Gender Issue

Double standards
Age of Consent
Mansplaining

OUR DOUBLE COVER ISSUE!
**Man vs. Woman: Sex-Based Effects of Cannabis**

Just because cannabis use is becoming more mainstream around the world, marijuana is still a psychoactive drug, and any substance-use comes with health risks. Difficulty in speaking and retaining knowledge, inability to problem-solve, and decreased reaction time are just some of the side effects. Many studies have also found that taking marijuana increases the risk of death from hypertension and heart attack.

Risks are particularly high for students because their brains are not fully developed until the age of 25. MRI images of the brains of 10 to 20 year-olds show that the circuit responsible for causal reasoning use of marijuana changes the size, shape, and density, increasing the chance of stroke. Due to biological differences, men and women also experience the effects of cannabis differently.

**Man**

**High Risk of Psychosis**
Men are twice as likely to develop schizophrenia or psychotic as women. And, 60% are likely to be hospitalized for cannabis psychosis, especially younger men.

**Hair Loss**
The study of regular cannabis smokers found that young men in particular were prone to hair loss, especially when coupled with the carcinogenic effects of smoking.

**Man Boobs**
Men who regularly smoke marijuana can develop gynecomastia — aka man boobs — due to the hormonal imbalance it causes.

**Erectile Dysfunction and Infertility**
Regular cannabis use may lead to erectile dysfunction and infertility. Studies have also found reduced sperm counts in men who smoked weed. A 2022 Danish study estimated that 15% of the young men in their study might need fertility treatment in the future if they wanted to father a child.

**Gateway Drug**
Research suggests that male marijuana users are more likely to take other forms of drug. Adults who used marijuana are also likely to develop alcohol abuse disorder and nicotine addiction.

**Man**

**Significant Dizziness**
Women who use marijuana report significantly more dizziness after smoking up and have greater changes in blood circulation.

**Bad Complexion**
Puffing on a joint can lead to aging skin, conditions like rosacea, eczema, and psoriasis are also worsened. Cannabis use also increases the risk of increased hair in women thanks to hormonal imbalance.

**Disrupted Menstrual Cycle**
Studies show that even if marijuana is enough to disrupt the menstrual cycle. This also impacts fertility as well as fetal development, as it messes with estrogen levels.

**Lower Chance of Addiction**
Females are more vulnerable in developing an addiction to cannabis because they develop a tolerance much faster than men, although it takes less cannabis in the beginning to get women high. Women also have a harder time quitting, with symptoms like irritability and deep depression.

**Woman**

**High Risk of Psychosis**
Women are twice as likely to develop schizophrenia or psychotic as men. And, 60% are likely to be hospitalized for cannabis psychosis, especially younger women.

**Weight Gain**
Cannabis gives men serious munchies, which can lead to weight gain and decreases the capacity for exercise.

**Significant Dizziness**
Women who use marijuana report significantly more dizziness after smoking up and have greater changes in blood circulation.

**Depression and Anxiety**
Young women who smoked pot daily are five times more likely as non-smokers to develop depression and anxiety.

**Memory Impairment**
In a study entitled "Safe Drugs vs. Cannabis: Effects of Marijuana,” researchers found that cannabis affected young people’s memory conservation in women more than men.

**Beauty in the Eyes of Culture**
Korea vs. the USA

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**Issue 59 | Apr ’19**

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**Contributors (ad-hoc)**
Get in touch with 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, tweet posts, you don’t have to sit 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.

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BLUE FOR BOYS, PINK FOR GIRLS: GENDER MARKETING AND ITS FUTURE

Marketing today states that if a product’s target audience is everyone, it will end up attracting no one. Gender segmentation is one of the most common ways to plan a marketing strategy. However, what happens when this method is incorrectly used, resulting in making the product potential reach by limiting the marketing to a certain gender?

"ONLY GUYS PLAY VIDEO GAMES?"

The billion-dollar video game industry has been dominated for much of its history, and gender-targeted advertising is one of the reasons why this is so. In fact, most video games were marketed to both genders. This changed after the video game crash of 2001. Advertisements for video games started to show that their marketing would get more women involved in gameplay, especially in the video game industry.targets.

Rear research justified this move to a certain extent in the 2000s, when boys played video games more frequently. Boys were also more interested in video games, which were marketed to them. Girls were also interested in video games, but they were also willing to try out new technologies. Girls did not see the value of video games as much as boys. Boys were also not interested in joining the video game industry. Girls tended to be more interested in joining the video game industry, which became more popular as the video game industry grew.

The future of gender marketing

As gender differences become increasingly important, gender marketing strategies might become a thing of the past. Research has shown that different advertising strategies might be required for men and women. However, these strategies might not always be effective. Some research has shown that different marketing strategies might be required for men and women. Research has also shown that different advertising strategies might be required for men and women. However, these strategies might not always be effective.
EMBARRASSING UTI ISSUES

More Than a Pee Problem

ANTIBIOTICS AND ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT

While antibiotics are most commonly used to treat UTIs, the issue of antibiotic resistance is also on the rise. According to Fung’s published in Annals of Pharmacotherapy, drug-resistant bacteria caused nearly 4% of urinary tract infections. 

Antibiotic resistance poses a serious problem, especially for those who experience recurrent UTIs. This is due to the antibiotics being overused and allowing the pathogen to adapt and become resistant to the treatment. 

ECONOMIC COSTS FROM UTIs ARE ALSO SUBSTANTIAL, SPECIFICALLY FOR REGULAR UTI PREVENTION.

CONSUME PROBIOTICS

Regenerated foods are good for us — they donate beneficial bacteria that help restore the natural balance of gut bacteria which impacts our health fundamentally affecting digestive, immunity, weight and mental health. Negative changes in the gut flora can lead to chronic diseases like UTI.

UTI PREVENTION

While you can prevent UTI totally, there are some lifestyle habits you can adopt in order to drastically reduce the chances of contracting UTI.

“DRINK-PEE-WIPE” HABIT:

While males also get UTI, females are more prone to contracting UTI due to the structure of the urinary anatomy — their urethra is shorter compared to the male urethra (a shorter urethra means that bacteria can easily move from the anus to the bladder, or worse, further up the urinary tract).

CONSUME Kombucha, Kefir, Sauerkraut, Kimchi, Yogurt, Miso

OTHER GOOD PRACTICES:

- Urate before and after sexual intercourse
- Refrain from doucheing and using other personal hygiene products as they may cause irritation
- Wear loose fitting clothes and cotton underwear
- Change pads and panties often to prevent large amounts of vaginal secretion which can irritate the bladder and lead to UTIs
THE LIST

AMNESIAC FEMME FATALES

CAPTAIN MARVEL (2019)
Carol Danvers - Brie Larson

The only amnesiac superhero on the list, Captain Marvel - whose origin story was never explored in the film - has been transformed by the alien species Kree, who try to suppress her powers and turn her into a lab rat to conquer the universe. She eventually escapes their past as a test pilot and being human, because the key to unlocking her hidden power lies to transform into the most powerful superhero in the universe.

ALITA (2019)
Alita - Rosa Salazar

Scared by a kindly scientist who found her in a scrapyard, cyborg Alita wakes up not knowing her own identity, but soon makes her hidden martial arts skills after being rejected by a weight corporation. She then discovers that she was once a powerful ambrosia warrior from the planet of cyborgs, and her fate was to save on the migration of the dark world into the changing world in which she lives.

GHOST IN THE SHELL (2017)
Major Motoko Kusanagi - Scarlett Johansson

The story follows the exploits of Motoko Kusanagi, a cyborg member of a counter-terrorism operative who has a memory of her past. Her mission is to destroy the virtual world where it is revealed to her that she was actually Kusanagi, an anti-terrorist robot who was destroyed and used as a test subject to create her into a cyborg. After exacting revenge on those responsible, she continues to be an operative.

SALT (2010)
Evelyn Salt - Angelina Jolie

While not an amnesiac per se, Evelyn Salt has been a CIA agent for so long as she remembers, but during a routine interrogation, she is taken as part of a ring of Russian sleeper agents called Kids when she ends up in Dubai. She rescues her younger self, returns to Hong Kong, and eventually convives her American handlers to have her in the next animation where she does double-crosses them at the end and manages to adopt a nuclear weapon.

LONG KISS GOODNIGHT (1996)
Samatha Olek/Gal-Lea - Sean Penn

Sam plans to kill a school teacher Samantha Olek hires detective Gal-Lea to investigate Gal-Lea, and discovers they are in love and they expose their Jordanian handlers to have her in the next animation where they do double-crosses them at the end and manages to adopt a nuclear weapon.

SEX BY DESIGN

AN ENVIRONMENT NOT BUILT FOR WOMEN

The phrase “it’s a man’s world” succinctly captures today’s society, even though half of humanity are women. Sadly, it comes to designing a world for the betterment of masked men, women are left underrepresented. Whether it is due to oversight, cast, or ignorance, women bear the brunt of the inconveniences in a world designed for men, because those who built it didn’t take gender differences into account.

EVERYDAY INCONVENIENCES

Since women are usually shorter than men, some products may seem a bit unusable to use. Just look at smartphones or smartphones, which are generally big for most women’s hands, while they are just right for little hands.

Some men have a hard time using speech recognition software - from Google Cloud Speech to Amazon Alexa, both have been criticized for being too slow, and less accurate. Yet, the same seems to apply to text-to-speech models - which have difficulty processing the high-pitched female voice sample. For those who are programmed to understand the mode pitch.

While these issues are a mere inconvenience, other issues can be downright deadly.

SAFETY DESIGNS ARE EXIST

We all know that biologically, men and women differ significantly. When it comes to designing protective gear, the body armor, many designers fail to account for the differences. Hundreds of female police officers in the UK have highlighted many issues - some needed physiotherapy because of the fit, and to try to get them to their body, and many complained about the lack of space for necessary pregnant women - 60% of them can use standard steel plating comfortably.

UNDER THE SKIN

Meditations may also be less safe for women - you can still find medical researchers who don’t include female subjects because they are “too complicated.” The “male normative” is to be a good enough. It seems that women are at risk of developing breast cancer, because it affects the results of several things, including antidepressants, vaccinations, and breast implants.

While there is plenty of data to inform men of the negative effects of chemicals in industries like mining, there is not as much data on how chemicals affect women in some of the primary dangers in these environments, such as saltwater where pollution, emissions, and other things can affect chemicals linked to cancer and skin diseases.

Women account for half of the world’s population, so companies, researchers, and designers should include them from the get-go. But designing for women, it doesn’t have to be plain, there’s bazinga, bazinga: "Women are lighter, it just has to be better designed for a broader audience.

VOILE DRESS

Designed by Lamy, this new design features a full-length veil that covers the entire face, leaving only the eyes visible. The veil is attached to a headpiece and can be adjusted to fit any head size, making it suitable for women of all shapes and sizes. The design is also available in multiple colors, allowing women to choose a shade that matches their skin tone. According to the designer, the veiled dress is made to empower women and offer them a sense of security in public spaces. The full-length veil covers the entire face, leaving only the eyes visible, and is attached to a headpiece that can be adjusted to fit any head size. The design is available in multiple colors, allowing women to choose a shade that matches their skin tone.
Age of Consent

Girls and Exploitation

Imagine being forced to have sex at 11 or getting married to someone twice your age. This is not just the case for girls, where their safety and future can be a cause for concern.

Growing up in a sheltered and relatively conservative society, many girls have been caused many of us to be oblivious to the nonchalant attitudes other countries have toward protecting their children. Too many of us, age is more than just a means to track our physical growth; it has been our protector and even a cause for celebration.

In many parts of the world, the significance of one’s age, children, or vulnerable traits that are faced upon them.

Since its inception in 1967, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to a total of 839 men and 17 women. The fact that there are only 17 female Nobel Peace Laureates suggests a male-dominated prize or even a male-dominated world, and the ratio of female winners to male winners is 15:24. Such statistics have engendered discourse over gender inequality but over the past decade alone, three women have already won the coveted prize. This has shown the number of male winners, also at five, since 2009.

Women in the past have long played around Nobel Prize in various aspects of life, hindering their personal progression as a result of taking into account "second-class" category in society. Male chauvinism played a role in Nobel Peace Prize awarded in the early years, as the award was exclusively awarded to highly educated, older male from Europe or the US.

In recent times, however, there has been significant changes in attitude and mentality towards women as they are finally being judged based on an merit rather than gender. Recent winners include Malala Yousafzai and Nadia Murad. Malala was named a Nobel laureate.

Women have made significant contributions to peace efforts, and this changed perception of women has shown increased opportunities. In 2019, Malala Yousafzai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and she continues to advocate for education for girls around the world.

These women are paving the way in their fight to end violence against women, as well as women’s access to education. This year’s young nominees are writes for the environment.

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THAILAND'S NORTHERN REGION

BAAN MAE KAMPONG
Situated about 1 hour drive from Chiang Rai, Baan Mae Kampong is a small quiet village nestled in a lush jungle at an altitude of about 1200m.
At first glance, the village looks like a larger village that just popped up in the jungle over a short road cutting through the village, which consists of numerous clusters of wooden huts. Some are made entirely of bamboo or others open-air affairs. All with magnificent views of the Lao mountain.
Established about 100 years ago, most villagers have still cultivate crops. The area is known for its economy, coffee, and rice which is served at the village's cafe.
In the 1970s, the village was the first village in Thailand to offer coffee, with local villagers having an excellent taste in the area and helping locals preserve the community. Today the rustic wooden houses that seem to tumble onto the surrounding landscape are not only great for Instagram but also provide a great ambiance for sipping coffee or staying overnight.

LANDMARKS

CHIANG RAI
Chiang Rai is considered a great base for day trips to the surrounding provinces of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. If Chiang Rai is a convenient gateway to the region, explore Chiang Rai and the quaint village of Mae Kampong.

INFORMATION

DO NOT MISS

MUST DO

GOOD FOR A HOLIDAY

OUT OF TOWN

GOLDEN TRIANGLE PARK
About 50km from Chiang Rai in the spot where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet, and where the Mekong and Salween Rivers intersect, you can look out at the breathtaking views of the rivers and land below.

WATERFALLS
The great Cau Song in Khaam Norn, one of the tallest in the region, which you can see in the small village of the same name. The waterfall is located near the hill tribe villages.
Inspired by Rebecca Solnit in 2008 in her essay “Men Explain Things to Me: Facts Didn’t Get in Their Way”, netizens coined the term “mansplaining”. This term is used to describe arrogant men who exhibit a combination of “overconfidence and cluelessness” by needlessly explaining things to women in a patronising manner.

In one case, a man named Steve Santagati proclaims himself to be an “expert” on how women think and feel. On CNN, he boldly “mansplained” in front of two women, claiming that women loved to be harassed and catcalled, regardless of how attractive the man may or may not be.

As it gradually rose to prominence within the feminist community, the term set foot into mainstream media by being featured as one of New York Times Words of the Year in 2010. Following that, it was added to the English lexicon in 2014 by Oxford Dictionaries.

More than just condescending behaviour, mansplaining reveals a long history of suffering under a patriarchal system, where women had to constantly fight to be recognised on par with men. This started with women’s suffrage movements that date back to the 19th century, giving rise to strikes into the 21st century as men continue to talk down to women. One case is the Boston protest in January 2017, when millions of women of all races, religions, and sexualities took to the streets to directly protest against Trump’s discriminatory laws and call for an end to sexism.

Is this behaviour exclusive to men?

Not necessarily, but there has to be reason as to how the term “mansplaining” has become popular. Cutting across generations, social pressures have created a standard of masculinity for men, who are expected to be dominant or overconfident. As such, some men happen to inherit this “overconfidence and cluelessness”, which subconsciously manifests in their condescending manner towards women.

While mansplaining is generally characterised in males, it can also be similarly perceived in females as “womansplaining” when they nag at others.

Moving forward, terms like “mansplaining” might ironically reinforce social constructs that we loathe and hope to remove. Given the nature of the word, it can come across as a pejorative term for men. Furthermore, while such a term is used to accurately describe some men, it has also been abused to incriminate innocent men for the smallest of things.

In 2017, Mitch Fielfield was accused by Katy Gallagher of “mansplaining” during an Australian Senate Committee hearing, leading to a viral backlash against Gallagher for her misuse of the term and for her unprofessional behaviour. Since then, it has raised questions as to whether the term “mansplaining” was necessary, as the unrestrained use of the term may have actually retrogressed the debate on feminist issues and problems.

Let’s clear the air...

Although “mansplaining” is a portmanteau of “man” and the colloquial form of “explaining”, it can be used in situations that are entirely removed from gender roles. The term has been copy-pasted in other situations and has even taken on new forms, like “whitesplaining”, “womansplaining”, “blacksplaining”, “momsplaining”, and more. Unfortunately, the birth of such terms have compounded tensions and complicated matters against the backdrop of race and gender issues.

Frankly speaking, self-important and contemptuous behaviour should never be accepted anywhere regardless of one’s gender, race or religion. Self-censorship will always be crucial for anyone in a civilised society.

By Yuki Koh

THE ISSUE WITH MANSPLAINING

Big Man Talking

THE ISSUE WITH MANSPLAINING

INSPIRED BY REBECCA SOLNIT IN 2008 IN HER ESSAY “MEN EXPLAIN THINGS TO ME: FACTS DIDN’T GET IN THEIR WAY”, NETIZENS COINED THE TERM “MANSPRING”. THIS TERM IS USED TO DESCRIBE ARROGANT MEN WHO EXHIBIT A COMBINATION OF “OVERCONFIDENCE AND CLUELESSNESS” BY NEEDLESSLY EXPLAINING THINGS TO WOMEN IN A PATRONISING MANNER.
OUT AND ABOUT

Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA)
When: May 16 - Jun 2
Where: Various locations
Tickets: Available

Immerse yourself in diverse works from the local and international creative arts scene. Marking its 42nd edition this year, SIFA 2019 will span across various locations including the Victoria Theatre, NOVA Drama Theatre, and the Drama Centre. This year’s headline is Tangent, a trans-cultural play adaptation of the Greek tragedy 'The Iliad' by frühe Company of Yoga (Japan) and Pursuit Indonesia (Indonesia).

EVENTS

Pokémon: Detective Pikachu
(May 9)
Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Justice Smith, Kathryn Newton

In the Pokémon universe where man and Pokémon coexist, former Pokémon trainer Tim Goodman (Smith) travels to Ryme City for work, only to learn that his father, famous detective Harry Goodman, has mysteriously disappeared. While in Ryme City, Tim meets a talking Pikachu (voiced by Reynolds) and together with reporter Lucy Stevens (Kathryn Newton), the trio embark on a search for Harry.

FESTIVALS

Ed Sheeran: Divide World Tour 2019
Apr 26 | 8pm
National Stadium
Tickets: $89 - $149

British crooner Ed Sheeran will be back in Singapore for his Divide tour, featuring his acoustic, folky sound, but remaining upbeat and fun. He is set to charm the hearts of Singaporeans again, singing along to his signature hits like ‘Perfect’ and ‘Shape Of You’. This time, he will be joined by Japanese rock band One OK Rock for the Asian leg of his tour.

MOVIES

Aladdin
(May 23)
Cast: Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott, Will Smith

Adapted from Disney’s 1992 animated classic, the live-action remake brings to life beloved characters like the Genie (Smith), a beautiful yet mischievous princess Jasmine (Scott) and the unassuming Aladdin (Massoud). The story follows Aladdin, a young man with a heart of gold, as he falls in love with Jasmine, the princess of Agrabah. When the wicked sorcerer Jafar (Theron) becomes the ruthless sultan of the kingdom, Aladdin must decide what kind of man he wants to be.

FESTIVALS

MAYDAY! 5G Festival
May 3
Supertree Grove Singapore
Tickets: $89 - $99

This festival features an international line-up of pop and rock acts and other genres of rock and metal acts. The headlining act will be American rock band King Shadow. This year’s line-up includes a 5G Anniversary Festival, a special edition of the debut album 'A Lesson In Humor'. On the lineup will be Australian pop punk band With Confidence, as well as local and regional support acts from Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines. The Mayflower Festival of the World winner will perform during the festival as well.

Future: Live in Singapore
May 17 | 7pm
ZEPP SINGAPORE
Tickets: $169 - $1,069

Alaska rapper Future is making his way to Singapore for the first time! This much-hyped rapper recently released his latest album, titled 'Future From America', which features some big name guests from the hip-hop world. Spectators can expect to see Future perform his hit songs live in Singapore, as well as some of his other chart-topping hits like ‘Mask Off’.

PRODUCTIONS

Ultra Singapore
Jun 8 - 9
Ultra Park
Tickets: $159 - $2,569

One of Singapore’s biggest outdoor EDM events, held in the heart of the city, with a lineup of international DJs and artists from around the world, across three stages. The festival will feature headlining acts like Calvin Harris, Martin Garrix, and more, making it the perfect destination for music lovers of all ages. With a wide variety of sets and experiences, you’re sure to have a night to remember.

Hallyu Pop Fest 2019
May 5 - 6
Supernova Indoor Stadium
Tickets: $104 - $288

The first and largest K-pop festival in South-east Asia, Hallyu Pop Fest is back for its second year with a lineup of some of the biggest and up-and-coming acts in K-pop, including Blackpink, Monsta X, NCT Dream, and more. With two stages on each day, fans can go out and meet their favorite stars up close on the Red Carpet. This year’s festival will also feature a Hallyu Town with plenty of fun and exciting activities, from food to beauty and fashion.
Beautify in the Eye of Culture

Korea vs the US

By Lydia Tan

ONE SIZE FITS ALL?

In Western societies, people are more accepting of a wide range of body shapes, especially for women. Words like “curvy,” “thick” and “figure” and “size” are commonly used to complement a fuller-sized woman’s figure, empowering them to feel confident and sexy in their own skin. For example, thinness was considered an ideal body standard until 1990s, when the idea of “thinspiration” began to gain popularity.

However, in Asian countries, women are not held to the same standards. Weight is especially emphasized in Korea, and it is uncommon for K-pop idols to lie about their weight or to be criticized for not meeting the ideal body standards. A recent study by Anissa Boux revealed that a girl’s height and weight are correlated with her attractiveness in Korea. This video featured Miss Korea 2016, Kwon Sun-hee, who is tall and slim, and was considered by many to be “oversized” and not fit to wear the title.

For men, both in Asia and the West, being thinner is considered more attractive. Muscular build is more desirable- for example, Ryan Reynolds and Dwayne Johnson are considered to be the epitome of masculinity. However, in Japan, tall and thin body types are considered more attractive.

The study also revealed that, in Korea, women are often criticized for not meeting the ideal body standards, such as having a small waist and large breasts. In contrast, in the West, women are often praised for their curves.

FACE VALUE

Because the US is multicultural, there are many different types of beauty. Examples of beautiful women include Beyoncé and Selena Gomez. A study by People magazine’s World’s Most Beautiful list of 2017 showed that, compared to 1980s, there is more diversity in race, ethnicity, and age. This is because the evolution of beauty standards has changed over time.

For Korea – just like most Asian countries – the ideal body type is a slim figure. However, the ideal body type has evolved over time. In the 1980s, the “sandy beach” body was considered the most attractive, followed by the “angel” body in the 1990s.

For men, in the US, muscular build is more desirable, while in Korea, tall and thin body types are more desirable.

CROSS-CULTURAL SHIFT

Due to globalisation, beauty standards are changing across cultures. New beauty standards that are popular in the Western world, such as “slim” and “flat,” are also becoming popular in Korea. This is because of the influence of Western media and the increased exposure to Western beauty ideals.

For example, the concept of “six-pack abs” is popular in Korea, as it is in the West. In the past, men were considered to be attractive if they had a “well-toned” body, while in Korea, men are now considered to be attractive if they have a “six-pack” abs.

In conclusion, beauty standards are changing across cultures, and it is important to understand that these standards are not fixed and can change over time. It is important to promote a healthy and positive image of beauty that is inclusive and respects diversity.

SEXLESS AND THE CITY

The conundrum of asexuality

By Chan Choju

S

ex sells. We all know that, hence the over-sexualised posters plastered all over, over-sexualised characters in video games, lack of personal fulfilment. We can even see a husband and wife having sex in the cinema without making any intended intimate contact nowadays.

It’s fascinating how much we are conditioned to be, yet the general population actually do not give a single f%ck (pun intended) about sex in a society so otherwise focused with it. They are known as asexuals, and have only just appeared recently — not because people suddenly decided that they no longer felt the magic of sex, but because there is finally a definite term for this particular sexual orientation.

A KNOWN HISTORY

If you doubt asexuality has long been a thing, just consider someone of the historical figures who were possibly asexual, such as Nikola Tesla, whose only known love might have been science, and Isaac Newton, who according to a biography believed women to be unsuited for sex.

There’s also Dr John Kellogg who invented corn flakes to help people abstain from masturbation, which was taboo in the 18th and 19th centuries. He also believed that sex was bad for body that he never had sex with his wife — he had separate rooms and adopted all of their children.

SEXUALITY IS NOT A DISORDER

Asexuality is not a disorder. It’s just a different way of experiencing sex, and not necessarily aversive. The body is a physical experience, and what we do with it is our choice. It’s important to recognize that sexuality is not binary, and that there is a spectrum of sexual orientations.

In the words of a member from community site Asexuality.org, they have the same emotional needs as everybody else and are just as capable of forming intimate relationships. Just because someone is asexual doesn’t mean they aren’t able to have sex (which can happen if the occasion calls for it) or be attracted to others. They just choose not to have sex, which is a choice; sexual orientation is a personal preference.

In short, Asexuals can experience love, sexual, and orgasm, but they choose not to have sex because of reasons like personal preference, values, or religion. Asexuals can also have all sorts of sex lives, from none at all to a very active one. The end of the day, as long as they’re happy, there’s no need to judge.

As we are just as capable of forming intimate relationships like everybody else, and a quick look at the internet reveals that there are plenty of asexuals in happy relationships with partners of “normal” sex drives. The concept of being asexual doesn’t need to equal sex.
ALL IN ONE PACKAGE

GENDERED PRODUCTS

You see it in on the shelves of your average neighborhood supermarkets: Pink means products for women, blue means products for men. Gendered packaging is seen in everything from toiletries to even food and stationery. But what exactly defines a “male” or a “female” product?

Stereotypes of gendered packaging

Besides the colour differentiation, other factors influence gender in product packaging:

- **Mascot-oriented products** tend to have stronger wasps and bees, insects with yellow and black stripes, and more science-related with birds and arrows, or sports-related. The fonts are more rigid and boxy. Even male scents for colognes, cologne sprays, and body products are mostly musky, woody, and spicy.

- **Female-oriented products** have softer curves, with graphics that tend to be nature-related, such as floral motifs, leaves, and fruit. Feminine products are also smaller or stiffer, with bands and bracelets, usually in pink, reds, and carnations. Feminine scents are on the floral, fruity, and sweet side.

Sometimes, the packaging might not even specify a gender. Result: certain words that denote power — like “fights, power, boss, etc.” — “head” and “intense” — are usually for men’s products. Experience-centric words that represent gentleness — like “delicate,” “luscious,” and “silky smooth” — are reserved for women’s products, and for food products labeled as “diet,” “low-fat,” or promote a “skin tone.”

What are little boys and little girls made of?

Even from a young age, kids are exposed to gendered products. Baby girls are wrapped in pink blankets, and boys in blue. They grow girls are marked to be princess, doll carrying “mothers,” and give toys like Barbie dolls, kitchen sets, and dress-up clothes. The toys are made to be stereotypes and stereotypes and given toys, boys are shaped like flowers or hearts. But why do they need the segregation?

Why the segmentation?

Gendered marketing, or the “pink tax,” segregates the target audience into smaller groups so that the marketing can be easily customized to maximize sales.

Another reason for gendered products is that they fit long-established stereotypes. For example, gendered products have been marketed to the housewife demographic from as early as the Victorian era till today. Gendered products also give us insights into identities that align with your gender instead of mirroring how it is made for you.

But do people actually buy into this gender segmentation? A 2019 Canadian study showed that gender marketing does subtly cause us to lose money and experience the gendered structures at play. They found that women are less likely to buy cosmetic products even if they are not clearly branded as “women’s.”

The “Pink Tax” phenomenon

Women’s products and services are often subject to additional costs, known as the “pink tax,” in some countries. Even sanitary products have a “luxury tax” imposed on them, even though they’re not luxury products.

It’s not just for personal care products — when the CancerStore launched a new line of sunscreen lotion, the prices were only 25% higher than those of a comparable product at the drugstore.

Social or biological?

There is a general belief that technology and gender are socially or biologically related to the domain of men. Game manufacturers took advantage of this, targeting the advertising of video games towards boys and men. This is based on the idea that males are more logical and aggressive to pursue their desires than females.

However, technology hasn’t always been the domain of men. When computers were invented, programming was seen as a secretarial skill, so it became a job for women. Women were not allowed to work in code-breaking machines during WW2, but they dominated the computing industry until the late 1950s to the 1960s. In the 1970s, the government and industry saw the potential of these powerful computers, but women’s contributions were not recognized until society as they were rejected by men who later became the faces of the tech industry.

Gender is less more

The term is gender is no longer seen as a binary between male and female. Brands like Aesop and The Ordinary are mainstream and feminine products are being marketed more frequently. Packaging people use the products differently.

As long as gender roles exist in society, gendered product marketing is going to continue. But if the products serve the same purpose, is there really a need to define which ones are for men or women? Maybe it’s better for the marketers to focus on making smarter purchasing decisions, even if it means buying something different.

Why is gaming so male-dominated?

Those who love gaming — whether it is online games, video games or even e-sports — often agree that gaming is an inherently male-oriented activity. Most parents are also likely to tell you that boys and girls do not play video games equally. But what is causing gender bias in gaming?

The Pink and Blue Asile

Gender bias in video games is a result of both societal and personal experiences. For example, girls are more likely to play video games with their friends, while boys are more likely to play video games alone. Additionally, girls are more likely to choose video games that are based on real-world experiences, while boys are more likely to choose video games that are based on fictional experiences.

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Threats and Controversies

Toxic masculinity often plays a role in group gaming, particularly in games like League of Legends, Counter-Strike, and Overwatch. Male threats like “go back to the kitchen” are common, and it is a reminder that men feel threatened by the lack of diversity in the gamer community.

Another reason why gaming is so male-dominated is that society’s biases are based on the idea that men are more aggressive and assertive, while women are more nurturing and supportive.

Conclusion

According to a survey conducted by the Oxford Internet Institute, only half of mobile gamers are women, and 35% of gamers (growing) of Twitch streamers are women.

Women are also joining the gaming scene in droves, thanks in part to the rise of women streamers. According to Twitch, women now make up 40% of its active streamers, which is comparable to the number of men.

Another reason is that women gamers are not as likely to be targeted by companies or publishers. Women gamers are still an underrepresented group, and it is up to companies to ensure that they are not just catering to the male audience.

In conclusion, gender bias in gaming is a complex issue that is based on both societal and personal experiences. It is important for the industry to take steps to ensure that women are not marginalized in the gaming world.

BY VALERIE THONG
POVNTS OF CONTENTION

What’s Up with Male Nipples?

by Nina Iann

Much like armpit hair or pubes, putting nipples on men doesn’t really seem to serve a purpose except men would look weird without them. However, male nipples may hold the key to helping us see gender equality. Here are some ways that the male nipple has been misunderstood, and perhaps, overlooked in its potential to be more than just pectoral garnish.

ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL: WE WERE ALL WOMEN

This is truer than you think, because all babies start off as girls: it is a generic human template. Yep, all males start life as females, that is, until their Y chromosomes (the stuff that makes them males) kick in. But it’s too late to stop female characteristics to be built in, like nipples.

But that’s not all. All males, like females, also develop the ‘milk line’ – essentially an internal piping from the armpits to the groin that contains milk. Along this ‘milk line’, females eventually develop breasts, and males just have a pair of nipples.

What's Up with Male Nipples?

Equality in the Household, Finally!

Many men may be bad at picking up the slack in terms of household chores, but if they wanted to show that they truly understand the inequalities women experience at home, they can help feed the baby. With their own mammaries.

Guys can lactate too. Some newborn boys actually leak milk – known as ‘witch’s milk’ – from their nipples. Male lactation has been observed in animals like cats and goats, and Charles Darwin, in his 1871 thesis, explained that early man, ably outfitted with mammary glands, divvied up breastfeeding duties with the women.

In an African pygmy tribe called Aka, there have been documented cases of males nursing babies, and in 2002, a Sri Lankan father of two male headlines for breastfeeding his daughters after his wife died. Scientists also documented lactation in male WWII prison camp survivors soon after they received adequate nutrition after months of starvation.

Adult men can experience galactorrhea – when nipples ooze milk – when they stimulate the nipples too much, or if there are disorders or medications that mess up the hormones, or if they’re overweight (fat can increase estrogen levels). Cuddling or spending time with a baby has been shown to increase the amount of prolactin (the hormone that stimulates milk production) males produce, while cutting down testosterone. Combined with the physical stimulus of a suckling infant, men can actually breastfeed (no word on the quality of milk though!)

It seems that men too have a pair of tools and the power to help achieve true equality with women.

Three’s a Crowd

Since the nipples are connected to the milk line, why stop at a pair? By one count, one out of every 60 newborns have extra nipples. Men are more likely to women to develop a third nipple: This commonly happens along the milk line, usually on the left side of male bodies.

In 2012, an Indian case study saw a seven-nippled man, and even Harry Styles (the ex-One Direction member) has four nipples! Mark Wahlberg has (only) three.

Since they’re not fully developed as regular nipples, they often pass off as round, pointed moles (you’re going to look at your moles real close now, aren’t you?). You can develop extra nipples anywhere, even on your hands or feet!

At least it’s better than having no nipples (unless you’re a male horse or mouse). Guys are also more likely than girls to have Poland syndrome in which a person is born without one or both nipples.

Nipples are nature’s way of making men understand – albeit very slightly – the female anatomy. Sure, they may be less sexy than female versions, but science has proven that they are not as useless as they seem, especially when it comes to proving that men and women are created equal.

STRESS RELIEF

Battle of the Sexes

Be the first team to win all 5 sticks!

What is the tagline for L’Oreal?

Because you’re worth it.

Name a female hormone.

Estrogen.

What’s a female horse called?

A mare.

Why do women feel bloated during menstruation?

Water retention.

Name the female Nobel laureate in 2014

Malala Yousafzai.

What is the slogan for Gillette?

The best a man can get.

Name a male hormone.

Testosterone.

What’s a male horse called?

A stallion (or horse).

Can men lactate?

Yes.

Who won the Nobel prize in 2009?

Barack Obama.

Rules

1. Game can be 2, 4 or 8 players, split into Men’s and Women’s teams.
2. Men’s team gets Men’s Sticks; Women’s team gets Women’s Sticks.
3. Read out the questions to the opposite team. One correct answer means the stick is theirs.
4. Take turns asking questions.
5. First team to get all coloured sticks wins the game! (Fast free to make more sticks)
Gender Issue

Skirts and Heels
Gaming
Galacterrhea

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OUR DOUBLE COVER ISSUE!