Trapped

Women still don’t make the top ranks in tech and science. *The Ellen Pao trial proved it.*

SAVED BY THE APP
Four high schoolers tackle depression through coding

FILTER THE PAST
Has Instagram changed the way we see our past?

GO EAT WORMS
No, it’s not an insult. It’s the future.
FLICKERING PAST

Photo filters in Photoshop and Instagram are changing the way we see our past. Is it for the better?

IMMORTAL CELL

Nobel prize winning Australian biologist Elizabeth Blackburn talks about whether cells can live forever.

BOYS’ CLUB

The Ellen Pao trial shows the issues with Silicon Valley’s boys’ club mentality.

IT INSPIRATION

A look at what it takes to create a geek-approved cult comedy show and where to find inspiration.

APT APP

Four young women and their quest to help high schoolers fight depression.

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Death to the tech boys’ club

By Vauhini Vara

For every seven men in the technology industry, there are only three women.
During the last weeks of winter, in an airy kitchen at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, two design students are making cocktail bitters. A long wooden table holds mason jars and gleaming bottles of bourbon, vodka, and neutral grain spirits. The fragrance of ingredients that will macerate over the next few weeks, until they surrender their flavor to the alcohol, hangs in the air. There are white bowls of toasted coconut and raw cacao, as well as a jar of cinnamon sticks.

Then, there are the crickets.

Lucy Knops rolls up the sleeves of her loose black shirt and carefully pours each ingredient into a small, clear measuring cup sitting on a digital kitchen scale. Her classmate Julia Plevin records the weights in a spreadsheet. When she gets to the crickets, Knops leans closer and peers into the cup. “That’s so crazy,” she says, “there are so many legs!” I follow her gaze; dozens of wiry amputated appendages cling to the sides like the staticky trimmings from a haircut. Knops dumps the whole thing into an empty jar.

I am witnessing a test batch of Critter Bitters, which the pair first created for a school project in 2013. The challenge: make a product in response to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) titled “Edible Insects: Future Prospects for Food and Feed Security.” The report noted that the global population, now at more than 7 billion, may grow to 9 billion by 2050. Already, nearly 1 billion people regularly go hungry. Insects—a source of protein that requires a fraction of the land, water, and feed as livestock—could help alleviate the looming crisis.