sense of paranoia and tension, *The Thing* smartly plays with the audience by having most of the crew's assimilations take place off-screen, leaving both the viewer and the movie's characters [unsure of who](#) exactly has fallen victim to the Thing. We do, however, see Bennings get absorbed by the creature – and it's one of the movie's most harrowing moments. With Windows first encountering a pile of torn, bloody clothing, the camera then cuts to a quick shot of a petrified Bennings being assimilated by the creature in an isolated corner – its slimy tendrils slithering throughout his body before he flees into the snow.

– [The Thing: The 10 Scariest Moments, Ranked](#)

– <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoJO34nRmFA>

Wacky movie

19th February 1974 – Frankenstein's Castle Of Freaks (aka Terror! Il castello delle donne maledette) premiered in Italy

- [Frankenstein's Castle of Freaks - Wikipedia](#)

- <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0069851/>

On this day in 1974 (in Italy), Frankenstein's Castle Of Freaks (aka Terror! Il castello delle donne maledette) first opened its doors for theatrical business. Directed by Dick Randall, the Horror/Fantasy starred Rossano Brazzi, Michael Dunn, and Edmund Purdom. Here's the plot summary:

"A dwarf befriends a Neanderthal man and plots revenge against a scientist that fired him. Meanwhile the local villagers suspect the scientist of grave robbing and plan a raid on his castle, but little do they know that there is a murderous monster lurking within that is ready to kill anyone who steps foot near his master."

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