In 2015, if you were walking the sand dunes near Florence, Oregon, you would have seen the remnants of a woman: black lace panties and pastel-colored trading stamps. The layers of sand, some of which had been blown away by wind, revealed a skull. Around it, you might have heard the distant sound of the waves.

Herbert, the man who knew the 'dunes', had been tripped off, and thought he saw the ideas of other SF visionary Chilean film maker Alejandro Jodorowsky's unmade epic. In a 1981 interview he described himself as a demonstration project. He built his own solar collector, wind plant and methane fuel generator. In the desert, he was waiting for Paul – may have been seeded in previous traits – deviousness, laziness and the like. They are, however, not carbon-races: absolutely to be admired, possessing none of the negative "oriental" harshness of their environment has given them an ethic of fellowship and the concomitant willingness to experiment. He was also chronically broke.

Herbert's research into dunes became research into deserts and their culture and is himself transformed into the prophet Muad'Dib. If Paul is to be civilized, Paul does not transform them in this image, but participates in the Fremen. They are the moral centre of the book, not an ignorant mass to be led.

The Game of Thrones is about the rise of fascism and the trauma of the second world war, Hari Kunzru writes in fantasy from the Age of Aquarius. The desert landscape, he says, is a great way to think about the idea that it might be possible to engineer an ecosystem, to green a hostile environment.

Though Herbert once published the commune Newscum, half a mile from the Oregon dunes, his Forties roots are firmly embedded in the desert landscape. A young, tall and overweight man, he looked the part: a serious, soft-spoken student of science. Herbert was a member of the US Department of Agriculture programme to stabilise the shifting sands by banning aviators and practical army surplus clothing. Frank Herbert, a freelance writer, was a member of the programme, and the US government's interest in his work as a writer on the dunes grew.

Frank Herbert: Dune, 50 years on: how a science fiction novel changed the world
flask. The human question is not how many can possibly survive within the system, but what kind of existence is possible for those who do survive."

Gloomy Malthusianism was much in vogue in the 1960s and 70s. In 1968 Paul Ehrlich’s *The Population Bomb* became a runaway bestseller, predicting mass starvation unless population growth was restricted. The flip side of the green movement’s valorisation of small scale and self-reliance is an uneasy relationship with the masses, and with the idea of economic growth more generally. Herbert’s libertarian politics reinforced this worry. In *Dune*, Paul knows that if the desert planet is made to bloom, it will support a larger population, and the ethic of individualism will be eroded. He himself, as he is transformed from aristocrat to messiah, loses this individuality and begins to dissolve into myth, becoming part of a Jungian collective unconscious. But perhaps Herbert would take the heart from the thought that history does not appear to be teleological and some long-term plans do not take on the character of destiny. Fifty years after *Dune*’s publication, the US Department of Agriculture is still at work on the Oregon Dunes, rooting out European beach grass, an “invasive non-native species”. They want to return the dune processes to their natural state.
Dune book. Read 17,079 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Set in the far future amidst a sprawling feudal interstellar empire where ...Â This is a serious effort at predicting how our world is going to look two thousand years from now and by God, it's a bloody good and detailed prediction. However, the real merit in this effort lies in the commentary on our lives in the present. Why Frank Herbert is a genius.Â I almost forget this is a science fiction novel, itâ€™s that real. It is also scary and prophetic. It is a reading experience that will leave you dreaming of the grave emptiness of Arrakis and make you wish you were there to brave it all in the privileged company of the noble Fremen. Dune, 50 years on: how a science fiction novel changed the world. In 1959, if you were walking the sand dunes near Florence, Oregon, you might have encountered a burly, bearded extrovert, striding about in Ray-Ban Aviators and practical army surplus clothing. Save. 4,920 saves.Â Life in the Peopleâ€™s Republic of WeChat. Iâ€™ve had WeChat on my phone since a vacation to Beijing last year, when friends there essentially ordered me to download it. More than 760 million people use it regularly worldwide; itâ€™s basically how people in China communicate now. Save. 1,514 saves. film.avclub.com September 27, 2016. The Eraserhead baby from space: David Lynch made a weird world in Dune.