

MONDAY 15TH JUNE 2020

ROGUE

pride

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SUPPORTS

YOU

LOVE IS LOVE



HAPPY

PRIED

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There are some spots of normality returning to our lives this week, shops are opening, some year twelves are heading back into school and lockdowns around the world are starting to lift. However, this years Pride month will be celebrated differently in the UK. There'll be no pouring on to Regent Street decked out in flags to sing Abba, instead we'll all be stuck again to our computer screens as Amnesty organises *Pride Inside*.

On Friday the Rogue team held a group Zoom call and whilst not everyone could make it, it was really lovely to be able to put some names to new faces. Zoya and I are so proud of our team, not only for their great work

look forward to sharing their hard work with you. This week, Anastacia ponders the afterlife, Jack examines the return of English football, Adina teaches us about 'opt-out' organ donation, Zoya talks about the Midnight Zone and Shiraz looks at the new PS5.

Next week, we're working on a special edition featuring some very talented year eights. Stay Tuned.

ROGUE NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for contributors, whether that's weekly or just a one off, no journalistic experience is required we're open to all! Rogue is not just looking for articles, we're also looking for any content you feel others might enjoy. Have you heard or seen something funny on Microsoft Teams, got a picture of a pet working from home, heard some good gossip, learnt a new skill you'd like to share, want to set a quiz, got a good (clean) joke or just got a question that needs to be answered? We want to hear from you!

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THE EGG

What happens after we die? Some believe in reincarnation, some believe that we go to heaven, or hell, others believe we just... die. Nobody living truly has the answer, it's not something we can prove but others have given deciding what happens after death a go, beyond personal beliefs like religion. One of these people is Andy Weir who wrote 'The Egg' retold on the 'Kurzgesagt- in a nutshell' YouTube channel but also notably before that on the rapper 'Logic's' 2017 album 'Everybody'.

Though there are various retellings, the story is told in 2nd person. It starts by telling you that you were in a car accident, there was a skidding truck and you died. That's when you met God. In a place that goes beyond time and space. You ask 'God' about your wife and children and he is glad that your first worry after you find out you have died is about those you love. Your kids will always think of you fondly as they had not grown old enough to have their view of you tainted and your wife will feel guilty about feeling relieved that you are gone.

None of that matters now. You are in a waiting room. Waiting for rebirth.

God tells you that all religions got it right in their own way. When you are reborn, all the knowledge and information about your past lives is within you, and if you were to wait inside the waiting room for long enough, it'll return to you.

Logic's version of the story is seen from the point of view of two lives after the original story is told. Where the man is sent back in time to 540 AD to be a Chinese peasant girl. However, in the version you'll here on the track 'Waiting room', you are a black man in Chicago who's past life was as the Chinese girl but now is about to become the 8th Lord Fairfax of Cameron...whose son will free the slaves.

You question yourself, God is going to send you back in time? But where this God comes from the construct of time is not so linear, in fact it only exists in this universe. We wouldn't understand where this God came from even if we tried.

In the Egg story, we are told that the meaning of life, the meaning of this whole universe, is for you to grow and mature. Just you. When you are reincarnated in different spaces in time, you interact with yourself. Every act of hatred you commit against another, you commit against yourself. Every act of love you commit, you commit unto yourself. You were Jesus and all his disciples; you were Hitler and the many he killed. Every life you live you grow and mature into a better, wiser person and once you have lived every human life that ever lived or ever will live you will become like God. For now, you are just a foetus... you still have much growing to do until you can be truly born. This whole universe is simply an egg.

God sends you back into your next life. The story ends. If this has any truth to it, then you are reading your own writings now, an interesting concept indeed.

BY ANASTACIA ALLAN



'OPT-OUT' DONATION

The new 'opt-out' organ donation system, also known as 'Max and Keira's Law', came into effect in England on 20th May 2020 and had been debated for some time before that. This new system is where adults, people 18 and over, would automatically be considered organ donors when they die – unless they have signed up to not donate their organs. Consent from family members will also still be required for organs or tissues to be taken from someone - out of consideration and in order to receive any necessary information about the person and their organs. Doctors will also continue to take a person's faith and beliefs into consideration before any procedures.

The system change was deemed necessary as a result of too many people were dying because there were not enough organs available for them. In 2019, 408 patients had died in the UK whilst on the waiting list for an organ. There were many people who had been considering becoming an organ donor, but had never registered to become one. Around 80% of adults in England had expressed an interest in becoming an organ donor, but only 40% had signed up. 2 out of 3 physicians from the British Medical Association were in favour of the switch and the system had been successful in Wales, where they have been using it since 2015 and their "consent rate has risen from 58% to 75%". The change would now allow there to be a higher number of possibly viable organs to be available to then save lives.

The law was named the 'Max and Keira's law' after Max Johnson and Keira Ball. Max Johnson was on the waiting list for a heart transplant and, along with his family, was campaigning for an opt-out system. It was 9 year old Keira's heart that saved his life, after her parents altruistically decided to help Max and donate her heart after her untimely death from a road traffic accident.

Some people are concerned about the change as they fear that they are losing control of what happens to their body – but this is not the case as people can still decide and easily register to not donate their organs in the future or let their family know of their wishes. It is important, however, that everyone is aware of the change so that they know to take this action if they wish to. People are also able to change their decision to become an organ donor or not at any time.

There are also concerns that there will need to be more funding towards the more frequent procedures, which would require more equipment and trained professionals. Resources would also be required to store and preserve organs outside of the body, as some organs can only survive for 4 to 6 hours in such conditions – so doctors would need to work fast to get them to a recipient. Despite this, the benefits of this new system outweigh the previous system as it should provide more opportunities to save far more lives.



IT'S COMING HOME

English Football returns on Wednesday 17th June. The only two leagues restarting are the Championship and Premier League, the top two flights of English football. With only a handful of games resuming there is a lot to fight for.

The Premier League Title has almost already been decided with Liverpool running away with it in top spot having only been defeated once, against Watford, so there is not much to focus on at the top of the Premier League.

The Premier League Relegation Zone is always an interesting topic of conversation and is always interesting at this time of the season. On many occasions teams have been relegated and have fallen apart due to poor ownership or lack of funding, likely as a result of the players' large wage bills that can no longer be accommodated once the club has fallen out of the Premier League. Teams this have happened to include Coventry City, Sunderland, Bolton Wanderers, Charlton Athletic and Portsmouth. All these teams are known for their size and stature within the football league over their histories and have all collapsed as a result of relegation. There is a lot at stake for the fans and the club itself. The Teams that are fighting for survival include Brighton, West Ham, Bournemouth, Watford and Aston Villa. So much on the line should make for some interesting matches worth watching.

Promotion to the Premier League is a big deal for most clubs as it provides a sense of their respective successes last season that are enormous. The Premier League is the world's richest club competition and being one of 20 teams with a hand in the cash register brings with it some seriously lucrative benefits. There are potential downsides too, however. Making a team competitive is expensive and there's always the risk a promoted club could drop straight back down the next season—plagued with inflated costs and wages. The Clubs to watch on this front include Leeds,

West Brom, Fulham, Brentford, Bristol City and Mr. Selby's Favorite Club: Preston North End, who have been missing from topflight football for a very long time.

Relegation is just as big of a deal in the Premier League as it is in the Championship. Going into the last nine games with 3 points separating them are Huddersfeild, Hull, Wigan, Middlesbrough, Stoke City and Charlton Athletic whose title of Relegation Favorites has been cemented even more by their star striker Lyle Taylor refusing to play out his contract and their 6-0 defeat to Arsenal. Probably the most exciting game to watch in the Championship will be Charlton vs Hull, a relegation clash where so much is at stake.



THE MIDNIGHT ZONE

BY ZOYA LULU KIRMANI

So, the surface of our planet is roughly 71% water, and 96.5% of all that water is found in our oceans. Of that total ocean water, 90% known as the midnight zone.

The oceans are divided into 5 layers; they all have long scientific names, but to keep it simple, the first layer is the sunlight zone, also known as the euphotic zone at 200m deep. Photic meaning light particles, so this layer receives all the initial sunlight; therefore, plant and animal life thrives here. Plants can perform rapid photosynthesis acting as primary producers providing food for the primary consumers, which in turn grow for the secondary consumers, and so the cycle continues. For example, the Australian Great Barrier Reef lies in the Sunlight zone.

The second layer is the twilight zone, or the dysphotic zone with a depth of 200-1000m. Light rapidly declines here, it's rare for light to reach the lowest ends of this layer, so plant life is scarce and many of the animals living here are carnivorous.

Then there's the midnight, or aphotic zone with a depth of 1,000-4,000 meters. Pressure here is incredibly high and temperatures are near freezing, around 4°C. Light cannot reach these depths so it's pretty much bathed in darkness. No photosynthesis can occur so no plant life can survive. This means that most animals here are carnivorous or survive off leftovers, acting as a clean-up team for carcasses discarded by the first-round predators.

After this layer comes what's known as the Abyss at 4,000-6,000m. This layer remains in perpetual or infinite darkness. Very few creatures live here because the conditions are so harsh – pressure is unimaginable and temperatures are around 2°C, so anything managing to survive here is doing exactly that – managing.

Finally, there are the trenches or the hadalpelagic zone. At 6,000 to 11,000m. Originally life here was thought to be impossible – pressure can be up to 1,100 atmospheres, temperature is around 1°C and there is limited to no oxygen. However after scientists discovered snailfish in 2008 – the first sign of life in this zone, more research was done to discover that life could potentially live up to 8,400m, however beyond this point, fish would no longer be able to produce the necessary proteins needed to survive, so it is believed that life ends here, in the hadal zone.

Back to the midnight zone; you may be wondering, how life can survive in these conditions; high pressure, freezing temperatures and absolutely no light? Well the animals here are able to withstand these pressures and temperatures with ease, through evolution and natural selection, they've become climatized; it's the lack of light that's the problem.

However, over time, these creatures have developed a number of adaptations. A key one being what's known as bioluminescence. This is when a living organism can produce or emit light. A common example of this would be fireflies, they produce light in their lower abdomen. Another example is the Hawaiian bobtail squid, which emits light from its head. These produce light through (symbiotic) chemical reactions using enzymes and bacteria. A symbiotic relationship is a mutually beneficial relationship.

A good example of this is the Angler fish. You may remember them from Finding Nemo. The scene began with Dory singing her little just keep swimming song, and if the movie was scientifically accurate, she'd have swum around 1,000 meters deep, until she and Marlin were plunged into darkness in the midnight zone, where they were greeted by the angler fish.

The angler fish have adapted by using a lure. Using the glowing symbiotic bacteria in their bodies, the bacteria grow and divide in their esca's which is the bulb like organ, which emits light. This draws the prey in close to the fish where it can be quickly and easily caught in the layers of teeth.

Another adaptation would be of the Barreleye fish. These fish have developed a transparent skull. Their heads are filled with a transparent liquid, allowing the fish to look up, through their heads at the silhouettes of possible predators or prey swimming above it.

Two more examples of midnight zone adaptations are the Giant Squid the Cockeyed Squid. The Cockeyed Squid has one downward facing eye and one larger upward facing eye. This means that it can function similarly to the Barreleye fish, it can detect predators and prey swimming above it using its specialised lens and specially positioned eye. It can also use a bioluminescence camouflaging technique known as counter-illumination to prevent detection where the squid produces an equal wavelength of light to its surroundings.

Finally, the Giant Squid. This has multiple adaptations, but arguably the most prominent is the development of eyes that can be larger than basketballs. This squid can also grow up to 70 feet long and its only known worthy opponent are sperm whales, found in the twilight zone, but often dive to the midnight zone in search of prey.

So, as you can see, the lack of light, intense pressure and harsh temperatures prove to be no match for these creatures. Instead of life disappearing into the darkness, it has learnt to harness light for its own purposes and animals have learnt to adapt and evolve in curious ways to survive.



PLAYSTATION 5

June 11th marks the day the PS5 was announced, setting the president for a breathtaking future for people with little patience or have a decoration style bearing a resemblance to WiFi routers.

Along with the reveal of many highly anticipated titles and fresh, new titles, Sony finally revealed what their PlayStation 5 looked like, how fast it functioned and a few other interesting features. Sony had already revealed the new PS5 DualSense controller earlier this year with impressive features of its own, such as adaptive triggers, haptic feedback and a new futuristic and ergonomic design to immerse users and seamlessly transport them into a new world. To compliment the controllers impressive new design, the console itself had much to boast about.

The PS5 is comprised of an AMD Zen 2-based CPU with 8 cores at 3.5GHz and a custom RDNA 2 AMD GPU that puts out 10.28 TFLOPs of processing power at 2.23GHz. In comparison to the PS4, this is a huge step forward; the PS5's ancestor ran on a CPU of 8 jaguar cores that had an output of 1.6GHz and a GPU that had an output of 1.84 TFLOPs at 800 MHz. The new technology also has double the memory of the PS4, 16GB, and storage space up to 825 GB. Users can also look forward to crystal clear graphics due to the 4K Ultra HD Blu-ray optical drive (the PS4 lacks the 4K Ultra HD). In addition to this huge power upgrade, some of the PS5's most intriguing features include ray-tracing (producing realistic lighting effects that "trace" the path of light and simulate how light interacts with objects), backwards compatibility with almost all PS4 titles and there are hints that there may be assistant capabilities to inform you when your controller is dying or in-game tips such as how much progress you've made in a level. Despite the PS5 having less storage on its SSD than the Xbox, the implementation of the technology gives the PS5 a major advantage over the Xbox. Not only does the

SSD allow for almost 0 loading times but much larger open worlds for games such as the upcoming Assassins Creed: Valhalla and Horizon: Forbidden West. The custom SSD also has more bandwidth so games won't suffer as much from high quality textures and starting up the console itself will be faster. This means players have more control over data, for example, a multiplayer game mode can be installed specifically without downloading the rest of the game such as the single-player campaign.

Thus, the next-gen console seems to be a huge turning point, not just for the gaming industry but for technology in general. We can expect gameplay that we've never experienced before with seamless transitions between levels, hyper-realistic graphics and powerful immersion. This also means that developers will be stepping up their game, literally. In fact, Epic Games has revealed that the PS5's SSD is so fast that the developer had to rework the Unreal Engine 5 tech demo to take full advantage of it. So all that's left to do is wait for, what will allegedly be, the last time.

BY SHIRAZ KIRMANI

