



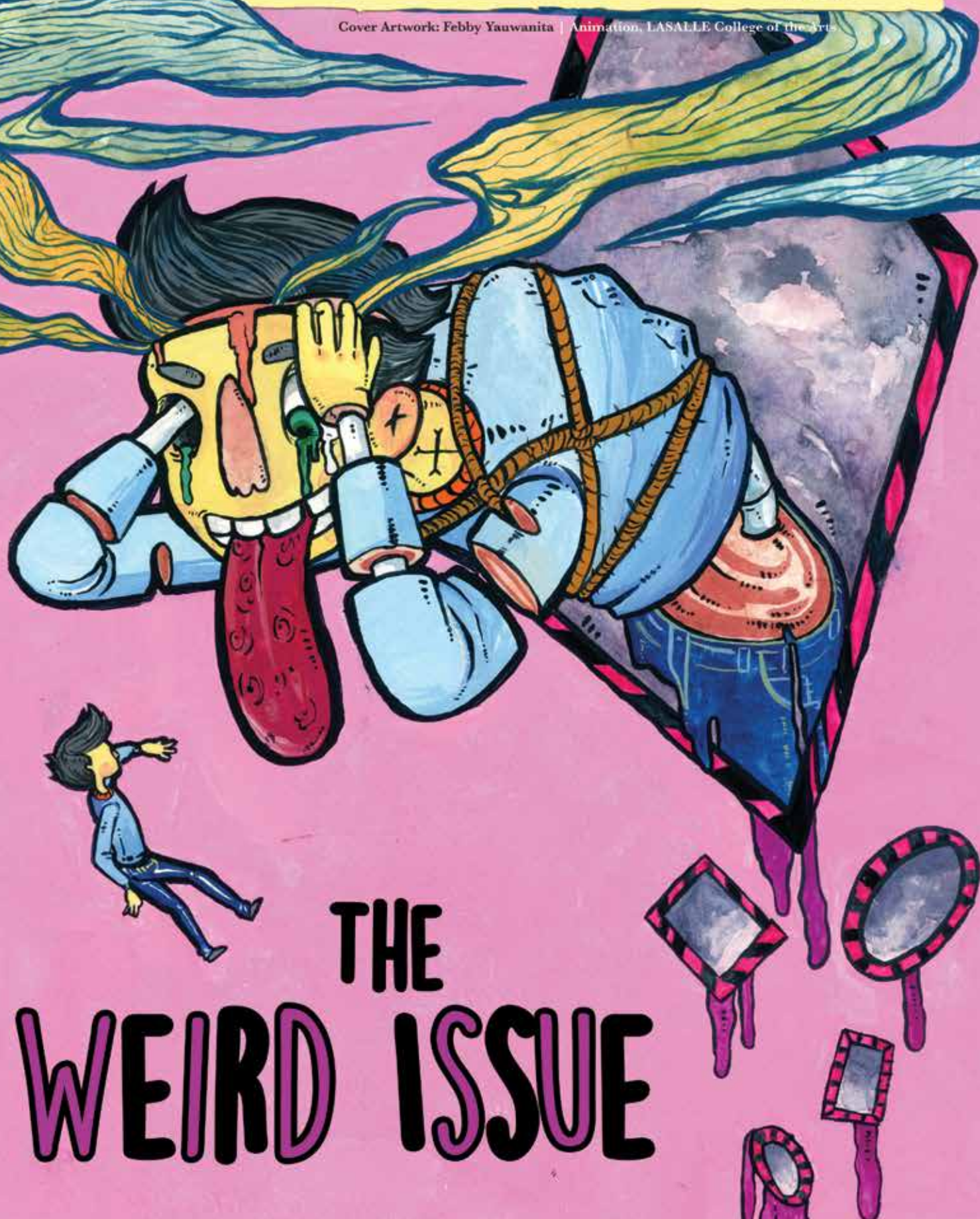
ISSUE 44

# CAMPUS

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THE  
WEIRD ISSUE



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# FREAKOUT STRANGE AND UNKNOWN PHOBIAS

BY JOHN PRAVIN



## 1 ANABLEPHOBIA

Do you like stargazing? Did you ever look up at the sky and wonder "Wow, the sky is so beautiful"? Well, it ain't that easy for people suffering from anablephobia – also known as the fear of looking up. Cloud watching is a pretty popular pastime to relieve stress, however, not everyone will feel relaxed after looking up. Those with this phobia are simply responding to the extensiveness of the sky. When they look at the sky, they feel insignificant or minuscule. Others may be afraid of what may fall from the sky: rain, hail, trees, or even aeroplanes.



## 2 EUPHOBIA

Think of all the good news that you could ever hear. For example, "You just won a lottery, mate!", "School is cancelled today!" or "You are top in the National Exams!". Now imagine if you were afraid of hearing it. Sound bizarre? That is euphobia – the fear of hearing good news. This fear typically involves hearing good news and then being disappointed that it didn't actually happen. This fear may have formed when someone experienced a traumatic incident of receiving good news and then feeling disappointed. It seems the old adage may be true then – not all news is good news.

## CHROMETOPHOBIA

If you were offered a million dollars, would you decline it? If you have chrometophobia, you most likely will. Chrometophobia is the intense fear of money, be it fearing the financial responsibilities that money can bring or the failures they may face, dealing with money is onerous for chrometophobics. For most of us, dealing with money is second nature. Who wouldn't want a little bit of extra cash? Like most other phobias, this fear of money might also originate from negative experiences which money can bring, including: a child watching their parents quarreling over money, losing a vast amount of money, or it may even be a cognitive assumption that money is associated with greed or evil based on the fairytales we have heard when we were young.



## 3 EPISTEMOPHOBIA

Most school students would probably argue that they have this phobia – the fear of knowledge. People who experience this phobia often avoid reading books or magazines and would choose to be ignorant of other platforms through which learning is stimulated. The handful of those who relate to this fear would probably agree that "the lesser you know the better". Or in this case, if you don't know anything, it's the best.

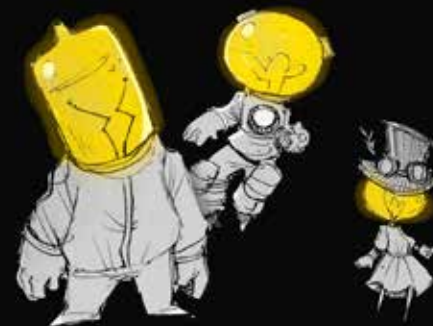


## 4 PHOBOPHOBIA

John F. Kennedy famously said: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself". That is literally what phobophobia is. People fear getting diagnosed with a phobia, learning about a phobia or even thinking about a phobia. Ironically, this is in itself a phobia. If you thought the phobias above were strange, this one would definitely give you a run for your money. Unless you have Chrometophobia of course.



Humans sometimes have strange fears of certain things. Most specific phobias begin during childhood and can persist throughout our lives. The most common of them being: claustrophobia (the fear of confined space), acrophobia (the fear of heights), and trypanophobia (the fear of injections). As we all obviously are familiar with those ones (some more than others), let's look instead at some of the weirdest of phobias out there.



Photos by Jason Leing

## 24 HOUR COMICS DAY

## THE RECAP

October 1st - 2nd was a big day for the local comic and animation scene, with the fourth annual edition of the 24-Hour Comic Challenge, held at LASALLE College of the Arts.

## THE ACTION

Things kicked off at 10am Saturday (1st October) and ran all the way to 10am Sunday (2nd October), with participants challenged to create an entire 24-page comic, from start to finish, from the characters to the story line, to the actual roughed-out artwork.



Devil's in the details!

Going Digital

Look familiar?

## THE RESULTS

There were no judges, prizes or grades given, as the 24-Hour Challenge is purely for the love of the game, or possible just a masochistic thing, given that it was 24 hours of non-stop, Redbull-fueled (circa 4am) drawing. Students also pitched to design our Weird Issue cover – here are some of our shortlisted artists!



Chan Eyau Yong



## SUSTENANCE

The event was attended by nearly 300 students, as well as amateur and professional artists, all brought together by their shared love of doodling, drawing and creating comic art, as well as their desire to drink an incredible 900 cans of iced mochas and cappuccinos (courtesy of Boncafe) and demolish several thousand delicious Corn Cheese Flavour Senbei, courtesy of Want Want.



Jessica Nathania

Natalie Ong

Muhammad Yusri

Hernando Pramono

If you missed this year's event, you can catch it again next October at LASALLE.

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# TRIPPING IN TAIWAN

## QUIRKY ISLAND

### WEIRD SLEEPS

Some of Taiwan's best overnight options include its quirky love hotels and peculiar boutique digs. The only question that remains is how much weirdness you want to indulge in!



### LOVE HOTELS

There's no shortage of weird love hotels - some are so ostentatious you can find a jacuzzi or a swimming pool in your room. If you're looking for a bit of pop culture, Eden Exoticism Planet Hotel (Kaohsiung) has quirky Manga Rooms, Batman Rooms or even Jail Rooms complete with handcuffs and bars.

Even more over the top is Taipei's Sato Castle, which looks like a castle from the outside including a drawbridge. Its medieval-themed hallways are lined with suits of armour with themed rooms like Princess, Pirate, Ancient Egyptian and even Man-U.



### WEIRD FOOD



### CARTON KING

Everything in the restaurant (except for the food) is made of cardboard. The plates and cups, chairs, tables, faux walls and lighting fixtures are all made of corrugated cardboard; plus their bento boxes come with straps, and can be re-purposed into piggy banks when you're finished eating. They also sell tons of toys and housewares made of cardboard, and have branches all over Taiwan.

### A PIECE OF GAYKE

For something saucy, there's A Piece of Gayke, which may sound like a euphemism, but is actually the name of a stall in Shilin Night Market. They sell everything from phallic eclairs, to full-on sausage sticks, to sorbet "cockles" in a variety of flavours, including lemon and chocolate-dipped. The stall is open nightly from 7-11pm, and very easy to spot, due to the snickering, instagramming queue.



### SLEEP IN A CASTLE

While Taiwan is miles away from Europe, it doesn't mean you can't sleep in a Tudor mansion! It's located deep in Taiwan's central mountain range - one breathtaking scenery - and it's perched on the edge of a cliff. The Old England Manor is an opulent British-inspired boutique hotel that also has a Tea Room where you can have tea if you aren't spending the night in the posh villa, which includes fireplaces, 4-poster beds, and lots of tapestry. You may even forget what country you're in.



Taiwan's beautiful landscape, wondrous foods, and lovely people are pretty famous the world over. But hidden amongst all this beauty is another side of Taiwan that few see, and others hunt down for the novelty factor. Enter strange museums, weird attractions, and pretty bizarre foods - meet Taiwan's weird side.



## WEIRD MUSEUMS



### BELIEVE IT OR NOT MUSEUM

Weird things live in the Believe It or Not Curiosity Museum in Dashaui. While there's the usual two-mouthed fish, giant rabbit-type stuff, they also have an extensive collection of them, titillating erotica, including terrifying chastity belts and a connoisseur's collection of phalli.

## WEIRD ATTRACTIONS



### HOUTONG CAT VILLAGE

Houtong is like catnip to cat lovers - upon arrival at the train station, it's not difficult to spot cats just chilling everywhere. Houtong's cat population exploded after residents abandoned the town in the 90s due to the closure of the coal mine. Today, this ex-coal capital is a capital of cats - you can see cat signage, kitty boxes, and plenty of shops selling cat paraphernalia.

### PIER 2

What do you do with a bunch of disused warehouses? At Pier 2 in Kaohsiung, you turn it into a creative space for artists, of course. Here, you'll find painfully hipster cafes and shops selling trinkets you don't need, sitting side by side with some truly bizarre works of art, like a sculpture of a red demon dog with a huge penis, a Ming-era official carrying a broomstick, and a 2-storey tall Bumblebee. (Transformers! You can also ride around on a mini train (adults seem to love it), or peek into the many workshops on site.



### YEHLIU GEOPARK

Continuing with a geological theme, Yehliu in the far north has a different type of rock formation. Situated along a beautiful coast, the orange-hued rocks seem to rise like clay soldiers from the ground. You might want to queue for a photo opp with the "Queen's Head" - a formation that resembles Nefertiti's side profile (if you look hard enough). The area is also dotted with plenty of interesting fossils, as well as holes in rocks that will probably bother folks with trypophobia.



### CHILLI MUSEUM

If you're a hardcore spice lover, then check out the quirky Chilli Hunters Cultural Creative Museum in Jiaosi - it's not so much a museum as it is a showcase of all the weird and wonderful foodstuff you can add chilli to. Most notably, ice cream - there are plenty of chilli-infused gelato to try, although don't expect to blow your head off. Other items include an array of chilli pastes, crackers and snacks that go to a fiery level. There's free samples too!

### GLASS SLIPPER CHURCH

Standing tall against the flat terrain, the blue-glass High-Heel Wedding Church in Chiayi was built as a wedding chapel and tourist attraction in a bid to attract women. Apparently it was concocted because "every girl imagines how they will look like when they become the bride" and was bizarrely inspired by a girl in the 1960s who couldn't walk down the aisle because both her legs had to be amputated.



### FORMOSAN ABORIGINAL CULTURE VILLAGE

Head deep into Taiwan's central mountains and you'll find this popular attraction, which is a bizarre combination of Taiwanese aboriginal village (dotted with traditional houses and costumed villagers) and theme park complete with amusement rides (from UFO to Caribbean-themed), cable cars overlooking Sun Moon Lake, and a Baroque-styled Bits Palace complete with a European garden.

For more info, check out [www.taiwan.net.tw](http://www.taiwan.net.tw)

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# Weirdest KICKSTARTER PROJECTS

BY VINCENT TAN

## Annoying TEDDY

GOAL: US\$7,500  
PLEDGES: US\$7,877  
BACKERS: 326



It's the gift that keeps on giving - until you want to pull its head off. Described as a "Diabolical Annoying Teddy Bear That Sings Non-Stop for Hours Until Destroyed", the product was based on a practical joke dreamed up by a 8 year-old girl and her father. With no way to stop "Happy Birthday", a Christmas or New Year song, some backers have testified it was so annoying the receivers actually smashed the bears less than one hour after they began singing. The project easily cleared its fundraising goal just three days after its launch.



## Bike BALLS

GOAL: CAD\$11,784  
PLEDGES: CAD\$85,662  
BACKERS: 2,177

Few things alert drivers to nighttime cyclists like illuminated testicles. Especially when they're swinging. Thankfully these aren't real, but made of an LED light embedded in suggestively-shaped silicon. These bottom-heavy bike lights dangle under the seat and sway as you pedal, garnering even more attention (and safety?) for riders. Its operation is straightforward: gently squeeze the balls to turn it on, switch light modes, or turn it off again. Candidly described as "so utterly awful, it becomes genius", its designers are moving boldly onward - with limited edition scented silicon gonads in either cherry, banana or blueberry flavours.

## NoPhone ZERO

GOAL: US\$500  
PLEDGES: US\$1,239  
BACKERS: 130



A stylish placebo for the phone-obsessed - don't deny it - this elegant plastic rectangle promises to sharpen your human- to-human interactions by replacing your smartphone and then doing absolutely nothing. A brilliant joke about society's dependence on the latest smartphone, the NoPhone Zero forces you to engage with real life through revolutionary new features like no camera ("I can now eat food without taking photos of it. Thanks NoPhone!"), infinite battery life, and all the durability of a block of plastic (water resistant to the extent that it floats/can be washed). If you're like the rest of the world and can't wait for newer versions, the No Phone Air - lightest phone in the world - is in 'production'.

Two exciting developments from Kickstarter: a brick-and mortar outlet has opened locally (like what you see? Test it, then buy it). Also Singaporean creators can now campaign online for monetary backing from the rest of the world. Apart from financing more seriously cool tech, the linking of Singapore to Kickstarter also likely means more avenues for local entrepreneurs to tap into a global sense of fun which thrives in that unconventional marketplace.

Here are some of the most brilliant (and kooky) doodads - international and local - that have secured Kickstarter funds recently, with more sure to come.

## Fidget CUBE

GOAL: US\$15,000  
PLEDGES: more than US\$5.5 million  
BACKERS: more than 133,000



Leg shakers, pen tappers and nail chewers - the golden age of fidgeting is here. This little desktop toy combines options to click, press, push, spin and rub in a single handy cube. Each face has a different thing to fiddle with: buttons to press, a switch to flip or a joystick to swivel around. The cube was even designed with audible and silent functions to allow fidgeting in every social situation. And it's actually backed by science: studies suggest fidgeting captures "floating attention" and improves concentration, making this the swiss army knife of ADHD. It also comes in a rainbow of designer palettes like Midnight, Aqua, and Sunset for people to fidget "in style".

## Exploding KITTENS

GOAL: US\$10,000  
PLEDGES: US\$8,782,571  
BACKERS: 219,382



Fueled by the internet's love/hate relationship with cats, this "highly strategic kitty-powered version of Russian Roulette" was such a crowd-pleaser it received 100% of its goal in pledges after eight minutes of going online. It is now one of the most backed projects on Kickstarter. In it, players have to avoid drawing an exploding kitten card (if they do they "explode" and are disqualified). Various silly tactic cards are available, such as the Portable Cheetah Butt (skipping a turn) or the Thousand- Year Back Hair (forcing another player to draw). The game was so popular, the creators developed a standalone NSFW deck with cards 'too horrifying' for kids. What's still on the horizon? An Imploding Kittens Expansion Deck.

What do these, and other strange Kickstarter products teach us? In the age of crowdfunding, people are able to anonymously support ideas that would have never made it past a boardroom meeting in the old days, making the marketplace more diverse, creative and obviously, way more amusing.



# Okinawa: an educational experience



"I never expected Okinawa to be like this. It is at the same time similar and very, very different from mainland Japan in many ways. The food is different, the words are different, and thus the way of life is also very different." Sean, USA

Geographically closer to Southeast Asia than the rest of mainland Japan, Okinawa may be Japanese, but its personality couldn't be more different than what most of us consider "Japan". For starters, there's no rush hour madness - only the soothing sounds of *ha iya sasa* (local folk music) everywhere you go; its skyline isn't chock full of skyscrapers - instead, most buildings have cute figurines of Shisa (lion dogs similar to those in Chinese mythology) perched on rooftops.

In fact, with its eclectic mix of history, sun-kissed beaches and an unbridled sense of individuality, even Japanese from the mainland come to Okinawa to get away from Japan. So, in order to discover what makes Okinawa special, a group of students from Yale-NUS in Singapore visited this sunny Japanese island with JTB's educational trip last month.

## going local!

The best part of the trip was a traditional homestay in **Yomitan Village**. Students were split into different houses, each with a different family. Speaking Japanese is a bonus but not mandatory.



The best part about a homestay in Yomitan is that all of us got to try our hands at Okinawan folk song and dance, traditionally performed with a *sanshin*, Okinawa's ubiquitous stringed instrument.

Situated along the coast, Yomitan is mainly an agricultural and crafts village, making it a great place to interact with the locals who've lived here most of their lives. For culture vultures, there's no comparison: you get to sleep in a traditional house (tatami floors!), experience how locals

live, and of course, eat home-cooked food.

Get ready to loosen your belts, because the Okinawans take their food very seriously, but don't worry - the food is organic and fresh (remember that Okinawans live the longest in the world).

Each host is different, so they have different stories to tell - they're open to discussions ranging from politics to food and tradition, so expect conversations to stretch into the night (as was the case with some of us!).

"This was eye-opening for me! It really illustrates Okinawa's relationship with the USA and how that's affected the Okinawan people." Adlin, Singapore



"Loved the homestay and the variety of activities experienced by everyone in the group." Nia, USA



Check out the feast: *Goya Chanpuru* (stir-fry bitter melon), *Rafute* (pork belly stewed in soy sauce and brown sugar) and *Tofuayo* (preserved tofu). We're drinking *awamori* (distilled rice wine) and *Orion* (Okinawa's local beer).

## high school takeover

An important part of this educational trip was the visit to a local high school - the **Naha Kokusai High School** - where each of us had to present to a classroom of students. We really enjoyed getting to know these students, and it's a special experience that you can't get with any other tour group.



"Being able to teach a class is very special, an untouristy event I appreciated on this trip." Rui Feng, China

## castles, caves, capes and cetaceans

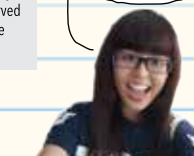
Some of our favourite sites in Okinawa:

At **Okinawa World**, we were awed by the huge otherworldly Gyokusendo Cave, and enjoyed the cultural village - we tried our hands at traditional crafts like weaving and taiko drumming.

**Churaumi Aquarium** is famous for its massive Kuroshio Tank which houses giant whale sharks and manta rays.

**Shuri Castle** is perched atop a hill overlooking Naha; the vermilion roof and its iconic Shureimon gate are unlike any castle feature in mainland Japan.

We also made an Instagram stop at **Cape Manzamo**, a scenic rock formation set against the crashing waves.



"Definitely worth checking out." David, Canada



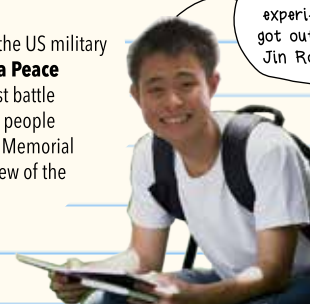
## the american presence

One of the most important aspects of Okinawa - compared to the rest of Japan - is its relationship with the USA. The fact that there are 23 American military bases in Okinawa was an eye-opener for many of us.

We got to see an airbase from the **Kadena Road Station** which overlooks the runway of the US Kadena Air Force Base, the largest in Okinawa. The strong American influence can also be seen at **Mihama Village**, which resembles an outdoor mall in the US - it's a very different shopping experience to Kokusai Dori, the main strip in Naha which features more traditional Okinawan gifts.

To understand the history behind the US military presence, we visited the **Okinawa Peace Memorial Park** - site of the worst battle during WWII where over 200,000 people were killed. At the Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum, we all got a sobering view of the entire war from start to finish.

"I really liked the diversity of places and experiences that we got out of Okinawa." Jin Rong, Singapore



JTB is Japan's leading inbound travel agency, specialising in experiential educational trips to unique Japanese destinations. To find out more about tailor-made immersion programmes, please contact [sales.sg@jtbap.com](mailto:sales.sg@jtbap.com).



# The Great Cover-Up: The Strange Case for Spandex

BY  
NINA GAN

Ah, the loveable leotard – spandex that hides everything and nothing at the same time. What would we do without that invention? It seems that the world has revamped the idea of spandex for activities other than hot yoga and zumba. And it's got nothing to do with sports.



## Spandex for Swimming

Spandex is the material of choice for swimwear, from Olympic-level gear to the everyday bikini. However, teeny tiny bikinis aren't universally accepted by many Muslim women as they show off too much skin, so fashion designer Aheda Zanetti came up with a solution: the burkini (a combo of burqa and bikini). Clothing for Muslim women should cover their hair and general body shape, so already the burkini has defied the main characteristic of spandex outfits – it's loose-fitting. It's spooked out the French so much that burkinis are banned at their beaches, but over in Australia, you can see burkinis being worn by the surf rescue.

Today, most wearers of the burkini aren't Muslim women; people simply wear them to protect their bodies from the sun (like Nigella Lawson) or from the stares. Even Marks & Spencer retails it. Admit it – you can imagine that most aunties would rather wear a burkini than a bikini, right?

## Going Whole Hog

Although facekinis are a bit strange, it may not be stranger than the idea of wearing an entire body suit made of spandex – including covering all of your face from head to toe. Ironically, this 'fashion' has nothing to do with the beach.

Called 'zentai' – or full-bodied tights – this one-piece outfit is wholly made of spandex, but unlike the burkini, these are figure-hugging so they hide absolutely nothing. Wearers often look like strange walking mannequins. Some wearers feel liberated by the anonymity – "people can't see us and it's difficult to see them" – so they would wear them and pretend to be someone different (Spiderman was probably the first zentai wearer).

Others consider themselves fetishists. Then there are zentai ninjas, zentai Pokemon, and of course, zentai art. In Singapore, you may have seen one of these zentai art performances, where a bunch of folks in skin-tight suits walk around town to jaw-dropping stares from aunties and uncles.

There's even a Japanese phrase, "elegance of silence", which means the more you hide, the more attractive you are. Too bad you'd be fined if you wore that in France.



## The Strange Facekini

Another strange piece of beach fashion is the facekini – basically a spandex balaclava. It's not dissimilar to wearing a stocking on your head with holes cut out for your eyes, nose and mouth. And it's got nothing to do with Mexican wrestling. Or guerilla warfare.

Strangely, the facekini is popular in China – particular in the beachside town of Qingdao – where aunties flock to the beach completely covered from the sun, which happens to be their mortal enemy. Nobody told them about sunscreen, perhaps. But rather than going to the beach when the sun is less fierce, they'd rather be seen (or not be seen, in this case) going to the beach in the day. To take complete advantage of the facekini, these aunties may wear body suits, long sleeves, goggles, visors or even umbrellas... but an even more terrifying combo is one worn with a regular swimsuit. Fashion police would have a field day. Children would cry.

According to auntie logic, you can simply whip off your facekini after a day at the beach to reveal that you are actually Snow White and not the Evil Witch.

This goes on anything



# ALIENS, AUDITS & ABUSE: SCIENTOLOGY

If you've heard anything about the weird religion known as Scientology, you probably know it has a lot to do with aliens, money and Tom Cruise.

But to truly appreciate the deep weirdness from the point of view of 'wogs' (a proper Scientology term for 'muggles'), it is best to start from the position of an initiate.

## STEP 1: EDUCATION – ALIENS ARE REAL

Every member who advances far enough is taught about the galactic overlord Xenu who took billions of frozen aliens from overpopulated planets and transported them to Earth (or Teegeeeack™, as they call it) where he defrosted them in volcanoes. The souls (or thetans) of these aliens then went on to possess humans, carrying with them their past traumas that continue to affect us today.

The catch is, you have to pay to play to learn all this – because Scientology works like high stakes-Candy Crush – so you work your way up through courses (US\$25) and "auditing" sessions (US\$800) until you're at Operating Thetan III. Then you'll be deemed worthy of receiving the classified backstory about the early days of Earth (you'll also be hundreds of thousands of dollars poorer). One might well wonder at this point why Scientologists don't roll their eyes and demand their money back. Could be because they've been "audited"...

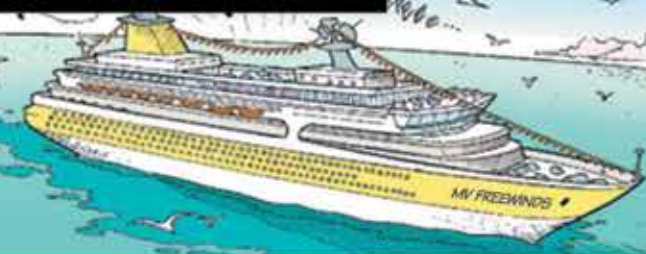
## STEP 2: AUDITING – NO TAXES INVOLVED

"Auditing", Scientology's version of spiritual cleansing, gets members to "remember" their past lives, the farther back the better. Back to a long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away. So far back that they "remember" being actual aliens (because Scientologists believe that souls have lived on other planets prior to Earth) doing things like running a prison world, destroying planets, or flying a spaceship.

At this point, even Star Wars may feel like a documentary to you, and you might believe the Xenu alien genocide. The auditing recalls "Recovered Memory Therapy" which can create in people false memories (we can call it 'Space Opera Fantasy'). By this point, people are already getting too crazy deep to quit.



## STEP 3: THE PERKS



Suppose you then accept your origins, and want bring enlightenment to the world. You can join the elite Sea Org, Scientology's clergy.

Perks include travelling the world on the cruise ship, the MV Freewinds, where you sign a billion-year contract (Scientologists believe in reincarnation), work long hours for low pay, and are encouraged not to have children.

Members also have access to Gilman Hot Springs, their Gold Base in California which even has a film studio. This paradise is so great, no member is allowed to leave or have access to the outside world.

## STEP 4: RETURNING TO EARTH – REINCARNATION



In Scientology, when you die, you become an alien, presumably floating aimlessly in space. But when the time comes for you to return to earth, the Church of Scientology have engraved a large symbol (2 diamonds with 2 circles) in New Mexico that can be seen from outer space. It's basically a signpost for reincarnated Scientologists who will return from outer space. Or a sign for aliens to "Attack Here", perhaps?

## STEP 5: MAKING YOUR ESCAPE

If you want to leave the Church at this point, you may encounter resistance: you might be sent to do menial labour to reconsider your decision, or they might use your "auditing" info for reasons unknown (Facebook, is that you?), or send you a "freeloader bill" of up to US\$100,000 for services rendered by the Church.



L. Ron Hubbard (the founder of Scientology) was a prolific sci-fi writer who specialised in space operas, which goes a long way to explain the epic weirdness of the religion. A sample of his craziness is the sci-fi novel *Battlefield Earth*, which fellow Scientologist John Travolta translated into a huge flop of a film in 2000 – reviewed as "a cross between Star Wars and the smell of ass" by Jon Stewart on *The Daily Show*.



# THE LIVING DEAD

BY KIRSTIN SOW

## ZOMBIES IN SCIENCE AND POPULAR CULTURE

With the rise of insanely viral (get it) television series like *'The Walking Dead'* and films like *'Train to Busan'* breaking box office records, there's no doubt that the appeal of the undead is truly widespread. The concept of a zombie apocalypse (where the world experiences a breakdown from a global zombie infestation) is a recurring theme in popular culture.

Possible causes of this apocalypse are attributed to viruses and mental diseases, causing a pandemic and chaos in society – an effect that can be mirrored in real life when society as a whole has a mental breakdown.

Take for example the emergence of smartphone zombies in real life, thanks to the prevalence of smartphone technology (think *Pokemon Go*). These distracted walkers cluster along the sidewalks, oblivious to their surroundings except for the latest buzz on their smartphones. But what makes zombies such a popular genre?

### ARE ZOMBIES (IM)POSSIBLE?

The concept of the dead coming back to life might sound absurd at first, but there have been plenty of medical misdiagnosis involving brain dead patients coming back to life. In 2012, a 95-year old Chinese woman woke up 6 days after she was placed in a coffin and bizarrely awoke because she was feeling hungry (which sounds zombie-ish already). Apparently, she suffered from an artificial death where her body remained warm but she had no breath. Similarly, the invention of cryonics also increases the likelihood of brain dead individuals to be revived into healthy living bodies in the future.

Medical experts have also speculated that airborne viruses like influenza (which spread quickly) could turn humans into a zombie-like state, complete with flesh-eating traits.

Besides viruses, there are mental disorders like Cotard's Syndrome, or 'Walking Corpse Syndrome', that causes the individual to believe that they are dead or have lost their blood and other internal organs. Some die from starvation because they don't feel the need to eat; such distorted perceptions of reality stem from a malfunction in the brain.

Even though the idea of the walking dead might seem fictional initially, it has a root in human neurological problems. Their unstable gait, difficult speech and insatiable appetite for human flesh have prompted neuroscientists Timothy Verstynen and

Bradley Voytek, to propose that they are suffering from 'Consciousness Deficit Hypoactivity Disorder'. Neurological problems rooted in the cerebellum (part of the brain that controls muscles) can cause walking difficulties; a damaged frontal lobe could cause a lack of situational awareness; an overexcited amygdala could be the cause of anger; and a problem with the hypothalamus affects one's appetite.

While zombies, for the moment, are embedded in the realm of popular culture, the reason for their appeal lies in the fact that a zombie apocalypse – whether we all turn into mindless zombies, or are simply running from societal collapse – strikes us as a very real threat. It's a threat that we can envision thanks to the prevalence of our favourite movies or TV programmes.



### POPULAR CULTURE

Here are some reasons for the great zombie appeal. Given how we live in very uncertain times plastered with global catastrophic events, popular culture gives us the space to escape from our realities. Zombies are frightening because they represent the worst of us, yet fascinating because they embody our greatest fears – today's zombies represent our fear of illnesses, uncontrolled technology and the breakdown of modern civil society.

So should you fear a zombie apocalypse? Scientifically, no. As zombies perpetually disintegrate, their eyes and ears would fall out and their sense of smell would be overwhelmed by their decaying flesh. Furthermore, the undead lack any metabolic capabilities to digest the flesh they have consumed. As a result the undigested foods will ferment, forming gases causing the zombie's stomach to explode.

Coupled with today's erratic weather conditions, the heat would speed up the decomposition of rotting flesh by providing breeding grounds for insects and bacteria to devour zombies from the inside out. Even cold temperatures would also make their skeletal systems more fragile and prone to collapse.

BY JOHN PRAVIN

# THE DISH ON DICTATORS: WEIRDEST WORLD LEADERS

History is filled with leaders who have shaped the world we live in – some for better, and some for worse. Many have been focused, forward-thinking role models. However, there are exceptions. From narcissism and ridiculous wardrobes to eating their enemies, these leaders can officially be classified as "bonkers".

### BONKER #1

#### SAPARMURAT NIYAZOV

President of Turkmenistan

Few dictators can top the man who named himself Turkmenbashi (meaning "Leader of All Ethnic Turkmen"). Declaring himself president for life, Niyazov named landmarks, streets and other public bodies after himself, and in some occasions, after his favourite horse. He also renamed the month of April as well as the actual word for "bread" after his mother. His face was also legally required to appear on every clock and watch in the country, and he made every civil servant in the country read his rambling memoirs – though reportedly an illiterate himself – as a prerequisite for a job.



### BONKER #2

#### IDI AMIN

President of Uganda

Uganda's dictator (1971-79) was almost certainly mentally unstable – which explains a lot about him. Reports claim he fed his enemies to crocodiles, and even ate people himself. He declared himself King of Scotland as well as Conqueror of the British Empire (despite having no relation to either). He forced white residents to carry him on a throne and then kneel before him so that they could recite an oath of loyalty. Asians were also banned from Uganda after a girl from an important Asian family refused to marry him – in his defence, rejection is pretty hard to deal with.



### BONKERS #4 & #5

#### KIM JONG-IL & KIM JONG-UN

Supreme Leaders of North Korea

While individually crazy, North Korea's father-son supreme leaders have earned themselves the tag team title for being bonkers. The late Kim Jong-Il told his people that he invented the hamburger and was the greatest golfer in the history – reportedly averaging four or five hole-in-ones per game – at least according to anyone carrying his score card (they risked execution otherwise). According to legend, his birth was marked by the appearance of a double rainbow and he reportedly never pooped, ever – which could explain why he was so full of s\*\*\*.

His son Kim Jong-Un's achievements include being a 4-star general despite never having enlisted, being a master race car driver by the age of 3 (as reported by North Korean media), and continuing the family business of running labour camps for anyone who questions his driving prowess, his haircut, or his penchant for executing officials with anti-aircraft guns. Craziest of all, he also has nukes at his fingertips.

"With great power comes great responsibility" or – in these cases apparently – incredible lunacy.



### BONKER #3

#### MUAMMAR GADDAFI

Dictator of Libya

Dubbed the "Mad Dog of the Middle East", Gaddafi was known for his outlandish fashion sense, and would pitch his Bedouin tent in the middle of fancy hotel lobbies, refusing to stay in rooms. He also banned all Italians from Libya and then hired 200 Italian women to convert to Islam, and decreed that all his bodyguards had to be female virgins. He then arrested Swiss nationals and expelled Swiss diplomats after his son, Hannibal, was arrested by Geneva police for assaulting a hotel maid. Rumoured to be one of the world's richest men, he ironically died in a sewer while running for his life in 2011.





BY JOHN PRAVIN

# UNSOLVED

## WEIRDEST MYSTERIES

Over the years there have been many unsolved mysteries. These enigmas have left us with thousands of theories trying to explain the unexplainable. From a missing plane to strange disappearances, here are some of the weirdest mysteries that are yet to be decoded.

### TAMAN SHUD CASE



On the morning of 1st December 1948, an unidentified man was found dead on Somerton Beach in Adelaide, Australia. Let me repeat: unidentified man. In this current digital age where Facebook can easily identify faces, this may be difficult to imagine. Touted as one of Australia's biggest mysteries, this case is yet to be solved.

Interestingly, a scrap of paper was found months later in the man's pocket with the phrase "tamam shud" printed on it - a Persian phrase meaning "ended". What's more inscrutable is that the man had no form of identification and even the labels of his clothes had been removed.

The inability of authorities both local and international (including the FBI) to identify the man has raised significant public interest in the case.

### EVIDENCE



### THE ZODIAC KILLER

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a serial killer who went by the name of "Zodiac" operated in Northern California, murdering victims in Benicia, Vallejo, Lake Berryessa and San Francisco.

Zodiac's repugnant humour involved committing murder and then sending letters to the press acknowledging the crimes as well as leaving cryptograms for the police to decipher, which probably inspired many detective movies. Only 1 cryptogram has been solved so far. The Zodiac claimed to have murdered 37 people though investigators only confirmed seven victims, of which two survived.



### EVIDENCE

### PALO MAYOMBE

On February 8, 1981, Leroy Carter Jr.'s decapitated body was found in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Detectives found a strange clue: a headless chicken (part of which was stuffed into Leroy's body). Police officer Sandi Gallant was called to investigate. After much investigation, her theory suggested that the murder was likely part of a dark ritual involving Palo Mayombe, a religion brought to the Caribbean by Bantu-speaking slaves from the Congo.



### THE SCENE

Gallant explained that in 42 days the head of the man would be returned somewhere in close proximity to where it was taken from. Homicide investigators and chief detectives scoffed at her.

Right on cue, the head was returned to the location on the 42nd day not far from where the body was found. No one was there to see, let alone arrest whoever returned it.



### EVIDENCE

### THE SODDER CHILDREN



### EVIDENCE

The case of the Sodder children is pretty peculiar. On Christmas Eve 1945, in Fayetteville West Virginia, George and Jennie Sodder were asleep with 9 of their children. Around 1am a fire broke out (no one knows how). George, Jennie and 4 of their children escaped, but the other 5 were never seen again.

Strangely, when George tried to re-enter the house, the ladder he always kept outside was missing. When he tried to get his truck near the window to climb in, it didn't start up and when he went to get water from the rain barrel, it was frozen solid. The house was burned to ashes and no remains of the children were found. No bones, nothing.



### MALAYSIA AIRLINES MH-370

### EVIDENCE



If we look at mysteries that are a lot closer to home, MH370 would top the list. On 8th of March 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 took off from Kuala Lumpur on a night flight to Beijing.

At 222 am, the aircraft disappeared from Malaysian military radar. Around 6 hours after the flight took off, Malaysia Airlines issued a statement that flight 370 was missing. All 239 people on board had disappeared. As of today, authorities have definitely linked one piece of debris to the plane, and several others have been sporadically found off the coast of Africa. To date, no one knows what happened to MH370. The last thing ever heard from MH370 was the captain eerily radioing: "Good night, Malaysia Airlines three seven zero."



## SHORT BREAK: MALAYSIA

#TigerairTakesYouThere

# IPOH

Much like Singapore and Penang, Ipoh was another British stronghold during the pre-war years. Today, elements of this colonial era still shine in the grand old buildings. Ipoh is a great destination for a short break, where you can cram in the colourful old town with its traditional shophouses and colonial architecture, alongside ancient temples, street art, and its famous local food. Head a little further out of the city and you'll find other weird attractions, like the supposedly haunted Kellie's Castle, and a water theme park called Lost World of Tambun.



### HISTORIC OLD TOWN

A bustling British mining town in the 1930s, Ipoh's Old Town area is still the heart of the city where old meets new. A 2-hour Heritage Trail walk takes you to some of its important monuments, from quaint pre-war houses to glorious colonial-era architecture. Along the way, nourish yourself with some of Ipoh's famous food offerings, or step in a museum for a glimpse into the city's past.



> **Cultural Highlights:** A number of colonial era buildings have been beautifully restored in the city, among them are Neo-Classical icons like the Railway Station - dubbed the "Taj Mahal of Ipoh" as it was decorated with Moorish domes and turrets - and the elegant Town Hall right across the road. Other gems include the Straits Trading Building and the Perak Hydro Building, both featuring splendid European arches and pillars.

If you have time for one museum, it should be the **Han Chin Pet Soo** which is housed in a Hakka gentlemen's club for miners and tycoons, featuring a central courtyard and quirky reproductions of Ipoh's industrial past, as well as a gambling and opium den.

In front of Han Chin Pet Soo is **Concubine Lane**, a narrow street flanked by pre-war houses. The area was once notorious for housing mistresses of wealthy Chinese merchants and British officers, hence its name. Today its colourful facades have been restored, with some houses transformed into museums, shops and hotels.



> **Instagram Spots:** Hidden throughout the lanes and walkways of Ipoh's Old Town, watch out for eight eye-catching murals depicting local life in the city, created by Lithuanian street art star Ernest Zacharevic. Forget finding monsters - in Ipoh, see if you can find all his artworks (get a free Ipoh Tourist Map for directions). Start from Jalan Shala and work your way around this very Instagrammable part of town.



### EATING OUT

> **Cafes:** Ipoh has no shortage of hipster cafes. Noteworthy ones include **Burps & Giggles** with its murals and grungy rustic setting, **Plan B** which has a decidedly upscale trendy vibe, and **Cafe de Eight** which is another rustic cafe known for its pork

burgers. A number of newer cafes are sprouting up throughout the Old Town, taking over many of the old shophouses that line the streets.



> **Traditional Treats:** Start your day with a quintessential Ipoh coffee, made with coffee beans roasted with margarine. Most locals agree that **Nam Heong** - the original home of the famous "Ipoh White Coffee" - is one of the best, alongside **Nam Chau** and **Sin Young Loong**.

Ipoh is known for a lot of food, from curry noodles to chicken *hor fun* and *tauge ayam*, a classic Ipoh dish of steamed chicken sprinkled with fresh bean sprouts and soy sauce, served with noodle soup or rice. Those with a sweet tooth may appreciate Ipoh egg tarts from **Choy Kee Confectionery**, or head to 'dessert street' at Jalan Sultan Ekram - a must-visit for foodies for all types of local food.

Don't forget to buy a box of Ipoh's famous biscuits for your pals back home - Ipoh Fragrant Biscuits ("Heong Peng") are popular everywhere, including **189 Heong Peng**, **Guan Heong Biscuit Shop**, and **Ching Han Guan** which is also famous for its meat floss biscuits baked with lotus paste and salted egg yolk.

### BEYOND IPOH

If you're into castles and spooky sites, **Kellie's Castle** (about 30 minutes out of town) is a replica of a Scottish castle perched on a hill, built in 1915 by a Scottish planter. Besides being haunted, the castle is believed to have hidden rooms and secret underground tunnels.



For theme park fun, the popular **Lost World of Tambun** features natural hot springs, petting zoo, hotel, and a host of water slides and rides in a setting that is reminiscent of the Lost World.

### ACCOMMODATION

If you're into boutique hotels, check out **The Happy 8 Retreat** that's chock full of rustic handmade decor, or the uber trendy **M Boutique Hotel** that evokes a chic New York SoHo vibe, or the industrial space of **Sekeeping Kong Heng** with its minimalist decor.



### GETTING THERE

There are 10 direct flights per week from Singapore to Ipoh on Tigerair, with a flight time of 1 hour 25 minutes. Use promo code **IPH20** to enjoy 20% off, giving you all-in return fares from S\$96. Promo code is valid from now till 14 December 2016. For booking, visit [www.tigerair.com](http://www.tigerair.com).



# SOUTHPAWS

BY WONG SI JIA

## WEIRD FACTS ABOUT LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE

The 13th of August, or International Left-Handers Day, is a special day for left-handed individuals. Comprising of a meagre ten percent of the world's population, they sure are a rare find. Such rarity is often regarded as unique and sometimes weird. With its fair share of strange and quirky facts, being a southpaw is certainly no exception to that sentiment.

### WEIRD FACT #1: Association with the Devil and everything negative

Derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *lyft*, which means 'weak', the word 'left' has always been depicted in a less-than-stellar light. For example, left-handedness was seen as a sign of the Devil in the medieval times due to the common belief that the ruler of all demons was left-handed; it was also the hand that was used to harm or curse another person, according to witchcraft texts.

Being left-handed has also been stigmatised as being inferior, mad (in the worst sense) and crime-related. For instance, a majority of pedophiles are coincidentally left-handed, as are famous outlaws, like Albert Henry DeSalvo (The Boston Strangler), Charles Manson, and Osama Bin Laden.

Many claim that left handers may die as early as nine years before right handers – could be because the world isn't laid out for lefties, since they're five times more likely to die from accidents than right-handers. While some of these facts have been proven to be right (get it?), most are just mere superstitions that should be taken with a pinch of salt.

### WEIRD FACT #2: When it comes to sports, left-handers have the upper hand

What do tennis ace Rafael Nadal, badminton legend Lin Dan, and boxing star Manny Pacquiao have in common? They're all lefties – a terror to their opponents, serving up a storm from their left sides, or delivering a nasty left hook in the ring.

The competitive edge that comes with left-handedness is especially true for one-on-one sports, as left-handed athletes have a lot more practice against right-handers than vice-versa. They can easily adapt to their fellow southpaw adversaries as well, thus putting them at a greater advantage. Guess that's one-love to the lefties!

### WEIRD FACT #3: Availability of scholarships for being left-handed

Each scholarship comes with a tailored set of requirements, but to be awarded one based on handedness? No kidding, some institutions in the United States actually have scholarships specially reserved for left-handed students, though they're still required to meet the other prerequisites before applying.

One such example would be the \$1,000 Cappex Easy Money College Scholarship, which grants a \$1,000 (as the name suggests) scholarship every month to successful left-handed applicants.

### WEIRD FACT #4: Left-handed, and a booze lover

The next time you're at a cocktail party, you may want to keep a closer eye on your left-handed buddies. As it turns out, many studies have shown that lefties do tend to drink more frequently than right-handers.

What about the myth that left-handers face a higher chance of becoming alcoholics? Busted! According to a study in the British Journal of Health Psychology based on 25,000 people from 12 countries, there is no evidence that handedness predicts risky drinking.

### WEIRD FACT #5: The moody leftie

It's common knowledge that left-handers are spacey, artsy, and angsty. Lefties tend to be prone to negative emotions due to brain laterality (some lefties don't have a dominant side of the brain), hence they can be more sensitive and have an increased risk for ADHD or mood disorders such as schizophrenia – which may lead to psychosis.

In their defense, left handers are better at divergent thinking. Despite being emotional rollercoasters, many left handers are also known to be particularly creative, including Leonardo Da Vinci, The Beatles' Paul McCartney, and guitar legend Jimi Hendrix.

Left-handed individuals have come a long way, from having a bad name in history to celebrating their community on a marked date. As right-handers, we will never know their struggle of avoiding the smudge of ink on their palms as they write, but what we do know is that they will always be among us.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Phua Beng. Surname Gan. I had a regular spot in Campus, but because of all the new commitments, boh eng liao. But I'm back now.



Pwah lau eh, been a long time since Beng here got time to write to all of you... these days ah, life really don't give chance I tell you... Between hustling at the 2nd hand car dealer and re-selling smartphones, life decided to throw me another challenge. Now Beng here ah, got new girlfriend...but you know la, all woman ah, sure give a bit of headache. Her name is Oh So-lian. Saying the name only make me steam.

Funny thing that made me want to write this, had a fight with So-lian the other day and she shouted at me: "BENG! You damn man-child sial!" Wah! I don't know what it means but it got me really hot! After some 23 minutes of research while clearing my head and at the same time my bowels, I self-proclaim myself the man-child expert.



### SIMI MAN-CHILD?

Man-child, easy say is immature man. But ah, if it's like that, every one of us is a man-child la. Don't pretend and think you are not... in the last 48 hours, confirm you did something that can label you, a man-child. Come, give you some details:



#### 1. ALWAYS PLAY GAMES

Super love your PS4, Xbox? I mean, forgo shagging to complete the boss fight of Uncharted 4 love? Man-child liao. Then char bor whack you on the phone until your foot in mouth because you always play games... cannot argue back and best course of action... HANG UP! Man-child liao.

When your char bor super smart at arguing, and you anyhow do it just because the after quarrel jiggy jig is shiok. Swee la. Geek-Man-child liao.



# Cheat Sheet

By Gan Phua Beng

## #44 Spot a Man-Child

#### 2. CANNOT COMMIT

You also got some commitment phobia and while you like your current char bor, you are super scared to dive deeper in? Okok, this one give you examples:

- Don't really like to intro her to your bros?
- Die also don't want to meet her parents yet...
- When you go out with your friends, you always feel more shiok without your char bor around?

Man-child liao.

Mummy buys and washes all my clothes!

#### 3. AT HOME

Mummy still buy your deh-kor or wash your deh-kor for you? Die also don't want to wash dishes at home? Jia lat la, this irresponsibility makes you a... Man-child liao.



#### 4. KIASU

Think you super player ah... always like to make your char bor feel insecure because you get a kick or you like feeling superior? You guessed it - Man-child liao.

Please ah, don't tell me within the last 48 hours, you did not do something immature that you couldn't explain other than your ego kenna threatened. It is a jia lat thing to be called, but there is that 4 year old boy in all of us. Whether when we see the new toy we want or when we fight with our char bor.

Beng can keep going on and on but if you had half a brain, you get the picture. Best advice Beng can give is to not let your ego get in the way and think logically.

#### TAHAN TAHAN

Guya, displaying man-child behaviour in very small amounts is fine. don't tahan until it explodes and act like Kanye. Ladies, you sayang your men, so give chance sometimes. We try... or at least some of us do.

Knowledge is powder. You're welcome.

Buay tahan already explode like Kanye!





BY VINCENT TAN

# THE LIST

## STRANGEST COURSES

### BA IN VIKING AND OLD NORSE STUDIES (University College London)

Are you a seafaring Viking at heart? Gain insight into these traders, explorers and warriors through their history and literature. Learn their ancient language - ye Old Norse - and pick up modern Danish, Swedish or Norwegian in your third year, study in a Scandinavian university. Horned helmets not included.

### BSC IN SURF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Cornwall College)

Receive a solid education in the science, technology and social sciences related to surfing. You'll also get to design and build your own surfboard, organise and judge a surfing competition, build your own fitness regimen and visit France and Spain to study surfer culture. Cowabunga!

### MASTERS IN ROBIN HOOD STUDIES (University of Nottingham)

Discover the medieval world where the Robin Hood tales flourished, at a university actually located near Nottingham Castle and Sherwood Forest. Modules answer questions like "What was it like to live in a medieval forest?" and "Where does Robin Hood's guerilla fighting fit in the broader spectrum of warfare?" No electives on archery, though.

### MASTERS IN STANDUP COMEDY (University of Kent)

Advance in your mastery of funny business through comedy theory workshops and hands-on audience interaction. Budding comedians also get to tickle funny bones on a professional level by organising their own shows, and joining open mike spots at respected comedy clubs in the UK and beyond.

### MASTERS IN GOTHIC CULTURE, SUBCULTURE, COUNTERCULTURE (St Mary's University London)

Study the Gothic tradition in literature, art and film at its birthplace - the very Gothic Strawberry Hills House, home of the man who started it all: Horace Walpole. Learn how the genre has changed (now with 'Twilight broodiness') and how our identities have been defined by this 250-year old tradition.

When it comes to slapping down money for your education, you're not just looking at the 3-4 year commitment to a subject - you're selecting a future career with your qualification. However, if you're one of those who's passionate about unconventional things and have the confidence to go against the grain - forget finance or medical degrees - here are some quirky courses that you can actually study. By taking these courses, you're guaranteed to stand out from your peers!

### PHD IN NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (Texas A&M University)

Uncover the secrets of shipwrecks both in the classroom and in the field (good news for avid divers). Classes include learning about ancient seafaring cultures around the world, shipwrecks, shipbuilding techniques, and - if you're really lucky - unearthing some sunken treasure in Davy Jones' Locker.

### PHD IN PARAPSYCHOLOGY (University of Edinburgh)

This course offers a critical glimpse into the study of paranormal mental phenomena like ESP, or telekinesis, using the work of leading parapsychologists and skeptics. Disclaimer: Does not teach you to become "psychic", read minds (oh damn it!), or talk to the dead (no thank you).

### DEGREE IN HORSESHOEING (Mesalands Community College)

Earn a Degree in Farrier Science - where you get to forge and fit horseshoes. In addition, students take modules in Horseshoeing Theory, attend Horseshoeing Laboratory, and learn about Equine Anatomy. And Public Speaking for some reason - to specialise as a horse whisperer perhaps?

### DEGREE GUNSMITHING (Lassen Community College)

This 2-year Associate in Science course at the oldest gunsmithing school in the US provides students with hands-on instruction about the design, function and repair of the rifle, pistol and long gun. A caveat: students must own, borrow or buy their own firearms for the course.

### UFOLOGY DEGREE (Institute of Metaphysical Humanistic Science)

Are you a believer? Have Men in Black been knocking at your door? Turn on the X-Files theme song for this online course - Masters degree or PhD - about UFO investigations, alien abductions, and extraterrestrial presence on earth, equipping students with knowledge to embark on their own UFO research.

## AND EFFICIENT HOW EASY IS IT TO PRINT WITH A CANON PIXMA Ink Efficient E560?



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not tech savvy



83%  
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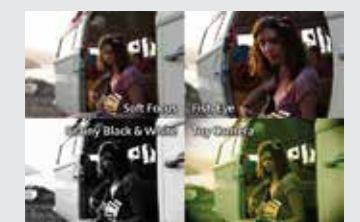


300 B&W PAGES OF AN ASSIGNMENT



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BY KESAVAN LOGANATHAN

# CHILDHOOD RUINED: YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD SHOWS

## EXPOSED

**A**hh, we're all suckers for our favourite cartoons from back in the day aren't we? Good Ol' Spongebob, Scooby Doo and even Wile E. Coyote and his never ending chase of his nemesis the Roadrunner are held fondly in our memories. While we enjoyed laughs and fun times with these iconic characters, there have been subtle references that might just shake our childhood memories up. Let's take a look at a few of these.

**CAUTION:** Your childhood memories are in danger of being wrecked. You have been warned.

### THE ROADRUNNER

It's been well documented that the Roadrunner has been kicking Wile E. Coyote's butt ever since the conception of the show and the countless loopy tactics employed by the canine have never borne fruit. However, did you know that in real life, a coyote's maximum speed can hit up to 43 mph while a roadrunner can only clock 20 mph? With these facts brought to light, it can be established that Wile E. is just plain stupid even though he has superiority in speed.

### FAIRLY (VERY) ODD PARENTS

Fairly Odd Parents, anyone? It's all fine and dandy till you realise the cold and dark truth of the show. Though many claim this as just one of the many fan theories, it does seem to make sense.

Timmy is just a lonely, neglected, and abused young kid. Timmy's parents paid little attention to him - causing him to conjure up two imaginary fairy godparents who are always by his side, in the form of a pair of goldfish. They protect him from Vicky the abusive babysitter and Mr. Crocker the teacher who makes continuous sexual advances towards Timmy and tries to steal his fairy godparents - who are just a metaphorical representation of his joy and hope.



Fairly Odd Parents © Nickelodeon



Toy Story © Disney

### IT'S NOT REALLY A TOY'S STORY

Here's another fan theory that might reshape your perception of Toy Story, and in fact of most Disney classics. For the entirety of the film, the focus has been on the struggles of the 2 heroes and how they overcome them together in the end. However, a fan discovered something about Andy - the owner of the toys. Evidence suggests that Andy at the time was fatherless. His mum never wears a wedding ring, and the dad has never once appeared in the movie, not even in family photos.

What's weirder is that a lot of Disney stories are of kids who are orphaned or have single parents. The evidence? Aladdin is an orphan, Snow White has no parents (only one stepmom), both the girls in Frozen became orphans, Simba lost his dad in Lion King, and Mulan has no mother.



Smurfs © Hanna-Barbera Productions

You may now pick your jaws off the ground and re-attach them to your faces. Of course, we may be looking way too deep and creating conspiracies out of thin air, or are these stories actually true? You decide.

### THE STEREOTYPE POWER RANGERS

Power Rangers has been and will always be one of my favourite TV programmes as a kid. However, speculation about the casting of the actors for the popular first big screen debut of the Rangers had people scoffing. A glance at the line up suggests that the colour of the rangers corresponds with the colour of the actor i.e The Black Ranger is played by an African American actor and the Yellow Ranger is played by an Asian woman. What gives?

### DANGEROUS BLUE CREATURES

I've saved the best for last. Or should I say worst? The one that ruined the weekday evenings of many children: The Smurfs. If you've not seen it, Smurfs are these cute and hilarious creatures living in their own magical world, constantly thwarting the efforts of the hunchback wizard Gargamel from stealing their magic.

Cute until you find out that the Smurfs have supremely similar traits to the racial extremist group, the KKK. Both groups wear white pointed hats, apart from their leaders who wear red. Their entire group also consists of only ONE female. Their cheers include raising one hand ahead of them similar in fashion to the Nazis. There are also several other theories on the internet that suggest the Smurfs might actually be subtly promoting racial slurs.

# CHENGGUAN WOES

Text By Vincent Tan

Illustration by Ryan  
Muhammad Iqmalullah I  
The Putnam School of  
Film & Animation, LASALLE  
College of the Arts

## CHINA'S CITIZEN POLICE

The *chengguan*, or urban enforcers in China, are the least popular public officials, well-known for their excessive use of force. However, did you know they have also spawned some weird actions and reactions?

### HANDLING WEIRD CHARACTERS

*Chengguan* in Guangzhou city were shown on social media seemingly arresting a Ronald McDonald statue at its restaurant (and no, it wasn't for loitering.) Apparently the officers had warned the manager many times to keep the sidewalk clear of promotions and ads, but these kept reappearing. Finally when the officers came to confiscate everything, the angry manager retorted that they might as well take the statue too, and the *chengguan* decided to oblige, breaking the clown from its base and escorting it away.

A few months later, social media lit up again when the urban officials disbanded a group of 100 "Japanese schoolgirls" that appeared in Lujiazui and Tianzifang. The background behind this is less clear (most people assumed the women were dressed in sailor outfits to promote a mobile game or app). Still, the images of young women with anime masks being escorted away by armed officers is a real eyebrow-raiser.

### CITIZENS RETALIATE

The Chinese citizenry have also reacted in weird ways to the rule of the *chengguan*. An angry toddler became probably the youngest anti-*chengguan* revolutionary on the internet when he was recorded defending his grandma by brandishing a metal pole like a mini-gangster and shouting at the *chengguan* to leave her alone. The unusual amount of fighting spirit in a pint-sized package triggered laughter both onsite, and online.

A noodle seller added fuel to the fire when he kissed an enforcer who was there to seize his furniture. He had been warned to remove

them, but when *chengguan* came for what remained, the man planted himself on a table and brandished stools to keep them away, leading to a strangely violent version of musical chairs. Two waitresses from the restaurant also added to the confusion by attacking enforcers with chairs and spoons, resulting in minor injuries. And why the kiss? A form of sexual assault, the seller admitted candidly. Yeesh.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

*Chengguan* are aware they're making a bad impression and have employed various methods to win back public support.

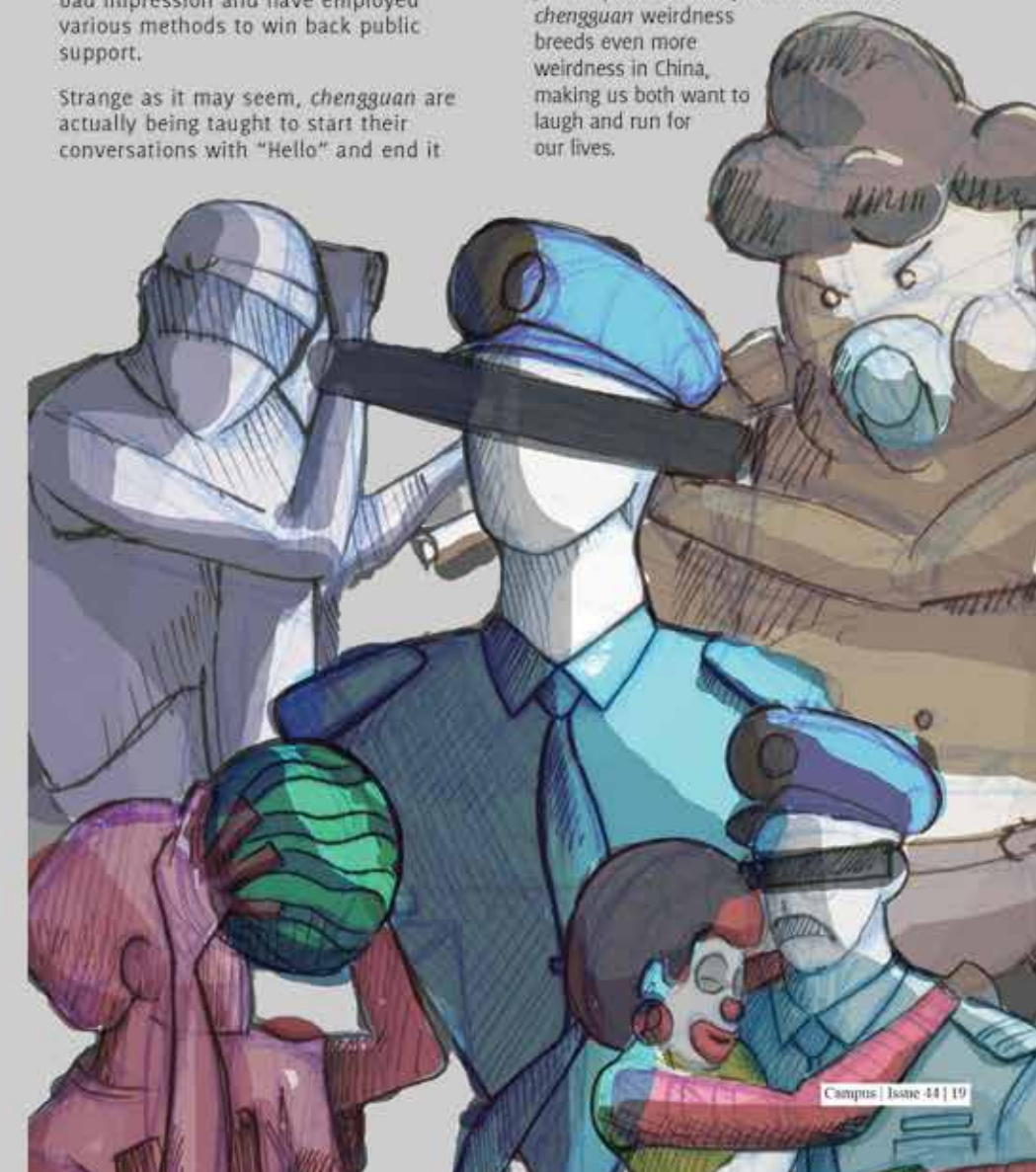
Strange as it may seem, *chengguan* are actually being taught to start their conversations with "Hello" and end it

with "Thank you". Still that might not be enough - apparently street vendors already have such a bad impression, they often run off once they spot *chengguan* coming, making the official opening, "Stop running" instead.

Meanwhile, Shanghai enforcers are literally beautifying their image by forming a unit of pretty female officers under the "Beautiful Woman *Chengguan*" campaign. Apart from having a college diploma and meeting physical and mental requirements, female recruits also need to have a sweet voice, be polite and be of "beautiful youthful appearance". It is hoped that through their "flexible enforcement" - pleasantly coaxing street sellers to abide by laws - the unit would achieve more than with the conventional methods of fines and arrests.

Perhaps the strongest sign that the *chengguan*'s reputation isn't totally lost is the popularity of a silly "chengguan dance" video that has racked up millions of views on Chinese video sites. In it, 12 men dressed as *chengguan* boogie (with some skill) to English, Korean and Chinese pop songs, and even do the cha cha kick at one point, garnering comments like, "Never imagined *chengguan* could be this cute!"

Just as police brutality breeds violence, *chengguan* weirdness breeds even more weirdness in China, making us both want to laugh and run for our lives.





# OUT AND ABOUT

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## FESTIVALS



13 Oct - 30 Oct  
Victoria Concert Hall  
Tickets: \$32 - \$72

### Singapore International Festival of Music

The Singapore International Festival of Music (SIFOM) merges international acts like the Chamber Orchestra of Europe - billed as "the world's best chamber orchestra" - and Norwegian string ensemble 181 with budding Singaporean talents like violinist Basil Ong Tze Wee and pianist Beatrice Lin. There are free fringe events and ticketed concerts. For more, visit [www.sifom-sg.com](http://www.sifom-sg.com).



12 Nov | 1pm - 7pm  
Zouk Singapore  
Tickets: \$10, \$20

### Sole Superior

By Sneakerheads for Sneakerheads, presented with the perspective of enthusiasts, Sole Superior is an annual convention that brings together the Singaporean and International Sneakerhead communities in celebration of sneaker culture and its affiliated lifestyle.

26 - 27 Nov | 2pm till late  
Fort Canning Park  
Tickets: \$135 - \$230 (2-days)

### Neon Lights

Neon Lights is an immersive and engaging adventure, incorporating dance, theatre, comedy, sideshow, cabaret, workshops, literary, live art, installations, exhibitions and more by over 150 renowned local and international artists. It features the parlour of cabaret Club Minky and The Nest's Singaporean alternative culture, to digital art at Neon Nooks and all things street - breakdancing to beatboxing - at Easy Street.



## PRODUCTIONS



4 - 6 Nov | 8pm  
Dignity Kitchen (Serangoon)  
Tickets: \$50 (50% goes to Dignity Kitchen)

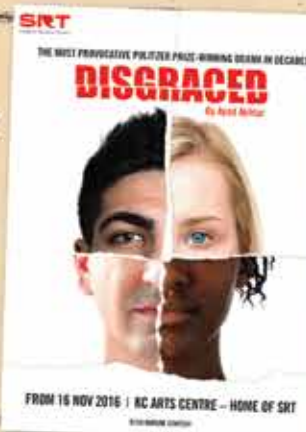
### It's a Father's Day

This is the tale of four fathers in four different cars, stuck in the inevitable traffic jam. Each father has a different purpose, a different perspective, a different story. As each tale unfolds, we recognise that all is not as it seems and as we move towards the inevitable end, we halt the proceedings, allowing the audience to intervene and dictate what happens next.

16 Nov - 4 Dec  
KC Arts Centre  
Tickets: \$35-\$45 (\$15 for youths 18-25)

### Disgraced

Brought to you by the Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT), Disgraced is a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Ayad Akhtar which explores the tension between modernity and faith, touching on matters like Islamophobia. Following its Tony-nominated Broadway run in New York, Disgraced has gone on to become the most staged play in the US in 2016.



21 Nov - 10 Dec  
Esplanade  
Tickets: \$20 - \$100

### M1 CONTACT Contemporary Dance Festival

This year marks the seventh edition of the Festival, featuring residencies with artists from Spain/France as well as emerging artists from Japan and Korea. T.H.E Dance Company's team aims to showcase fresh and innovative works from the Asian and international contemporary dance scene. For festival line up: [www.the-contact.org](http://www.the-contact.org).



## MOVIES

### A Monster Calls

(October 20)  
Cast: Lewis MacDougall, Felicity Jones, Sigourney Weaver, Liam Neeson

Based on the award-winning book, A Monster Calls is the story of 12-year-old Conor O'Malley (MacDougall) who journeys into a fantastical world of monsters and magic, to escape from dealing with his sick mother (Jones), his less-than-sympathetic grandmother (Weaver), and his constant bullying at school in the UK. Yearning for his father who is in the US, he accidentally calls forth "the Monster" - a 40-foot colossus of a creature voiced by Liam Neeson - and is transported into a world of fairy tales, where he finds his own strength.



# ARTIST AND THE EMPIRE

SINGAPORE CONNECTION



Lee Wen (1957~)  
Untitled (Raffles)  
2000

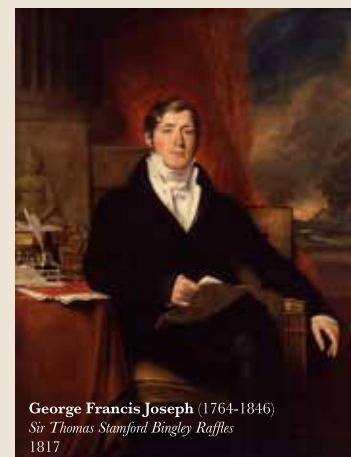
### RAFFLES STATUE

We're all familiar with Sir Stamford Raffles' statue, standing eternal watch over Empress Place. Installed in 1969 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his landing, it's actually a copy of an earlier bronze statue commemorating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. And for over 30 years it was a ubiquitous symbol of Singapore.

Fast forward to the year 2000, and Singaporean artist Lee Wen's interactive installation, a purpose-built platform allowing people to look eye-to-eye with their mythic founder for the first time - creating authentically impromptu art in itself, with peoples' reactions captured photographically by fellow artist, Ken Cheong and on film, by Australian artist, Russell Miledge; all memorably punctuated by artist Jason Lim's swearing tirade in Hokkien.

### SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES PORTRAIT

Sir Raffles' portrait makes for an intriguing juxtaposition to the benevolent silhouette of the statue. We are all familiar with the portrait, having seen it in school. Interestingly, it was painted in 1817 before he founded



George Francis Joseph (1764-1846)  
Sir Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles  
1817

Singapore, so while he came to embody British supremacy here, the portrait and its symbolism predate all that. In fact it was painted during a personal low-point, on his acrimonious removal as Governor-General of Java (where he became an ardent Asiophile) and return to London. Following his subsequent success in Singapore, the piece has been re-invested with new meaning, whereas it could have easily fallen into obscurity, had he failed to redeem himself in 1819.

They say the victors write history, and while the colonial era wasn't a war as such, it was a meeting and often a clashing of cultures, and differing ideals of art. One of the most profound ways triumphing colonial powers stamped their authority on a people was through art and architecture; literally remoulding the visual landscape in their own image. In an era before mass communication, popular art was the media.

To examine the relationship between the British Empire and art, check out National Gallery Singapore's exhibition *Artist and Empire: (En)countering Colonial Legacies*. In association with Tate Britain, the exhibition features over 200 artworks, ranging from the 16th century to the present day.

## THE SECRET OF ENGLAND'S GREATNESS

By the 1860s, the British Empire viewed itself as the great civilising saviour of "heathen peoples" of the African continent. And few works capture that better than *The Secret of England's Greatness*. It was a slick piece of revisionist history: everyone in the painting, including the room in Windsor Castle, were real - although crucially, the act of a foreign dignitary kneeling before the bible and Queen was not.

The painting became famous in Britain for celebrating the civilising role of monarchy and Church in bringing salvation to people whom they regarded as 'heathens'. In the colonies, it seemed an arrogant justification for masking the exploitative nature of Britain's empire-making efforts.

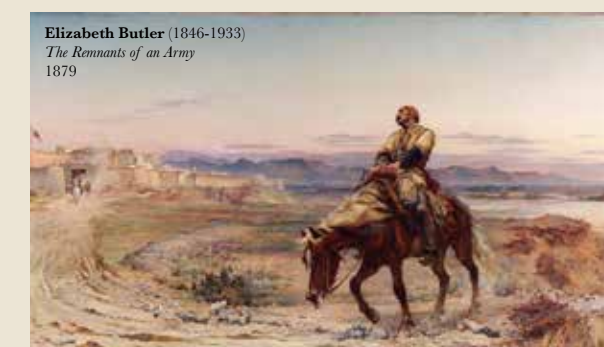


Thomas Jones Barker (1815-1882)  
The Secret of England's Greatness  
c. 1863

## THE REMNANTS OF AN ARMY

In her era, Lady Elizabeth Butler (1846-1933) was one of Britain's foremost painters of "war history". More than mere reportage, the aim in her most seminal work, *The Remnants of an Army* was to show the inherent futility of the Empire's colonial adventures, as successive generations repeated the mistakes of the past, embodied by the return of William Brydon, the lone survivor of the British Army's humiliating defeat in the First Anglo-Afghan War.

With *The Remnants of an Army*, Butler intended to show the futility of never learning from the past, but because it debuted at the height of the Second Anglo-Afghan War in 1879, it had the opposite effect - it became a rallying cry for imperialists as it embodied the pluck and pugnacity the British lionised at the time.



Elizabeth Butler (1846-1933)  
The Remnants of an Army  
1879



# 10 SINGAPOREAN URBAN LEGENDS

By Natalie Kwan

Have you ever wondered why our \$1 coin is shaped that way? Or why people on the floor above you are playing marbles at 1am? For years we have grown up hearing tales that never seem to have any basis. Here are 10 of those Singaporean Urban Legends that you may or may not have heard of!

## Charlie Company's 3rd Door Bunk

Among several other Pulau Tekong horror stories, this one takes the cake. During a route march, a recruit apparently went missing, only to have his disembowelled body found much later with his organs placed in a stand-by weapon position. The spirit of this unfortunate recruit resided in the Charlie Company bunk, and help was sought from a Taoist priest. He constructed a third door in the middle of the bunk so he could release the spirit. It remains unclear whether or not the spirit has found peace.

## The tragedy of Sisters' Island

Sister's Island is made up of two islands separated by a narrow yet deep channel, and there's a folktale that describes its formation. Some time ago, a pair of sisters, Minah and Linah, planned to marry two brothers and live happily together. Unfortunately, a pirate kidnapped Linah, and the devastated Minah swam after the boat but was swept away by waves. A raging storm broke out and Linah threw herself overboard. The next day, the two islands formed where the two sisters drowned.

## Selling salt at a cemetery

According to urban legend, one can sell salt at a cemetery to earn money – because the dead need salt to preserve their bodies, so they pay handsomely. Sellers have to stay at the cemetery from midnight till dawn, when mysterious outstretched hands will show up to buy the salt. Payment is made with hell money, which will turn into real money by dawn. None of these claims is substantiated, but trading in a cemetery sounds shady.

## Kum Kum Lady

This legend simply warns kids not to open the door at night for a lady who knocks and greets them with a "kum, kum". She is said to be possessed by an evil spirit and thus cannot utter the full Malay greeting, "assalamualaikum". It could very well be our grandparents' way of saying, "Don't talk to strangers."

## Don't cut your nails at night

Your parents may have warned you against cutting your nails at night. One version of this myth suggests that it may attract evil spirits. Another suggests that nails are used in black magic, and spirits or practitioners of black magic may use them to cause harm.

However, this legend has some logical backing: in the old days, few households had electricity so cutting nails in the dark may cause injury.

## Pointing at the moon

As children, we were cautioned not to point at the moon or we'd get our ears cut off. According to Chinese superstition, a female spirit named Chang-Er lives on the moon, and cuts the ears of those who dare point her way. Myth or fact? Well, many disobedient children still seem to have their ears intact.

## Ghosts on the last train

There seems to be an obsession with ghost stories associated with the last train. The more popular ones seem to centre around Bishan and Novena MRT stations, which were former graveyards. People have allegedly spotted headless figures and phantom passengers while boarding the last train.

# Bonkers Blue Bloods

## WEIRD FIGURES IN HISTORY

Contributed by  
Tisha Haryanto

History seems boring, but there's actually a lot of weird stuff hidden among all the boring dates and bone-dry facts. Here are some surprising figures from history, and the creepy, funny and just plain weird lives they led. We did not make this up.



### THE CURIOUS DEATH OF CHRYSIPPUS OF SOLI (279 BC - 206 BC)

Why was his death weird, you may ask? He died of laughter. You read that right. Chrysippus died at the ripe old age of seventy-three laughing at a donkey. Known as a scholar of great erudition, a master of dialectic, a talented runner and a profound writer, he was also extremely proud, nay, arrogant. Although he never established himself as the life of a party, he did have one lasting joke for posterity: the manner of his death. One day, on his way back from school, Chrysippus saw a donkey eating figs, ordered a woman to give it some wine (possibly to see it make a drunken ass of itself) and just like that, laughed himself to death. Irony!

### THE PECULIAR CASE OF ANNA MARIA HELENA, COMTESSE DE NOAILLE (1826 - 1908)

A strong-willed woman, the Countess was also a believer in some very strange things. Besides believing you should never get vaccinated, she also thought that breathing in lots of cow farts can help you live longer, and kept a smelly herd outside her bedroom for that express purpose. She also prevented wrinkles by sleeping with dead squirrels tied to her head. Once she was unable to buy a painting she loved in Paris, and instead bought the young model, paying the girl's parents two bags of gold for her. Her adopted child went on to a better education and lifestyle but also experienced her weird beliefs first hand, dressing in loose Grecian clothes (the Countess thought tight clothes could kill) and drinking milk from the same farting cows.



### ELIZABETH BATHORY: THE BLOOD COUNTESS (1560 - 1614)

Elizabeth's tale of horror took place in what today is Slovakia. Betrothed at 11 years of age to 16-year-old Count Ferenc Nadassy, she ran the estates when her husband was away in the military. Whispers spread that the countess was abusing their maids; the story went that young girls from pauper families would take up positions as servants in her castle and never return. Legend has it that Elizabeth Bathory even bathed in their virgin blood as part of her dark rituals to stay beautiful, gaining her title, "The Blood Countess". After her husband died, Elizabeth became so saddened she shut herself in and had village girls kidnapped so she could bite chunks from their faces. In total, Elizabeth Bathory committed at least 80 recorded murders (dairy entries recorded approximately 650); she was finally convicted and walled-up in her castle room where she died a few years later.

### THE UNDERGROUND DUKE: WILLIAM JOHN CAVENDISH-SCOTT-BENTICK (1800 - 1879)

The 5th Duke of Portland was the epitome of a recluse, so concerned with privacy he had doors installed around his bed so no one could tell when he was in it or not, and erected great big walls around his gardens. Most impressively, over 18 years he also had at least 12 miles of tunnels dug under his estate – some tall enough for fruit trees, others wide enough for horses – as well as an underground library and roller-skating rink. Following his death, public interest revived when a man falsely claimed to be the secretive duke's heir, and the author Kenneth Grahame immortalised him as the ground-dwelling Mr Badger in *The Wind in the Willows*.



Feel free to rub your eyes in disbelief. You'll never see history the same way again.

## Slaying up late on Chinese New Year's eve

On the eve of Chinese New Year, no one is chased to bed early. Superstition suggests that the later you stay up, the longer your parents will live. There has been no scientific evidence to substantiate this claim, but who's complaining since we'd probably be up anyway binge-watching Youtube/Netflix.

## The strange sounds above your flat

Ever heard the unexplained sounds of marbles dropping from the floor above you? Perhaps you've gone up to investigate, only to find there are no children playing with marbles. Some residents offer scientific reasons like the echoing of the pipes, or expansion and contraction in the ceiling. On the supernatural side, it is said that construction workers deliberately plant these marbles into the cement, so that child spirits would play with the marbles instead of disturbing the residents.

## Bagua-shaped \$1 coin

You may know Singapore's \$1 coin was designed with Feng Shui in mind. During the 1980s when the MRT system was being constructed, Minister Lee Kuan Yew consulted a Feng shui master who said the construction would interfere with the positive Feng shui of the island. He proposed that everyone carry a bagua around with them, and that was how the bagua-shaped \$1 coin was born.



BY NINA GAN

# BAIT & TACKLE



Sometimes, truth is stranger than fiction. Especially when it comes to the kinds of things that people working in Emergency Rooms encounter. Some of the most bizarre cases often involve the most embarrassing body parts - yes, we're talking about the nether regions. Get ready to squirm, guys.

## LORD OF THE RING

In China, a Guanxi man managed to get his penis stuck in a ring (the kind you put on fingers) for 2 whole days before he called for help. Nobody knows what possessed him to put it on in the first place, but we do know that a bunch of firefighters managed to free him in a 90-minute procedure using mean-looking shears; of course, someone took a video of the whole ordeal - and it went viral on Weibo (surprise!). We've learned 2 things: rings look better on fingers, and China's firefighters are amazing at saving a man's nether regions... and destroying his pride at the same time.

## STUCK ON YOU

Men in China sure have a penchant for strange goings on down under. Not long after the ring incident, a man in Guangdong got himself into a predicament when he was doing some 'magnetic therapy' (for who knows what) and managed to 'accidentally' get his testicles stuck between 2 powerful magnets for 4 hours. This time, firefighters were really challenged, but in the end managed to free him by cutting the magnets into smaller sizes - the alternative was to simply slide the magnets off, which doctors thought was too risky. And yes, there was a video of it on Weibo (#4HoursOfPain).

## GOLD SHOWER

If you think assembling Ikea furniture is a pain, then this Norwegian man really has something to complain about. He was sitting on a Marius stool in the shower, when his testicles managed to wiggle into one of the chair's holes and got stuck in there. He was stuck for so long that the water eventually went cold - "even more cold than my mother-in-law's smile when I married her daughter," said the victim - until he realised that being cold shrunk his testicles enough to free himself. He has since complained to Ikea, referring to his genitals as the 'skipper and two sailors'.

We'll never look at a Marius stool the same way again.



## ONCE BITTEN TWICE SHY

A construction worker in Australia got bitten in the worst place ever... in a portable toilet. Twice. On the same spot. The first time he got bit on the penis by a poisonous spider, he was using a portable toilet on a job site. Since then he'd been wary of using it, until just 5 months later when he decided to repeat his mistake - and got himself bitten on the same spot, by another spider. To be fair, he thought the toilet was safe since it had been just cleaned thoroughly. Lesson learnt - never take a dump in a portable loo.



## WILD THING

You may remember this case in Thailand. A man was in his toilet 'walking his snake', when a real snake struck: a 5m-long python came from inside the toilet and sank its fangs into his penis. Ouch. This brave "man's man" managed to tie a rope around the snake's head, and tie it to the bathroom door before collapsing - and that was how rescuers found the duo. Luckily, both members survived the incident.

Snakes in toilets are not uncommon in Australia either - however there was one recent case where a snake wrangler was called in to catch what the owner thought was a python; instead, what he found was just a huge poop.



While all of these stories sound relatively uncommon, it may surprise you that all of them happened just this year alone. With only a couple of months to go before the end of the year, it makes you wonder, what other mishaps will 2016 have in store.

BY TAN JIA EENN

# Familiar Things

## THE STRANGE CASE OF DEJA VU



A sudden pang of familiarity hits you, and it seems as if time stopped in that instant. Bodies moving, lips speaking as you slowly register the repetition of having done the same exact things, been to the same places or been in same circumstances. You try to pinpoint the exact moment in the past, flipping through your archive of memories like a high school yearbook but before you know it, that sensation is gone. Was that a flashback or did you just predict the future?

## THE MEMORY GAME

Déjà vu is not new to common people on the street. In fact, déjà vu is estimated to occur at least once in two thirds of the human population, most commonly between ages of 15 to 25. For decades, doctors associated such sensations of déjà vu with people suffering from epilepsy, which is a chronic disorder where the brain undergoes seizures. Thankfully, modern research today has disproven this theory. (Don't worry, we are all fine!)

Déjà vu is a French word for "seeing again" and is colloquially understood as a glitch in our memory system. In healthy and functional minds, this phenomenon occurs due to a mismatch of the generation of a detailed memory from a new sensory experience. In other words, the sensory input - which can be an action like riding a bicycle, for instance - bypasses the short-term memory and reaches the long-term memory first instead, thereby evoking a moment of familiarity that is not yet tangible enough to be a concrete memory, or for you to remember doing it.

Common triggers for this phenomenon include physical and psychological distress, stress, fatigue, and alcohol consumption.

Another form of déjà vu is Déjà Visité which is what the name suggests - "having visited". As opposed to déjà vu, it is not the actual situation that is registered but only the location. According to psychotherapists, it feels as if one has visited that specific spot and could navigate around the location seamlessly. Perhaps, that explains why déjà vu experiences are seemingly more common amongst individuals who travel!

## PARALLEL THEORY

While scientific explanations for the strange occurrences of déjà vu remain vague given the inadequate research into the matter, alternate theories such as parallel universes arise as possible explanations.

According to theoretical physicist Dr. Michio Kaku, quantum physics supports the possibility that déjà vu might occur due to one's ability

to "flip between universes". The "Multiverse theory" posits the existence of multiple universes existing parallel to each other. He explains that a radio can only tune into to one station at one time, "listening to one frequency at a time" while other radio stations cannot be heard concurrently because they have differing frequencies. Likewise, "our universe consists of atoms that are oscillating at a unique frequency that other universes are not vibrating at". However, at instances where universes vibrate "in phase", it is theoretically possible to "move back and forth" between universes, thereby justifying the occurrence of déjà vu.

## THE MYSTERY CONTINUES

All in all, déjà vu remains a mystic conundrum to most of us today; theories that emerge out of recent studies are still debatable and considered rather primitive. So the next time you experience a déjà vu, know that it's either just a memory glitch or that you're travelling through time and space; to each their own!



# STRESS

# RELIEF

Do you have a nemesis? A Lex Luther to your Superman, or Kylo Ren to your Rey?

A wise person once said living well is the best revenge. And it is, later on, when you're driving a luxury car and your arch-enemy is driving for Uber. Until then, how do you sate your taste for vengeance in a safe, socially acceptable way? Voodoo!

## Use it on others

**STEP 1:** Identify your nemesis; if you don't have a nemesis, you're either incredibly forgiving (good for you), or not playing along (see below).

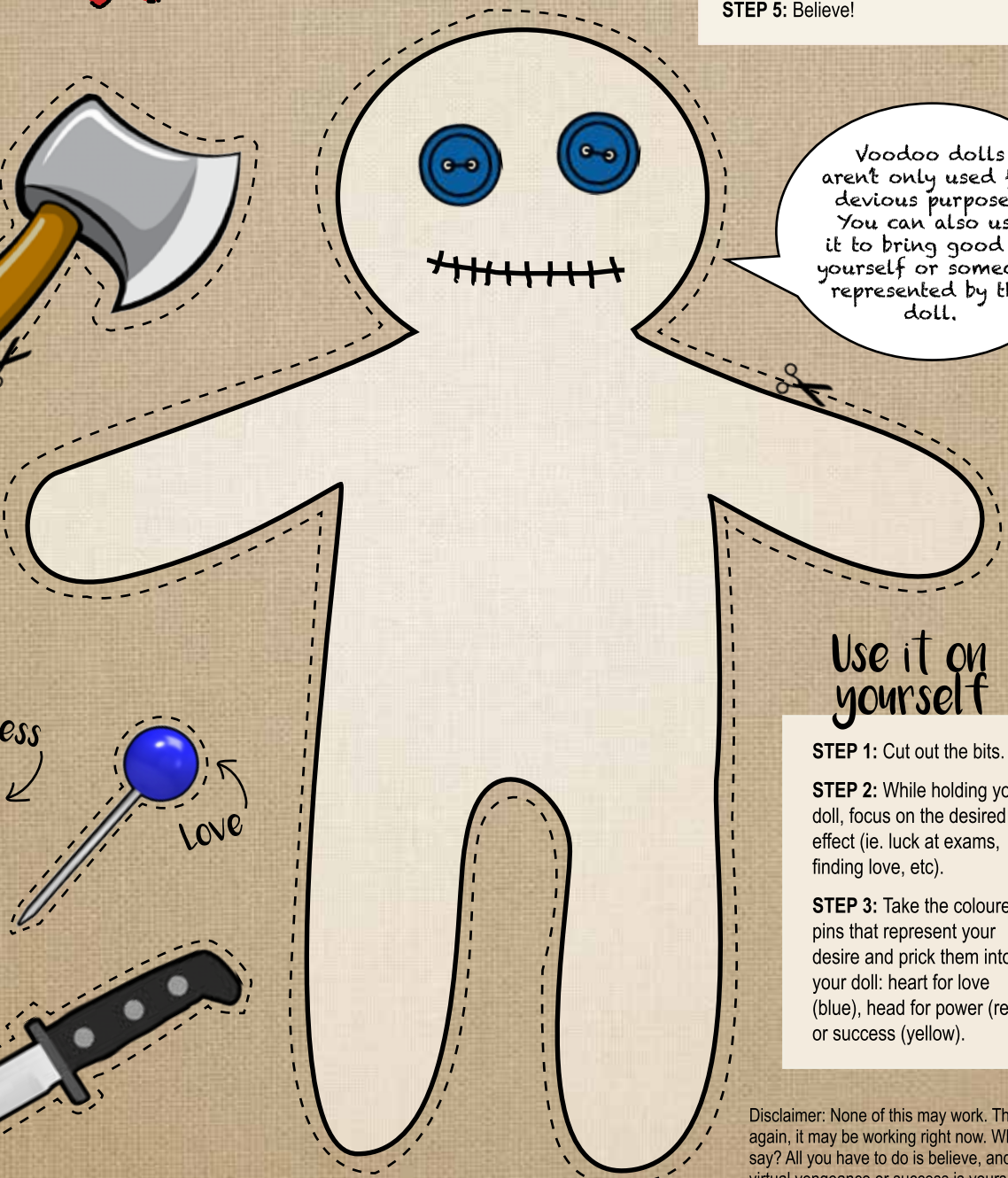
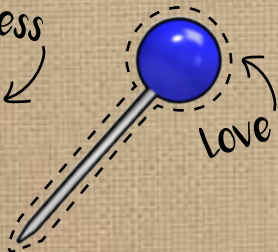
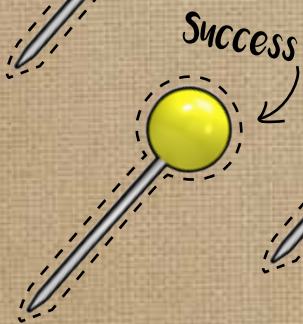
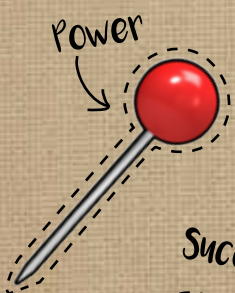
**STEP 2:** Cut out all the pieces, while carefully concentrating to simultaneously stay within the lines as you cut, and channel the dark arts into each stroke of your scissors.

**STEP 3:** Smile an evil smile. You're nearly there.

**STEP 4:** Live out your revenge fantasy using the tools provided.

**STEP 5:** Believe!

## Voodoo Kit



Voodoo dolls aren't only used for devious purposes. You can also use it to bring good to yourself or someone represented by the doll.

## Use it on yourself

**STEP 1:** Cut out the bits.

**STEP 2:** While holding your doll, focus on the desired effect (ie. luck at exams, finding love, etc).

**STEP 3:** Take the coloured pins that represent your desire and prick them into your doll: heart for love (blue), head for power (red) or success (yellow).

Disclaimer: None of this may work. Then again, it may be working right now. Who's to say? All you have to do is believe, and viola, virtual vengeance or success is yours!