

ISSUE 48 ♀

CAMPUS

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MICA (P) 082/06/2016

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**Gender
Issue**

LARGE AND IN CHARGE

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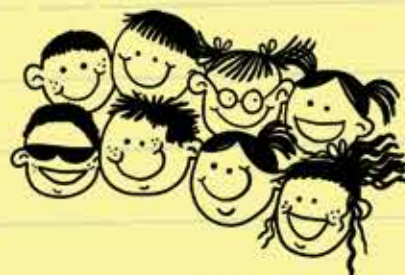
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WONDER WOMAN: FIGHTING FOR A BETTER FUTURE, 76 YEARS AND COUNTING

WONDER WOMAN HAS COME A LONG WAY FROM BEING 'JUST ANOTHER SUPERHERO' TO A CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED POP CULTURE ICON IN HER OWN RIGHT. ADORED BY FANS ACROSS THE GLOBE, DESPITE BEING A FICTIONAL CHARACTER, HER VALUES AND BELIEFS ARE ECHOED BY WOMEN LEADERS IN PARLIAMENTS, AND ARE INSPIRING GENERATIONS OF ACTIVISTS FOR FEMALE EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY.

FROM POP ICON TO POLITICAL FIGURE AND INSPIRATION

The creator of Wonder Woman, William Moulton Marston, knew what he wanted Wonder Woman to be: a radical, powerful hero who had the power to influence real life gender dynamics. He firmly believed that women should be allowed to 'rule the world', that gender should not limit anyone's chances of progress in life.

The Wonder Woman comics featured interesting stories which would not have made such a strong impact if they featured a male superhero. An example would be the shattering of the highest glass ceiling when Wonder Woman campaigned to be the President of the United States (POTUS) and eventually won in 3004 (Wonder Woman #7, Winter 1943). Imagine how many young girls read that and aspired to be political leaders of tomorrow!

Throughout the years, Wonder Woman has gained both female and male fans, and her popularity made her one of the 3 main icons of DC Comics: The Trinity, consisting of Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. Now, she is arguably the most popular superheroine in the comic book universe.

NEW MEDIUM, SAME MESSAGE

In this new era where print media is slowly losing its competitive edge, the film is a perfect way to attract and inspire a new generation of Wonder Woman fans. First out of the 2 major superhero movie studios to release a female-led comic book superhero film, DC Comics got the ball rolling by creating discussion topics on TV shows and got people talking about female power and gender equality. Wonder Woman became an international conversation starter for this cause.

Mothers are grateful that their children have the opportunity to understand what it means to be a female: Diana Prince questions why women cannot fight because of cultural reasons, and why they are not allowed to be involved in important leadership discussions. Most importantly, she aims to influence the younger generation to respect women as equals. If Superman can save the world, Wonder Woman can too.

Our parents had Lynda Carter, and now this generation has Gal Gadot to carry on her legacy, hopefully for a long time to come.

WHY WE NEED WONDER WOMAN MORE THAN EVER

In a time when political tension in the United States is at its highest, the issue of gender equality should still be bi-partisan. When Donald Trump was caught boasting about female assault and when Bill O'Reilly was accused of sexual harassment by his co-workers, some attempted to downplay the severity of these situations. It is evident that more still needs to be done before women are treated equally as men, and Wonder Woman still remains the symbol of hope for this goal.

During the Woman's March of 2017, a young girl used her superheroine dolls (including Wonder Woman) to stage a 'protest' in support of the event. It went viral and it shows just how influential superheroines are to young girls. In the words of William Moulton Marston, "The only hope for civilisation is the greater freedom, development and equality of women in all fields of human activity". Wonder Woman might not be fictional after all; she lives and cheers on the people who fight for equality.





BY TISHA HARYANTO

MARS AND VENUS EXPLAINED



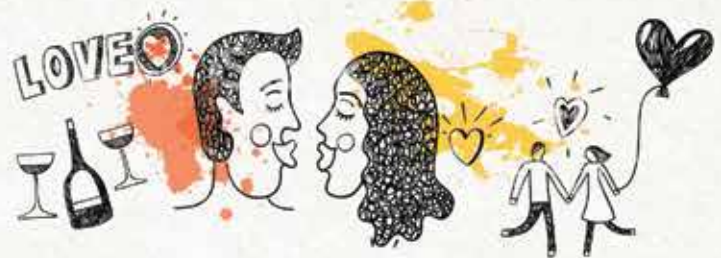
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEXES AND HOW THEY VIEW RELATIONSHIPS



HANDLING CONFLICTS

Firstly, men tend to be more logical, analytical and rational when it comes to crisis. Be it in a relationship or at work, men at times do struggle more to relate with their emotions and feelings. This is the moment when they will feel threatened and hence, attempt to control the situation by direct aggression or by simply withdrawing from the mess altogether.

Women, on the other hand, are more in touch with feelings and sensitivity. This makes them more intuitive, holistic, creative and integrative, but it could also mean that they would avoid an all-out verbal match and keep an argument bottled up.



LANGUAGE OF LOVE

Men and women, when it comes to a relationship, have different ways of expressing their love to each other. Firstly, women are known to be on the sensitive side, while men are the stoic, less sensitive other.

We are familiar with pet names, often given by women to their partners; this could be because women tend to fall for words of love as it is an obvious expression of feelings. Men, however, express love through actions, and would expect gestures of love instead. This is when things get complicated, hence, it is important for couples to understand each other's language of love in order to avoid unnecessary conflicts.



COMMUNICATIONS

Men and women are from completely different brainwaves. Thus, men don't always know what is needed by a woman, and most relationship arguments stem from basic miscommunications. Men tend to give direct answers, while women give more detail and expression - this is because men only use one side of their brain when self-disclosing, thus appearing less expressive.

Women would usually attempt to 'hint' to a man about what she wants or needs in the least obvious way. At times, women expect men to already 'know' before she knows it. However, men are logical, straight-forward and not intuitive, so it would be best to tell him what you want instead of hemming about the bush.

As men have their pride, it may irk him if you try to point out the ways he has been failing your needs. Instead, tell him what is it that he could do to make the relationship better for both parties.



VIEWS ON MARRIAGE

Marriage may have a different meaning for men and women. When women were girls, many dreamed of the wedding, the dresses. Women go into a marriage for the whole concept of having their own family someday, with a husband as a requirement. When men were boys, they were careless and playful, but at some point on their road to adulthood, they'll meet the girl of their dreams (men are more likely than women to believe in 'love at first sight'). Therefore, men go into a marriage for the woman he wants to be connected to forever.

Women go through a great ordeal during weddings and even in a marriage: they have different commitments, to her mother, her in-laws, her children, her husband and everything else in between. Men, however, simply do what keeps the wife - their only commitment - happy.

Of course, most of these examples are generic, and do not account for the different personalities and opinions each person - regardless of gender - has. For example, some men may have a preference for non-confrontational conflicts, while some women may prefer to express their love with gestures rather than words.

WOMEN IN HOLLYWOOD

Over the last decade, the sexism within Hollywood's movie industry has been brought heavily into the limelight. In 2014, Sony was hacked and information was leaked regarding the pay differences between genders. This sparked Jennifer Lawrence to speak up about the pay discrepancy in comparison to her male counterparts. Since then, countless other female actresses such as Sandra Bullock, Jessica Chastain, Meryl Streep and notably Patricia Arquette at the 2015 Oscars, have spoken up about the inherent wage gap between genders. Two years later, where do women stand in Hollywood?

WOMEN BEHIND THE SCREEN

Employment of Women in the Top 250 Films of 2016



17% of all directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and cinematographers were women. This is still on par with the statistics from 1998.

Of those 6 jobs

24% of all producers were women

17% of all editors and executive producers were women

13% of all women were writers

7% of all directors were women

5% of all cinematographers were women



There has been an all-around decrease of women in the industry from 2015, with the exception of writers where a **2%** increase has brought it back to level with the 1998 statistics of **13%**.

The percentage of cinematographers has slightly increased since 1998 although it is still the smallest group of all the professions.

Genres behind the screen



Percentage of women who work in the various genres



Some female cinematographers to look out for:



Maryse Alberti - Filmed one of the most immersive fight sequences of all time in the late 2015 hit, *Creed*. The entire 4-minute scene was taken in one continuous shot, weaving in and out of the boxers immersing the audience visually like never seen before.

Natasha Braier - The release of *The Neon Demon* (2016) left much to be desired in terms of plot, fortunately where it does not lack is its cinematography. Its imagery is truly encapsulating and Natasha Braier created an artistic ride which stands up to the director's previous movies *Drive* (2011) and *Only God Forgives* (2013). She is currently shooting *Gringo* (2018) starring Charlize Theron, Amanda Seyfried and Thandie Newton.



WOMEN ON SCREEN

Portrayal of Female Characters in the top 100 films of 2016

For this section, "protagonist" refers to the point of view which the story is told.

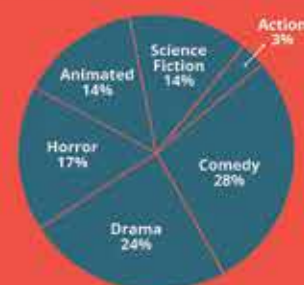
29% of the top 100 films in 2016 featured a female protagonist. This is an increase from 2015 which was **22%**

54% were males

17% were ensemble



Female protagonist genres



In terms of major characters (characters integral to the plotline)



↑ up from **34%** in 2015

Female characters were also less likely to be seen in a working environment over the years.



61% of all men on screen were shown working

45% of all women on screen were shown working



Female characters were more often placed in a position where viewers would know their marital status – alluding to the old mindset that women are more likely to settle down and get married than men.

68% of all male characters on screen had an unknown marital status

54% of all female characters on screen had an unknown marital status



Women make up 10 of the top 30 paid stars in Hollywood in 2016. With only two – Jennifer Lawrence and Melissa McCarthy – ranking in the top 10. The other 8 women are between 19 - 30

Combined, the top 10 female actresses of 2016 earned

\$205 million

Combined, the top 10 male actors of 2016 earned

\$457 million

The benefits that women enjoy such as attending university, entering the workforce and voting today are not called benefits, but rights. However, these rights would have been impossible without the long arduous struggle fought by feminist activists and organisations. So you might call yourself a feminist, but are you aware of the rich history behind the 3 waves of The Feminist Movement?

THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT

The Feminist Movement (aka Women's Liberation Movement) refers to a series of campaigns for reforms pertaining to specific women's issues such as women's suffrage, equal pay, reproductive rights, sexual harassment and sexual violence. While the specific issues being contested differ from country to country, the aim of feminism as a whole is for women to be entitled to the same rights as men. Globally, the series of campaigns under the movement can be divided into three waves.



Late 1800s to Early 1900s: 1st Wave of Feminism

FOCUS - WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (VOTING RIGHTS)

The defining movement in the first wave was the Seneca Falls Convention in the US in 1848 where women and even men rallied together for equal rights for women, including the right to vote. The passing of the resolution in America marked the beginning of the women's suffrage movement all over the world. Today, there is only one country in the world left that does not allow women to vote - Vatican City.

1960s to 1980s: 2nd Wave of Feminism

FOCUS - CULTURAL AND POLITICAL INEQUALITIES

Under the slogan of "the personal is political", the second wave focused on private issues that were now in the public sphere. These issues included sexism in the workplace, rape, domestic violence, and abortion. Feminist activists saw their efforts bear fruit when the first global forum on women's issues was held in Mexico City in 1975 and participated in by 133 governments.



Cheat Sheet

By Violet Koh

#48 Know Your Feminism



1990s to Present: 3rd to 4th Wave of Feminism

FOCUS - REDEFINING FEMINISM

In this age, most third-wavers rejected the label 'feminists' due to its negative stereotype of a woman filled with man-hatred. The redefinition and new age of feminism emphasises individualism and embracing differences through rejecting gender role expectations and stereotypes. Simply put, third-wavers stand for little boys being able to play freely with dolls and girls, video games without being laughed at.

We are now transitioning into the 4th wave of feminism, where it is largely associated with online feminism through the use of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to mobilise social justice. For example, the HeForShe is a solidarity campaign initiated by UN Women in 2014 to engage men and boys to stand up for the inequalities faced by women and girls. Their campaign saw 150,000 Twitter followers, over 260,000 Facebook likes and support from celebrities such as Emma Watson. Another significant event was the 2017 Women's March, a worldwide movement to advocate a range of issues from women's rights to racial equality. The campaign saw 673 marches worldwide in all continents.



FEMINISM IN SINGAPORE


Singapore practised universal suffrage since the beginning of democratic elections, hence women in Singapore did not have to fight for voting rights and were granted the rights on July 18th, 1947. Recent feminist efforts led by Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE) include raising awareness on abusive working conditions of domestic workers. The organisation, since its establishment in 1983, has also advocated several issues such as gender equality in education, marriage, employment and reproductive rights.

67% of respondents think that our cultural beliefs in Singapore promote gender inequality through gender stereotypes



aware

Association of Women for Action and Research



lady Salads and macho nachos

BY YIN LOON

IS FOOD GENDERED?

Eating a salad is what society thinks women often do, while guzzling pints of beer at a bar is almost exclusively a perceived male habit. Subconsciously, we all tend to attach certain foods to gender – it's no surprise then that food commercials use gender marketing to cater to both sexes differently.

So what is it with certain foods and drinks that get the boy vs girl treatment? Is it a genetic thing, or are they associated with culturalisation?

IS IT BIOLOGICAL?

It's not a stretch to imagine that most guys love their meat – whether it's a cheeseburger or a beef rendang. A study by Hank Rothgerber of Bellarmine University revealed that men are more pro-meat than women because of its protein value (among other findings), and that it makes them 'feel like real men'.

Men are also much less likely to eat their veggies than women, particularly when they feel healthy, so they may doubt their need for a balanced diet. Women, on the other hand, are much better at consuming their greens, which could be related to their desire to be healthy and look good – more so than men – according to a National Cancer Institute survey.

Some of this gender-driven eating can also be explained by evolution, according to Yale University's David Katz. Men, as hunters, needed more protein to build muscle mass, so meat was a reward. Over time, this created different caloric requirements between the two sexes, because

prehistoric men and women had differing access to foods.

Even hormonal differences could explain why men generally prefer stronger food flavours than women. Women, especially those of reproductive age, are more sensitive to flavours than men, according to multiple studies.

IS IT CULTURAL?

What we eat goes back to the idea of priming – how culture imprints concepts in our minds.

In an experiment titled 'Macho Nachos', participants were asked to rate which foods they considered masculine and feminine: baked vs fried chicken, baked potatoes vs fries, baked vs fried fish, etc. The results showed that there was a significant tie to food and gender perception – people were more likely to see the healthier options as masculine, and the healthier options as feminine.

It's also common to assume that brightly-coloured cocktails with mini-umbrellas or cute cupcakes are often positioned for women, hinting that women prefer sweet flavours. But we all know that isn't the truth; simply ask your peers and you'll see who really prefers sweet treats.

Another influence could be old-fashioned gender-based marketing. According to the gospel of advertising, women like dieting, desserts and looking nice, whereas men like beer, sports and meat. To see proof of that, just sit in a cinema before your movie starts.

You'll see that beer commercials always depict men drinking beer while enjoying sports, or hanging out with the boys. Women in these commercials are either objectified, or are simply their girlfriends. So from this perspective, men drink beer because they want to come off as masculine and heterosexual.

On the flip side, you'll notice that any commercial for yogurt will teach you that it is exclusively eaten by women (for the benefit of men). In one commercial, a woman eats a tub of it to attract the attention of her male companion. In another, she's gorging on a tub in order to see a Greek warrior undress in a bizarre concept.

The influence continues to fast food brands – you may have seen suggestive ads from Burger King ('It'll Blow Your Mind Away') and Carl's Jr ('Everybody Loves Big Breasts') that would appeal to men, or at the very least seem offensive to women.

Even food packaging may have a role to play. Consider chocolates – if you're thinking of chocolate bars like Snickers or Mars, then it would be considered more masculine than say, a box of Godiva chocolates. Price tag aside, packaging has a powerful role to play in its image.

The way a food is packaged might even influence its 'gender' – for instance, it may not be 'manly' for a guy to eat muffins from a pretty box, but it's totally acceptable to label him a 'stud muffin', implying that it's women who are muffin consumers.

Cultural priming is a big influence, and it's even affecting our association of food with gender.

SOCIETY PERPETUATES MYTH

If you take a step back, it's ridiculous to associate a piece of steak as manly, or a bowl of salad as ladylike, just because society expects you to. There is no doubt that many of us defy these food preference stereotypes, because we eat – or want to eat – what we feel like eating. We already unnecessarily associate so many things with gender – ie. pink is for girls – so why is there a need to associate our basic source of sustenance too?

BY NURFAIZAH FAIZUWAN

GENDER AND ITS SEMANTICS

Pink, blue, dolls or cars. "Congratulations, it's a boy/girl!" From the very moment we are brought into this world, we are being placed in male or female categories. However, the number of people who do not identify with either categories is constantly rising year after year. This could be because there is an increase in the number of people who are in transition from one gender to another or simply because they cannot properly describe their own self with terms such as "woman", "man", "boy", "girl", "male", and "female".

Before delving into the wide spectrum of genders that exist now, let's clear up some misconceptions about gender and sex. Firstly, sex refers to the physiological and biological characteristics of a person with a heavy focus on their sexual reproductive traits.

Gender, on the other hand, refers to one's understanding of what it means to look, feel and act feminine or masculine. One of the major factors that affect your gender are the social constructs society has formed that could influence one's personal gender identity and the way they express their gender identity and how that is perceived by others.

The gender spectrum is akin to the colour spectrum. There are tons of variations of similar colours and they are perceived differently by different people. In 2014, Facebook acknowledged the need for more alternative gender options and announced that they would list 51 gender options to help those who simply do not identify as male nor female. Some of these options include:



Agender (also 'genderless' or 'gender neutral'): someone who does not identify with any sort of gender identity at all and are typically those who intentionally have no recognisable gender presentation.



Androgynous: one who has both masculine and feminine qualities.



Gender fluid: one whose gender identity is not confined to only one specific gender category. Their understanding of their gender fluctuate frequently and changes according to what feels most right.



Gender non-conforming/Gender variant: those who look or behave in a way that is not to society's expectations or norms of how a specific gender is supposed to.



Gender questioning: one who may be questioning their gender identity or considering other ways of expressing their gender.



Genderqueer (also 'pansexual' - "pan" meaning every or all): one who identifies outside of the two-gender system and may identify as multiple genders, a varied mix of genders or "between" genders.



Intersex: one whose chromosomes, anatomy or hormones do not conform to the expected biological configurations of a male or female body.



Neutrois/Non-binary: those who identify as outside the two-gender system and challenges it.



Transgender (includes Trans, Male to Female (MTF) and Female to Male (FTM)): those who have genders not traditionally associated with their assigned sex and may have undergone surgery to alter their bodies.



Transmasculine/Transfeminine: those assigned one sex but identifies as the other in varying proportions.



Two-spirit originated from a tribe of Native Americans in North America and refers to those who have both masculine and feminine qualities and presentations. They also have very distinct and specific roles in the tribe and are seen and respected as a third gender.

Out of all the countries in the world, only eleven countries have taken the leap to recognise more than just two genders. Argentina, Colombia, Denmark, Ireland and Malta have all allowed the trans community to declare their genders without having to undergo medical treatments, sterilisation or surgery.

Similarly, Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Germany, India, and Nepal have also recognised and acknowledged the third gender. Gender identity remains a complex and sensitive issue that many countries have yet to tackle, but hopefully, as we make progress in society, these people would be able to be recognised all around the world.

Sexism in the English Language

by nina gan

ROLES ACCORDING TO ENGLISH

Most of us grew up with words like postman, mankind, manpower, freshman. The male-based generic is an indicator of a system in which 'man' is privileged over women.

Even words like 'freshman' and 'you guys' reinforce the gender inequalities, yet women accept being considered 'freshman', or as 'you guys'. Being labelled 'one of the guys' might make women feel included, but it reinforces the message that men are the standard and that women should be subsumed by the male category.

If gender-neutral nouns were used, perhaps women wouldn't have to be seconded into groups like 'freshman', or even be fighting for a 'man's wage'.

WORDS CAN CHANGE STATUS

Male titles usually speak of power and status, while the female versions often reduce women to a subordinate position even though at one point they were actually equals.

Mistress: It's the female equivalent of 'master', meaning someone with authority. These days, it refers to a female sexual companion to a married man.

Governess: Compared to a 'governor', a governess today has no authority over a place or institution, as this role refers to a woman responsible for the care of children.

Madam: This female equivalent of 'sir' (a person of high rank) is commonly used as a mode of address, but in the worst case scenario, it also means a 'female manager of a brothel'.

LANGUAGE WITH CONNOTATIONS

Some of us **subliminally associate** words with gender: women 'gossip' while men 'talk shop', men are 'firm' or 'open-minded' while women are 'bossy' or 'naive'.

The phrases 'master of my fate' and 'father of modern science' both use masculine nouns to indicate positive power, whereas phrases with feminine nouns commonly imply the opposite, like 'mother of all evil'. Even the Oxford dictionary tagged 'nagging' with the word 'wife'.

To illustrate the pejoration of feminine nouns, which one of these is less attractive?

Mary hopes to meet an eligible bachelor.

Bill hopes to meet an eligible spinster.

Both 'bachelor' and 'spinster' refer to unmarried people, and while it's socially acceptable for older men to be single, spinsters are synonymous with 'unwanted'. Let's take another female noun: bitch.

Originally meaning 'female dog', over time, it began to negatively refer to a malicious woman. But as language evolved, it's now synonymous with complaining (ie. bitching), and a man who's insulted as a 'bitch' gets angry not because it means 'malicious', but because it means 'woman'.

Derogatory words like 'whore', 'slut', and even 'the fairer sex' are exclusively reserved for women; there are no equivalent words referring to men that are even close to being offensive.

Sexism doesn't just affect politics – it also shapes the language we use today. If you examine the English language, you'll discover plenty of engendered usage. Male pronouns – he, his, him – are habitually used when the sex of the person is unknown, unless when referring to roles like secretary, nurse or elementary school teacher, when the pronoun changes to 'she'.

This sexism could be rooted in Old English; 'woman' was a neuter noun, so when referring to a woman, you'd call her 'it'. Norse speakers (who used female pronouns) changed that when they populated Northern England.

Today, kids learn about house-wife, or fire-man, indicating gender-specific roles, meaning it may not simply be the society that's ingraining these gender identities, it's the language we use.

MEN HAVE IT ROUGH TOO

Of course, the gender inequality swings both ways.

There are male nurses, flight attendants, and secretaries, but to add a 'male' in front of their job title only seems to demean their position.

Then there are phrases like 'man up' – which berates men who show their emotional side – and 'grow a pair', to goad men into being braver. The word 'pair', refers to testicles, which is a standard measure of masculinity.

Incidentally, if you used the phrase 'you don't have the balls' in Italy, you could be fined, because it suggests that the person lacks the one thing that defines him as male. Who knew that men would be so... sensitive?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

With the changes in the role of women and men in society, there is less space for sexist language, so it's pertinent to adjust to a more 'neutral' one.

For example, use genderless titles, such as *flight attendant* instead of *stewardess*, and *homemaker* instead of *housewife*. Drop gender markers to titles like *nurse*.

Imagine Neil Armstrong's iconic quote made more politically correct: "That's one small step for a person, one giant leap for humankind."

WE ARE ANIMALS!

Unusual Sex & Gender Roles in the Animal Kingdom

Gender and the roles that come with it are often determined from the sexual organs that develop during gestation. In humans, there are traditionally fixed stereotypes to gender and its roles. While a shift in gender roles can usually be understood, the stigma to sex change remains. But, whether it is due to environmental pollution or for survival, sex (and gender role) change is not an uncommon phenomenon amongst other animals.

SEAHORSES

WHAT?

Males carry eggs in their own bellies, and subsequently hatch the young.

HOW?

Unlike a homo sapiens' act of depositing the sperm into the uterus, the female of this species deposits the eggs into the male's pouch. The eggs are then fertilised in his pouch where they are nurtured until they hatch.

WHY?

Females need more time to make eggs so this ensures the survival of their species. By sharing the responsibility of the reproductive process – from production to delivery – they can maximise the rate of survival.

SNAILS

WHAT?

When two snails come together, both get impregnated.

HOW?

Most species of snails are hermaphroditic, and when two snails come into contact, they 'shoot' each other with calciferous love darts (which deliver hormones) before sperm is transferred reciprocally. In many species, both mating snails will lay eggs.

WHY?

A school of thought believes that because the snail moves slowly, it'd be too unproductive to go around finding an opposite sex to mate. Thus, they have both female and male sexual organs to speed up the mating process to increase their chances of survival.

EMPEROR PENGUINS

WHAT?

After the female lays the egg, the male oversees the hatching process.

HOW?

Baby penguins take about 1-2 months to hatch. During this period, the male penguin does not go out to hunt for food; instead it incubates the egg between its legs and torso.

WHY?

During the weeks of producing the egg, the female penguin is unable to go out to hunt for food. Thus, after the egg is delivered, it immediately goes out into the waters to fish for itself as well as the baby penguin when it is hatched. The responsibility of incubating and hatching the egg is transferred to the male penguin.

CLOWNFISH

WHAT?

Clownfish are all born with male sexual organs. However, as they get older, the most dominant fish in the group will develop female sexual organs to mate with the other fishes.

HOW?

When you put four clownfish in a tank, the biggest and most dominant fish in this tank will develop female genitals and mate with the other three male fish. The scientific terminology for the sex change from male to female is known as 'protandry'.

WHY?

Following the survival of the fittest theory, this is to ensure that the most stellar baby clownfish would be produced. Since eggs need more resources to produce, it's logical that the job for this is more suited for the biggest and strongest fish.

ALLIGATORS

WHAT?

Their sex is dependent on the temperature of the egg.

HOW?

An alligator's sex is determined before it hatches from the egg. If placed in an incubator at 34°C and above, they will develop male sexual organs; and females are developed at temperatures below 34°C.

WHY?

It is believed that this form of sex determination, also known as temperature-dependent sensitive determination (TSD), is most common in the reptile family. Certain temperatures create the optimum conditions for the nurturing of a specific sex, so this form of sex determination is to increase its chances of survival. In the long term, while it may not seem like it would create a balanced number of males and female to ensure continuity, survival is more important.

POLAR BEARS

WHAT?

Polar bears are experiencing changes in the anatomy of their sexual organs. A minority of them now have both male and female parts.

HOW?

Some female polar bears on Svalbard have both male and female sex organs, even though there are no Y chromosomes present (to indicate they're genetically male), identifying them as pseudo-hermaphrodites. This condition may have arisen due to hormonal disruptions and toxic pollutants – it's also causing male polar bears to experience penile fractures (polar bears have penis bones called baculum).

WHY?

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polybrominated diphenyls (PBDE) are chemical pollutants found in the seas, particularly in the Arctic, and the concentration levels increase as it goes into the food chain. These pollutants interfere with the hormones and can result in reproductive system abnormalities, such as the development of male sexual characteristics in females.



He Said, She Said:

Gender Stereotypes in Relationships

by Natalie Kwan

From the fairy tales we read as children to their animated counterparts that had us glued to our TV screens, gender stereotypes have been ingrained in our minds from years back, both consciously and subconsciously.

We have been conditioned to perceive women as the weaker half in any relationship. Women are often portrayed as the damsel in distress, the character who needs saving and requires protection. On the other hand, the men are portrayed as the strong knights in shining armour who come to save the day.

Are these gender stereotypes still as prevalent in the relationships in our modern society? It does seem that in some aspects, society's attitude towards gender stereotypes is shifting.

The Gender Role Shift

In the past, wives were expected to be homemakers and play a nurturing role in the family. Women were generally expected to be domesticated halves in the relationship, staying at home to cook and clean while their husbands worked. Thankfully, this patriarchal paradigm that women belong in the kitchen is no longer relevant in today's world.

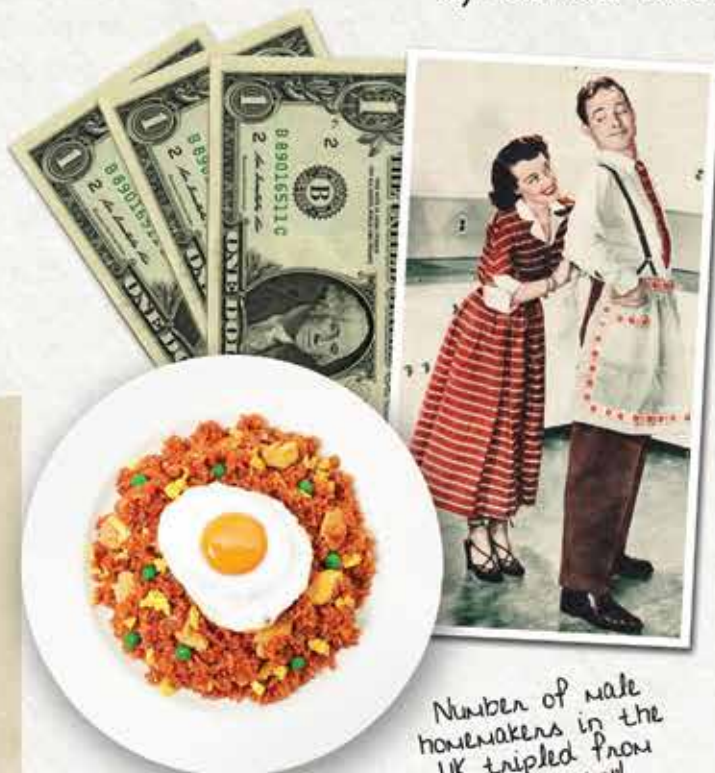
In the past, it was also more common for women to "marry up" — a lady from a lower socioeconomic class marrying a man from a higher social class. However, white collar women and blue collar men pairings have become more frequent these days.

With increased educational opportunities for women in this common age, many are able to join the workforce and earn their own keep, which allows them to be financially independent and prevents them from having to rely on their partners for economical support.

Similarly, both men and women can cook up a storm in the kitchen; nowadays, the male partners in a relationship can be the ones cooking for their girlfriends or wives instead of the other way around. Evidence that patriarchal paradigms are slowly fading out can be found in the tripled number of male homemakers in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2011.

While male partners used to be considered the dominant halves in relationships, it no longer rings true. In many marriages, the woman controls the family finances and makes most of the crucial decisions.

Most of us have probably had experiences where our mothers called the shots instead of our fathers for decisions ranging from where to eat for lunch, to the budget allocated for a family holiday.



However, the date debate is still ongoing — should the man always pay on the first date? A study on millennial women found that 46% of them feel guilty if they don't pay on a first date. While the expectation that guys should pick up the tab on the first date still holds up, most ladies are willing to go dutch on subsequent occasions, especially if they enter into a committed relationship.

Communication in a Relationship

When it comes to the emotional needs in a relationship, women tend to have a preference for talking openly about their problems, while men might utter a few words and it ends there.

Studies have found that women bond by talking and sharing experiences with each other. On the contrary, men bond by doing things together — which might explain why they need to grab a beer with the lads once in awhile. Since they are not very vocal creatures and may not air their grievances all the time, we certainly cannot fault them for needing to unwind.

Even though men and women express love differently, they both have the basic need to be loved. Both genders also require emotional reassurance from time to time, which provides each party with a sense of security and emotional satisfaction with the relationship.

Men often express their love in actions, such as buying gifts, taking their partners out to their favourite restaurant for dinner, or simply picking them up from school or work. This is unlike women, who are verbally expressive in nature and affirm their male partners with words.

A good way to gain satisfaction from a relationship would be to recognise your partner's investments into the relationship and realise that every individual expresses love in different ways.



In some families women hold the purse strings and call the shots.

BY PRABHU SILVAM

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

THE ABSURD REALITY BEHIND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

As the third largest international crime industry after the illegal drugs and global arms trade, human trafficking is big business – raking in profits of USD150 billion globally each year as a result of exploited labour, according to figures released by the International Labour Organization and affecting the lives of over 21 million men, women and children in the process.

Commonly known as “modern-day slavery”, the far-reaching impact of human trafficking means human exploitation has become a global pandemic taking many forms: from the smuggling of babies in West Bengal, India to the illegal recruitment of construction workers across the Thai-Myanmar border, to the human organ harvesting trade in China.

MORE THAN JUST LIVES AT STAKE

Women and girls make up 71% of all trafficked individuals, while men and boys form 29% of human trafficking victims across the world according to a report released last year in December by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Even though women and girls make up the largest proportion of sex trafficking victims, a small percentage of men and boys are trafficked into the sex industry as well, with the majority of men being forced into the hard labour market in industries like construction, manufacturing and mining.

In 2016 alone, estimated annual profits from sex trafficking in Asia totalled a whopping S\$12.9 billion according to the U.S. State Department's 2016 “Trafficking in Persons” (TIP) report—an alarming reflection of the lucrative sex tourism market in the region. Although Singapore joins a long list of nations across the world to enforce designated red-light areas to regulate sexual services, the dawn of the internet age has turned the industry on its head—paving the way for an exponential surge in human trafficking on an unprecedented scale.

We've even seen it locally, where numerous online forums and websites rate the performances of sex workers, along with an increase in online advertisements promoting sexual services in the heartlands, private flats or even discreet public spaces. The rise of mobile apps have also allowed illegal sex workers to disguise their identities and offer sexual services with the aim of anonymity to operate under the radar and go undetected by the authorities.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

A common misconception is that human trafficking is done in a clandestine manner—images of people tightly packed into shipping containers aboard large vessels plying illegal sea routes readily come to mind. The reality is however, that the victims of modern day human trafficking often embark on the journeys by themselves, travelling from country to country via legal means which makes it practically impossible for authorities to detect.



In Singapore for example, victims of sex trafficking are usually brought into the country under tourist visas, or on the pretext of marriage, educational, or job prospects, during which they are forced into providing illicit sexual services. Hagar, an organisation which helps women and children in Singapore, said it saw 22 trafficking victims in Singapore in 2016—a more than 50% jump compared to 2015.

For the men, they are often lured to Singapore by traffickers with the promise of work permits in the construction industry which allow them to live and work in Singapore for a maximum of two years. In both cases, victims are often conned with the promise of a better life, high-paying jobs and innocent-sounding job scopes. Very often, victims of human trafficking

come from poverty-stricken backgrounds—making them the ideal demographic for exploitation by traffickers who promise them the world and beyond. Once here, they are confronted with the shocking reality of their actual job scopes and their initially promised wages are slashed tremendously, if at all they get paid in the first place.

The current, unprecedented level of human migration across the world because of war and conflict has only added to the global human trafficking industry, with large scores of vulnerable women and children at risk of being exploited for sex or the global human organ trade by traffickers who prey upon desperate people hoping to seek refuge in other countries.



WHY CAN'T VICTIMS ESCAPE?

Escaping from the cycle of human trafficking isn't as easy as taking your things and walking out the door from a job that you dislike. Threatened with death and persecution, most victims are often fearful of the repercussions that they might face if they report or seek help from the authorities.

It is also important to note that a majority of the victims pay lump sums of money to their traffickers in order to land "opportunities" abroad, leaving them saddled with debts which often take entire lifetimes to pay off. In some cases, the debts get passed on to future generations paving the way for an unending cycle of exploitation with no end in sight.

Leaving the country is also out of the question because victims' passports are often illegally confiscated by traffickers, adding to the fact that the victims usually have little or no financial resources to escape with. Victims are usually unable to speak the language of the country they are working in and thus, remain unable to communicate their problems to outsiders.

Perpetrators often threaten victims with the safety of their families back home in order to exploit and manipulate them into forced labour—psychologically arresting them and leaving them with no choice whatsoever.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS IN SINGAPORE

Set up in 2010, the Singapore Inter-Agency Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons has allowed authorities greater control and power in curbing human trafficking activities both locally and regionally. The passing of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act in March 2015, allows agencies like the Singapore Police Force, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) power to investigate human trafficking offences.

First-time offenders can face up to 10 years in jail, a fine of up to S\$100,000 and/or six strokes of the cane. Also, repeat offenders face the risk of being sentenced up to 15 years in jail, a fine of up to S\$150,000 and mandatory caning of up to nine strokes.



ORGANISATIONS THAT HELP TRAFFICKED PERSONS IN SINGAPORE

THE HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION ECONOMICS (HOME) A non-profit organisation that helps migrant workers.

HAGAR SINGAPORE An NGO committed to the recovery and economic empowerment of women and children who are survivors of extreme human rights abuse.

EMANCIPASIA A volunteer-run organisation battling against modern-day slavery in Singapore and the region.

TRANSIENT WORKERS COUNT TOO An NGO that promotes equitable treatment for migrant workers in Singapore.



BY YIN LOON

THE LIST

WHERE WOMEN RULE

MOSUO

The Mosuo tribe reside between Tibet and Yunnan, and live in large extended family households. At the head of each is a matriarch; both lineage and property are passed down via the female side of the family. The women typically handle business decisions, while men handle politics.



The tribe practises 'walking marriages' where women choose their partners by literally walking to the man's home. Traditionally, couples don't live together - children remain with their mothers, and sometimes the father's identity is unknown.

MINANGKABAU

The Minangkabau live in West Sumatra, and is a matrilineal society of about 4 million people. Tribal laws dictate that all clan property be transferred from mother to daughter. In this tribe, women rule the domestic realm and a man takes the role of clan chief, although women can remove him from office if he is unfit to rule.



Upon marriage, a woman has her own sleeping quarters where her husband may sleep with her, but he has to breakfast at his own mother's home.

AKAN

Predominantly residing in Ghana, the Akan society is built around the matriclan - the founders of which are female - where one's identity, inheritance, wealth, and politics are determined. However, men are traditionally the leaders within their society and these inherited roles are passed down matrilineally, through a man's mothers or sisters.



BRIBRI

A small indigenous group in the Talamanca canton in Costa Rica, the Bribri are clan based, with each clan consisting of an extended family determined through the women. Only women are traditionally allowed to inherit land, and are given the right to prepare the cacao that's used in their sacred rituals.



Most of us are more familiar with a patriarchal society where a family, group or state is governed by a man, unless you're a Peranakan - a matriarchal society in Singapore (and Malaysia) where women rule the roost. Here are some other societies around the world that place women on equal, or even higher, standing than men.

KHASI

The matrilineal Khasi tribe live in India's state of Meghalaya, where the youngest daughter is the custodian of the ancestral property. When the mother has no daughters, the inheritance goes to her sister's youngest daughter or female kin; men are prohibited from inheriting real property.



Once married, men live in their mother-in-law's homes and their children take on their mother's surname. Men are not entitled to take part in family gatherings.

BIJAGO

Among the Bijago tribe of Guinea Bissau, women possess all the power to manage the economy, social welfare, and the law; they are absolute owners of both house and land. While the village chief is male, he is determined by his connection through matrilineal descent. Women are entitled to do any job they want, while men are

turned to only for farming, hunting, and fishing. Women select their husbands, and can force a divorce - after which the men will keep the children.



TUAREG

The Tuareg are a semi-nomadic tribe that live across the Sahara Desert. Unlike most Islamic societies, the women don't wear veils - the men do. Plus, women are allowed to have sex before marriage and can have multiple partners as long as they are private about it (men arrive at women's tents after dark and leave before sunrise). It's highly rude for a man to eat in front of a woman he can't have sex with.

This society traces their bloodline through women, with women owning the tents and all of the animals.



BY TARTAN ARES OW

BOYS OVER GIRLS:



HOW GENDER IMBALANCE AFFECTS ASIA

The human sex ratio, or the number of males per 100 females, varies greatly between countries. The biological norm is for the sex ratio at birth to be about 105 more or less (just over 51% boys and just under 49% girls). However, women statistically outlive men globally, so it's not surprising that the sex ratio of the West - and in Singapore (97.56) - leans in favour of women.

On the other hand, there are other countries - notably China and India - where the opposite ratio is abnormally high: 107 and 106 respectively, according to a 2015 UN report.

INDIA'S GENDER GAP PROBLEM



THE FACTS: Men outnumber women in India by 43 million. Under normal circumstances, this should be a statistical impossibility that can only be caused by a global conflagration. So, where have all the girls gone? The uncomfortably short answer: female infanticide.

Compounded over decades, and magnified by the number of undocumented sex-selective infanticides in India, suddenly the presence of 47 million more men starts to add up.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY

Women have always struggled to assert their equal place at the economic table, as India has traditionally been a patriarchal society where old habits die hard.

In a perfect situation, India by default would be a world leader in adding women to its vast workforce in all levels of the economy. Yet, between 2005-2015 it led the world in the percentage decline of women in the economy, dropping from an already low 37% (in 2005) to an abysmal 27% (in 2015).

Many experts argue it's because more women are enrolling in (or remaining in) school, or that the drop has come in rural regions, where higher crop yields have led women to leave the agricultural workforce.

India is losing the battle to keep women in the workforce, as its women become economically disenfranchised: women average just \$0.68 for every dollar a man earns.

Popular anecdotal evidence backs the idea that a well-educated young woman is more marriageable, with many recent accounts of women completing their degrees but never working, or simply segueing from the workforce into marriage. While stats are hard to come by on this front, just look at any popular matchmaking site (Shaadi.com, Indiancupid.com, etc).

The obvious canary in the coal mine here is India's infamously high instance of sexual assault - which could be attributed to the lack of marriage prospects. Even among married women, theories posit that a relative surplus of men in a community increases the likelihood of physical abuse by husbands; men will exercise strict control over women's behaviour when women's relationship options are plentiful and men's own options are limited.

IDENTIFYING GENDER IMBALANCE

The top 10 countries with male-skewed gender imbalances include the Middle East (ie. Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia), along with China and India. With China and India already being the two most populous countries on earth, these factors have combined to give Asia (as a whole) a male-skewed gender imbalance of over 100 million.

In the case of the Middle East, it's due to the extremely high percentage of male foreign workers. Conversely in China and India, the opposite is true: they have net male emigration (meaning more men leave to work overseas than women).

The irony is that women outlive men by an average of 3 years despite our collectively improving diets and better healthcare. While there are myriad reasons behind localised gender imbalances (eg. Russian women outlive men by 13 years due to higher levels of alcoholism), geneticists are now almost positive it relates to our different chromosomes - men's XY, women's XX.

So, despite women living longer, why is the sex ratio still skewed towards men? What's causing this imbalance, and what are the social and economic implications of this gap?

CHINA'S GENDER GAP PROBLEM



In 2013, China had 33.8 million more men than women, and the skewed sex ratio was attributed to sex-selective abortion and preference for a male child, as people believe male heirs can ensure their families' bloodline is preserved.

In the marriage squeeze in China, the sex ratio imbalance leaves many males without a marriage partner. More young urban women are also putting off marriage because they can, because they aren't depending on husbands for income, thanks to the fact that the gender pay gap is not pronounced. This has resulted in the excess of 34 million single men who are actively looking overseas - like in Vietnam - for brides.

The male sex ratio is also accounting for the rise in crime among young men, which can theoretically be linked to the adverse marriage market conditions (married men are statistically less likely to commit crimes). The abduction of women for sale as brides is also becoming more common, and the imbalance is fuelling demand for prostitution.



THE FUTURE?

Three generations after sex-selective abortions began, their impact will still be felt. According to the Institute of Development Research, there will be 30% more single men than women by 2050 in India, and by 2055 in China.

By Violet Koh

THE POWER OF CINEMATICS (through the Male Gaze)

HAVE YOU EVER PAID ATTENTION TO THE WAY CAMERAS FIRST INTRODUCE FEMALE CHARACTERS? MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THEY MOVE IN A BOTTOM-UP DIRECTION, REVEALING SLENDER LEGS BEFORE FOLLOWING THE CURVES OF HER BODY UP TO HER PERFECTLY SYMMETRICAL FACE. AND WE WONDER WHY WOMEN SUFFER FROM LOW SELF ESTEEM AND BODY IMAGE ISSUES, THIS IS BUT AN UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF THE MALE GAZE.

WHAT IS THE MALE GAZE?

The Male Gaze refers to how media depicts women through a hetero-sexual man's point of view, where they are presented as passive objects for male pleasure. Coined by one of the most notable film theorists in the world in 1975, Laura Mulvey has accurately portrayed our misogynistic society in which her work is still highly relevant today.

Now, we should mention that women also partake in the Male Gaze. In fact, they project it unto themselves as they are constantly subjected to unrealistic expectations of beauty imposed by popular culture.



THE MALE GAZE

MALE GAZE IN POPULAR CULTURE

Scantly clad, busty chests and curvy bums: we just described Regina George from Mean Girls, Alice from Resident Evil and even Wonder Woman. Be it attending school or fighting evil, they still abide by the less-is-more code when it comes to wearing clothes.

This may or may not come as a shocker, but even Disney is no exception to the Male Gaze. Princess Jasmine wore crop tops before it went into trend and Ariel lives in a seashell bikini top.

We are so desensitised to these images that it would be strange to imagine the situation reversed. Imagine if male superheroes dressed like female ones.



IF MALE SUPERHEROES HAD CURVES LIKE FEMALE SUPERHEROES...



IF MALE SUPERHEROES DRESSED LIKE FEMALE ONES...

IS THERE A FEMALE GAZE?

Indeed there is, and it is not simply the opposite of the Male Gaze. Rather, it adopts a "non-gaze" approach, depicting women as subjects instead of objects. Films that embrace the female gaze include *The Piano* (1993), *The Virgin Suicides* (1999) and *Fish*



TAPPING ON THE FEMALE GAZE

Tank (2009). These movies tap on the audience's auditory senses and visually aesthetic scenes to express feminine point of views.

For example, *The Virgin Suicides* uses warm colour tones such as yellow and salmon, and feminine motifs like flowers and unicorns to portray female juvenility.

WHAT IS...

A MANIC PIXIE DREAM GIRL (MPDG)?

Remember Summer from *500 Days of Summer*? How about Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* (1991)? Defined by Nathan Rabin as a fantasy figure who "exists solely in the fevered imaginations of sensitive writer-directors to teach broodingly soulful young men to embrace life and its infinite mysteries and adventures," a manic pixie dream girl's purpose is to brighten up bitter male characters' lives.

Upon falling in love with Belle, Beast transforms from a cynical furball to an optimistic charming prince while Belle has zero character development. Realistic much?



BELLE THE ULTIMATE MPDG

THE BECHDEL TEST?

Created by Alison Bechdel, it aims to measure how much presence women have in films and other works of fiction.

To pass the test, the film must pass three criteria:

- 1) it has to have at least two women in it,
- 2) who talk to each other, about
- 3) something besides a man

The test may sound simple, but you'll be surprised how many movies do not meet its criteria. *The Avengers*, *Lord of The Rings*, *Avatar*, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*, to name a few.



WHAT DO WOMEN TALK ABOUT BESIDES MEN?



A New Generation of Scientists

WOMEN IN STEM WITH MS JORDAN DEBONO

Meet Ms Jordan Debono, a young research scientist who is part of a new generation of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) working in a field once dominated by men.

She recently took part in the Queensland Women in STEM competition and won the People's Choice Award for her research into snake venom research. Her PhD research project is contributing to an understanding of the human blood system and its interactions with toxins which could lead to the development of new drugs to combat heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

In Australia, women comprise more than half of PhD science graduates and early career researchers, but just 17% of senior academics in Australian universities and research institutes according to the Australian Academy of Science. Only 16% of Australians in STEM professions are women, and make up less than one-fifth of Australians qualified in science, technology, engineering and maths.

As Jordan aptly puts: "There may be more females enrolled in science degrees, however as you go up the professional ranks from masters and PhDs, to post doctorates and fellows, to associate professors and professors, female numbers dwindle."

Women in STEM has also been a hot topic of interest in Singapore with an article in The Straits Times highlighting that "nearly three in 10 research scientists and engineers in Singapore in 2014 were women, according to A*Star statistics. Has this to do with the structure of our education system or is it the work environment that is creating a barrier for females to enter professional STEM jobs?"

A casual interview over coffee with my former university mate, Jordan reveals the challenges faced and rewards gained and what it means to be a woman in STEM. I first met Jordan in one of our final year classes, "Advances in Marine Biology", when we were both in Dr Bryan Fry's lab learning about animal toxins and poisons.

What barriers did you face on your journey from undergraduate research in honours year and what made you decide to take on a PhD project after?

J: The transition from undergraduate studies to my honours project year was probably where I experienced the steepest learning curve. Honours year was where independent learning was emphasised. Many areas such as statistical analyses, experimental planning and proposal writing had to be picked up whilst working on my project and having a say in how the project runs sometimes conflicts with the way supervisors envision it. Ultimately, being open to new ideas, receptive to constructive criticism from peers and seniors as well as having the initiative to ask for help when needed are all really important for overcoming these barriers.

As a young researcher currently in the midst of a PhD, what are some challenges you foresee young women facing as they break into the scientific research field as an early career scientist?

J: Finding a balance between personal goals and career aspirations is a tough decision many women have to face. Whether to leave the science sector and seek a stable job and income to start a family, or continue to pursue a career as a research scientist where job security and income stability may mean delaying starting a family. I have met successful female scientists with young families but they were all backed by husbands with stable jobs and incomes. In the same vein, I have met successful female scientists who have risen in rank and are happy either being single or are with a partner and they both do not want children. It is a personal choice whether to start a family young or to climb the ranks as a senior scientist and establish a family unit later on in life. There are no right or wrong answers as everyone faces different circumstances.

What do you think is the most important character trait in a successful scientist?

J: Persistence and passion. It sounds cliché but if you do what you love and enjoy, then you will be willing to put in the hard yards to accomplish what you set out to achieve. When you face negative criticism or judgement, it should fuel the fire in you and only further motivate you to finish what you started.



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EVENTS

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14-30 JULY 2017



SINGAPORE FOOD FESTIVAL 2017 (SFF)

WHEN: 14 - 30 JUL 2017

WHERE: VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Showcasing Singapore's rich heritage, culture and love for food, the SFF is an annual festival serving local favourites and contemporary dining. The festival's signature event, STREAT, takes place on 14-15 July where local fare will be given a modern twist. Other events include ION Orchard Culinary Creations, Kueh Appreciation Day by Slow Food and Open Stoves by Timbre+.

ENCHANTMENT

28 JUN - 9 SEP

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS 2017 (SIFA)

WHEN: 28 JUN - 9 SEP 2017

WHERE: VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The annual arts festival aims to inspire through great international and Singapore artistic experiences in performance, theatre, dance and music in settings that range from living-room theatres to nature museums. This year's theme is "Enchantment", where it is described as "an antidote against populism, alienation, against excessive rationality and control".

PRODUCTIONS

7-8 Jul 2017 | 8pm
Esplanade Theatre
Tickets: \$35 - \$75

Singapore Dance Theatre: Masterpiece in Motion

1
PAIRS
TIX



Credit: Bernie Ng

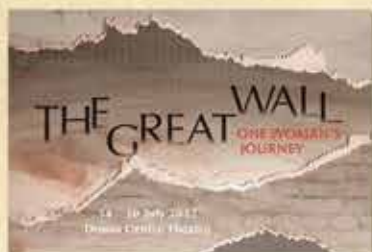
Featuring classic jewel pieces that stands the course of time in SDT's repertoire list, this season showcases fascinating moves by renowned international choreographers. The production will see the company's premiere of The Four Temperaments by George Balanchine, followed by a Premiere by Edwaard Liang, and a restaging of Paquita, choreography after Marius Petipa.

14-15 Jul 2017 | 8pm
Mastercard Theatres,
Marina Bay Sands
Tickets: \$35 - \$75

Disney in Concert: A Dream is a Wish



A multi-media experience performed by talented Broadway-caliber singers, A Dream is a Wish explores memorable moments and feats of heroes and heroines from Frozen, The Little Mermaid, Pocahontas and more. The musical ensemble is directed by multiple award-winning conductor, Jessica Gethin, one of the few female conductors in the male-dominated orchestra pit.



14-30 Jul 2017 | 3pm
Drama Centre Theatre
Tickets: \$68 - \$128

The Great Wall: One Woman's Journey

"No wall too tall, no journey too long, witness the love & courage of Meng Jiang Nü", an unforgettable love story that will touch the hearts of young and old, One Woman's Journey is set in imperial China where a young woman embarks on a brave journey. The production is a musical adaptation of the legend of Meng Jiang Nü - one of China's Four Great Folktales. Not to mention, homegrown singer-songwriter Nathan Hartono will be starring in the show!

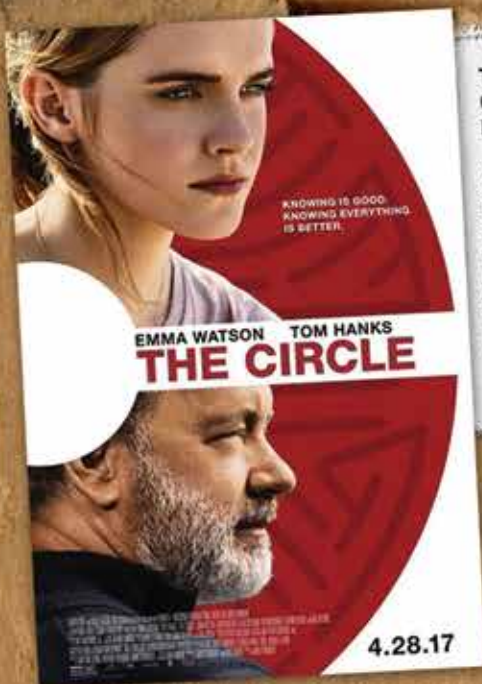


28-29 Jul 2017 | 8pm
Mastercard Theatres,
Marina Bay Sands
Tickets: \$45 - \$135

Voices of the Amazon

Proud to be making its Asian premiere in Singapore, Voices of the Amazon is a passionate dance musical exploring the impact of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and embracing the spirit of Brazil. Featuring an array of ballet, contemporary dances and capoeira, the performance also incorporates sensational music scores with sounds recorded from the Amazon rainforest.

MOVIES



The Circle (July 6)
Cast: Tom Hanks, Emma Watson, Bill Paxton, Patton Oswalt

Mae Holland (Emma Watson) lands her dream job at the world's most powerful social media company, The Circle. Founded by Eamon Bailey (Tom Hanks), he encourages her to participate in a groundbreaking experiment that pushes the boundaries of privacy, ethics and freedom. Her involvement and decisions will soon affect the lives of her friends, family and ultimately, humanity.



Dunkirk (July 20)
Cast: Tom Hardy, Cillian Murphy, James D'Arcy

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Christopher Nolan, the film is based on the historical Dunkirk Evacuation during WWII. Upon being surrounded by the German army, the show follows the perils and evacuation of Allied troops on the beaches of Dunkirk.

GIGS



30 Jun 2017 | 7.30pm
 Grand Theatre
 Tickets: \$128 - \$208
2017 SF9 Be My Fantasy In Singapore

Sensational Feeling 9 (SF9) is a South Korean boy group and FNC Entertainment's first dance boy group. Having debuted on October 5 last year with their album Feeling Sensation, the band has made it to the top five on several music charts. They are embarking on their first tour around the region.



25 May - 30 Jun 2017
 K-Live Sentosa
 Tickets: \$23 - \$29

K-Live Sentosa K-Pop Hologram Theatre 2017

K-live Sentosa features K-pop stars using a dedicated 4D hologram technology, where the audience is able to interact with performers and vice versa. The 40-minute hologram show consists of a dance performance, a magic show and K-Pop concerts by Wonder Girls, 2PM and GOT7. The 'Awake, G-DRAGON' show is a story of how G-DRAGON got his start from a precocious kid to the lead of BIG BANG and being a solo artist.

14 Aug 2017 | 8pm
 The Star Theatre
 Tickets: \$68-\$148

Bastille

After a sold-out show at The Coliseum in 2015 and a rousing performance as part of the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix in 2016, British indie pop act Bastille returns to Singapore. Their Wild World album debuted straight at #1 on the UK charts and gained a spot in the top 50 of NME's Albums of the Year, with catchy singles like 'Good Grief' and 'Send Them Off'.



26 Aug 2017 | 8pm
 National Stadium
 Tickets: \$128-\$238
Foo Fighters

The American rock outfit makes a comeback to our shores after nearly two decades since their last performance, and after cancelling their concert in 2012 due to Dave Grohl's medical condition. Get ready to rock out to anthems like 'All My Life', 'Best of You' and the Grammy-winning track, 'The Pretender'.



Vervet monkey

BLUE BALLS

AND OTHER ANNOYING ISSUES

BY NINA GAN

Hormones. The mere word makes everyone cringe, as it affects each of us in very different, embarrassing ways. However, as nature won't be satisfied until she's weirded us out, some animals go through way weirder experiences.

BLUE BALLS: PRECIOUS FAMILY JEWELS

While some of you guys may have heard of the term 'blue balls', and even fewer of you have actually experienced it, everyone knows how sensitive a pair of gonads are. There's a reason nobody sends photos of them to random people.

On the contrary, male monkeys (like vervets and mandrills), love to advertise their dangly bits – because their family jewels are bright blue in colour – by sitting with their legs spread open. It's a sign of machismo, since the bluer and bigger they are, the more they get swiped right on monkey Tinder. And mothers kick blue-balled juveniles out of their group so they don't inbreed.



Hamster

Turning balls blue isn't the only way hormones advertise their presence. Anyone who's owned hamsters, gerbils or other rodents will notice that males will develop enlarged goolies once in awhile. Larger goolies create more sperm, because to stand out from the rat pack (and get his genes passed on), he needs all the help he can get. This means he has to put up with looking like he's dragging a couple of bowling balls in his sack.

Since we're on the topic of testes, everyone knows the testosterone within is the reason males develop strong breeding instincts. However, for male semelparous animals, sex is a fatal once-in-a-lifetime affair. For example, the antechinus (a marsupial) stores a month's worth of sperm in his gonads and then goes on a breeding rampage until his tank is empty, exhausting him so much that his fur falls off, he bleeds internally, and then he dies.

At least he gets to keep his body intact; when a male drone bee mates, his explosive ejaculation actually rips his penis off (and then he dies).

Too bad these males don't have the skills of the Arctic squirrel – thanks to bitterly cold and long winters, they hibernate by stopping the production of testosterone which shrinks their testicles down. However, that means that every March, they have to go through puberty all over again. Hormones can be a pain in the balls.



Arctic Squirrel

BONY ISSUE: THE PAINFUL GROWTH

Some of you probably grew up experiencing Osgood-Schlatter disease – a common cause of knee pain that occurs during growth spurts when bones, muscles and tendons change rapidly. However, everyone eventually grows out of it, but if you happen to be a male moose, this painful problem lasts a lifetime.

Moose antlers grow an inch a day, during which it's covered with fuzzy (and sensitive) velvet which makes the antlers super painful to the touch. When the antlers are big enough, the velvet is shed,

so you'd think it'd be happy being pain-free. But hormones makes this 600kg beast a masochist, so he goes antler-fencing with other guys during the mating season. After that, the 80lb antlers simply fall off, and the whole antler-growing process begins all over again! Because hormones are sadists, this cycle only ends when the bull is castrated, and he ends up with retarded-looking antlers.

On a side note, some female moose also grow antlers, just like some women have visible chin hairs... because, hormones.



Moose

RELATIONSHIPS: THE CLINGY GUY

While having a clingy partner isn't most people's idea of a relationship goal, some of you have probably been through one or two sticky partners who were hard to shake off. But what if your partner is way more clingy, like a male deep-sea anglerfish?

Anglerfish



You see, when a male deep-sea anglerfish sets his sights on a female (who is much, much larger than he is), he latches onto her and literally becomes part of her – his circulatory system is looped into hers, reducing him to a gonad whose only purpose is to contribute sperm. It's a similar fate for the male Spoonworm, who simply gets sucked into the female's genital chamber where he becomes something like a slow-release sperm tablet.

Perhaps a worse male fate is reserved for the Argonaut octopus, whose sole purpose in life is to simply shoot sperm – via a dart-like penis – into a passing female, and then he dies without ever having contact with the female.

Argonaut Octopus



BIRDS AND BEES: UNUSUAL PATTERNS

You've probably been through sex ed, meaning you probably know that it involves inserting Tab A into Slot B. But in the animal world, there is more than one way to procreate.

Except for some ducks, birds don't actually have penises, so they literally bump uglies; known as cloacas, they are openings that are either filled with semen or eggs.

We all know that hermaphrodites have both sexes within them, but have you heard of gender role reversals? We're not talking about baby-carrying daddy seahorses – we're talking about the neotroglia, a type of lice. The females have penises, and the males have the equivalent of a vagina – the weird thing is, she penetrates him... not to deliver sperm, but to collect it.



Wombat



Seahorse

The neotroglia isn't the only female with a male-like extension – the female spotted hyena has a 'pseudopenis', which can get up to 7 inches long! The weird part is that it isn't used to penetrate at all – to mate, the male has to go through her entire shaft with his own penis (in this case, it's fair to say that size matters). As if that's not bad enough for her, she later has to give birth through this pseudopenis.

Speaking of penises, marsupials are a weird bunch – did you know that the appendage of an adorable male echidna has four heads? Most other male marsupials, like possums and wombats, only have... two heads. The reason is simple: female marsupials have two uteri (and kangaroos have 3 vaginas – it's complicated).

MAN UP

BY ESHWARAN



**THE PROCESS OF
WEAKENING OUR BOYS AND
DEMEANING OUR GIRLS**

IT'S ONLY NORMAL

This situation is all too common, and most people who read this would know someone who has been in this situation. Unfortunately, girls are not spared from this brutal gender-conforming lectures either. They are told to "act like a lady" and be more "ladylike". They are required to be more homely and accept being the weaker gender.

These labels are used by adults from all walks of life: parents at home, teachers in school, coaches in sports teams, community leaders, etc. People use it to get kids to conform to their gender behaviors and expect them to comply. If everyone uses such statements, it must be proven to be useful. So it's only normal that we do it too.



IT'S ONLY NATURAL

Why do people believe you need to behave a certain way? One logical conclusion is that your physical body determines how you should behave and interact with people around you.



Boys need to be strong, physically active, rough and natural-born leaders. They need to take charge in a team, all while showing little to no emotion. They need to suck it up and take one for the team. Because boys are supposed to be tough and strong, they have no reason to cry. They are born to be the physically stronger gender, right? With all the testosterone pumping in their system, why should they show any form of weakness?

Girls, on the other hand, are different. Their bodies were built to start and nurture families. They need to be loving, kind, and soft, to raise children who can be productive members of society. They need to let their 'strong and intelligent' husbands handle money issues. Girls need to learn to be good mothers and wives. They should carry themselves with poise and elegance, with control and dignity. They have no need to fight back – they need to set a good example for their kids and other women.

NURTURING DISORDER

These kids then go on living their lives thinking that such ideals are normal and expected. It has pushed men to bottle up their emotions and feelings, refusing to seek help and ultimately suffering damaging effects to their physical and mental health.

On average, men die younger than women. This is not due to just their jobs but the fact that they avoid seeing doctors when they need to. They prolong treatment for minor ailments that can have drastic effects on the body, and don't speak to a therapist for mental health issues. Before they know it, they have already succumbed to their ailments.

All this to maintain the image that they are strong and unshakable.

Women are not spared from the effects as well. Boys and girls are raised to think that men and women are not equal. That women are more home-bound and family-oriented. That they are too loving and nice to make a good commander and chief. This perception has created a glass ceiling that many women struggle to break. It limits their promotions and prospects, because management feels the job would be suited for a man. Their entire career path is being judged more by their gender than what they can bring to the table.



We need to make a conscious effort to raise kids to be the best version of themselves rather than the ideal form of their gender. We are much more complex than that. We each have our own stories and personalities that make us unique; we should be focusing on that rather than what we have between our legs.

STRESS

RELIEF

Say hello to Alex and Jamie - both gender neutral names with no intention to subsume into a specific role or stereotype. Now, it's up to you to dress them however you'd like, for the craft of cutting paper and fashioning clothes is to be enjoyed - and experimented - by everyone.



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ISSUE 48

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