

TUESDAY: RUBBISH

This won't be everybody's cup of matcha and may not offer an optimum listening experience for most business offices. Today's kick-in-the-seat to start the week is a Japanese rock genre at the intersection of glam rock and black metal. *Visual kei* rock combines glam's signature elements with black metal's dark, heaviness. Some say punk influences *visual kei* but I really don't see or hear it. Depending on the song, death metal is far more likely to leak through both in sound and appearance.

For a little lighter variant – more pure metal than glam or black – try this live performance from Vistlip. The relationship between *visual kei* and both anime and video games is quite obvious. Want a little estrogen-loaded *visual kei*? Try exist trace's Daybreak; it, too, is not as dark and heavy, though the band can still hammer really black tunes.

Now that the kick in the ass has been locked and loaded..

NINE DAYS

Including today, that's the total number of days booked as in session on the U.S. House of Representatives' business calendar for July, of which only six days have events scheduled.

Can't see anything farther out. And of the events booked so far, nothing appears for the benefit of the Flint Water Crisis. Roughly 8000 lead-poisoned kids completely forgotten.

Michigan's state house has a mess of stuff on the calendar, but none of it clearly marked in reference to Flint Water Crisis. I imagine that hack Rep. Pscholka may have something buried in the items labeled "zero budget."

Brexit buffoonery

Whenever I get really upset with the condition of our state and federal governance, I can just take a look across the pond. The back-stabbing drama surrounding the future leadership of the

Conservative Party and the Prime Minister's office looks like a mashup of House of Cards and Game of Thrones minus dragons. I'll let Christoph Waltz speak for me about the resignation of Ukip's Nigel Farage this weekend. I fear, though, that U.S. politics will take the Brexit debacle as a prompt going into the general election.

- Pound fell to lowest level post-Brexit vote (France24) – The perceived inability for either the Conservatives or Labour parties to organize its leadership let alone steer out of Brexit weighs on business. Let's say Marcy's right and the Brits manage to put the brakes on this: when and how will that happen? The lack of direction and specificity between now and sometime after September's next UK election costs money.
- Apple stock could take a hit because of Brexit (Bloomberg) – Folks may update their iPhones more slowly due to economic pressures, says Citigroup analyst. IMO, it's not the updates that will hurt Apple's income as much as currency fluctuations. Was Apple able to hedge its financial holdings adequately against the abrupt drop in GBP value?

- EU to spend \$2B on public+private cybersecurity efforts (The Register) – Will UK be omitted from this spending plan altogether, AND will the EU begin to treat the UK as a potential cybersecurity risk in whatever plans it develops?

Automotive Uh-oh

- German Federal Cartel Office raids six auto industry firms investigating steel price collusion (FAZ.net) – The largest automakers Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW as well as suppliers ZF and Bosch were targeted. German news reports only provide these five company names and not a sixth. Reuters reported GM's Opel division was not included in the raids. Volkswagen was already smarting badly after the nearly \$15B settlement with the U.S. announced last week.
- Electric car maker Tesla hits a speedbump on output (Bloomberg) – Market should have seen this coming. There's no way to smoothly scale up the amount of output buyers want from where Tesla's been without a

few hiccups. Stock price took a hit.

Cyberia

- Second “Fappening” hacker will plead guilty (NYMag) – Finally! It only took two years reach this point in prosecution of hacker who phished celebrities accounts for nude photos. But phishing corporations is a threat to the public’s security, while phishing women’s Gmail and iCloud accounts isn’t a threat to anybody, right? Because women’s bodies and personal information aren’t valuable nor is systematically invading their privacy terrorizing. Ugh. Gender bias in law enforcement.
- Advocacy groups file rulemaking petition with FCC on automakers’ use of Direct Short Range Communication (DSRC) (PublicKnowledge.org) – Automakers are standardizing AI systems around DSRC; two groups want the FCC to
 - Limit DSRC to life and safety uses only. The auto industry plans to take spectrum allocated for safety of life and monetize it with advertising and mobile

payments. This compromises cybersecurity and potentially violates the privacy of every driver and passenger.

- Require automakers to file a cybersecurity plan before activating DSRC systems. This plan should not only show that auto manufacturers have taken appropriate precautions today, but explain how they will update security over the life of the vehicle.

- Data transparency and breach notification. Auto manufacturers must inform purchasers of DSRC-equipped cars what personal information they collect and how they will use that information. In the event of a data breach, the manufacturer collecting the information must notify the customer.

- Conficker malware found widely in internet-enabled medical equipment (Threatpost) – Medical facilities still aren't taking adequate measures to ensure internet-enabled equipment remains unattached from the internet, safe from other forms of injection (like USB ports), and free of malware. Devices like dialysis pumps and diagnostic equipment for MRIs and CT scans are infected. Same security gaps

also led to leak of 655,000
patients' data over the
internet two weeks ago.

Man, even in this heat this snowball just
doesn't want to stop once it starts rolling down
the hill. At least it's a short week. See you
tomorrow!