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LAONJENA!



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Headmaster's Message

GAFL
HEADMASTER,
Ha-Shik
Park



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 one of the best foreign language high schools in the country. The school's foundation, staff, and students will not stop striving to turn this school into a better one: one that nurtures great individuals. Outstanding students will be recruited on a national scale, and I will work hard to turn them into creative global leaders who contribute to humanity.

To achieve this we will, with Christian morals and ethics, help students get ready for university life with higher standards of education, help students develop linguistic skills in order to establish a global education system that can promote Korea, and encourage individuality and creativity in all these transactions. The faculty and I will make great efforts to achieve these goals, and I am sure that we are going to succeed.

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

Thank you.



May and June in Review

During the early days of May, frequent showers battered on the school grounds and our campus became tranquil, as if informing us of a new beginning, a new life. The rain gradually subsided and chilliness gave the way to a warm heat, emanating from the bright sun above. School corners and grounds now accommodated festive, delighted students that poured onto the school grounds, within which students' passions were embedded; on which Sports Day, performances from months of practices, took place.

Clear and dazzling weather now tells us that it is summer, a time when the new lives that sprung during the spring should settle down harmoniously. In GAFL, freshmen have been introduced to GAFL's cultures such as the Foot-washing Ceremony, Teacher's Day and Pride Korea. New comer teachers, once reluctant, now mingle well with the students.

Upon entering 2010, TOPNOTCH has also undergone a complete transformation and become modish in both style and content. We have discarded humdrum articles and filled the pages with fresh news of GAFL and exclusive interviews with those who are the current gurus in their fields. New sections have been created. Students' participation is augmented. Pages are designed with their respective characteristics. All of our hard-fought efforts have culminated in this stunning magazine. I assure you that this edition definitely shows the aspects of a true media. Now you can even voice your opinions on www.gafl-topnotch.net. Thank you.



TOPNOTCH
Chief Editor
Hyojin Ryu



Members of Student Council



Teacher Park, Dongwoo



First Graders on a Sport Day



First Graders on a Sport Day



Teacher Lee, Gichan with Laonjena



Teacher kang, hyosik with a first grader



GAFL Headmaster Park, Hasik



Teacher Park, Jongmin



TOPNOTCH PHOTOS
Memories of April

Foot Washing Ceremony



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GAFL

Student Council Members on Entrance Ceremony



Entrance Ceremony



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GAFL

2010 GAFL SPORTS DAYS

GAFL FOCUS - Passion of Gaflians

2010



From game matches, parades to face painting, Sports Day of GAFL is unique, festive and full of sparkling passion. Crowds' cheering and players' shoutings heated up the atmosphere on May 20th. Topnotch covered the story in detail.



GAFL SPORTS DAY

May 20th, 2010

at the Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages

SPORTS DAY REVIEW



Harmony and Unity: GAFL SPORTS DAY

This year's Sports Day was fabulous. As a start, each major flaunted their perfected parades, entertaining our eyes with groovy moves and matching costumes. Although microphones and speakers' occasional malfunctioning troubled the fluent proceeding, the mood did not die out, thanks to Laonjena, a cheerleading club, who had their debut and also did a

great job of reviving the declining spirits. During the sport matches, students ardently cheered for their respective majors, screaming the players' names and boosting their spirits. Most matches ended without harsh feelings but some fierce ones like the basketball matches ended with sore feelings. Overall, amongst

senior majors, Chinese won the first place, whereas amongst freshmen majors, Japanese won the first place. Both majors celebrated their victory on the school grounds.



LAONJENA!

GAFL SPORTS DAY

Laonjena Performers.
(Left-Right)
Ahyoung Song,
Hanbit Choi,
TR Gi-chen Lee,
Kwonhwa Kim.



Laonjena - A Stellar Performance!

- Kim, Kwonhwa (Topnotch Reporter)

What do you think was the eye opener of Sports Day? Last year every Gaflian would have named each major's gorgeous parade, but not this year. If you ask those who saw Laonjena's overwhelming performance on this year's Sports Day, they would answer differently. May 20th was not only GAFL's Sports Day but also the day of the hot debut of a cheerleading club, Laonjena. After all majors finished their parades, the Laonjena's stage took place, leaving every viewer surprised at its appearance. With the musics

'A strong wind highway' and 'Let's go on a trip', three peppy girls flapping silk cheerleader costumes showed powerful and skillful movements with overwhelming smiles. The unexpected appearance of Gi-chen Lee, a Korean teacher, heated up the performance, making it more enjoyable.

Laonjena's first performance ended brilliantly with their finale pyramids in midst of the audience's applause.

Laonjena is a newborn club of 2010. The name

'Laonjena' may be jarring to your ear because it is a traditional Korean; 'Laon' means 'enjoy' and 'Jena' means 'I'. Combined, it means "I enjoy". While enjoying cheerleading themselves, the club members emanate the energy of joy, and this energy creates a festive atmosphere and entertains their audiences.

Perhaps because Laonjena enjoy cheerleading as the name implies, they never stop practicing even during the exam terms.

A SURPRISE BOMB, LAONJENA!



Choi, Hanbit



Kim, Kwonhwa

Your beginnings will seem humble, , so prosperous will your future be.

In the nascent times of this club, not a single person in the team knew anything about cheerleading.

As mentioned earlier, Laonjena began this year. So it had low awareness to students?no solid base, no supports and even no proper space to practice (club members had to practice in an assigned classroom whose chairs had to be pushed back.) Under these dire conditions, the club head Rebecca Choi made a great effort to put the club in good order. From inviting a professional teacher to create the performance, she did her best in leading Laonjena as the head and the founder of the club. But she always said that without the assistance of the members, she would not have been able to accomplish their achievements.

In the near future, Laonjena is planning to form relationships with the cheerleading clubs at Universities to learn an improved system and must-have

information for a better performance. And as GAFL's festival, Passion 2010, is approaching, Laonjena promised to refresh the audience by giving a wonderful performance, with more advanced members. If precious chances are given to them, they will do their best to participate in cheerleader contests and also cheer for alienated people who need energy of life as a voluntary work. As the team cheering for GAFL, Laonjena is the face model of GAFL.

There is a saying, "Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be." Even if Laonjena started with only three girls, they possess a huge potential. Although the start was harsh and rough, they will continue to pave the road. And the following generations of Laonjena may be able to walk the road without tripping on a stone. Always remember that Laonjena is cheering for you!

Which one is Your Favorite?

- Myungsun Kim (Topnotch Reporter)

Banti of English-Chinese Department

The English-Chinese department The T-shirt of the English-Chinese department was full of fun imagination. Preparing the T-shirt, the students discussed enthusiastically to find the color and design just right for their department. The shirt was blue as chosen by

a majority of the major. As we live in a democratic school, so be it. On the T-shirt, there is an eagle, a symbol of English-Chinese department, carrying a snake in its beak, which is supposed to resemble the Chinese Department. The blue color of the shirt blew off the hot weather of summer.

(Left-Right)
English Chinese
Department.
English Japanese
Department.



(Left-Right)
Japanese
Department.
Chinese
Department.



English-Japanese Department

The English-Japanese Department The color of the English-Japanese Department shirt was chosen for the students wanted a flaming color, which concentrates every gaze. All the other department students praised the English-Japanese Department's shirt for being the most polished shirt. Of course, there was a price paid for hearing this applause. The person in charge of the shirt had to wait until 3 A.M. in the morning to receive the shirt from a very sleepy looking postman. The 强 symbol is from the famous internet lecturer Shin Seung Beum's math book, carved directly into the shirt with a scanner. On the day of the big event, the English-Japanese Department really flared up with passion.



Chinese Department

The Chinese Department The Chinese Department has always craved for power. They wanted a very powerful and robust image, dwarfing all other department. They could not carve Chinese letters for the seniors were against it. Instead, they brought a tiger to their shirt, which they all agreed was a good decision in the end. Last year, they were the dragon which resembles total power and this year, they chose the tiger, which is the rival of a dragon in the field of power in Korean history.



Japanese Department

The Japanese Department The Japanese Department got the shirt from the senior designer. The senior was the designer of the last year's shirt and contributed to this year's cute animated figure on the front of the shirt this year. The figure resembles the traditional armor of the Samurai, the elite soldiers since the Edo period. The Samurai resembles power, dignity, courage, justice and most importantly honor in battle.

“Senior Parades”

Reporter Park, Rahyung

Gyeonggi Foreign Language High School held a sports festival last week. It was a blazing weather, but still cool with a little breeze. Most students were preparing for the performance they had practiced for two weeks. They were wearing various shirts and some had cute little face paintings on their faces. Now, let's go deep into the exciting performance they showed off that day!



The overall concept of English-Chinese classes was 'Sexy and Powerful': Girls' concept was 'Sexy and Boyish'. Boys' concept was 'Intensity'. They danced powerfully with great unity matching their concept. Girls wore miniskirts and sensual, white upper garments or red hood. Boys wore suits. Sometimes, some of them wearing sunglasses were eye-catching. They prepared for the performances for almost 2 weeks. During the time, they said they had so much fun and it was a good time for them to get closer to each other. Every students of English-Chinese classes practiced dancing very hard and pleasantly, at the same time felt more united.

English-Japanese classes showed off fascinating dances with good melody. The dances with some waves and popping got favorable reviews from parents as well as other students. Especially, 2nd grader's uniformed clothes -red t-shirts and jeans- drew people's attention. The 1st graders danced wearing clothes of diverse colors from hot pink to bright yellow. The concept was 'Sexy'. The students mentioned that the exercising time they had spent together dancing meant a lot because it was the last time practicing something together as teenagers.



Chinese classes showed performances divided with several groups. But the overall concept was 'Professional and Powerful'. Some girls wore hot pants and white t-shirt. Others wore tailor-made clothes with leggings. Boys wore black hood and dark gray pants. Another group of boys wore black suits with sunglasses or roses. They said 'the process' rather than the performance itself was valuable. It was a huge opportunity for them to get closer and some said they could find their friend's new aspect they've never known before.



Japanese classes set their concept as 'Chic and fabulous'. They united their clothes to 'black and white', girls wearing black or white jacket and pants and boys wearing black suits. The uniformed fashion and beautiful movements they showed definitely stood out. The students of the Japanese classes said it was worthwhile having prepared for the day. They also felt sorry to the fact that it was the last moment they could spend time preparing for activities together, thus they tried really hard to work it out helping each other.

1ST
GRADERS'PARADE
SHOW**SHOW
SHOW
SHOW**

The Freshmen Parades

<English-Chinese> reported by Jiyong Jung

Purpose: Our major was always the major that was dragging behind. So, we wanted to show that our major is no longer in the last place. Therefore, we concentrated mostly on the parade part.

Point: We wanted to be special by making actions different from others and mixing various songs

Concept: We planned to make it as a "Dance Battle". Some students from class 1 and 2 started battling each other with talented dancing skills. However, later in our dance, the two classes got together and reconciled by dancing.

Difficulties: Some of the boys could not participate in the dancing practices for they had soccer and basketball practices. Moreover, it was hard to teach classmates who were not talented in dancing.

Best thing: We enjoyed the parade regardless of the difficulties during the practice sessions.

dance with enthusiasm could raise leadership and gain friendship.

Point: We tried to show our effort and cooperation through the parade. We also wanted to express our feelings through dancing. Finally, we focused on practicing instead of our abilities.

Concept: Our main topic was "Love". To start with, half of the entire major got into the rhythm of "Chu" by a famous idol f(x). Next, the boys danced to the rhythm of the song "Love like This" which was used as a method to propose to the girls with the flowers they prepared.

Difficulties: We had difficulties in locating a classroom to practice in. Also we could not gather up all classmates for the practice. Finally, finding the music for the dance was also a problem.

Best thing: On the last practice, the cooperation was great. Also I'd like to thank all the students who managed the parade and acknowledge them for their positive attitude.

<English-Japanese> reported by Sowom Kim

Purpose: We wanted to grow cooperation between class 3 and class 4. Hopefully, practicing together really helped us unite the two classes much easier and we became more familiar with each other.

Point: We focused on two things. One was arrangement and the other, creativity. Since good arrangement can show people that we are well-united and by being creative alongside following the flow of a story, our image will remain in the audience's memory.

Concept: We made our parade look more like watching a TV. Therefore we pretended to be one part of a TV channel. There were 4 channels which consisted of advertisement, pop, popular dance and couples dance.

Difficulties: When we were practicing we were arguing about what to wear. Also there were students who found dancing difficult. It took some time to coach the students who had difficulties.

Best thing: Whatever the result may have been, we tried our best. Also we thought that acting out the TV channels were creative and worth something.

<English-Japanese> reported by Heonsu Kim

Purpose: To cooperate with each other when we were preparing for the parade and become friendlier and united.

Point: We mainly focused on making a dance which was easy to follow. By using tassels, we wanted to look gorgeous.

Concept: Brightness was our main theme. For the intro, we prepared a bright dance and after the entrance, with the boys dancing "10 out of 10 (10점 만점에 10점)", we tried to capture the audience's sight. This also had a purpose to boost the atmosphere of the audience as well. For the climax part, everyone was dancing "Bang", which was perfect for dancing in groups since it sounds like a marching song.

Difficulties: It was hard to take time out for the practice as well as finding a place to practice in. And people who were coaching were upset that there were students who didn't even try to dance in the first place.

Best thing: Our parade was well organized. The arrangements were good and the dance moves were really creative and showed union.

<Chinese> reported by Yoonbin Na

Purpose: Since class 5 and class 6 were not familiar with each other, we tried to make a close relationship by working together. The hard thing was that there were some classmates who had never danced enthusiastically before. In fact, this was their "challenge" to overcome. And through helping them, classmates who managed and helped the others who could not



School Council's Message

TOPNOTCH President Hanguel

The First Complete Leap-Forward

So, here is the result: Ju-Hui Kim outshadowed five other candidates in the election for the Chair. He garnered more than half the total vote. From this moment, he was crowned with the same power and authority as that of School President, the Chair of Student Council. "I will do my best to be a solid bridge between the Student Council and you students," he announced, celebrating his election. From this moment, he would govern Congress-Council meeting as a representative of the Legislative Branch

The next week, GAFL made the first complete leap-forward democratic ruling. All class representatives gathered up, along with all members of Student Council, to discuss monthly issues and share ideas of the upcoming Sports' Day. This combination, the Congress and Council, was agreed to be named 'the Executive Board.'

Major decisions have been made this Executive Board meeting. "Ratio of girls to boys for the 1st year is ridiculously out of proportion. This Sports' Day must be prepared with matches and games that girls can easily participate," pointed Jung-Yeon Lee, a Junior officer of Student Sports' Activity Ministry. Members of the Congress approved. Consequently, kickball was added in the Sports' Day program.

For less than an hour, the Executive Board exchanged meaningful interactions. Complaints and suggestions piled up from students. Ideas poured in and the Congress, or sometimes the Council politely dismissed some ideas, praising the other some, explaining why and how. No more sighs or confusion or debate. But a little growling noise as the meeting had to be spared in lunch time.

"The First leap-forward as a complete triangle, a complete democracy, was pleasantly memorable. I'm glad. Nothing was as bad as I thought it would be. I thought there would be fist-fights, negligent absence of some members, but no. I have to say I'm pleased," observed Won-kyo Seo. "I couldn't say much in front of the crowd. It was my first time! But I will try to be better. The Congress will have its monthly meeting next week for the Sports Day. I will get the spotlight then. Then, I should better lead a conference than this," exclaims Ju-Hui Kim, the new chair of the Congress. Somehow, everyone leaving the conference room, this time, had a thin, pastel smile lingering behind. The smile seemed to say, there's more to grow and expect from GAFLian democracy.

Democracy Blossoms in GAFL

On March 19th, GAFL finally tiptoed on the threshold of the beginning of democracy. On that curious Friday, six-year-old pillars of the half-complete government of GAFL were ready to face renovation. "Democracy in GAFL has been, well, so far not so good," confessed the School President, Won-Kyo Seo, "And we are here for a change."

By 'we,' he meant all class representatives from all classes, even the 3rd graders, including the incumbents of the Student Council, who gathered up in a conference room. On their presence, Principal Ha-Sik Park illustrated his ideals of 'school democracy,' fundamentally to point out that Student Council had been doing all the jobs. Which was pretty much true; Student Council has had, from GAFL's beginning, a firm grip of every school events—from Teachers' Day ceremony, Sports' Day, Senior Encouragement events, to finally, Passion Festival. It was the Student Council that ordered pink carnations for May and fortune cookies for seniors in November.

The Student Council, in a way, is the Administrative Branch of GAFL. It had been diligent and transparent so far, but unfortunately, bereft of any branch to surveil and check its administrations: the Congress—the Legislative Branch. In other words, GAFLian government had been standing on a broken principle of separation of 'the three powers'—Administrative, Legislative, and Judicial, the basic of democratic ruling. This curious Friday was to retrieve that missing Congress, to finally construct a complete triangle.

But nothing's as easy as it sounds. A quagmire swept over. 3rd graders whined why they should care to make a congress; members of Student Council buzzed, worrying they could lose their power. Roles and rules of Congress were still in obscurity. After several debates, confusions, and sighs, class representatives and members of Student Council noticed something in common: the ideals of Principal Park and other teachers would cost them too much.

"The purpose of summoning all class representatives here today was simply to promote communication between students and Student Council, to strengthen the ties," claimed President Seo. "That's what I thought student Congress was needed for," he added. "We have long disliked the fact that we took care of too much things, without even asking others' opinions. We intended this day would be the chance to cease, you know, our unintended dictatorship," sighed Min-Ryeong Kim, the chief officer of School Activity Ministry. Now members of Student Council realized that they've put knife on their necks. In principle, Student Congress could smother any movement of the Student Council.





Fortunately (or unfortunately?), class representatives didn't want to afford the time to supervise all the work of Student Council and gather up for meetings. "All class representatives from all classes around the school cannot possibly gather at once. And I can't afford to spare time for another thing at this point," grumbled Hye-Rim Son, a senior from class 5. Still, they wanted their voice to be heard in school policies and events. Slowly and painstakingly, the Student Council and each class representative reached the triple point where the needs of the two could coexist: student Congress functions to amplify the voices of each class, offer ideas or positive inputs for school events, and if necessary, check and balance the Student Council. After countless sighs and confusion, they all learn: democracy is hell of a long fight.

Finally, the gavel banged with the verdict to elect a chair of Student Congress the next Monday. From then on, regular meetings will be held with a presence of the Chair as the equivalent of School President—in other ways, the Chair of Student Council—especially when preparing for major school events.

All members of Student Council left behind in the dismissed conference room. Some bristled with slight anger that the President created unnecessary inconvenience. "Gosh, we've assigned homework for ourselves," replied Da-Woon Jung, chief officer of School Campaign Ministry, when asked if she was satisfied with the day's verdict. "But I know. It was a right thing to do," she admits. Remaining hours, the Student Council spent for setting out provisions about disciplining negligent members of the Congress and about members' qualifications in the School Constitution. This time, they realized law is hell of a headache—choosing little syllables, prepositions, and dictions to put in the Constitution was a lot of sweat. "I don't care how much time it sucks out of me. I know this is worthy of something," smiles Min-Jung Yu, junior chief of Student Religion Ministry.

GAFLian democracy definitely did not come at ease. The founders had to endure disputes, obscurity and disappointment. But despite all negativity, the founders—class representatives, Student Council members and some teachers didn't get out of control. They were together in belief that we need this nuisance to better off, to function proudly as a democratic school government. Of course, this democracy is not immaculate; The Congress wouldn't want to check, supervise, even criticize, and obstruct—as it usually does in outside world—the Student Council; the Student Council, not the Judicial Branch, enacted provisions for the constitution. But the hope refuses to diminish, the hope that this democracy will grow further and further, to be immaculate and solid.

INTERVIEW WITH A PROFESSOR, A DOCTOR, A LAWYER,

LIM MI KYUNG

by Reporter Kim, Myungsun

Dear GAFLIANS, the leaders-to-be of the 21st century, the light of the world,

Although it was just a voice heard via phone, I could see her eyes sparkling with creativity, zeal and wisdom. She was first known and received spotlight as the wife of 안철수. However, she is much more than the intelligent wife of the famous CEO, 안철수. The famous epic of this couple goes as follows; a renowned doctor turns his path as a scholar in computer virus and founds '안철수연구소'. However, there is something more to this; in this sequel, the wife is the hero. Professor Kim herself is a trailblazer, a topnotch elite, true scholar, and a living legend. Professor Kim holds a perfect resume. Her life comes with flying colors. 15 years, she has been an outstanding pathologist. Despite her position and her achievement as a Medical professor and a doctor, she went abroad and enters University of Washington Law School. After graduation, selected to go on a fellowship in Stanford Law School, she works for Center for Law and the Bioscience. She becomes designated as a lawyer in California and New York and in 2006 was appointed an additional position in Stanford Medical school. Although she received many love calls from other prestigious universities in Korea, she becomes a professor in KAIST. Professor Kim Mi kyung is now a professor in KAIST. Professor Kim, tells us a lesson very valuable that is meaningful to the GAFLians, the leaders-to-be.



Q. Do you have any mottos that guided you throughout your life?

A. More than anything I stand firm on the belief that when I start a new project or decide to do something, no matter what happens, whether it does or does not suit me, I do not change my plan. There are people who reverse the decision and give up. However, I believe that a decision that has been carefully made should be completed. No matter how difficult it is, and even though the plan or the process does not agree with me, I withstand it until I see it through the end. For example, when I decided to enter law school, I contemplated on it for long time with prudence. While I was studying in law school, though there were times where I thought law does not fit me, I did not quit and finished the long course successfully, and was called to the bar in the court of New York,

Q. Do you have any role models?

A. I actually have many role models. For the wisdom of life, I was influenced by my parents. As a student in middle and high school, the teachers were my mentors. The co-workers, friends... They were all my role models. I constantly, look for the role models, and fortunately I had the right role model for the right moments. While I was a doctor and a professor in Stanford Medical School(1996-1997), I was heavily influenced by Dr. Sibley. He was the chief doctor in the department of pathology, typically about kidney, which was also my specialty. While working with him, I learned a lot from him. He really taught me the right and ideal way to live as a pathologist. After I worked with him I was able to be advance several steps further and become a notch above others. Since then, I stretched further from a doctor only working in Korea to an internationally competent and acknowledged pathologist. I still keep in touch with the people that I met in Stanford Medical School. I have a tendency to keep the relationship that I have once made for my entire life. As for my career as a lawyer, the judge of federal court that I worked for as a clerk was my role model. I learned what a lawyer should be like from the way he lived and the actions that he took. His vocational ethics really moved me. He lived frugally and did many good-hearted works as a human being. Not only his expertise or professionalism in law, but how righteous and fair he was as a judge truly touched my heart and still remains as a huge impact on me. In Stanford law school, I met Professor Grilly, who became my model in the conversion-learning(융합학문). The professor taught biology and medicine in law school. What was so spectacular about him was that he studied myriad of fields so heterogeneous from law alone. However, he has reached to a degree of professionalism on the fields of genetics, medicine, and biology, that the knowledge he has is equivalent to that of an expert. He was even granted the title of emeritus professor. He has proven that with enough zeal and interest, lay person can achieve in certain fields of study, and played a pivotal role when I sketched out my life as a scholar engaged in fusion studied(융합학문)

Q. You were a successful doctor, and would have continued being so even if you remained as a doctor. However, what paved the way for you to become a lawyer? Were there any moments where starting a whole different career made you worrisome?

A. In high school, I was stood by a fork in the future. One path was entering the Law School, and the other was entering the Medical School, and I chose the latter. As a doctor, I went through smooth promotion, as a specialist, conferring doctorate degree, and was promoted to an assistant professor. Then I worked a surgeon in a large hospital and acquired valuable experiences. As the ability as a surgeon improved and when I became stabilized, I thought I reached a level where it would be fine even when I make a leave of absence and return back years later. I thought for a long time how I would be able to widen my horizon and decided to study law which I was interested since long time ago. Yes, definitely. There were times where I worried about the possibilities of myself not doing a very good job at it, but I was determined to do it and knew that I had to do it.

Q. Our school being a foreign language high school, there are many students who are interested in studying abroad. Frankly, you started in later years. Do you have any advices that you would like to give to GAFLIANS?

A. I was raised in Korea and was educated in Korea, despite the experience I had as a doctor in Stanford, I had to face many obstacles, including the language barrier. Of course, I did not expect to excel from the start and gave myself one year to maintain composed. Even though I kept composure at heart, I knew that without diligence and hard work the years after the one year would be no different from the status quo. I really worked hard. The moment the lecture was finished, my review started. I never let go of books. I broke every spare time I had and studied. I remember reviewing after the class was over and prepare for other lectures until the next class started. I drank enormous amount of coffee. The 3 year of hard work paid off. I began to earn good grades and my dissertation won awards.

Q. Professor, you are now currently teaching in KAIST. I have heard that manifold prestigious universities tried to scout you; however, you decided to go to KAIST. Were there any reasons for it?

A. KAIST has neither law school nor medical school. Prospective college students are increasingly avoiding natural science and engineering and KAIST is a school that teaches natural sciences or engineering that students are reluctant to enter. Inside me, two worlds exist. One is a scientific world that seeks progressive ideas; another is a conservative mind that necessitated a set of appropriate process. However, inside me, the first world of scientific mind dominates. For the same reason, I am fond of schools that teach natural science and engineering and feel a sense of homogeneity when I face scientist or engineers. I am a person that pursues the advance in science and technology. The second reason is that I thought it was critical that I make an unprecedented matter and pave the way for a new start. Whereas systems in medical school or law school are very rigid, KAIST has a very flexible system. I also wanted to play a role in working for the protection of the intellectual property with the knowledge of law that I have. I am now teaching patent law KAIST was the most right and adequate school for me.

Q. I was really impressed by how a great scholar you were. You are truly the "God of Study" GAFLIANS are all eager students and it would be great to hear some advice from you.

A. Generally speaking, I was a student with good grades. Nevertheless, I also graduated with a better grade than the one that I received when I entered the school. I entered middle school as the 25th top score student but graduated the second. In high school, I entered the school as the fifth, and graduated being the top student. But I do have memories where I wandered off course and hit a slump. However, I was a progressive student and my grades got better day by day, year by year.



Q. This would probably be the object of attention for the GAFLIANS. Do you have any secrets to your excellent academic results?

A. You all would be a better student than I have been when I was a student. What really matters is how eager you are to achieve your goal. I always had a hard time staying awake. I really slept a lot. Even in my seniors I had to sleep for at least 7 hours. Nevertheless, I really concentrated and did my best when I was awake. Even when I spent relatively a long time sleeping, I desperately wanted to enter Medical School. Nowadays, I see students being forced to go to certain schools regardless of one's own interest. At that time, entering Medical School was not something that my mom forced me to do. I was the oldest daughter and my mom would say that I should change my major to household arts, or more "feminine" majors. She told me that it is likely that a person becomes "ill-fated" when she studies medicine. At that time, only 10% of students in SNU Med. School were female. It was the time where girl's restroom was scarce. It was the time where a woman having one's own job not common. They did not pressure me study different majors, but my decision in deciding to go to medical school never involved coercion. At that time, medical school was not a place where all top students studying natural science entered. Even though I was not outstanding and despite of the long hours I spent sleeping, I strongly craved to enter Medical School, and this really became an engine for me work hard. I always dreamed of myself going to SNU Medical School, and myself roaming around the beautiful campus. Nowadays, I see students saying that they go to certain fields because they are the top scoring or low scoring students. This is not right. This does not unify your thoughts to make you focus on your goal. What really matters is one's attitude and an anticipating mind.

Q. I currently read a column you wrote in the newspaper. There you mentioned our future facing a world of convergence. The GAFLIANS would be living in an international world. Could you elaborate more on this topic?

A. Whether you want it or not, the era of convergence has definitely come. In the past, the society favored and necessitated people professional in one specific field. However, in the 21st century, which is fast pacing and heavily oriented around information- processing requires people to work on a much larger scaled project that entails technology based on convergence. It has become inevitable to study fields that you have never majored in or is good at. Just because you are good at math, you cannot live successfully in the society with the sole skill of mathematic. The social problems that we have to work out have become so complicated that there is not a single problem that we can solve looking at it in one perspective. One example is solving the social vice of suicide. South Korea holds a disgraceful statistics of being the number one country in OECD of senior suicide. When solving these kinds of problems, we have to consider the question in all side, from medicine, sociology, the problems of medical insurance, to psychiatry. For reporters or journalist, you cannot use solely the knowledge of Korean Literature to write articles. Certain knowledge of technology such as stem cells, or astronomy and other fields of study are inexorably required. In order to be successful in a society teeming with myriads of newly found information, one has to become an early-adopter in learning new technology, and is requires a attitude of openness and the ability to converge new information with the ones already learned. Learn fast and incorporate the knowledge together to create a totally new idea. Surviving in the society as a successful person has become intricate than ever. Now you, GAFLIANS, the leaders of the new world to come, have to go on and progress on in the influx and flood of information and change. And the key to the success is an open mind. There should be no barrier in one's mind or hesitations when accepting new ideas or learning new things. Some students have a tendency to forfeit learning when it is difficult, tedious or requires hard work. However, this mindset will put a ceiling on a person's leap toward development and progress. Superficial or shallow learning should also be evaded. Even a petty nuance of a word in a book should be understood thoroughly. When something is learned is learned voluntarily one does not necessarily need formal education of any sort. The example of Professor Grilly that I told you about clearly validates this. To summarize, have an opened mind setting, accept fast and easily, and study deeply and precisely. This will beyond doubt enable you guys to become a true global leader. Way to go GALFIANS!

Foot Washing Ceremony

by Reporter Kim, Kyungil

In the bible, Jesus falls to his knees and starts washing his disciples' feet. Despite him being their master, the Son of God, and one of the greatest men in history, he humbles himself, showing that he loves them even more than he loves himself.



Our teacher's might not be Jesus, but they equally show that much love in GAFL's foot washing ceremony. So how does it proceed? All the students are brought to a room where candles are lit and several chairs and a bowl of water is put in the front of the room. As the other classmates gently start sing a song, students fill up the bowl of water and sit down on their chairs. One by one, the teachers come into the room, kneel on their knees, and start washing their students' feet. Some of the teachers massage the feet for students and some gently apply lotion. It is a quiet, peaceful moment, where the teachers can express their love toward their students.



Teacher Kang, Hyosik praying for students

A second year student said in a brief interview that he felt extremely moved by his teacher's gentleness and humble attitude. "I remember it like it was yesterday," he said. "It was the first time an adult, other than my family, ever got on their knees and showed their respect to me, an immature, young kid. I really want to experience it again...so it's a real sad that this event doesn't exist for second graders. I wish there was." He said he learned something on that day. He said he learned how to be modest and lower oneself at certain times.

Another first year student replied in an interview that he also felt enormous gratitude toward the teacher. "I've never experienced this ever in my life and I don't think I will in the future. It was like...a once in a lifetime event. So it felt that much special." When I asked him how it felt he replied with a laugh "Well it felt good of course. My teacher massaged my feet really well. It was like she was a professional or something. And another teacher actually applied lotion to the student's feet! It was awesome."

Yes, the foot washing ceremony is an extremely valuable tradition of Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages. It is a time when the students can actually acknowledge how much love the teachers have for them and that the teachers also have great respect toward the students. So let's hope and pray that this tradition continues on in the future.



gossip gaf

welcome

to Gossip Girl!
The Site ABOUT the
Upper East Side,
FOR the Upper East
Side and BY the
Upper East Side!

gossip

The latest "411"
on all the in people.

pics

See what the fashionistas
of the UES are wearing
[CURRENT PHOTO
GALLERY](#)

parties

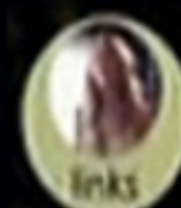
Your invitation was
probably lost in the mail!
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what you missed.

links

Spotted: Jongmin Park flaunts his style



Stylish teachers are prevalent
here in GAFL. Who do you think
is the number one fashionistar?



It's gossip GAFL here, your one and only source into the scandalous lives of GAFL's elites. A good source tells me there are some hot, chic and stylish teachers wandering around and catching students' fierce attentions. Shall we discover them one by one?

Contestant

Park Jongmin: He may be the youngest teacher in GAFL, but he is definitely not the one you want to miss. A man of blithe smiles, math teacher Jongmin Park's dress code is simplicity and casualty, as you can see him wearing mild t-shirts and jeans every day. His favorite brand? NIKE. Does he think of himself as a decent fashionista? Absolutely. Well, keep an eye on him because you all know that no men can easily pull off a pink shirt than he does!



Contestant Douglas Laroura:

Having his father as a role model in dressing, English conversation teacher Douglas Laroura likes professional looks. Although he feels uncomfortable in suits and ties, he suppresses this feeling to look as proficient as possible and his hard-earned efforts are praisable, indeed.



Contestant

Sunny Jun: She may be the most gorgeous teacher in GAFL. Sunny Jeon, who teaches English, always cares deeply of what she wears. She says her dress code is neatness. Her clothes are edgy, smart and classical, yet not out-dated.



Contestant Hyeongsuk Yoo:

Stop blowing whistles, guys! Here is an English Grammar teacher, Hyeongsuk Yoo, whose wardrobe does not wear out, just like her confidence! She has a tall and lithe silhouette—just like any hot supermodels. She always suits herself in trendy clothes. So does she deserve to become GAFL's Fashionista?

Contestant Adam De Buys



日本の高校生と手紙のやりとり

by Reporter Yang, Seungyoon

我が高校の京畿外国語高等学校と日本の東京にある 文京学院大学女子高校の生徒が日本語で手紙を交換しました。3月に京畿外国語高等学校の2年生の日本語課(3,4,7,8組)のすべての生徒が参加して日本語の会話時間に手紙を書き、交流を始めました。専攻が日本語であるだけあって日本について関心の高い日本語課は今度の機会を通じて日本の学生たちとお互いの学校生活や色々な聞きたいことを聞いたりして充実した時間を過ごすでしょう。

5月に3月に送った手紙の返事が来てGAFLIANは興奮している模様です。そして、手紙と一緒に来た写真もまたGAFLIANの中で大きな話題となっています。日本の学生の姿を見て不思議がる学生もいれば、感嘆する学生もいました。

写真だけでなく日本の学生たちの細かな心づかいが入った返事も視線をあつめました。その中でも京畿外国語高等学校の生徒が漢字をやさしく読めるようにふりがなをつけてくれたことなどがめだちました。初めて会う友達なのにもかかわらず、とてもしんせつにしてくれた日本の生徒たちに感謝します。京畿外国語高等学校の生徒たちも日本の生徒たちに親切に心をつかってほしいです。あと、2回手紙の交換が残っていますが、残りの時間をもっと楽しく、有益に過ごせたらいいと思います。

今度の文化交流を通じて 京畿外国語高等学校はもちろん 文京学院大学女子高校 高校の生徒たちみんながお互いの国と韓日関係といった国際関係に関心を持てるようになってグローバルリーダーとして行動できるようになってほしいです。これからもこういう文化交流の機会がたくさん与えられることの願います。

Students attending our school, Geonggi Academy of Foreign Languages and students of Bunkyoungakuinndaigakuzyosi (文京学院大学女子高校) high school in Japan have exchanged letters.

Starting on March the sophomores of Geonggi Academy of Foreign Languages(classes 3,4,7and8) have all participated in exchanging letters with Japanese students in Japanese Speaking classes. Since these students major in Japanese they have great interest in Japanese culture, they are wiling to enthusiastically learn more about each other's nation and culture.

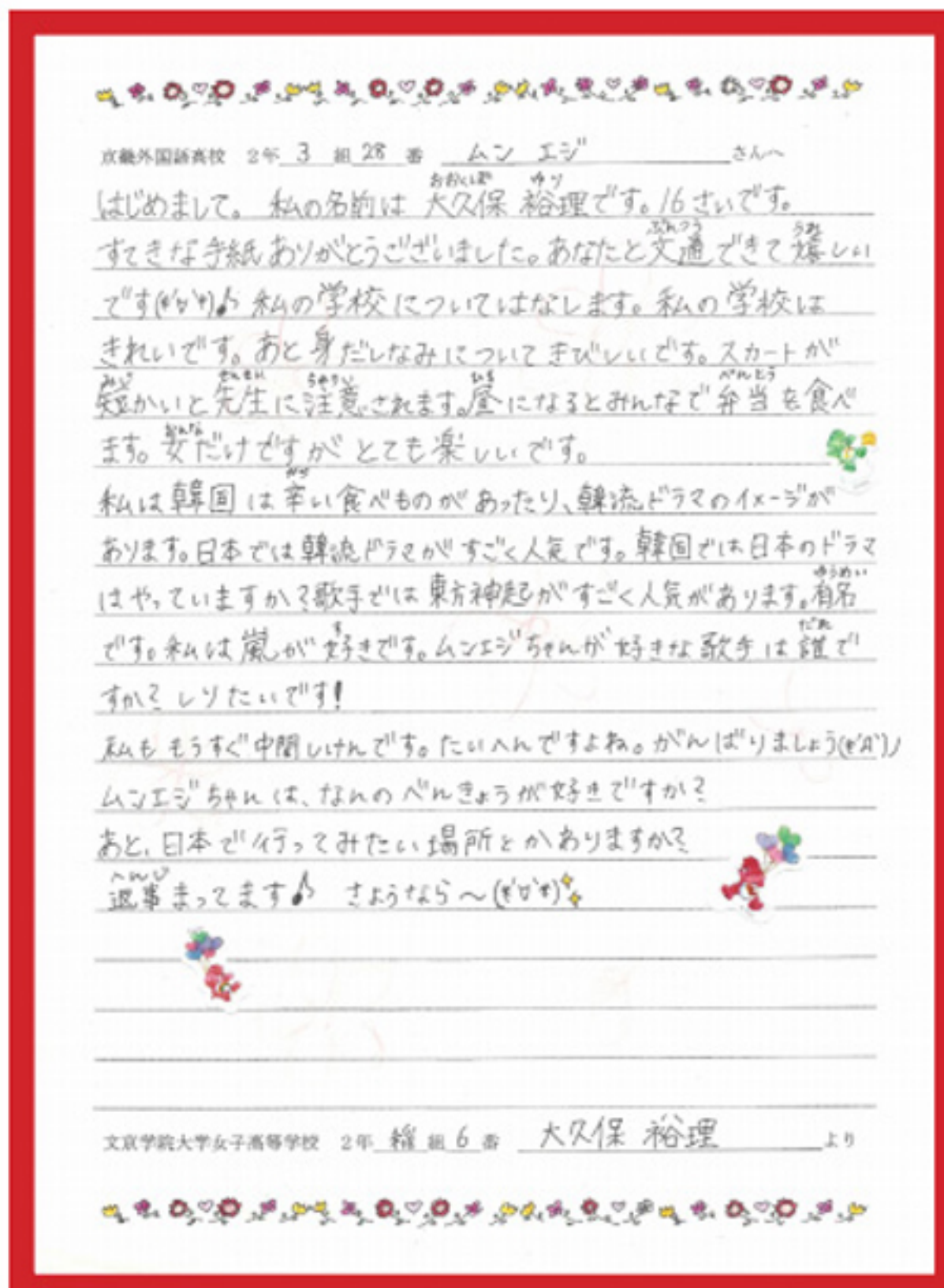
As the reply for the letter that we sent on May 3rd have arrived, the Gaflians have become very excited. Also the pictures that have come with the letters have become a great entertainment for all the Gaflians. While some students are astonished to see the lifestyles of these Japanese students some are filled with amazement.

We anticipate that through these culture exchanging experiences students of GAFL as well as the students of Bunkyoungakuinndaigakuzyosi(文京学院大学女子高校) high school take more consideration between Korea and Japan and learn to act with more responsibility as Global Leaders.



あべ先生とのインタビュー

- 記者 どうしてこの文京学院大学女子高校を選んだんですか？
- あべ先生 知り合いがいたんです。
- 記者 こういう手紙のやりとりをする目的は何ですか？
- あべ先生 - 日本語課のみんなが一生懸命に日本語を習っているけど、実際、日本語を使う機会があまりないんです。それで今度の機会を通じてみんなが日本人と日本語でコミュニケーションをしてほしかったです。
- 記者 あ、そうですか。では今、学生たちが一生懸命にこの交流に挑んでいるのをみてどう思いますか？
- あべ先生 満足しています。みんなが日本語を読めることにきづいてほしいです。
- 記者 では、最後の質問ですが、これからもこういう交流の機会を作るつもりですか？
- あべ先生 うむ、そうですね。できればホームステイといった本格的なことをしたいんですが、まあ今はこれで満足していますよ^^あ、そして残念ながら2学期にはこういう交流ができないと思います。



▲ 文京学院大学女子高校の学生が書いてくれた手紙



INTERVIEW WITH HYEUN IL CHO, CEO OF UNIONE

by Chief Editor Ryu, Hyojin

Heads up CEO wannabes! Few weeks back, Top Notch got a serendipitous chance to interview Hyeun Il Cho, CEO of one of the most influential marketing firm in the East Asia, Unione. Having patented technologies like Water Screen and Lucky Rush, this company covers the marketing of exhibitions, launchings, performances and expos. Name some?—Asian song festival, Honda Odyssey launching festival, COEX expo and so forth. Unione's dazzling efforts consummated in domination over other petty Korean firms; now this intrepid company is extending its sphere of influence toward the world.

Hyeun Il Cho, who achieved what any CEOs would regard success—high revenue and profits, firm foreign affiliates, and hard working employees—was more than willing to answer with precision the questions sent my me. Interview was processed in Korean via e-mail (later translated into English), due to his business trip to Shanghai

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(T AS IN TOP NOTCH, C AS IN CHO HYEUN IL)

<PART1: QUESTIONS REGARDING UNIONE ITSELF>

T: How did your company get its name, 'Unione'?

C: Unione got its name when 'Uni-pro' and 'LuckyLush.com' merged—Uni-pro's 'Uni' and 'One' as to cherish the amalgamation were combined to become 'Unione communications' of today.

T: Since Unione is marketing so many sectors including SP, IP, exhibition, conference, expo, concert and e-marketing, the scale of Unione must be pretty big. How do you manage the company system?

C: Unione communication is divided into head offices and departments according to the characteristics of each sector. Respective heads and directors are in charge of their direct employees' performances and personnel matters, constructing an unfailing mutual cooperation.

T: Unione has established the principle of BTL(Below the Line) marketing. Why is BTL marketing efficient?

C: Firstly, BTL marketing is one of the divisions in Unione, rather than our principle. As opposition to the four general medias (Above The Line)—newspaper, TV advertisement, magazine, and radio—BTL marketing allows for the marketer and the consumer to communicate with each other, which augments persuasiveness.

TOTAL BTL MARKETING GROUP



T: It's obvious that Unione has a lot of foreign affiliates. When you marketed Westlife concert in Korea, or in any other cases, what is it like to work with them?

C: Since BTL marketing deals with not only marketer and the consumer's communication but also that of advertisers and affiliates, I guess tuning things out is the most crucial yet difficult thing to deal with when working with them

T. In what way do Unione's remarkable technologies—pet maker, lucky rush, water screen to name a few—help your company?

C: The variety of performance tools that previous BTL marketing companies did not have work as synergy for Unione to take one step closer to my goal to become 'the 1st total BTL marketing company'. Our patented technologies like you've just mentioned are the products of incredible brain forces in Unione laboratory!

T: Any tips on selecting and educating the employees? What kind of merits do you provide to keep them intact?

C: Unione communications pick huge amount of work force via annual public recruitment. The selected ones go through four weeks of basic education and are placed in each department later on. In the case of experienced employees, we share our vision and business information after the OJT(on-the-job-training).

For merits, we provide various welfare privileges such as bankbooks, overseas trainings, condos, idea recharging fee and even communications fee.

<Part 2: About his youth and advices>

T: Most GAFL students have hard time fussing over their uncertain future. How were you when you were seventeen?

C: When I was seventeen, I, just like all of you, felt scared and uneasy of upcoming future, and from time to time strayed off from the normal path. I maintained average grades, but having no definite dream always haunted me. But as time flew by, I started to have interests and devoted my all in it. And luckily, I got good results, as you can see.

I think it is natural for seventeen-year-olds to feel lost. But instead of fussing over it, think about what you love to do and start exploiting your interests.



T. What was your motive to establish this company? Where did your creative ideas come from?

C: At the time I thought of establishing a company, Korean event marketing companies were either small in scale or petty. So, huge events were handled by big advertisement agencies instead. I meticulously studied the situation and figured that I would succeed if I make a BTL expertise company that can afford to hold big scale events by all by itself. And that small company I started with went through several developments and became the Unione of today.



T: As a CEO, you obviously get stressed from managing various matters at the same time. How do you manage yourself?

C: I usually enjoy jogging, because I feel refreshed both physically and mentally afterwards. And in my aim to share this feeling with Unione members, I have come up with a mini-marathon corner in annual track meet!

T: Tell me of your ambitions in the initial stages of constructing Unione. Were you sure of its success?

C: As Unione is a company towered to become 'the first total BTL marketing company', I wanted to make sure it specialized in it. And frankly, my initial goal was, and is, stretching Unione to all parts of the world, not just Korea. So rather than satisfied, I feel like we have more left to achieve.

T: What factors account the most in becoming a successful CEO? (Academic ability, gene pool, firm personal connections, etc.)

C: There may be many important factors as you have enumerated above, but I personally think having a definite goal is the most crucial. If I had not dreamt of creating the nation's best BTL marketing firm, Unione would not have existed. If you set your mind to something you love, passion sparks, and it will be a driving force for better concentration.

T: Lastly, any tips for CEO wannabe Gaflians?

C: First, Set your goals. Write it down and read it every day. Never forget it. Meticulously proceed what you've planned. Then challenge yourself ceaselessly. Then you will be able to take one step closer to your dream, just like me.

Reporter Hyojin Ryu



Star Lecturer of this month

Mr. Lim Interview

by Editor Jang, Jiyun

Hello Mr.Lim, nice to meet you. First of all, congratulations. You have been elected as the “star lecturer” for this edition of TOPNOTCH. Since you have been appointed as a know-it-all teacher by many students, we, TOPNOTCH is here to hear about your special teaching methods and the backgrounds of your life!

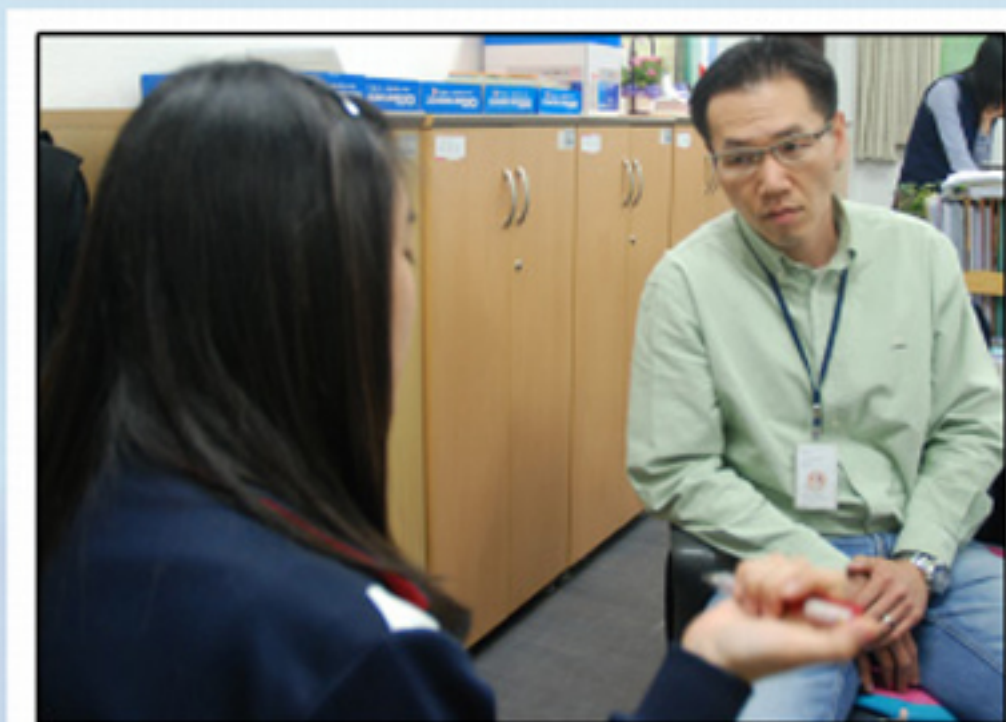
(T stands for topnotch and L stands for Mr.Lim)

T- We heard that using a book on economists to teach classes was the first attempt ever in GAFL. What was your intention and goal of using “New Ideas From Dead Economists” as a textbook?

L- Well, my intention was pretty simple. I wanted to teach my students with books other than curriculum based workbooks. These days, most of the students are exposed only to banal and simply memorizing textbooks. So, I wished for them to experience and learn crucial knowledge that will definitely help them in the long run. Besides, economics is a very important subject which can be greatly useful in life. Also, I intended to give them more confidence in using advanced English. Since GAFLians will grow up to confronting the world in the future, they will eventually have to speak in front of English speaking audiences. Therefore, having knowledge in both economics and English will certainly be a strength for them.

T- Why did you pick the book “New Ideas from Dead Economists” when there are lots of other books concerning economy in the market? Were there any special reasons for your selection?

L- Of course there are many economy books out there, but this book teaches us the logic of life for common people most effectively. After reading this book, I began to understand the history of economics, which was prominent and useful enough to help me learn the field of economics. It also contains useful structures that helped me to organize the economics as a whole.



T- Do you have any particular teaching methods you would like to share with GAFLians?

L- I would like to talk about the presentations students perform in my class. I think giving presentations in front of others is the best way to learn. Even if giving presentations is difficult and takes a long time to prepare, through that difficulty one learns a lot and grows into an efficient person. When giving presentations, one has to show confidence even if extremely nervous and shivering inside. One also has to maintain a certain level of voice. They don't have to shout but they definitely should not whisper. I provide microphones for students with quiet voices, but it would be much better if the speech is delivered without a microphone. A good presenter has to face his audience no matter what. The audience knows when having heard a great speech. The students give the presenter loud applause without being asked to do so. Therefore, it is extremely important to grab the audience with an attractive speech.



T- What message do you want to tell GAFLians?

L- GAFLians, please visit the library. Go there and read books which are helpful to you. Even if the books are not related to your course studies or grades, I assure you guys that they will be a great help to your college studies and to your adulthood. I want to emphasize this once more. Please visit the library and borrow at least one book before you guys graduate.

T- Thank you for accepting this interview and I am sure that your words will surely help students adjust their adolescence.

Reporter Ji Yun Jang

Pride Korea's kick off

Before we jump onto the article, let's have a peek at what foreigners think of Korea



@ Mincai, barista in Malaysia

"I like Korea because I like Korean drama, music and movie. That is the main reason. And Korea has lots of variety shows that are very very very funny. And all the K-pop songs are catchy. Korean people are friendly for me but sometimes they are shy, too. Korean people is really good at dancing not only that Korean foods are tasty, such as Kimchi. Last but not least I like all those cool places in Korea such as the amusement park, Jeju Island, Busan and Seoul."

"Seriously, I like the Asian people and their politeness. I think that Koreans are a great people with an impressive history and beautiful cultures. You Koreans are all my respect. And Korean girls are so cute."



@ Aimen, guitarist in France



@ Christina, an actress in America

"I think Korea and Koreans are pretty amazing. I think they are unique and their own way. Mostly, I really like how Koreans can keep up with all those big boy and girl bands. I'm really into their entertainment industry as many many agree with me!"

"I thought Korea is very beautiful because when I landed at the airport, Sun was going down and way to solve looked amazing. It reminded me a lot of New York with more neon and bright lights. I thought Koreans have good music because we watched a lot of Korean Mtv in our room and that Koreans liked to laugh a lot."



@ Danny, student in America

Finding the National Treasure - 'PRIDE KOREA' of GAFL

May 1st, second graders of GAFL(Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Language) made a memorable experience. They went to Gang-Nam NANTA Theatre to watch a Nanta show which was planned as a part of Pride Korea programme. 'Pride Korea' is a programme which GAFL made to refresh students who are exhausted of studying. But 'Pride Korea' is not just a picnic. Once a month, each class plans for where to go and what to do with the different themes under the purpose of Pride Korea. The programme was created to make students feel proud of their own country from the experience of enjoying the traditional culture or visiting Korean famous companies or beautiful attractions and so on. Pride Korea is a valuable programme for the would-be global leaders, since it implants the thought that the 'The most Korean style could be the most international style' into their mind.



Nanta is a non-verbal performance, integrating Korean traditional Samulnori rhythm with the beats of kitchenwares used as percussions. The show was first performed in October, 1997. Since then, it has attracted a great number of people, now recording high above 4 million of audiences in Korean history. It was also performed internationally on Broadway and in Japan, China, many Europe countries and countless other places. Nanta can be condensed into a word "worldwide". Even it is the person living in Korea who might not have had a chance to watch the show yet, he certainly would have heard of Nanta at least once.



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The actors in a Nanta show do not speak any lines in full sentences. They are similar to actors in Charlie Chaplin's movie—no lines, but only with exaggerated gestures and the beats. However, even without the lines, surprisingly, everyone could understand and enjoy the performance.



Nanta has a story. Three cooks start their day with organizing the kitchen and preparing the vegetables and ingredients. Then the bad-tempered manager orders them to prepare food for the wedding by 6 o'clock- only giving them 1 hour for the preparation. Not much time left to go, they are in such a flap because of such an unexpected news. To make matters worse, the manager brings young nephew with him and demands the cooks to teach him and prepare for the food together. At first three cooks don't like the rookie, but they start cooking anyway. While preparing the reception, the three original cooks and the recruit cook get closer and also the audience join together. Finally, it is 6 o'clock. They have made a successful conclusion! The wedding banquet is progressed favorably. After the main event ends, all the four cooks and the manager have passionate party. With their extreme power, exploding energy and the sound, they make the most over-

So to speak, Nanta is a cooking drama. However, audiences do not just 'watch' the drama. Nanta's real charm is that audience can get into the act. On that day, the students actually cooked foods,

Nanta was an excellent choice as a first programme of Pride Korea. The 'water performance' at the end of the show was so powerful that it can't be forgotten from our memory. The students felt even more proud of our country Korea. I hope Gaflians learn more about our country through the rest of the Pride Korea programme.



For next 'Pride Korea' planned to be in June 5th, it will be progressed by each class. The second graders are going to visit Bukchon Hanok Village, Heyri Art Village, Jongmyo Shrine and many other places. Coming soon!

Teacher's Day in GAFL

by Reporter Kim, Sol



Early morning, every class was busy decorating the classroom. Yes, It was 15th of May, Teacher's day. Song of teacher's day has been sung, endless clapping and laughing continued. When it was nine, various small events in each class came to an end and students moved to the gymnasium for the school's official teacher's day event.

Students still excited, the assembly started. After the salute and national anthem, the class president came out and placed flowers to homeroom teachers' pocket. Heartwarming conversation passed on and after having a handshake, all of the class presidents went back to their seats. Then, student from student council read out a letter for the teachers. The letter was about our love toward the teachers, At the end of the letter the speaker asked the audience to say, "We love you", after he says "Teachers". Shouting of the students rumbled the whole assembly hall and the applause echoed throughout the gym.



When the formal ceremony was over, the second event started with the screen reading "Enquet". Actually, a few days before, the enquet questions had been asked to every students and teachers. It was time to announce the results. When the first question was raised, everyone started to shout some of the teachers' names. The first question was the teacher who seems to make the finals difficult. Following questions were the teachers with quickest first kiss, extreme care for their body. Teacher who picked as the answer had to come up to the stage and answer question from the MCs. Some of the teachers seemed very embarrassed but every teacher tried to answer the questions sincerely. Some even danced!



Atmosphere heated up after the enquet. Then followed the "teacher mimicking" contest. Sad for the audiences, there were only two volunteering teams. The first team imitated more than five teachers including a native teacher. The hall was full of laughter. Even the photographer, forgot to take pictures and laugh out and enjoyed the contest together. While contest continued the randomly selected judges kept scoring. The result of the contest has been decided after three more spontaneous volunteers which were if nothing else more hilarious. All of the volunteers were prized and the contest came to an end.

Two hours has gone really fast. It was the first time for the first graders to experience the teacher's day in GAFL. All of the events were very creative and interesting. Also, it was great to see the new side of the teachers, such as dancing, wearing school uniform. However, event was only focused on some of the particular teachers. If the event was more focused on every teacher and make more event between class and their homeroom teacher, the event would have been better. Anyway, the teacher's day was successful, and interesting.



CHIME

In the early months of last year while I celebrated my enrollment in CHIME, some of my friends questioned its necessity in school. I shrugged. Following months, I was tortured by my own friends, who either did not even know the existence of CHIME, or absurdly blamed me and CHIME's daily radio programs for their lunch-time concentration failures. I was infuriated by their deeds, but since I knew nothing of CHIME for myself, I could not find any words to fight back.

But I do now. Upon entering the second year of school, current CHIME members and I fully took charge of the all the works handed down by previous members; Monday chapels, daily radio programs, filming of important school events followed by presentation of video clips and a lot more. But with these, the legacy of enduring low budgets and fighting for camcorders in administrative office were also passed onto us. Initially, conditions of our broadcasting station were dire, aching to say. Wall was pale blue and the curtain was seemingly yellow (obviously because the fabric had gotten dirty), freaky in style, considering that it is a broadcasting station. Inside, there was only one microphone, an annoying old version computer that ceased to proceed, and other analogue devices on which the switches did not work decently. These impeded our creative ideas and watered on our firing ambitions. Looking back, we were assigned with important tasks, yet were working under unparallel circumstances. Situations ameliorated, though, thanks to CHIME members' combined efforts to earn recognition. In the early months of 2010, we advertised CHIME recruitment via wall TVs in the freshman hallway and the main hall lobby. We taped posters everywhere.



We worked our guts off during the mini-festival – filming performances, interviewing crowds, and throwing ourselves to take pictures at spectacular angles.

Afterwards, we bought Starbucks coffee for all the teachers and administrative faculties who had lent us their equipments.



Then we gradually got in good terms with administrative office. People became more interested in us. Broadcasting station was finally sponsored economically and now there are three microphones, two monitors, digital audio device, lime light dangling from the ceiling, and an On Air sign. And even transmitting video to all classrooms became possible, which bodes really well for our future. Increasing peoples' recognition actually aroused our passion and we are ever grateful for that. We are not only honing and developing our skills but also implementing creative plans that were only dreamt of before.

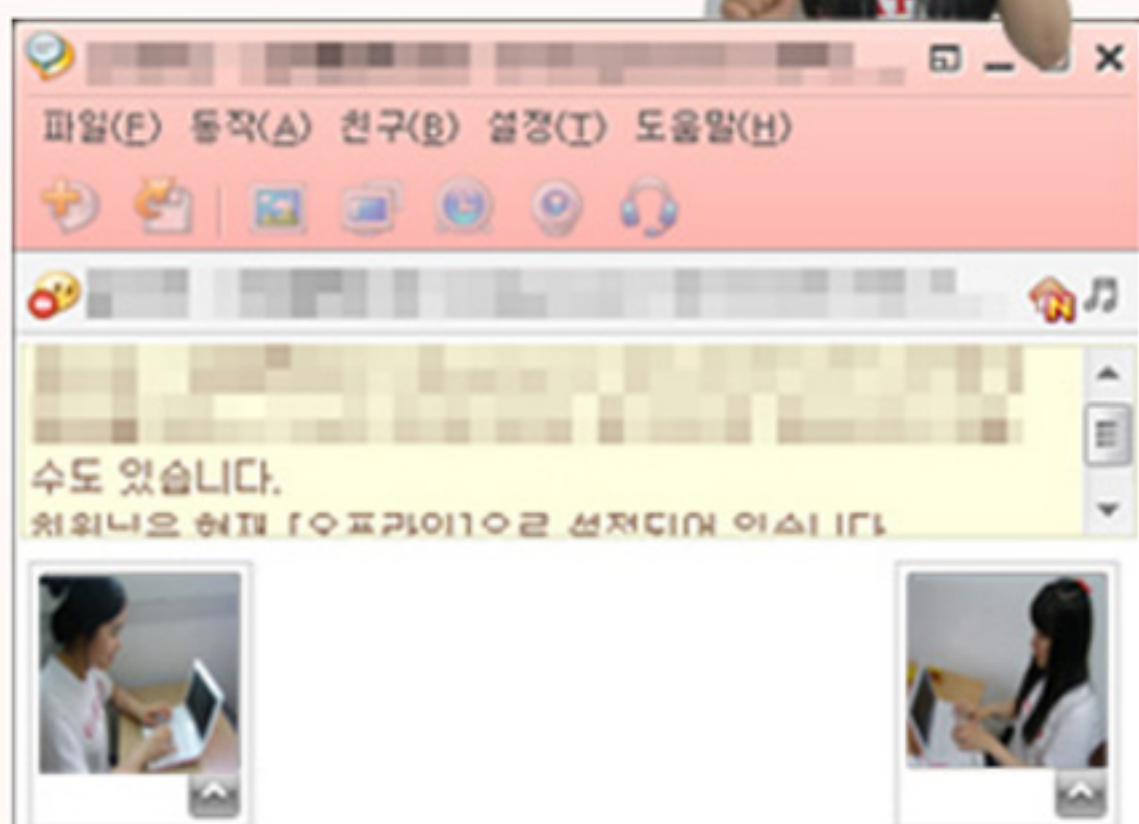
CHIME broadcasting station is situated in the very eastern part of main building; open to warm breezes and glittering sun shine, congenial for discussions or, I guess chatting while extracting TP files from Sony camcorders on the laptop. It is a place where we sit for hours and hours exhausting ourselves for perfection. It is a place where our efforts are sealed in, where emanates pleasant warmth of passion, where the still-continuing legacy of struggle persists. A place that defines who we are: CHIME.

What does CHIME mean? It means a bell ring, or a messenger to deliver others of fresh news. We promise to be those messengers, the informers of school events. We promise to provide visual memoirs for Gaflians to reminisce; to introduce music that is good for ear; to neglect time and place when working for GAFL.

New IT Girl

Yu Ri Kim

by Editor Kim, Jueun



'Topnotch(Ju Eun)' entered the conversation room.

'Yu Ri' entered the conversation room.

T(Topnotch) : Hi, Yu Ri. 🐼

Y(Yu Ri) : Hi. 🐼

T : Today I am meeting you as an interviewer, not as a friend. It feels very different. 🐼
Don't take it too awkward but please enjoy this time being treated as an interviewee.

Y : Well...Okay^^

T : In English-Japanese Department, you are called 'IT 꿈나무' by the students. (In Korean, "꿈나무" means the 'baby tree' in the state of immature which symbolizes person who has a dream to be something or just designates young children.) I can see this nickname derived from your outstanding skills in computer. Was there any conclusive factor that made this nickname become yours?

Y : Last year, at the beginning of the first term,

the religion teacher asked us to write down the 10 strong points of oneself which we think we have. You remember? Considering what to write as nothing had been come up, I just wrote down that I received the prize of 'IT 꿈나무' from the Agency of Education(교육청).kk Everyone in my class laughed at the name of prize, 'IT 꿈나무', and from then they started to call me 'IT 꿈나무'.

T : Oh, now I remember!^^ First time hearing about that prize, I thought it was little funny name. kk
What was that prize for? And how did you get it?

Y : 'IT 꿈나무' is the prize given to the students who have obtained lots of qualification cards in computer after passing the exam.

T : Ah~ How do you feel when you hear people calling you 'IT 꿈나무'?

Y : I feel.....shy.....^^

T : Still shy? kkk

Y : Yes, still...^^

T : I heard that you took the first place in recent 'MCAS(Microsoft Certified Application Specialist) EXCEL' that was held as the national competition. Congratulations!

Y : 🐼 Thank you... But actually I am not the first place! 'Go Jung Il' teacher mistook my score for the highest one... and he gave teachers the wrong fact...^^; But I did get in the rank able to get a prize!

T : All the students and teachers knew that you were the first prize! ^^;; Well, for all that,

congratulations with all my heart! Then isn't it true either that you are going to Utah, U.S.A in this summer vacation?

Y : Yeah... 🙄

T : I'm sorry for that TT But we all know that you are the great 'IT Girl'. When did you start learning the computer?

Y : Well... I'm not so sure... but maybe when I was in grade 3 of elementary school.

T : Then do you have any plans to achieve in this field?

Y : I haven't thought about it specifically , but I wanna keep up with the computer as I'm doing right now... and frankly, if the chance allows, I wanna learn more about this field.

T : Is your dream, I mean... your image of the future related with the computer?

Y : No~ It isn't. It's not connected in any shape or form. ^^;

T : How do you take your meeting with the computer?

Y : Meeting? ... What do you mean?

T : I mean the opportunity that you got to study the computer when you were in grade 3 of elementary school.

Y : Actually at first, started on the sole purpose of learning the basics of computer, but I have achieved unexpected high score and became more ambitious, so I fell into learning computers.

T : So then you had an inborn talent, right?

Y : As I do more about this, I feel I do not TT In the beginning, I was under the illusion that I'm very talented in this kind of study, but I realized I am not. 🙄

T : I know that you are also good at Japanese! Tell me the way how you study.

Y : To tell the truth, I was one of that famous '일포자; 일본어포기자(A person who lost the hope

in studying Japanese and finally gave it up)' till the first term of grade 1. But I did make the summer vacation as a turning point for a change. Opening the first page of the Japanese workbook that we were using in school, I looked into a book again. Then I, on purpose, tried to memorize lots and lots of the vocabularies, since I had studied the Chinese characters a lot when I was little. Especially the JLPT words.

T : So that's the way you tasted the improvement?

Y : Yeah. :D I think memorizing lots of words is connected directly with the progress in ability.

T : A word for the 일포자?

Y : We can correct the Japanese whenever! kkk

T : Okay kkk

Y : Thank-u for today's interview.

Y : I can't understand why you guys are interview-ing me.

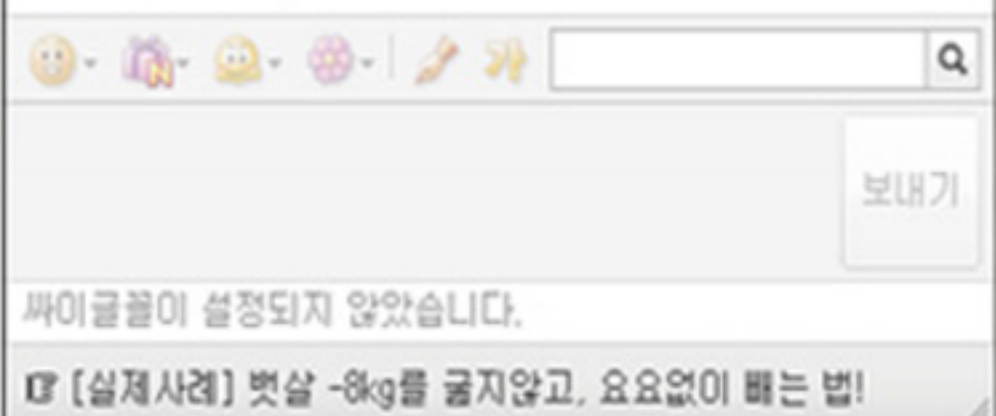
T : We knew that you were going to Utah.

Y&T : kkkkkkk Hahahahaha

T : I think it's better leaving now.

Y : OK. Good night. 🌙

T : You, too. Bye.



Gaflian Heroes

DaYoung Oh

Wake up, study, eat, play and sleep. This may be a usual routine for most of the high school students in Korea. Even the simplest schedule as such sometimes is a real burden for the students. However, some Gaflians added some more 'actions' in their life cycle to change the world into a better place. Protecting migratory birds, translating Sijos and changing education policy—they are the true heroes in GAFL, the true heroes of the world. So TOP NOTCH selected four heroes and met them to hear their story. Those four are Park Jae Hyung and Lee Jae Hyuk from TALK, Lee Suk Young from Kalisto, and Kim Ye Jin.

Park Jae Hyung and Lee Jae Hyuk (the TALK)

With TALK members translated more than 70 Sijos; now they are willing to continue their activities even in their career lives.



In Chosun dynasty, many scholars and poets created their own world under three lines of 45 letters — under the form of Korean traditional poem, Sijo. A century later, two high school heroes opened the gate to the world dwelling in Sijo so that even foreigners can peak in Chosun dynasty; Park Jae Hyung and Lee Jae Hyuk in September 2009, organized the Translators of Artistic Language of Korean, TALK in short. Park recalled that gripping Sijo of Hwang Jin E, a female poet and a hostess during Chosun Dynasty, he bumped in Korean literature class one day which deeply engraved upon his heart. So he promptly suggested his poetic friend, Lee Jae Hyuk to establish the TALK and they together gathered six passionate members in GAFL. TALK bears three 'global leader-like' goals: Translating 1,000 Korean ancient literatures in English, being a Non Government Organization, and opening a website for cultural exchange.

To achieve these goals, their short-term goal is to expand the TALK. They plan to contact students from other schools, literary organizations and professors in United States who have interest in Sijo. Park and Lee, in the interview with TOP NOTCH, said that they will help out the TALK even in their future career as a scholar of ecopolitics and a participant of International Organization.

Now as the first semester of TALK goes by, our two heroes confide that they faced some hardships in TALK. In the weekly meeting, some members are absent without any specific reason or insincere with their assigned works. So until now, TALK translated 70 Sijos out of 300, far from the number the two heroes planned at the first place. Also, since they are yet students, they couldn't access to professional information in translating. However, even in this very moment, TALK's translators and their two leaders endeavor to get over those hardships as soon as possible and to proceed with their meaningful work. TOPNOTCH hope we can see the TALK from GAFL becoming a NGO soon and people around the world to love Sijo, thanks to the TALK. "Gaflians, please stay tuned for our activities," Jae says in promising eyes. Next to him, Jae Hyuk is more than decided, "way to go, TALK!"

Lee Suk Young (Kalisto)

This girl is hiding fierceness under her smiles — she collected signatures and participated in protests to protect Bam Island where migratory birds rest.



Would you believe if there is an island in the middle of Seoul where migratory birds rest in? It does exist; The Bam island. Most people don't even know that there is a Bam island near Yeoyido. Actually, because Bam island is an only spot where birds can take a rest during their trying journey, to protect the Bam

Island can directly affect the health of migratory birds. So three activists from Incheon Foreign Language High School, GAFL and Dongwon high school launched 'Kalisto' to secure the sweet rest of those birds. Lee Suk Young, one of the founding members of Kalisto collected signatures from Gaflians and made a poster to warn about the current destruction of the island with the help from her friend. She says, "The honking noise from Mapo Bridge and Seokang Bridge inflict the birds. So we should set a speed limit on those bridges. She and other Kalisto members brought this idea to the local government, local Universities and NGOs. Though environment-friendly, setting a speed limit in large bridges was yet too ineffective for the government. Still, their endeavor didn't pay out. So Kalisto opened a blog to store information about Bam Island and went to tour the Bam Island by water taxi. Many Gaflians began to realize the reality of the Bam Island. Some joined in for real action, and the others signed in protecting the island. Lee Suk Young found interest in protecting the environment in elementary school years, impressed by an essay, 'savers of the wild animals.' After watching a movie 'Inconvenient Truth', she took a real action for the environment. She said in the future, she will continue her action at the Korean Embassy in France. We may see an article about her success in protecting Bam Island with her picture on it someday. Lee finished our interview with another suggestion for the 'green action'. "I want to tell you Gaflians. When you come out from your darkroom, turn off the heater and light. And never ever forget to plug out your hair drier!" Told you, she is hiding fierceness under her smiles.

Kim Ye Jin

Girl of humor and sparkling ideas. She researched about current problems of the discretion class and suggested some ways to overcome them in her thesis.



In a High school Competition for academic theses, some professors were indeed surprised by the professionalism of the thesis 'How to improve the quality of discretion class for educating creativity' written by a high school girl. In her thesis, she stated the current problems that discretion class bears and how ways to overcome those problems, based on her experience from Japan. She is our third heroin, Kim Ye Jin. She is now set-ready to change the whole educational system of Korea.

The thesis mentioned was awarded in that competition. Kim Ye Jin included in the thesis the problem of discretion classes. Discretion classes are the classes planned voluntarily and randomly by the homeroom teachers or the students. She suggested six ways of how the class should be: the class should shift from academic one to outer-curriculum activities, and should adapt to a peculiar character of the local area. Since yet many students are unaware of the discretion class, the government should provide them an orientation about the class.

Kim Ye Jin wants to be a general of the Department of Education-Technology and Science. She dreams that she can pave the road to the pursuit of variety in Korean education. So she plans to limit the number of students graduating the university and put more art, and P.E. class on the curriculum.

When asked how she will treat her students when she becomes a teacher, she replied, "I want to be another friend of my own students." Kim Ye Jin is actually a quiet friendly figure when you get along with her. So TOPNOTCH is sure she will be a best teacher for students, and that she will be a heroin in the history of Korean education. "Don't make me be too heroic. It is not my way of life. I am quite outgoing kind of person, you know." Her friendly humility quietly shines.

'Smoking Gun' Ignites the Tension Between the Two Koreas



Civilian-military probe of South Korea finally found the smoking gun of the North Korea's attack on Cheon-An navy warship. While investigating the sinking site, fishing boats scooped components of North Korean torpedo consisting of two propellers, a shaft, a motor, and a propulsion unit. On the shaft, marking of '1 Beon(1번)' was written which is consistent with '4 Ho(4호)', marking of another North Korean torpedo which salvaged the area near NLL zone seven years ago. Air force Brig. General Hwang Won-Dong said, "No other countries mark their torpedo component with a Korean letter."



Also, same kind of white powder called oxidized aluminum was covering both the propeller unit and the inside of the salvaged warship. This powder seems to have formed when the aluminum powder inside the warhead was oxidized by the heat of the explosion. Corrosion state of propulsion unit and the sunken ship was almost similar, too.

"This torpedo was recognized as CHT-02D after comparing with the blueprint included in the North Korean arms export catalog," added general Hwang.



With these compelling evidences, Defense military announced on 21th that this was a clear provocation and the government would take a hard line against North Korea. President Lee positively expressed his will of suggesting scientific proof to persuade the international society. Defense minister Kim Tae-Young already explained about the solid evidence to diplomats from 30 different nations.

On the other hand, North Korea government still denies the charge and asserts continuous hostility or sanctions may result in closure of North-South ties. They warn that South Korea should accept their inspectors to show the proofs



South Korean government is now preparing for the military action. Defense minister Kim summoned the commander council right after announcing the results investigated. 20 commanders including air, army, and navy Chief of Staff and Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff attended. The council discussed about military trend of North and strengthening our own naval power with underwater detection equipments and robots. If North Korea doesn't acknowledge their fault, the military is going to react with military action in order to prevent recurrence of the attack.

The Defense Ministry is also examining resumption of propaganda broadcast such as loudspeaker broadcast and electronic display board. This had been done in the frontlines to make people aware of the state of tension since the Korean War. The ministry is also preparing strategic countermeasures against possible provocation of North Korea after this propaganda broadcast starts.

Yoo Myoung-Hwan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said he would raise the Cheon-An case at the United Nations Security Council. "Military provocation like this case harms international peace and security and also violates both the armistice agreement and the U.N. Charter," said Yoo. The ministry will start procedures for submitting sanctions and is already working on reinforcing restrictions toward North with allied nations such as



Large-sized Management Company, western style beauty, and extraordinary singing ability are things Wonder Girls did not have. However, the only thing they had, never-ending endeavor, finally got them to the Billboard Hot 100 Singles chart.

Wonder Girls is the fourth group from Asia and the first from South Korea to be in the Billboard Hot 100. These figures already show how hard it is for Asians to be in the Hot 100. To be in there, Wonder Girls resolved to give up numerous things and undergo much more troubles. They decided to leave Korea while Korea's music industry was proving their heyday. Yet, U.S. did not have spare time to be delighted with their visit as it was facing the economic crisis then. While U.S. was persevering with its economic crisis, Wonder Girls had to endure their contracting management company's refusal to release the album of this challenging Asian new group. Eventually, their manager Jinyoung Park decided to move in their independent management company.

The following reasons show how Wonder Girls was able to make this splendid outcome. First of all, they made their debut on Jonas Brothers' world tour concert. Jonas Brothers are group of three brothers which has great popularity in U.S., even named 'president of U.S. girls'. As one of the groups doing the opening act for the U.S. leg of Jonas Brothers' 2009 world tour, Wonder Girls were able to show their performance to millions of people for fifty times — even to Obama's family! — and gain many fans.

Next was the special place where they sold their promotion album. They sold their album in 'Justice', a children's clothing shop which has more than one hundred stores in the U.S. for only a dollar! This enabled teenagers to readily enjoy Wonder Girls' songs that led to the great sales volume and ramp to the Hot 100.

Wander Girls? Wonder Girls!

DongEun Choi

Last were their several charming points. Their infectious bubblegum pop tunes and easily learnable dance made numerous girls be so enthusiastic as to imitate them. Their retro and Korean styles approached teens with peculiar attraction. "The song is very popular in the region now because it is accompanied by a sexy dance and a good tune," Ms Winnie Wong, a dancer in her dance group Rhythm Stylus said in one interview.

Little by little acquiring fame, Wonder Girls' first single 'Nobody' not only held 76th place in the Hot 100, but also gradually appeared in the press. It has appeared on Fox TV Wendy Williams show, People, and Access Hollywood, etc which are all very well-known, authoritative TV programs or newspapers in U.S.

Hasty evaluation should be avoided! They are still just a toddler in U.S.'s music industry. Their formal album did not start yet and none of them want Koreans to call them world star now. Though, considering their past achievements, sure it is that there would be lots of opportunities to enjoy their success. One of their fans said that if they mix the alphabets of the group name 'Wonder Girls,' it could be 'World Singer'. Even though some might think Wonder Girls as a group wandering over the harsh music industry food-chain, they are wonder themselves. Let's give them a big trust!





Korean movie stars in Hollywood

DongWoo Shin

Hollywood. It's the place of dreams, movies, stars, and a place where just listening to its name leaves people breathless and with magnificent imagination. Hollywood is the home for many celebrities cherished not only in the U.S, but globally, and is the root of myriad blockbuster movies that most people have heard about not just once but many times in their lives. It is a challenge, a dream, a final goal that they want to accomplish. This was no exception to Korean actors and actresses.

However, even less than a decade ago it was impossible for Korean actors to even dream about setting their foot in the United States to film an international movie, hampered by numerous factors regarding faculties in dramatizing or language barriers. In spite of such impediments — like the adage, 'if there's a will there's a way' — within a decade the Koreans have made a way.

A debut in Hollywood leaves the contenders with quite a struggle, for it meant folding his/her career in the home country and making a fresh start, dubious of the possibility of success. Also, since Hollywood is an unprecedented attempt there was no example, no advice except one's decision and will. Rain (Jung, Ji Hoon) is the first and the best example of success in Hollywood. After much success in Korea as a singer and an actor Rain decided to fly to Hollywood to test his limits and skills as a singer. Due to his insightful vision to push himself to the global standard, he had his mindset fixed on testing himself beyond the peripheries of his own country. Due to his fast adaptation to a new environment and extreme self development, he was invited to "Talk Asia" on CNN in 2005, and selected as one of the hundred most influential people in 2006.

In 2007, finally he met the Wachowski Brothers. He was cast on the movie Speed Racer as an oriental character 'Taejo'. Although, the movie itself did not go well, Rain thought his opportunity very rare and fortunate. He even said, "There were three major opportunities in my life. First is when I met Park Jin Young, second is when I met Wachowski Brothers and the last is when I was given the main actor role in the movie "Ninja Assassin." How fortunate this chance might

have been to Rain, he never imagined what he was in for. While training for martial arts in Speed Racer, Rain showed hard-working and diligent (which he is) image to his martial arts trainer Chad Stahelski, who happened to recommend Rain for the main actor in Ninja Assassin.

Now, he is once again invited to "Talk Asia" on CNN and waiting for his blockbuster movie Ninja Assassin to be launched. With his passion and dream, Rain opened the door to Hollywood for more Korean actors to challenge.

Another pioneer of Hollywood is Byung-Hun Lee. Unlike Rain, making "quiet" debut to Hollywood, he came back with a homerun as one of the most memorable movies of 2009 G.I.Joe. It was somewhat more meaningful to Korean audiences, for Byung-Hun Lee played one of the major characters (unlike their expectations), 'Storm Shadow'. Although G.I.Joe may have been unfamiliar among Korean audiences, in the U.S, was one of the most highly expected movies. This meant that acting needed to be concise and appropriate so as to survive from such great envisagement.

Receiving much attention and expectation, G.I.Joe was launched in summer of 2009. Despite several apprehensive factors of the criteria, mainly Lee's English skills as well as accent or pronunciation, he worked it out perfectly. Also, according to the original scenario, Lee was a character that had a mask on for the whole movie but the director Steven Sommers wanted it off. There are also opinions that Lee's success was somewhat expected, for when his award winning movie "Bittersweet Life" was introduced to Northern America and Europe, his acting was widely acknowledged. He has already filmed his next movie, 'I Come with Rain'.

What once seemed impossible, and what would have been impossible still, has now opened its doors to new challengers. Without the sacrifices and visions of two young actors — the pioneers of a whole new different world — Hollywood still would have remained a dream. But Hollywood is no longer a dream but a ladder for us to climb.



'Made in China'

You can still find these three words in nearly 20% of all products in the world economy, an estimate of \$1216 billion in value. That simple stamp has made China into the country it is today. However, seeing this stamp on children's toys, cheap mechanical pencils, and very unreliable food products may have given the impression that China's economy is simply run by thousands of unsanitary factory workers, with muscle but no brain. Even just 10 years ago, this belief wasn't so off-track. Simple industrial productivity accounted for nearly 60% of the Chinese GDP. Right now, the Republic of China has become the macho man with a PhD.

In 2007, President Hu Jintao visited a country called Namibia, a rarely recognized country, just between South Africa and Angola. It is one of the greatest sufferers inside of the African continent, where more than half of the country's population live on less than a dollar a day. The reason that President Hu Jintao visited this country was supposedly to financially aid the poor country, but even more, to rack up some business contacts between the Namibian government and China's state-controlled companies.

So very soon Namibia invested \$55.3 million in Nuctech, a Chinese government cargo container scanner company. However, exactly what motivated Namibian government to invest in Nuctech remains a mystery. The fact that an influential Namibian government official was found to have received a substantial amount of money from Nuctech seems to provide a possible answer. Namibia is currently tied up by its contract with Nuctech and can only buy its scanners from this Chinese company.

Smart Kung-fu

JaeHyung Park

The true problem here is that this does not appear to be the first case of such 'aid-provided' monopolization. Countries such as South Africa, Rwanda, Zambia and elsewhere which have also received large amounts of Chinese investment are also feared to have already fallen prey. A more recent interest of the Chinese government toward Southeast Asia is also bringing suspicions. China's economic support is surely bringing significant change in the African landscape, but it also seems to be raking a lot of money for itself as well.

The newest market in the house, renewable energy, has also caught China's eyes. China's cities have always been unattractive because of their yellow air and unidentifiable smell. But China is showing interest in renewable energy not only for turning into a more likeable country but also for the great potential inside of this market. The \$12 billion budget on renewable energy makes the investment on the Three-Gorges Dam look like a mere stepping stone. It accounts for the largest amount of investment worldwide, nearly 30% of the international budget. Ever since the country first set its foot inside renewable energy it has been the leading country in both wind and hydroelectric power. This May, China also announced an enormous solar energy plan, scheduled to be completed by 2020. Considering its vast deserts on its western side, this investment seems very promising as well. China is expected to have about 20% of its electricity fueled by renewable resources by 2020 as well.

Due to its still semi-closed economy, the economic crisis wasn't capable of shaking China much compared to the U.S. China's \$586 billion stimulus package looks like it's going to do the final trick, and while the U.S. is still going downhill, China is already making it upwards. Recent push-and-pull policies toward the U.S. are also gradually shaking off its large dependence on U.S. trade.

China is now playing it smart. The country has gone through enough internal and external setbacks and now it knows how to play a ball in the capitalist economy. China has always had the muscle to hit hard, and is now beginning to show some serious kung-fu. The rise of China is no longer a theory. In fact, that big thing is standing right next to you.



Iran: Reflecting the Korean 3.15 election?

JiYun Jang

One of the most eye-catching news is the fraudulent election prosecuted in Iran. At first, there weren't any suspicious moves except that 475 people decided to run as candidates in Iran's 10th president election held on 12, June, 2009. More than 46 million people were eligible to cast their ballot for this attracting election.

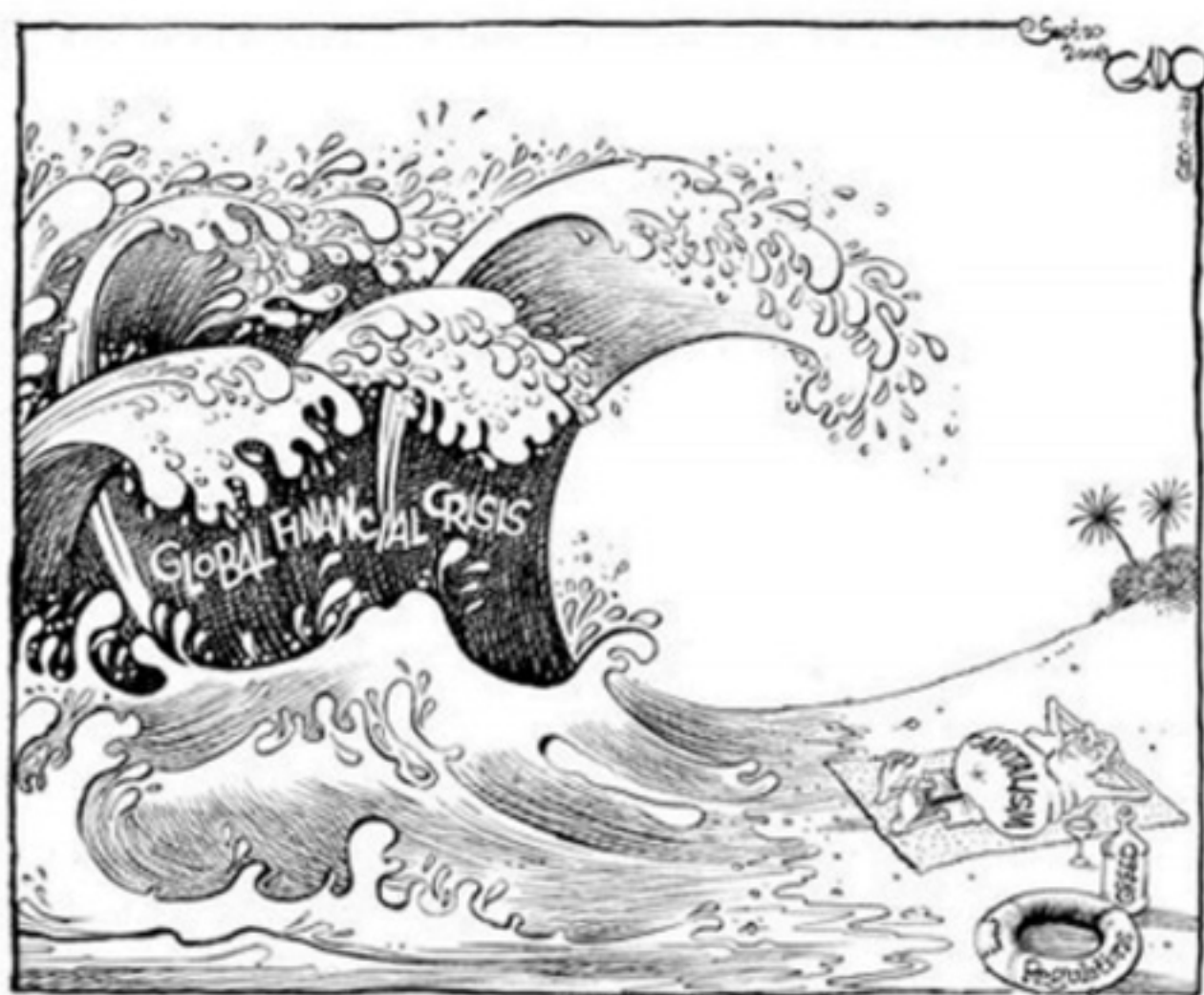
Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a former president of Iran in 2005 election, and Mir-Hossein Mousavi have been the most promising candidates among the candidates: each from 'Abadgran', Alliance of Builders of Islamic Iran, and the other party from Independent Reformist. With the passionate response from the citizens of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won by a landslide, overwhelmingly gaining 62.46% of supports while Mir-Hossein Mousavi only a half, 33.87%. This election was suspended until the midnight of the election and preceded 4 hours longer than originally scheduled concluding time. However, questions arise since Mahmoud won this election in unexpectedly large gaps over Mir-Hossein Mousavi. The foreign media are on raising concern about this sudden inflation of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's support because this incumbent president of Iran has been an infamous figure both domestically and internationally. Not only has he been questioned for his legitimacy in the Iran's domestic parties but also for his support for the free elections. The authenticity of the election has become major concern among many other countries especially the U.S since America has been in the constant engagements with Iran. Also, that Mir-Hossein Mousavi acknowledged his defeat in this election rather questioningly warmly remains

dubious. Now the consequences are making this election even more suspicious with the surging rebellion from Iranians claiming anti-government moves.

After the outcome of the election, there has been a constant rebellion from Mir-Hossein Mousavi proponents, grouped by the name of 'Twitter Revolution.' About 36 people died in this peaceful but rather harsh, failed riot. In response, the supporters of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad rallied in Tehran against the supporters of Mousavi's.



The election held in Iran resulted from the long history of 2009. June 13th election when the candidates were the same-Mahmoud Ahmadinejad versus Mir-Hossein Mousavi-Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ironically won. In response to the election, the supporters for the Mir-Hossein Mousavi marched to the streets to protest. The protest grew as the day passed. The paramilitary group of Mousavi supporters, Basji appeared at Tehran University and involved in violence with the government police officers and opponents of Mir-Hossein Mousavi. The protests didn't soothe for a long time even when Mahmoud Ahmadinejad appeared on the podium to declare for his inauguration speech as his diplomacy for the presidency. What's so strange about the current election outcome is that on last June, Mir-Hossein Mousavi had been claiming for the re-election passionately while today, he seemed to have given up. These days, Iranians are making their voices aloud to pull down Mahmoud, the so-called 'dictator.' This election has not been proven corrupted but constant questions and investigations are prosecuted to define the authenticity of this election.



Financial Crisis 2007 — 2009

YeRin Baek

I guess all the GAFL students are already familiar with the term 'Financial Crisis 2007 — 2009' which has been a huge issue throughout the whole planet as the bubble-popping finally appeared on the surface since last year. We all consider that this crisis was caused by Subprime Mortgage. Yeah, it's true, partly! But the thing is, what we linked as the direct factor was actually only a trigger. To put it in another way, besides Subprime Mortgage, this whole tragedy was to happen with any other form anyway.

To begin with, we should look carefully at the economic conditions of the US in 2007. First of all, the structural changes in US industries. In the process of the main industry shifting to IT from manufacturing, the job creation did not catch up with the pace of the fast altering society. For example, the retrogression of the auto industry — the top-class market — worldwide resulted in alleviated productivity, which means increased unemployment. Therefore, the jobless had no more option than depending on mortgage-backed securities (an asset-backed security or debt obligation that represents a claim on the cash flows from mortgage loans, most commonly on residential property).

Back then, the ambience of society had been boosting the consumptions even though their real income decreased, adjusted by the working hours and inflation rate. And banks

sold large amount of "sub-prime" mortgages to many people who could not afford to purchase a house, and introduced very low interests rate to counter the effects of the 2000 crash of the "New Economy" stock bubble. When people couldn't pay their interests back, finally, they had no choice but to sell their house, and all this process drove to the downfall of house pricing. The falling house values following the burst of the housing bubble and the inability of many subprime mortgage holders to continue to make their monthly payments were certainly the straws that broke the camel's back.

Few would doubt that the deregulations which started with the repeal of the Glass-steagall act and leniency on immoral acts prompted financial firms, and left fewer safety zones for emergency.

Altogether became the Big Tub filled with bubbles, which had to be popped someday. And the case of Subprime Mortgage was just the first blot to be uncovered. We've been convinced that we've learned lessons from what happened in 1929, the Great Depression. We are now, however, repeating the same mistake, only even more deteriorative one. To save our planet out of this chaos, the equilibrium between regulation and deregulation must be found.



Foreign Language High Schools, guilty or innocent?

JiWoon Choo

"All foreign language high schools must be nullified." As soon as Jung Doo-Un, a member of the Hannara Party submitted this shocking education law revision, the controversy has commenced. The Hannara Party and others who agree to this so-called "FLHS nullification" claimed that foreign language high schools are nothing more than elite schools that harm our society. The opponents insist that getting rid of FLHS would not make any difference to Korea's educational atmosphere whatsoever.

Those people who feel that FLHS are social evil state that FLHS do not follow the purpose for which they were established; to train students with linguistic abilities. "FLHS are hotbed of private lessons where they round up elite students and make them cling onto expensive extracurricular lessons. Also, less than 30% of FLHS graduates study linguistics in universities, which contradicts its purpose." said Kim Jin-Pyo, a member of Democratic Party. It is true that no more than 20% of FLHS graduates have gone on to study subjects related to languages in universities. Also, 90.8% of teachers answered that FLHS deteriorated to "SKY university-gateway". Giving these statistics as proof, proponents of FLHS nullification claim that those schools are only footings for elite students to enter first-class universities, not places for linguistic geniuses.

Probably the biggest reason why many people agree with FLHS nullification is because of the belief that FLHS aggravate private education. According to national income statistics, over 1872 billion won was poured on private education in 2008. And many people believe this astronomical amount of money was spent largely due to FLHS. Because FLHS accept those students who pass their difficult entrance exams, many students attend academies in order to enter FLHS. This, in pros' opinion,

exacerbates private education and brings much solicitude that educational gap between the rich and the poor would deepen. 'With private education on their backs, only rich people would go to FLHS,' they think.

According to cons of FLHS nullification, however, FLHS is not responsible for the "educational fever". Educators and many others who favor FLHS liken all this FLHS nullification fuss witch-hunting. Just as rulers of the Medieval Ages had to blame non-existing witch for famine and poverty, Korean government had to blame FLHS for lighting the educational competition. The rulers had to show the citizens that they are at least doing something to get rid of destitution, so they hunted witches; the government had to prove that it is trying to alleviate private education, so it attempts to have a go at FLHS.

Nevertheless, nullifying FLHS does not have any effect on reducing private lessons, cons claim. Students, middle schoolers and high schoolers alike, all aim for the same goal; to enter satisfactory universities. Bearing that goal in mind, students turn to private tutors to excel fellow students. Now, something needs to be clear; are the students taking private lessons just to get through FLHS entrance exam? Do they stop taking private lessons once they have entered FLHS? NO. The problem lies within the educational system of Korea. The private education-craze occurs not because of FLHS but because of academic achievement-oriented educational system in Korea.

Until the government comes to a decision, the debate regarding FLHS nullification would not stop boiling. Since both sides seem extremely polarized and resolute, the government must conduct negotiation between those two, be it turning FLHS into specialized high schools or easing FLHS entrance exams.

4強入りへの一步を 踏み出した韓国

Park Soyeon

最近、ワールドカップが近づいて来たからなのかサッカーについての関心も日々に熱くなっている。特に、韓日の競技は韓国と日本の歴史的関係の故、他のどの国との競技よりも大きな関心を集めている。

つい最近の5月24日にも韓日戦があり、大きな関心を集めた。あいにくの雨天に見舞われた試合だったが、その熱さはどの試合にも劣らなかった。結果は2:0で韓国の勝ち。4強入りを狙うW杯南アフリカ大会の前で、勝った韓国は喜びを隠せないが、日本の選手達は今度の散々な結果に惜しさを隠せない

韓日戦の終了後、日本の岡田監督は今度の敗戦に責任を感じ、日本サッカー協会の犬飼基昭会長に対して「このまま続けていいんですか。」とまで尋ねたそう。今回の試合のハイライトとしてやはりネチズンは、パクジソン選手とパクチュヨン選手のゴールを選ぶ。パクジソン選手は前半6分、ほぼ正面の位置から右足でシュートし、韓国が先制点を挙げた。パクチュヨン選手は試合開始から91分、ゴールを決め、2:0の勝利の主役となった。チャドリ選手のドリブルも見逃せない。チャドリ選手は得点できなかったが、勢いのあるドリブルを見せ、注目を集めた。チャ選手は、日本の選手達を抜いてゴールを決める事に寄与したと評価されている。今回の韓日戦は、韓国の選手達だけでなく、それを見ていた韓国人みんなが誇らしく思えた競技ではなかったかと思う。この試合を通じて、韓国のサッカー選手達が自信を持ち、ワールドカップでも良い成果を出す事を期待する。

As the World Cup approaches, the interest toward the soccer is heating up recently. In May 24th, there was a friendly match between South Korea and Japan. And South Korea earned a two to nothing win over Japan. The highlights of this tournament were the goals of Park Chuyoung and Park Jisung. Not only them, but Cha Duri is also highly praised. Cha did not score, but showed a powerful dribble which attracted attention. Lightly beating the Japanese players, cha contributed to determine the goal.



日	結果	勝
2000.4.26	1-0	韓国
2000.12.20	1-1	・
2003.4.16	0-1	日本
2003.5.31	1-0	韓国
2005.8.7	0-0	・
2007.7.28	0-1	日本
2008.2.23	1-1	・
2010.2.14	3-1	韓国

◀ 2000年以降の韓日戦の結果

「1Q84」、まだ終わらないとある世界の物語

YoonJae Na

もしあなたの目に見える夜空に月が二つも浮かんでいたらあなたは思うか？ また夜空を見るが月は相変らず二つ浮かんでいたら？ それがあなたの幻覚でも錯視現象でもないなら？ 村上春樹はこう言う。空に月が二つが浮かんでいるということはあなたが異世界に入ってきたという証だと...

「1Q84」は大きいスケールとともに村上春樹特有の繊細さを感じることができる大作だ。異世界を創造して世界観をつくりだすことと同時に、人間の心理を正確に描いて読者を感動させる切ないラブストーリーは一時も目をはなせなくする。毎年ノーベル賞候補に挙論されて、日本だけではなく全世界的に読者を確保している村上春樹。彼が「浜辺のカフカ」以後7年ぶりに出刊した新作長編小説「1Q84」は特に多くの評論家に高く評価されていると言われる。

"あなたの空には、いくつの月が浮かんでいますか？" 背景は1984年の東京、クールな連鎖殺人犯であると同時にスポーツインストラクターである青豆と数学講師と同時に作家志望生である天吾。二人はこの世界で自分一人で生きていく孤独に耐えながら、リアリティの感じられない日々を暮らしていた。しかし、1984年に2人とも同じ組織に対する活動にそれぞれ巻き込まれていく。そして、青豆は現実とは微妙に異なっていく不可思議な1984年を「1Q84年」と名付ける。(日本で'9'は英語の'Q'の発音と同じだ。) 一方、天吾は不思議な少女フカエリと一緒にこのすべての事件を広める中心に立つことになる。ストーリーは青豆と天吾の話がそれぞれ一チャプターずつ交替しながら展開される。ふたりは同じ世界を生きて、同じ事件に巻き込まれているが、一緒に行動はしない。その部分は「浜辺のカフカ」のカフカと中田老人と非常に似ている。

「1Q84」を理解するためにはまずジョージオーウェルの「1Q84」という小説を知らなければならない。ジョージオーウェルの「1Q84」は1949年に書かれた作品で、未来が'ビッグ・ブラザー(Big Brother) 'という独裁者に支配される全体主義の社会を描いている本である。しかし、ジョージオーウェルにとって1984年は未来だが21世紀を生きて行く村上春樹においてはもう過去の話である。この小説で、村上春樹は'ビッグ・ブラザー'の代りに'スモール・ピープル(Small People)'を紹介する。果してこの'スモール・ピープル'は何を象徴するのか、ジョージオーウェルの'ビッグ・ブラザー'との連関が何かは皆さんが直接小説を読みながら捜してほしい。

この本が初めて紹介された時とは違い、「1Q84」の話は2冊で終わらない。最近、村上春樹は来年の夏に3冊めを発表すると明言した。2冊を読みきった後に虚無感を感じた読者たちには朗報であろう。来年の夏、果たして3冊めで「1Q84」の世界の結末が見えるのか、そしてその話の先はどうなるか楽しみに待つことにしよう。





球场沉浮 - 本-华莱士

SunJin Kim

当球被投时，华莱士开始紧张。‘所有的篮板都是我的。’就是他的前提。他计算球是从哪儿来的，是谁投的。他然后跑到他认为未中的投球最会弹出去地方。华莱士不会去卡位，因为他相信他可以比周围的选手跳的高。但是他不能直接抓篮板时，他还会拼命的去努力。

2004 NBA总冠军，最佳防守球员(四次)，四度入选东部全明星，最佳防守阵容(六次)，最佳阵容(五次)。

这些都是证明本-华莱士是多么伟大的选手的资料。

你们认为本-华莱士是什么样的人呢？他为了在一个大学社区打篮球，拒绝了巨额的橄榄球奖学金。

进入了NBA的大门。然后从一名替补队员开始发展到全明星首发选手。

他凭着顽强的毅力和不断的练习和毅力，达到了他现在的地位。

本-华莱士是为数不多的没有参加过选秀而加入NBA的选手之一。由于他的身高(2.06米)比较矮，他周围的人都劝他当得分后卫。但华莱士没有抛弃。“很多人都看着我嘲笑，说我不会成功因为我比较矮...当时我决心去证明他们是错的...”结果呢？他成为了NBA历史上唯一一名在一个赛季平均每场篮板和盖帽统计分别列第一名的前锋。NBA历史上仅有四名这样的球员- 本-华莱士，比尔-沃顿，哈基姆-奥拉朱旺，卡里姆-阿卜杜勒-贾巴尔。

他的才能在底特律展开了。他跟他的‘失败’的队友- 昌西-比卢普斯，拉希德-华莱士，李查德-汉密尔顿，泰肖恩-普林斯。但是跟活塞队的七个赛季后，他以6000万美金的身价跟芝加哥公牛队签定了为期四年的合同。

在公牛队的两年当中，华莱士受了许多膝盖伤，所以他的记录留在5.7分，9.7篮板，2.0盖帽。

华莱士以后被交易到骑士队。在那里，华莱士的篮球打得不怎么样。1. 因为他老了。

2. 因为像：勒布朗·詹姆斯，莫-威廉姆斯，扎度纳斯-伊尔戈斯卡斯等其他队友把所有的东西都做完了。

在他离开活塞队后受到过无数的批评和伤痕。09年8月7日，他再次与底特律活塞队签下了合同。

在底特律备受欢迎的华莱士，确信会再一次展开他的翅膀。‘大笨钟’回来啦！大家注意！



决定人生的关键—高考

KyungWon Park

2009年11月12日，在这个寒冷的冬日，韩国大约有60万到70万名考生参加了高考。在韩国，高考被叫做“大学修学能力考试”，在每年11月的第二个周四举行。韩国自1994年首次进行高考以来，历经多次改革与创新，制定了现行的大学修学能力考试制度。

现行制度要求每位考生参加5至8个科目的考试，即语文、数学、英语、社会探究/科学探究、第二外语/汉文等。各大学通过这种方式测验学生，选拔人才，但是人们对于现行高考制度多有不平之辞，高考制度还有可能进行再次改革。中国也有类似的考试，即中国的高等教育入学考试，全称为“普通高等学校招生全国统一考试”。高考是在全国范围内进行的考试，是考生为了进入大学要参加的考试。下面简单介绍一下中国的高考。

第一，中国高考的历史

1949年起，中国政府每年进行一次全国统一考试，考试之前，考试时间等细节由各所大学决定，考生们根据自己的实力与时间安排，去各所大学进行多次的考试；可是现在高考制度发生了巨大的变化，每年同一时间在全国举行一次，从2003年起，每年6月举行考试。

第二，参加高考的资格

凡遵守中华人民共和国宪法和法律，高级中等教育学校毕业或具有同等学力、身体健康的青少年以及成人都允许参加高考。除此之外，考生们应在认真地考虑后再填写入学志愿，以免后悔。因为大学对考生的录取由考生的分数及所填报的志愿来决定。

通过高考，两国大学都旨在选拔合格人才。高考制度首先使政府与大学有了比较公平的选拔学生的一定标准。其次，现行的基础教育的水平也会因此得到大幅的提高。对于一些生活在贫困地区的农村学生们来说，高考制度可能是他们实现自己的梦想，脱离当前生活环境的唯一手段。

虽然高考只是一次笔试，但是通过一天几小时的考试就能决定一个考生的未来命运，考生的努力只能通过一张成绩单得到评价。因为大部分大学是根据考生高考成绩来选拔学生的，正因如此很多人认为高考是人生的一个关键，认为“一考定终身”。

对于高考存在的优缺点，中国教育部教师教育专家委员会委员、苏州大学教授朱永新曾经表示“整个中国教育问题的‘牛鼻子’是高考制度，现在的高考制度牵着中国教育走”。高考的存在往往是学生自我发展的障碍，学生们从开始准备高考的那天起，就要决定将来要从事的行业。

有些有名教育专家提过，“从高中开始一直延伸到高校的文理分科，可能使得大学里文科生不懂自然科学，理科生缺乏人文知识。两类人不了解彼此的思维方式，不知道对方想什么和如何想，彼此难以互相理解”，“这样培养出来的学生，在理解、处理社会及生活问题时，就不可避免地产生明显的片面性，不仅使我们的教育偏离培养目标，不利于培养满足国家发展需求和面向21世纪发展需要的公民，也不利于造就真正的世界一流大师，甚至还会导致很多社会问题”。

在中国，不少有名人士认为对现行的高考制度应该进行改革，21世纪教育研究院还出版了《关于我国高考制度改革的建议》，这是中国政府与人民应该慎重考虑的问题。

前几天，韩国的考生经历了一次决定人生命运的大考，中国也将在6月份进行这种考试，一次考试会决定你的未来，会改变你的命运，希望各位考生都能金榜题名，成为社会的栋梁之才。

寒流熱風と日本ドラマ

YeJin Kim



ヨン様、東方神起、BOAなど韓国を代表する芸能人と共に、最近ではキムチやチヂミ、ブルゴギなどの食べ物や、韓国式サウナ、24時間配達サービスまで、、、日本人の間での韓流熱風は流行っている。韓流熱風は今までよそよそしかった両国の関係にまで大きな変化をおこした。それだけではなく、国家のイメージを良くして絶大なマーケティングの効果があるため、その価値は何十人何百人の外交官と同じだと言える。

日本と同じくこのごろ我が国でも日本に対する関心が高くなっている。和食屋やアルバム、アニメーション等の分野は韓国人に愛されている。その中、今日は韓国と日本で大人気になった三つの日本ドラマを紹介して見たいと思う。

まず、“のだめカンタービレ”。タイトルの‘のだめ’は主人公である野田めぐみのニックネームで、‘カンタービレ’っていうのは‘歌うように’という音楽用語だ。のだめはモモがオカ音大のピアノ科三年生で、楽譜はよく読めないが、一度音を聞けば完璧に演奏ができる才能を持っている。しかしfeelingをいかしすぎて、わがままに演奏する癖があり、教授たちの厄介者である。一方、大学すべての女子に憧れの的になっているピアノ科4年生千秋はすぐれたピアノ実力を誇るが、実は指揮者になりたがっている。千秋とのだめは隣家に暮らしていて、二人はお互いの音楽的才能にひかれるようになってしまう。千秋はのだめと、友達、そして世界的なマエストロ、スーツレジェーマンとの出会いで指揮者の道に一步進めるようになるという内容だ。二人の面白いストーリーから、のだめの4次元的な行動、オーケストラの珍しい奏法と千秋の指揮、マエストロ、スーツレジェーマンの変態的な行動がこのドラマをもっと面白く作ってくれる。のだめカンタービレはマンガを原作にしたドラマで、老若男女するまでもなく日本人から愛される作品である。ドラマでのだめのピアノかばんが人気を呼んだり、クラシックドラマらしく日本と韓国にクラシックをブームを起こした。



次に紹介したいドラマは“野ブタをプロデュース”である。人々は皆自分が他の人にどんな風に見えるのかについて気を使っている。主人公の修二も人気ばかりに気を使ったため結局本当の自分を失くしてしまう。修二は学校でたくさんの友達がいるが本当に心が通じる友達はいない。また人に嫌われるのを我慢できなくて、徹底的に人気を得るために頑張るが、いざ家では何か寂しくなってしまう。またもう一人の主人公である彰はお金持ちだがとっぴすぎる4次元的な行動でクラスの友達と仲良くない。彰は修二と親しくなりたいと思って、‘僕は修二と仲がいい’と思ってしまう。彰は進路希望書に‘道に落ちている十円玉’になりたいと書いた。道に落ちている十円玉は人に拾おうかどうかについて悩ませる物である。彰は自分もどんな存在になりたいのか分からないと言う。一方、修二が書いたことは‘まともにできた人間になる’だ。ある日、修二と彰のクラスに転校生がやって来た。転校生である野ブタは幼い頃に父に対する良くない記憶で、暗くて否定的な性格を持つようになってしまった。野ブタが転校して来て、彰は皆に愛されている修二に野ブタをプロデュースして人気者を作ろうと提案する。修二は気が向かないが結局彰と一緒に野ブタをプロデュースするようになる。プロデュースをしながら、三人はお互い心から心を開くようになって、三人とも‘真正な自分’を見つける事ができる。それと、野ブタが進路希望書に書いたことは‘笑って生きる’のである。友達のおかげで明るい所へと一歩ずつ歩いて行く野ブタの姿を見られる感動的なドラマだ。主人公が歌った‘青春アミーゴ’というOSTと“野ブタパワー注入”というフレーズがドラマが終わった後、日本で大きく流行った。

最後のドラマは“1リットルの涙”。このドラマは実際に存在した脊椎小脳変性症患者だったアヤの生を描いた11部作のドラマだ。脊椎小脳変性症は運動神経を管掌する小脳がだんだん破壊される病気である。初めには均衡感覚が崩れて理由もなくよろけてよく転んでしまい、距離感を失い、視力が悪くなるし、何かをつかむ事もできなくなって、ついには一人で立つことも、何かを言うこともできなくなる怖い病気だ。結局は植物人間になって身が固くなって死んでしまう。今までは完治された例はない、そしてもっと残忍なことは、思考を管掌する大脳は正常的に働き、毎日自分が何かを失って行くのを感じる事ができるのである。アヤは15歳にこの病気になってから、日記を書き始めて、25歳に死ぬまでも日記を書き続けた。1リットルの涙とは、ドラマの主人公であるアヤが自分が病気になのを認め、近づく死に正面から向き合う決心をするまで流した涙である。ドラマの前の部分、アヤは名門高に入学して一般女子高生のように平凡な日常を送るが、病症がますますひどくなって一人で歩くことができなくなってしまい、養護学校に入学することになる。そして自分の面倒を見てくれた同級生麻生くんと思いを作ったりするが、結局には自分の体を意味のある所に使ってくれと言った言葉を残して死ぬ。1リットルの涙は、家族に対する愛と自分の体が動くことについてありがたさを感じられる美しいドラマであり、女主人公のすぐれた演技力が見事ではある作品だ。

この以外にも“花ざかりの君たちへ”、“クロサギ”、“絶対彼氏”、“花より男子”、“ドラゴン桜”など韓国でも愛される日本ドラマがこのごろも増えている。ドラマをただ楽しんで終わらないで、このような文化交流で日本と韓国、両国の関係がもっと発展するのを期待する。

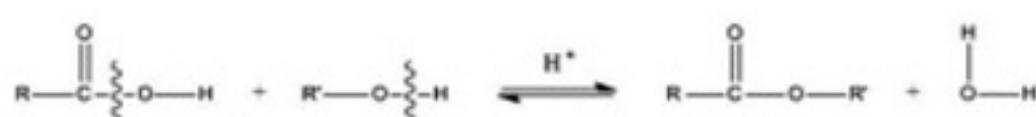
A Deeper Look Into Fischer Esterification

SungHo Park



I. Introduction

As I learned about esters in my chemistry class, I raised a question concerning the mechanism of esterification: why does the carboxylic acid always give away a hydroxyl group ($-\text{OH}$), and the alcohol a proton (H^+)?



It could be the reverse: H^+ from the carboxylic acid and $-\text{OH}$ from the alcohol. This would undoubtedly lead to the same ester; however, empirical data suggests that this is not likely to occur.

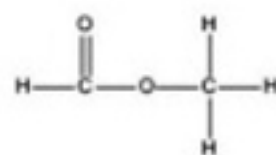


Why?

II. Background

Esters are compounds that have an ester group ($-\text{COO}-$) inside them, so the general formula is RCOOR' . They are colorless, volatile liquids that often have pleasant odors and are included in flowers or fruits. The artificial fruit flavors of soft drinks and ice creams can be attributed to esters. Also, esters are found in animal fats and plant oils as triglycerides. A triglyceride consists of a three-carbon alcohol, glycerol, from which three hydrocarbon chains called fatty acids extend. Phospholipids are esters that function as fundamental units of all biological membranes.

Esters are generally hydrophobic; therefore, they dissolve well in nonpolar organic solvents. A few esters including methyl formate (HCOOCH_3) are exceptions to this trend.



An ester and a carboxylic acid that have the same number of carbons are isomeric. Since esters cannot perform hydrogen bonds, their boiling points are relatively lower than those of relative carboxylic acid isomers.

III. Fischer Esterification

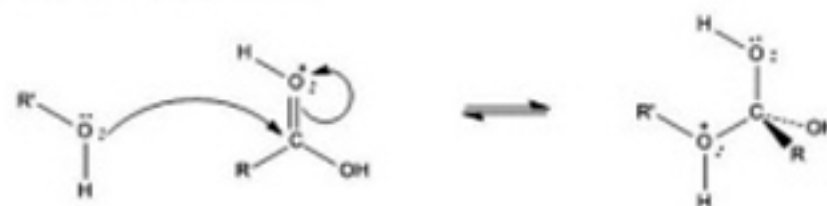
In 1895, Emil Fischer obtained ester by adding carboxylic acid to alcohol and heating the mixture under an acid-catalyzed condition. Although this process demonstrates a high yield, a large amount of alcohol is required and only the syntheses of methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl esters are viable. Two techniques are used to drive the reaction to completion: one is to use a large excess of the alcohol, and the other is to remove the by-product, water. The mechanism is characterized as a nucleophilic acyl substitution.

In the first step of the reaction, the acid catalyst provides the carboxylic acid with a proton.

The carboxylic acid gains a positive charge, which makes the molecule vulnerable to a nucleophilic attack.



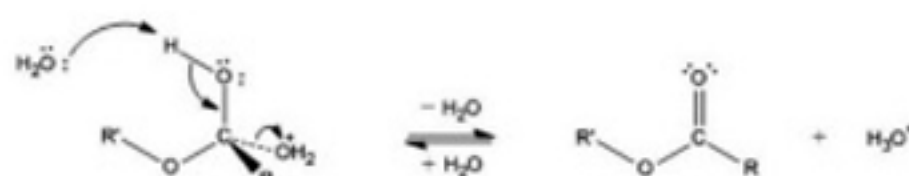
In the second step, alcohol's nucleophilic attack results in a tetrahedral intermediate.



In the third step, a proton shifts from one oxygen to another.



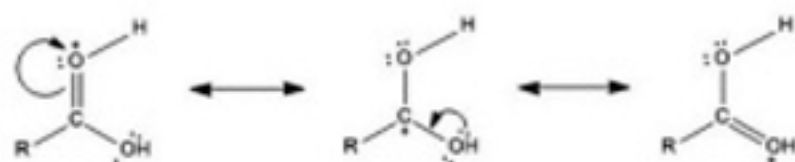
In the fourth step, H_2O leaves the intermediate; in the last step, the acid catalyst is recycled and the ester is formed.



IV. Investigation on other possible mechanisms

First of all, could the alcohol, instead of the carboxylic acid, be activated by the proton? When the carboxylic acid receives a proton, the delocalized positive charge contributes to the

stability of the intermediate and the enhanced electrophilic property of the acyl carbon. (enhances?)

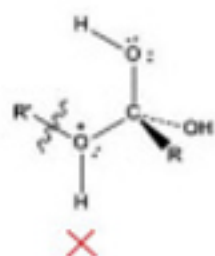


The alternative situation in which the proton attaches to the alcohol is far less likely to occur since no resonance structure exists. Moreover, the carboxylic acid's nucleophilic attack on an activated alcohol would not only be difficult but also fail to generate an ester.



Indeed, the nucleophilic attack by the oxygen atom must be targeted at a carbon atom in order to form an ester group. The carbon atom of the carboxyl group is more electrophilic compared to the carbon in the alkyl group of the alcohol. Therefore, a nucleophilic attack on the carboxylic acid, not the alcohol, is likely to predominate.

Based on our analysis, the tetrahedral intermediate shown in the previous section seems inevitable. In this structure, we can easily notice that the breaking of the R'-OH bond is not feasible at all. Alkyl ions are too unstable to be isolated; furthermore, if the bond is broken, the product would never resemble the one expected.



V. Conclusion

Through our previous discussions, we have explored the mechanism of Fischer esterification and substantiated why and how the products always follow a certain trend mentioned in the introduction.

Apart from Fischer esterification, there are other esterification methods that have higher rates and do not require acid catalysts — for example, using acyl halides or carboxylic anhydrides instead of carboxylic acids. Each mechanism is similar to that of Fischer esterification, but the enhanced reactivity of the carbonyl group and the ease with which the leaving group withdraws itself from the tetrahedral intermediate contribute to a higher efficiency.

Further research should shed light on how a proton transfers itself during the third step mentioned in section III. A more sophisticated analysis is expected when the author gains more

knowledge and insight into the field of organic chemistry in the future.

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* Pictures drawn with ChemDraw Ultra 12.0, CambridgeSoft®



HyoJin Ryu

Cornered 'No Drama — Obama'

Recently, a noted comedian from the 'Comedy Central' gave a dry jest, saying that President Barack Obama 'is likely to be the first president to assassinate himself'. This may be true, as he is dealing with several dilemmas concurrently, from sending more troops to Afghanistan to supplanting the disappointing stimulus package. But set aside your sympathy — the amount of hardships he faces should be irrelevant matter in judging his achievements. So, has he done a good job so far?

Well, the answer would be a merciless no. It has already been 11 months into the presidency and Mr. Obama has managed to do nothing but become a mastermind of problem reflecting, repeatedly rephrasing the issues and compassioning people's adversities through excellent orating skill. Sure, his speeches are rhetorically beautiful. But they end there, missing explicit resolutions that Americans really need. So, change in direction that he promised, it turns out, is same as before, yet with an euphemism; Mr. Obama, who was once expected to cause a historic shift in America's political direction, is discovering that there is quite a lot he likes about the way things are.

His penchant for picking up just where the Bush administration had left off is clearly shown in the Predator drone program. Operated by the Central Intelligence Agency, drone attacks have allowed unmanned missions to tear down terrorist groups mostly in Afghanistan. But the stark reality is that the drones are taking thousands of civilian lives. Although formerly having permitted the CIA's in-land bombings, Afghanistan government is starting to get irritated, which may crack the two nation's relationship. Plus, to everyone's surprise, the man of peace has authorized as many CIA aerial attacks in Pakistan as George W.

Bush did in his final three years in office. If he does not come up with a new agenda, he will eventually be exposed as a hypocrite.

Also, he is reluctant to make any bold moves in the economy — not anymore. Few months ago, his costly stimulus plan only succeeded in pulling up America's economy from the deep darkness, but failed to make any further progress. Shocked by bad results, Obama administration chose a softer approach toward Wall Street. The situation is likewise in the foreign policy department; Obama is refraining from making any clear mandates on all agendas including whether or not to send more troops to Afghanistan. Unlike the statement that taking more time to consider will bear a better solution, this president seems to become more confused as time flows by, mainly because of polarized opinions from his advisor and general Stan McChrystal. But his timid policies on every prospect seem to have blurred things more rather than left things as they were.

Perhaps the 'Audacity of Hope' has turned to 'Timidity of Despair', as a columnist Gerard Baker puts it — Mr. Obama's decisive and innovating image is hopelessly giving way to that of timid and scared. And with it he is also defaming Democrats, which retively bodes well for the Republican Party, albeit a party with no ideas. Although there is no need to mention that Barack Obama is a genius issue censor and a mind-moving orator, his honeymoon period is certainly over and people will no longer wait for him to take an actual step. Now, it is time that Barack Obama did something. Come on Obama?earn back the title of 'No-Drama Obama.'



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