

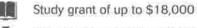
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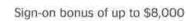
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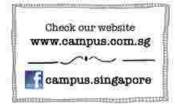
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ASKM Pte Ltd

242A River Valley Road S238299 Tel (65) 6732 0325

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BY CHERYL TEAN KAY YIN

TREATMENT

The pursuit of acne-free, radiant, smooth-looking skin is a trend that has never dissipated. Women (and some men) across the world have been pouncing on this uphill battle for decades, looking for a cream that will solve it all. While there's no actual potion that will solve all beauty woes, there have been numerous odd methods that have promised eternally youthful-looking skin. Here's a look at some of the weirdest beauty treatments around the world.

UNITED STATES

SNAKE VENOM TREATMENT

Who would have thought slimy, slithering creatures would be an answer to the beauty sphere? Snake venom, which promises the offerings of a Botox treatment, is extracted from the fangs of Temple Viper Snakes, and injected directly into the face. Since the venom of these snakes generally paralyse the victim, researchers

felt that this could help lay off the effects of wrinkles by 'stunning' it. If injections seem to border invasiveness, there's also the option a cream called Syn-ake, which is a synthetic form of the snake venom. You'd surprised to know that celebrities such as Gwyneth Paltrow, Madonna and Demi Moore use this cream.



EARTHWORM POOP CREAM

Besides playing the role of 'soil scientists', earthworms have been a significant factor in shaping the beauty world with their excrement. It has been established that earthworm poop contains compounds that slow down the decaying process of plants, which happens to work the same magic on our skin. Now available in a bottle mixed with shea and cocoa butter, the earthworm poop cream does more than defy the ageing process

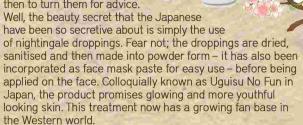


- it remedies hyperpigmentation, contains a bunch of antioxidants that work on improving complexion, and induces your skin to retain moisture so you don't have to keep lathering on other facial products to keep it supple and glowing.

JAPAN

GEISHA FACIAL

Geishas are synonymous with flawless and translucent complexi ons, so what better way to achieve such a complexion then to turn them for advice.



KOREA

BEE VENOMMASK

The honey bee treatment, which originated from Korea, has popular celebrities like Victoria Beckham and Kate Middleton swearing by it. This treatment works by



extracting its venom from the bee's stinger, and processing it into a cream that should be applied to the face at least twice a week. The key ingredient: melitin (the same chemical that induces pain when you get stung by one). The chemical activates a series of mechanisms in your body to release collagen, hence the tightening and firming of the skin. However, there's a downside to this treatment: if the procedure is not carried out properly, it could result in patients suffering an anaphylactic shock.

SNAIL SLIME

Besides tasting deliciously good with garlic butter, snails are the latest craze in the beauty world. These slow-moving critters actually possess a chemical known to relieve skin irritations - the mucus trail that they leave

behind also contains nutritious bits of antioxidants and proteins that stimulate skin regeneration, as well as reduce wrinkles and acne. Although snail goo has been around for many years, is has only recently made its mark overseas, with Chile being a major producer through the retrieval of garden snails. The snails are stressed to secrete the mucus, which is then filtered several times before being packaged in the form of creams or gels.



COCKROACH FACIAL

It's shocking, but true. You can make your own facial paste using these creepy cockroaches that lurk around your kitchen. If you're afraid of them, fear not; they need not be alive for you to benefit from using them. Dried cockroaches, which are a good source of protein, contain an ingredient that is similar to cellulose. So, the mechanics of this facial involve mushing up dried cockroaches into a supplementary facial cream, and working it into a paste. There have been

reports that this paste works great for hair as well (it cures bald spots!). Currently a growing trend, cockroach farming is expanding because of the increased use of these critters in the cosmetic industry.







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THE LIST

MOST ABSURD EVERYDAY BUYS

When the rich come out to play, they're often willing to go the extra mile by raking up exorbitant bills on things they'll never ever need. Here's a list of some of staple products that would have you wondering what really got them created in the first place.

VICUNA SOCKS

We're always stocking up on socks because there's just always a pair that's missing it's other half. However, with the Vicuna socks losing one-half of the pair might just be a little heartbreaking because it is priced at a whopping \$1,516 for a pair. Made out of ultra fine hair from the llama-looking Peruvian Vicuna, only 10 pairs of socks have been made



RAPPER'S HEADPHONES

Most rappers start up side businesses so that they can live out their dreams of having an empire under their name, which is exactly what Dr. Dre did. He delved into the headphone business by creating the Beats Electronics. Though many audiophiles have slammed the brand for its poor quality and exorbitant prices, a high-end headset from Beats can range from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

GOLDEN TOPPINGS

Mocking the actual phenomenon of exorbitant priced burgers, the Douche Burger (made by a chef who runs a food truck called 666) is priced at \$850. Made of ingredients often found on a five-star menu Kobe beef patties wrapped in gold leaf, lobster, truffles, imported Gruyere cheese melted with Champagne steam, kopi luwak barbecue sauce and Himalayan rock salt - the 'mock' burger sounds tasty.



FLASHY STAPLES

For most students, colouring staples is just a way to liven up the existing stationery owned. For the rich, there is the option of 14-karat gold-plated staples made by Studio OCOMS, which come in a set of 24 and packed in a velvet box, priced at \$223. There's no mention of a golden stapler, so presumably these staples will fit perfectly in one you probably already own.

LEATHER KEYBOARD

Trade in your wireless, plastic keyboards for this badboy - a leather keyboard. Draped in buttery soft black leather with the option of monogrammed keys, this keyboard (from Japan) is the world's most expensive keyboard at \$770. Compared to other costly tech gadgets out there, owning this keyboard might just be a luxury item you can afford (in time, that is).





SCALY UMBRELLA

A common sight in Singapore be it rain or shine, umbrellas are a staple in our lives. So, if you're looking to take it to another level, and stand out at the same time, it's time to invest in a crocodile-skinned umbrella. With a price tag of \$63,850, this umbrella will keep you dry and protected from the sun.

GOLD TOILET PAPER

Most of us think nothing of using tons of toilet paper in the loo, but what if your roll is made of pure gold and costs over a whopping \$1.3 million? Australian company Toilet Paper Man came up with just that - a 3-ply toilet paper infused with 22-carat gold flakes that will flutter into the toilet bowl from your behind when used. Talk about flushing money down the toilet.



WEIRDEST THINGS SOLD ONLINE MARIESA SOLD ONLINE MARIESA

Ever since websites like eBay and craigslist have been making their mark in the e-commerce world, the transaction of goods have been fairly smooth. However, on the other hand, the products sold have raised a few eyebrows - from virginities to burnt toast with stencils of well-known figures, we trawled the web for the weirdest stuff sold online, and these are some of the items that made the cut but barely the news.

→ http://www.url.com

Osearch

UNDERPANTS DISPENSER

BUBBLE WRAP SUIT

FOUND AT: Thinkgeek.com **PRICE:** \$19

Fancy being the envy of all? Well, that's 🖲 if you can pull off this textured trench and topple the wide-eyed gazes cast upon you. A package in itself, careful not to pop more than you should, since many pokes and pricks will be coming your way from others in the vicinity! Just imagine, when you order it, it'll be bubble wrap, shipped in bubble wrap.



POPE CHIP HAT

FOUND AT: ebay.com **PRICE:** \$1,548

Not had your fix of finding famous people in food yet? Then it's time to bid for this Dorito chip! Presently earning its fame over the internet, this Dorito nacho cheese-

flavoured chip is shaped like the iconic Pope Hat. In the course of the sale, this little chip got over 40,000 page visits and even has a song dedicated to it, in addition to having its own website (www.popehatchip.com). So, will you get lucky with your next bag of chips?

ADVERTISING SPACE ON



FOUND AT: eBay.com **PRICE:** \$12,800

Looking for ad space? Kari Smith sold her forehead as advertising space to pay for her son's education. Quite the statement and part of a "collection of firsts", her act remains noteworthy. The winning bidder of this auction was actually Goldenpalace.com, for whom tattooing web ads on human skin is not a first – they've done so before on another forehead, 100 over arms, chests, legs and backs.



ACCOUTREMENTS EMERGENCY

FOUND AT: amazon.com PRICE: \$9.09 (currently)

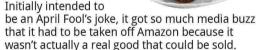
Think of a tissue box filled with underpants - that's precisely what this emergency underpants dispenser is. It's great for parties, work mishaps and well, home use (if you're low on underpants) as well as for travel. The best part

though, is that it's an amazing gift to give someone, just for the fun of it! Some reviewers on amazon even recommend that it's "great to wear on your head and dance around your house".

CANNED UNICORN MEAT

FOUND AT: amazon.com **PRICE:** \$13

Store this in low temperature, and raise your hopes high for this canned mythical meat. Initially intended to



JAPANESE SHOUTING VASE

FOUND AT: amazon.com **PRICE:** \$86

"It holds your anger", according to the instruction tag on this purportedly unbreakable vase.

Designed to contain your screams within its contoured round bottom, this vase is a great way to soothe jittery nerves or frustrations, as with every scream, you just feel a whole lot lighter.



BY KIIGOLE HILARY TEO

LEARING OUT OF THE BOX

Ever wanted to learn something unconventional and strange? Feast your eyes upon these bizarre classes that are actually being offered to students in various universities around the globe!

"OH, LOOK, A CHICKENI"

Is it possible to focus in a world full of distractions? Students taking this oddly-named course at Belmont University certainly believe it to be. Instead of getting rid of these distractions, students are encouraged to embrace them and use them as tools to learn how to better use their time. For example, one assignment requires them to put themselves in distracting situations and write a reflection tracking how they managed to regain their focus!



Reykiavik Elf School, located in Iceland, is dedicated to the study of elves. Students who enroll in this school's full curriculum will learn about the 13 types of elves that people believe exist. Despite being brushed off as fictional characters, there is a strong interest in the half-day seminar surrounding elves, as more than 4,000 students have attended the school to either do research or enroll in seminars per year. This course points out the mystery behind elves, tour hidden folk habitats, and includes a quaint meal with the school's headmaster. At the end, you'll get a diploma in Elf studies.



THE SCIENCE OF HARRY POTTER

Getting to study Harry Potter in school might be a dream come true for many of us. But, don't get your hopes up bust yet, because The Science of Harry Potter offered at Frostburg State University in Maryland isn't all fairytale-ish, as this course actually requires students to analyse the science behind the magic in this hit movie series. By applying physics, chemistry, biology and engineering theories, you've got to work out magical mysteries with science, such as anti-gravity research theories that could possibly explain flying broomsticks.

NOTHER GOOSE TO MASH UPS: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND POPULAR TEXTS

Ever wondered why the London Bridge collapsed, or if Humpty Dumpty's fall holds a deeper meaning? Then this course at Occidental College might bust be the one for you. Students are taught to analyse the various forms of literature that have shaped children's entertainment, which includes a discussion of how various topics – such as gender and culture – exist in society, and the subtle messages that many of these stories have tried to convey.





LADY GAGA AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF FAME

Students taking this course at the University of South Carolina can look forward to studying the life and work of world-renown pop star Lady Gaga – from a sociological perspective, of course. This course aims to study the meaning of fame in today's society, as exemplified by the tremendously successful Lady Gaga, who currently has than 41 million followers on Twitter.



ALL IN THE NAME OF

LOWE

By Lakshmi Ganesan

LOOK-ALIKES

For long-term couples, the probability of them finishing each other's sentences or knowing each other inside out is likely, but for Neil Megson and Jacqueline Breyer, they did more than just share their thoughts. Taking couple intimacy to a whole new level, the duo chose to look like each other, as they really wanted to feel as if they were one person in two bodies. So, from similar breast implants to liposuction, they spent over a whopping \$\frac{3}{3}15,000\$ on plastic surgery. Though Jacqueline passed away in 2007, Neil Megson continued with the medical procedures to alter his body to look like hers.



the power of love!

With so many elaborate proposals,

weddings and even declarations flooding

the internet, love is just everywhere. As

everyone is pretty much aware that love can tickle the crazy button ouite often.

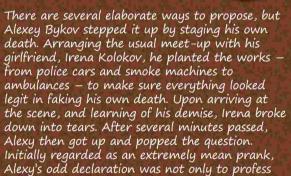
we've picked a few testimonials of love

or outright stunned. Here's a tribute to

that might just make you all gooey inside,

Desperate situations call for desperate measures. When Rodrigo Gomez announced to his girlfriend, Grace Guajardo, that he was migrating due to his new job, she didn't take it well. So, when Rodrigo boarded the flight to Brazil, Grace called the airport in attempts to stall the flight. When no ploy worked, she informed authorities that a bomb was on the plane. The authorities took action, and the plane (which was ready for take-off) was stuck on the runway with over 300 passengers stranded. When no weapons were found onboard, the police traced the call, which led to Grace's arrest. It may be much ado about nothing, but Rodrigo did decide to stay in the end.

BACK FROM PLAYING DEAD



his love for her, but to show his girlfriend that

life would be a lot different if they weren't in

SELLING MOM ON EBAY

Romance isn't the only kind of love that propels grand gestures. Love between a child and parent is just as strong, as proved by James Doyan. He felt that his mother, Sandi Firth, wasn't able to meet the right man after her divorce. To rectify the situation, he put her on eBay with a starting bid of SG\$2 to try and catch the eye of Mr. Right. The ad which read, 'My Yiddishee Momma for Sale: Beautiful. Great Cook. Educated. Family Focused, Caring and Priceless' did receive a fair bit of attention. However, as it did not meet with eBay standards, it was taken down. While Sandi was shocked about her son's actions, she eventually came around and thought it was pretty sweet.

O AI

each other's lives.

AFFAIRS, FAKE MURDER AND TOMATO SAUCE

Love can sometimes be menacing, as in the case of Maria Nilza. Upon realising that her husband was having an affair with another woman, Maria hired an ex-convict to kill the other woman. However, as it so happened, the ex-convict knew the other woman (they were childhood buddies), so instead of getting the job done, they staged her death with the aid of tomato sauce. A few days later, Maria spotted the ex-convict and the other woman together; as hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, she reported to the police that the ex-convict was a thief. Thinking all had been solved, Maria was unaware that investigations were being carried out, and soon all 3 individuals were slapped with various charges.

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Cheat Sheet #27 Pretending to Appreciate Art

This painting makes me feel passionate!

APPRECIATING ART

At any art show, pretentious know-it-alls are armed and ready to sniff out the weak. Here are two steps you can master, so that the hunter becomes the hunted.

BODY LANGUAGE:

In front of a painting or statue, stand still and count to ten. Lean forward and count to ten. Step backwards and count to ten. Cross your arms and count to ten. Then, depending on the emotions you're sensing, execute the following actions:

- 1. If you're perplexed by what's before you rub your chin.
- 2. If you're content with what you see smirk.
- 3) If you're still clueless pose a question before anyone else does.



USABLE PHRASES:

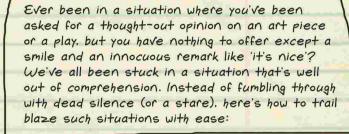
Art is extremely subjective. so there are no right or wrong answers. Here are some angles to explore:

- 1. I feel happy/sad/confused... (This indicates that you've made a connection)
- 2.) I like or dislike the colours or materials used (It allows you to exercise pre-existing thoughts you've had about colours or materials like plastic and paper)
- I see... a hand!

- 3) What was the artist thinking by using these colours/materials? (Everyone loves a critique feel free to go wild)
- 4.) think I see a/an... (Even if you've not spotted anything, appearing to see stuff within art makes you an artist because you've conquered delusion)

IF ALL ELSE FAILS:

- 1. Blame it on the lights in the showroom as it's paralysing your judgement.
- 2. Answer every question with a question.
 - I love the reflectiveness of the wood



APPRECIATING A PERFORMANCE

Be it a play, opera or an orchestral performance, the context is pretty similar to appreciating art. The added advantage that comes with performances is that you have plenty of time to form opinions, so implement the same rules of appreciating art with performances.



BODY LANGUAGE:

- 1. Take a conscious effort (read: be conscious) in enjoying the performance and refrain from looking like a dead fish.
- 2. Never fall asleep, or close your eyes for longer*smirk than I second you might let out an involuntary snore, which is a big no-no.
- 3. Follow Step I and 2 under 'Appreciating Art'. Stay clear from Step 3 because no one likes a talker during a performance.

USABLE PHRASES:

1. Follow Step 1 to 3 under the 'Appreciating Art' section, after the performance. Stay clear from Step 4 because that just makes you creepy.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS:

1. Never hang out with the person that brought you out for that performance again.



Silence is golden duing performances

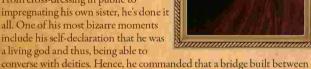
CRAZY BLUE BLOODS

BY JAIVEER HUNDAL

onarchy may have governed many countries in the early years, but even with the responsibility of overseeing the welfare of their people, there have been a few bad eggs. From tyranny and incest to plenty of buffoonery, we've highlighted some of the many blue bloods that have taken power to a whole new level.

ROMAN EMPEROR CALIGULA (A,D, 12 - 41)

The adopted son of King Tiberius, Roman Emperor Caligula ruled for only four years, but he quickly carved out his very own niche in history, which included a host of bizarre shenanigans. From cross-dressing in public to impregnating his own sister, he's done it all. One of his most bizarre moments include his self-declaration that he was a living god and thus, being able to



his Kingdom and the Temple of Jupiter to facilitate this process.

KING FAROUK OF EGYPT (1936 - 1952)

While luxury is readily available to royalty, King Farouk was famous for his sticky fingers. After taking lessons from a professional pickpocket, he went on a larceny rampage, garnering items like Winston Churchill's pocketwatch and objects from the Shah of Persia's coffin; other random items include crates of scotch, champagne and even gold bars. He also stole other men's wives. Shirking his duty as a king, he was often seen

patronising night clubs and enjoying the high life with meals that included caviar. He also owned over 100 cars that were painted red, and prohibited anyone else from having a red vehicle. This soda-obsessed king would also guzzle down at least 30 bottles a day.



KING CHARLES VI, OF FRANCE (1368 - 1422)

He makes this list for his extreme paranoia – misconstruing a soldier's accidental drop of his weapon as an ambush, he ordered an attack on one half of his own army. This was the first in a series of events that would transpire, before the doctors diagnosed his stress.

By this time however, King Charles had already fallen off the sanity wagon. He spent the rest of his days believing he was going to be killed by someone he knew, so he spent all his time skulking and moping around the eastle.

FREDERICK WILLIAM I, OF PRUSSIA (1688 - 1740)

Not the usual hoarder, King Frederick collected men: tall men, to be exact. He would recruit, buy and send scouts to cherry-pick only tall men to join his army, widely known as the Grand Grenadiers of Potsdam. His other eccentricities included dressing up criminals who were facing execution in French clothes because he loathed the



French, and bathing over a dozen times a day because he was a cleanliness freak. He was also obsessed with oysters – guests at his private functions have seen him scoff down over a hundred oysters in one sitting.



COUNTESS ELIZABETH BATHORY (1560 - 1614)

While many rulers of the past have been cruel, Elizabeth Bathory was one of the worst. She tortured her female servants for the minutest of mistakes, punishing them in the most warped manners. The curious punishments she's handed out include sewing a servant's mouth shut for talking too much, pouring honey all

over the servants and tying them up to trees to abandon them there, or making them stand naked outdoors in winter. In her later years, she also used to bathe in the blood of virgins, for she believed it would make her skin youthful.

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BY LAKSHMI GANESAN

YOUR ANXIETY HASANAE

From cockroaches to an empty bank account, there's always something that will shake us up. It could be an irrational fear or it could be a fear stemmed from the misfortunes of our childhood - either way we're all scared of something. So, we're presenting a catalogue of fears that will probably have you breathing a sigh of relief knowing that you're not as looney as you think you are, or you could be discovering a phobia that you never knew had a name.

IT SHOCKINGLY EXISTS



····· YOU'RE A QUACK!

Staring is an act that has triggered fights, questions and uneasiness in many, but what if the fear involves a harmless animal looking at you straight in the eye? Then you probably have Anatidaephobia, which is a fear of having, specifically, a duck watching you. Adding to the irrationality is that you could be anywhere in the world but at the back of your mind, you're positive that there is a duck watching you, even if you're not remotely near any body of water or park.



Probably a fear that doubles in intensity. Phobophobia - the fear of feeling afraid - is quite a conundrum to deal with. This fear is triggered whenever any other fear crops up, so if you're afraid of public speaking, that fear coupled with phobophobia will have you experiencing symptoms that are extremely hard to mollify, as compared to the single irrational fear. Another symptom of this colossally unnerving fear is that if the mere thoughts of your other fears send shockwaves through your body, then you're pretty much fearing your fears.



DON'T MUCK AROUND

If the mere sight of 'Lol', 'Haha', 'Lmao' sends you in the opposite direction then there is a probability you're trying to escape the sounds of laughter, which is a fear called Geliophobia. Stemmed from incidents that resulted in humiliation or embarrassment or even dental distortions, Geliophobia is, definitely, no walk in the park since we're always told to celebrate laughter. Moreover, imagine living in a world where a simple chuckle could have you getting all tensed up and breathless. Without a doubt, this fear is no laughing matter but then again being afraid of one's own laugh can be perplexing.

STICKY GOODNESS



After Nutella, the next possible contender in the sweet tooth department has to be peanut butter. Be it slathered on a piece of bread or baked in a dessert, this nutty spread is a favourite among so many, so the worst fear to have would probably be Arachibutyrophobia, which is a fear of having peanut butter stuck on the roof of your mouth. Stemmed from the fear of choking, the tasty offering of peanut butter does nothing for people who fear that peanut butter could have them suffocating.

YOU MIGHT JUST HAVE IT..



··· SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIA LIDOCIOUS

If you're reaching roadblocks with the English vocabulary, you can blame it on laziness or you could just blame it on this fear: Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia, which is the fear of long words. The direct translation of this word is: a foot-and-a-half long monster, which funnily enough is represented in length with the name of this phobia. Highly unlikely to be a favourite word among those who share this phobia, this fear has left many chucking dictionaries aside to be satiated by the shorter words they presently know.



OUT OF CONTACT

A fear probably most common to the Generation Y denizens, Nomophobia is a fear of not knowing what has happened to your handphone. From forgetting to charge it, to leaving it unintentionally at home, or even misplacing it somewhere, nomophobia probably plagues many of us. The aftermath of this phobia includes frustration, requiring another phone immediately and requiring the need to make contact with someone as soon as possible.



If you've ever faced a stressful situation at school (and who hasn't?), you might just be experiencing Scolionophobia - a fear of school. From bullying to an overwhelming amount of homework, to monstrous teachers, the definition of stressful situations that trigger this phobia vary. Alternatively, you could simply fear learning, due to being overloaded with work and expectations. It's easy to spot when this phobia rears its ugly head - it's usually on first days of schools, especially at pre-schools where young children will throw fits because they fear the unfamiliar environment and the abandonment by their parents.



DITZV MOMENTS

Probably often confused with staring into space, Phronemophobia is actually a fear of thinking. So being left alone to their own thoughts, or having ideas, is simply out of the question because just the thought of thinking sends shockwaves through the body. This fear, which definitely seems to be quite anomalous, may be a deterrent during brainstorming sessions, decision making and pretty much every thought process



FICKLE-MINDED

Do you hesitate about where to eat? Can't decide if you should go right or left? Or maybe you just hate options? Then you may be suffering from Decidophobia, which is the fear of making decisions. Originating from a bad decision made in the past, many who possess this phobia tend to wait out or leech on others when deciding their next move. Not to be confused with laziness, those with Decidophobia tend to perspire, feel nauseous or even become ill when positioned with choices to choose from.



If the thought of blood oozing out of a wound sends a shiver down your spine, or even the mere sight of someone else's blood leaves you jittery, then you're most likely to have Hemophobia, which is the fear of blood. Interestingly enough, this phobia has symptoms that completely contradicts other phobia symptoms when triggered, Hemophobia causes a drop in heart rate and blood pressure hence, instead of getting all anxious, you end up turning pale and fainting instead.

BY GRACEHONG



In our last issue, we gave away a winter getaway for 2 to Tokyo and Sapporo, courtesy of Follow Me Japan. While both the winners - Grace Hong and Eunice Yip - did try their hand at some of the winter activities Japan has to offer, here are snippets of the sights and sounds that can be reveled all year long in Tokyo.

HARAJUKU & OMOTESANDO

Harajuku, located around JR Harajuku station, is a haven for those who love to shop. Just in front of the station, shopping lanes branch off in different directions like Hasi Lane. As a student, the highlight of Harasuku is undeniably Takeshita Dori, a 400m stretch of budget-friendly boutiques and restaurants. Though the prices are affordable, the Japanese don't skimp on quality and design.

While Japanese fashion is largely known for being kawaii. fans of street wear can find standalone boutiques offering edgier brands like Supreme, Dr. Martens, and Bounty Hunter along the haphazard streets of

Flea market lovers can head to Kinii Used Clothing, which is decked with 20,000 items catering to both men and women with its wide selection of shoes, bags, and accessories. The clothes - classified by style and colour - look almost brand new, and include brands such as Lowry's Farm and Forever 21. There's also an entire section on designer items where you can score a Burberry skirt for under SG\$40.

Harasuku's main street stretches one kilometre towards the high-end shopping district of Omotesando. Hailed as Tokyo's Champs-Elysees - with its tree-lined paths flanking luxury brands like Prada and Gucci -Omotesando warrants a stroll for its intriguing architecture even if luxury brands are not within your budget.

Omotesando

TOKYO SKY TREE

The tallest tower in the world at 634m high, Tokyo Sky Tree provides a 360-degree view of the bustling city all year round. Other than being a functioning broadcasting tower, its architecture and lighting style reflects both the past (iki which represents the Edo period) and present ('miyabi' which embodies its present aesthetics). You can head up the tower and marvel at Tokyo's dazzling lights from 8am to 10pm; tickets are priced according to the observatory deck chosen.





For more packages to Tokyo, visit www.followmejapan.jp





TOKYO DISNEYLAND

Like other Disneylands, the Tokyo version is dotted with themed sections from Jungle safaris to cute princess towers - even the exteriors of the toilets are cute. While the rides are geared more towards children, candid guides tease and Joke with all visitors. At every corner there is no absence of people, so long queues are

Storefronts reminiscent of vintage English shops line World's Bazaar, where you can find some souvenirs, from Mickey-eared headgear to scarves and attachable tails.

With only two Disney Parades a day, queues start forming as early as 2 hours before the show. Other than the boon of unblocked photos, performers interact with those in the first row. There are also plenty of photo opportunities with the Disney crew, from Mickey and Goofy to the dainty princesses that roam the alleys of Disneyland.

CRAZIEST FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD



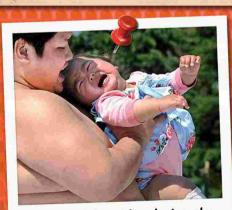
The Devil Jumps Over Babies

BABY JUMPING FESTIVAL (EL COLACHO)

WHERE: Burgos, Spain

WHAT AND WHY: Dating back to the 1600s, El Colacho (or "Devil's Jump") is a festival where men dress up as the Devil - in yellow and red mariachi-esque attire and perform gravity-defying jumps over infants born within the last 12 months. As the Devil is jumping, a man marches around the babies drumming tunes. An act that baptises the babies, the jump is said to cleanse the infants of original sin. To date, not one accident has

WHEN: Celebrated during the Catholic feast of Corpus Christi (between May & July)



Crybabies Need Apply

THE CRYING SUMO CONTEST (KONAKI SUMO)

WHERE: Tokyo, Japan

WHAT AND WHY: Rooted in tradition for over 400 years, the rationale behind this festival is the Japanese belief that crying babies grow faster — physically and mentally. Hence, the festival Konaki Sumo, which involves two student sumo wrestlers facing each other whilst holding a baby each, attempting to get their baby to cry. A priest is also present to scare the babies with exaggerated movements, and if all fails, ogre masks are used till the first baby cries. During this festival, evil spirits are also said to be frightened away

WHEN: Usually held on Children's Day in Japan, it actually varies according to the location but it is usually within Japan's Golden week (April 29 - May 5)

Hidden in many corners of the world are festivals that are deeply embedded in tradition and culture. Some are extremely popular and well-received, while others just seem a little anachronistic. Here's a look at some of the festivals that may be construed as... odd.



Pick My Buns

CHEUNG CHAU BUN FESTIVAL

WHERE: Cheung Chau, Hong Kong

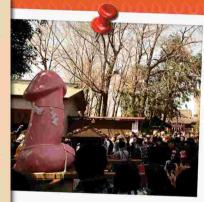
WHAT AND WHY: During the Cheung Chau Bun Festival, one of the most raved-about activities is the "bun-snatching" race. Participants have to climb a 60-foot tower made of buns (which are blessed for good luck) and grab as much as they can carry within a 3-minute time limit. Other highlights include the Piu Sik parade, where young children are carried on shoulder-high vertical poles, so it appears like they're floating in mid-air. This festival dates back to a time when Cheung Chau was devastated with a plague. Attributed to evil spirits, the villagers' prayers to banish them were answered by the god Pak Tai, and the festival to herald the triumph is now celebrated on Cheung Chau every year. WHEN: On the fifth to the ninth days of the fourth

FESTIVAL OF THE IRON PHALLUS (KANAMARA MATSURI)

WHERE: Kawasaki, Japan

WHAT AND WHY: According to Edo folklore, one woman was famed for her 'toothed vagina' (what we now know as STDs) which resulted in the mangled penises of any man she slept with. She then sought a blacksmith to fashion a metal dildo to break the teeth' inside her, thus curing the private parts of both her and her male suitors. Following this story, local prostitutes back then would gather at Kanayama shrine to pray for protection against STDs.

Once celebrated by blacksmiths and sex workers, the festival now involves all things penis-shaped, from penis lollipops and costumes to puppets and floats, as well as cures for any penis-related issue WHEN: First Sunday of April



One giant d*ck

Great Balls of Fire

THE FIREBALL FESTIVAL (LAS BOLAS DE FUEGO)

WHERE: Nejapa, El Salvador

WHAT AND WHY: To the casual observer, this festival is all about fire balls being thrown around. While it seems like chaos, this festival - which has been celebrated for over 100 years — reenacts the scene of a volcanic eruption in the 1900s. While most villagers escaped, they believed that the eruption was a result of their patron saint, San Jeronimo, putting up a fight against the Devil. To this day, the festival is celebrated as the triumph of San

Ball-shaped rags - tied with wire and soaked in kerosene - are used to create fireballs, and participants (usually men) do their best to reenact the scenes of that eruption.

BIZARRE

LAWSUITS

BY ANNABELLE MARIA JEFFREY

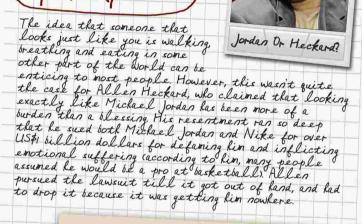
The case of a man in China suing his wife for not being privy to the fact that she was hideous before plastic surgery - which led him to fathering ugly children - was all the rage in last year's viral collection. Just when you thought the news couldn't get any more hokey, here's a list of bizarre lawsuits that really happened around the world.



Leave It To The Stars

Some of us love reading about our daily horoscopes, or even consult the stars before making a decision. However, for Russian astrologer Marina Bai, she did more than sulk at mispredictions – she sued NASA for a whopping \$300 million for crashing one of their spacecrafts onto a comet that was supposed to play up the forces of the universe, thus jeopardising the credibility of her career. The case, which was initially cast aside because Russia has no jurisdiction over NASA, came alive when Marina's lawyer managed to prove that NASA has an office in the US Embassy in Moscow, but the whole fiasco was put to rest as soon as word got out.

DOPPELGANGER



FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT EWW!! (TO SMELL)

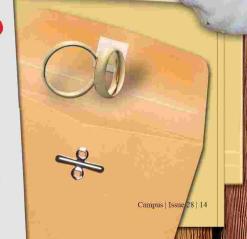
In the Netherlands, Teunis Tenbrook, a philosophy student at Erasmus University, sued his university not for just kicking him out of the library, but from barring him from attending his lectures all because his feet smell. It took him close to ten years to finish his studies as it was after. to finish his studies, as it was often interrupted by students and lecturers stressing over the smell he emanated, which had him leaving the premises. But Teunis knew his rights, and he sued the university, which resulted in a court ruling that smelly feet were not a valid reason to expel anyone

THE MAN WHO ATTEMPTED TO SUE GOD

More of stab at the fatuous lawsuits that were seen in court every day, State Senator Ernie Chambers chose to pick a bone with God by suing the omniscient one for causing widespread destruction and death. The lawsuit was initially thrown out of the window because the defendant did not have a valid address to be notified of the case. However, as God is all-knowing (as referenced in court) the case was brought back before being thrown out of court again for not having an address, and finally being deemed by the court as a the almighty?

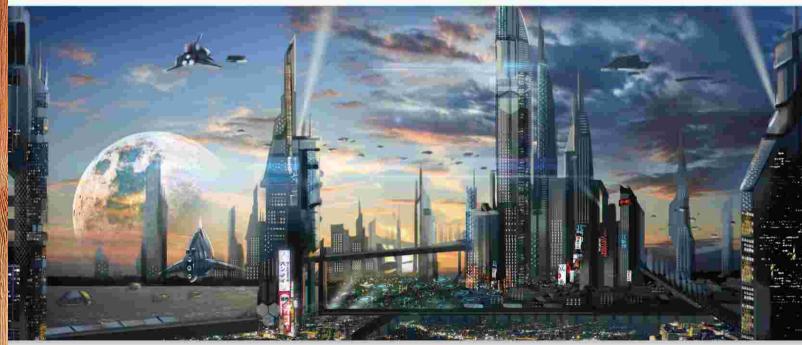
What does divorce mean?

For most, a divorce would mean a legal termination of marriage, but for Jane Mulchay, termination of marriage, but for dane mitchey she had no clue what came after divorce proceedings, which resulted in her suing her own lawyers for not providing any explicit warnings that she was, well, going through a divorce. A devout Catholic that would have preferred taking the route of separation instead of a divorce, Jane felt cheated and chose to sue the very same lawyers that got her out of a difficult marriage (which is definitely no way to show gratitude).



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2 ARSE

THIS ANNUAL EVENT IS A CHALLENGING CREATIVE MARATHON THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE APOUND THE WORLD SINCE 2004.

The 24 Hour
Comics Day was
recently conducted at LASALLE
College of the Arts
and involved
students, comic
book enthusiasts
and local artists,
with participants
ranged from 16 to
62 years young.



"THERE IS NO ROOM FOR PROCRASTINA-TION. THIS IS ABOUT DEMONSTRATING TO THEMSELVES WHAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE IN A SINGLE WEEKEND"

> CHRIS SHAW, HEAD OF ANIMATION, LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

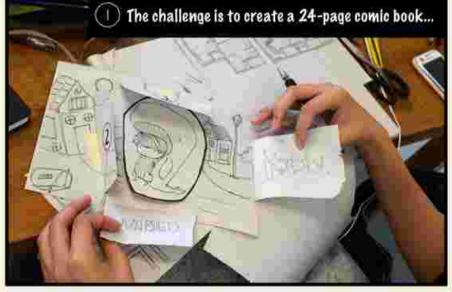


*AS LONG AS YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL YOU CAN USE COMICS TO TELL IT WITH ANY APPROACH THAT WORKS BEST WITH YOU."

JF KOH, EVENT ORGANISER

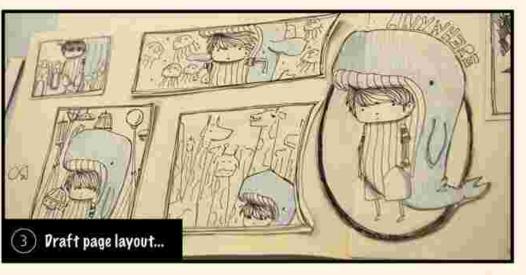


THIS HARDCORE GROUP OF DIE-HARD COMIC FANS AND ARTISTS HAS BEEN STEADILY GROWING EACH YEAR, WITH THE RECENT EVENT ATTRACTING IGO PARTICIPANTS.























Stay Tooned for the next 24 Comics Pay challenge!



Uncanny Fashion Trends

From men donning ripped jeans to women trying out side shaves, fashion is undoubtedly ephemeral, but even with the fleeting nature there have been a few notorious ones that have stayed, and left an odd impression. Below are a few trends that have left some scratching heads. Have you spotted any of these trends around Singapore?



Mexican Pointy Boots

You could call them elf shoes or Mexican pointy boots, but these shoes were all the rage for Mexican men in 2011. This style is nothing new: pointy shoes were once used by the French in the 15th century to show off their sexual virility - called the 'Poulaine', these tips sometimes went so high that men had to tie them to their knees! The modern craze started when a mysterious Mexican man decided that shoes with over 76cm of curled-up foam extensions were going to be part of his identity. It then became a trend that was worn only by young men to look cool and hip and of course, to attract the ladies.

Eye Jewellery

Looking to add a little glamour by dressing up your eyes, but kind of bored with the usual eyelash extension and mascara combo? There's the option of implanting jewellery in your eyes. This surgery implants jewellery under the skin, which is reputedly safe. Predominantly popular in the west, the jewellery inserted is usually made of platinum and is placed into the outer white layer of the eye along with a drop of water. So now, there's a way to bling up your eues even without lash extensions.



Facekinis

The entire population on the internet had a collective facepalm with the newest fad in Qingdao, China: 'facekinis', which is pretty much donning a lycra ski mask that covers your entire face excluding your eyes and mouth). While sun-kissed skin is very much sought after in the West, fair skin is a sign of beauty in Asia. It's an idea that's so ingrained in the Chinese psyche that the facekini was created to prevent women from tanning while being able to enjoy the beach - even in the middle of the day.





Yaeba Teeth

While the misguided pursuit of eternal youth is no new theme in trends of fashion and beauty, the Japanese have brought it to a new level. Cosmetic procedures to create fana-like teeth are a trend that still persists amona some young Japanese girls. The objective of this procedure is to highlight the imperfection among young girls, which is said to be extremely attractive and cute to Japanese men.





Frontless Shoes

Adopting the philosophy of "less is more", frontless shoes enable one to bare the front half of his/her feet. While this thought might sound horrifying to some because the probability of pebbles and glass shards getting wedged in is high, it's actually pretty ingenious for those of us who prefer going barefoot, or want to show off their pedicures. Furthermore, it's the perfect way to make a statement on the streets - just make sure you know what you're



FIELD TRIP: LOUIS VUITTON

STUDENTS OF THE MDIS SCHOOL OF FASHION AND DESIGN VISITED THE BRAND'S FIRST MAISON IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

The hospitable hosts shared the concept behind the beautiful architecture and the brand's rich heritage in accessories. Apart from how the brand treasures craftsmanship and how the company stays true to its identity, the students were also informed of the unique ways this luxury powerhouse continues to strive to give its consumers the unique Louis Vuitton experience through the passion and professionalism of its team. The tour ended with a visit to the Espace Louis Vuitton, an art exhibition in the underwater area of the pavilion.



COLLABORATION: DUCAT

STUDENTS PRODUCED STUNNING WORKS FOR DUCATI SINGAPORE

Ducati Singapore approached the MDIS School of Fashion and Design with an opportunity to be part of their latest product development and launch. Our degree students started developing their marketing plans and strategies, corporate kit and also TV Advertisement and mood boards which were incorporated and executed as part of Ducati's corporate marketing plans. Students from the MDIS Diploma programme, on the other hand, designed T-shirts, of which 6 chosen designs were produced and sold exclusively in the Ducati Boutique with the designers' names displayed.





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TECH REVIEW

GO RETRO POLABOID SX-70 SONAR LAND CAMERA

The Polaroid SX-70 series revolutionised the instant photography era by being the first cameras to produce instant photos. The foldable Polaroid SX-70 Sonar Land Camera may be a handful to set up, but it does have auto and manual focus functions (subjects have to be at least 1.2m away). It has a built-in flash



POLAROID 600 ONESTEP CLOSE UP

The Polaroid 600 OneStep Close Up is the perfect camera for those beginning to venture into instant photography thanks to its autofocus function and a built-in flash. With this, you can take anything from close-up shots (up to 0.6m) to anything long distance, and its basic design makes it easier to take a quick photo than with the Sonar.

The SX-70 Sonar Land Camera retails at SS380, and the 600 OneStep Close Up retails at S\$160, both available at www.ftht-film.com.

Check our Facebook page for ntest details to win these!

ROCKFEST 2014: The Uprising

When: 21 Mar, 7pm | Tickets: FREE Location: NUS UCC Courtyard

Showcasing hard-core rock bands from NUS's 6 halls, Rockfest 2014 features talents like Eusoff band, Smoking Marshalls, Threshold and more. There's also free beer for the first 200 participants.



Shout 2014: Euphoria Music Festival

When: 28 Mar. 7pm | Tickets: FREE Location: The Coliseum at Resorts World Sentosa

This year, NUS SHeares Hall brings to you a host of performances from local homegrown talents within the campus, expect any

thing from Mandarin numbers to acapellas. and dance performances by Sheares Beats and DanSHers.



PROJECT HASHIMA (March 27, 2014) Cast: Alexander Rendell, Mike Nitipaisalkul, Apinya Sakuljaroensuk

Recent graduates from film school were offered a job which entails filming at one of the spookiest places on earth - Hashima Island. If they can pull this off, they'd be set for lucrative careers in the industry. Upon their arrival on the Island, however, the graduates soon encounter a series of unexplainable ominous incidents brought on by a curse they did not heed, leaving them tormented and petrified for their lives.



29 Mar - 12 Apr | 4pm \$ 8pm

Rising Son

The first part of a trilogy written by Dick Lee that's set during the Japanese occupa-tion, this story delves into the life of 18-year-old Sunny, an ambulance orderly who does his best to protect his sister from the realities of war, and explores the odd friendship that these siblings form with their new neighbour, a young Japanese army lawyer.



13 Feb - 2 Mar | 3pm \$ 8pm DBS Arts Centre Tickets: \$40 - \$55 Fat Pig

PRODUCTIONS

A romantic comedy by Pangde-monium, Fat Pig is a love story between young intelligent Tom and sweet-natured, sexy and plus-sized Helen. As these two fall deeper and deeper in love, why does Tom insist that their relationship be kept a secret? The story questions Tom's integ-rity as he faces nosy friends who are curious to know about his new lover.

28 Feb - 3 Mar | 8pm Esplanade Theatre Tickets: \$28 - \$130 Mozart's

Cosi Fan Tutte

A cynical man places a bet against his two soon-to-be married friends: if your fiances was given the opportunity to take a new lover within the span of 24 hours, she would. To prove their cynical friend wrong, these two men attempt to woo each other's fiancees. With a dash of comedy, romance and a cliffhanger, these men experience the unexpected consequences of the bet.



12 - 23 Mar | 4pm & 8pm SOTA Drama Theatre Tickets: \$44 - \$69

A Singaporean in Paris

Directed by Hossan Leong, and performed by an international cast, follow the journey of a Sin-gaporean artist who travels to Paris to chase his dreams of performing in a cabaret. Everything isn't as easy as it seems, as the culture, language and people are completely different from what he's used to.

BERNARDA ALBA



14 - 29 Mar | 2pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm Drama Centre Theatre

Written by a Spanish playwright shortly before he was murdered, this production explores the tife of a matriarch who seals off her five daughters and herself from the world after the death of her husband. As

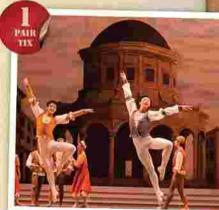
feelings of anger, jealousy and a sense of oppression swirl around the Alba household, what will happen?

Tickels: \$45 - \$75 The House of

Bernarda Alba

13 - 16 Mar | 1pm 年 8pm Esplanade Theatre Tickets: \$30 - \$70 Romeo and Juliet

Inspired by the classic tale of passionate romance written by Shakespeare, Romeo & Juliet is the story of two individuals who fall in love during a ball, and oppose all other forces to be together. How will the story of these star-crossed lovers end?



GIGS



20 Feb | 7.30pm Esplanade Concert Hall Tickets: \$30 - \$168

Gala: Sumi Jo (SSO)

In town for a one-night only concert, renowned soprano singer Sumi Io will be perform-ing powerful arias from famous operas, including Romeo et Juliette, Die Fledermaus and Rachmaninov's hauntingly beautiful Vocalise.

5年6 Mar | 6.30pm Fort Canning Park Tickets: \$128 - \$216

Singapore Rock Festival

A two-night festival showcasing a whole host of popular rock bands such as Rob Zombie, Korn, Five Finger Death Punch, Black Veil Brides and more, this first ever Singapore Rock Festival is a must-attend event for fans of rock music.

MOVIES



THE WIND RISES (March 20, 2014) Cast: Hideaki Anno, Miori Takimoto, Hidetoshi Nishijima, Masahiko Nishimura

The final animated film helmed by legendary director Hayao Miyazaki before his retirement, The Wind Rises revolves around the life of Jiro Horikoshi, who dreams of two things: flying and designing aeroplanes. While he can't fulfill his dream of flying due to short-sightedness, the film follows his journey of achieving the latter, while making friends, falling in love, and experiencing momentous events such as The Great Kanto Earthquake which propelled him to becoming a notable aeroplane designer

DBS Arts Centre Tickets: \$35 - \$55

WWW.SISTIC.COM.SB

Campus | Issue 28 20

(Not safe for work. Not safe for anyone with a weak constitution either.)

of spunk and self love strange facts about sex



Cover +

Agent =

BLOWN

Sex. The mere word sends a certain chill up everyone's spines – be it the tingle of anticipation or a sense of doing something you shouldn't have. And for those in their forma- creative cuices tive years (which would be you), it's a word that triggers a manic Google search frenzy (we know what you're searching for). Bow-chika-wow-wow...

While the word 'sex' was believed to be coined in 1382, it still holds bizarre surprises for us in this day and age.

self love



We've all heard old wives' tales of masturbation leading to blindness, deafness, exhaustion, hysteria and other unpleasant stuff.

While present research shows no connection, it didn't stop John Kellogg (of the cornflakes fame) from going

on a rampage against masturbation towards the end of the 19th century (he himself didn't have sex with his wife throughout their marriage). So, he created... CORNFLAKES. The first cornflakes were made as tasteless as possible to avoid giving horny folks any form of stimulus, which he believed was the root of the problem. If you still have urges after a bowl of cereal, then you know he was just a quack.

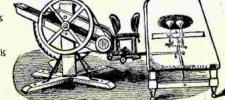


Taking masturbation to a new level is the annual Masturbate-a-thon (yes, it's real), put together by the happy folks at the Center for Sex and Culture in a 'Masturbatorium' in San Francisco. The winner is one who can last the longest pleasuring himself/herself and the current title holder is one Masanobu Sato from Japan, who did his thing non-stop for a hand-

numbing 9 hours and 57 minutes. He sees this as an endurance sport, and actually trains for it (by swimming and running). of course. What were you thinking?).

When it comes to self love, you can't forget the iconic vibrator which comes in various shapes and sizes these days. However, its origins date back to Victorian England when women were thought to be 'cured' of hysteria with a little bout of paroxysm (no wonder they lined up at the doctor's for a treatment). It wasn't until doctors were tired of using their hands that they invented the 'Manipulator' - the world's first steam-powered vibrator! Laziness is, after all, the mother of all inventions.

More portable vibrators were invented after, which were used for everything from facials to muscle aches.

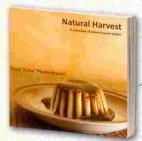




You may have heard rumours that semen is 'good' for the skin. and mental wellbeing, and whatnot. While the science of using spunk as facial is still up in the air, man juice has been used in some other weird ways.

Take WWI, for instance, when invisible ink was all the rage. Semen apparently worked well, and was readily available to agents, according to chief Mansfield Cumming (you read right). The 'ink' was actually used for a while, until everyone noticed that it started to smell after a few days.

When it comes to using semen for intelligence services, how about using it to store data? Scientists have devised a technique for archiving information in DNA strands - if a single sperm contains 37.8MB of DNA information, then one ejaculation represents a data transfer of over 15,000GB (a capacity of 62 MacBook Pros!). It sure gives a new meaning to the word "hard drive".



If you're interested in a more household application of spunk, then check out the cookbook Natural Harvest by Fotie Photenhauer. You'll find recipes for everyday foods using... semen, which according to the author has 'wonderful texture and cooking properties'. It sure makes you think twice

about 'food porn'. If food is too much, his next book, 'Semenology - The Semen Bartender's Handbook' is a funky take on cocktails. With his Macho Mojito for instance, the 'fresh' ingredient, as the author argues, is 'readily available behind the bar'. Seriously?

did you know ...



Apparently, one in 10 European babies is conceived on a wooden IKEA bed. There's no word on how many Singaporeans are, but judging from the queues at Alexandra and Tampines, it's probably quite high. At least none of these folks have Dendrophilia (those

aroused by and may have sexual contact with trees. Ouch.)

And to finish off... according to the recent Durex sex survey, Singaporeans are at the top 5 on the list of most promiscuous in the world - let's hope everyone used contraceptives, which in German is Schwangerschaftsverhütungsmittel.

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*Available Discounts



Discount for Youth (up to 25 years old)



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www.raileurope.com.sg

Whether we eat to live or live to eat, food is a big part of our lives that we simply can't do without. With every connoisseur looking for the next best thing to eat, here's a list of food trends that have popped up in various corners of the world; some of them might not have taken the world by storm as yet, but you just never know...



If you're game for eating delicacies like spoon worms (which is eaten alive), then wolfing down food made by artist Minsu Kim is very much up your alley. In 2013, this art graduate created a collection of culinary creations that is not made up of anything living but instead a bunch of synthetic food that wriggle and breathe like living creatures. With its roots in molecular gastronomy, the integration of scientific techniques into cooking the 'living' food was meant to create an experience where consumers would enjoy interacting with their food. With all the hype this artwork received, we have no doubt that we'll be seeing more of 'living' food in the years to come

printing is the next trend to hit the professional industry. Not an item that can be bought over the counter just as yet, 3D food printers are set to change the way food is being cooked. A recent addition includes the Chef Jet a 3D sugar printer, that can produce monochromatic or full colour edible works of art out of chocolate and sugar. Next in the pipeline is the Foodini, currently in beta stage; the machine is said to be able to print items such as ravioli, quiches and pizza in any shape or size. So now, making food could be just like in The Jetsons - with a push of a button.



Some of us might get all squeamish at the thought of chomping down on insects, but in various parts of the world insects are just another item on the menu. Jumping on the bandwagon, and taking the icky factor out of insect eating was a festival run by London last year called 'Who's the Pest?' which had culinary chefs from Nordic Food Lab – a Scandinavian team that once served up a plate of ants - concoct some of the most interesting menu items consisting of creepy crawlies, like a cricket broth, barbecued mealworms and sundried emperor moth caterpillars. So if you're a true blue foodie, maybe venturing into the insect world doesn't really seem far-fetched.

Created to abolish the needs of packaging food in plastic, WikiPearls - an idea stemmed from WikiCells - focuses on protecting food with edible wrapping, pushing these tiny balls of creamy goodness into a whole a new league of eco-friendly gourmet. Although the creations are currently limited to ice cream (ie. chocolate ice cream with hazelnut cream with skin and mango ice coconut skin), the range will to include yoghurt and cheese. Finger food has never been so

clean and convenient

Fond of taking selfies? Instead of only getting them in digital form, why not try your hand at getting them printed on a latte? In 2013, Let's Cafe - a Taiwanese coffee chain created a new form of service offered by their coffee machines: the ability to print someone's face on a thick layer of foam. All customers have to do is, while waiting in queue, snap a selfie and upload it to the coffee machine. It's even possible to add text to the picture.

All of this is completely edible. since the "ink" used to print the picture is merely made of foam and brown powder



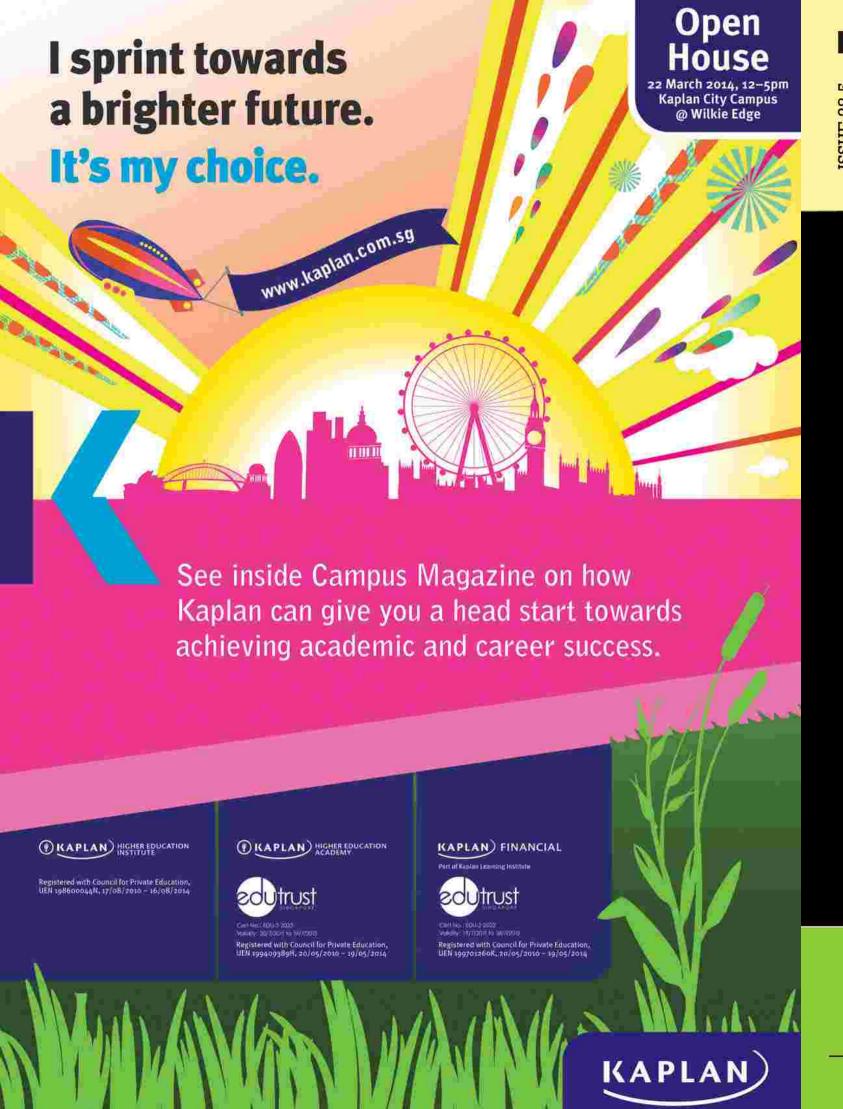
STRESSIRELIEF

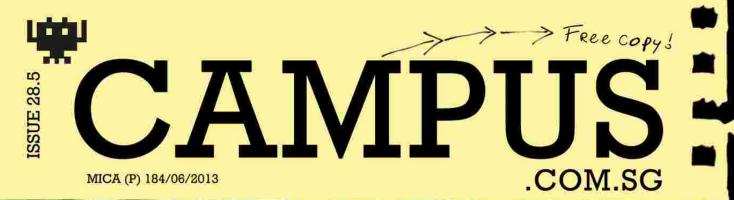
Now that the celebrations for both New Years are over, it's time to get lovey dovey for Valentine's Day. If you haven't found your better half yet, you'd better start looking. And we're here to help... literally. Use this telescope to scan the space around - with a 1:1 magnification, nothing will seem bigger than they really are. Just try not to peek into places you're not supposed to...

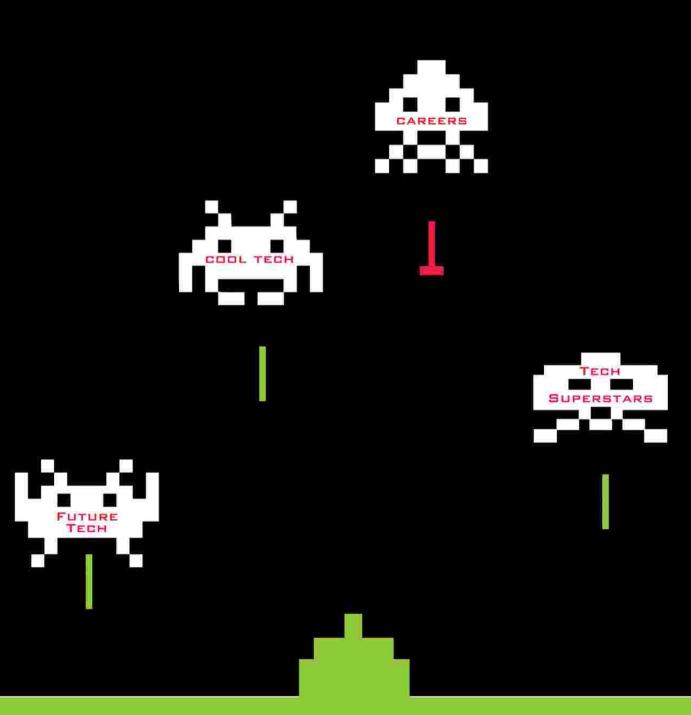
FREE 1:1 MAGNIFICATION TELESCOPE!



- 2. Roll this piece of paper into a tube shape.
- 3. Tape it securely shut. Voila! You've just made a paper telescope with a lil magnification!

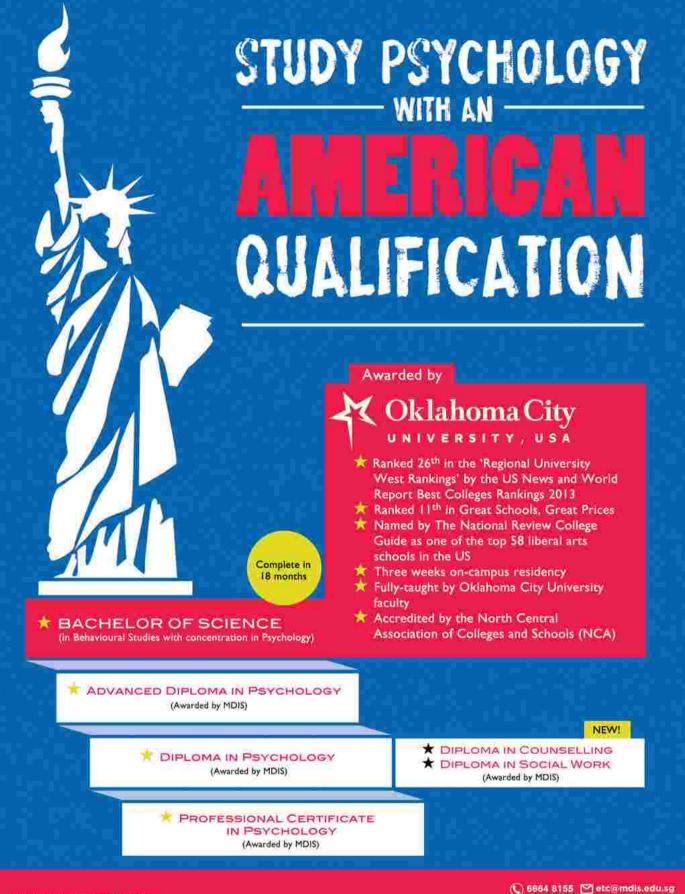






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TECH INDUSTRY

THE DOWN LOW IN THE TECH INDUSTRY

worldwide are women. IBM website

Singapore's top 10 highly paid jobs, earning between

Yahoo Finance Singapore

Jobs that are in demand in the tech sphere include:

analyst programmers. software engineers, database/network & computer systems administrator.

Ministry of Manpower, Nov 2012

Singapore has been ranked

in the world in terms of adopting and utilising technology the fastest.

World Economic Forum, 2013

Singapore's three favourite companies to work for in 2013 were all technology companies:

- LinkedIn

The overall employment rate for graduates of Bachelor of Computer Engineering from NUS and NTU are both above

Graduate Employment Survey 2012, Ministry of Education Singapore

A pay hike will happen across the board for most industries in 2014 because of the economic growth, specifically those in

Software analysts have been listed as one of



banking, oil and gas, and technology sectors

which will see the highest increase in salaries. Hay Group Singapore.

technology companies can be found in

ngapore. Of which, the top 15 companies have their regional headquarters here.

Economic Development Board Singapore

The starting monthly salary for most IT fresh grads is

Non-tech careers in the tech industry earn equally well too. For example, Google's financial analyst earns

compared to their network engineers who earn

Business Insider

NON-WIRED TECHNOPRENEURS

You don't have to love algorithms to make it in the IT industry, as many of the flourishing tech companies we see today were actually established by legions of untrained tech amateurs that simply had innovative ideas. For your inspiration, here's a list of non-technical founders who have made quantum leaps in the wired industry.



ANDREW MASON

After graduating with a music degree, Andrew Mason – the man behind the deals and savings we all relish – created Groupon in 2003. A multi-instrumentalist with a rock band, Andrew has a passion for building things from scratch, which propelled him to whip up this coupon-loving website. Though fired from the startup he created because of his sophomoric gaffes, Mason is currently working on another project called PlayTank, which is a social network focused on connecting individuals who have creative projects in the works and are looking for collaborators.



DAVID SACKS

Another firm believer in selling-on to bigger corporations, David Sacks – a law and economics graduate – is a multi-millionaire responsible for creating PayPal, which he sold to eBay for \$1.7 billion. He also has his hands in Yammer, a social networking site for businesses which he sold it to Microsoft for \$1.5 billion. Having lent a hand in the creation of LinkedIn and Yelp, Sacks continues to invest in several tech startups, like Kloutless and AdStage, while looking for the next big thing.

DAN PORTER

With a Master's degree in Latin studies and previously a public school teacher, Dan Porter is far from the average technopreneur. Porter not only created Zynga (a social game on Facebook like Farmville or Bubble Safari), he's also played a role in formulating Draw Something, which is a mobile game that went viral and continues to be addictive for many. With three #1 apps under



his belt, Porter's large chunk of success comes from the sale of companies he's founded to bigger tech companies – he ran TicketWeb for a while before selling it to TicketMaster.

BEN SILBERMANN

Voted an 'Unlikely Tech Entrepreneur' in his university's alumni magazine, Ben Silbermanr a political science graduate, first found his footing in the tech industry through working in the sales department at Google. An ardent tech blog fan, Silbermann knew he had to get into the tech startup game, and he did so by creating Pinterest. Working



together with a couple of friends – who also come from non-technical backgrounds – the trio managed to take a simple pinboard-style website and transform it into a tech star.

RASHMI SINHA

A PhD student in Cognitive
Neuropsychology, Rashmi Sinha
moved to San Fransisco to
complete postgrad research.
While living there, she caught the
tech bug and secured her place
in the tech sphere by creating
Uzanto – a user experience
consulting company that lent
their expertise to companies like
eBay. After working in the field



for a while, Sinha created her own tech product, MindCanvas, which aids in collecting research about online user preferences. She also co-founded SlideShare, which is a website every student has turned to at some point of their late-night studying.

THINK WITHIN THE BOX: GOING TECH



Singapore is ranked as one of the most technologically advanced nation in the world, and is home to the regional headquarters of a multitude of tech companies like Google, Microsoft and Oracle. Singapore also often welcomes (and even funds) the latest technology, which means the prospects for local tech careers are always growing – whether you're in a startup or an established firm.

Globally, there are plenty of opportunities too. While the misconception is that most tech companies are clustered in Silicon Valley, plenty of other countries have their own tech clusters like Silicon Glen (Scotland), Silicon Wadi (Israel) and Silicon Fen (UK). This means working for a tech company could also promise international opportunities.

HOW TO JOIN THE TECH INDUSTRY?

Deciding to take up a technology-related job can be quite daunting if you don't have an IT degree or a programming background. However, the tech industry is diverse and has plenty of room for non-technical staff. In fact, you don't even have to speak a computer language (think C++ or Java) to get into the industry – there's room for everybody, so here are just some of the career options to consider:

PRODUCT MANAGEMENT:

Essentially a marketing role, product managers deal largely with marketing the goods as well as managing the personnel that will be involved in consumer-outreach (depending on the size of the company). Think of a 'sexy' brand like Apple - it's all in the marketing.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ANALYTICS MANAGEMENT:

Due to the evolving nature of technology, the analyst's role often involves studying previous trends to predict future trends and habits of users by using tools like Google Analytics. The info is fed to the marketing team, who then predict the next big thing – since even #trending needs help to happen.

SEO MANAGEMENT:

For those who enjoy wordplay, search engine optimisation is a marketing role that involves researching the latest topics and words that are trending online, and using them to advertise or sell their company's products. For example, Google wouldn't be so successful if it wasn't for SEOs.

WHAT IS IN THE TECH INDUSTRY?







DESIGNERS

From designing the interface of web pages and apps with the product, down to the packaging, designers are in demand in the tech field because dull, black boxes don't fly off the shelves anymore. Your iPhone wasn't 'designed' by techies. Neither is the blue Facebook logo that you've come to know so well. Good design sells itself.

SUPPORT STAFF:

As most tech companies don't deal with their customers face-to-face, successful companies need strong back-room support staff to handle all the customer relations. If you're good with PR, and relish solving problems, this could be for you.

HUMAN RESOURCE:

If you like organising and have an eye for putting the right people in the right place, then an HR job in a tech company would seem as easy as connecting the dots.



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TRENDING BY LAKSHMI GANESAN TECHNOLOGY



The shelf life of technology has always been known to be short, especially since corporations all over the world are looking to outsmart one another in coming up with the next big thing. So to keep you ahead in this fast-changing industry, we've picked a bevy of gizmos that will probably be relieving many of your everyday activities.



PEBBLE STEEL WATCH

Smartwatches have always been seen as the epitome of futuristic technology, and now they're penetrating the tech market at a rapid pace. The latest release in the smartwatch sphere, the Pebble Steel Smartwatch allows users to download apps, play games, works as a GPS system, and to top it off, it's waterproof. In terms of design, this gizmo is sleek, trendy and comes in a variety of colours, and syncs with both Apple and Android phones.

NO MORE SUNBAKING

The urge to stock up on creams that promise to reverse sun damage can now take a back seat with the latest wearable tech: June, a bracelet which is able to measure and track the amount of UV rays your skin is absorbing. It's also able to calculate the amount of exposure you're able to withstand until the sun starts to damage your skin. Made by the guys from Louis Vuitton and Harry Winston (which explains its elegance), this bracelet sends its readings to a mobile app that alerts you of the sun exposure you're receiving, and when you should start grabbing sunblock and big hats.



PANOMO CAMERA BALL

Panorama shots have been making their way into social media newsfeeds for quite a while, but the Panomo Camera Ball takes it to a whole new level with its 360-degree pictures. This ball is installed with 36 tiny cameras which can be activated in 3 different ways: by throwing the ball into the air, by holding the ball and pressing a button or by holding it up with a stick. Once the ball is thrown into the air, the cameras automatically click a shot at the highest point to minimise blurriness. The images from the Panomo camera ball can be viewed on a phone or tablet with an app.



HELLO, MINIONS

Ever felt like having your own exclusive minions? The LG Home Chat has made that possible by your utilising home appliances. Gone also are the days where verbal command was all the rage; with LG Home Chat, all that's needed is a text sent to the appliance with a command. So you can turn on your washing machine or air conditioner, or even check what's in your fridge while you're away, all with a simple text message. The only catch is that you'll need to own these LG smart appliances.

PAY THE BILLS WITH YOUR VEINS

Currently you can pay with the touch of a card, but what if you could pay with the touch of your hand? With the PulseWallet, all you have to do is swipe your hand over a reader, which will then scan your palm to read the configuration of your veins (it's unique to each individual). Once the reading is approved, it will then be synced to your credit/debit

card for transaction.



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Unbeknownst to many, Singapore has been contributing to the technological advancements with a string of gadgets that has not only impacted the local tech scene but globally as well. Take the movies The Avengers for example — if you liked the special effects, you can thank the team of CG artists, many of whom were from Singapore's Industrial Light & Magic studio.

Here are some of Singapore's best tech discoveries.

SINGAPORE T E C H

ON THE WORLD STAGE

BRAVE FRONTIER

If you're a fan of mobile gaming, then the game 'Brave Frontier' might ring a bell. This role-playing game on iOS and Android has elevated the made-in-Singapore tag to world status with its 1.2 million downloads from gamers across the world. This Japanese-style game (developed by Gumi Asia) has had numerous other hits under its belt, with Monster Blade and Puzzle Trooper all also crossing the million download mark.

THUMB DRIVE

Ubiquitously used, the thumb drive was the creation of Trek Technology, who joined forces with IBM in 2000 to sell them. Replacing the then-common floppy disks with BMB of storage capacity, these nifty gizmos were soon replicated, as many tech companies saw its promising nature. To prevent the infringement of their patents. Trek Technology and IBM demanded royalties from several big companies; however, smaller tech companies managed to get scot-free, so the deluge of flash drives continued.



X-MINI SPEAKERS

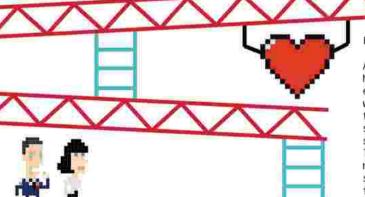
Probably found at every picnic in Singapore, the portable X-Mini speakers are another Singapore invention that has gained its footing internationally over the

years. Created by XMI Pte Ltd. they packed subwoofers, bass and volume into a pop-up capsulelooking speaker that has won numerous global awards (from Germany's prestigious Red Dot Design award to the Infocomm Singapore Award). With its international celebrity endorsements - like Jay Park - the brand continues to be leading speakers both locally and globally.

RAZER MOUSE

The world's first-of-its-kind gaming mouse was created by two Singaporean gamers who saw the need for edgier, ergonomic-friendly gaming gizmos. The mouse allowed PC gamers to play more efficiently, and soon flew off the shelves for its intuitive design. Due to its success, CEO Min Liang shipped his

business and moved to the US to work on calibrating the gadget to perfection, as well as to amp up its design.

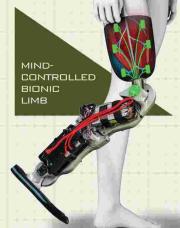


MATCH.COM

A website synonymous with online dating, Match.com was actually created by a Singaporean. Concocted in 1995, Peng Tsin Ong along with Gary Kremen founded Match.com by architecting the system. After its instantaneous success. Ong then ventured into technopreneurship by establishing Interwoven, Inc. (a global leader with a presence on the NASDAO stock market). He is currently aiding promising tech startups and oversees some of Singapore's future economic plans.

ampus) Issue 28.5 | Tech Special | 09

ZOOMING INTO THE WIRED FLITIIRE



BY LAKSHMI GANESAN

With the advent of Google glasses, wearable tech is not just a thing of fiction anymore but a mere benchmark that will definitely be overwritten by future's technology. As new gadgets continue to be faster and juggle more tasks, we look at some of the products that will be making big waves very soon in the tech world.



CAR INDEPENDENCE

You can save that money that you're intending for your driver's licence because in the near future, we'll all be sitting in self-driving cars. Notable car manufacturers like BMW and Audi have unveiled some interesting prototypes in this year's Consumer Electronics Show. While ideally self-driving cars should do all the driving, at beta stage they don't, because these cars are not able to detect the changing traffic lights or movements outside the car. Hence, there will be moments where the driver will have to be steering the wheel. While the notion of self-driving cars are still in development, it's estimated that they'll be running on the roads in 7 to 10 years' time.

FLYING CARS

Harry Potter's world of flying cars could just be true over the next few years with The Terrafugia Transition, which underwent a test drive in 2013. Currently looking more like a mini-plane than a car, it also needs a runway space of at least 30m. It's also said to be able to be up in air for up to 4 hours, which means travelling to Malaysia could be a breeze. The best part is, it uses conventional fuel, so refilling at a regular petrol station will be no hassle. The expected release of this car is in 2015 or 2016, so we might just be doing more than just plane spotting in the future.



MIND-CONTROLLED BIONIC LIMBS

One of possibly the best applications of technology would be its ability to help the handicapped through the use of prosthetic limbs. Scientists are now taking it one step further by developing mind-controlled bionic limbs – all you have to do to work these prosthetics is by picturing it in your mind. Similar arm prototypes have already been made, and recently the first leg prototype was tested out by Zac Vawter. While this mind-controlled prosthetic leg hasn't been released for the public just as yet, we'll be seeing this hit hospital shelves real soon.



INTERACTIVE DESKS

How will schools and workplaces be like in the future? With the invention of smartphones, smartwatches and so on, it only makes sense to complete the series with smartdesks. The first prototype, known as BendDesk (created in 2010), involves a desk with a touch-screen computer built into it. The surface of this table is slightly more curvaceous than the run-of-the-mill table and besides the screen, everything thing on the desk is functional.

HOLOGRAPHIC VIDEO CALLS

In a few years' time, video conferencing will likely be revolutionised with the development of the TeleHuman a system that enables you to conduct holographic calls.

The current TeleHuman currently consists of a life-sized pod that resembles a tiny shower curtain. While the mechanics still fall short on certain areas – like callers would have to be 2m apart - the idea that a holographic image of us talking and acting out in real-time currently exists, and while this is still in beta stage, we will definitely be seeing more of holographic calling in a few years time.



JACK OF MASTER JUST ON

Everyone is looking to take a bite out of the tech pie, since these days it plays a key part in every industry across the board - which consecutively paves the way for pursuing a spectrum of IT-related degrees. Which poses the question, is it better to take up a general IT degree or should you specialise instead? Here are some points to consider before deciding on the next step.

GOING GENERAL

VARIETY IS IN THE MIX

For a general IT degree (alternatively known as computer science), the basics of the curriculum are learning about everything that makes a computer tick - from the hardware and software, to the Internet. Starting with an IT degree allows you to gain a broader understanding and explore the different fields existing within the industry before embarking on a career.



OFFERED EVERYWHERE

One of the perks of taking on a general computer science degree is that you can take your pick when it comes to choosing a university. Offered at many institutions,

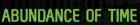
an IT programme does vary from school to school, but the crux of the degree is that it's based on computer theory, and its works.

MAJOR OR MINOR

Unlike specialised degrees, a general IT degree allows the option of majoring or minoring in other fields. So you could explore other academic programs that could help bolster your IT credentials like the courses offered by Kaplan, which pair information technology with a myriad of specializations, from cyber forensics to information security & management

CAREER OPTIONS

Upon graduating with a general IT degree, students will possess a wide range of highly transferable skills - which gets you a gold star for employability, as most companies would look for fresh graduates with a set of flexible skills. because they'll be more open to trying out different roles within their job scope.



Most general IT degrees take 3 to 4 years to complete, which means that students will have plenty of time to hone their computer skills, while mastering computer theory. Along with that, they'll also be able to take on summer internships and projects outside of university which will only build their portfolio further.

GOING SPECIALISED

PREPPING FOR THE FUTURE

Taking a specialised degree like Game Design from DigiPen preps you precisely for the career that you've set your sights on. And by the time you complete your studies, you'll be extremely well versed in all the key facets of your chosen field. With such specialised degrees, you'll also be in tune with the current industry and technology trends, which will definitely ease your entry into the industry as well as speed up your career progression.

APPLICATION-BASED

While you will still get a strong theoretical foundation, specialised degrees tend to put their emphasis on more practical, application-based learning - compared to a general IT degree. Through projects and hands-on doing, specialised degrees let students build their actual portfolio while studying.

BETTER PAY

With specialisation often comes better pay straight way, as you'll be prepared to enter the industry as soon as you graduate. Companies that are looking to fill a specific job scope tend to look to those that are qualified with specialised degrees, as they'll be schooled with the right skill set.

IN DEMAND

Especially in the tech field, specialised staff always tend to be in demand because of the intricacies involved. Roles like cloud



architects (which deal with cloud computing), or mobile app developers are always available, mainly because of the lack of such specialised staff, compounded by the fast-expanding nature of

DOING WHAT YOU LOVE

If you're specialising in a particular area of tech, it's more than likely you have a whole lot of interest and passion for that particular field, which matters because doing what you love for work eans you'll never 'work' a day in your life.





HOTJOBS IN THE TECH INDUSTRY

With the tech industry growing at such a rapid pace, jobs are constantly getting revamped to meet the new demands. Here are a few options (many of which don't require IT degrees) if you want to break into the industry.

NON-TECH

SEO COPYWRITER

A search engine optimisation (SEO) copywriter's task is to create and

populate a company's website (and social media sources) with contents that will build hit rates and increase web-search traffic. When you Google something for instance, SEO copywriters help insure their website appear in the top results. Hence, their job includes being a wordsmith as well as understanding patterns and trends with popular keywords - weaving them into their website in engaging ways that also help push up their site's ranking, not to mention generating 'likes' and 'shares' in social media.

EARNING POWER: \$36,748

TECH

MOBILE APP DEVELOPER

Are you constantly thinking how to get more out of your mobile? Do you get into heated arguments about Apple vs Android? Do you naturally evaluate new devices based on their tech specs ("who needs a curved screen anyway?")? Then diving into the mobile apps could just be your thing. Slightly more autonomous than the rest of the industry, mobile app developers could work for established companies or be their own boss. Involved with concept, design - basically the whole works, mobile app developers are especially sought after by many companies looking to condense their broader services into a compact, user-friendly

ERRNING POWER: \$42,800

CLOUD ARCHITECTS

The latest trend in the tech industry: cloud computing, which has paved the way for an all-new designation: cloud architect. This job varies depending on the company, from streamline cloud computing services for clients to creating new interfaces, or even being high-end tech support - there's plenty of avenues to explore in this emerging field. If you're a really meticulous person with a head for solving problems (something you'll need to connect all the dots in an entirely new area of data management), this may just be for you.

EARNING POWER: \$127,000

COMMUNITY MANAGER

The liaison between a company and the public, the community manager is the one who understands your target audience's needs and wants and caters to them, tailoring the company's image accordingly. They do this through monitoring what the current brand image is on the web (and especially social media), and developing strategies to harness what customers are saying (and thinking), through feedback building their brand's image. If you've got good people skills and a knack for identifying great social media content, you may have the makings of a great community manager.

EARNING POWER: \$73,158

USER INTERFACE DESIGNER

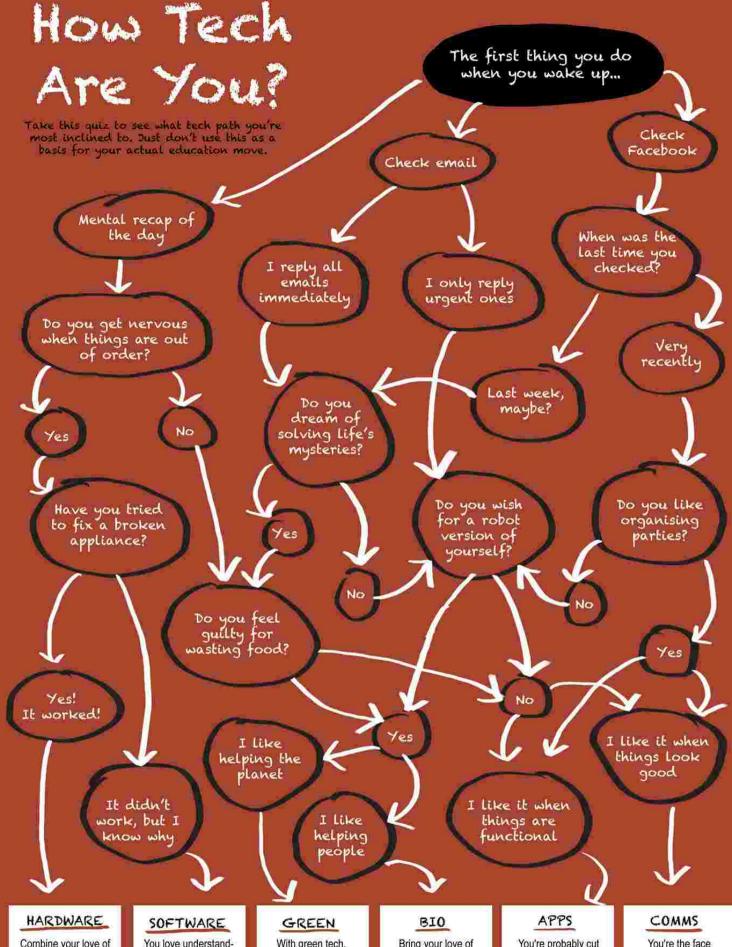
These days design and tech merge in many ways, with interface design being a prime example of where the two distinct fields come together - whether it's purely hardware or behind the scenes making software more user-friendly. With design and tech being two sides of the same coin, it's easy to see how interface designers are in demand, from developing concepts for mobile, to web or B-2-C software. Interface experts decide where buttons go, and how layouts look, making things easier to use and therefore more popular and profitable.

ERRNING POWER: \$111,075

WEB ARCHITECT

In today's internet age, having a website is the equivalent of having a name card, which is why most companies are constantly in need of a dedicated specialist to manage their precious web presence; enter the web architect. From fixing bugs on sites, to monitoring and analysing website traffic, updating the site with the latest functions or re-modifying it to meet a client's evolving needs, the job covers many areas. So if you're interested in the "how" behind great websites and love to keep up-to-date with the latest programming and software, this role is right up your alley.

ERRNING POWER: \$31,596



Combine your love of gadgets and tech with engineering know-how, whether its developing power stations, robotics or space satellites.

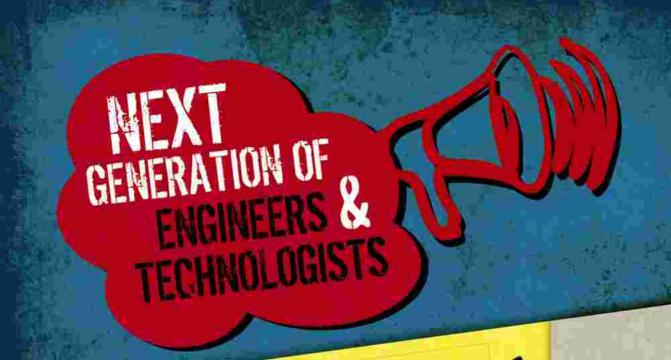
You love understanding and creating the inner workings of high tech stuff - think defence technology. complex financial software and even A.I.

With green tech. there's big growth in rolls like environmental engineers and geoscience (devising alternative energy solutions in the field).

Bring your love of tech together with an interest in biology, and you've got nanobots. developing disease cures, stem cell research and more.

You're probably cut out to develop massmarket, consumerfriendly technology like mobile apps, gaming etc., as a software or web developer

between the technology and users. Some of the highest-paid jobs in tech, the scope varies from media to gaming and CG.



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MECHANICAL **ENGINEERING**

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