The Paw Print

September 2016

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BERLIN BRANDENBURG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Dear Paw Print Readers,

After a three month period of dormancy, we have finally returned! The last few weeks marked one of the most hectic, deadline-packed phases of high school we have ever experienced. We apologize for the delay and hope to get the next issues rolling out punctually again.

As per usual, our long summer break harboured some truly interesting events in world news and current affairs. International sports tournaments, political standoffs, celebrity gossip, but most importantly, our school was subject to many changes. Realizing this, Darya and I took note of the need to focus our newspaper/magazine on more school related issues. While we personally love writing about interesting events happening outside of our campus, the primary focus for our high school paper should remain on BBIS. Thus, we have added two completely new sections to our September issue.

Firstly, the BBIS Panther Bulletin, is meant to raise further awareness for our school's dedicated sports teams. We plan to feature monthly results of games and tournaments as well as upcoming fixtures. We hope that this will give students a better glimpse of our school's athletic achievements, and upcoming events to attend. Additionally, Darya has added her own "Student Council Bulletin" to elucidate some of the mysteries behind our student government and keep you all updated on the most important things to know. Check this section for Student Council hosted events, sales or other opportunities to get involved.

Finally, our Anniversary and Alumni columns will be returning next month. Over the past few weeks we have had a chat with ex Paw Print editors Antonia Seyfarth and Amalie Rasmussen. Stay tuned for a full article on their new experiences beyond IB and BBIS in the coming issues.

We hope that you enjoy this issue. As always, if you have any questions or inquiries, feel free to contact us anytime. We welcome all new students at BBIS to become involved in our newspaper club. Avid writers are always appreciated. And for all of you CAS-hungry 11th graders, major creativity hours are on the line.

Sincerely,

*Justinus Steinhorst*Editor-in-chief

Darya Guettler Co-Editor-in-Chief



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OH MY GOD'S of the HS

- by Emily Lauterbach

IB Study room

Since the beginning of last year, the IB Study room has been crowded. It is a mixture of people who take their academics seriously and come there to work and people who have free periods and just wanna 'chill'. We all remember the days of Grade 11 where you had the occasional assignment or presentation to do, but free periods were mostly about watching Netflix and updating the best friend on what's been goin on. Last year we all managed to fit in the study hall somehow because the number of people was smaller. This year however, Grade 11 is the biggest grade that BBIS has ever had, so we have a slightly bigger issue. What are we gonna do?

Well, the school suggests that whenever the study room is too crowded, students go to the library or they open up another classroom. We don't like this though because other classrooms are not as comfortable as the study room, bigger chairs, bigger desks, more light, comfortable 'vibes'. What actually has to happen is students who need to do study, do work, or use the big computers may stay in the study hall, whereas students who just wanna hang with the gang should go ANYWHERE ELSE PLEASE. You will appreciate this 'solution' when you actually have something to study for.

Cafeteria

The list of things that have us going "OH MY GOD" about the school caf is endless and way longer than anything Paw Print readers are willing to read. So let's get right to it. 0.15ml of coffee should not be 1.10 euros unless it's some magical elixir that wakes you right up and somehow enhances all your capabilities

to perform better. OH WAIT. It doesn't. If you're gonna offer sandwiches, make sure there are enough throughout the whole day, because the alternatively overpriced, frozen pieces of wood that are called "warm meals" are not something we wanna chug instead. Next, for those people who actually buy the overpriced wood, aren't allowed to take it outside the caf. Well, this wouldn't be a problem if there were actually enough tables and chairs to seat everyone, but there aren't, so I don't know like do you want us to eat those standing or...??? Most of us (Gr.11/12) wouldn't even consume the caf food if we were allowed to go to Rathaus, which we aren't. OH MY GOD, RIGHT?

Rathaus

Moving on to an issue that we actually all care about. Rathaus. Being allowed to leave the walls that hold us in jail. If you (BBIS) want to change contracts with the security company to keep us all safer, much thanks to you, but could ya maybe do that over the summer so we can leave the campus again?? And what is up with those new cards, do you want each and every single one of us to scan it when we leave the campus? I mean, if we go out in large groups that will take forever for us to even have crossed the wall that we may as well go back inside after because there is not enough time left over. And if we wanna leave 7 minutes before school is over because we have been sitting in our cells all day already (like inmates), JUST LET US OUT OF PRISON PLEASE. Everyone always says "school is like prison" but when a BBIS student says this, they mean literal prison, 'cause we actually cannot leave.



BBIS Panthers Bulletin

- by Wouter Allard

Date	Event	Students per team	Venue
14 + 15 September	GISST AD Meeting	x	Internationale Schule Frankfurt (ISF)
7 – 8 October	Cross Country and Inter School	24	Berlin British School (BBS)
10 – 12 November	Varsity Boys Football	15	Franconian International School (FIS)
10 – 12 November	Varsity Girls Football	15	Leipzig International School (LIS)
17 - 19 November	U14 Boys Football	15	Bavarian International School (BIS)
17 - 19 November	U14 Girls Football	12	Berlin International School (BERIS)

BBIS Panthers Bulletin

Results
Saturday September 17:

BBIS 3:0 BBS - Varsity Girls football BBIS 5:0 LIS - Varsity Girls football

BBIS 2:0 BBS - Varsity Boys Football BBIS 2:3 LIS (2-3) - Varsity Boys Football BBIS 3:1 ISH - Varsity Boys Football





Throwing away food

- by Senta Berndorfer

Recently, I took note that in our cafeteria a lot of us are throwing away their food. My opinion is that we should be very valuable with our food.

It really shocks me that so much food gets thrown away in our cafeteria. That's why I wrote an article about this special topic.

Food is a present. In a lot of countries there is no food. People can easily die without it.

I thought about this and an idea popped into my brain. The thought I had was that here in Germany, we have lots of food and then a lot of us throw it away. Think about this: the people who don't get food would be very happy.

It is important when we eat food that we also think about what food really is.

This is a picture with thrown away food. Experts say in one year germans throw million of tons of food away and that teach second germans throw 313 kilos away.



Animals have rights too

Now imagine if someone would kill you to eat you

and then not eat you! First of all, you don't want to be killed. Same with animals but animals can't do anything about that because they can't speak and also humans are a lot more powerful. Even worse, you get killed and then not eaten. That means that you get killed for no reason. This happens with animals a lot of the time! This happens almost everywhere in Germany. It is so unfair for the animals. Just because they can't speak, doesn't mean they don't have their rights to live normally. Animals also want to live and they do not want to be killed - ANIMALS ALSO HAVE THEIR RIGHTS!

Meat - What it really is!

We say we want meat and then we try it and think it is disgusting. This not really kind to the animal!

My visit to an animal market in France

I once was in France on a market place and I saw chicken still with a head on and other things where you could really see that an animal was also a creature.

A lot of us don't think that they are eating an animal that once was also alive just like us. I think if I would show this to our school everybody would think more about what an animal is.

We say things and don't really know what something is

A lot of us throw their lunch away and then they throw their food away and look in the containers with all food that has been thrown away. In those containers you see fish mixed with fish and semolina pudding. The next moment I hear them saying, "Disgusting". I always think: well you are throwing away food and we all eat lunch so then it is obvious that fish gets mixed with semolina pudding.



How you as one person can help! One person can already help a bit!

Try to not throw food away. Let's say you are not so hungry. When the lunch ladies want to give you food you say that you don't want as much. She will understand and will not give you too much. That means you do not have to throw away so much food.

If you don't like that food, don't take it. It will be a waste of food and a waste of your money.

Sometimes in the cafeteria from the four menus you can choose there is only meat or fish to choose from. I am not so much a meat eater so I would be very happy if the cafeteria could always have one menu without meat or fish.

Thank you very much for your attention.
Raise your voice and stand up for NOT THROWING AWAY FOOD!





School without racism - school with courage

- by Carolina Vasilcisin

SCHULE

OHNE RASSISMUS

SCHULE

MIT COURAGE

What is it about?

How do we live in the country of variety? Many students and young adults think about the united answers to this question. All of us want to make Germany as charming and beautiful as possible.

School without racism – "School with Courage" is a project that offers students to create a climate of acceptance and develop a sense of civic duty. We offer all students to take part, and stand up for a climate of open mindedness and acceptance; and thus, clear the school from any form of discrimination.

What do we do?

A very advantageous factor about our project, is that it is lead by students, thus it strongly increases organizing and communicational skills. In order to start the project, there are three important task that need to be completed:

- 1. Collect the signatures from at least 70% of all students, teachers, and non-teaching staff.
- 2. Enlist the endorsement of a celebrity or a politician.
- 3. Organize a ceremony, introducing the advantages of the project.
- 4. Run regular events that draw attention to discrimination.

What do we believe in?

The members of our project protest against all forms of ideological injustice. We speak out against the discrimination on the basis of social background, religion, gender, physical appearance, political views



and sexual orientation. We believe in equality and peace, and we want to make sure that our school becomes one of those places, where anyone could feel safe, protected and comfortable. If you had any experiences with bullying, discrimination, or any other types of injustice, then this project is for you, since you are able to make a change, and avoid similar situations happening to other students.

Our background?

The project was created in Germany in June of 1995 by the "Verein Aktion Courage e.V". Currently, there is an impressive network of 2000 schools in Germany who run regular anti-discrimination events. We gain support by many democratic parties and prominent people from the world of politics, sports, religion and culture.

Why should you join?

As was stated above, students who are willing to work hard in order to stop any type of discrimination, as well as those who want to work independently and organize big/small events. Moreover, we will be more than happy to see an enthusiastic, reliable and responsible student joining our project. Furthermore, for students of grades 11-12, this is an amazing CAS project opportunity, since it really does show how dedicated, organized, and socially active you are.

So what are you waiting for?

If you decide that this project is for you, and that you will be able to stay dedicated and make a change, then WHY WAIT? Join us as soon as possible. We meet every Thursday in room #3404.

We cannot wait to see you



Ultimate Study Hacks for the new School Year

- by Eszter Magyar

The new school year gives everyone a chance to start fresh. Summer just ended and it already feels like homework and essays are taking over our every minute. Learning how to study efficiently will not only be reflected in your grades, but it will give you so much extra free time you'll no longer be drowning in work. If you really want to step up you "study game" this year, keep reading.

- Changing your study environment- once in awhile can be extremely useful in helping you refresh your mind and be able to concentrate on the task at hand. Try choosing 3-4 areas where you can stay focused and alternate between them. So, even though it seems like the most comfortable option, moving away from studying on your bed will definitely help you finish your assignments faster.
- 2. Movie soundtracks- many people will tell you that listening to music is the easiest way to get distracted--unless you listen to classical music. If you tend to get sleepy from classical music, or if it's simply not your style try listening to movie soundtracks. Vivaldi can wait because who wouldn't want to feel like they've suddenly been teleported to hogwarts while doing their math homework?
- 3. Make a cheat sheet (just don't bring it to the test)Don't do overnighters no matter how tempting it
 may seem; many studies have shown that getting
 those few extra hours of sleep will be more useful
 in the long run than stressfully trying memorize a
 textbook you were meant to learn over the course
 of a month. That being said, everyone has been in

- a situation where they'd give away their first born child (jk) just to have an extra day to study for a test. If you're really cramming for time, make a cheat sheet (just don't actually bring it in during the exam) this will cause your brain to memorize the most important parts of your topics and trigger your mind to remember the core of your subject during the exam.
- 4. Mnemonic devices- similarly, making mnemonic devices out of a few basic concepts while studying will help you remember concepts much faster and in a more interesting way.
- 5. Study groups- Perhaps one of the most annoying aspects of having impending deadlines to worry about, is that they take away from your free time you could be spending with your friends. A good way to "kill two birds with one stone" is by organizing study groups. This way you can be with your friends, even if it is slightly less exciting than partying together, and motivate each other to get your work done. Reciting and explaining concepts out loud will give you a clearer perspective on what you still need to revise.
- 6. Get an app such as flshcards+ or quizlet that lets you practice on the go- For all the times you've felt like you were wasting your time waiting for the bus or for your friends who always seem to show up late, this is the perfect solution for you. Quizlet and flashcards+ allow you to make notecards you can review any down time you get so no time is wasted



The Student Council - A monthly update

- by Darya Guettler

As part of a new segment in the newspaper, I will be informing the student body about the Student Council has been doing, what our plans are, and what events to look out for!

What is the Student Council?

If you are a new student, or have simply never heard of us before, here is a short explanation of the duties of the Student Council. We attempt to serve as a bridge between the administration and the student body. Unhappy with the crowded IB Study Room? We will fight for more space! Dislike the cafeteria lines? We are addressing it! Sometimes, however, these things take time. So if you think that we are doing nothing, please think again.



What is your Homeroom Representative there for?

At the beginning of the year, each homeroom was asked to elect their Homeroom Representative, who will serve as the connection between the Student Council and the Student body. They are meant to inform their Homeroom about the decisions the Student Council makes, Council events, and poll homerooms about Student Council decisions.

What has the Student Council done this month?

This month was important for the Student Council, both in regards to Events and taking action. This month marked the Student Council Grill and Chill, as well as the similar Summer Throwback Event, both

of which were successful in offering students a positive start to the new school year. The Student Council was also directly involved in allowing 12th graders to leave campus without the card readers, as well as creating an alternate IB Study Room in order to alleviate the lack of space in the current IB Study Room.

What are our goals and plans?

While many positive things have been achieved this year, there are still many student concerns that we wish to address; cafeteria lines and morning free periods sign ins being the most prominent. By next issue, there should be new updates regarding these two student interests. Another goal of ours is to introduce more interaction between BBIS and the surrounding schools, which we will attempt to do through collaborative projects.

What upcoming events should you be looking out for?

In order to raise school spirit, we will be having two spirit days on the 13th and 14th of October, the two days before the break. The 14th, which will be Pajama Day, is a combined spirit day with Elementary, Middle and High School. The 13th will be Twin Day. Best outfits from every section of the school will be awarded, so make sure to dress up!

How can we help YOU?

If you have any questions, concerns, or requests, feel free to contact me at daryaguettler@gmail.com, speak directly to me or your homeroom representative, and come to our Student Council meeting at 11:30 on Friday in Room 2401.



The Mess That Was Brexit: Explained

- by Alma Russell-Smith

Hopefully, all are aware of Britain's recent referendum on whether or not to leave the European Union. While America has been eagerly awaiting the upcoming election in November, Britain narrowly voted to leave the EU on June 23rd.



And narrowly it was: 48.11% voted to stay, while the remaining 51.89% voted to leave.

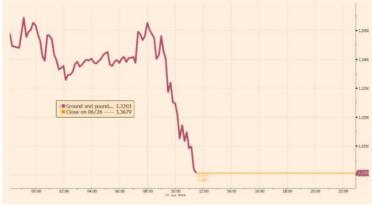
This was quite shocking to many people (ironically, it appears that the people who had voted to leave the EU were just as taken aback that they actually won as the opposition), as most predicted a victory for the pro-EU side. Since then, British politics has been a whirlwind of resignations, economic meltdowns and backstabbing politicians.

However, in order to fully understand how Brexit (British Exit from the European Union) actually won, it is important to take the weeks prior to the election into account. While the referendum campaign was filled with warnings from experts about the dire economic consequences of leaving, the senior anti-EU politicians all dismissed these claims as nonsense. This is perhaps best summarised by Michael Gove's state-

ment: "People in this country have had enough of experts." (Michael Gove is a leading Brexit politician – more on him later).

Nevertheless, the following happened to the pound as soon as the result became clear:

In addition to that, about \$3 trillion was wiped off the global stock market, which is a pretty impressive achievement for a small island. It is true that the pound has somewhat recovered, but it i Hopefully, all are aware of Britain's recent referendum on whether or not to leave the European Union. While America has been eagerly awaiting the upcoming election in November, Britain narrowly voted to leave the EU on June 23rd.



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While a strong, stable government would be exactly what Britain needed, British prime minister David Cameron – who had said he wouldn't resign as a result of a "leave" vote – immediately announced that he would resign as a result of the Brexit. To summarise: Cameron promised a referendum in a cunning plan to try to placate his EU-hating enemies, campaigned to remain, lost, and resigned, leaving his enemies to take over the party and the country. That plan obviously went well.

Many began wondering what the plan was now that it was clear that Britain would be leaving the EU. As it turns out, nobody actually had a plan, as the prime minister's people insisted the Leave campaign should make the plans, while the campaign itself thought the prime minister should make the plans, as illustrated in this statement by Boris Johnson: "there is no plan. Leave campaign doesn't have a post Brexit plan, Number 10 [the residence of the British prime minister] should have had one."

As if that wasn't enough, all the Brexit-supporting politicians immediately backtracked on their promises should Britain leave the EU, claiming that they weren't actually promises. So, apparently the public voted for something they are now being told they won't get.

One question remained: once David Cameron resigned, who would be the next prime minister?

Everyone expected that Boris Johnson (whose full name is, rather amusingly, Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson), who was one of the two leaders of the Leave campaign, the other being Michael Gove (the guy who hates experts) would become the next PM,

with Michael Gove supporting him. Everyone, that is, except for Michael Gove, who had other secret plans. To illustrate how petty the whole mess is, above is a photo of the "old friends" Cameron (third from the left) and Johnson (fourth from the right), who went to Oxford together. There has been speculation that the only reason Johnson campaigned to Leave in the first place was to force his old buddy out of the office, so that he could run the country himself.

It becomes more complicated, however, as the morning that Johnson was supposed to announce his leadership campaign with Gove's support... Gove announced that he was running for leader, instead. He said: "I have come, reluctantly, to the conclusion that Boris cannot provide the leadership or build the team for the task ahead." Funnily enough, he attended Oxford around the same time as Johnson and Cameron. Johnson then realised that he had been comprehensively played, and so announced that he wouldn't be running for leader, after all.

To recap: One old university friend pushed the country to a constitutional and economic crisis to gain power from another old university friend, but got stabbed in the back by a third old university friend, at which point he decided not to bother after all.

Subsequently, it was Theresa May (pictured on side), who actually campaigned to remain, that became the new PM. She also went to Oxford.

Meanwhile, Nigel Farage, who led UKIP (United Kingdom Independence Party), the party whose primary goal was to get Britain out of Europe, has resigned as UKIP's leader now that he has got Britain out of Europe. He will continue to represent Britain in Europe in his other job as a member of the European parliament.

On the side of anti-Brexiters is Jeremy Corbyn (who is kind of like the British version of Bernie Sanders, except with a beard), the leader of the Labour party. While he was previously elected leader by a massive groundswell of support (especially by young people), the Labour party has now established that they think they will lose with Corbyn in charge. As a result, over the weekend after the referendum, almost every single person in Corbyn's shadow cabinet (the senior members of parliament from the opposition party who follow the different government departments) resigned one by one. Corbyn, instead of resigning, insisted that he would tough it out, and continued appointing his increasingly small band of loyalists to the shadow cabinet. So now, Labour members of parlia-

ment are in open warfare with their leader and are probably going to force another leadership election, while Corbyn does his best to carry on like nothing's happening.

In conclusion: The UK voted to leave the EU. The economy suffered. Nobody had a plan for what to do and everybody wanted someone else to take responsibility – but the governing party was too busy stabbing each other in the back, while the opposition party was too busy being at war with itself. The UK might split up entirely, with Scotland and Northern Ireland demanding another referendum, as their majority wanted to remain. And there might have to be another vote on all this again in a few months' time. s still nowhere near where it was before.

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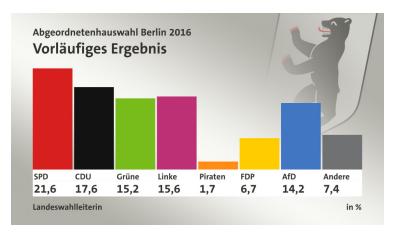
Berliners take to voting booths in the 2016 State Elections

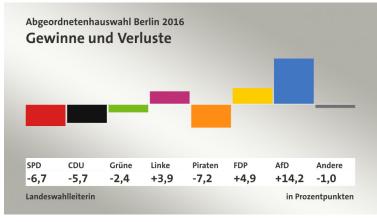
- by Justinus Steinhorst

Two losers and a winner. The 2016 Berlin State Elections in review

Context: The "Landtagswahlen" of Berlin are the same as the regular state elections held in all 16 states of Germany. Each state has the same election process, in which the citizens vote for the party that they want to be in the state parliament. The votes are translated into percentages, which in turn are translated to the distribution of seats in the Berlin state parliament. A clear majority is required for a party to rule individually.

jections were released on television. The current SPD with a solid 21.6%; the CDU with a historical low of 17.6%; the AfD, in its first run in Berlin, with an overwhelming 12,5%. The current opposition parties: Die Grünen (the Greens) as well as Die Linke (The Left) floating around the 15% margin as usual. The liberal FDP, who has suffered immense losses after the 2013 federal elections, pulling of a respectable comeback at 6.7%.





Shortly after 18:01 on Sunday evening, the first pro-

To understand the anticipated but nevertheless shocking results, one must evaluate the context of previ-



ous elections in 2012. While the SPD did once again emerge as the most popoular party, they suffered the second highest loss of votes (only the Pirates experienced a bigger reduction). Angela Merkel's CDU has to accept once again, that the capital city remains the parties weakness, as they shrunk by yet another 6.7% was once again forced to concede that the capital city remains the party's weakness, shrinking by yet another 6.7% this year.

One major takeaway from this election is the major success of the AfD. After Mecklenburg Vorpommern earlier this year, the results of the elections in Berlin mark the second tangible proof of a shift to right wing populism. At this point in time, it is almost certain that the AfD will have a considerable voice in the Bundestag, following the next year's federal elections. A

party that has been able to rally 12,5% of Berlin wont have difficulties getting the required 5% margin nationwide.

Now, more than ever, it is crucial for us to become politically engaged and strengthen the democracy that has shaped our country ever since the reunification. To do so, it is important for each and every one of us to step out of our homes and vote. There are several elections in which students of BBIS can get involved. For example, the elections for the District Administrator of Potsdam Mittelmark on September 25th.

If you wish to get involved in German/ international politics, visit www.bpb.com for more information, or approach a contributor of the Paw Print.



US Justice Department preying on German firms?

- by Maarten Schot

Just after the prosecution of the Volkswagen AG, the US department of justice (DOJ) is now chasing after the Deutsche bank for fines upwards of \$14 billion US. Although the reasons for both cases may be legitimate, the fines seem almost obscenely high. Earlier this year, Volkswagen settled their diesel-emissions trial for close to \$15 billion US. Now, just two months later, a second European firm is being targeted by the DOJ. Many fear that this is a deliberate attempt by the American government to harm European firms in the US.

However, following the 2008 worldwide economic crisis, many firms had to pay large fees for fraudulent mortgage deals, including Goldman & Sachs at \$5 billion, and the Bank of America at close to \$17 billion. So the German bank isn't alone, but the fee that the US government proposed earlier this week came as

a shock to many. The greatest worry to stakeholders is that the bank only holds around \$6 billion in litigation reserves, or legal funds. If the negotiations don't go as planned for the Deutsche Bank, there could be disastrous effects for share prices and future performance.

Some also speculate that this new lawsuit is simply a response to the EU lashing out towards Apple's alleged tax evasions in Ireland. Which the US smartphone giant is confident in having the upper hand in. As it believes that the overly generous tax breaks were given to them legally by the Irish government. In the future one will have to observe the interactions between large multinationals and the governments of other countries. One will have to hope that these few cases don't turn into a trade war, fought with fees and fines.



Rio Olympics

- by Nina Bernhardt

The 2016 Olympic Games in Rio came to an end, after two weeks, on August 21st. The Olympics stirred up a lot mixed feelings; starting with drama about the doping of the Russian athletes, then with Ryan Lochte apparently being robbed at gunpoint, and the fact that athletes didn't attend the games due to the Zika virus. The only nation who seemed to thrive under these conditions was the United States.

When someone tells you that 86% of all the tickets were sold that might sound like a lot but if you just watched the Olympics at all, one would estimate that number to be more like 50%. Stands were empty and stadiums were quiet. The Olympic Games are supposed to have a vibrant and cheerful atmosphere yet the only time when you saw or heard Brazilians, seemed to be during soccer games. Watching events, track and field in particular, even seemed sad sometimes. Athletes have worked hard for so many years to get to this point and then they stand in this huge yet half empty stadium. While this may seem bad,

the Paralympics, which started September 7th, are experiencing even worse attendance, as only 12% of all tickets were sold.

Even with a bunch of empty seats, the American athletes still seemed "pumped up" and motivated to win gold, which they did. A lot. 46 times to be exact. The United States finished first place in the medal count and Great Britain, who ended second place, were not even close. No other country even threatened the US during the Games, as the American athletes seemed to win gold after gold. After realizing they couldn't beat the Americans, let alone the Chinese or the British, the Germans became excited about disciplines like shooting because they knew that this would be one of the few events they could medal in, mostly because there were no Americans in it. Where there were Americans, there was high quality and noise in the stands. The Americans flourished during the Olympic games in Rio this year.



The iPhone 7 - too revolutionary?

- by Duane Christian

Regardless of whether you're a tech geek/nerd or not, or whether you, like me, watched the September 7th Keynote (as did ten thousands others), you must've gathered from your Facebook feed or 9GAG memes that the iPhone 7 is now official. Yes, the headphone jack is gone (long live Lightning! At least that's what Tim Cook hopes). Yes, the Plus version has dual camera. Yes, the ridiculously small, pretty impractical, easy to lose, and not to mention expensive \$159.99 AirPods is how Apple expect users to listen to music from now on. But, rather more beside, there are some thing that's pretty interesting about it, other than the evolutionary, oft-leaked design.



It's (probably) the fastest smartphone yet

The competition in the smartphone SoC market has shifted from more GHz and cores (as many as 10 is the Mediatek X20) to less but faster, more powerful, and efficient cores. Apple's new A10 Fusion Chip was heralded by Apple as the fastest mobile processor in the world - featuring 2 high-performance as-of-yet-unspecified core on a 14nm process, and for the first time in an Apple mobile device, two power-efficient cores for background processes. The

whole setup is not unlike ARM's big.LITTLE architecture, and is similar to Qualcomm's Snapdragon 820. The 2 high-performance core however should be a beast of a core given Apple's excellent record on designing high-performance cores in the past, eliminating the need of adding more cores(In single-core tests, Apple's A9 with its dual Twister core was faster than any 2016 mobile SoCs from Qualcomm or Samsung despite being released in 2015, and only loses to them in multi-core test). The GPU also got a boost, as it now has six cores (compared to four on the previous chipset). Overall, Apple promises a whopping 50% performance increase to the Apple A9 chipset found on the iPhone 6S while drawing \(\frac{1}{3} \) less power. Apple subsequently simulated the prowess of its new chipset, claiming that it can run Adobe Lightroom trouble-free. Impressive indeed. RAM however, stays the same with the iPhone 7 with 2GB, whereas the iPhone 7 plus gets 3GB.

It has a raft of new, if unoriginal, features

The iPhone 7 also takes (or steals) design inspiration from some current Android smartphones. It's now water-resistant (IP67 rated), riding the wave of its Watch Series 2, in an attempt to equal Samsung and its S7 (you should know that while it can technically survive being submerged 1m in water for 30 minutes, I don't recommend you doing that at all due it having too many exposed openings. Just google Samsung S7 waterproof test and you'll see why these phones are called water-resistant, NOT waterproof). Its new stereo speakers layout, using the bottom speaker as mains and the earpiece as tweeter, copies the Boom-Sound design on the HTC 10, which was released earlier this year. The rear dual-camera setup on the iPhone 7 Plus takes inspiration from LG's G5 and V20 flagship smartphone, with both featuring one wide-an-



gle lens and one normal camera lens. However, unlike the LG, the 7 Plus's camera is equipped with OIS, which means better low-light quality and less shaky recording. And it's also capable of 2x optical zoom by combining information from the two lenses, and after that, 10x digital zoom. Speaking about the camera, it's an evolution of the 12MP sensor first found on the iPhone 6S, with 6-element lens and a wider F1.8 aperture, which, combined with OIS (on all models), should perform well in low-light photography. Aiding this is a new Image Signal Processor that claims to be 60% faster and provide better image quality than the 6S, and a faster camera sensor so you won't miss those Snapchat moments. Apple claims that the camera on the iPhone 7 could output "pro-film like" quality images - a bold claim. Meanwhile for all you selfie lovers, Apple have obliged and supplied a new 7MP FaceTime HD camera, up by 2MP from the 6S.

Scratchy gloss aluminium is back!

Along with the usual colours like Matte Black, Silver, Gold, and Pink (oops I mean Rose Gold), Apple introduced a new Jet Black gloss finish, made from highly polished and smoothened black aluminium creating a glossy finish, which became the signature colour for the iPhone 7. However, Apple has warned that this finish is more prone to scratches than the other matte finishes. The iPod Touch 4, with its equally glossy and easy to scratch silver Aluminium back immediately comes to mind. Also, given its propensity to be scratched by even fingerprints, it's the worst colour choice if you're someone who plans to use it without a case as it would look worn fairly quickly. The Matte Black option replaces the Space Grey, and would probably be the most popular option in the range.

Why Apple, why, oh why have you made Jack forsaken us?

Perhaps the biggest change to the iPhone 7 that would keep people talking about it for a long time is the absence of the headphone jack. Apple wasn't the first to omit the headphone jack - though not for the same reason - the impressively thin 4,85mm Oppo R5 was first to ditch the 3,5mm jack in order to make it the thinnest phone on the market back in 2014. But the iPhone 7 was still sufficiently thick enough for a headphone jack, so there's no reason for Apple to ditch the jack. So why, Apple?

There's no real reason here, but it might be attributed

to Apple's recent obsession with ultra-simple design philosophy first seen on its new MacBook 12 in 2015, which famously featured only one USB-C for charging and plugging in other devices, and a headphone jack. Now, that wasn't a big problem given the rise of cloud computing, its market share (being a niche device) and target consumer (non-power users who focus on media consumption), but on a mass-market device that was expected to sell in the hundred millions? This might just be one change too far. The headphone jack is too universal a system right now to be reverted or changed in the short term. You can find one in almost every modern media device imaginable. While Apple does thankfully bundle a Lightningto-3.5mm-jack adaptor, this doesn't make the situation any better for the general consumer, since they would found their headphones no longer compatible with their new iPhone and needs an adapter to operate. This would cause them to have to spend extra on proprietary Lightning or Bluetooth headphones, which not everyone can afford/care to do so, leaving them off with a worse experience. For those who do get Lightning headphones, this would leave them with a headphone that only works for Lightning-equipped Apple products and nothing else, rendering it a relatively poor value purchase for buyers with more than one different device. For Bluetooth headset buyer, they would end up with one more device to charge and getting worse sound quality that's not up to wired connections standard. Many things like AUX connectors found on radios like the one in your car still depends on the headphone jack for connection.

There's also another disadvantage to this approach. Apple risks fragmenting the market by offering another new proprietary audio standard to the universal 3,5mm jack. And while many hoped that a multi-use adapter with 3.5mm jack and Lightning adapter would arrive, that would be difficult due to the limitations of Lightning itself. Lightning, being based on the old USB 2.0 standard, can only hold actual file transfer rates of 40-60 Mbps, as well as 0.9A power output. While this seems like a lot, you need to know that for some time now Android users have enjoyed the benefits of USB 3.0 and USB-C, which ups the transfer rate to a whopping 680Mbps - 10 times faster than Lightning. Lightning is also limited to only transfer about 0.9A of power - while Android smartphones have been getting 2A fast charging abilities since 2014 which allow them to be fully charged in as little as 1 hour from empty, thanks to solutions like Oppo's VOOC fast charging, and Qualcomm's QuickCharge.

Contrary to popular belief (and Apple's adverts) there's almost no discernible advantage of Lightning on the audio quality of headsets as well. One of the few benefits from using Lightning is the extra space liberated by not having to put the headphone jack unit, but even then the space saving is tiny. In the realm of \$700-900 mobile devices that's no excuse for poor engineering. Plus waterproof headphone jacks were already installed on Android phones since 2014,

with the Sony Xperia Z2, so that's no excuse either. Lightning could arguably draw out more power than normal headphone jack so it can power more energy-demanding professional audio devices, but such devices are rare and won't be used by the majority of buyers who just want to listen to music - which is what the headphone jack is designed for. It seems to me that with all the elaborate design solution that Apple have put together, like the fancy AirPods or the flimsy adapters, they're trying to solve a problem they created when there's no problem in the first place at all.





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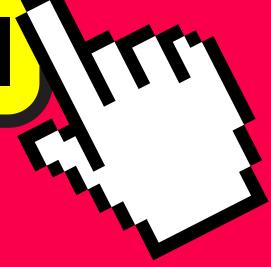
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