



April 2009

TOPNOTCH

GYEONGGI ACADEMY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES ENGLISH NEWS MAGAZINE

Principal's Message

Greetings,

This school, despite its short history, has flourished thanks to the hard work of the teachers and the passion of the students, and is now becoming the most desired foreign language high school to attend. The school's foundation, staff, and students alike will not stop striving to turn this school into a better one: one that will nurture great individuals. Outstanding students will be recruited on a national scale, and I will strive to turn them into creative global leaders who will contribute greatly to humanity. To achieve this, we will:

- Enforce education based on Christian morals and ethics
- Help students get ready for university life with higher standards of education
- Encourage individuality and creativity
- Develop linguistic skills in order to establish a real global education system that can reveal Korea to the world.

The faculty and I shall work hard to achieve the above goals, with experience and knowledge. I will also strive to make the graduates into not those who will conquer the world, but into true leaders who will share with them the pain and hardships of others.

This school's new name is Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages. With this new change, our school will rewrite history, and turn our local education into an international one.

Thank you.

Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages Principal,
Ha-Shik Park



Good to Great School!
Global Top 7 High School!



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Way to go, Seniors!

Gari Hahm

Early morning of November 13, when I first stepped out of Myunghyun Dormitory around 5:30 a.m., I saw many juniors and sophomores already standing in two straight lines with lit candles in their hands. They were there to wish the best of luck to the seniors who were about to have the big day; they were about to take the college entrance exams. They studied three straight years in high school for this single day. Because it was such a big test, they seemed very nervous. Every time they passed through the first and second grade students, we cheered to relax the seniors' minds.

The supervisors of dormitories busied themselves to give the seniors a surprise. Exactly around 6 am, Myoungjin Dorm lit up showing the word "3 gi," which means "third graduates." The crowd cheered with excitement. Then the free hug event started. It was pretty funny since it was not only the third grade girls being hugged by the younger boys; even junior girls ran into senior boys' arms.

When most of the cheering students gathered, it was beautiful. Although it was still dark, the candles were bright enough to light the school grounds. Then the student council members passed out presents before the seniors boarded their buses.



Around 6:30, the crowd moved to the hill of the school entrance to greet the buses that took the seniors to their exam centers. A dorm supervisor walked around with a video camera in hand to record the scene and some words from the juniors and sophomores. Although our feet and hands were freezing, we didn't stop cheering until all the school buses left. Some seniors waved their hands at us while some stayed still like rocks, looking nervous. We all prayed for them to do their best they can on their exams.

After a year, maybe two for some, we will be the seniors taking the exam too. Until then, we will study hard to be admitted into SKY and other good universities. Good luck, seniors!



HARBINGER

Hello, the readers of Topnotch! This is Ji Hee Jang, the first chief editor of Harbinger (United English newspaper of Foreign Language High schools) in Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Language High School. Most of you would be familiar with the United English Newspaper of Foreign Language High School than as Harbinger. For those who are not familiar with either of these names, the official name of this English newspaper that I'm going to introduce is "Harbinger" which means "the pioneers of revolution." Our school was officially admitted to Harbinger starting from the 14th edition. Other Foreign Language High Schools participating in this Harbinger are Daewon Foreign Language High School; Korean Minjok Leadership Academy; Hankuk Academy of Foreign Studies; Cheongshim International Academy; Hanyoung Foreign Language High School; Ewha Girls' Foreign Language High School; Daeil Foreign Language High School; and Seoul International School. Also next year, Germany's Salem International College and other international schools from Japan and the U.S. are planning to work as members of Harbinger. Right now Harbinger is publishing more than 4,500 newspapers to other Foreign Language High Schools over the nation. There are 5 various sections discussed in Harbinger: School Section, Culture Section, National Section, International Section and Opinion Section

As our first 16 members of Harbinger developed the connection between Harbinger and Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages, I have no doubt that successive members of Harbinger will have better students and publish better articles in this promising English newspaper. From now on, I hope everyone in our school is proud that we are one of the members in Harbinger side by side with other progressive Foreign Language High Schools. When somebody asks you what is Harbinger and whether your school is in or not, you should be able to respond to your inquirer better than anyone else.

Along with the School English newspaper, Topnotch, we are expecting to make an innovation and development in GAFL students: "Global Mind, Great Vision, and Creative Thinking." As we, students of GAFL, are officially admitted, Harbinger expects to have more attention and concern. Thank you very much.

A Step Towards a Broader Perspective: Harbinger

Ji Hee Jang



Myongji? Gyeonggi!

Hyun Ji Lee

Myongji Foreign High School has taken a big step forward. First of all, Myongji has got a new name: Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages. With a brand new name, the school has officially announced its growth. As another change, GAFL has just welcomed Mr. Ha Shik Park as the new principal. After having taught in many different high schools such as Hankuk Academy of Foreign Studies and Korean Minjok Leadership Academy, Mr. Park has become the newest member of GAFL family this year. As one of the most influential educators in the country, students expect many positive changes to be made in and out the school.

With these dramatic changes, Gyeonggi Foreign Language High School has had another fortunate event. On the 26th of September, Gyeonggi held the 5th anniversary of the school's foundation. Not only the students, but also the teachers, school guests, and many parents gathered up in the auditorium. When Mr. Park gave a short but strong speech, the ceremony began. The representatives of each grade gave a speech and congratulations and wished everyone a good luck through their studies.

Several talented clubs performed amazing shows. Dolce, the school orchestra led the way by playing harmonious music. Dance club Steelo, as usual, got tremendous applause from the crowd. This time they performed the dance moves of the hottest singer, Lee Hyo Ri. Her latest track, "U Go Girl" was just the right one for everyone to enjoy. DTAHWU (Don't Talk About Hip-hop Without Us) rapped and showed cool beat box. Last but not least was SIREN, which sang 3 songs including GOD's "One Candle."

When the club performances were all done, we watched our advertisement. As it was time for new first graders to take their entrance exams for the school, Gyeonggi created a video to show what it is like to be a part of Gyeonggi. Amazed by the wonderful video, we all shouted our slogans, and wished a great future to our school.

Now Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Language is all set to pave a new way for real "leaders" to grow. Although five years of history might seem a little short compared to those of other schools, I sincerely believe that we, Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages, can and will develop even more. Go GAFL!



Since the principal has changed, students of Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages saw great changes around them. One of the biggest changes would of course be school regulations, which has been enforced strictly.

Before the new rules had been enforced, students were allowed to wear their gym clothes to school. However, now we can only wear our school uniforms to school. Also, girls are not allowed to shorten their skirts or wear cosmetics. There are students and teachers standing in front of the school gate every morning who check whether we have our name tags and ties. If we don't have one of them, we get black marks, and we have to run 5 laps around the playground. Fresh exercise in the morning!

Additionally, boys who had long hair now have to cut their hair short. Teachers usually let boys grow their hair before, but not anymore. They say students don't look neat when they have long hair. But some boys don't agree with them and complain about this rule.

Another thing that has changed in our school regulation is cell phone confiscation period. It has gotten longer: from just one month to six months! If a student is caught carrying or using a cell phone in school, the teacher can take away the student's phone for six months.

We also have dormitory rules that have changed as well. Now we can't go into the dorm from 9:00 to 9:30 pm. Teachers made this rule to stop students from stealing other students' properties. Some students do not like this rule because they can't get some sleep, take a shower or do personal things in the dorm during the 30-minute break.

Probably, the regulation most students hate would be the daily room check-ups. Dormitory teachers go around the rooms every morning to check if students have cleaned their rooms before going to school. If students have clean rooms, they would get BCR (Best Clean Room) stickers. If their rooms are dirty, they would get warnings. These warnings make students do daily "Teun-Teun Education," which is a physically-demanding detention taking place in the gym. This detention brought a number of criticisms since it required a lot of physical training.

These are some of the school rules that have changed in Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages. These regulations may be strict to many students. Students are liberal beings so it is somewhat understandable for them to break the rules. However, we must have exemplary appearances of students. People need rules and restrictions in places where many people live closely together. Our school is not an exception.

From MJFL to GAFL, Myongji Transformation

Ji Woon Choo



So Hot in Myong-ji ◁Myongji Cup▷

Ji Hee Jang and Ji Soo Yim



One of the most eye-catching events in our school, the Myongji Cup, is held annually during lunch and dinner for about 2 weeks. Even though the games lasted no longer than 40 minutes, they attracted not only an enormous number of students but also many teachers. Every team showed great passion toward each game and the school seemed to be in the atmosphere of insurmountable energy and expectations. Especially this year's Myongji Cup attracted great participation because the Myongji trophies were given as prizes to the best classes in each sport for the first time.

Basketball had enough audience to make the whole atmosphere of the Myongji Cup "bounce." In the semi-finals, 4 teams made up to compete for the golden trophy: 1st and 2nd graders of Chinese team, 2nd graders of English-Chinese team and 2nd graders of Japanese team. Every student participated enthusiastically; unfortunately, only 2 teams were able to have spark-igniting competition to reach the top. Even though the golden trophy was handed to the Japanese team, all students in different majors showed enough enthusiasm, which was more valuable than the trophy. Also it showed that boys of GAFL have extraordinary skills in basketball. It was no laugh when teachers made a joke whether boys who played basketball were GAFL students or physically-adept students.

Soccer games held on the field were breath-taking. However, the most memorable part was the penalty shoot-outs between 2nd graders of English-Japanese team and 2nd graders of Chinese team, which attracted much audience filled with zeal of the competition. English-Japanese major soccer teams made it to the finals with the 2nd graders of English-Chinese team. English-Chinese team, already famous for having only 8 female students and outstanding soccer skills, won the trophy. Both teams had great soccer plays which made the audience sweat.

The sounds of hurrahs did not bring to a stop through the dodge ball tournaments. Four teams, which were given the chance to fling down the gauntlet for the final league, were the 1st graders of English-Japanese major, 1st graders of Japanese major, 2nd graders of English-Chinese major and 2nd graders of Chinese major. Because both of the semi-final matches were held at the same hour, more students held their eyes on the play and sent up rousing cheers. The final two teams to compete for the Myongji trophy were both 2nd graders of Chinese and English-Chinese major. For once more of a psychological warfare, the team to conquer the trophy was determined. As most students have expected, 2nd graders of Chinese major won the trophy. After the last game, most students were mentally and physically exhausted.



Some students rose up dusts and many were injured during the most enthusiastic 2 weeks since the second semester had begun. However, this event was a breather for the students who daily devoted all their energy on studying in the library. It also functioned as a rally to strengthen the unity of each class.

Determined and Promising: Special interview with the Principal Ha-Shik Park

Ji Hee Jang



I have never been to the principal's office since middle school graduation. After 10 minutes in front of the office, I had a chance to have an interview with him. Then there in the principal's office, not too grave but very cozy, came into my view the new principal, Ha Shik Park.

Just right after the inaugural ceremony, the principal made new plans of rules for the standard regulation of wearing proper school uniforms and cleaning dormitories before we go to school. As expected, students regarded his image as rather strict. Whether it was the atmosphere, I was also somewhat nervous before the interview. However, he was very genial during the interview. He greeted me cheerfully when I introduced myself that I am here to interview him for TOPNOTCH. Here goes the interview. (T represents TOPNOTCH and P represents Principal Park.)

T: Thank you for the greeting. As for the first question, well, students rather thought of you as strict (he chuckled), but we want to know you more. So can you tell us about your childhood background or your most memorable school life?

P: Sure. I went to middle school in 1969. By the time, we had a special entry test in order to get into middle school. However, in the year when I went to middle school, the entry test was abolished. As a child I was so happy to hear the news. But not before my pleasure soothed, I was placed in a new middle school. And because I was the first graduate student, we had to pull out weeds in the playground.

T: Wow, pretty amazing that you had that kind of test in your childhood. Anyways, did you see TOPNOTCH for this month? If you have, could you make comments about it?

P: Well, first I was very impressed and pleased that TOPNOTCH embraced very diverse topics and played a role as an information giver. However, one thing that I'd like to suggest is that it contained little section about teachers. Other than my interview, I'd like to see active communication between teachers and students.

T: What kinds of students do you like best?

P: As you well know, a student who is very polite, courteous and... well... if I go on like this, it will never end. But good students must basically have these characteristics. Moreover, I believe creativity is very important. I mean, a student who can contribute to change. And importantly, I'd want students with great vision and high thinking. Having a big goal is really important.

T: What will you want to do in a year for the school?

P: Well, primarily, I want to have a special time arranged for students to find their own role model, someone that students can look up to. Our students' abilities are great but what we need is a role model. So I'd like students to have a special role model. Well if that was something that will happen inside. But for the outer changes, I want to provide better facilities for dormitories, and also attenuation in the number of students in one class.

T: What do you want to say to GAFL students and readers of TOPNOTCH?

P: A famous Korean CEO once said, "Leaders answer the same way even though they are asked a thousand times." Well, I want to take these words. As I already emphasized told you before, what we need are great expectations and visions. Going to just good universities like S.K.Y. or the Ivy League should not be your ultimate objective. Our students should be proud of themselves and should have great expectations other than going to good universities. Great vision is not something that is abstract but specific like what area you will contribute in. And I hope TOPNOTCH will be an English newspaper that every student wants to read and a proud newspaper for GAFL.

More than this, he was very touched by the ceremony of foot wash, a ceremony based on how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. He was impressed that teachers lowered themselves to wash their students' feet. Monday Chapel was also another thing that impressed him.

After the interview, I learned something valuable. I knew why he stood on the status of "principal." He did have great expectations and visions. I hope students of GAFL and TOPNOTCH readers learn something new from this short but great interview. He was indeed determined and promising.

Interview with the 17-year-old Star, Se Young Lee

Han Gyeol Lee



I made contact with Se Young Lee, thanks to the help of a wonderful girl who has been a longtime friend with Lee since kindergarten. The interview was conducted on the phone. Lee seemed shy and reserved to speak to a stranger but she was impressively professional, demure, and candid. In retrospect, though, I regret it was too formal. But still, I very much enjoyed the short phone-chat with this “famous stranger.” (T represents Topnotch, L represents Lee)

T: So, what have you been doing recently?

L: I am engaged in a lot of work these days. By the end of this year, the work will be all over and then I will have time to study and relax. When the break comes, I will spend my time mostly studying and having some time to myself.

T: You have quite a long filmography. Among your work, what is the most unforgettable one?

L: Every single work is unforgettable to me, but if I have to choose one, I would choose *Girl Thirteen*. This movie wasn't really popular but is very important to me. It's about a teenage girl who loses her dad one day. With the loss of her father, she isolates herself from the world. From then, she believes that her mother is a famous singer and runs away from home to find her imaginary mom. After her restless journey, she comes back home, and she finds herself as a mature girl.

T: What about the actors you have worked with? Who is the most memorable one?

L: There are so many splendid actors I have worked with, but if I had to choose, I'd choose Sangmi Chou. She acted as my mother in *Girl Thirteen*. She's very funny and sincerely cares about me.

T: Isn't she a pretty good actress, too?

L: She is, indeed. She gives her analyses on every script she gets and thinks deeply about every line. And she gets to work only when she finishes discussing her analyses with others. She is a great actress.

T: You've been working for 12 years. What are the advantages and disadvantages of starting a career early?

L: The good thing is that I was able to have the experience that other teenage girls cannot have. And I was able to learn how to work in the real world. The bad thing is that I didn't have enough time to be with my friends. Even if I did find time to be with my friends, people asked me for autographs or pictures. My friends try to understand but sometimes they feel left out because I get all the attention.

T: What about your school life? How is it?

L: It's good. I went to Seomun Girls' Middle School and went to Seomun High School, so there are plenty of girls that I know well. At the beginning of the semester, I wasn't comfortable with my classmates because I frequently had to be away for shooting, but now that time has passed, (and because we have known each other since middle school) we are bonding well.

T: Don't people have a hard time getting close to you?

L: Yes, they tend to, at first. And I don't like it. It is too uncomfortable. I don't want to be a mysterious, untouchable being. So I try to approach people and start the conversation first.

T: Do you feel pressured to have a perfect body and skin?

L: Some of the girls I know skip school to go to beauty academies for skin and body care but I try not to go that far. Sometimes I want special skin care but I try to focus on my study. For exercise, I jump rope. And for skin care, I just do what teenage girls usually do for their skin.

T: What do you want to do after you retire or take a break from your celebrity life?

L: Until I graduate from high school, I would like to continue working. If I could have break time, I would spend that time working out and traveling. I think teaching children as a volunteer would be great, too. Actually, my true dream is not acting. There is another dream that I have, but can't tell you because I'm not sure what will happen.

T: Lots of boys, even girls love you at GAFL. Please say something for your fans in GAFL.

L: This is a little awkward (uneasily titters). I want you to know that we are not different. I am just like you. Also I want to thank you for giving so much attention and support to a girl who has no special gift. I will do my best at everything I do and strive to do better all the time. Thank you.



The 500 Greatest Movies Of All Time

Jae Hyung Park

EMPIRE

Recently, my friend excitedly told me that his favorite movie, the Godfather, scored number 1 in the famous U.K. magazine, the Empire. Curious, I decided to check out the magazine's website myself to figure out how it scored my favorite movies. However, I found much more than that. These movies were chosen by 10,000 Empire readers, 150 Hollywood stars, and 50 key movie critics. Here are the top 5 of the world's greatest movies of all time.



5 Jaws (1975)

Director: Steven Spielberg.

Jaws, the old crazy big shark blockbuster scored as 5th. Practically, everyone has seen this movie at least once in their life time. Even now it occasionally comes out on movie-related

channels. Although more than 30 years old, the characters and the scenario are still quite "shark-baiting" for today's critics. As the Empire puts it, "Jaws' influence still 'bites deep.'"

4 The Shawshank Redemption (1994)

Director: Frank Darabont

As being the most recent movie of the top 5, the Shawshank Redemption is also the only movie without true hardcore action. The Empire, like most critics do, applauded Morgan Freeman's role as Red much more than that of Tim Robbins who starred as Andy Dufresne. A real modern classic? Its creativeness makes it no less a movie than the remaining top 3.



3 Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back (1980)

Director: Irvin Kershner

Though many 'artistic' movie critics rarely put the Star Wars series in the top collection, the Empire greatly praised it for having excellent dialogue

and being a complete frontier in movie graphics. The positions of the remaining series vary, starting from the #300s to up to here.

Just in case anyone doesn't know, 'The Empire Strikes Back' is the one that carries the most famous line of all time: "I am your father."



2 Raiders Of The Lost Ark (1981)

Director: Steven Spielberg

Another quite interesting choice, the first Indiana Jones came second. In previous movie rankings, Indiana Jones makes about the 10th and nothing more.

However, the Empire critics called it

the true classic American-style adventure movie, as it really is. The disappointment of 'the Crystal Skull' could have affected this choice of being in such a high ranking, considering the Skull was placed only 453rd.

1 The Godfather (1972)

Director: Francis Ford Coppola.

The Greatest Movie of All Time was chosen as 'The Godfather'. The Coppola blockbuster, it is a movie that all deserves the crown. It has dialogue, it has actors, it has excitement, and awe. This is a movie that is much more than what flashes on the screen itself. The Godfather 2 was placed 19th, and the Godfather 3 was in the 292nd place.

I must say the magazine's movie ranking was interesting and at the same time sufficiently objective. It went through movies from mellow to horror; black-and-white to 3-D animations; and from 1950's to 2008. Most of all, it practically crashed the normal stereotyped top 100 completely. Gone with the Wind was placed 31st place, Citizen Kane the 28th, Psycho in the 45th, and most surprisingly Titanic was in the 336th place. Even more, the most famous black-and white movie, The Golden Age, was in the 342nd place, which is even lower than the gore revenge action movie Kill Bill. Surprisingly, the Empire had the Korean movie 'Old Boy' in 64th calling it a "critics' favorite." Still, overall, the reviews were excellent and the rankings were reasonable. You can see the 500 Greatest Movies yourself on, www.empireonline.com/500.

American dramas

Yerin Baek

Many of GAFL students seem to enjoy spending their spare time watching American dramas. But some of you might wonder, is it okay for foreign language high school students to waste their time watching American trash? Well, if you're one of those who thought so, you'd better change your mind. There are tremendous advantages we can earn by watching American drama: you get to learn English and enjoy watching TV at the same time. Without realizing, you become more fluent. Moreover, you get to understand more about American culture. And most importantly, it's fun!

I've done a survey (mostly by first graders) on the topic of "Which drama is GAFL's favorite?" Check out the results and find out more about the dramas.

5th The Big Bang Theory

The Big Bang Theory is about science geeks who live in the same apartment with blonde bombshell. The geeks get all excited to live with the girl way out of their leagues. The drama is mostly about the episodes between "the beauty and the geeks." The charm of this drama is the geeks' weirdness that is surprisingly, attractive and interesting.



4th Friends

We all know Friends! This drama has been our friend for ten epic years. The very first episode starts out with Rachel running out of her wedding and her reckless life. That's where the two old friends Monica and Rachel reunite. As the glue of the group, Monica sticks all the members together. The lovable characters, Ross, Rachel, Phoebe, Chandler, Monica, and Joey become inseparable with trust, friendship and love. I dare say it's the greatest masterpiece of the century.

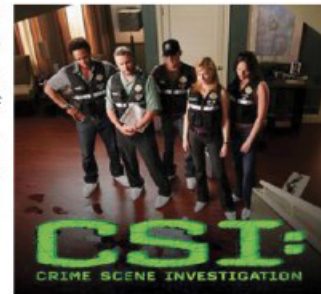
3rd Prison Break

In 2007, Prison Break has captured Korea's attention. Michael Scofield, a genius architect deliberately goes into

jail to save his brother who unjustly incarcerated, and the whole journey begins. This drama is almost like a drama version of "Shawshank Redemption." Prison Break is such a cruel drama. It never lets you do anything else. It grabs you up and drags you to go on to the next episode, on and on. Its biggest charm is the breathtaking storyline and shocking turnovers, as everyone agrees.

2nd CSI

CSI is an intelligent time killer. In every episode, the CSI crew gets involved in various murder cases and solves them, using state-of-art science technology. What we love about this drama is that we can have actual opportunities to see the procedures of real CSI investigations. The characters are smart and idiosyncratic. You have to watch CSI at some point; it's kind of a rite of passage for American drama viewers. And, you will never regret it. Last but not least,



1st Gossip Girl

Yes, finally, Gossip Girl here. Gossip Girl is your one and only source into the scandalous lives of Manhattan's elite. The main character is the "it-girl" Serena Van Der Woodsen, the queen bee of her school. The story is mainly about Serena's most luxurious life in New York. The biggest charm of this drama that catches all the viewer's eyes is its huge scale on almost everything and of course, fabulous fashion styles of the characters. Be careful, though! You can't stop it once you start it.

With their compact, realistic story lines and the satisfaction they bring to viewers, American Dramas will continue to be popular. We all know they can be too addictive, but what's wrong with that? Just turn off the subtitles and consider it a free-charge listening class! So, why not try tonight?



Annatainers: Attractive Icons of Show-biz

Su Jin Kim

Have you ever heard of the term “annatainer”? Annatainer is a term used exclusively in Korea's media. The term is derived from two different words—specifically speaking, two different titles of occupation: announcer (television news announcer) and entertainer. The word “annatainer” was created to describe today's news announcers who have opened up a new era of their job. As obvious as their title may be, what they do on television is quite straight forward. They do both what news announcers do and what entertainers, such as comedians, actors, singers, and etc, do as well. Not only do they deliver important and rather solemn social issues of Korea and the world on the 9 o'clock news, but also they appear on diverse television shows, even comedy programs, showing the audience their hidden personalities. For example, a few years ago, in a program called Imagination Plus, news announcer Hyun-Jung Noh played the role of a very strict and intellectual, yet charming teacher of the other panels of the show. Her unique intonation of saying, “Study harder” to the panels became popular throughout Korea, and many fans watched “Imagination Plus” just to see the news announcer, Hyun-Jung Noh.

There are two reasons for annatainers' popularity. First of all, they are popular to the employers in the broadcasting companies, such as producers, because they can be hired for very little amount of money. Since news announcers are paid monthly salary, when it comes to extra payment for their roles on television programs, their fees are rather restricted to the minimum. (This is why some annatainers decide to quit their jobs and just work on a freelance basis, like the former KBS annatainer, Soo-Jung Kang.) On the other hand, why are they also popular to television viewers? This is because they are different from other entertainers who have appeared on shows

so far. Annatainers are brilliantly humorous and good looking like all the other entertainers, but they also have the 'intelligent and educated know-it-all' image, that television viewers seem to respect. Then is it true that all of the audience are in favor of annatainers, and their active roles on television these days? No, this is not true. Many people criticize and claim that news announcers should firmly stick to their primary job, concentrating all their time and energy to deliver the news as best as they could. This is not a matter of right or wrong, so no one can say whether annatainers deserve to be loved or not. But one thing is for sure; annatainers certainly do play a big role in making many people enjoy television watching.

Around ten years ago, news announcers in Korea had a very different image than those of them today. They always had their short hair fixed very neatly, and they never dressed too fashionably, always sticking to the same old plain and boring suits. No matter how extroverted and funny they were in real life, on television, they had to pretend to be reserved ladies and gentlemen of refined manners. However, annatainers are declaring a reform. They are now willing to be more open, and show eclectic sides of their personalities. On television news, they will be serious; on comedy programs, or talk shows, they will dare to say ridiculous jokes! Some critics worry that this will confuse the television viewers by giving them mixed images of these news announcers. However, don't all people have mixed characteristics? Sometimes people are reserved and quiet. Other times, they are loud and showy. News announcers are human beings just as we are. So why is it wrong for news announcers to behave differently in different situations? I personally look forward to more active participation of annatainers on TV shows.



Love story in tender... the third Musical the Great Catsby: Season 3

Min-Sun Kim

If you are a person who first saw the poster for the musical, you might think that it's just a story based on the novel "The Great Gatsby" written by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

However, this wonderful musical piece is completely different from the novel. **Musical the Great Catsby** is based on a cartoon The Great Catsby which was widely hailed by readers since it was first published serially on the internet. The cartoon has received various awards and it is now translated in English, and is currently published in the U.S. and England.

This past April, **Musical the Great Catsby** has celebrated its Season 3 performance, which is being staged following after its season 1 and 2 performances. Since it has been first presented on Daehak-ro, Season 1 ended with 169 performances, Season 2 with 177 performances, and Season 2-encore with 105 performances. Every time it was staged, it brought about great success and was widely greeted by thousands of audiences.

Musical the Great Catsby is special from the start of the performance. It uses all walls of the small stage as a screen. Using a projector, the director presents the complementary installations which are needed for each scene. 19 wonderful soundtracks are sung during the play and they are expressive enough to feature every character's unique characteristics and fill the heart of the audiences with the best impressions. Being the tale of every youth's heartaches, friendships, and confusions on

affection, I recommend **Musical the Great Catsby** definitely to couples as something to go and see with your boyfriend/girlfriend. But I also want to mention that this is equally a great piece for close friends.

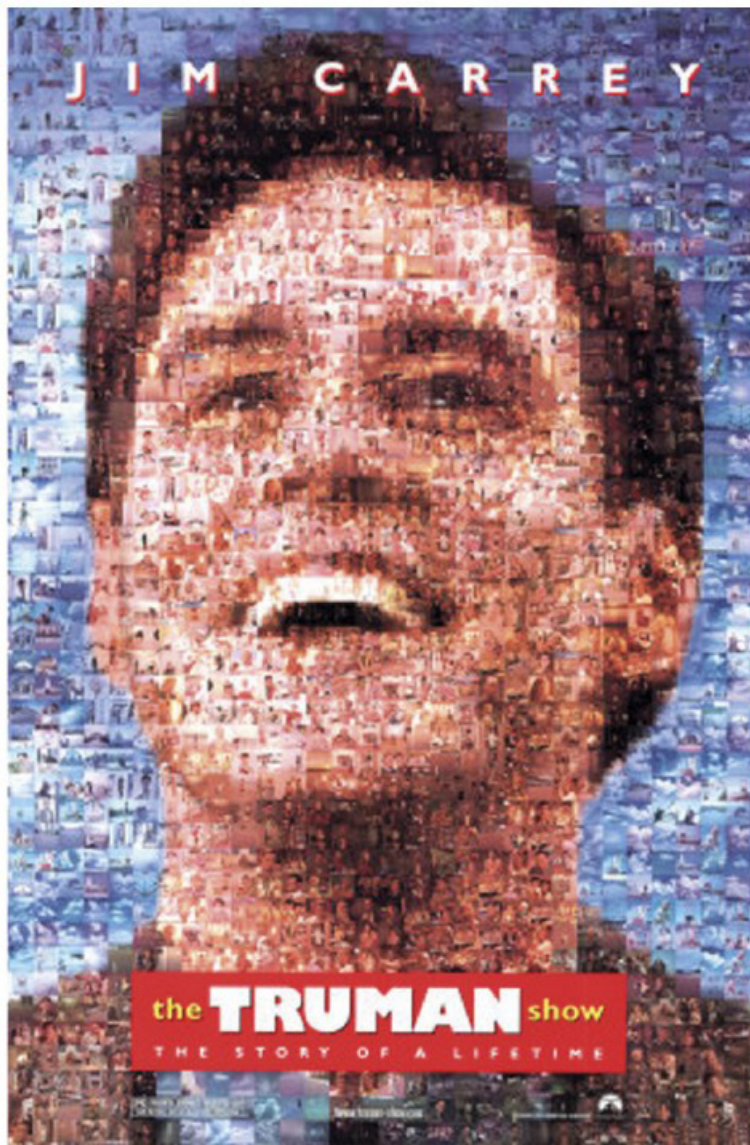
The story starts with three university friends: Catsby, Houndu, and Persu. Due to Houndu's conditioned yield, Persu and Catsby could be developed into a couple. However, Catsby becomes something nobody after his graduation and lives in a shabby house with Houndu, who works as an unstable tutor. One day, Persu says goodbye to Catsby to end their six years of relationship and marries a rich man, Brudog. Before miserable Catsby appears a cute woman, Sun, and she helps him erase his past memories with Persu. Catsby finds another form of affection from Sun who gives him unconditional love, but he also finds himself still bounded to Persu. Persu, who is now married, still wanders around Catsby and insistently asks for his love. Meanwhile, Houndu feels love towards Mrs. Mong- a married woman, but being rejected, he even tries to commit suicide. He feels that love is still the most important value in his life. Brudog's wish, who wanted to get rid of the memories of his dead first wife by having a successful wedding with Persu, becomes obscure due to Persu's outside-marriage pregnancy. Can Sun manage to hold Catsby who still cannot erase his memories with Persu? What is the secret that is lurked deep inside Houndu who stares mysteriously at Catsby? To whom does Persu's baby belong to? Can Brudog love his new wife? Let's find out at **Musical the Great Catsby** season 3.



Truman Show Review

Sang Ik Kim

To say shortly, Truman Show is Truman Burbank's life-time show. Truman Burbank is a simple guy living in a typical little seaside town of Seahaven Island, where nothing really happens. The town is clean and perfect. He knows the townspeople but never really take part in their lives. He is married, but not to whom he really loved. Having lost his father on a boating accident, Truman still feels he is missing something. With a strange and false yet subtle sensation, Truman feels something is weird. A man that appears suddenly reminds him of his dead father, a radio broadcast seems strange (if you can't understand what I'm saying, watch the movie). Burbank somehow gets the feeling that the world really stops when he shuts his eyes. These circumstances combine to make him feel something is wrong but what is it that he seeks but feels he cannot find?



When I first saw this film, I had expected this movie to be of yet another Jim Carrey comedy. I was cheated. It was easy to do this at the time who would have thought Jim Carrey capable of acting certainly not the marketing department that sold this film on the basis profit making opposed to how deeply thoughtful and enlightening film it would turn out to be. The plot can be viewed on so many aspects that it is effortless to leave the Truman Show to each viewer to obtain what they will from the film. On the most conspicuous level the film satirizes the media, emotional facade of television and relevant look at reality shows. To others it will convey as much about life's philosophy, the empty drone of life and the things that we all desire. Of course to others it will just be a comedy with general remarks to make and there is nothing wrong with that whatsoever. In fact, the multi-level approach is what appeals this film to many audiences.

With the movie starting as a comedy, I am deeply taken by how well the film moves to become more and more exciting. But that doesn't mean the picture loses the sight of audience members who have come for the basic story. Therefore it delivers an enjoyable and engaging central narrative that, plainly put, makes for a comic and involving yarn we grow to care for Truman and this makes the ending an emotional and satisfying one even if some viewers will bemoan the fact that (to them) it appears 'open ended'. That it is also a very thought-provoking affair is only a bonus, with the satire working on many levels. Of course by seeming to tackle so many subjects and issues in such a short running time, the film never really gets its teeth deep into any one of them, but this is not a major problem because it leaves us to do that in our heads after the film finishes.

The cast, overall, is roundly superb though most of them are in minor roles. Of course it is easy now to look back at Carrey and accept that he can act straight. But at the time, it seemed so unlikely and few felt it was a good casting choice due to the prejudice over Carrey. Of course, seeing the end result it is clear that he can deliver such a great performance that he really makes the film work.

He is comic but yet serious, sympathetic but not worthy of compassion it is a great delivery and one that basically meant that I now look at his Ace Ventura stuff as the 'other' category and see his acting as his real work (6 years ago that was vice versa). Carrey carries the film. He is on screen for almost the entire film but he has good support from Linney, Emmerich, Krause and others who play it well despite being stuck in the necessary stiff and unreal roles. The controller etc. roles are all well played and feature a collection of well known faces including a great support role from Harris through to roles for Giamatti, Shearer, Baker Hall and a few others. It may be Carrey's show but the support certainly helps.

This movie is simply superb since it not only fascinates people for its basic story but also for its implied issues. There was a time, and even still, some viewers may have looked to a Carrey film to be a load of mugging a crude, basic laughs but this was the film that saw that change. Fascinating, funny, short, well-narrated and acted throughout I found myself lucky seeing and appreciating it.



Two deaths that can never be forgotten

Na Hyun Kim

There have been two tragic incidents: two well-known celebrities have committed suicide. What is more controversial is the relationship between them. Are the rumors true that Choi has lent money to Ahn? Was she in part of the play that killed Ahn? Or is she an innocent victim?

The first victim, Ahn Jae-Hwan, is a retired comedian. He was a husband of Jung Sun-Hee, and they seemed to have perfect lives career was at its peak, and they appeared happy in front of the press. However, he was found dead on November 8th. His death was due to carbon monoxide poisoning in his car by briquette. The police announced that it was suicide, considering his circumstance.

First, his will was found. In his will, he stated "I love you Sun-Hee," but it was not publicly released. Secondly, he had a very heavy loan, estimated to amount to about forty hundred million won after several failures in his business. Because of this financial problem, it has been acknowledged that he had been threatened from lone sharks. Lastly, he had been missing prior to his death. According to the police, he could not be connected by any means.

Choi Jin-Sil, a national star, is the second victim. She was found hanged in her mother's bathroom on October 2nd. In the police report, it was announced that she had a severe depression after her divorce from Jo Sung-Min, which was due to his violence. Also it appeared that she had been under a lot of pressure?she was raising two children by herself, and her success in career had somewhat made her stressed.

But the most probable cause is the rumors that are still appealing. Prior to Ahn's death, what intrigued the public the most was Choi and Anh's relationship. There had been rumors going on that Choi was the one who contributed to Anh's death. But she had expressed strong disgust about the rumor, saying that she was like any other mothers in Korea, and also a close friend of Jung Sun-Hee. But even after her formal declaration, the rumor did not vanish. After sometime she told the public her most inner feeling: "the world that is distorting even our friendship is so cruel." Similar to Ahn Jae Hwan, Choi left her last words as well.

The two heartbreaking incidents have left the public in penitent. Even after a month, their stories are still hot issue. The government is planning to enact Choi Jin-Sil law that punishes Akplers?people who spread false rumors or make malicious comments?and also includes the introduction of Internet real-name system. But the public is severely criticizing the government of its delayed measure. The most important thing is that we remember the tragedy and pray for the repose of the deceased.



Economic Crisis Devastates the World

Su Bin Han



October 2008



October 2007

September 14th, 2008 will be remembered as a historical day: the day when the world's biggest investment bank, the Lehman brothers, filed for bankruptcy. Accordingly, global economy is in a big risk. In addition, bankruptcy crisis of the world's largest insurance company, AIG, exacerbated the problem.

Starting from the day after the bankruptcy, New York Dow-Jones, the stock market index of the United States, fell drastically. During last several months, according to high risk of the subprime mortgage loan, the U.S. economy has been in great risk. The bankruptcy of enormous companies kindled the firewood of disaster.

Affected by this crisis of the U.S. economy, KOSPI, the Korea Composite Stock Price Index, also fell sharply. By mid-October, the index fell to the 900s, which was over 2,000 only a year ago. During the last several days, it has been falling nearly 10% everyday.

According to this great loss in stock market, overall economy is in a crisis. Consumption already started to fall, and real estate market is in great depression. The prices of the most expensive apartments in Korea, such as those in Kang-Nam district, were taken off over 20% recently. Currency circulation also dropped sharply.

People are in panic, and whole society seems to be in chaos. Depression in our economy seems to continue. The stock index will not revive to its highest point soon, and business owners are expressing real threat to their lives.

If so, what can be the solution? One hope is to decrease the interest rate. In general, consumption and investment increase when interest rate falls. Consequently, domestic demand will increase, which will eventually stimulate the economy. Hopefully, the government is planning to lower the interest rate as soon as possible.

However, the best solution is to wait. Frustration of stock investors will not vanish abruptly. It will take several months until consumption increases and domestic economy starts to recover. After a few months, when consumers start spending and investors calm down, economic recovery will soon follow. Our finest option is to prevent further risk and wait patiently.



Hopes on the new US president, Obama, to take action on global warming Time for US to take part in the Kyoto Protocol

Byung Yeon Kim

Over the last century, the industrialized world has benefited significantly while producing greenhouse gas emissions. The consequence was global warming, which brought about disasters such as desertification, sea level rise, and devastating hurricanes. Ironically, the countries that suffered the most from the catastrophes of global warming were the undeveloped and the developing countries, while the developed countries were already prepared to protect themselves from climate change impacts.

Currently, the most prominent outcome of the international effort to alleviate global warming is the Kyoto Protocol. Adopted on 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, this treaty intends to achieve "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." It calls for commitments by the developed countries to reduce its greenhouse gas emission to a certain degree, as well as general commitments by all member states. Currently, 183 countries have signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol, and are on the way to reach their assigned targets.

The biggest problem with the Kyoto Protocol, however, is the fact that the United States, the largest emitter of greenhouse gas, has not yet ratified it. The US is responsible for about quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, and also has the largest per capita emission of carbon dioxide.



George W. Bush, despite his campaign promises in 2000 to lower greenhouse gas emissions, pulled the US out of the Kyoto Protocol in 2001 as one of the first acts of his presidency. Bush criticized that the Kyoto Protocol would cause too much damage to the US economy. He also condemned the treaty for not requiring the developing countries like China and India to commit to emissions reductions. Since then, the Bush administration, for most of its two terms, seemed to deny that climate change was even a problem.

Now, the world is placing new hopes on the US President-elect Obama to change the US standpoint on global warming and the Kyoto Protocol. During his presidential campaigns, the climate change issue had been one of the priorities for Obama. It is now his responsibility to lead the US into taking part in the Kyoto Protocol and the Post-Kyoto Protocol, and set national goals to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Hopefully, Obama would not make the same mistake as his predecessor by viewing global warming - the biggest moral challenge confronted by our generation - as a mere political problem.



The Chronic Disease of the Internet: Malicious Reply

Moon Kyu Lee



Recently, the long-unsolved problem of the Internet, the malicious reply, came up to the surface again, triggered by suicide of Ms. Choi Jin-Sil, whose mini-homepage was attacked by vicious netizen. What is more deplorable about this issue is that such replies continued even after the Ms. Choi's death.

Even though this problem has been continuous in the Internet, there hasn't been any effective solution to prevent this phenomenon. One of the solutions is using actual real-names on the Internet when writing an article or replying within. It prevents the ill-intended netizen by giving them the fear of the exposure of their identification. This policy seems to be an effective solution but it is quite controversial, since it takes away people's shields of anonymity. On the other hand, it is not effective as it seems, considering the results from the web sites which are already adopting the policy. In fact, in Cyworld, even

though people can see the writer's photos just by clicking the name of the author of an article or a reply, people do not hesitate to post ill-intended articles or replies to other people. However, the governmental officials are still clinging on a hope that this policy would eradicate malicious replies.

For short term, enforcing penalties when posting malicious articles would be adequate. In this way, people will not post them, being afraid of the penalties. However, this can not be a long-term solution, because it would target the uncertain number of netizen, which will interfere with the Internet market.

The most effective long term solution in the present situation would be reinforcing the manner in the cyber world, or netiquette. As Internet is becoming one of the most important cultures of the society, netiquette is reaffirming its position as a necessary guideline follow. However, the current education about the netiquette is not done properly, if at all. Therefore, more emphasis on education is needed.

By means of enforcement of penalties for a short term solution, and education as a long term one, the malicious replies should be eradicated, to prevent unfortunate events such as Choi's suicide.



Melamine Threat around the World

Min-Sun Kim

In September this year, it was widely reported that nearly 53,000 babies in China fell ill or even died because of a certain toxic compound found in baby formula and dairy products. Starting from the powdered milk crisis, considering the fact that Chinese milk products have been exported to various countries, the world is under threat. Also, pet food manufacturers reported that wheat gluten and rice protein imported from China caused unexpected deaths of their pets. More importantly, snacks have been proven that they were tainted with melamine: some of them were contaminated to the point where it can be very dangerous.

Therefore, the Korea Food and Drug Administration banned all imports of Chinese products containing powdered milk. Also, after examining 124 Chinese goods including chocolates, bread, and biscuits, the Administration ordered a recall of Misarang Custard and Milk Rusk biscuits.

What is melamine?

Melamine is a white crystalline substance, sometimes referred to as cyanuramide, consisting of carbon, nitrogen, and hydrogen. The compound was synthesized in the 1830s by a German scientist, Justus von Liebig, and later used for the industrial purposes in the manufacture of plastics and laminates. It is mainly used to create durable dishware, containers, and clear resins.

Why do manufacturers add melamine into baby formula, pet food, and snacks?

Food and Drug Administration officials said that the melamine was put into such products because it artificially raises the protein content of the ingredients. Authorities suggested that melamine was used to mask low nutrient levels in watered-down milk.

How can melamine affect our health?

It was reported that consuming products tainted with melamine can cause kidney stones and renal failure in infants. In rare cases, failure in kidney can even lead to death.





Vacant Authority in North Korea

Jun Kyung Ahn

Sensational news has caught the attention of the world. The North Korean communist leader Kim Jong-Il disappeared from the public view in mid-August and failed to attend two national holidays-leading to speculation that he has been seriously ill. The U.S intelligence agencies believe Kim might be gravely ill while North Korea dismisses it as a political conspiracy. Kim, who has not made public appearance since mid-August and missed two important national holiday parades, is believed to have suffered from a stroke or some other serious illness, and was reported to have undergone brain surgery.

North Korea recently released photos of Kim looking generally healthy despite reports of his brain surgery. But, the oddest thing about the photos was the verdant grass and trees visible in the background: they were too green to believe the pictures were taken recently, considering it was autumn on the Korean peninsula. Accordingly, rumors regarding his health problems and other North Korean political strategies escalated.

Kim Jong-Il is the leader of Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He is the chairman of the National Defense Commission, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea. Contrary to the name "Democratic" People's Republic of Korea, he actually serves as a dictator. He succeeded his father, Kim Il-Sung, founder of North Korea who died in 1994. Since then, he idolized himself to North Koreans as a godlike figure.

Also, doubts remain about his current political clout. An associated press report said Kim had been supporting moderates in the foreign ministry, while North Korea's powerful military generals were against so-called "Six-Party" negotiations with China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States aimed towards stripping North Korea of nuclear weapons. Some US officials noted that soon after rumors about Kim's health were publicized a month before, North Korea had taken an "extreme line in nuclear negotiations." In late August North Korea's official news agency threaten that North Korea is seriously considering restoration of the its Yongbyon nuclear facility in order to "restore its power." Analysts assumed this could have meant "the military generals may have taken the power" and "Kim might no longer have total control over North Korea."

The state of Kim's health had significant implications for the security of the Korean peninsula. As Korea has been divided for over 50 years and sharp military tension has always existed between two parties. U.S and South Korean military officials have agreed to stay in close touch over how to handle any events that could cause any instability in North Korea.

As the last communist country in the world, North Korea has been world's center of attention due to its nuclear threat in diplomacy. Depending on Kim's health, six party related countries, especially South Korea will be influenced greatly.

Russia's Newest Ambitions: The Return of the USSR?

Keon Hee Kim



It has been nearly 2 decades since the collapse of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), and the subsequent end of the Cold War. After the Soviet Union's downfall, and the dismantling of the communist bloc, Russia's strength became only a fraction of what it was, a shadow of the former empire called the Soviet

Union. While still the world's biggest nation, it has lost huge amounts of territory as former republic members declared independence from the helpless USSR. Its former allies, known as the Warsaw Pact nations, turned to their once had-been enemies, NATO. Russia was no longer its past glorious self.

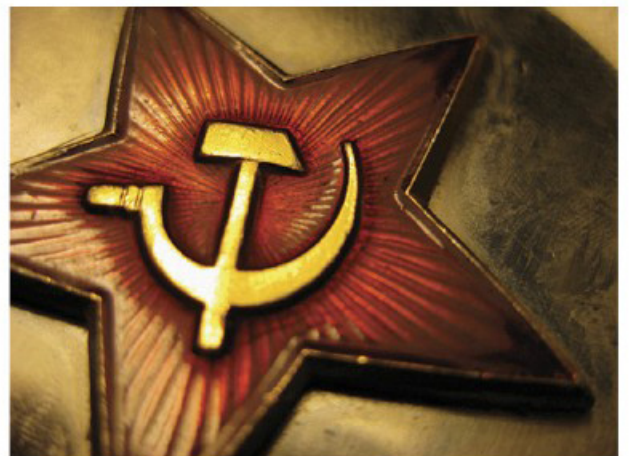
However, the ambitions of the current prime minister of Russia, Vladimir Putin, have started the reconstruction of the so-called Russian Dominion. A charismatic man and a leader by nature, Putin has revitalized Russia's devastated economy, and has begun the reconstruction of the Russian military which had fallen to the third world standards through neglect in the turbulent years of the old Soviet Union's death. The rebirth of the Russian military was shown in the 2008 South Ossetian War, where Russian forces devastated occupying Georgian troops and pushed deep into the Georgian heartland. Through this war, Russia had shown the world that it was capable of modernized military action, and could mobilize to protect its own interests.

However, Russia's rebirth is not seen by all as a good thing. The United States of America, Russia's longtime main enemy in the Cold War, had repeatedly warned during the 2008 South Ossetian War that Russia was pushing things too far, and even went on to send troops into Georgia.

Tensions between the two superpowers, America and Russia, have continued to increase substantially throughout this year. The US's planned installation of Missile Defense (MD) systems close to Russian territory has brought on retaliation in Russia's part, namely the sending of a flotilla of warships, including a nuclear battlecruiser, to Venezuela, another nation wary of the US. This kind of "show of force," but not actual conflict, only too much resembles the dark old days of the Cold War.

The most recent projection of Russian power, a military exercise called "Stability 2008", was the most reminiscent of the USSR. Tens of thousands of troops and military vehicles swept through all 11 time zones of the Russian Federation in a training exercise not seen since the abrupt demise of Communism. Perhaps to emphasize the drastic measures that the Kremlin may take in order to achieve victory, the exercise ended with the launching of multi-warhead nuclear missiles, a grim finale for the US and its allies.

However, some experts are more optimistic on the matter, as with Eugene Rumer of the National Defense University of Washington. He maintains that the events of recent months are "not signs of the Russian military being reborn," but "a flexing of its relatively small military muscle." Perhaps he's right. However, the message that Russia wants to send us is clear: "We have returned."



Japanese Scientists Dominate Nobel Accolades

Sungho Park

On November 7, the Nobel Physics Prize laureates of 2008 were announced, who were all native to Japan. Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa, both of Japanese nationality, were accredited “for the discovery of the origin of the broken symmetry which predicts the existence of at least three families of quarks in nature.” Yoichiro Nambu, a Japanese with an American citizenship, was awarded “for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous broken symmetry in subatomic physics.” The next day, the Nobel Committee mentioned another Japanese scientist in the list of Nobel Chemistry Prize awardees. Osamu Shimomura was recognized “for the discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein, GFP” along with two other laureates. This year, 4 out of 9 winners of science-related Nobel Prizes are from Japan. As a result, Japan holds a record of 7 Physics, 5 Chemistry, and 1 Physiology/Medicine laureates.

In contrast, Korea has no history of any citizen receiving a Nobel Prize related to science, including this year. What is the underlying cause of this phenomenon?

Japan, since last year, has been conducting a major project to bolster 5 science research bases within its borders. This project is supported by a plan to invest a maximum of 2 billion yen for the next 15 years. On the other hand, Korea assists scientific research with insufficient government funds. This has led to unfavorable conditions for domestic scientists, and eventually brought forth the so-called “evasion of science & engineering fields.”

Furthermore, the educational system of Korea prevents individuals’ creative thinking. In most high schools, students are compelled to memorize knowledge that is directly related to university entrance exams. Since even the most scientifically talented students are forced into this uniformity, they resort to other settings where they can demonstrate their potential to a proper extent. This “Brain



Drain” is critically illustrated by the fact that 604 scientists with foreign doctoral degrees had returned to Korea in 2007—a 34% decrease from 919 in 2003.

What should we do to reverse this trend? First of all, not only we but also our government should clearly understand the significance of science research and its impact on this nation’s future. As the groundwork of every technology, science research, indeed, is the pivot of Korea’s development. The Korean government must raise its expenses on scientific research and practice related programs in a nationwide basis. It must ensure every domestic scientist’s privilege to research without any limitations. Moreover, the educational system has to undergo a change to enable everyone, including scientifically gifted students, to think creatively and advance their original abilities.

High-Tech Firepower: Korea's Military Might

Keon Hee Kim

In the face of an existing and somewhat powerful enemy, as well as being in a region that has been, for the most part, volatile, the development of military industries have been a top priority for several decades in Korea. Decades after the armistice of the Korean War, our industries had developed enough to create our own designs of military vehicles and weapons, and advanced military applications for science have now become possible. In this article, I will show you the most prime examples of our technological advances in the field of war industry.



First of all, the K2 Black Panther:

The K2 Black Panther is an advanced (4th-generation) Main Battle Tank of our proud Republic of Korea Army. It was developed by the Korean Agency for Defense Development, Hyundai Rotem, Samsung Techwin, Doosan Infracore Corporation, and S&T Daewoo, which are all Korean companies. The K2 can travel at speeds of up to 70 km/h on road surfaces, and maintain speeds of up to 48 km/h in off-road conditions. It can accelerate from 0 to 32 km/h within 7 seconds and also climb 60 degree slopes and vertical obstacles 1.3 meters in height. This ability makes it perfect for rough terrain, and gives a world-class mobility to the vehicle. Another ability of the Black Panther is the In-arm Suspension Unit (ISU). The ISU, which is installed on every bogie on the tracks, allows the bogies to be individually controlled. Thus, the K2 will not only be able to "sit," "stand," and "kneel," but also "lean" towards a side or a corner as well. This gives multiple advantages such as lower height, better visibility, and a movable center of gravity that gives greater stability to the operation of the vehicle. Also, the K2 is outfitted with the 140mm smoothbore cannon of Rheinmetall (a German weapons company), making it the first user of the world's largest tank gun. The combat capabilities of the Black Panther has been deemed extraordinary, a serious contender for the US Army's newest M1A2. Some experts have even called it "invulnerable." Of course, its operative effectiveness being world-class, the cost is naturally world-class as well. The prospective cost of a single K2 unit currently stands at approximately ₩8,300,000,000, or around USD\$8.5 million, making it the most expensive main battle tank to date, nearly twice the cost of the M1A1 battle tank of the United States of America.



Another example of Korean achievements in military technology is the T-50 Golden Eagle.

The T-50 was developed by Korean Aerospace Industries in conjunction with the American company, Lockheed Martin. It is a trainer, which means that it is used for training pilots. However, it can be armed with a variety of bombs, rockets, and missiles, making it possible for it to act as an attack aircraft. It is also the world's first supersonic trainer, and its completion marked the start of a new era for Korean industry, with Korea becoming the 12th nation to be able to manufacture jet fighter aircraft. The crew required for full operation is two. The maximum speed of the Golden Eagle is 1.4 times the speed of sound (Mach 1.4). Its arsenal consists of CBU-58 cluster bombs, AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles, a 20mm Vulcan cannon, AGM-55 Maverick missiles, and et cetera, which can be fitted without modifications, making it more than capable of fulfilling its intended subsidiary role as a ground support aircraft.



An older but nevertheless important landmark of Korean military technology is the K-9 Thunder.

The K-9 is an indigenous self-propelled 155mm howitzer developed by Samsung Techwin in 1999. Its armor consists of a system of an all-welded steel construction which is rated to withstand impact by 14.5 mm armor piercing shells and 152 mm shell fragments. The main armament consists of a 155 mm/52 caliber ordnance with a maximum firing range of 40 km. In comparison, most other field artillery cannot surpass 30km in range. State-of-the-art mobility subsystems include a 1,000 horsepower engine and a hydropneumatic suspension unit, a requirement for Korea's rugged mountainous terrain. The K-9 was designed to give the artillery wing of the Republic of Korea Army a significant improvement in capability. It offers greater mobility, longer range, higher rate of fire (it can fire 3 rounds in just 15 seconds, maximum), and increased battlefield survivability. The unit also supports full NBC (Nuclear Biological Chemical) protection, as South Korea's main enemy, North Korea, has one of the world's largest arsenals of chemical weapons, as well as several nuclear bombs. Most importantly, the K-9 Thunder has been exported to Turkey and Australia, and its technology is produced around the world under license by Samsung Techwin.

Due to the limited article length allotted to me by the editors of Topnotch, I cannot write about more examples of Korean military might. However, rest assured that these are not the full extent of the Republic of Korea Military, and that our forces are more than capable of completely and utterly crushing any foreseeable opposition. Your lives and freedom are in good hands.

DNA Building Block of the Universe.

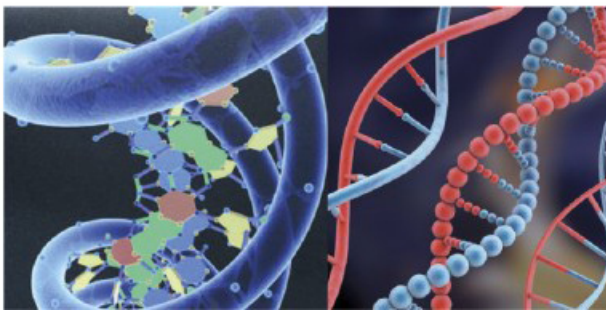
Sun Myung Hong

What makes us....well us? What makes our eyes black or hazel, determines if we are going to be tall or short, etc.? Before the discovery of DNA, the individual traits were thought of as gifts from God; traits that we must not mingle with, or hamper with. But after inventing the microscope, scientists were able to see tiny particles that exist in our universe. They were lucky enough to find out that deoxyribonucleic acid, better known as DNA, was the key to finding what sorts of traits the baby will have. Then we have to ask ourselves: What is the DNA and how does it function?

DNA is a long polymer made from repeating units called nucleotides. The DNA chain is about 2.2 to 2.6 nanometers wide, and one nucleotide unit is about 0.33 nm long. Although each individual repeating unit is very small, DNA polymers can be enormous molecules containing millions of nucleotides. For instance, the largest human chromosome, chromosome number 1, has approximately 220 million base pairs, forming a long chain.

In living organisms, DNA exists as a tightly-associated pair of molecules that look like strands. These two long strands entangle themselves like vines, in the shape of a double helix. The nucleotide repeats contain both the segment of the backbone of the molecule, which holds the chain together, and the base, which interacts with the other DNA strands in the helix. In general, a base linked to a sugar is called a nucleoside, a base linked to a sugar and one or more phosphate groups is called a nucleotide, and multiple nucleotides linking together, as in DNA, is called a polynucleotide.

A DNA helix usually does not interact with other segments of DNA, and in human cells the different chromosomes even occupy separate areas in the nucleus called "chromosome territories." This physical separation of different chromosomes is important for the DNA to function as a stable repository for information.



As chromosomes interact during chromosomal crossover, they start recombining themselves. Recombination allows chromosomes to exchange genetic information and produce new combinations of genes, which increases the efficiency of natural selection. Genetic recombination can also be involved in DNA repair, particularly in the cell's response to double-strand breaks.

The most common form of chromosomal crossover is homologous recombination, where the two chromosomes share very similar sequences. The recombination reaction is catalyzed by enzymes known as recombinases, such as RAD51. The first step in recombination is a double-stranded break either caused by an endonuclease or damage to the DNA. A series of steps catalyzed in part by the recombinase then leads to a combination of the two helices by at least one Holliday junction, in which a segment of a single strand in each helix is annealed to the complementary strand in the other helix. The recombination reaction is then halted by cleavage of the junction and re-ligation of the released DNA.

Furthermore, finding DNA and learning more helped scientists develop a process called genetic engineering. Genetic engineering is a term that applies to the direct manipulation of an organism's genes. Genetic engineering is different from traditional breeding, where the organism's genes are manipulated indirectly. Genetic engineering uses the techniques of molecular cloning and transformation to alter the structure and characteristics of genes directly. Genetic engineering techniques have found some successes in numerous applications. Some examples are improvements in crop technology, the manufacture of synthetic human insulin through the use of modified bacteria, the manufacture of erythropoietin in hamster ovary cells, and the production of new types of experimental mice such as the oncomouse (cancer mouse) for research.

More developments are being held in the lab as people become more aware, and more interested in this area. As Condoleezza Rice once said, "This new area of technology will become a strong source of power as the importance of medical innovation increases. Genetic engineering will open a new field of study, one that will surely improve the health quality of mankind." DNA is an important part of our life, and will become an important factor as time passes.

Seniors:

Yung Suk Yoo: Scribere est Agere.

Keon Hee Kim: Whoever said that the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never faced automatic weapons.

Ji Hee Jang: It was an honor for me to work as a member in Topnotch. Moreover I learned a lot. Thanks for all members in Topnotch. I expect there will be better articles for this promising newspaper!

Na Hyun Kim: We are the best of best! It will be impossible to forget the moment in Topnotch!

Sun Myung Hong: By engaging in Topnotch, I was able to expand my knowledge and learn how to write good articles.

Sung Ho Park: Writing articles for Topnotch was one of the most thrilling moments of my junior school life. Not only could I enhance my writing skills, but I could also perceive the world in a broader perspective.

Min Sun Kim: It's always fun to be a member of Topnotch. Thank you to editors and all other members~!!

Moon Kyu Lee: It was a nice experience for me being a member of Topnotch. Thank for all works done by Topnotch members and Good luck to all units next year, too.

Gari Hahm: Topnotch was one of my favorite memories in GAFL

Su Bin Han: Becoming Junior, it's sad to know there is no more time left to be part of Topnotch. It will be an unforgettable memory ~!

Juniors:

Ji Woon Chu: Being a member of Topnotch, I could have many experiences that I would not have had otherwise. I really enjoyed writing articles on school events, and I am more than willing to do my best next year as well.

Hyun Ji Lee: Spending my freshman year as a member of Topnotch was absolutely incredible. It helped me to grow up a bit, and I can't wait for next year's Topnotch.

Han Gyeol Lee: The more I do this work, the more I learn that this is not what I can do all by myself. I appreciate all the people surrounding me, silently looking after me.

Jun Kyung An: Topnotch is a part that can't be missed in GAFL school life! It was an invaluable time with Topnotch family.

Jae Hyung Park: It was great to have an experience of writing and editing articles myself. Top Notch Rocks!!

Da Young Oh: Topnotch is, as it were, a 'top' notch! I can't wait to see who will get the luck of being a new top notch reporter ^^

Yerin Baek: I feel so lucky to be part of Topnotch! I can't wait until the next semester to write for Topnotch again!

Editor's Comments

Many things have changed since the last issue: the school officially changed its name, not to mention its whole system. But one thing that didn't change is Topnotch's founding motive: hone our writing skills and disseminate school news (along with current events and other stories)?and I hope it'll stay the same. During these past few years, our seniors (now graduates) successfully carried out the latter motive, but not the former. We've changed it. We believe that a great paper of any kind arises from a series of feedback from the author's peers. So, we started peer editing sessions after writing our articles, which I must admit, have turned out to be quite successful.

However, the public only sees the final result of the issue: a bundle of paper full of color and letters. But people should know that it took many hours of combined efforts from all members to publish this. So, with all this done, I toss my pen and reflect upon the last issue Topnotch issue that I'll ever make. Please look forward to our next issue.

Yung Suk Yoo

I remember the time a year ago when Young Suk and I first decided to take on this job, contemplating and discussing over how we would steer the new generation of Topnotch. Now as I look back, I am thrilled to realize that Topnotch, over the last two semesters, has achieved much more than we had hoped for. The efforts to expand our club's activities, along with the dedication and the passion of Topnotch members, brought forth editions of the school magazine with higher quality and maturity. The times I spent with Topnotch were very meaningful, and it will always remain as a great memory of my high school days.

Byung Yeon Kim

TOPNOTCH MEMBERS

Seniors

Yung suk Yoo / Byung Yeon Kim
 Keon Hee Kim / Ji Hee Jang
 Min Sun Kim / Moon Kyu Lee
 Sun Myung Hong / Sung Ho Park
 Gari Hahm / Su Bin Han
 Su Jin Kim / Sang Ik Kim
 Moon Young Kwak
 Min Young Lee
 Na Hyun Kim / Yung suk

Juniors

Ji Woon Choo / Hyun Ji Lee
 Ji Soo Yim / Joon Kyung Ahn
 Ye Rin Baek / Jae Hyung Park
 Han Gyeol Lee
 Da Young Oh



