

# Jerry Neumann’s Critique of Startup Pundits Stands Out

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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*By Recommended Reading from Tech Founders • March 20, 2026*

Patrick O’Shaughnessy’s strongest organic recommendation today is Jerry Neumann’s essay arguing that the startup-advice industry has not improved startup survival. This brief captures the link, the thesis, and why Patrick’s endorsement makes it worth reading.

### Most compelling recommendation

One recommendation passed the authenticity bar today: Patrick O’Shaughnessy’s endorsement of Jerry Neumann’s *We Have Learned Nothing from Startup Pundits*. Patrick says Neumann “first taught me about startups” and that he wishes he could read an article by him every day, which makes this a strong personal recommendation rather than a casual link share [1].

“He’s the person that first taught me about startups.” [1]

- **Title:** *We Have Learned Nothing from Startup Pundits* [2]
- **Content type:** Article / essay [2]
- **Author/creator:** Jerry Neumann [1, 2]
- **Link/URL:** <https://colossus.com/article/we-have-learned-nothing-startup-pundits/> [2]
- **Who recommended it:** Patrick O’Shaughnessy [1]
- **Key takeaway:** The essay argues that the modern startup-advice industry has not improved outcomes: startups are “no more likely to survive today than they were in 1995,” and by some measures may be even less likely to work [2]
- **Why it matters:** Patrick frames Neumann as formative to his own understanding of startups, while the essay directly challenges the idea that there is a reliable playbook for building something great [1, 2]

## Why this stands out

This is a useful recommendation because it cuts against formulaic startup content. Colossus describes the piece as presenting data, diagnosing the problem, and proposing a different approach [2]. Patrick reinforces that frame with his own summary judgment:

“There’s plenty to learn and borrow from others, but there’s no play-book for making something great.” [1]

Colossus also says the proposed alternative draws on Robert Boyle, Peter Thiel, Paul Feyerabend, and *Through the Looking-Glass*, signaling that the essay is trying to rethink startup learning at the level of method, not just tactics [2].

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## Sources

1. X post by @patrick\_oshag
2. X post by @colossusmag