



ISSUE 58

CAMPUS

MICA (P) 087/07/2018

.SG

Free copy!



FUTURE ISSUE

CAMPUS FRANCE
campusfrance.org **SINGAPORE**

04: The List:
Cute Animals
Going Extinct
14: Out & About
18: Cheat Sheet:
Food Security
21: Stress Relief

Want to see your name somewhere in this mag?

Want to get into the crazy fast-paced world of publishing? If you've got a good grasp of English and you're resourceful, hard-working and passionate, we've got 2 options:

Contributors (ad-hoc)

We are always open to contributors who want to polish their writing skills, or simply want to get their work out there. You can even write for our website blog. Best part is, you don't have to be at the office (unless you want to) to be a contributor. You will, however, have to meet us first in order for you to know some guidelines (yes, we have some) for our contributor programme.

Interested? Send us your CV and portfolio (if you have one). Don't be scared - we don't bite. Apply via email to: [**interns@campus.com.sg**](mailto:interns@campus.com.sg).

[BY LINDSAY WONG]

THE FUTURE OF THE PAST

as seen in Pop Culture

Since the 19th century, science-fiction movies and books have been providing a fascinating window into how people perceive the world of the future, showcasing high-tech inventions that we could only dream of – or so we thought. More often than not, the inventions that we see in movies become a reality as technology continues to advance. So how accurate was pop culture of the past in predicting the future?

{ Devices we use in daily life }

Many high-tech inventions that we see and use in daily life were foreseen by sci-fi movies from the 20th century. For example, smart devices like phones, tablets, and smartwatches can be traced back to 'Dick Tracy' (1931) when he talked to his wristwatch, 'Minority Report' (2002) used touch- and gesture-based interfaces; now, touchscreen capabilities are used on everything from phones to in-flight entertainment.

Many predictions in 'Back to the Future 2' (1989) have come into fruition, including fingerprint and iris scanning to identify people. Voice recognition, talking computers, and virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa were envisioned in '2001: A Space Odyssey' (1968) via 'Hal', the supercomputer, and the Disney film 'Smart House' (1999) which has a house run by a robot called PAT. Video calling technology (like Skype and FaceTime) was utilised in both 'Blade Runner' (1982) and 'Back to the Future 2', where Marty used VR goggles for a video call.

Furthermore, 'The Six Million Dollar Man' (1973) foresaw the invention of bionic and prosthetic limbs, which today have retained people's abilities to walk and move around. Even the internet – the network we can't live without – was actually explained back in 1898 by Mark Twain in his short story 'The London Times of 1904'.

{ Lifestyle of the future today }

Sci-fi movies have also made predictions about the lifestyle that is prevalent today. 'Back to the Future 2' saw flat-screen plasma TVs everywhere, even on billboards. E-books and tablets replacing books were depicted in 'Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' (2005) – these days, Amazon's Kindle has become popular for storing thousands of books in one device. This film, along with the 'Star Trek' franchise, also foresaw instant universal translation, facilitated today by easy-access apps like Google Translate.

Interestingly, three movies predicted the rise of reality TV: 'Real Life' (1979), 'The Running Man' (1987), and 'The Truman Show' (1998). Now, reality TV is a

guilty pleasure for huge audiences, creating reality TV superstars like the Kardashians and Jenners.

Many sci-fi fiction also feature AI in the guise of robots. The animated film 'The Jetsons' (1961) used robot vacuum cleaners like Roomba. With robots came automation – 'Back to the Future 2' predicted that robots would take over jobs; this is partially true, as self-checkout counters are replacing cashiers at supermarkets today. In the military, drones are regularly utilised and robots deliver machine guns and grenades when necessary – this scenario was foreseen by 'Short Circuit' (1986) and 'The Terminator' (1984).

{ Technologies that could become reality }

Sci-fi films have predicted technologies so advanced that some are still under development; however, some could become achievable in the near future. While actual levitating hoverboards like those in 'Back to the Future 2' don't quite exist yet, some companies are on their way to making them a reality, including Arcboard and Lexus Slide. Full body scanners were predicted by 'Total Recall' (1990), and while they are commonly used in airports for security scans, they are not as advanced as what we saw in the film yet.

'The Jetsons', 'Total Recall', and 'Blade Runner' envisioned flying cars, and although we don't see cars in the sky, Terrafugia Transition Roadable Aircraft and Lilium Jet have already had successful flights – but, they are not consumer ready just yet. Similarly, 'Total Recall' predicted self-driving cars, with Tesla and Google leading the charge towards autonomous vehicles today.

It's clear that science fiction does a good job at predicting future tech – life does imitate art too. They have already predicted technology that we use in daily life, as well as tech trends and the rise of AI. So, the next time you watch a movie and laugh at some bizarre invention, don't be surprised if you see it come to fruition in your lifetime.



Dead Tongues

The future of language

BY EVAN SEE

In the next 80 years, an estimated 3,000 languages will disappear. Sure, most of them are barely used in everyday conversations. Some only have a few speakers who live thousands of kilometres apart. With just 10 of the world's estimated 7,097 languages accounting for half the world's population, the preservation of endangered languages doesn't seem urgent to many.

Why do languages die?

Languages die for various reasons. One is globalisation, where urbanisation forces linguistic minorities to assimilate into more dominant language cultures, while migration could result in their descendants abandoning traditional languages. Government policies have forced diverse communities to adapt to a single national language. Elsewhere, rising sea levels could displace communities like those in the linguistically-diverse islands of Melanesia.

Language can be seen as a dynamic, constantly evolving product of culture and society, which changes fluidly to suit the communicative needs of speakers. Therefore, if a language goes extinct due to lack of function, some may argue that there was no real need for it to exist. British academic Kenan Malik believes language preservation is a "reactionary, backward-looking vision", comparing those who cling to endangered languages to someone "sulking on a rock" rather than "want[ing] to join modernity".

So is it worth preserving languages that no one speaks because of cultural shifts?

What if these shifts result from enforced assimilation or genocide? Like the French government's vergonha policies against the Occitan language? Or the Ladino-speaking Sephardic Jews in Europe who either died or were displaced by the Holocaust? Linguists believe that most endangered languages are endangered because of external factors like forced migration, ethnic persecution or government efforts to repress languages. Around 250 languages existed among Australian aboriginals before British colonialism; now all but 13 of them are highly endangered. Preserving languages isn't about resisting change – it's about entire cultures keeping their place in history after years of being driven towards extinction.

Preserving History

Many languages have features that uniquely convey specific cultures. The matriarchal Musuo people lack a word for rape, while the Tuvan people use the phrase *khaj özeeri* to

to its previously undiscovered hibernation habits on the seafloor. Soon, the possibility of such discoveries happening could become much lower.

What does the future hold

As you may have guessed by now, the future of endangered languages is rather bleak. What then is being done?

Many governments have implemented policies for language conservation. Schools have been established for Hawaiian language immersion in Hawaii, while the Scottish government has implemented plans to increase Gaelic lessons in schools and promote Gaelic media.

Additionally, technology has given us hope. While preserving languages in the past could only be done by teaching or writing, it's now possible to harness languages in digital forms. Wikitongues is compiling oral archives on Youtube and developing translation tools for thousands of languages.

Language-learning site Duolingo has released Navajo lessons, making a once-declining Native American language more accessible to learners, giving hope that rarer languages could soon achieve greater accessibility.

However, technology isn't always the key. With the majority of the digital space built using English or the Latin script, there isn't always a way for written language to be preserved online. And what about languages that don't exist in written form? It's been estimated that only 5% of languages can be reproduced digitally, making it harder to preserve them, while encouraging native speakers to abandon them for a language they can read on a smartphone.

Will we really lose half our linguistic traditions in the next century? Or will we do enough to slow the loss of human history? The future looks uncertain. Perhaps one day, the fight against language extinction can be just as ubiquitous as the fight against wildlife extinction.



refer to slaughtering sheep in a merciful, humane, almost remorseful way. It's long been established that the way people think is influenced by their language, and the loss of language would remove an understanding of a culture that cannot simply be translated into English.

Sometimes, preserving years of cultural history may seem like a romantic ideal that only concerns historians. But this isn't just for history's sake. The Cornish language of southwest England went extinct in the 18th century, but recent efforts to revive the language have greatly strengthened the Cornish people's identity and culture, with the UK government recognising their minority status in 2014.

As a language dies, the knowledge a culture has accumulated for years and passed down through generations dies also. It's the loss of yet another source of information that linguists and anthropologists bemoan. The name for the Green Sea Turtle in the Seri language of indigenous Mexico, *moasni hant coolit*, or "green turtle that descends", alerted scientists

THE LIST

CUTE ANIMALS THAT
WILL BE EXTINCT

BY LINDSAY WONG

The world is experiencing the sixth mass extinction of animals, which is largely driven by human activity - for the first time in history. The previous five extinctions happened due to natural disasters. Deforestation, poaching, habitat loss, and disease are some of the reasons why species are dying off. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature predicts that 99.9% critically endangered species will be gone in the next 100 years. Unfortunately, this means future generations will never see some of the cutest animals we have today.

PIKA

Pika are tiny rodents notable for their high-pitched mating call, with the variety of species found in the high mountain areas of North America and North Asia. Due to climate change, the increasing temperatures will make their natural habitat uninhabitable as they're sensitive to heat. One species - the Ili Pika - has less than 1,000 individuals left.



AYE AYE

Native to Madagascar, the aye aye is the world's largest nocturnal primate with bright eyes, long middle finger, and bushy tail. In addition to habitat loss, their numbers are fast declining because of a Malagasy legend - as symbols of death, they are killed on sight because the mere appearance of one is said to predict death.

SAND CATS

Sand cats are small, chubby felines (as small as domesticated cats) with big ears and short limbs. It's the only cat species found in the sandy deserts of northern Africa and central Asia - it can live without water and run on shifting sand. Their numbers are declining due to habitat loss as well as hunting which is fueled by the wild pet trade.



SEA OTTERS

Found mostly in North America, these cuties, known for their adorable "skincare routine" of rubbing their eyes and face in viral videos, are sadly under a lot of threat because their habitat - the ocean - is being degraded by climate change and pollution (i.e. oil spills), in addition to human disturbance (i.e. hunting) and disease.



MEXICAN AXOLOTL

Only found in Mexico's Lake Xochimilco, the Mexican axolotl are strange and unique-looking salamanders that remain in larval form throughout their lives. Despite the fact that this weird creature can actually regenerate its body parts, fewer than 1,200 axolotls exist today because their only habitat is one of Mexico's main sources of water.



SOLENOTODON

This unusual and highly poisonous but cute mammal with an elongated snout has been around since the dinosaurs, but they won't survive for much longer. They are found in the Caribbean Islands and are often eaten by locals. Furthermore, their natural habitats are facing environmental deterioration.



LANGUR CHATO

Langur chato (aka Golden Snub Nosed Monkeys) live in the mountainous regions - up to 13,000 feet in elevation - of Asia, particularly in Burma, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. These cute primates are only around 40 to 80 cm tall and their population is decreasing because their habitat is subject to increased deforestation.



QUOKKA

You might know of quokkas because of their spontaneous appearances in smiling selfies, which has become a trend in Australia. These social creatures (they aren't afraid of approaching humans) are marsupials that are mostly found in the southwest region of Australia. Their survival is threatened by bushfires and habitat loss.



TECH, SOCIAL MEDIA AND POLITICS

THE FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT

BY DARRYL GOH

You hesitate to open your Facebook app; you have seen many political posts during your last session and comment wars which are energy-draining to read. A distant relative of yours likes to share 'news articles' from dubious websites which somehow always lands up on top of your Twitter feed. You shudder and realise that your social media feeds are now toxic.

Welcome to social media in 2019, or at least that is the grim picture which many governments are trying to paint of your online experience this year. Let us see how technology has changed the political world.

THE TWEETER-IN-CHIEF

No politician plays social media to his advantage more than the current POTUS, Donald Trump. His wacky antics online have earned him warranted notoriety, but his supporters seem to never get enough of it. 'Covfefe' and calling himself a 'very stable genius' are touted as his best/worst tweets, depending on who you ask. Count on right-wing trolls and Russian bots to use memes such as Pepe the Frog to draw the echo chamber with applause after every tweet.

President Obama's campaign was revolutionary in design and branding in politics. President Trump's campaign would be remembered for being one of the most dysfunctional yet effective ones, where making controversial statements online would result in a media firestorm - ultimately yielding

2 billion dollars' worth of free media coverage. Coupled with fake news and advertisements allegedly paid for by Russia to sway the election, it was a powerful combination which eventually paved the way for Trump to win the Presidential race.

POLITICIANS #CONNECTING WITH US ONLINE

Trump may be the most notable politician on social media, but he is not the only one with a huge online following. Recently elected Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez boasts over 2 million followers on Twitter and Instagram. As the youngest ever U.S. Representative elected to Congress, this millennial uses online lingo comfortably and with pride, setting her apart from her older, less tech-savvy colleagues. She uses Instagram Stories to share her journey from being a grassroots activist to attending congress 'freshmen orientation', and it connects well with young voters. Her feisty tweets are sharp and concise, breaking down complicated issues to bite-sized pieces for the new generation of voters with shorter attention spans to understand.

Back at home, prominent politicians on social media include PM Lee Hsien Loong, who is the sixth most-followed Singaporean on Twitter, and Tampines GRC MP Baey Yam Keng with over 20,000 Instagram followers. With such a follow count, it can be said that Mr Baey is a mini-celebrity of sorts, posting selfies regularly and keeping in touch with online trends, most recently participating in the #10yearchallenge.

When two-time presidential hopeful Tan Cheng Bock announced that he would be founding a new political party and contesting in the next General Election, he simply let Singaporeans know on Facebook. This generated waves of media attention and sparked debate on local online communities - all this without a press conference (yet).

GAMIFYING LIFE

By 2020, China intends to implement the Social Credit System, one of the most ambitious technological projects ever. By harvesting data from the Internet, the Chinese Government would issue you a score which determines the amount of freedom you have. A low credit score would mean that you would not be able to send your child to a top school, apply for a loan or even travel. Something as common as jaywalking can cause your credit score to drop, thanks to the millions of surveillance cameras recognising your face and analysing your actions.

With a population so reliant on the Internet to complete the simplest tasks, nothing would escape the Government's watchful gaze as websites are forced to submit user data for credit score computation. Big Brother is literally watching your every move.

Technology has brought us many wonderful joys, but it may be time to re-evaluate and re-examine if technology, when used for political agendas, is a win for humanity.

PLAYGROUNDS: NOW VS. THEN

BY LYDIA TAN

Playgrounds formed a big part of our childhood lives, maybe even stretching as far back to our parents' generation. However, these days, traditional playgrounds are being deserted or demolished and parents are turning to indoor playgrounds and play gyms to get their kids off their screens to get some active playtime. How have playgrounds changed over the years and why are indoor playgrounds so popular now?

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH INDOOR PLAYGROUNDS?

It might seem quite counter-intuitive considering most indoor playgrounds and play gyms require a paid entry fee, so why are parents willing to pay money when they can easily let their kids play for free at a traditional playground? One reason could be the more assured safety indoor playgrounds offer. Indoor playgrounds are often equipped with padded pillars and floors so there is a lower risk of their child getting cuts or scrapes while playing. The fact that these playgrounds are indoors and mostly air-conditioned also means kids can play comfortably whether rain or shine.

Another reason could be that because indoor playgrounds are often located in malls, they are convenient for families. Parents can sometimes leave their kids there to play for an hour or two while they go off to shop or when they need a break. Most indoor playgrounds have staff present as well, so parents can feel a bit more assured that their children are getting adult supervision.

However, another unique aspect of indoor playgrounds is that they are not just built for kids anymore. Places like Bounce and SuperPark are catered to both the young and young at heart. This opens up a whole new market for youths or anyone looking to bring out their inner child and have some fun.

PLAYGROUNDS NOW, THEN, AND THE FUTURE

Playgrounds are not only a symbol of our childhood but also of our nation's heritage and culture. Through playgrounds, we can see how our country has developed and evolved over the years. The types of playgrounds over time also reflect what defines "fun" for children; in the past, we were content with a simple slide-and-swing set for hours, but kids these days need something more to entertain them.

The evolution of playgrounds highlights a trend of "helicopter parents" shielding their kids from the risks of injury from playing outdoors, making them more "soft". Experts strongly advocate the developmental benefits of letting kids "rough it out" by playing outside, such as increased psychomotor and cognitive skills.

However, the technological advancements of the future could potentially give rise to virtual or more digitally interactive playgrounds that will completely revolutionise the indoor playground industry, and the thrill of playing outdoors may be completely lost on the kids of tomorrow. We can only hope that those old playgrounds don't just stay as nostalgic reminders of our heritage but can still be enjoyed by future generations of kids.

THE EVOLUTION OF SINGAPORE'S PLAYGROUNDS

Some of Singapore's earliest playgrounds go as far back as the 1920s-1930s, but the 1970s was when we saw a growth in more unique playgrounds designed by former HDB designers like Khor Ean Chee and Maria Boey, including the iconic Toa Payoh dragon playground. These playground concepts drew inspiration from local identities and the area's history; for example, Tampines' history as an orchard inspired its fruit-themed playground.

In the 1990s, safety became a concern and new standards were set, including replacing sand beds with the rubber flooring we see today, and many of the traditional terrazzo mosaic playgrounds were removed.

Today, we still see a lot of playgrounds in our neighbourhoods and housing estates, but they lack some of the traditional elements you might see in old-school playgrounds; for example, swings and see-saws are rarely seen and merry-go-rounds have been slowly phased out. These changes were made according to the safety standard for public play equipment enforced in 1999, known as SS 457. That said, it doesn't mean modern playgrounds are no longer fun and innovative; take the Admiralty Park playground for example, touted as Singapore's biggest slide park, boasting 26 slides at varying lengths and heights.



BY EVAN SEE

WHY WE SHOULD ABSOLUTELY NOT COLONISE MARS

Mars has been the subject of human fascination for centuries. The idea of life on Mars has been romanticised by many who gaze into the sky, pondering the great unknown. After conquering space travel and reaching the moon, it seems like a natural progression for us to one day inhabit another planet.

The atmosphere on Mars is 0.1% oxygen, and has 50 times less pressure than the peak of Mt. Everest. Temperatures can drop to -87°C, meaning a human settlement would require a habitable zone with extensive life support systems. The extreme conditions on Mars are well-documented, and the possibilities of building a habitable infrastructure have also been discussed. As technology improves, the plausibility of us colonising Mars in future is only likely to increase.

But the question is, should we? Here's why colonising Mars is actually a terrible idea.

IT'S JUST TOO UNETHICAL

One important ethical question that must be asked about the colonisation of Mars explores the potential impacts on children born on the planet.

Gravity on Mars is 38% of that on Earth, and there is evidence to suggest that low gravity could harm the development of a foetus. Furthermore, strong solar radiation and cosmic rays pepper its surface. While we have developed shielding for astronauts against this radiation, we don't know how they could affect the development of a child. It may already be hard enough to find a group of pioneers willing to start a human settlement on Mars – they would have to brave the extreme conditions and the endless difficulties of survival in the Martian wilderness. The long-term effects of living in such an astronomically different environment remain unknown. The first settlers might be volunteers who understand these risks, but what about the children who are eventually born into these risks? Who decides that they should be born there instead of on Earth?

THE EXTINCTION ARGUMENT

Elon Musk's SpaceX programme is also frequently referenced in conversations regarding the colonisation of Mars. He's suggested that it could be key to preserve our species should a catastrophic event like WWII happen. There are two problems with this thinking.

The first is that if a colony on Mars were to be the future of humanity, it would have to be self-sustaining, without support from a now-decimated Earth. This isn't realistic. The high-tech equipment we would need to sustain life aren't feasible to build using the resources found on Mars, due to the presumed absence of fossil fuels, and the difficulty in finding 'rare-Earth' metals and other raw materials needed to sustain such equipment. It goes without saying that the hunter-gatherer lifestyle isn't an option either.

The second is that perpetuating the narrative of a possible 'escape route' to Mars isn't healthy. That suggests the idea of a fallback plan that we can rely on should we fail to preserve the Earth. Or in other words, we don't need to take care of the Earth because eventually scientists will 'figure something out'.

IT'S JUST NOT WORTH THE PRICE

The problems we have to work out regarding the colonisation of Mars makes us question if we should get it started in the first place.

For one, there is the literal price we will have to pay. NASA's Curiosity Rover, which landed on Mars in 2012 cost US\$2.5 billion. The Dutch private organisation Mars One estimates its first mission to Mars to cost US\$6 billion. How much would it cost for repeated missions necessary to establish and maintain a habitat there?

The metaphorical price presents itself when we wonder if we are just exporting our problems on Earth to another world.

For instance, if we were able to tap the resources like metal ores found on Mars, it raises questions like whether the country that funded the mission would own those resources. Assuming only a superpower like the US or China could fund it, would it be fair to give them control of how a Mars habitat is run and governed? Politics on Earth is complicated as it is. When the lives of people in a hazardous environment like Mars are at risk, the problems we have on Earth would take on much higher stakes.

Our failure to preserve and protect the environment of the Earth we live on is no secret. How can we, the species who ravaged the Earth, be expected to preserve a whole new planet?

Mars will always be a part of our fascination with the mystery of space. Rather than see it as the manifest destiny of the future, maybe we should first answer the questions we have on our Earth at present. Perhaps only then are we deserving of the right to think about Mars.



BY YIN LOON

GHOSTS IN THE SHELL

LESSONS OF THE FUTURE
WE LEARN FROM JAPAN

Japan seems to be living in the future now – with their technological advancement and innovative minds, they have given us new ways to do everything from using toilets to interacting with pop idols. They built futuristic cities, created innovative tech, and mandated exercise drills at offices to keep their staff healthy. It seems like a good working model of a country that's future-proof – a model that many other countries are trying to emulate.

Not only does Japan have toilets that wash your behind and check your health (measuring blood

pressure, urine, and body fat), it even plans to build an elevator to space by 2050. But even under the shiny veneer of this high-tech paradise, the society itself is still holding onto outmoded notions of patriarchy and conformity.

Already cracks are showing, and if other countries are fast catching up to Japan's version of modernism, then perhaps it could well serve as a case study for what the future holds for other nations.

SUPER-AGED: DIE ALONE OR BECOME A CRIMINAL

These days, many Japanese tend to live way into their 80s or more. According to the WHO, Japan is the world's most 'super-aged society' because it has over 27.7% of people over 65.

With the elderly population on the rise, so too is the rise of cases where elderly people die alone, in a phenomenon known as *kodokushi*. It's estimated that there are about 4,000 *kodokushi* deaths a week – some bodies aren't discovered until months later, when either their pension runs out, or when nearby residents notice an odour. Even when they're dead and cremated, their ashes often remain unclaimed.

Most of these lonely elderly either don't have family, are estranged, or choose to live alone to avoid burdening their families. *Kodokushi* often takes place in cities – especially in 'new towns' built for a generation of workers – where many of the population moved to during the 60s to 80s. This is because people are naturally drawn to the city where opportunities lie; compare the rise in elderly population between rural and cosmopolitan areas – Tokyo's is projected to be over 300,000 (2.5%), while comparatively rural Akita's is just over 9,000 (6%) between 2015 and 2025.

Modern life, it seems, is the cause of *kodokushi*.

Feelings of loneliness and financial hardship suffered by the elderly sometimes lead them to commit petty crime – just so that they can go to prison where they can fulfill their needs. The number of elderly prisoners rose from 19% of the prison population in 2000 to about 60% in 2006, prompting the government to build prisons with facilities to cater to them.

Many prisoners are repeat offenders, simply because they prefer living in a prison where they have a job, regular meals, and company. More women tend to commit crimes, even if

they have a roof over their heads – some have children or a husband at home. It's the feeling of being appreciated and cared for – rather than being invisible in the household – that makes them return. The rise in elderly population certainly raises issues for a government that's struggling to cover the pensions of this long-lived generation. Even the theft of a ¥200 sandwich could mean a ¥8.4 million tax bill for a 2-year sentence. Couple this with the fact that the elderly could suffer from dementia while holding onto securities worth ¥150 trillion by 2035 – with their assets frozen, it could stop economic growth.

RISE OF THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION

The world's elder population is estimated to grow from 8.5% today to nearly 17% by 2050. In the rush to create a utopian world for the future generation, Japan is not the only country to seem to have forgotten to consider the impact of those in the previous generations whose lives are now prolonged by modern ingenuity.

In Singapore, it's estimated that 83,000 elderly persons will be living alone by 2030, compared to 47,000 in 2016. While Singapore's elderly poor are not short of assistance schemes like rental waivers or medical subsidies, they suffer a similar Japanese problem: social isolation due to failing health and mental illness. One in five elderly people in Singapore aged 75 and above show signs of depression, and with a stigma against mental illness, many such elderly folks in Singapore – like in Japan – are "forgotten by society".



WOMEN'S WOES: PLUNGING BIRTH RATE



Japan's population is decreasing fast. In 2017, more people died than babies were born – by 400,000 people. Japan's shrinking population woes began in 2010, and by now it has shrunk by about 1.3 million people. The Japanese Statistics Bureau estimates that their population will fall to just over 100 million by 2050 from around 127 million today.

The decline is down to two factors: less Japanese women are choosing to have children, and the government's aversion to immigrants.

Since the 1990s, Japan's government has enacted a number of not-so-successful programmes to help create young families, including reducing childcare costs and forcing companies to adopt family-friendly policies. These plans do not address an age-old patriarchal system – husbands are expected to work till late, while wives are expected to run the household. But even with more and more women getting higher education and jobs, the wife's role hasn't changed.

Unfortunately, working mothers – no matter how qualified, capable or willing – still don't have much opportunity for career advancement, hindered by the men in upper management. This not only holds back an economy that's struggling with labour shortages, but also blocks mothers from higher-paid jobs that could help out with childcare costs.

Another hindrance to their ambitions is the disproportionate burden women shoulder at home, thanks to rigid domestic

gender roles (Japanese men contribute the least to household chores and childcare compared to the world's wealthiest nations).

Women also bear the blame of rising social security costs due to the country's declining population – ironic considering that there should be a father in the picture. However, the situation isn't helped by the rise of singles, both men and women; a 2016 government survey suggested that almost half of Japan's single millennials (aged 18 to 34) are still virgins.

SHRINKING POPULATION IS A GLOBAL ISSUE

Many developed nations – Singapore included – are also seeing lower birth rates of late, prompting governments such as ours to enact family-friendly policies, from baby bonuses to government-paid leave. But like Japan, none of the schemes address the traditional gender roles – simply look at all the advertisements which focus solely on women being the sole caretaker.

At least Singapore's open immigration policy allows it to address the population shortage in the short term – unlike in Japan, where even with recently relaxed immigration rules, few foreigners are offered permanent residency due to Japan's inclination to preserve a homogeneous society.

HIKIKOMORI AND SOCIAL ISOLATION

HIKIKOMORI SPREADING WORLDWIDE

Before discounting the *hikikomori* as a Japanese problem, know that their situation stems from issues many modern societies face today: overprotective parenting, social pressure to conform, addiction to technology, and the stigma of mental illness.

In the last decade, there's been a rise of recluses in South Korea, with numbers around 200,000; Korean rapper Bang Yong-guk even released a single about them called "*Hikikomori*". In Italy, the over 100,000 hermits aged 14 to 25 refuse any kind of human contact, leading only online lives. In fact, the *hikikomori* syndrome is estimated to affect 1.6% of youth globally, especially in Asian cities like Singapore, which has a similar modern society to Japan.

Hermits are often thought to comprise a group of people from a demographic that's mainly old and (sometimes) crazy, and shun human contact to live in a metaphorical cave. However in Japan, there are at least half a million people living as modern-day hermits, aged between 17 and 25.

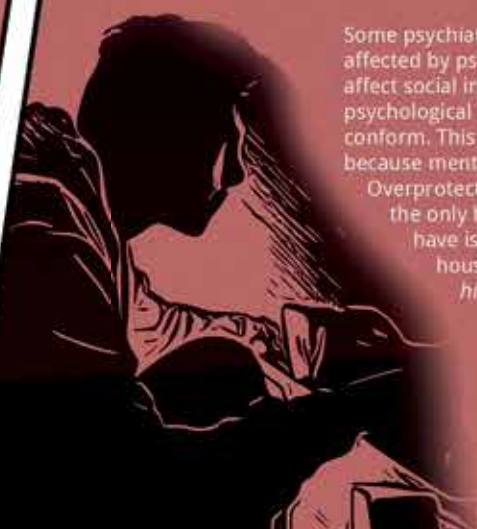
Known as *hikikomori*, these recluses withdraw from all social contact and often don't leave their houses for years at a time. This phenomenon isn't new – many *hikikomori* are now in their 40s, having lived as hermits for over 20 years. Most of these are 'school refusers' who shun going to school out of fear or anxiety, caused by factors like bullying and the pressure to conform.

Ironically, with the advent of technology and the internet, *hikikomori* are finding it easier to disconnect with the world. Internet addiction, particularly video gaming, actually takes up a large proportion of a *hikikomori*'s time.

Some psychiatrists suggest that *hikikomori* may be affected by psychological disorders like autism that affect social integration, which lead to strong levels of psychological distress due to Japan's tendency to conform. This suggests that people become shut-ins because mental illness is shunned by society.

Overprotective parenting is another factor, since the only human connection most *hikikomori* may have is their parents, who often still feed and house them. In fact, Japan has coined *hikikomori* "the 2030 Problem" – a time when they are in their 60s and their parents begin to die.

Japan's race to the future has unexpected side effects; it has basically sacrificed aspects of humanity – like apathy and social connection – in order to be a vision of tomorrow. Perhaps in order to map out a blueprint of a better metropolis, we must hold onto that human connection to avoid becoming a literal ghost in the shell.



How Fashion is Transforming

by Evan See

Sure, roll your eyes at the title. As if fashion hasn't been changing for decades. But in the near future, fashion could evolve so dramatically that it'll seem unfamiliar to even the most up-to-date fashionistas. The fashion world is becoming more inundated with advancements designed to redefine the way we experience clothing.

Trendy Tech

Gone are the days when fashion trends were defined by a few couture houses. Now, it can be set by anyone from reality TV stars to Instagram influencers.

As a result, artificial intelligence (AI) and big data are strutting into trend forecasters' offices as they decide which designs will sell in upcoming lines, by analysing social media buzz, customer purchase history, and even political polls. In 2018, WGSN, the largest international fashion forecaster, announced using AI in forecasting alongside traditional methods to sift through massive databases to reveal patterns that humans simply cannot identify.

This means a lot to fashion – the costs of trend-spotting errors aren't small. In 2018, H&M revealed a US\$4.3 billion stock of unsold clothes. With AI to reduce errors, the industry could improve with less waste and more efficiency.



WGSN's use of AI and big data in trend forecasting



Ministry of Supply heat jacket

Shima Seiki knitting machine

Sewbo by Software Animation

Automation in Manufacturing

Fashion chains worldwide have been criticised for underpaying and overworking their workers, but more technology in manufacturing could reduce these unethical labour policies. While machines have been used to cut fabrics for years, robots are still largely unable to manipulate materials that aren't rigid (like soft, stretchy fabrics), but technology is inching us closer towards automated sewing lines.

The company SoftWear Animation is developing "sewbots" that use vacuum grippers to intricately manoeuvre fabrics. Another system, Sewbo, uses water-soluble thermoplastics to temporarily stiffen fabrics, creating the world's first robotically-sewn garment – a t-shirt – in 2015. Japanese company Shima Seiki has developed automated knitwear machines for brands like Uniqlo and Prada.

Many consider fashion to be a modern art form, which still requires a human touch that technology cannot replace. Sure, we don't have robots that can replicate the daring extravagance of Gianni Versace or the classy elegance of Tom Ford, but with the industry's controversy surrounding labour practices or environmental footprint, some change might be welcome. The future of fashion certainly looks headed in the right direction.

All-New Retail Stores

If you thought online shopping had revolutionised fashion retail, think again. Technology could make it even more incredible.

Recently, augmented reality (AR) technology is emerging in stores like Urban Outfitters, where bluetooth beacons connect with consumers' smartphones, personalising offers and recommendations based on their tastes. Zara recently incorporated AR into US stores, swapping traditional mannequins for a smartphone app displaying models in various outfits when pointed at sensors.

However, AR isn't just for funky store gimmicks, it can also influence buying choices. In 2017, GAP unveiled the pilot app "DressingRoom", which allowed users to envision clothing sizes on different body types, virtually "trying on" clothes. Stores like Timberland and Topshop have featured motion-sensing "mirrors", using cameras to display a virtual image of customers in different outfits.

Smart Design

The nature of clothes themselves is also transforming, and the way designers approach designing will be vastly different in future.

Smart fashion is on the rise. American startup Ministry of Supply has developed a jacket that responds to temperature changes using built-in thermometers and carbon-fibre heating pads. A group from RMIT University have developed a self-cleaning textile that uses nanostructures to break down organic matter like food or grime. In fact, there's already a variety of smart clothes in the market now that do everything from correcting your yoga form to monitoring sun damage.

While these high-tech garments may not seem plausible in everyday fashion, you may already be wearing them – science and fashion have interwoven seamlessly for a while now; there's GoreTex in waterproof shoes which comprises thermo-mechanically expanded Teflon, or Uniqlo's Heattech, where air-trapping fibres as thin as rayon provide the warmth of a woollen sweater. These would've sounded unimaginable twenty years ago.

Even the creative process of designing is changing. Amazon recently developed AI software that designs original pieces through machine-learning by referencing existing garments. Dutch designer Iris van Herpen is rocking the industry by blending technology with high fashion, using innovative techniques like 3D-printing, laser cutting and parametric design (using algorithms to create intricate details), and unconventional materials like metal and silicone. With more designers redefining fashion's boundaries, there's no telling how different fashion could be in future.

Iris Van Herpen "Micro Dress"

BY IAN FOO

HUMANITY IN THE FUTURE WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE

Our world in times of antiquity was once ravaged by famine, plague and other virulent diseases that killed people in the millions and even wiped out entire populations. Human life expectancy used to be between 30 to 40 years of age. Today, stronger diplomatic ties between nations, a steady boost to agriculture, and the blossoming of technology has enabled humans to lead comfortable lives well into their 70s and 80s.

DEATH AT ITS PEAK 1

Generations ago, our ancestors were ill-equipped in dealing with deadly epidemics as their deteriorating effects were beyond their comprehension or scientific understanding. A chain of natural disasters and events leading to famine starved many to death, leaving our more fortunate ancestors reeling from the horrific affliction with no clue as to how and why it happened. Death to them was a mystified horror, an "unexplained science", or to the pious – a punishment from above.

The Black Death that emerged from central Asia and swept through Europe during the 1330s claimed the lives of 75 to 200 million people worldwide. The smallpox virus in the 1500s and more recently, the Spanish flu in the early 1900s continued to claim millions of lives. An unusually dry year in 1783 in Northern India dubbed the "Chalisa Famine" killed approximately 11 million people. Such large-scale catastrophes in our recorded history have threatened to impede human evolution.



2 PRESENT DAY

Fast forward a couple of hundred years later, and a new generation brings along a new set of problems. More people today suffer health issues stemming from overeating instead of undereating. Half of humankind is prophesied to be overweight by 2030 and sugar, which was once only available to the wealthy, is earmarked as the next most common thing that will kill you.

Our present day situation of relative peace and prosperity means fewer people die from war, famine or poverty. People instead lead sedentary lifestyles, spending more time sitting down than exercising that inevitably increases the risks of having cancer and heart disease in the future.

Over the years, technology has also been instrumental in benefitting and transforming human life in a myriad of ways.

Most importantly, technology has allowed for the creation of proper medical infrastructures that oversee and continues to oversee improvements to areas like hygiene, vaccinations and antibiotics – all of which have managed to help prevent, cure and contain the spread of deadly viruses. As a result, despite the more recent deadly viruses like SARS, bird flu, swine flu, and ebola still claiming lives, the number of fatalities were nowhere near the region of those recorded in the past.

Should famine strike again, technological advancements on the communication and transportation front have allowed those affected swifter access to food and medical aid. Recent famines have been a result of poor governance and implementations of radical ideologies rather than natural disasters.

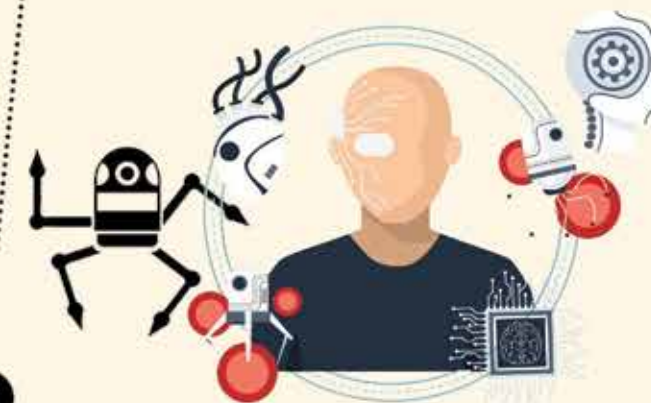
FUTURE TECHNOLOGY 3

Technology has also helped humans lead a longer and healthier life and will continue to advance. The fight against cancer will potentially make significant headway in the future, with the creation of nano-robots programmed to flow through our bloodstream and undertake a bad blood cell cleansing mission of the body. Bold and ambitious medical startups are trying to delay death by studying tissue and organ regeneration in a bid to prolong human life.

With continuous technological improvements, we can potentially increase human lifespan but at the same time, spawn new problems like overpopulation and a shortage of resources. In addition, inflation and climate change will be the biggest issues humans face in the future.

Future problems are however, not insurmountable. Humans have so far proven more than capable in dealing with obstacles and it is everyone's firm belief that they will continue to do so when faced with future ones.

Our generation, like every generation, improves the next and we all ultimately occupy a specific place in the chronicles of human evolution. A study of human's development has shown that technology has transformed and will continue to transform us for the better. It is not a daft notion to think humans can one day live up till the age of 150, especially since our ancestors never thought humans could live up till the age of 80.



The Future of Medicine is Now

BY EVAN SEE

MEDICAL MARVELS FOR EVERYDAY AILMENTS

Thinking about the future of medicine may bring up images of DNA sequencing or nanotechnology, but the truth is we're already seeing the wonders of technology in medicine today. While we can now print organs and dissolve cataracts using eye-drops, a long line of coughing patients or an IV needle up your arm still awaits you on a trip to the clinic or A&E.

However, recent advances in medtech mean that many futuristic-sounding medical procedures may become more commonplace in the near future – and these aren't just for the serious illnesses. These four medical technologies could become everyday healthcare norms very soon:

1 BIONIC LENSES

We've seen how LASIK has revolutionised corrective eye surgery since the 90s. But have you thought about what it would be like to have an electronic lens implanted into your eye, correcting vision problems and avoiding the side-effects of laser surgery?

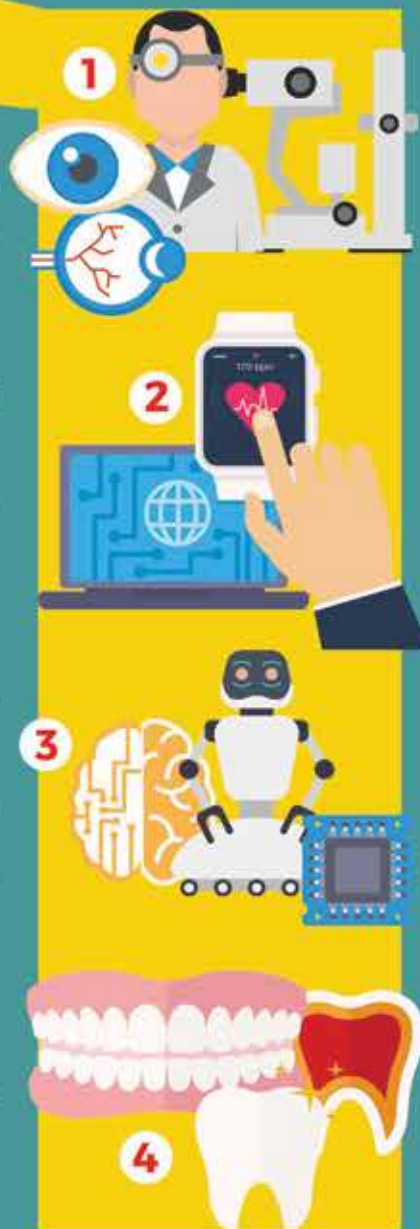
Optometrics Technology Corporation is currently testing a "Bionic Lens", which claims to let myopic users see three times better than 20/20 vision. These lenses could even incorporate features like projecting a smartphone screen or sharing your PCV, with others. Optometrics further claims to be able to artificially manipulate the lens into focus as our eyes get older, eliminating the impact of long-sightedness as we age.

3 AI DOCTORS

Don't laugh just yet – we aren't that far off from walking into a doctor's office and being greeted by an array of robots. Doctors are often overworked, and being aided by AI could greatly help their work. For instance, researchers at the John Radcliffe Hospital have developed an AI diagnostics system that detects heart disease more accurately than cardiologists, while the medtech firm MobileOTD has developed an algorithm that has a 91% success rate (vs. 69% by doctors) in finding precancerous cervical cells.

AI has the potential to make healthcare vastly more efficient in future, by designing treatment plans, assisting diagnoses or mining medical records. In fact, we're already seeing early signs with virtual consultations like the Babylon Health mobile app, which uses text-message style questions to diagnose common health problems, provide specialist referrals or prescribe medication. There's no question that we'll be experiencing more of these technologies very soon.

The future of medicine isn't just curing cancer and sequencing genomes; we'll be seeing the promises of the future in everyday healthcare very soon. Most of these innovations are still in the testing phase, and while some may become commonplace, others may be scrapped and forgotten. But one thing's for sure – there's no version of the medtech narrative where healthcare doesn't improve for us all.



2 WEARABLE HEALTH GADGETS

The Apple Watch Series 4 made waves in 2018 with its electrocardiogram function, which can detect potentially serious irregular heart rhythms. Wearable health tech has been around for ages, and it's clear that they are here to stay – and they aren't just for fitness freaks. Apple is reportedly developing a wearable glucose monitor for diabetics, while startup MC10 is developing wearable tech that can monitor energy and hydration levels.

In future, devices could even detect diseases with a single touch, alerting you that you're sick before you even realise it. Market research firm IDTechEX predicts the wearable-tech market to exceed US\$150 billion by 2027, meaning we could see many common health questions being answered by tiny gadgets soon.

4 SUPERPOWERED TEETH

Whether it's for an implant, crown or something more, there's no doubt that we would all welcome any advances in dental technology. 3D printing is already enabling dentists to create crowns and retainers in under an hour, eliminating the need for multiple appointments.

Still, even higher promises await us. Researchers at the University of Groningen have been able to 3D print antibacterial teeth that resist decay, while others, including researchers from King's College London, have developed ways to regenerate partly decayed teeth. These could make painful drilling and metal fillings a thing of the past.

Various techniques to regenerate teeth are currently being tested, including drugs which stimulate the tooth's stem cells to repair itself, or using electric currents to introduce minerals encouraging growth in teeth. The future definitely looks promising for anyone who dreads those painful appointments.

Our Favourite Foods are in Danger!

By Lindsay Wong

As saddening as it is, our favourite foods might disappear within our lifetime. Climate change is drastically affecting our food supply – the world is experiencing global warming at an alarming rate in the forms of floods, droughts, wildfires, heat waves and extreme weather. Unfortunately, we will feel the effects of climate change even in our everyday food.



Another issue we face is ocean acidification caused by a decrease in pH levels – which is making seafood scarcer, since marine life

like shellfish cannot survive in such a harsh environment. This acidification is caused by the increase of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere; the gas reacts with seawater to form carbonic acid. Rising sea temperatures – caused by increasing atmospheric greenhouse gases – will also eradicate many fish species like salmon that are unable to tolerate this environment.

Our precious staples could be gone soon



The essential foods that make up the majority of our calories, proteins and fats are provided by only 50 crops, the majority of which are at risk.

Rising sea levels and significantly heavier rainfall alters land and water resources, which in turn affects the production of crops like rice, the staple food for more than half of the world's population. Rice production could decrease by 1.5% in 2050 (according to the International Rice Research Institute) as the viability of rice-growing land declines.

Similarly, beans that feed more than 400 million people, especially in Latin America and Africa, could see its yield decrease by 2.5% as they are highly sensitive to heat (according to a report by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture). Rising surface temperatures are also affecting potato cultivation, which has led potato farmers in Peru (home to thousands of potato species) to move to higher altitudes. This means that we can say goodbye to cheap French fries, chips, potato wedges and tater tots.



Don't get too comfortable with these foods...

Our favourite comfort foods are being adversely affected too. Coffee, the beverage that some people can't go a day without, is being affected by an invasive fungi species which is more widely spread due to higher temperatures we are currently experiencing. This means that farmers will need to move to higher ground, shrinking coffee-growing regions by more than 65% as reported by a paper from the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Beer production is also affected because yields of hop – the flavour to beer – is declining due to difficult access to freshwater.

Chocolate, a favourite guilty pleasure for many and enjoyed by one billion people every day, could also disappear soon. Produced primarily in Ghana and the Ivory Coast, increasing temperatures, the accompanying decreased humidity – since the heat absorbs moisture from the plants and ground – and lesser rainfall are severely affecting the health of cacao trees, resulting in a severely decreased yield.

Save the crops!

Organisations like Slow Food USA are coming up with methods of conservation to protect and preserve our favourite foods, in addition to finding alternatives to replace endangered foods like amaranth and taro.

Currently, there are 15 major international seed banks and more than 1,000 smaller banks set up to help preserve crops and act as a safeguard against the extinction of essential foods at risk. One major bank is The Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway, where scientists have planted 825,000 crop plants.

It is now more essential than ever to preserve our food sources. Already 86% of apple varieties have disappeared in the US alone due to climate change. Old Cornish cauliflowers and Anasault pears are already extinct. This list will continue to grow.

Who knows what other foods will go extinct in the future? We are already unknowingly experiencing the effects of climate change at the dinner table, so savour your favourite foods while you can because you might not be able to in the future.



OUT AND ABOUT

MOVIES

MOVIE TIX UP FOR GRABS

JAPANESE MOVIE MARATHON

STUDENTS: Get a season pass to watch all three movies at Cathay Cineplexes at just \$15! Stand a chance to **WIN** one of 10 pairs of passes - simply head to our socials for more!

Blue Summer

(February 28)

Cast: Aoi Wakana, Hayato Sano

Based on manga series "Ao-Natsu" by Atsuko Nanba, high school girl Rio (Wakana) moves from Tokyo to the countryside for the summer. There, Rio meets handsome high school student Ginzo (Sano) and the two fall in love. But their love story must come to an end when Rio moves back home to Tokyo at the end of summer.

Before the Coffee Gets Cold:

Café Funiculi Funicula

(February 28)

Cast: Kasumi Arimura, Haru, Kentaro Ito

At Café Funiculi Funicula, there is a specific seat at the cafe that customers can sit at to travel back to the past. While the time travellers can choose the destination, there are certain rules to abide by, including the fact that they cannot meet people who did not visit the cafe, and they can only stay in the past in that same seat until the moment the coffee gets cold. Based on the novel by Toshikazu Kawaguchi, the film follows the heartwarming stories of four people who travel to the past to resolve regrets with their loved ones.

My Teacher, My Love

(February 28)

Cast: Ryoma Takeuchi, Minami Hamabe

Based on manga series "Sensei Kunshu" by Momoko Koda, honest and hardworking high school student Ayuha Samaru (Hamabe) falls for a handsome stranger who foots her bill at a gyudon restaurant when she has trouble paying for it. The next day, she realises that this stranger is her substitute teacher, Yoshitaka Hiromitsu (Takeuchi), who is filling in for her ill homeroom teacher. Convinced that he must be her destined lover, Ayuha goes all out to win his heart.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN TICKETS AND PREMIUMS, CHECK OUR SOCIALS!

f CAMPUS.SINGAPORE

📷 CAMPUSG

FESTIVALS

GARDEN BEATS

SINGAPORE'S MUSIC & PICNIC FESTIVAL
9TH MARCH 2019, FORT CANNING PARK

9 March | 1-10:30pm
Fort Canning Green
Tickets: \$128-178

Garden Beats

Singapore's carbon-neutral music and picnic festival Garden Beats is back, featuring an international line up mix of indie, electro and R&B artists including The Kooks, Black Coffee, Alina Baraz, Masego, Alle Farben, Yung Bae, Corak, Orio, Daryl C and DJs Toppings and Bongomann. A Silent Disco and Midnight Rave will also take place. There are also workshops and well-being events that talk about veganism, sustainable fashion, and zero waste.

FAN MEETS

Park Bo Gum Asia Tour: Good Day

When: 9 Mar, 6pm

Where: The Star Theatre

Tickets: S\$158 - \$228

Known as "Nation's Little Brother", highly acclaimed South Korean actor Park Bo Gum is returning to Singapore for a fan meeting for the second time! He has played a diverse range of roles in popular K-dramas including a psychopathic lawyer in 'Hello Monster', a clever Go player in 'Reply 1988', a Joseon crown prince in 'Love in the Moonlight' and a carefree young man who falls in love with an older woman in 'Encounter'.



11-12 Mar 2019 | 8PM
Capitol Theatre
Tickets: \$98

Honne Love Me / Love Me Not Asian Tour Part 1

After millions of Spotify streams and sell-out shows worldwide (including two shows in Singapore last year), British electro-R&B duo Honne are returning to Singapore for another electrifying show! Their name comes from the Japanese word meaning "true feelings". Since their debut, they have released five EPs and two studio albums in total. HONNE's music aims to combine soul with synth beats to convey their vision of musical intimacy.



GIGS

5 Mar 2019 | 8pm
ZEPP@BIGBOX
Tickets: \$128 - \$158
Kodaline

Dublin-based rockers Kodaline will be making an anticipated return to Singapore with their brand new album, 'Politics of Living'. The album is a delightful treat and surrounds big choruses with digital rhythms, glimmering piano riffs, and synths!

7 Mar 2019 | 8pm
National Stadium
Tickets: \$98 - \$268

Maroon 5 Red Pills Blue Tour

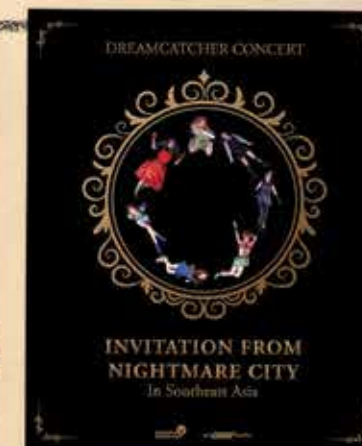
Fronted by Adam Levine, pop rock band Maroon 5 are holding a concert in Singapore for the first time in four years. Known for their numerous hit songs like 'She Will Be Loved', 'Moves Like Jagger' and 'Payphone', the Red Pills Blues Tour is based on their sixth studio album 'Red Pill Blues', which includes the hit songs 'Girls Like You' featuring Cardi B and 'What Lovers Do' featuring SZA.



22 Mar 2019 | 7.30pm
Gateway Theatre
Tickets: \$79.20 - \$187.20

Dreamcatcher: Invitation from Nightmare City

Back by popular demand, Dreamcatcher is back in Singapore for their Asian tour. Since their debut in 2017 with 'Nightmare', this marks the group's third tour that was made through fan requests on the My Music Taste platform. Their unique rock-infused sound of "young metal" has made them stand out in the K-pop industry.



PRODUCTIONS

February 21 - March 17 | 1pm and 6pm
Sands Theatre at Marina Bay Sands
Tickets: \$468 - \$198

Matilda the Musical

Inspired by the beloved children's book by Roald Dahl, Matilda The Musical is the story of an extraordinary little girl with extraordinary powers. She has a wild imagination due to her love of reading. Matilda creates her own stories as she is subject to a harsh lifestyle at home and in school. Brave little Matilda has to stand up for herself against evil adults; while doing so, she discovers her own powers. Since its establishment as a West End production 17 years ago, Matilda The Musical has gone on to win more than 85 international awards.



March 1 & 2 | 8pm & 7pm (respectively)
Esplanade Theatre
Tickets: \$79 - \$249

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban in Concert

The Metropolitan Festival Orchestra will be performing the soundtrack of 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'. In their third year at Hogwarts, Harry, Ron and Hermione meet escaped prisoner Sirius Black, learn how to deal with soul-sucking Dementors, and uncover more mysteries. Not only will audiences get to enjoy hearing the music played live by over 100 orchestra members, they can also watch the movie on a 40-foot screen in high-definition.



March 7 - 10 | varied timings
Esplanade Theatre
Tickets: \$40 - \$80

Don Quixote presented by SDT

'Don Quixote' was first presented to SDT in 2014 and restaged in 2016. The ballet is full of chivalrous acts, intriguing flamenco dance performances, and whimsical twists. Set in Spain, 'Don Quixote' depicts Kiri, a young woman who falls in love with Basilio, a poor barber. However, Kiri's father wants to marry her off to the wealthy Gamache. As Kiri and Basilio attempt to make a run for it, they encounter Don Quixote, an old knight, and his loyal companion Sancho Panza.



1

1// SLIME VIDEOS

I'm sure you've seen those videos of people squishing or playing with slime popping up all over your social media feed. These videos fall under the viral ASMR trend as well and people mainly subscribe to them because of the "satisfying" effect that it gives them. Other than that, these videos don't really do much and can be quite boring and pointless after a while. Online creators have tried to make the concept more interactive by trying out different challenges or making different types of slime but it still lacks that potential to be expanded into something other than making or playing with a gooey substance on camera.

3



3// ASMR

Brands have been using the ASMR trend as a creative concept for their ads, which kind of defeats the relaxing purpose of ASMR. Take for example, McDonald's Singapore's recent ad for their creamy chicken pie, which made use of whispering to achieve the ASMR effect. It has also become a common theme in online videos, some even getting celebrities in the mix to increase the viral factor of these videos. It has reached a point where advertisers and online creators just use ASMR to get people's attention or to stay relevant, which makes the concept look very gimmicky and unoriginal after a while.

2



2// SOCKS WITH SANDALS/HEELS/ FLATS

There's something about ugly things that suddenly become cool and acceptable just because it has a designer brand slapped on it. This weird footwear combination is one example of a fashion trend that only started looking trendy when well-known designers like John Galiano and Anna Sui started putting them on the runways, and fashion icons like Alexa Chung and Rihanna started wearing them – but that doesn't stop it from looking any less tacky. Unless you want to look like your neighbourhood "ah gong", this is one fashion faux-pas that needs to go.

BY LYDIA TAN

new year, new trends

The future should see less of these

It's the new year, and with it brings new trends in each industry, be it in fashion, social media or food. However, there are some trends that started gaining popularity in recent years but are starting to feel a bit old and overused now. You know how they say, "out with the old, in with the new"? These are some trends that should probably just stop and not continue on into 2019.

4//SALTED EGG YOLK EVERYTHING

This trend is especially applicable to Singapore, where salted egg yolk-flavoured food is literally the in-thing right now. You see it in potato chips, snacks and even in sweet desserts and drinks. After the failed McDonald's salted egg fries saga that literally left people with a sour taste in their mouths, it's quite clear this trend has become quite a hit-or-miss. Food brands are just adding what they think is their own "creative" twist to the salted egg yolk taste, so much that the original flavour is lost on a lot of the food you see touted as "salted egg flavoured".

4



Trends come and go with every year; what's important is that we know when to let go of the ones that are getting outdated. It's alright to bring back some old trends occasionally for nostalgia's sake but once a trend stays for too long, it becomes somewhat of a cliché. Trends are a representation of our current interests at a point in time, so the coming and going of different trends kind of show how we as a community change and adapt with time, and that's what makes life so much more interesting and fresh.

THE FUTURE ON SCREEN ALL DOOM AND GLOOM

BY EVAN SEE

FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN

Throughout our history on this planet, we've consistently been inclined to fear things we don't understand, and create legends and stories about them. Naturally, as we progress into the future, it follows that we should tell frightening stories about the things we lack control over. Things like technology, artificial intelligence and outer space commonly feature in science-fiction films set in the future, and are almost always portrayed in gloomy, depressing worlds that seem to warn us against attempted progress.

The question is: why? We know that the point of technology and experimentation is intended to improve our quality of life, yet our films are so sure they will end up destroying everything we love.

Perhaps our deep-seated fears of the unknown will never cease despite knowledge that scientists and developers aren't actively trying to kill everyone. Maybe it's a conviction that

what we presently have is good enough for us, or the awareness of just how fast technology is whizzing past our heads. It's nothing new – people have resisted change for millennia.

There are numerous films convinced that artificial intelligence is unequivocally disastrous, like the Replicants from *Blade Runner* or Skynet from *Terminator*. But fears also exist in other unexplored areas, like the devastating effects of biotechnology in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, the distinct haves-and-have-nots divisions created by the technology of *Elysium* or *The Hunger Games*, or the technology of megacorporations in *Soylent Green* or *Resident Evil* that cannot help but ravage humanity to feed their unbridled greed. Perhaps we're fearful that too much advancement too quickly can cause us to lose control over what we hold dear, and sometimes progress for the sake of it just isn't worth the risk.

What do you see when you think about the future? Maybe images of sleek machines and flashy gadgets spring up. You may even believe that the future looks optimistic for humanity, with people living better and suffering less. However, when it comes to film and television, the future tends to be portrayed rather pessimistically, with gloomy colour palettes, and a government that's either massively oppressive or pretty much absent while technology is ruining our lives.

It bears the question – why are movies about the future always so bleak? Where are all the cheery futuristic movies?

REAL-LIFE HORROR

Perhaps one reason for Hollywood's obsession with bleak futures is the same reason horror films are made – to disturb and unsettle audiences. Often, the grim futures shown on screen don't seem that different from real life, making these films more like very plausible horror films than mere science-fiction.

Narratively speaking, the prescient look into the near future many films provide is way more terrifying than the nebulous threats of vengeful ghosts and demons in conventional horror. The popularity of the TV series *Black Mirror* reveals our fascination with the impending breakdown of society, with storylines considering the impacts of real-life scientific breakthroughs on our lives. While some films intentionally blend horror and sci-fi, it's the ones that sound plausible that disturb us the most: the insidiously manipulative androids of *Ex Machina* or the cold, Orwellian bureaucracies of *Brazil* are already absolutely terrifying without their nightmarish endings.



NOT JUST FLYING CARS

It's also possible to see the grim futures in movies as merely allegories for real-world issues. Using a futuristic setting to portray current issues can be especially effective in emphasising the filmmaker's message, by portraying an unfamiliar world with familiar issues without stirring controversy.

In this sense it isn't that futuristic movies are bleak, but that the nature of humanity, even at the present time, is as bleak as it gets. *Snowpiercer* compresses the harsh antagonisms of class warfare into a single train, while the 2015 TV adaptation of *The Handmaid's Tale* explores the possible effects of religious conservatism and misogynistic cultures. The trash-filled wasteland of Earth in *Wall-E* doesn't look too different from today's sprawling landfills, while the harsh treatment of refugees in *Children of Men* and *District 9* isn't particularly unfamiliar to certain parts of the world.

Sure, not all movies about the future are bleak and depressing, with films like *Her* or *The Martian* coming to mind. But the dominance of dystopian science fiction has got to make you wonder – how did people many years ago imagine our present time? Was it all dark and grim like in *1984* or *Akira*, or more optimistic like *Back to the Future II*? Or are we already living in that grim future – just that we don't realise it yet?



With all this talk about the end of the world and the future of mankind, futurists and researchers have been talking about whether the food we're consuming is sustainable enough for us in the long run. One of these concerns is with the meat industry: how much longer can it sustain us and will we need to turn to alternative food sources to make up for the lack of meat?

Cheat Sheet

by Lydia Tan

#58 Food Security for the Future

THE ISSUE WITH MEAT

One of the biggest concerns is the environmental impact the meat industry has. Rearing livestock requires a lot of water and grain, which depletes our natural resources. An average 125kg cow requires 200 litres of water per kilo and in the US alone, livestock consumes over 70% of grain produced.

Livestock produces 10 times as much waste as humans, which pollutes our air and sometimes water sources, creating negative impacts on our biodiversity. Research shows that farming contributes to 70-90% of deforestation in South America and Africa, and threatens about 20% of endangered wildlife. This extensive deforestation in developing countries has a direct impact on the climate: a 2012 report estimates that agriculture is the direct driver for around 80% of deforestation worldwide.

Experts recommend switching to grass-feeding livestock to reduce resources spent on grain: the natural grazing habits of livestock together with the natural waste produced also benefit the soil. The issue of high methane emissions could be resolved by including biodiverse pastures with wild plants containing fumaric acid, which has been shown to reduce the methane emissions from sheep by 70%.



IS VEGANISM THE WAY TO GO?

For pro-Vegans, there is the claim that removing meat from your diet is healthier for you: it can lower the chances of coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke and some cancers, thus greatly saving healthcare costs worldwide. Not eating meat could also reduce the global greenhouse gas emissions by two-thirds, and by cutting down on red meat, it could reduce methane emissions by about 60%.

On the other hand, if everyone were to switch to veganism, research shows there is insufficient agricultural land on Earth to sustain us with enough food. Going fully vegan will also leave many resources unused, as different crops require different types of land so some land might be wasted.



FUTURE FOOD OPTIONS

Insects have been long talked about as a future viable low-fat protein source. Rearing insects also takes up less resources to feed, making them a more environmentally-friendly option. Alternative meat, such as plant-based meat or lab-grown meat made from animal tissues, might potentially replace conventional animal meat in the future, and with advancements in science and technology, these alternative meat sources might become a more mainstream reality sooner than we might think.

With GMOs on the rise, we can also expect to see a lot more foods being genetically modified to increase its nutrition value or to make them more sustainable in the future.

Some other non-meat future foods include seaweed and algae. They are rich in nutrients and are already in abundance in both saltwater and freshwater sources. This can also help reduce the amount of land used today to farm crops. Algae can also be made into oil, which can replace more environment-damaging oils like palm oil.



VR, 4DX, Netflix:

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ENTERTAINMENT?

BY LINDSAY WONG

In the future, entertainment will engage all of our senses. With technology advancing, the way we spend our leisure time will also evolve. Netflix has already gained a huge global presence in the entertainment industry. Virtual reality and interactive shows are becoming more prevalent, while movies will become more interactive.



Virtual Reality is becoming reality

By 2030, computer simulation will be the norm, so we can expect more widespread implementation of virtual reality in the future. By 2020, global VR head-mounted display shipments are expected to rise to 30+ million units. It is likely that VR headsets will become more common household possessions as they become more affordable.

The Oculus Rift VR system has been in the hands of consumers since March 2016, and Sony launched the PlayStation VR headset later that year, selling more than 3 million units worldwide (as of August 2018).

The future of gaming will see more VR games being developed to fully immerse gamers in their world, like *Sword Masters VR*. Beyond the home, VR gaming arcades are also on the rise; Singapore already has quite a few, including V-room and Sandbox. At the rate that VR technology is progressing, our future could look like the one envisioned in the film *'Ready Player One'* (2018) which features humanity embracing VR as an integral part of life.

Cinema experiences are about to become way more interesting

The rise of streaming platforms has pushed traditional cinemas to lean more towards employing new technology and gimmicks. There is already a multitude of IMAX cinemas across the world equipped with high resolution screens, 3D capabilities and fancy chairs.

First developed in South Korea, 4DX – with moving seats, fans, water sprays, scented air, and even smoke – is also becoming more popular and widespread. However, 4DX effects are only suited for certain types of movies – especially big blockbusters like *'Rampage'*, *'Avengers'* and *'Jurassic World'*.



Celebrities coming to life via hologram technology

Film isn't the only medium that uses motion-capture hologram technology – think Peter Dinklage reprising his role as Grand Moff Tarkin in *'Rogue One'* in 2016 – it is also prominent in the music scene to bring the dead back to life. In 2012, a computer-generated Tupac Shakur appeared on stage with Snoop Dogg at Coachella, and the late Amy Winehouse will be touring in hologram form later this year.

One cannot talk about hologram artists without mentioning Hatsune Miku, a computer-generated blue-haired idol whose concerts are immensely popular, even though she's not real. Since 2014, Hatsune has had sold out concerts around the world, from Indonesia to Germany.

There is no doubt that the future of entertainment will continue to impress us. We are bound to see even more mind-boggling technologies take over – one thing we know for sure is that the entertainment industry is working hard to keep us addicted in the future.



Enjoy watching exactly what you want in the comfort of your own home

Even future broadcast TV will show exactly what we want, as programmes will be personally tailored to us based on our data, collected during our hours of being glued to the screen. We are already seeing this with streaming sites like Netflix.

Netflix began as a DVD rent-by-post operation in 1997 that's now gone on to world domination with more than 120 million subscribers around the world. Last year, the streaming site spent \$8 billion on content, including 700 original TV shows and 80 movies, and garnered more Emmy nominations for the 2019 awards than any other entity. Even Netflix will face fierce competition in the future – Disney+ will commence streaming in

late 2019. Apple, Hulu and Amazon already have their own streaming platforms.

To stay in competition, Netflix has rolled out interactive shows like *'Black Mirror: Bandersnatch'* (2018) which allow viewers to make choices at various points throughout the episode to determine how the plot plays out. Prior to this, choose-your-own-adventure stories have been most prominent in children's programmes, with interactive films *'Puss in Boots'* and *'Minecraft: Story Mode'*. Based on the positive responses to *'Bandersnatch'*, you can look forward to more interactive content in a variety of genres in the future.



STUPIDIFYING HUMANS OF TOMORROW

THE PERILS OF INGENUITY

By Nina Gan

Somewhere between plankton and Elon Musk, human evolution has come a long way since our knuckle-scraping days. It seems that nothing can stop mankind's technological advancement – we've now got access to infinite information in our smartphones, and we're even trying to conquer space – the final frontier.

Based on these achievements, humans are simply getting smarter, right?

THE IQ TEST

How many times have we heard parents say that their kids are smarter than they are? Seriously though, there has actually been a rise of about 3 IQ points per decade in the 20th century, in a scenario known as the "Flynn effect". But the growth isn't even; IQ points in developing nations – like in China, Kenya, and India – are increasing greatly, while those in fully industrialised zones like Northern Europe have flatlined.

The UK has actually seen a decline in IQ points, and it's not alone. Researchers in Norway found that locals born after 1975 were 7 IQ points dumber per generation, based on an analysis of 730,000 subjects. So what happened?

Many theorise that the increase in IQ points has something to do with improved nutrition, living conditions, and education, which explains why developing nations are scoring IQ points like a Korean gamer. Would their IQ points plateau once these nations become developed like their European counterparts?

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?

Scientists are baffled as to what aspect of modern life is driving this stupidification. Could we blame it on modern inventions? If necessity is the mother of invention, then laziness could be its father.

As our tech advances, it becomes more user-friendly so that we don't even need to think about how to

use them; even toddlers can easily learn how to use an iPad. These days, creating new apps is also easier than ever – there's no need for you to study computer science or know how to code.

Innovations that have made our lives convenient have also made our brains lazier – we don't remember our friends' phone numbers, and losing our phone practically means we lose our surrogate brains. We don't remember anything because of the 'Google Effect'. Go offline, and even a 7-year-old with internet access is probably smarter than you.

While having all this knowledge at our fingertips could enrich us, tech author Nicholas Carr thinks that constantly looking up information online is not an effective way to create permanent memories or acquire knowledge. Thanks to the Google Effect and distraction of smartphones, a Microsoft study found that the average human attention span fell from 12 seconds in 2000 to 8 seconds today.

THE ACCIDENTAL EFFECT OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Some of our modern marvels could have the potential to make us geniuses, but we often choose innovations to actually make us stupider.

Social media connects people and dumbs them down collectively – just look at all the comments on a Facebook page, and you'll notice the deterioration of civilisation. And we're just talking

about the use of the English language. Gone are the days of eloquence; instead, we find the misuse of words like "their" instead of "they're" and a profusion of abbreviations like 'brb', 'tmi', and 'omg'. People have lost the ability to spell.

Then there are those who share crazy Youtube challenges and #killfies that make idiocy a dangerous habit. Centuries after humans conquered deadly diseases like the plague, people are now finding dumb ways to die.

Interestingly, some of these youths make a lot of money from their antics on social media, so it makes us wonder why they have so many viewers in the first place. Have we evolved into a species that just likes seeing people do stupid things?

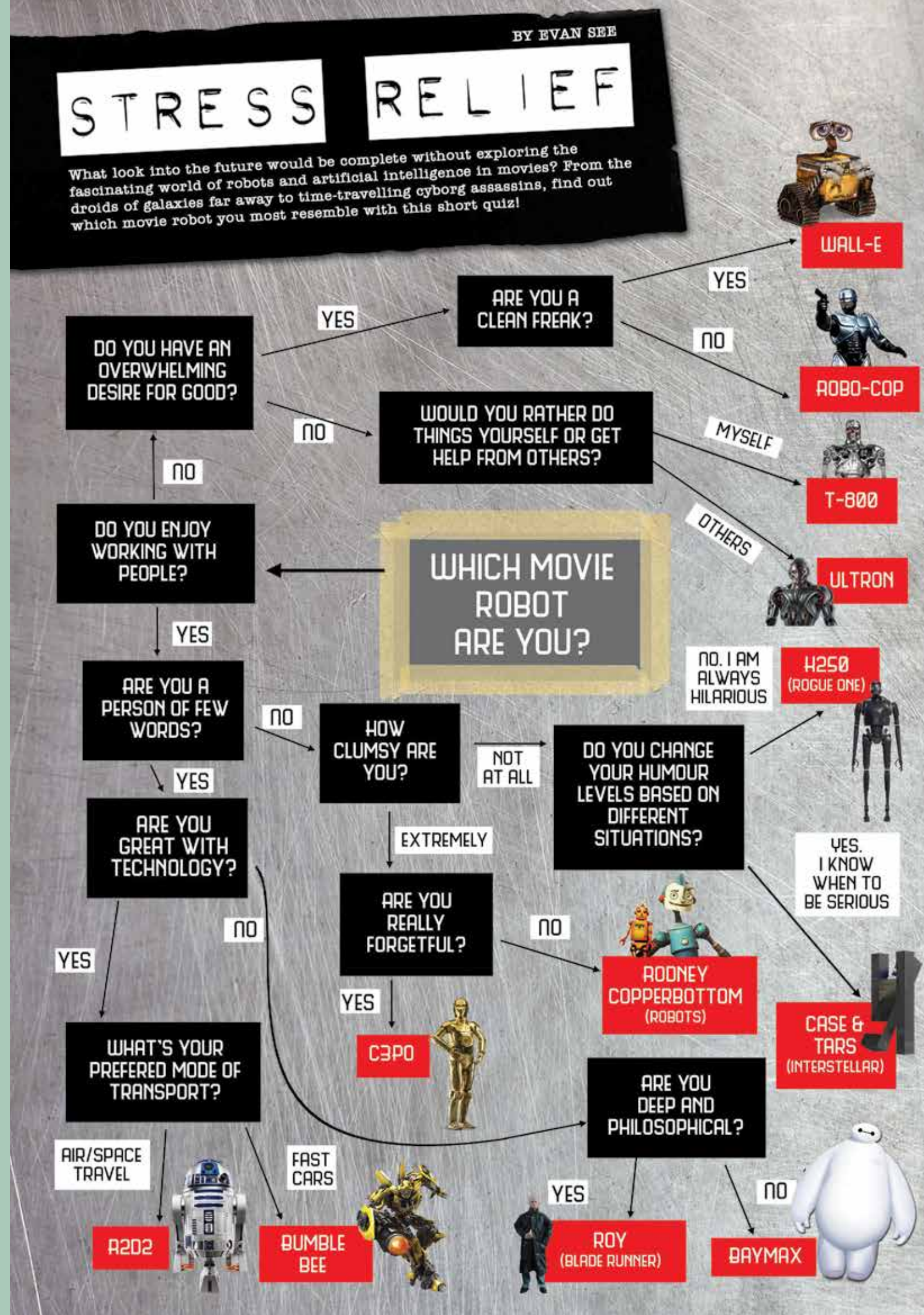
TECH AND NATURAL SELECTION

Has our tech evolution also affected natural selection? Just look at the growing US\$465 billion beauty industry, one that is fueled by the boom of Instagram. We have become so shallow that we equate beauty with success (ie. Kylie Jenner), so naturally everyone wants to be beautiful.

But beauty has a place in human evolution – it helps us find the 'genetic accidents' to allow us as a species to not face the same fate. However, this natural selection has been disrupted by modern medicine; no longer do only the toughest and smartest humans survive because nowadays, (almost) everyone can.

WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE?

Technology is making us shallower thinkers, unable to digest speeches, and perpetually distracted – this, according to Nicholas Carr, could make our culture a little shallow. In the future, people will have lost the ability to spell, to communicate face-to-face, or even stay attentive for long. As economist Tyler Cowan pithily puts it, "*We have started building a more stupidity-inducing environment.*"



EducationUSA

COLLEGE FAIR 2019

Saturday, March 9th
2:00PM - 5:00PM

Register Now at:
bit.ly/2ByxMGI



Stamford American
International School
1 Woodleigh Ln
Singapore, 357684

**Admission is
FREE**

Follow us for more
Study in the States
events:



[facebook.com/
educationUSA singapore](https://facebook.com/educationUSA singapore)



@educationUSA singapore



U.S. Embassy Singapore



**Get your questions
Answered**

Admissions officers from
57 U.S. Universities
Alumni speakers from
**Stanford, Duke, Columbia, Pomona,
Indiana - Bloomington,
& MORE**