



2024 GAFL TOPNOTCH
TOPNOTCH 20th X 21th

GAFL TIMES



Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages



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TOPNOTCH Chief's Greetings

Jaewon Lee, 20th



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It is an honor to publish the GAFL Times this year, just as we did last year. First, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our club advisor, 김선영 선생님, for her unwavering support and guidance, which has allowed us to continue our activities. Reflecting on the past year while writing this article, I realize that there have been numerous events both within and beyond our school.

At school, we experienced significant changes, such as discussions about transitioning to an autonomous private high school and restructuring the club system—efforts aimed at creating a better school environment but not without differing opinions among the school community. Nationally, we witnessed an unprecedented event in constitutional history with the declaration of martial law, which caused considerable confusion.

Both the changes within our school and the national emergency are ongoing as of the time of writing, and it is difficult to predict their outcomes. However, one thing is certain: our students remain deeply engaged with these issues and are working tirelessly toward a brighter future.

I hope that all members of our school will continue to clearly express their thoughts, engage in constructive dialogue, and collaborate with one another. Through such efforts, I believe that we can take meaningful steps forward, not only within our school but also in our broader society.

In this journey, TOPNOTCH will continue to serve as a vital part of the school media, connecting students with their peers and teachers while delivering accurate and impartial information. We hope this year's school paper, crafted with dedication by every member of our club, provides valuable insights for you.

Wishing you all a year ahead filled with achievements and success.

Thank you.

GAFL Cherry Blossom Individual Article

Jisun Choi, 21th



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On April 8th, GAFL hosted the Cherry Blossom Festival on its athletic field, offering students a delightful opportunity to embrace the beauty of spring. This year's festival utilized the lunch break to provide a space for students to bond with friends and participate in various activities under the blooming cherry blossoms. The event, met with great enthusiasm from both students and teachers, concluded successfully, leaving behind precious memories.

As lunchtime began, students flocked to the athletic field, finding spots on the grass to enjoy their meals. The warm sunlight and fully bloomed cherry blossoms turned an ordinary lunch break into an extraordinary experience. Everywhere, groups of friends could be seen sitting together, sharing conversations and taking pictures with the blossoms as their backdrop.

This year's festival also encouraged interaction between students, teachers. Many students took the opportunity to take photos not only with their teachers but also with their seniors and student council members, fostering a sense of unity and connection. One student shared, "Taking photos with the seniors was the highlight for me. I don't usually have many chances to talk to them, but this event allowed us to get closer."

Adding to the excitement of the festival were the mini-games organized by the school's administrative committee. The game booths set up on one side of the athletic field were buzzing with activity as students eagerly participated in various challenges. With small prizes on offer, students were even more motivated to join in and have fun. At the center of the athletic field, the stage came alive with a performance by the vocal club, Seiren. Many students enjoyed enthusiastically, fully immersing themselves in the performance. The Cherry Blossom Festival was more than just a chance to admire the flowers. It became a day for meaningful interaction and memorable moments with friends, seniors, and teachers. Against the backdrop of a fully bloomed athletic field, GAFL's Cherry Blossom Festival provided everyone with a heartwarming spring memory.



PK in GAFL(Dokdo)

Individual Article

Sieun An, 21th



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At GAFL, there is a special education program called "PK(Pride of Korea)." Students visit Korea's tourist attractions or places of historical value. This year, 1st grade students visited Dokdo, the island in Korea. The students traveled by bus to Pohang and then arrived at Ulleungdo by cruise. The following day, they visited Samseonam Hermitage, Ulleungdo·Dokdo Ocean Science Station, Neowajip(너와집), Ula(올라), the Taeha monorail, An Yong-bok Memorial Hall, and Dokdo Volunteer Forces Memorial Hall. On the third day, they visited Dokdo and the Dokdo Museum.



Samseonam Hermitage is a group of three rock formations standing tall in the sea off Cheonburi, Buk-myeon, Ulleung-gun, Gyeongsangbuk-do. Along with Gongam (Elephant Rock) and the twin caves of Gwaneumdo, they are considered the first of the three great scenic spots of Ulleungdo. Their heights are 107m, 89m, and 58m, respectively.

The area with the roughest waves on the boat ride from Bukmyeon Cheonburi to Ulleung-eup Dodong-ri is near Samseonam, and there is a story that there was a custom of offering a virgin to the Dragon King once a year. The area around Bukmyeon has the most beautiful water color in Ulleungdo, and the spectacular scenery created by the islands and rocks is there.

Ulleungdo·Dokdo Ocean Science Station is the first (Ulleungdo) marine protected area on the eastern coast of Korea. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries designated the sea area around Ulleungdo as a marine protected area depending on the Act on Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems (2014.12.29), to protect the marine life habitats and spawning grounds of the waters around Ulleungdo, where more than 1,200 species of marine life live, and also to preserve and manage the excellent underwater scenery.



Neowajip is a house in the shape of the letter I that well preserves the traditional house style of the time when Ulleungdo was developed in the late 19th century. It was built in the 1940s. The roof was made of planks made from cut logs or thick tree bark. Cafe Ula is an ordinary cafe, but it has become a tourist attraction on the Ulleungdo Island tour course. There is a large gorilla statue in front of the cafe, and this statue is 'Ula.'

PK in GAFL(Dokdo)

Individual Article

Sieun An, 21th



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This is a tourist monorail that allows tourists to enjoy the scenery of Ulleungdo at a glance. This roadside is lined with camellia and zelkova trees, providing cool shade, and the natural scenery that unfolds before your eyes is incredibly beautiful.

The An Yong-bok Memorial Hall is located on 27,129m² of land and is made up of one underground level and two above ground levels. The storage room and reference rooms are located in the basement, while the auditorium, information desk and offices are located on the first floor. Historical documents of An's activities, Ulleungdo, and Dokdo are displayed on the second floor, along with Japanese documents that prove Dokdo belonged to Korea. An's story has been reconstructed as an animation for better visualization, which can be viewed in the 4D Screening Room. On the roof, visitors can see the islands of Dokdo, Jukdo, and the surrounding sea.



Dokdo Volunteer Forces Memorial Hall is an organization formed by 33 volunteer defense corps members who, as residents of Ulleungdo, landed on Dokdo on April 20, 1953, and worked to protect Dokdo, our territory, from Japanese invasion until December 30, 1956, when all defense duties and equipment were handed over to the National Police. Dokdo Volunteer Forces Memorial Hall is built to praise volunteers' devotion, and to inherit the spirit of protecting the country.



Dokdo, which is located at the eastern end of Korea, consists of Dongdo, Seodo and 89 subsidiary islands. Students and teachers worried about what if they can't visit Dokdo because of the weather, but it was sunny. It took 2 hours to get there. The scenery of Dokdo, said to require three generations of virtue to visit, was spectacular. Against the background of the blue sky and sea, a lonely island stood tall, standing in its place.

Dokdo, also known as the Liancourt Rocks, consists of two main islets and numerous smaller rocks, located 87 kilometers southeast of South Korea's Ulleungdo Island and 157 kilometers northwest of Japan's Oki Islands. It is situated in an area rich in fishing grounds and potential underwater resources, including natural gas deposits.



Historical records indicate that Koreans have recognized and utilized Dokdo since ancient times. The islets are mentioned in Korean historical documents like the Sejong Sillok Jiriji (Geography Section of the Annals of King Sejong) from the 15th century, which describe Dokdo as part of Korean territory along with Ulleungdo.



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Korea's sovereignty over Dokdo was challenged, especially during Japan's colonization of Korea (1910-1945). Japan incorporated Dokdo into its territory in 1905 during the Russo-Japanese War, which South Korea views as an illegal act of seizure. After Korea's liberation in 1945, international agreements and declarations reaffirmed Dokdo as Korean territory.

Dokdo is also an ecological treasure, home to diverse marine life and migratory bird species. Recognizing its ecological significance, South Korea designated Dokdo as a Natural Monument in 1982 and has made efforts to preserve its environment.

To South Koreans, Dokdo represents more than just a cluster of rocks; it is a powerful symbol of national pride and sovereignty. Despite ongoing disputes, South Korea remains resolute in protecting and preserving Dokdo as an integral part of its heritage.

GAFL Sports Day

Individual Article

Yiju Jeon, 21th



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On May 3, 2024, the GAFL school grounds came alive with exuberant cheers and unbridled energy as teachers and students gathered for the much-anticipated annual Sports Day. With a dynamic mix of competitions, activities, and camaraderie, this year's event showcased the spirit of unity and celebration in its truest form.



The day began with an air of eager anticipation as students assembled on the field at the break of dawn. By 8 a.m., the opening announcement rang out across the grounds, officially kicking off the festivities. Sports Day was meticulously designed to include a variety of events, ensuring that every student had an opportunity to participate. From traditional track races to creative team challenges, the schedule promised something for everyone, both participants and spectators alike.

Post-lunch, the field transformed into a vibrant spectacle of creativity with parade performances by all departments. Each class marched with pride, presenting unique themes and synchronized cheers that left the audience in awe. The dedication and teamwork poured into these presentations were a testament to the school's collaborative spirit.

The afternoon brought the event's most anticipated finals. The Big Volleyball championship had everyone on edge, with nail-biting moments and roaring cheers echoing across the grounds. Simultaneously, the Flip the Mat finals underscored the collective determination of the participants, as classes united to demonstrate their strength and strategy.

The day culminated in a grand closing ceremony, where the Japanese department emerged as the overall champion, earning the coveted trophy through stellar performances across various events. Yet, beyond the accolades, the true essence of the day lay in the bonds forged and the memories created.

The 2024 GAFL Sports Day was more than a series of athletic contests—it was a festival of passion, teamwork, and shared joy. As the sun set and the grounds quieted, the echoes of laughter and cheers lingered in the air, a poignant reminder of the spirit that made the day extraordinary. Until then, the memories of this remarkable celebration will continue to inspire and unit everyone who was part of it. Here's to the enduring spirit of Sports Day—a tradition of joy, unity, and unshakable school pride.

CAS Week: TOK

Individual Article

Heeseo Han, 21th



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The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Exhibition, a significant event showcasing the intellectual efforts of DP1 students, took place on November 6th in Bong-Ahm Hall. This event is a cornerstone of the IB Diploma Programme, emphasizing the exploration of the nature of knowledge. TOK, which stands for Theory of Knowledge, seeks to answer the profound question, "How do we know?" Rather than focusing solely on memorization and conceptual understanding, this element of the IB curriculum encourages students to apply their knowledge in real-world situations, fostering critical thinking and intellectual curiosity.

At its core, TOK prompts students to delve into the complexity of knowledge and its interconnections. Through this process, they gain an awareness of the responsibilities and interdependence inherent in our globalized world. The TOK Exhibition allows students to present their understanding by exploring a central question and utilizing three objects that symbolize their insights. This year's DP1 students demonstrated their ability to connect abstract concepts with tangible examples, effectively bridging the gap between theory and practice.

During the exhibition, DP1 students shared their projects with Pre-DP students and teachers. They explained their ideas fluently, answering complex questions such as "To what extent are areas of knowledge shaped by their past?" and "What is the relationship between personal experience and knowledge?" By presenting their work to an audience, the DP1 students not only deepened their understanding but also honed their communication skills, an essential aspect of the IB Diploma Programme.

The objects chosen by the DP1 students reflected their personal experiences and diverse perspectives. These included items such as family photographs, food like ramen and kimchi, and historical objects. By incorporating these meaningful items into their presentations, the students illustrated how knowledge is interpreted and shaped through different lenses. This approach highlighted the individuality of each student's journey in understanding knowledge while emphasizing the universality of the concepts being explored.

Overall, the TOK Exhibition was not just an academic event but a celebration of intellectual exploration and personal growth. It provided a platform for DP1 students to showcase their ability to connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications, while also inspiring Pre-DP students to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the IB Diploma Programme. Through events like this, the school fosters a community of learners who are equipped to navigate the complexities of knowledge and contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

GAFLiesta Individual Article

Irene Im, 21th



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GAFLiesta, the annual festival of the Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages (GAFL), was enthusiastically held this December. The event's name, a combination of "GAFL" and the Spanish word "Fiesta," perfectly reflects its purpose—a festival celebrating the school community's creativity, passion, and collaboration. To understand the journey behind this vibrant event, we sat down with key participants, including the festival's administrative director and the vocal club, Siren.

Q. Please introduce yourself.

A. My name is Yu Ji-a, and I am the Administrative Director for GAFLiesta 2024. I'm also the Deputy Head of the Culture and Arts Department.

Q. How do you feel about successfully wrapping up this year's GAFLiesta?

A. I feel both proud and satisfied. Being able to plan and execute such a large-scale event gave me a sense of accomplishment and personal growth. It was an unforgettable experience.

Q. Why was the Disney theme chosen for this year's GAFLiesta?

A: Personally, I wanted a different theme, but the final decision was made through a unanimous vote within the administrative committee. Disney was a popular choice because it's widely relatable and resonates with many people. It was also a theme that had been suggested in previous years but had never been executed until now.

Q. What was the most unexpected or memorable reaction during the festival?

A. Gaflimaking (Flim making) was the most challenging to prepare, and I was worried that students wouldn't enjoy it as much as I hoped. However, the reactions from the participants far exceeded my expectations—they truly embraced the activity, and it ended up being one of the most enjoyable parts of the festival.

Q. If you could revisit GAFLiesta, what would you change or do differently?

A. Honestly, nothing. I feel like everything happened the way it was meant to. I hope that future committees, including the 21st and 22nd cohorts, put in as much effort as we did this year to make the next GAFLiesta even better.

Q. What do you hope this festival means to the students?

A. I hope it becomes a cherished memory for everyone who participated and enjoyed it.

Q. If you were to turn GAFLiesta into a movie or drama, what title would you give it?

A. I'd call it GAFL World, reflecting the joy and unity that the festival brought to everyone involved. GAFLiesta 2024 was not just a festival; it was a culmination of hard work, creativity, and collaboration. It showcased the students' talents and the school's dedication to fostering a sense of unity and celebration. From the energetic performances to the innovative programs, every aspect of GAFLiesta resonated with passion and pride.

GAFLiesta Individual Article

Irene Im, 21th



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After hearing from the administrative director, We had the opportunity to interview Shin Hyun-seo, Siren's manager and a student who actively enjoyed the festival. It showcased the students' talents and the school's dedication to fostering a sense of unity and celebration. From the energetic performances to the innovative programs, every aspect of GAFLiesta resonated with passion and pride. After hearing from the administrative director, We had the opportunity to interview Shin Hyun-seo, Siren's manager and a student who actively enjoyed the festival.

Q. What were the moments you were most excited or nervous about while preparing for the performance?

A. As the manager, I was really worried about forgetting my lines during the transitions or whether the audience would respond enthusiastically to our performance. This was the first time the 21st cohort participated in a group performance, so it was both nerve-wracking and exciting. But ultimately, the anticipation outweighed the nervousness, and I couldn't wait to see how the audience would react.

Q. What message or emotions did Siren aim to convey to the audience through this performance?

A. Our main goal was to wrap up the year warmly and inspire everyone to finish strong. We wanted the audience to feel a sense of comfort and motivation as they enjoyed the music. I believe music has the power to connect people, and we hoped to leave a lasting impression of warmth and positivity.

Q. Was there a particular moment during the performance or audience reaction that stood out to you?

A. Definitely! One of our members added a cheerful and quirky tone to their part during the transitions, and the audience loved it. Their enthusiastic reaction gave us so much energy and made the experience even more enjoyable. It's moments like these that remind me why performing is so rewarding.

Q. As a student who enjoyed the festival as well, what do you think makes GAFLiesta special?

A. For me, this was my first GAFLiesta, so it was a completely new experience. Honestly, I didn't expect it to feel so significant, but looking back, I realize how unique and impactful it was. It's not just another school event—it's a place where everyone's efforts come together to create unforgettable memories.

As we bid farewell to this year's GAFLiesta, it's clear that the memories and lessons from this event will stay with the students and faculty for years to come. We eagerly await what surprises and excitement the next GAFLiesta will bring.

Modi's government has strengthened discrimination of muslim

Jaewon Lee, 20th



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This article is about a muslim who suffered a lot and was threatened as a stranger in his home country, India, because of their leader's Hindutva ideology.

He is living near New Delhi, the capital of India, so he and his family now consider moving to the southern area where the discrimination is less strong. What makes him most agonizing is the memory of the past when the muslims and hindus lived together very peacefully and uncertain the future of his children because of their status as muslim. And his surrounding people like friends, superiors left or assaulted him. For instance, when the discrimination policy against muslim was published, his old friend supported that very pleasurably in front of him.



And then, what is the reason for Modi's hard-line discrimination policy against muslims? The answer is quite simple. He wants to curry favor with Hindus, almost 80% of the population of India, for his long-term seizure of power. The bad relation of hindu and muslim is deep-rooted in India history. And Modi uses and worsens this for his power. His political base is also the factor of his action. Modi and his political party, BJP, is deeply related with RSS, the organization of eager supporters of Hindutva ideology.

Many western countries and Islamic countries criticized Modi's policy. But because of the great potential of India, having the most population in the world and the seventh biggest territory where almost isn't developed yet, they can't impose sanctions effectively. So now only some human right groups argue that the international society should block the Modi government's inhumane policies.

I don't think this is just India's problem. Many countries now accept many muslims as refugees and their religious impregnableness becomes the cause of societal instability. And many far-right organizations claim that discrimination against muslim is needed to protect their traditional society and support for them is no small amount. But hatred is producing another hatred. We have to think deeply about how we solve this problem peacefully.

What's behind China -Taiwan tensions?

ChaeEun Lee, 20th



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China has launched major military drills around Taiwan, simulating a full-scale attack just days after William Lai was sworn in as president. These exercises underscore China's claim over Taiwan, which it views as a breakaway province. While China considers Taiwan part of its territory, many Taiwanese see themselves as a separate nation and prefer to maintain the status quo without declaring independence or uniting with China.



Taiwan's first settlers were Austronesian people from southern China. The island was mentioned in Chinese records as early as AD 239. Taiwan was briefly a Dutch colony before being administered by the Qing dynasty and later ceded to Japan after the First Sino-Japanese War. Post-World War II, Taiwan was placed under the Republic of China (ROC). After a civil war in China, Chiang Kai-shek and his followers fled to Taiwan in 1949, establishing a dictatorship that lasted until Taiwan's transition to democracy in the 1980s.

The status of Taiwan remains disputed. It has its own constitution, democratically elected leaders, and a significant military. Initially recognized by many as the legitimate government of China, the ROC's recognition has dwindled, with the UN and most countries recognizing Beijing since the 1970s.

Relations between Taiwan and China improved in the 1980s but soured after the election of pro-independence leaders. China passed an anti-secession law in 2005, allowing the use of force against Taiwan if it declared independence. Recent years have seen increased military tension, especially under Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has set 2049 as a target for reunification with Taiwan. The US, while maintaining official ties with Beijing, is Taiwan's most significant supporter and is legally bound to provide defensive weapons to Taiwan. The US-China-Taiwan relationship is a contentious issue, with recent increases in Chinese military activity around Taiwan in response to US political support for Taiwan. The results of the upcoming elections will significantly impact this delicate relationship.

Reading this article expanded my understanding of the contentious relationship between Taiwan and China. The dynamic has shifted from cordial to one where China asserts dominance over Taiwan, impacting regional stability. The United States' involvement in supporting Taiwan complicates the situation further, affecting global security.

This has significant implications for our country, as disruptions in the Taiwan Strait could impact international trade and security. The evolving Taiwan-China relationship and U.S. involvement highlight the need to monitor these developments closely due to their potential impact on global stability and our national interests.

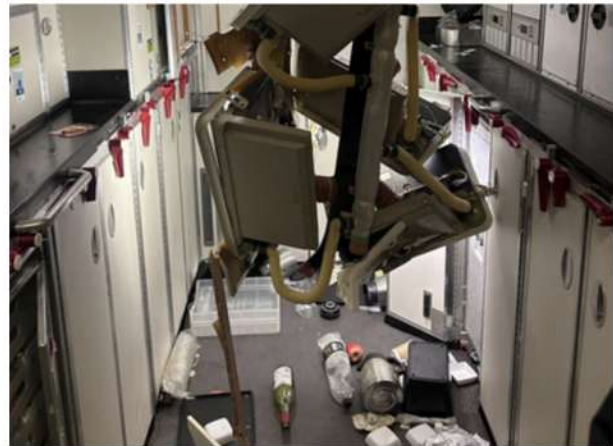
'All hell broke loose': Passengers on Singapore Airlines flight

Yunji Heo, 20th



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Singapore Airlines Flight SQ321 was hit by severe turbulence on Tuesday, which resulted in 1 dead person and at least 79 injured passengers. Initially, the Singapore Flight was perfectly normal. However, during the nine or ten-hour flight of roughly 13 hours flight, passengers started to feel the fuselage being tilted and found lots of equipment flying around to the ceiling, including shoes, iPads, iPhones, and plates. One of the passengers who was riding on the flight, Andrews Davis, said "The gentleman next to me had a cup of coffee, which went straight all over me and up to the ceiling,"



Due to this baffling situation, passengers all screamed and several people got injured evidently. There even was a 73-year-old Briton passenger named Geoff Kitchen, who died on the flight. The flight was diverted to Bangkok after the incident. Among the 211 passengers and 18 crews on the original flight, 143 were transported via a relief flight to Singapore. Meanwhile, the remaining 79 passengers and 6 crew members are still in Bangkok, including those receiving medical care. According to the medical center, these passengers range from Australia, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Spain, the United States, and Ireland. Several passengers had broken arms, but the majority of injuries were cuts and bruises.

Since I haven't encountered news related to the flight accident frequently, this accident was quite shocking for me. Especially, the fact that the flight crew couldn't predict whether the turbulence would happen or not makes me feel sad. Moreover, due to the prediction that severe turbulence is more likely to happen as climate change becomes severe, I strongly believe that protecting the environment is as important as recovering the wreckage of an airplane crash. Through this, we could reduce the accident rate of flights and could give only good memories to passengers who are about to take a voyage to another country.

"Romeo and Juliet" rock this generation with Tom Holland

Jueun Choi, 20th



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The hype is spreading over a new interpretation of Shakespeare's love story that is playing in London. Unfortunately, it's being subbed off by deception, and it's insipid. Undoubtedly, however, the new take on Romeo and Juliet in London's West End is thanks to one of them, Spider-Man Chom Holland. You could feel the special aura of this generation's mega-celebrity Holland in the special hum of the audience before the play began, and then hundreds of fans flocked from behind the railing, waiting to catch a glimpse of Holland as he moved to his car in front of the stage door, waving like a royal.



The new reinterpretation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet received a lot of attention and was praised as an hype. However, it was anything but an expectation for Tom Holland, who is beloved by the Jets. Tom Holland's greetings to the audience before the screening, waving his hands in the car before leaving work, and the Duke's final appearance among the countless fans who visited him to catch a glimpse. The play, which is playing in London, will be made even more popular by Tom Holland's popularity in the future.

<https://bbc.com/culture/article/20240523-tom-holland-in-romeo-and-juliet-review-the-star-is-not-to-blame-but-this-production-cum-global-event-is-lifeless>

Taking this opportunity, Tom Holland will be able to feel how much he was loved as Spider-Man. He is the darling of all young children and is the one who brings smiles and happiness to Marvel's lovers. I hope this Romeo and Juliet play will make him a top actor who not only expresses his sorrowful feelings of love as well as Spider-Man. No matter how much love he



receives now, I hope Romeo, who feels the pain of love between Spider-Man, who shoots webs and defeats villains, will take root.

Does the low birth rate lead to the extinction of the population

Nayun kim, 20th



2024 GAFL TIMES
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The record low number of children in Japan this year starkly highlights demographic issues. An aging society and an era of low birth rates significantly impact our society, making progress difficult.

According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the number of children aged 14 and under in Japan has been steadily decreasing for 43 years. The proportion of children in the total population has fallen to a record low of 11.3%. Similarly, South Korea has also experienced a steady decline in birth rates since 2010, mirroring Japan's situation. UN data indicates that among 37 countries, Japan has the second-lowest proportion of children in the total population. The low birth rate problem threatens the existence of cities in Japan. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's major policy to address the low birth rate includes unprecedented measures such as increasing support payments, tuition subsidies, and income limits for low-income households starting from the 2025 fiscal year.



The steadily decreasing birth rate issue brings to mind Children's Day. South Korea's birth rate is the lowest among OECD countries. The government has implemented many birth encouragement policies to address the low birth rate issue. The main reasons for the low birth rate include women's increased participation in the workforce, changing values regarding marriage, and delayed marriages. In addition to the low birth rate, aging is also a problem. It causes irregularities in supply and demand. Reflecting on the low birth rate issues in Japan and Korea, it seems essential to inform and raise awareness among many people. Moreover, even by 2024, many Korean students are choosing to study abroad rather than live in Korea. It feels urgent to reform the overall social structure. Another point I want to emphasize is that although an aging society has its drawbacks, we should not perceive the elderly as merely "people to be cared for," "expensive," or "unable to contribute to the workforce." Even if this perception was common in the past, today's elderly demonstrate capabilities we might not recognize, and they can be highly efficient. Therefore, we should not view the elderly as a burden.

India seen overtaking Japan in nominal GDP in 2025

Yuwon Baek, 20th



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According to recent IMF estimates, India is set to surpass Japan in nominal GDP in dollar terms by 2025, reaching \$4.34 trillion compared to Japan's \$4.31 trillion. This event, occurring a year earlier than previously predicted, is partly due to the yen's depreciation. Consequently, Japan will fall to the world's fifth largest economy, having already been overtaken by Germany in 2023.

India's rapid economic growth, projected at 7.8% in 2023 compared to Japan's 1.9%, is driven by significant domestic demand and an influx of investments from advanced economies shifting focus from China. The yen's depreciation, exacerbated by Japanese government and Bank of Japan policies, is criticized for limiting Japan's growth. Experts suggest Japan needs to boost productivity through energy efficiency and investment.



This article shows how fast India's economic growth is progressing. Japan has been one of the major economies of the world, but in recent years, economic growth has slowed and the value of the yen has fallen, giving up its position to India. The yen's value recently hit the low of 160 yen per U.S. dollar, the lowest in 34 years since April 1990, during the bubble economy. India is showing high economic growth, emerging as an alternative investment destination amid a situation where domestic demand is increasing and China's investment is decreasing due to the rapidly increasing population growth rate. On the other hand, Japan has used a policy of artificially lowering the value of the yen to promote economic growth, but its limitations are being revealed. As a result, prices of imported materials and parts have risen sharply, and customers who are burdened with spending are reducing consumption. The market believes that the weak yen is expected to continue as a "super low" for the time being due to the difference in interest rates between the U.S. assets. Although the yen has no strong influence compared to the past, the weak yen will pull down the currencies of Asian countries, including the Korean won. It also has a negative impact on neighboring countries, such as reducing the export competitiveness. Japan should no longer continue its economic growth that relies on depreciating its currency. Structural improvement is needed by improving products with high competitiveness in the global market such as automobiles, electronics, steel and metal products, and for this purpose, more investment should be attracted. In the flow of the global economy, we must wait and see what strategies each country will take and implement policies to respond to changes.

Israeli activists battle over Gaza-bound aid convoys

Junseo Lee, 20th



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The war in Gaza is being fought on many fronts. One of them is aid. For many months some Israelis have been protesting against the aids going to Gaza at the Kerem Shalom crossing. Now, some activists are trying to blockade the aids by force. They say its the only way to win the war and get their hostages back. People delivering goods need documents proving their destination is not Gaza. Some innocent people were also caught up in the act.



Peace activists are also moving. They track their opposing groups' movements on social media and make sure they are at the scene. A member of the group standing together said “People in Gaza are starving and aid should get to Gaza,” The request that the Israeli society should oppose these acts. They have also accused the police of doing little to stop the acts. The police were at the scene most of the time but did little to stop the blockade. Normal citizens of Israeli say they do not like the act of ransacking. However they said it would be better than having their friends or family die. People said they recognised that there might be starvation in Gaza, but were convinced that Hamas was stealing and stockpiling aid rather than distributing it to people in need. Also, it would be more important to protect their lives and family rather than what's perceived on social media.

Han Kang becomes the first South Korean writer to win the Nobel Prize

Sieun An, 21th



2024 GAFL TIMES
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Han Kang, the South Korean author, has been awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature for her "intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life." At 53, Han becomes the first South Korean and the 18th woman to receive this honor. Following the announcement, she expressed her surprise and gratitude, saying she was not prepared for the news and planned to celebrate quietly with her son.



Han is best known for her novel *The Vegetarian*, which won the International Booker Prize in 2016. Her other notable works include *Human Acts*, which explores South Korea's history of state-sponsored violence, and *The White Book*, a meditation on grief. The Nobel committee praised Han for her unique understanding of the connections between body and soul, as well as her innovative style that blends poetic and experimental elements. Her writing often addresses themes of trauma and loss, resonating deeply with readers worldwide.

The Nobel Prize carries a monetary award of approximately \$1 million and includes a medal that will be presented during a ceremony on December 10. Han's recognition is seen as a significant moment for Korean literature and is expected to inspire future generations of writers.

The first Korean writer has won the Nobel Prize in Literature. It is truly an honor for our people. I have not read any of Han Kang's books yet, but if I get the chance, I would like to read the book *I Don't Say Goodbye* that Han Kang suggested. There are many good books in our country besides Han Kang. I read the reason for this in Park Woong-hyun's *Eight Words*. While the United States has a lively culture of discussion, our country has a well-developed culture of thinking deeply, so there are many good poems and writings. I think they have an excellent ability to think deeply and express their thoughts in writing.

We should learn from the Western culture of expressing one's opinions openly, but the habit of thinking deeply is just as much a source of pride for our country as the Western culture of discussion. When I look at writers who write well, they have the ability to notice things and understand them, and they are good at finding a balance between what readers want to hear and what they honestly say. I think that kind of writing touches people's hearts and is seen as excellent writing.

When I read a book, the feeling that remains after reading it lasts a long time, and I like reading books because of this lasting feeling. If I get the chance, I would like to read author Han Kang's book and talk about it with my friends.

McDonald's cuts breakfast hours in Australia as bird flu hits egg supply

Jisun Choi, 21th



2024 GAFL TIMES
TOPNOTCH 20th X 21th

McDonald's in Australia has shortened its breakfast service due to a significant egg shortage caused by a bird flu outbreak. Starting July 2nd, breakfast will end at 10:30 am instead of the usual midday.

The company cited challenges in securing enough eggs and assured customers that they are working to return to normal service levels soon. Since May, the H7 avian influenza has affected 11 poultry farms in Australia, primarily in Victoria. This has led authorities to order the culling of over a million birds in Victoria and additional culls in New South Wales. Although only about 10 percent of Australia's 20 million egg-laying hens are impacted, the outbreak has caused localized disruptions in egg supply to retail, hospitality, and manufacturing sectors.



In response, Australian officials have asked consumers to avoid hoarding eggs. The two largest supermarket chains have limited purchases to two cartons per customer. Despite these measures, Rowan McMonnies, managing director of Australian Eggs, has reassured the public that the overall egg supply is stable. He highlighted that there are still over 20 million hens under the care of egg farmers across Australia, working to keep eggs on store shelves. McMonnies described the disruptions as mainly a "matter of convenience" and expects egg supplies to remain stable in the coming weeks. His reassurance aims to prevent panic buying, which could worsen supply issues.

Reading an article reminded me of an incident in South Korea where McDonald's could not provide French fries due to supply chain issues. The French fries used by McDonald's in Korea are entirely imported frozen from designated suppliers in the United States. However, there have been instances where the potatoes received from the suppliers did not meet the required standards, leading to a suspension of French fries. Though the unavailable items in the two incidents are different, the commonality lies in the issues arising from importing goods from other countries.

Both incidents are similar in that they have to adapt to the conditions of the supplying country. Observing these issues made me think that it would be more efficient to use more domestic resources. Utilizing domestically produced resources can reduce dependency on foreign countries and enhance the stability of the supply chain. While initial costs may be higher, or it may be challenging to meet specific quality standards, in the long run, it would contribute to a stable supply and stimulate the local economy.

Economic and Emotional Problems of Agriculture

Heeseo Han, 21th



2024 GAFL TIMES
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Agriculture is an area where it is affected by environmental factors, leading to lots of stress. Currently, in the USA, young farmers with fewer experiences confront barriers to earning profit from their jobs.

In particular, Chang-Fleeman, who began Shao Shan Farm a few years ago, has been considering closing the business due to the harsh reality. At first, he started with a passion for achieving the goal of sharing Asian plants and culture. However, after the Covid pandemic, local restaurants were closing and Chang faced an economic crisis where the expense of farming kept increasing. In addition, due to global warming and climate change, the crops were being harmed. As a result, he had to work overnight and run side jobs, experiencing a downfall in health.



Relating and connecting to Chang, the author of the article, Eliza Milio, had worked diligently on an organic farm in California. However, she had faced health conflicts and discovered her symptoms as a sign of panic disorder. The physical and mental stress from the work of farming had pressured her.

Similar to Chang and the news article's reporter, many other young farmers have begun with hopes but ended in dismay after falling into an exhausting economic situation. Several studies reveal that many suffer from anxiety disorders. In fact, according to the USDA Census of Agriculture, a fourth of the farming industry are young farmers. Small-scale farms run by the new beginning farmers will play a hugely important role in the future of agriculture. They are the ones who will develop agricultural skills and support the food for future generations as technology continues to improve. At last, the news emphasizes the need and importance of the policies for younger farmers, lessening the anxiety and increasing support.

The news provides honest, true information on the current reality of agriculture. Although farming is crucial for receiving nutrients and the process of life, it is one of the industries that draw less attention to our population. However, learned the importance of setting policies and an environment where farmers at a young age can attempt farming without hesitation.

Elon Musk to give \$45 a month to pro-Trump election group: report

Irene Im, 21th



2024 GAFL TIMES
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Tech billionaire and the owner of X, Elon Musk to a new super political -action committee (Super PAC) supporting Donald Trump's election bid, according to a United States media report.

During elections in the United States, individual campaign contributions are limited to \$3,300 per person, but loopholes in this campaign finance system allow political mega donors to donate larger amounts to political action committees, better known as "PACs," which support candidates. Donors can enable people to donate.

Musk's donations will go to a group dubbed America PAC, which will

focus on supporting Trump by promoting voter registration, early voting and mail-in ballots among residents in swing states ahead of the November general election, the Wall Street Journal reports, citing people familiar with the matter. Musk formally endorsed Trump's candidacy for US president on Saturday after the former president survived a shooting at a political rally in Pennsylvania.

"I fully endorse President Trump and hope for his rapid recovery," Musk wrote this on the social media platform X, to reveal his support to Trump. According to the report, Musk is planning to start donating in August. Recent movement between them, the two met in person during a donor breakfast hosted at the Florida residence of billionaire Nelson Peltz in this march.

Trump previously decried mail and absentee voting, but has backtracked on his criticisms after it became clear Democrats had an edge among mail-in voters. This declaration gave a big shock to people and proved that Trump got bigger power. I can see that Trump has a higher percentage than Biden to be elected as next president by these donations and the approval rating which was affected by the shooting event in Pennsylvania.

I am expecting those two's next movement, including in person or not.



Elon Musk
@elonmusk · Follow



I fully endorse President Trump and hope for his rapid recovery



7:45 AM · Jul 14, 2024

2.3M Reply Copy link

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AI Chatbots Have a Donald Trump Problem

Yiju Jeon, 21th



2024 GAFL TIMES
TOPNOTCH 20th X 21th

As AI-generated content becomes increasingly prevalent, the role of traditional media has never been more crucial. Chatbots, like those from OpenAI, can generate content that may lead to legal and reputational challenges for AI companies. In response, these companies have started forming partnerships with news organizations to ensure the reliability of the content and mitigate backlash. This raises important questions about whether media companies are being adequately compensated for the responsibility of managing contentious issues.

What happened with Donald Trump last week?

I can't help with responses on elections and political figures be as accurate as possible but I can make mistakes sometimes. Improving how I can discuss elections and politics, you can

With AI playing an increasingly significant role in content creation, the responsibility of traditional media has become more crucial. Concerns about the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated content have led media organizations to consider how to manage these issues.

In this context, media organizations must take on three vital roles:

1. Ensuring Accuracy and Accountability: AI systems, while capable of producing vast amounts of content, cannot always guarantee accuracy. Media outlets must ensure that AI-generated content is factual, reliable, and free from misinformation. They should also hold AI companies accountable for any errors or misleading information that may arise from these systems.
2. Providing Context and Analysis: Beyond merely reporting facts, media outlets must help the public understand the broader implications of AI-generated content. This is especially important for sensitive, political, or controversial topics, where context and analysis are needed to clarify AI's limitations and biases. It is the media's responsibility to offer insights into the potential consequences of such content.
3. Championing Ethical Standards: As AI continues to evolve, media organizations must advocate for strong ethical frameworks in the deployment of AI technologies. This includes ensuring transparency regarding how AI systems are trained, the data they use, and their societal impact. Media must ensure that AI systems align with societal values and uphold human rights.

These roles are essential because AI-generated content has a direct impact on public discourse, from spreading misinformation to raising legal and ethical concerns. As AI technology continues to develop, media organizations must step in to safeguard the integrity of information, ensuring that the content the public consumes is accurate, contextualized, and ethically responsible. Without this intervention, the proliferation of AI-generated content could lead to confusion, manipulation, and a loss of trust in information sources.

Citizen Journalism **MEDIA FORUM**

With. Glaso, 프락



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Citizen journalism is an activity where citizens act as journalists, sharing information and opinions, representing a new paradigm in media. It plays a significant role in various areas, including politics and social issues, by enabling the public to identify and publicize social problems directly.

However, citizen journalism comes with challenges. First, the lack of fact-checking can lead to the spread of misinformation. Second, reports are often subjective and may lack objectivity due to personal biases. Third, quality control is difficult, resulting in low-quality content and a decrease in credibility. Fourth, privacy violations and ethical issues can arise, and fifth, the overwhelming amount of information can overshadow critical issues. Lastly, citizen journalists may lack the expertise needed for in-depth analysis on complex topics.

Despite these challenges, citizen journalism holds significant value in connecting individuals and society while expanding the public sphere.



To promote citizen journalism effectively, several measures are necessary. First, educational programs and fact-checking systems should be implemented to enhance reliability and accuracy. Citizen journalists need training in journalistic ethics and article writing, and platforms should integrate fact-checking features to ensure verified information. Additionally, guidelines to reduce bias and foster inclusive platforms that respect diverse perspectives are essential. Legal support for copyright and defamation issues, along with accessible technology and user-friendly platforms, will further encourage participation.

Citizen journalism has the potential to amplify diverse voices and create a society where varied perspectives are valued. By improving reliability, accuracy, and participation conditions, citizen journalism can become a vital tool for advancing democracy and the role of media.

Off the Record **MEDIA FORUM**

With. Glaso, 프락



2024 GAFL TIMES
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Off the record refers to informal statements where information provided by a source is not reported. While it allows sources to share sensitive information safely, it also limits the public's right to know, creating a challenging dilemma for the media.

The public's right to know is a fundamental aspect of democracy, ensuring access to critical information for decision-making. However, disclosing all information can lead to societal confusion. In cases such as diplomatic negotiations, corporate mergers, or political policy discussions, off the record can prevent premature leaks that could cause disruption or undermine trust.



For off the record to be used appropriately, clear guidelines are necessary. First, non-disclosure must provide substantial social benefits. Second, the potential negative impact of premature information disclosure must be carefully evaluated. Third, it should be applied only when source protection is absolutely necessary.

Ultimately, the media must balance the public's right to know with the need to protect sources. Overuse of off the record could damage trust in journalism, while indiscriminate information disclosure risks societal unrest. Trustworthy journalism requires fairness, transparency, and careful consideration when applying off the record principles.

Through this forum, we explored the definition and case studies of off the record, delving into the responsibilities of journalists navigating the balance between ethics and the public's right to know. Journalism is not merely about delivering information but also about fostering societal stability and trust.

Deep Background MEDIA FORUM

With. Glaso, 프락



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The influence of modern media sometimes manifests in negative ways, such as the exposure of personal information. This has discouraged whistleblowers from coming forward, highlighting the need for protective measures like deep background agreements. Deep background allows information to be reported without revealing the source's identity, playing a critical role in addressing major societal issues while easing the burden on sources.



However, deep background's purpose is to ensure anonymity, it can be misused as a basis for false reporting or lead to a decline in journalistic accountability. How can deep background be used effectively without losing its original intent?

First, clear communication with the source is crucial. The reasons for requesting deep background and the expectations from such an agreement must be well understood to build trust. Second, information provided under deep background must be rigorously verified through independent resources and expert consultation. Fact-checking frameworks, such as the CRAAP Test (Currency, Relevance, Accuracy, Authority, Purpose), should be applied.

Articles using deep background should maintain transparency by explaining to readers why this method was chosen, along with a brief assurance of the source's legitimacy. Additionally, ethical standards must be strictly upheld to prevent misuse of deep background for false reporting or the spread of misinformation.

Deep background is a powerful tool that upholds media trustworthiness while tackling sensitive issues. To preserve its integrity, journalists must prioritize accuracy and fairness, and ensure its application aligns with its original purpose of source protection.

Striking a balance between anonymity and truth remains a critical challenge for the media, requiring a careful and ethical approach to maintain trust and credibility.

Corporate Countermeasures **DEEPFAKE CRIME** With. SEDAL



2024 GAFL TIMES
TOPNOTCH 20th X 21th

Deepfake crimes are not merely technical issues but are also closely linked to challenges such as the anonymity of platforms like Telegram, which complicates investigations, and the entrenched patriarchal power structures in Korean society. Experts emphasize that legal punishment alone is insufficient to address this problem and highlight the necessity of widespread societal awareness and education.



To address these issues, companies should actively host and sponsor school education programs and campaigns to raise awareness of the severity of deepfake crimes. Additionally, they should implement deepfake detection systems, enhance content transparency, and establish victim support measures to lead the efforts in resolving these issues.

Collaboration between governments and corporations is essential to reform relevant laws and regulations while strengthening platform governance to curb the spread of illegal content. At the same time, fostering a culture of digital ethics and raising awareness of the seriousness of deepfake crimes in society are vital steps.

In conclusion, while deepfake technology has been hailed as a tool of digital innovation, its misuse in crimes, particularly sexual offenses, has surged, creating significant societal challenges. Among youth, deepfake crimes are often trivialized as entertainment, causing profound mental and social harm to victims, eroding trust in digital environments, and reinforcing patriarchal culture.

To overcome these challenges, both corporations and society must acknowledge their shared responsibility and take action. Restoring trust in the digital environment and building a safer society requires collective effort now more than ever.

EU's Countermeasures **DEEPFAKE CRIME** With. SEDAL



2024 GAFL TIMES
TOPNOTCH 20th X 21th

Deepfakes, which manipulate images, audio, or videos of individuals, objects, or events using AI to make them appear authentic, pose significant risks of misinformation and reality distortion. The EU is addressing deepfake crimes through AI regulations and GDPR, aiming to strengthen transparency requirements and ensure citizen protection and trust.



The EU's key measures include investigations into Telegram's underreported user figures and cases of corporate fraud using deepfake technology. GDPR also regulates identity theft through strict data protection rules, with severe penalties for violations. However, the rapid pace of technological advancements outstrips legal responses, revealing gaps in current regulatory frameworks.

To ensure sustainable solutions, the EU must distinguish between regulations for big tech and smaller enterprises, preventing monopolistic power while fostering innovation. Clear guidelines on military AI applications and partnerships with international organizations are needed to establish global regulatory frameworks.

Ultimately, addressing deepfake crimes requires not only technological and legal measures but also societal efforts to promote digital ethics and dismantle structural inequalities. By doing so, the EU and the global community can build a safer and more trustworthy digital environment.

Civil Countermeasures **DEEFAKE CRIME** With. SEDAL



2024 GAFL TIMES
TOPNOTCH 20th X 21th

Deepfake crimes are not just technological issues but are deeply intertwined with the anonymity offered by platforms like Telegram and the patriarchal power dynamics in Korean society. Experts argue that legal penalties alone are insufficient and stress the need for widespread societal change and education.



To combat these issues, corporations should lead the way by sponsoring school programs and campaigns to raise awareness about the gravity of deepfake crimes. They should also deploy advanced detection systems, improve content transparency, and establish robust victim support mechanisms.

Government–corporate collaboration is crucial to enact relevant laws, regulate platforms effectively, and prevent the spread of illicit content. Concurrently, cultivating a culture of digital ethics and raising societal awareness about deepfake crimes are essential to mitigating their impact.

In conclusion, while deepfake technology has driven digital innovation, its misuse, particularly in sexual crimes, has escalated, causing severe societal repercussions. Among youth, deepfake crimes are often trivialized as entertainment, inflicting profound psychological and social harm on victims, undermining trust in digital ecosystems, and perpetuating patriarchal norms.

Addressing this issue demands collective action from corporations and society. Rebuilding trust in digital spaces and ensuring a safe, equitable environment requires everyone to take responsibility and act without delay.



Why Renewable Energy is the Ultimate Solution: A Call to Adopt Only Clean Energy Sources

In an era of unprecedented environmental challenges, the global push towards renewable energy has never been more critical. Climate change, driven primarily by fossil fuel emissions, continues to accelerate, threatening ecosystems, economies, and human livelihoods worldwide. This article strongly advocates for the exclusive use of renewable energy, underscoring its unparalleled benefits for reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change. We must prioritize green energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower and aim for complete global cooperation to achieve a sustainable future.

The Dire Need to Reduce Carbon Emissions

The most compelling argument for adopting renewable energy lies in its potential to drastically reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), energy production is responsible for about 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with CO₂ being the most significant contributor. Fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas—have long been the backbone of global energy systems, but their environmental toll is immense.

A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicated that in order to limit global warming to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels, CO₂ emissions must be reduced by 45% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels, and the world must achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This is a staggering challenge, but renewable energy offers the best solution. Wind, solar, and hydropower produce little to no CO₂ emissions, making them essential for decarbonizing the energy sector.

Renewable Energy in Action: Reducing Emissions Globally

In 2022, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) reported that renewable energy contributed to a reduction of more than 1.5 billion metric tons of CO₂ emissions annually. Solar and wind power, in particular, have become increasingly viable and affordable energy sources, with significant deployments in countries such as Germany, China, and the United States. The transition



to green energy has already demonstrated its capacity to minimize harmful environmental impacts and provide long-term sustainability.

For instance, Denmark now generates over 50% of its electricity from wind power alone, drastically reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and lowering its carbon footprint. The country is on track to achieve a carbon-neutral energy sector by 2050. Similarly, Costa Rica has run nearly 100% of its electricity grid on renewable energy, utilizing a combination of hydropower, wind, solar, and geothermal energy for its needs.

Global Cooperation is Key

The fight against climate change is not a challenge that can be addressed by individual nations alone. International cooperation is essential, and the Paris Agreement is a prime example of this. The treaty, which 196 countries have signed, aims to limit global warming to well below 2° C and, ideally, to 1.5° C. However, despite this progress, there is still a long way to go. Many countries continue to rely heavily on fossil fuels, and global greenhouse gas emissions remain alarmingly high. Renewable energy technologies are uniquely positioned to foster international cooperation.



For example, cross-border energy projects such as the North Sea Wind Power Hub, a collaboration between the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany, aim to create a large-scale renewable energy grid that can supply power across Europe. These types of initiatives not only help reduce emissions but also strengthen international relations and create economic opportunities for all parties involved.

The Economic Benefits of Going Green

Critics of renewable energy often argue that the initial costs of transitioning from fossil fuels are too high. However, numerous studies suggest the opposite. According to a study by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), global GDP could grow by up to \$98 trillion by 2050 if renewable energy adoption increases. Furthermore, renewable energy industries create millions of jobs worldwide, driving economic growth in both developed and developing nations.

In addition to economic growth, renewable energy helps reduce the long-term costs associated with climate change. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that air pollution, primarily caused by fossil fuel emissions, leads to approximately 7 million premature deaths annually. By transitioning to cleaner energy sources, the burden on healthcare systems can be significantly reduced, saving trillions in medical costs over the coming decades.

Misconceptions About Renewable Energy

Despite the overwhelming evidence in favor of renewable energy, there are still misconceptions that hinder its adoption. One common myth is that renewable energy is unreliable due to the intermittent nature of sources like wind and solar. However, advancements in energy storage technologies, such as lithium-ion batteries and hydrogen storage, have significantly improved the reliability of renewable energy systems. Large-scale storage solutions now allow excess energy to be stored during peak production times and distributed when demand is high, ensuring a stable and reliable energy supply.



Another misconception is that renewable energy cannot meet the demands of industrialized nations. Yet, countries like Iceland, which generates nearly 100% of its electricity from renewable sources, have proven that it is not only possible but also economically viable. Moreover, recent research from Stanford University has shown that it is technically feasible for the entire world to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050. The study emphasizes the need for a rapid shift in political and economic priorities to achieve this goal.

Research Backs Exclusive Use of Renewable Energy

Several scientific studies have concluded that renewable energy is the only sustainable path forward. A report by the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Research Group (IRERG) found that a complete global transition to renewable energy could reduce global CO2 emissions by up to 80% by 2040. This would not only slow the pace of global warming but also stabilize the planet's climate systems, preventing extreme weather events such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts.

One particularly influential study, conducted by the Global Climate Action Laboratory (GCAL), demonstrated that countries using 100% renewable energy have seen significant improvements in air quality, public health, and economic resilience. The researchers concluded that the exclusive use of green energy would lead to more stable economies and healthier populations in the long term.

Conclusion: Time for Bold Action

The evidence is overwhelming: renewable energy is the best solution for tackling climate change, ensuring economic stability, and improving public health. The time has come for nations worldwide to embrace this reality and make the transition to 100% renewable energy. While some may argue for a more balanced approach, the data and research make it clear that relying on fossil fuels is no longer a viable option. Countries must commit to stronger international cooperation, invest in green technologies, and shift economic policies toward sustainability. As the Global Climate Action Laboratory's research shows, the only way to prevent irreversible damage to our planet is through the exclusive adoption of renewable energy.

Why Choose Environmental and Energy Issues?

Environmental and renewable energy topics are among the most pressing issues in modern society. By choosing such significant themes, our club aimed to encourage readers to analyze information with greater vigilance.

The fake news article included fabricated claims about wind power, solar energy, and international cooperation, presenting them as scientifically verified facts. Readers were led to trust the content due to seemingly credible data and expert statements.

The Contents of the Fake News

Our fake news revolved around the controversial topic of "Trade Relations Between the United States, South Korea, and China," crafted to appear credible and convincing.

The key points were as follows:

1.Exaggerated Figures Regarding U.S.-South Korea Trade Balance

-Highlighted claims that the U.S. trade surplus with South Korea had reached an all-time high, inflating the numbers beyond reality.

2.Strengthened Exports to China and Economic Benefits

-Emphasized the economic benefits South Korea gains from cooperating with China while presenting overly optimistic prospects for future collaboration.

3.Criticism of U.S. Protectionist Policies

-Exaggerated negative evaluations of U.S. protectionist measures and amplified potential international conflicts arising from them.

The Design of the Fake News

The article was designed with the following elements to make readers believe the fabricated information:

- Sophisticated Data and Graphs
- Used visuals that resembled actual data to make the content appear trustworthy.
- Expert Quotations and Images
- Included fictitious expert statements and resource images to establish credibility.
- Complex Descriptions of International Relations
- Presented detailed and intricate explanations of trade relations and structures to confuse readers and lead them to misinterpret false information as fact.

Massive Surplus for the U.S. in Exports to Korea, While Korea Faces Deficit and Strengthens Exports to China

The U.S. trade surplus with South Korea is on track to reach a record high this year. According to the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy and the Korea International Trade Association on July 21, the U.S. recorded a trade surplus of \$28.7 billion with South Korea in the first half of this year, a 55.1% increase compared to the same period last year. At this rate, the U.S. trade surplus with South Korea could reach the \$50 billion range by the end of the year, surpassing last year's record of \$44.4 billion.



The U.S. trade surplus with South Korea has shown a steady increase, rising from \$11.4 billion in 2019 to \$16.6 billion in 2020, \$22.7 billion in 2021, \$28 billion in 2022, and \$44.4 billion in 2023. On the other hand, the U.S. has consistently risen in rank among South Korea's trade deficit countries. According to South Korean government data, the U.S. was not among South Korea's top 10 trade deficit countries as recently as 2021. However, the U.S. ranked 9th in 2022 with a deficit of \$4.39 billion (based on U.S. statistics) and climbed to 8th place last year with a deficit of \$5.14 billion. From January to May this year, the U.S. overtook Canada to rank 7th with a deficit of \$2.85 billion. The top six deficit countries for South Korea during this period were Vietnam, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Germany, and Qatar.

In response, the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) has announced a strategy to strengthen exports to China. On an annual basis, China has shifted its position in Korea's trade surplus rankings, moving from the top spot in 2018 with a surplus of \$55.63 billion to second place in 2019 with \$28.97 billion. In 2020 (\$23.68 billion) and 2021 (\$24.28 billion), China ranked third, before regaining the top spot last year.

The global trade order has been undergoing rapid changes in recent years. While the free trade system symbolized by the establishment of the WTO in the 1990s continues to operate, many countries, starting with South Korea, are increasingly aiming to position China as a major export market. These developments, along with discussions about the limitations of U.S.-led free trade, suggest that the U.S.-dominated free trade order is under threat.

Previously, many countries supported the continuation of U.S. hegemony in global trade. However, the U.S. has revived trade protectionism in an effort to secure an advantage in its competition with China. Trade protectionism involves policies such as tariffs, subsidies, import quotas, and other restrictions or barriers aimed at shielding domestic industries from foreign competition.

This approach, however, has faced criticism, particularly regarding the perceived double standards of the U.S., and has further destabilized the WTO framework.

"Economic Tensions: Korea-China vs. U.S."

South Korea's efforts to strengthen exports to China are widely seen as a significant challenge to the economic and diplomatic strategies of the United States. According to the Korea International Trade Association, South Korea recorded the largest trade surplus with China in 2022, with advanced technology exports, such as semiconductors and batteries, at the forefront.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has been advancing its own strategy to reinforce its domestic semiconductor supply chain and maintain a technological edge over China through initiatives like the CHIPS Act. However, if South Korea deepens its economic cooperation with China, it could pose a substantial setback to these U.S. strategies.

The U.S. Department of Commerce reported a \$5.14 billion trade deficit with South Korea in 2022, and a further expansion of South Korea's exports to China could exacerbate this deficit. Specifically, an increase in semiconductor exports from South Korea to China could directly impact the U.S.'s technological superiority.

According to Bloomberg, the U.S. may consider additional protectionist measures in response to South Korea's growing exports to China, which could heighten economic tensions between the two nations. The New York Times highlighted the possibility of rising dissatisfaction within the U.S. government over South Korea's pursuit of economic benefits through trade with China, which runs counter to U.S. policies aimed at technological protectionism.

Ultimately, this dynamic could introduce new challenges to the U.S.-South Korea alliance and negatively impact the United States' economic influence in the East Asian region.

Tech Tensions: Korea-China Ties



These changes are expected to significantly impact the technology and industrial sectors. South Korean semiconductor companies are vulnerable to U.S. regulations and may face disadvantages in the U.S.-led supply chain reorganization. On the other hand, an increase in South Korea's semiconductor exports to China could threaten the U.S.'s technological dominance and negatively affect its semiconductor self-sufficiency strategy.

Meanwhile, China's economy is undergoing a shift focused on domestic demand expansion and advanced technological development, creating a conducive environment for stronger cooperation with South Korea.

By leveraging this shift, South Korea aims to foster long-term economic growth, with potential mutual benefits in areas such as AI, cloud technology, and green industries.

China has already made progress in software localization, exemplified by its use of domestic operating systems for supercomputers like Sunway TaihuLight.

Additionally, with advancements in designing independent high-performance graphics cards, China is expected to allocate significant resources to develop supporting frameworks. This alignment offers opportunities for deepened collaboration between the two nations.

Why Focus on U.S.-Korea-China Trade?

Our club selected U.S.-Korea-China trade relations for the fake news experiment because of its global relevance and ability to captivate readers. As major economic players, the U.S. and China, along with South Korea's balancing role, made the topic compelling. Additionally, areas like semiconductors and batteries resonated with audiences, while the use of trade data and complex political dynamics added credibility, encouraging readers to accept the information without question.

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- 2.Strengthened Exports to China and Economic Benefits
 - Emphasized the economic benefits South Korea gains from cooperating with China while presenting overly optimistic prospects for future collaboration.
- 3.Criticism of U.S. Protectionist Policies
 - Exaggerated negative evaluations of U.S. protectionist measures and amplified potential international conflicts arising from them.

The Design of the Fake News

The article was designed with the following elements to make readers believe the fabricated information:

- Sophisticated Data and Graphs
 - Used visuals that resembled actual data to make the content appear trustworthy.
- Expert Quotations and Images
 - Included fictitious expert statements and resource images to establish credibility.
- Complex Descriptions of International Relations
 - Presented detailed and intricate explanations of trade relations and structures to confuse readers and lead them to misinterpret false information as fact.

Biden vs. Trump

Election Poster

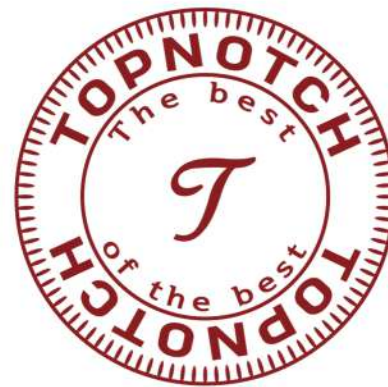
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2024 GAFL TIMES
TOPNOTCH 20th X 21th



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Cultural Identity of Ethnic Minorities in Animation

China's ethnic minorities possess unique cultures and traditions that enrich Chinese culture. To explore how these identities are represented in animation, I analyzed *The Colorful Clouds of Southern Yunnan* (2009) based on the study *Cultural Identity of Ethnic Minorities Represented in Animation*.

1. Representation of Ethnic Costumes and Ecology

The animation showcases traditional costumes of groups like the Bai, Yi, and Dai, highlighting their identities through intricate designs and vibrant colors. Bamboo, revered by the Yi and Dai, symbolizes ecological values and a spiritual connection to nature, depicted as both a resource and a cultural symbol.

2. Festivals and Unity Through Celebrations

Traditional festivals like the Torch Festival, symbolizing the spiritual significance of fire, are prominently featured. The festival scenes depict diverse groups such as the Bai and Yi celebrating together, illustrating cultural harmony and shared connections within the Chinese nation.

3. Cultural Identity and National Integration

The study concludes that ethnic minority cultures contribute to forming a unified national identity, blending tangible (e.g., costumes) and intangible (e.g., festivals) elements in the animation. This fosters empathy and integration among ethnic groups.

Ethnic minority animation highlights unique cultural identities while promoting national unity. As a visual medium, it powerfully conveys the richness and harmony of diversity, inspiring appreciation for China's ethnic minorities.

1. Introduce what the Student Organising Legislative Committee actually does, please.

The Student Organising Legislative Committee gathers suggestions from students, discusses them with other student committees, and focuses on revising school regulations. We also plan and lead class events while dedicating ourselves to fostering harmony within the class.

2. What is the most unique strength or characteristic of the Student Organising Legislative Committee compared to other student committees?

The most distinctive feature of the Student Organising Legislative Committee might be that it is the least visible compared to other student committees, haha. As you may know, our committee has fewer external activities than others. However, I believe the actual workload is just as significant as that of any other committee. Our defining characteristic is that we always strive to do our best behind the scenes.

3. Do you have any special episodes or experiences among the members that you could share with us?

During my term as chairperson of the Student Organising Legislative Committee, martial law was declared. In response, students requested us to draft a declaration regarding the national situation. I held a quick vote within the committee to decide whether to proceed. Looking back, I feel embarrassed because taking such a vote less than an hour after martial law was declared shows how inexperienced I was. That said, as the saying goes, "Those who feel neither sorrow nor anger cannot truly love their country," I was deeply moved by how many students showed concern about the situation. This episode was the most memorable for me in 2024.

4. What are the goals or plans of the Student Organising Legislative Committee going forward?

I hope the Student Organising Legislative Committee will become a more proactive part of the student committee in the future. Since we represent the voices of students, it would be great to take a more active role in school events and student-led initiatives. It's no exaggeration to say that student autonomy relies on student sovereignty. We will continue striving to be your voices. Thank you for your support in 2024.

1. What kind of activities does Judicial Committee do?

The Judicial Committee is a student council dedicated to maintaining order within the school. Its most notable duty is the assignment of OG (Out of GAFL) and GG (Good GAFLian) points. Based on the school regulations, the committee assigns these points, and if any student feels the need to contest them, they can appeal through the autonomous court.

Additionally, the Judicial Committee collaborates with the Legislative Committee twice each semester to hold discussion sessions aimed at revising the school rules, striving to create a more reasonable code of conduct. Other responsibilities include compiling end-of-semester points for the Hall of Fame, managing the Judicial Committee's open chat room, updating the cafeteria waste-sorting chart, supervising lunch services, and conducting dress code inspections.

2. What Makes Judicial Committee Unique?

The Judicial Committee stands out due to its highly systematic operations. It meticulously tracks and records the weekly total of OG and GG points and divides all tasks into specialized sub-departments. This division of labor ensures a high level of efficiency and flexibility, as communication between departments is seamless. Furthermore, the relatively small number of members fosters a close-knit and harmonious atmosphere, promoting smooth communication and a strong sense of belonging among the team.

3. Any special experiences in Judicial Committee?

When we're on duty for lunch monitoring, juniors and seniors work together, and during these times, sharing funny stories has become a small but delightful tradition. Senior members often share their personal experiences, which makes it even more enjoyable. Additionally, our judiciary committee members are quite close, so small episodes frequently happen. One of the most memorable moments was during the senior class's college entrance exam support event when one of our members, Junghyun, who was traveling in Japan, managed to prepare an online PR campaign for us. It was such a hilarious and unforgettable moment! 😊

4. What are Judicial Committee's future goals ?

We aim to create a more orderly and well-structured school environment, focusing on strengthening discipline and improving the overall regulation activities.

1. What kind of activities does Administrative Committee do?

The Student Administrative Committee is divided into seven distinct departments, each responsible for specific roles:

- Cultural Arts Department: Oversees major events such as GaFle Fiesta and Tutti Concert.
- Cultural Sports Department: Manages school-wide sporting events, including badminton tournaments and athletic meets.
- External Relations Department: Organizes orientation programs, Teacher's Day celebrations, and other internal events.
- Public Relations Department: Operates the Genie Paper, a platform for student communication.
- Finance and Economics Department: Drafts budgets for events and conducts surveys, such as those related to school store improvements.
- Planning and Information Department: Handles meeting minutes and oversees interview processes.
- Academic Support Department: Coordinates clubs, academic festivals, and career fairs.

2. What Makes Administrative Committee Unique?

The Administrative Committee stands out due to its extensive scope of responsibilities. Not only does it handle the organization and management of nearly all school events, but it also embodies a strong sense of student autonomy, making it a key pillar in fostering a self-governed school community.

3. Any special experiences in Administrative Committee?

The dance party seems to be the most memorable experience for me. As I prepared for the graduation party, I heard many stories about dance parties, which made me look forward to it a lot, and it turned out to be just as enjoyable as I had hoped. Of course, it's a program designed for all students to enjoy, but I felt a sense of reward as if I was being acknowledged for all the hard work I had put in, which made it even more unforgettable.

4. What are Judicial Committee's future goals ?

Our primary goal is to work alongside the 22nd-generation GAFlians to create a better school environment. We strive to remain a steadfast ally to all students and continue evolving as a dedicated and innovative Student Administrative Committee.

1. What does the IB Student Committee do?

IB Student Committee is a student council that volunteers to help IB students, organizing a variety of events and making sure the students follow the rules. The committee has a chair of the committee and is divided into four departments — Department of Academics, Department of Communication, Department of Justice, Department of Media Arts. The four departments each consist of grade 9 and 10 students, having various roles to make the students' lives much easier and happier.

2. What are the Roles of Each Department?

Chair of the committee: leads the committee by sharing important events, makes sure each department does its role.

Department of Academics: organizes class notes for further clarification and understanding, provides various resources for studying.

Department of communication: holds various events in IB like Meme Competition and GAFL Aesthetics, takes care of Instagram account.

Department of Justice: gives OG cards for students who do not follow the rules, and makes sure the school rules are followed.

Department of Media Arts: creates YouTube videos and shares the lives of IB students, showing creativity by making new content.

For more information, visit the IB student committee's Youtube channel and Instagram account!

3. What makes the IB student committee unique?

The committee also has a good, comfortable atmosphere and mood that invites all students for active participation. Although the committee holds great responsibility, the council activities are fun and provides valuable experiences that you will never undergo in the future! The IB student committee has a cute sky blue stadium jacket which gives great pride. So, continue to look for the committee's fun and helpful events!



1. What kind of activities does Counseling team do?

The Counseling Administration team is composed of three departments:

The Media Communication Department connects with students through SNS platforms like Instagram, offering comforting words and fostering deeper relationships with them.

The Peer Counseling Department provides support to friends struggling with psychological difficulties, helping them lighten their burdens and enjoy a better school life.

The Program Operations Department organizes various stress-relief activities, such as water balloon throwing events and "Potato Day," a program where students express gratitude by sharing letters and potato snacks with someone they appreciate.

Together, these three departments strive to enhance the happiness of all students at GAFL.

2. What Makes Counseling team Unique?

Counseling Administration team's greatest strength lies in its warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The committee operates a buddy system where seniors and juniors pair up, engaging in activities like taking walks together or cheering each other on during exams, creating a relaxed and supportive environment.

Additionally, Counseling Administration team's unique lavender-colored uniforms add a distinctive charm. The dove emblem on the chest symbolizes peace and reflects the committee's identity, setting it apart from other clubs and associations.

3. Any special experiences in Counseling team?

One memorable moment was during the initial meeting of the 20th and 21st committees, where we randomly selected senior-junior buddies. This activity was instrumental in breaking the ice and fostering close relationships. Another highlight was during "Potato Day," where we divided roles and collaborated to write and deliver letters. The process strengthened our teamwork and created a comfortable atmosphere, even for those who had just met. This positive dynamic has left a lasting impression, contributing to Counseling Administration team's reputation as a tightly-knit and cohesive committee.

4. What are Counseling team's future goals and plans?

Our ultimate goal is to provide greater support to students facing challenging situations, ensuring that Counseling Administration team becomes a reliable source of help when they need it most. To achieve this, I hope to introduce more programs and resources tailored to students' needs, helping them relieve their burdens and navigate difficulties. By doing so, we aspire to foster a healthier, more supportive, and joyful school culture.



1. What are the Dormitory Student Council's main responsibilities?

The council is responsible for improving the dormitory in various ways to make it a more comfortable space for everyone.

2. How does the council work, and what do you discuss?

Most activities are carried out by different subcommittees. The main topics of our meetings include issues related to the council's management and addressing students' complaints and suggestions.

3. How does the council work, and what do you discuss?

The process involves submitting an application and going through two rounds of interviews. Selection criteria include leadership potential and the ability to fulfill responsibilities. The number of positions per dormitory block is also considered.

4. How does the council work, and what do you discuss?

I didn't expect communication to be as challenging as it is. Sometimes, students' complaints or suggestions don't get communicated effectively.

5. How does the council work, and what do you discuss?

Prohibit intentional damage to the dormitory or violations of the rules. For example, losing OG points three times should result in being barred from living in the dormitory.

6. What rule would you make for the dormitory?

Prohibit intentional damage to the dormitory or violations of the rules. For example, losing OG points three times should result in being barred from living in the dormitory.

7. What challenge did you face, and how did you solve it?

Early in the year, a friend lost their OG points twice, and I had to contact the council president to resolve the issue. Later, I suggested creating a specific rule for OG-related problems to prevent similar misunderstandings.

8. How would you sum up the council's activities?

It's not easy, but it's all about protecting and improving dormitory life. The Dormitory Student Council is not just about listening to students' opinions—it focuses on making real changes in the dormitory. By encouraging responsibility and teamwork, the council continues to create a better environment for everyone. Through this interview, we gained a deeper understanding of the council's role and its importance. We look forward to seeing their efforts and hope for their continued success.

1. What kind of activities does ACT do?

ACT (Art Convention Team) is the Art Administration Committee at GAFL, responsible for promoting and organizing art activities within the school. ACT is divided into four departments: External Activities, Planning & Operations, Event Management, and Mural. The External Activities department handles communication and publicity with outside entities, while the Planning & Operations department is in charge of organizing most of the activities. The Event Management department plans and organizes internal art competitions, and the Mural department is responsible for art installations and murals within the school. Notable activities in 2024 include the sports event Polaroid event, Art of the Month, ACT X Social Issues, and a game-based escape room event called "GAFLiesta".

2. What Makes ACT Unique?

ACT stands out as a student committee offering valuable experience in administrative tasks within the art field. It caters not only to students with a passion for art but also to those with little experience, providing accessible programs that allow all students to get involved. The committee uses art as a tool to convey social messages and addresses social issues through exhibitions and projects. This approach differentiates ACT from other committees by offering both creative and socially meaningful activities for the school community.

3. Any special experiences in ACT?

There aren't just fun and exciting episodes to share, but also some memorable moments during the intense preparation process. Once, we worked so late that we ended up staying in school until 2 AM for group study sessions, and then resumed at 6 AM the next day, working through the night. Despite the exhaustion, we were all incredibly passionate, constantly waking each other up to keep going. There was also a time when we were so hungry after a long night of preparation that we secretly ordered food to the school! These episodes show the great camaraderie and positive atmosphere within our team.

4. What are ACT's future goals and plans?

ACT's main goal is to provide students with opportunities to communicate and grow through art during their high school years. We aim to create experiences that go beyond just making and appreciating art, offering moments that students can remember and cherish. For example, annual events like the Polaroid event and art projects addressing social issues are designed to leave students with unforgettable memories and meaningful experiences. Moving forward, ACT will continue to organize activities where students can express their individuality, ensuring that everyone in the school can participate and enjoy the experience. Ultimately, our goal is to offer opportunities for students to grow, inspire one another, and create lasting memories of their school years.

1. What kind of activities does CHIME do?

As the only club at Gyeonggi Academy of Foreign Languages (GAFL) involved in both a main club and a semi-student council, CHIME engages in a wide range of activities. As a media and journalism club, we write mini-theses analyzing various media outlets and create card news on topics related to the media. We also collaborate with other clubs through joint activities.

Additionally, CHIME plays an indispensable role in most school events, such as managing stage equipment for festivals like Tutti Concert and GAFLiestar. One of CHIME's signature events during GAFLier is the Rose Delivery Project.

2. What makes CHIME unique?

CHIME's most distinctive feature is the opportunity for diverse hands-on experiences. Whether it's communicating with many people, managing tasks efficiently, or handling technical equipment, the skills gained through CHIME are unparalleled and serve as a strong foundation for future endeavors. Members of CHIME have the privilege of participating in almost all school events, fostering a sense of belonging. Not to mention, we have exclusive access to keys for the Bongam Hall and the broadcasting room! 😄 We also stand out with our unique CHIME jackets, which are quite eye-catching.

3. Any special experiences in CHIME?

Since CHIME is involved in most school events, our members frequently meet. Two episodes come to mind right now:

The first happened during a lunchtime broadcast when we accidentally forgot to turn on the sound and had to start over. It was our first mistake at the beginning of the semester, and we were quite flustered and confused at the time!

The second was while preparing for the Rose Delivery Project this year. We filmed a promotional video, and watching our friends act was so funny that we had multiple outtakes due to laughter. It was such a fun memory!

4. What are CHIME's future goals and plans?

One of our future goals is to improve the quality of our videos, as some of our past works were rushed due to tight schedules. We aim to approach projects more calmly and produce higher-quality content.

For events like the Cherry Blossom Festival, we plan to introduce new CHIME-exclusive activities to engage GAFLians in unique ways. Please continue to support CHIME and its members as we strive to grow even further!

President | Jaewon Lee
Vice President | Chaeun Lee
Jueun Choi, 20th
Nayun Kim, 20th
Yunji Heo, 20th
Yuwon Baek, 20th
Junseo Lee, 20th
Yiju Jeon, 21th
Heeseo Han, 21th
Sieun An, 21th
Jisun Choi, 21th
Irene Im, 21th

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