

TUESDAY: TILTED

*I miss prosthesis and mended souls
Trample over beauty while singing their
thoughts
I match them with my euphoria
When they said "Je suis plus folle que
toi"*

– excerpt, Tilted by Christine And The
Queens

We've spent (and will spend) a lot of time looking at Americans this month, given the two major parties' political conventions back to back. Yeah, we'll look at Russia with a gimlet eye directed by media. But we could use a look away.

The artist in this video is actually Héloïse Letissier; Christine and the Queens is the stage name she and a group of transgender supporting artists use, though many of her works are solo performances. Letissier's work isn't confined to music alone as she also works in graphic arts. Her work frequently combines French and English lyrics with strong synthpop beat, making for wide appeal outside of France. If you like Tilted, try the mournful but earworm-y Paradis Perdus and the more hip-hoppy No Harm Is Done.

Allons-y!

Eat more cyber

- Hullabaloo about hacking of DNC continues, now with more Russian (The Daily Beast) – Another security firm, ThreatConnect, says it's definitely the Russians. Okay. Right, then.
- The question, "Is the DNC Hack an Act of War?" put to

Jack Goldsmith (Slate) – Assuming it's Russian in origin, Goldsmith said the hack is “not an act of war, at least not by traditional standards. It is closer to an intelligence operation with the twist of a damaging publication of the stolen information.” But Goldsmith didn't think there was enough evidence to say for certain this was Russia's work in this interview published last evening.

- Goldsmith on U.S. involvement in cyberwarfare and hacking preparedness (Twitter) – He included a link to his related blogpost in his tweet-storm recap. In short, we're in it up to our eyeballs, we shouldn't be surprised at returned fire.
- President Obama issued a Presidential Policy Directive addressing U.S. Cyber Incident Coordination (WhiteHouse.gov) – Surely just a coincidence PPD-41 was issued today on the heels of alleged hacking by Russians. Note there's an annex to this PPD with more details (which I did not see online), and sub-section V. A. “supersedes

NSPD54/HSPD-23, paragraph 13, concerning the National Cyber Response Coordination Group.”

Motor mayhem

- Tesla driver ‘speeding’ before Florida crash (Reuters) – IMO, the truck driver still bears some responsibility here, failed to yield to oncoming vehicle in spite of their speed. But I don’t have all the data, can’t be certain. One thing I can be more sure of: Tesla’s ‘driving-assist software’ should NOT be perceived as autopilot. If this was true autopilot, the software would have adjusted the vehicle’s speed to meet and not exceed the posted limit.
- U.S. District court gives prelim approval to Volkswagen’s \$15B settlement (LAT) – Settlement covers consumers’ and EPA’s suit on passenger diesels with emissions cheat devices. The deal offers car owners to choose a vehicle buy-back on 2.0L passenger diesel models. VW Group’s 3.0L models are not included in this preliminary offer.

- Volkswagen owners in EU get an apology, not a check (Politico.EU) – They are NOT happy with the disparity between the \$15B initial settlement offered to US passenger diesel owners and the lip service offered to EU vehicle owners.

“For the same car, in the U.S., you get a compensation, while in Europe you get an apology,” said Maroš Šefčovič, a Commission vice president overseeing energy and climate policy. “I don’t think it is fair.”

Yeah, it’s not fair, and VW’s head engineer Ulrich Eichhorn is wrong when he says EU customers aren’t damaged. Baloney—the entire EU is damaged by higher NOX and other pollutants generated by these fraudulent cars. People are sick and dying because EU’s biggest automaker is poisoning the air.

Science-y schtuff

- WHO: Antibiotic resistance a bigger threat than cancer within ~30 years (Euronews) – The rise of superbugs and inadequate research is already costing tens of thousands lives each year and beaucoup money. It will only get worse if the use of antibiotics remains excessive and research

doesn't increase.

- Plasma technology may extend storage life of fruits (ScienceDaily) – Plasma technology – using energy applied to a gas – can zap bacteria on surface of fruit to prevent deterioration the bacteria cause. Except it's expensive compared to simply washing fruit with known natural antibacterial agents. Like vinegar and water. Plasma tech might be best used on soft fruits like berries which don't handle washing very well. But still, more energy required, and any heat generated might cook the fruit. ~smh~
- Better beer through yeast (Nature) – Soon-to-be-published paper will detail 150 yeast strains' genomes in an effort to help beermakers find the perfect yeast. What happens when they find The One, though? Will we lose our excuse for sampling widely and deeply?

Longread for your next commute

Belt magazine offers a four-part series, Walking to Cleveland by Drew Philps. It's a travelogue of sorts, documenting Philp's journey on foot from Dearborn to Cleveland in time for the Republican National Convention. Visit the

Midwest with read.

Catch you later!