PHOTO SECTION
A New Mountain to Climb

ON CAMPUS
Ups and Downs of the National R&D Budget

BUSINESS
The Sixth Transcendence: Redefining Communication

NATIONAL
Blurring the Borderline

CULTURE
Breaking New Grounds, Virtual Idols

REVIEW
A Wish Come True
The First Page

Turning the front cover of our magazine, the Editor’s letter is the first piece of writing you encounter. It is, indeed, the responsibility of this first page to grant an opening truly impressive enough to captivate its readers. Celebrating the first publishment of this semester, every word within these pages are infused with excitement. The concept of marking the first of anything — like the first page of this magazine — is surely thrilling.

The first of anything, though, can come as a heavy burden for some. With the phrase “New Year, New Me,” January urges us to change, challenge, and chase for the next big goal, only for March to chime in with the new semester. Even then, Kingos will be greeted with many more firsts throughout the rest of March.

For the reporters of the Sungkyun Times (SKT), the March issue was one of the many firsts of 2024. Embracing both zeal and worry, the SKT reporters strived to write articles that would mark a successful start to this semester. We proudly share some of our cub reporters’ articles: The Sixth Transcendence: Redefining Communication which delves into the 6G industry, Blurring the Borderline, shedding light on a blind spot of our society. Every article of our March issue awaits its readers, delighted to become a part of Kingos’ fresh new beginnings. We welcome you into the new semester with A New Mountain to Climb: the guide to embracing new endeavors and upcoming firsts that will embellish our future.

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The Sungkyun Times is always glad to hear your comments and suggestions. Please send your opinions via e-mail to sungkyuntimes@gmail.com and our website.

The Sungkyun Times is the official English news magazine of Sungkyunkwan University. Established on June 19th, 1970, the Sungkyun Times is published monthly throughout the academic year except during summer and winter vacations.
Professor Kim Dong-Ik, Close to Humanity’s Dream: Reverse Aging

The quest to combat aging has been a long-held dream of humanity. Aging is classified through the diagnosis code X97 of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), released by the World Health Organization (WHO). The key to future medicine, reverse aging, is close to being achieved within a few decades. As a result of the fierce competition over the past two years among 13 professional research teams in Korea, Prof. Kim’s SKKU research team will be awarded $20 billion in research funds until 2028. The research team plans to develop drugs, kits analyzing the effect of diagnoses and treatments for reverse aging, and a biological age measuring program, fundamentally aiming for the world’s best reverse aging technology.

Kim implied that hematopoietic stem cells can be the key to the development of reverse aging.
Building Memories in Korea from a New Beginning

Claire Delphine Hay
International Student

Q1. Please introduce yourself.
Hi, my name is Claire, and I am an international student at Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU). I am from Bonn in Germany, the city where Haribo and Beethoven are from! I began my studies at SKKU in 2023, so I will be starting as a sophomore this semester as a Film, Television, and Multimedia major.

Q2. Why did you choose Korea and SKKU?
I chose Korea because I used to be a huge fan of Korean music and dramas, and I am still mesmerized by the amazing cinematography and plots of Korean media. I used to film, direct, and edit my own K-pop dance covers and even won a few awards for them. I would love to do some new projects in the future, too. My dream is to become a music video or drama director in Korea, and I came to the conclusion that SKKU would be the best university to help me on my path. I have already met many inspiring professors and actors from our school and cannot wait to develop my creative skills starting this semester.

Q3. How is your life at SKKU?
My life at SKKU is completely different from my life back home. I would say my hometown and Seoul are polar opposites. In Korea, everything is very organized and fast-paced, while Bonn is a very calm city. Also, there is more of a sense of community in Korea. I think people are a lot less anonymous here, and my entire neighborhood is on a first-name basis. I have also had the opportunity to make many new friends, both Korean and international, by going out drinking at events like freshmen welcoming parties. I totally prefer the fast pace and novelty of studying in Seoul.

Q4. How will studying in Korea have an impact on your film career?
Since I plan on working in Korea later on, I think studying in this country is an important qualification I need to fulfill in order to make it as a foreigner here. I also hope that studying in Korea will help me broaden my networking connections. Additionally, in my opinion, Korean media is one of the best in the world. I think studying here will help me learn what makes K-media so interesting and captivating, making it possible for me to become one of the key players in the industry. I want to help the entertainment industry take a more global and inclusive approach to all sorts of projects in the future.

Course Add & Drop Period and Course Withdrawal Application

The Course Add & Drop Period is a system available to undergraduate and graduate students, offering a chance to either drop their registered courses or register for a new one. This process is equivalent to regular course registration, and one can drop their course through the same course registration website (sugang.skku.edu). Once a course is dropped, it is not possible to register again for the same course, as the spot would have been given to someone on the waitlist. However, if a space remains on the desired course, it is encouraged to try again during the Add & Drop Period. The Course Withdrawal Application is a system where undergraduate students can forfeit their continued enrollment for specific courses and the corresponding credits. Students can withdraw from a maximum of two undergraduate courses per semester, which is irreversible. Additionally, withdrawals will not be processed if only one or two courses are registered, and one cannot withdraw from one course to register for another. However, this does not imply that the course will be canceled. Withdrawn courses mean giving up on the corresponding course credits. These courses are marked as “W” on the transcript, and these notations will not appear from the fourth year.

Applying for a Student ID Card

Applying for a Student ID Card

A student ID card refers to a physical Kingo-M card, and Freshmen are required to submit individual applications used to enter the library on either campus, borrow materials, and access other services that require student identification. This ID card can be issued immediately at the Student Affairs Team on either campus. There is another form of this card, which includes the Woori Bank debit card function. It can be issued at a Woori Bank branch and the Student Affairs Office with proof of a Woori Bank account. This card can be used as a regular bank card and a rechargeable transportation card in addition to its standard features.

** Student ID cards serve as an official university identification for all enrolled, including international and exchange students and students on leave of absence. All student ID cards function as student verification and can be

* Freshmen are required to submit individual applications during the designated application period. Continuous applications are only applicable to freshmen after this initial period. For updated information, refer to the notice board on the SKKU website (www.skku.edu).

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Empowering Economics with Professor Chang

A person with even a slight interest in economics will be familiar with the YouTube channel, Chang Doctor Economics, which provides an easy and exciting way to learn about economics. The creator of this channel is Professor Chang Sun-ku, an adjunct professor at Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) and a lecturer in various fields. Therefore, the Sungkyun Times (SKT) is pleased to introduce Professor Chang Sun-ku.

Hello, I am Chang Sun-ku. I was accepted into SKKU in 1994 and majored in economics. I completed my bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at SKKU. Today, I am teaching as an adjunct professor on the same campus. I am also an economics instructor for civil servants and public labor attorney exam-takers.

Please introduce yourself.

I switched to economics because it was comparatively easy to get into. In fact, at the time, I was worried because economics uses mathematics a lot, and I was not too fond of solving math problems. Looking back, I feel it was a good choice, as applying various economic theories to reality turned out to be very fascinating.

Do you have any specific motivations for choosing economics as your major?

During your Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studies, you spent time at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. How have these experiences affected your career?

There are many different paths students can take if they continue to study economics and get a PhD degree. They can either become a professor to train students or work as a researcher in a national institute. In my case, I enjoyed teaching university students and test-preparers more than conducting research. I have been interested in teaching because I could share the message to a larger audience through my lectures. Teaching also allows me to learn from my students.

As one of the most popular lecturers on campus, do you have any special teaching methods?

The most important principle is to stick to the textbook. The role of the lecturer is to pick the best material and deliver the information thoroughly. Nowadays, some lecturers teach their students without textbooks and only use PowerPoint presentations, but I ensure to choose a suitable textbook first. Then, I go through it with the students and lead the discussion. Also, I use plenty of details from the textbook when making exam questions for my students.

How do you prepare lectures for different groups of students, such as undergraduates, civil servants, and accountant test-preparers?

The subject of economics is complex for students as it uses mathematics extensively. Recently, exam questions testing economic knowledge are becoming more difficult. Therefore, it is a challenge for me to improve students' test scores in a limited time. The content of certificate exams, such as accounting and civil service, are similar. However, the focus is a little different, so I analyze the sample questions for each exam and give an explanation that fits those sample questions. My lecture focuses on simplifying the formula, and I teach according to the range and difficulty of the exam.

As an economist with 30 years of experience, which economics topic are you most interested in?

The most interesting area for me is the platform economy. Nowadays, all markets are connected, while interaction plays an essential role. For instance, YouTube matches subscribers and advertisers with each other. I believe that economics is a realistic field that is not distant from the world. We can use economic theories to explain phenomena that cannot be explained in the real world. Recently, economics has been combined with philosophy, politics, and even psychology. For example, behavioral economics combines economics with psychology. I consider economics to be an all-inclusive field.

What motivated you to start your own platform, a YouTube channel called Chang Doctor Economics, where you distribute lectures for free?

Since my main interests in economics are platform and network economy, I started my YouTube channel in 2007. Since then, I have uploaded over 3,000 videos. The reason I continuously upload videos is for the students in my

Path to Becoming an Economics Instructor

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I was initially planning to study in the Department of Public Administration. However, before I entered university, I switched to economics because it was comparatively easy to get into. In fact, at the time, I was worried because economics uses mathematics a lot, and I was not too fond of solving math problems. Looking back, I feel it was a good choice, as applying various economic theories to reality turned out to be very fascinating.

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Q4 You continue to conduct research and teach economics. Why did you decide to broaden your career path into teaching as well?

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When do you receive the most satisfaction while running your channel?

I feel rewarded when I see a comment from a student who watched my lectures and passed the exam. Recently, I have received several comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. There have also been many comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. I feel rewarded when I see a comment from a student who watched my lectures and passed the exam. Recently, I have received several comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. There have also been many comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. I feel rewarded when I see a comment from a student who watched my lectures and passed the exam. Recently, I have received several comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. There have also been many comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. I feel rewarded when I see a comment from a student who watched my lectures and passed the exam. Recently, I have received several comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. There have also been many comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. I feel rewarded when I see a comment from a student who watched my lectures and passed the exam. Recently, I have received several comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. There have also been many comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. I feel rewarded when I see a comment from a student who watched my lectures and passed the exam. Recently, I have received several comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. There have also been many comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. I feel rewarded when I see a comment from a student who watched my lectures and passed the exam. Recently, I have received several comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university. There have also been many comments from students who have been accepted to their desired university.
composed of student councils from various universities, released a statement opposing the cut. After months of deliberation, a budget of ₩26.5 trillion was finalized last December, with a ₩600 billion increase from August, but still at a 14.7% reduction from 2023.

**National R&D Budget per Year (in ₩1 trillion)**

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<td>Budget</td>
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**Disruptions to Current Research**

The sudden decrease in the R&D budget caused significant confusion in the sphere of research. Since professors typically devise research plans with a previous budget in mind, unexpected deductions can hinder progress on ongoing projects. This deduction also threatens the livelihood of student research assistants, many of whom are non-regular workers. Although the Criteria for Using R&D Expenses for National Research and Development has set minimum pay standards, they are often not followed because of the lack of funds. Prof. Cho stated that due to the recent budget cut, some researchers had to instruct their graduate students to finish projects using previously gathered data instead of attending and conducting further work in the laboratory. In addition, the MSIT announced plans to gradually increase funding for outstanding new researchers but reduce them for the less competitive First Research in Lifetime Grant. Although this may be seen as an effort to accelerate R&D advancements, its lower selection rate can make it difficult for many new researchers to find a starting ground in the R&D industry. Some government-funded research institutes are concerned that such instability will increase the reliance on the Project Based System (PBS), where researchers secure external projects to finance research activities and wages. Should this persist, heightened competition for outside funding may lessen room for high-quality research outcomes, worsening the inefficiencies initially targeted by the budget cut.

**Dreaded Brain Drain**

The reduced R&D budget has left significant implications for the future of the research sector, exacerbating the avoidance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses. Last year, Jongro Academy, a private institution specializing in college admission, reported that 63.1% of applicants accepted into the Natural Science courses at Seoul National University, Korea University, and Yonsei University withdrew their admission and expected the majority to enter medical school instead. University students have also expressed their concerns about the issue. In a discussion about this R&D budget cut held by the University Students’ Joint Action and National Assembly last November 2023, Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST) and Yonsei University representatives shared that the trend of valuable talent leaking to medical fields or moving overseas could intensify. Furthermore, the budget decrease has also negatively affected those pursuing postgraduate education. According to a survey co-conducted by the Biological Research Information Center last October, 87.3% of undergraduate students considering graduate school said that the R&D budget cut would be a critical factor in their decision. This budget decrease has also not hindered students wishing to enter the research field but has also been a barrier that prevents the scientific community from reaching its full potential.

**Communication to Plug the Drain**

To alleviate the “brain drain,” the government must rebuild students’ trust in research careers, while institutions must create an environment that respects research freedom. First, students and researchers must be able to participate in the R&D policy-making process to share their perspectives on the aversion to STEM fields and postgraduate education. For instance, the University Student Policy Monitoring Group allows participating students to share opinions and ideas regarding youth policy. If a similar program were to be operated on an R&D-specialized, nationwide scale, the government would be able to reflect the students’ concerns and regain their confidence in research field careers to prevent further “brain drain.” Another possible solution is giving researchers an avenue to choose their preferred research topics.
No More Holiday Shutdown of Hypermarkets: Merciless or Satisfying?

The government hosted an open debate on January 22nd at the Korea Creative Content Agency Education Services Center to announce plans to end the forced shutdowns of hypermarkets on two public holidays every month, which has been in place since 2012. The obligatory closure of hypermarkets was enforced under the current Distribution Industry Development Act (DIDA) to safeguard small mom-and-pop stores that are usually comprised of local supermarkets and traditional markets. However, the industry structure of the distribution market gradually shifted from a competition between hypermarkets and mom-and-pop stores to one between online and offline retailers, which led to voices strongly arguing that the act only makes people’s lives tougher and more challenging. To address these concerns, the government reported a further plan to amend the DIDA by obliging hypermarkets to close on weekends rather than holidays. The revision of the DIDA would take some time until its full implementation since it requires the approval of the National Assembly. Meanwhile, hypermarkets and customers have welcomed the government unveiling the reform proposal. According to a 2024 investigation by the Federation of Korean Industries on consumer perception of distribution restrictions, 78.4% of 1,000 respondents supported eliminating or easing hypermarket holiday shutdown rules. However, the Korean Mart Labor Union fiercely opposed the rapid modification of the act, claiming it undermines employees’ quality of life while increasing both physical and psychological fatigue during work.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) launched the Climate Card demonstration project on January 27th, with a complete initiation planned for July 2024. The Climate Card provides unlimited use of public transportation within Seoul City, including Ttareungi, the bike-sharing system, at transit fees without regional boundaries. It is a policy that offers additional advantages to citizens of Gyeonggi Province via a linkage with another transportation project called K-pass, run by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport. The most distinguished feature of the Gyeonggi Pass from the Climate Card is that it can be used for every mode of transport, including wide-area buses. These numerous transit passes devised across various administrative divisions were created to reduce citizens’ financial burdens and alleviate the climate crisis by reviving public transportation. However, few experts showed concern that the passes might lead to civil chaos. Lee Young-soo, a researcher at the Public Policy Institute for People, stated in an open debate on January 16th that all international adoptions would be halted for two years, pointing to several charges of illegalities. The Norwegian government explained, “The risk of document forgery is so great that we cannot be sure that the children’s legal security is safeguarded,” as the primary rationale. Before the governmental decision, there was an investigation by the Norwegian newspaper Verdens Gang. Last May, Verdens Gang discovered purposeful deceit in the adoption procedure and further reported that a Norwegian woman had realized through a hidden letter that she had been taken away from her biological parents in South Korea decades ago. This raised concern among Norwegian authorities, who further found that international adoption companies were essentially snatching children from their biological parents illegally for profit. However, Norway is not the only country with a discernable record of overseas adoptions. In November 2023, Adoptionsectorum, the largest adoption agency in Sweden, declared that they would no longer accept new inquiries from South Korean children owing to suspicion of document manipulation, as reported by the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter. Moreover, last January, the Danish International Adoption (DIA) announced a temporary halt on overseas adoptions because of several problems raised by illicit affairs. The Danish Ministry of Social Affairs described the winding down of the DIA, which had been cooperating with numerous countries, as “the most serious crisis in the area of adoption in the past decade.” The adoption scandal in Northern Europe would have an omnidirectional impact on various countries.

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Innovative Launch of Public Transit Passes

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The Tentative End of International Adoption in Norway

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World Battery Industry Emergency Due to China?

The Ministry of Commerce of China proposed strengthening graphite export regulations last October, which was implemented on December 1st, 2023. Graphite is a vital material for cathodes, electrodes from which a conventional current flows out, that affects the efficiency of lithium-ion batteries utilized in electric vehicles. The material is divided into two types: synthetic and natural. Following the 2022 study by the International Energy Agency, approximately 80% of the world’s natural graphite mining is produced in China. Along with synthetic graphite, high-purity graphite was added to the controlled lists, and graphite exports function under a process where the Ministry of Commerce allows licenses for every single export. Although it is a limitation rather than an absolute prohibition, various corporations are concerned since China, the world’s largest graphite manufacturer, implemented considerable regulations that are expected to have an adverse impact on the industry. Last January, Bloomberg News noted, “After a rush to buy ahead of the deadline saw them surge to more than 45,000 tons in November.” Moreover, the Japanese newspaper Mainichi Shimbun reported that Japanese auto manufacturers working on electric-powered cars that utilize graphite as a crucial ingredient, such as Toyota Motor Corporation, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, and NISSAN Motor Corporation, are diversifying their supply chains in various ways in response to China’s regulations. Meanwhile, a commodity market analysis agency called Benchmark Mineral Intelligence commented, “More than 300 new graphite mines need to be built before 2035 to meet the demand for electric vehicles and energy storage batteries,” implying that the race for graphite will not stop in compliance with China’s graphite export control.
In January, Lee Jae-yong, the chairman of Samsung Electronics, announced a strategy to preempt the 6G telecommunications market as the company’s first major product of the new year. Although the public expectation for the commercialization of advanced intelligence is growing rapidly, concerns about the existing 5G technology still remain. The Sungkyun Times (SKT) examines Korea’s 6G market, discusses its economic pros and cons, and explores the prospects of the 6G industry.

By Jun Ju-won
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The Sixth Transcendence:
REDEFINING COMMUNICATION

The Sixth Hot Potato
Commonly known as 6G, sixth-generation mobile communication provides higher energy efficiency and a wider range of networks. In 2011, long-term evolution (LTE) incorporated 4G into mobile phones, enabling video streaming. In 2020, 5G innovated personal communication to an industrial infrastructure in factories. In essence, utilized technologies can change as new generation infrastructure evolves.

5G
- Internet of Things interacts between virtual spaces and reality
- Augmented Reality combines the real world and graphics simultaneously
- Virtual Reality separates the user from reality through special devices

6G
- Internet of Everything transmits and receives big data
- Extended Reality expands the range of data usage from two-dimension to three-dimension
- Artificial Intelligence automation endows computers with human-like characteristics such as intelligence

With the vision of expanding this convergence across societal domains, 6G aims to achieve ultra-wideband, ultra-connectivity, and ultra-low latency with global research and development (R&D) efforts underway. By incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into satellites, transmission speed is expected to be 50 times faster, with the number of devices that can connect to a single base station increasing by dozens of times compared to 5G. An essential piece of technology that enables this is Terahertz Frequency (THF). Here, Hertz (Hz) refers to the international frequency unit representing the number of vibrations per second. The THF band involves frequencies between 100GHz and 10THz as candidates for future 6G communication, which aims to be 50 times faster than 5G. The Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) forecasts that THF, capable of exponentially magnifying speeds, will be instrumental in the 6G industry.

Global R&D Trends
Since 6G can be integrated with various industries, there is fierce competition among many companies and nations. In the United States (U.S.), the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, established to forecast the 6G market, has founded the Next G Alliance, which has published a roadmap called White Paper to encourage enterprise collaboration. Europe, centering on the research financial support program named Horizon Europe, aims to lead the international challenge of energy saving through 6G innovation. Japanese wireless telecom company NTT DOCOMO is also pushing for a 6G attraction through national projects. Fueled by this global trend, Korea also selected 6G as one of its 12 major national strategies and has been vigorously fostering the development since last year. Samsung Electronics announced its foray into 6G R&D with the publication of the 6G White Paper in 2020, while LG succeeded in transmitting and receiving 6G over the world’s longest urban distance of 500m in December 2023. In support of these corporate challenges, the Korean government has invested W440.7 billion in 6G, striving to secure global leadership.

Strengths of the Korean 6G Market

Integration with Existing Industries
6G technology can be integrated with various sectors of daily life, making it highly practical. Its applications range from manufacturing to healthcare and entertainment, securing it as an essential technology that expands into the prospects of other industries. For example, within the manufacturing sector, 6G technology can enable automation that oversees the entire process, from autonomous vehicles to automotive sensors, by utilizing Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity. Another example is enhancing remote communication through smart glasses, an advanced form of non-face-to-face meetings. These cases of technological integration into everyday life are possible because the 6Gs internalization of AI largely broadens its frequency rate. Notably, an AI physics model enables an implementation on personal laptops, which is a substantial advancement considering that these tasks were
Despite the worldwide interest in 6G, the imperfections of the existing 5G technology are evident. Accumulated consumer dissatisfaction due to expensive service fees and the slow speed of 5G have led to an overall distrust in telecom companies. According to an interview with Money Today News on June 26th of 2023, a telecommunications official mentioned, “5G users are leaning towards LTE phones in favor of the relatively low cost.” Consequently, the government has been continuously demanding 5G telecom companies to lower their fees. It is undeniable that the three big telecom companies, KT, LG U+, and SK Telecom, failed to meet the target revenue of 5G sales set at the beginning of 2023. By the end of the year, they failed to utilize and returned all the 5G frequencies at 28 GHz that had been allocated by the government, expressing regret that the rudiments did not meet commercialization standards. Given that the initially planned 15,000 base stations became redundant, moving to the next industry without addressing the causes of failure has clearly been a white elephant. This also resulted in a decrease in the future Information and Communications Technology (ICT) fund revenues from the National Assembly Budget Office. As a result, the development of ultra-high frequency has been delayed, which is hindering the 6G industry.

### THF, A Growing Concern

A lack of foundation for THF, the key to 6G, is a major obstruction in commercialization. Due to the high-frequency range of THF, this inherent wave trait causes significant path loss over short distances. This defect requires advanced beamforming technology, which shapes frequencies into a beam, allowing the concentration of communication power in one direction by gathering disspating waves. However, in Korea, a network that connects multiple antennas on an ultra-fast basis is not available yet. On December 20th, 2023, the National Institute of Science & Technology (UNIST) developed a technology that can amplify THF electromagnetic waves, which improves the existing THF resonators by 300%. However, as waves travel, their distance is inversely proportional to the frequency. As a result, the significantly increased frequency of THF raises susceptibility to interference from overlapping waves. This interference can block the waves, from passing obstacles, setting off alarm bells against the tall buildings of Korea.

### The Jury Is Still Out

To become a forerunner in the 6G business, Korea must analyze the causes of failure in the 5G market and concurrently advance 6G technology with consumer demands. In an interview with Chosun Ilbo on January 4th, Professor Kim Beom-jun from the Department of Accounting at Catholic University of Korea pointed out that continuous network investment is necessary for the three major telecom companies to fulfill their social responsibilities as license holders. Hwang Jung-in, former President of the National Assembly Budget Office, also said, “The future depends on 6G acquisition. Unwavering R&D and investment are necessary.” The government needs to attract core industries for domestic companies, and companies should focus on improving the wide readability and safety of THF. Expanding base transceiver stations indefinitely without a stable base will confuse the network. Thus, initial state intervention is pivotal. For instance, the wireless backhaul can be applied to mobile communications, enhancing transmission speed and moving beyond the design phase. Referring to the THF implementation of the U.S., it can be practical for resolving interference issues. In 2017, the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency started a 6G project and operated the Joint University Microelectronics Program (JUMP) with a $200 million investment. The development of multi-user frequency expandable beyond 140 GHz, was achieved by adding adaptable antennas to resolve the interference issues. Similarly, although Korea is still in its infancy for 6G, it can capture both efficiency and safety in ultra-wide, ultra-precise, and high-performing THF.
Blurring the Borderline

On January 10th, the Gyeongsangnam-do Office of Education (GNE) and Busan Metropolitan City Office of Education (BMCOE) announced the expansion of support for basic academic achievement for students with borderline intellectual functioning (BIF). On the same day, the National Assembly announced a representative proposal for the enactment of the Slow Learner Education Support Act. Therefore, the Sungkyun Times (SKT) now delves into BIF, the current situation of those driven into a blind spot, and corresponding solutions.

IQ Normal Distribution Curve

IQ 70 or Below: Intellectual Disability

IQ 70 or Above: Average

By Chum Su-yeon
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Individuals with BIF need specialized education to reach standard levels because their learning ability falls short. Despite this condition, there is insufficient governmental support for education expenses and facilities for those with BIF. Consequently, it can lead to a financial burden for families needing private education to reach average levels. Nevertheless, if they encounter difficulties in keeping pace with classes, there are possibilities that they will face challenges in adapting to school. Since school is the place to develop social skills where having various experiences is essential, those possibilities may bring difficulties in building relationships.

Staying on the Borderline

Above all, people with BIF are far from being able to claim universal welfare provided for those with ID because their condition is not classified as one, according to the DSM-5. Not until October 2020 did the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) enact the ordinance to support lifelong education for people with BIF. It was only then that each local government began to conduct policy development. Referring to the previous ordinance, SMG established the BIF Center for Continuing Education in June 2022 and proposed the Comprehensive Educational Plan for BIF from 2023 to 2025 in January 2023. On January 14th, GNE and BMCOE announced that they would reinforce parent counseling and enhance initial literacy and numeracy for students with BIF. On January 14th, Ahn Min-seok, a member of the Democratic Party of Korea, announced a representative proposal for the Education Support Act for Slow Learners. Unlike previous bills that have been discussed in the National Assembly targeting adults with BIF, the current bill targets public education subjects. Although it is encouraging that attention towards BIF has increased, several issues are still to be discussed.

Borderline Intellectual Functioning in a Blind Spot

A Line Bounded by 69 and 71

Fundamentally, individuals with BIF are in a blind spot of social welfare because the standard of the current law depends solely on numerical figures. Although the gap between IQ 69 and 71 is minor, figure 70 determines whether one can be protected or not. The first problem derived from this criterion is that those with BIF cannot receive enough therapeutic support. There are supportive measures, such as a reduction of health insurance premiums for individuals with ID, but not for those with BIF. Although early detection and treatment are crucial for cognitive impairment, concerns exist regarding missing the “golden period” for treatment. The next problem is that there are no laws to protect people with BIF, even if they are likely to be the target of crime, especially fraud and sex crimes. In 2020, a 12-year-old girl with BIF was sexually assaulted by three high school students. The offenders were acquitted under insufficient evidence that the victim was caught smiling on CCTV and tested the offenders after the incident. In an interview with the SKT, one lawyer commented, “If she had an intellectual disability, she would have received legal protection under the Special Cases Concerning the Punishment of Sexual Crimes Act that would have sentenced offenders to life imprisonment or nothing less than seven years.”

Stuck between Boundaries

Individuals with BIF need specialized education to reach standard levels because their learning ability falls short. Despite this condition, there is insufficient governmental support for education expenses and facilities for those with BIF. Consequently, it can lead to a financial burden for families needing private education to reach average levels. Nevertheless, if they encounter difficulties in keeping pace with classes, there are possibilities that they will face challenges in adapting to school. Since school is the place to develop social skills where having various experiences is essential, those possibilities may bring difficulties in building relationships. Moreover, the welfare system for youth with for self-reliance established exact number has not been
Boundaries of Intelligence ≠ Boundaries of Life

From a Straight to a Curved Line

Radically, the current criteria for disability only based on IQ should be improved. To make the requirements more concrete, numerous factors, such as emotional intelligence quotient (EQ), sociality, and mental stability, should be added to test items. Furthermore, the condition should be subdivided into cases where intelligence is low but possible for social life, vice versa, and both low. Customized treatments for these three phenotypes should be extended based on the new standard. In an interview with the SKT, psychiatrist Jun Jong-ho stated, "As those with BIF are on the borderline, if neglected, they may be more vulnerable to ID. This proves the necessity of an early treatment that can improve the individuals' quality of life." In childhood, the diagnosis distinguishing cognitive functions must be mandatory, and medical services should be provided if issues are found. Public Health England recognizes BIF as a learning disability, and those with BIF are linked to support teams and receive healthcare and education services throughout their lives. In the case of crime prevention, carrying out primary treatment based on new criteria will significantly alleviate the fundamental problem of victims not recognizing that they are in a vulnerable position and being exposed to similar risks. However, legal systems should exist to protect them after the incident because not all crimes can be prevented, even with the new criteria.

Beyond the Line

From an academic perspective, dedicating effort to public education can be the ideal solution. In Germany, public education that would typically take two to three years is modified into a curriculum that takes four to five years with repeated training specialized for students with BIF focusing on practical training rather than studying theory. Moreover, BIF students must have the opportunity to develop their social skills by interacting with their peers. In the case of Northern Europe, all students, including the ones with BIF, are placed in the same class with an additional special instructor. To address the challenges of youth with presented BIF aiming for self-reliance, starting with conducting free assessments to determine their place on the scale is essential. Upon confirming the number, an adequate number of case managers should be deployed to support the needs of those with BIF. According to the 2023 study by the Korea Research Institute for Vocational Competency, 65.7% of those with BIF wanted self-reliance preparation programs and service support organizations. Lastly, job maintenance is just as crucial as employment; support centers need to distribute training manuals that explain ways to deal with workplace conflicts and, therefore, facilitate individuals' integration into society.

Individuals with BIF are stuck between boundaries. Not only are they unable to enjoy the everyday life of normality, but they can also fall outside of the protection system for disabled individuals. One in seven individuals around Kings has BIF. These individuals, like every other, could live as valued and respected members of society when the borderlines are blurred.

Balancing Irregularity:
The Reality of Non-Regular Employment

On December 8th, the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) announced guidelines to prevent discrimination against fixed-term, temporary, and non-standard workers. Non-regular employment has been controversial because of its unfavorable treatment over the years. Thus, the Sungkyun Times (SKT) seeks to lend an ear to the non-regular workers' appeals by exploring the reality of their labor.

Working as a Non-Regular Employee

Who Are Non-Regular Employees?

Non-regular employment is a classification criterion for employment types, such as fixed-term workers, temporary workers, and non-standard workers. Fixed-term and temporary workers cannot expect continuity of employment for involuntary reasons. Temporary workers are typically engaged for a short term or occasionally without any firm commitment that the work will continue. Non-standard workers are employed by an outsourcing company and dispatched to another company. Unlike regular workers, who do not have a fixed contract period and have a guaranteed retirement age, non-regular workers are subject to dismissal once the contract expires. Moreover, regular workers benefit from general salary raises and promotion systems, while non-regular workers do not, even if an agreement is extended. Due to these discriminant natures, irregular employment has been a controversial labor issue in Korea for a considerable period.

Changes in the System

Non-regular employment has surged in Korea since 1997, as a severe foreign exchange crisis hit the country and the government restructured the labor market. During this time, the government made employment protection regulations of the Labor Standard Act more flexible so that employee dismissals no longer need to be justifiable. This meant a significant increase in non-regular employment since companies preferred to pay smaller wages to non-regular workers rather than guaranteeing regular employees all their costly rights. To rectify the inequity issues resulting from previous policies, the government developed measures such as the Act on the Protection of Fixed-Term and Part-
The Main Issues of Irregularity

Working without Security

Non-regular employers have low job security since they have limited opportunities to become regular workers. Job uncertainty causes pressure on non-regular workers, constraining them to remain silent in events of unfairness. In an interview with the SKT, Shim Ye-eun (Sophomore, Department of Korean Language and Culture Education, Yonsei University) pointed out, “When I worked part-time, I did not get any bonuses, and I had no way of finding out whether I was getting equal treatment.” As guidelines provided by the government are mere suggestions, it is difficult to confirm whether they were implemented; therefore, the dualism of labor markets is intensified.

Guaranteeing Equal Benefits

To address the wage gap issue, it is necessary to first consider the value of non-regular and regular employees’ labor with equal parameters. An amendment to the Labor Standards Act, in July 2023 was proposed by adding a clause prohibiting discrimination according to employment type. In order to mitigate the extreme wage caps, firms should be encouraged to establish a reasonable wage system that considers a job’s importance, skill level, and productivity. Secondly, to reduce the gap in welfare benefits, the MOEL should make discrimination prevention guidelines sanctionable rules rather than mere recommendations. The Discrimination Correction System affects local labor offices, but implementing mandatory guidelines would make workplaces more conscious of their actions. Lastly, each party must be held responsible to follow the guidelines. For instance, the responsibility for proving discriminatory treatment should be imposed on non-regular workers, and the verification of equal treatment on employers.
Breaking New Ground, Virtual Idols

Virtual Idols in the Real World

Who Are They?
A virtual idol is a type of K-pop band that lives in the virtual world as a character. The first cyber singer in Korea, Adam, debuted in 1998. His debut album Genesis was a big hit, which sold around 200,000 copies, and his significance even reached the national news. However, despite high public interest, Adam’s activities were suspended after the second album due to technical limitations. In the late 2010s, the introduction of the virtual universe by various K-pop idols led to virtual reality beginning to make a mark again. In particular, the girl group Aespa introduced a new K-pop idol through the use of virtual technology, making a splash in the K-pop industry. The virtual boy group Plave proved its popularity by surpassing 200,000 sales for its first mini album on August 2023.

The Craze behind K-Virtual Idols
Virtual idols who have appeared like comets are gaining notable success. Among them, Isegye Idol, Mave, and Plave stand out as examples of successful groups.

Isegye Idol
Isegye Idol is a six-member girl group that debuted on January 25th, 2023. They are fictional characters that are not based on real people. The music video for their debut song, Pandora, achieved incredible success, reaching 10 million views within 13 days of its release.

Mave:
Mave is a four-member girl group that debuted on January 22nd, 2023. They are fictional characters that are not based on real people. The music video for their debut song, Pandora, achieved incredible success, reaching 10 million views within 13 days of its release.

Plave
Plave is a five-member boy band that debuted on March 12th, 2023. These characters are played by real individuals. Their digital single titled Merry PMinas was released on December 12, 2023, and was ranked seventh on the Melon Top 100 chart in only six hours.

Inside a Screen
Although virtual idols created a new horizon in the K-pop industry, various limitations remain. The process of manually correcting technical errors is not possible due to real-time broadcasting, causing accidents such as a character’s hand or leg bending in front of the audience. This shortcoming breaks the audience’s immersion and ultimately disrupts the bond with fans. Moreover, even though two-way communication with fans has become easier, the fans’ inability to meet their idols in person is a major obstacle. In offline activities such as concerts and fan meetings, fans are bound to only meet idols through the screen, which creates a psychological distance.

Future Hype of K-Pop
Although virtual idols are still in their beginning stages, technological developments can break down the boundaries between real and virtual idols. Regarding graphic limitations, two-dimensional (2D) motion graphics compositor PingPong explained to the SKT that graphical errors during live broadcasts could be solved with numerous trackers and cameras, as well as large studio spaces. Additionally, agencies of virtual idols could impose legal regulations on indecent behaviors against them. If a virtual character is identified as the character of an actual individual, criminal acts such as malicious comments, deep fake videos, and sexual harassment become punishable according to the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment of Sexual Crimes. Completely designed virtual idols can also be legally protected through the obstruction of business violation of the Information and Communication Act, or copyright infringement.
Resurrection of Korean Rock

In 2005, a broadcasting incident involving the South Korean indie punk band Couch marked the beginning of a dark age for Korean rock. However, Korean rock slowly saw a revival in 2020 with significant achievements, such as the 2023 Pentaport Rock Festival and the psychedelic rock band Silica Gel's recognition at the 2023 Melon Music Awards (MMA) in December 2023. Explore the resurrection of Korean rock with the Sungkyun Times (SKT).

The Great Rock Depression

After this brief golden age, Korean rock faced the dark ages in the 1980s due to the military regime that imposed regulations on music. After decades, members of the bands Couch and Spiky Brats unexpectedly stripped their clothes off during a live broadcast on television in 2005. This problematic scene spread widely through a live broadcast on MBC Music Camp, further exacerbating the negative view of rock music. As a result, the younger generation turned to hip-hop music, deprived of the opportunity to consume "rebellious" rock music through television. Additionally, the development of the K-pop industry further marginalized the position of rock in the contemporary mainstream music market. Lee In-sook, a former Professor of Modern Music at Suessung University, told the SKT, "Rock bands require equipment that necessitates meticulous sound checks, which makes rock bands economically challenging businesses to maximize the profit from performances."

Let Us Rock and Roll in Korea!

Rock embodies the aesthetic of explosive youth resistance. The SKT introduces two places in Korea to experience tearing guitar sounds, pulsating bass, and drumbeats unfolding on the foundation of a hard sound.

The Origin of Rock Music

Rock is a music genre born from the fusion of country music, rhythm and blues (R&B), and soul music, which often expresses messages of resistance and rebellion. Rock music gained mainstream recognition with the emergence of the world's first rock star, Elvis Presley. Subsequently, American rock music and culture were transmitted to South Korea through live clubs, commonly known as 'bam-mudae.' The pioneer of Korean rock, Shin Joong-hwan, began his music career in a bam-mudae. He formed Korea's first rock band, Add4, and released the album Women in the Rain in 1964.

The Emergence and Comedown of Korean Rock

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Revival of Rock and Roll

Face-Heel Turn

Amidst its dark times, the Korean rock scene ironically found a platform for resurrection from hip-hop music, which had taken away many rock fans. In the late 2010s, stars such as XXXTentacion emerged in the American hip-hop scene, actively incorporating rock influences into their albums. They introduced a sound that drew inspiration from pop-punk and emo-rock, among other rock subgenres, characterized by catchy choruses and emphasized guitar sounds. These American hip-hop stars also showcased rock culture in their music videos and fashion styles. The influence towards Korea led to the experimental genre trend combining emo-rock gaining momentum, with the Korean rapper C.Jam's album KEUNG released in 2019. Hwang Doo-ha, a critic from the Korean hip-hop magazine Rhythmer, commented, "After the release of KEUNG, it was evident that quite a few artists were trying to emulate C Jam's style," highlighting the impact of this experimental genre on the broader landscape of the Korean music industry.

Rock and Y2K

The trend of Y2K, as well as hip-hop, also contributed to the revival of rock in Korea. The Y2K style returned after 20 years to represent the perpex lifestyle of the late 1990s and early 2000s. Naturally, pop-punk singers who were emblematic in that era, such as Avril Lavigne, have once again resonated with the public. In 2022, news related to the When We Were Young American emo-pop-punk festival generated the top spot on the Billboard Trending chart. The rock boom under the influence of Y2K also created new waves in various music genres. The K-pop group Tomorrow X Together (TXT) from the dominant K-pop agency HYBE successfully showcased the pop-punk sound by collaborating with the pop-punk rocker Mod Sun on the track titled OXYLOVESONG (I Know I Love You), released in 2021.
The beginning of a new school year brings a sense of renewal and opportunity. Now is the perfect time to reflect on the past and embrace a successive beginning to draw a new future. On this page, the Sungkun Times (SKT) portrays Gunsan Oreum: a small, defunct volcano on Jeju Island. Miniscule, yet intricate patterns of the volcanic rock formations line the pathway towards the apex of the Oreum. This striking landscape, filled with an interplay of light and shadow, invites its visitors to embody an emotion that transcends time. Feel the melodical breeze of Jeju and embody the future!

By Kim Jeong-han
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A Wish Come True

Happy Birthday, Disney!

A Wish from Disney

Wish is a fantasy musical animation film created to celebrate Walt Disney Company’s 100th anniversary. The movie pays homage to many of Disney’s previous classics, such as Snow White and Tangled. Wish was in the spotlight when Disney announced the centennial milestone because of its 100-year celebration because of its famous directors and the production staff. The main director of Wish, Chris Buck, is a renowned Disney producer who has directed several celebrated movies, including Frozen and Tarzan. The fans’ excitement peaked when Disney unveiled the film as its 100th anniversary film of the Walt Disney Company, and released on January 3rd, the Korean Film Council announced that Wish recorded 700,000 ticket sales in Korea during its first week of release. As a symbolic film marking the centennial of the studio, Wish commenced the box office of 2024.

Happy 100th birthday to Disney! The studio birthed every fairytale’s dream and wish come true! Look up into the sky with Asha and make a true, hopeful wish. Wish will bring back the time when “once upon a time” was the most exciting magical line and the beginning of every fairytale. So just keep wishing, because your fairytale is yet to begin.

Close your eyes and make a wish. The story of a wish yet to come true is about to begin. Created to celebrate Walt Disney Company’s 100th anniversary, Wish tells the adventure of awakening a star to save the dreams of a young girl, Asha. Step into the story of a magical wish, unraveling Disney’s centurial with the Sungkyun Times (SKT) along the way.

Wish is underscored by musical references to classic Disney melodies. In addition, the original soundtrack (OST) is reminiscent of the musical fantasy of Disney’s century-long history. The animation and videography of Wish also play a role in creating a nostalgic atmosphere. The iconic watercolor animation takes the audience back to the origins of Disney. Moreover, Wish also draws attention to the evolution of Disney characters’ values through its main character, Asha. Initial Disney classics were characterized by the cliché story of a princess meeting a prince who makes her wish come true. However, in Wish, Asha acts as a symbol for all modern princesses by figuring out her wish autonomously and making her dream come true through her choices and plans.

Disney through the Years

Disney designed Wish with many references from past classics. Asha’s cloak in Wish is the same as the Fairy Godmother’s cloak in Cinderella. Furthermore, the seven friends of Asha in the movie pay homage to the seven dwarfs in Snow White, with each friend’s name starting with the same letter as the corresponding dwarf’s name. Such Easter eggs invite the audience on a magical trip across time with Disney.

Beware of What You Wish For

Although Wish marked a successful milestone in the century-long history of Disney, it seems far away from being approved by movie critics. In a review article, Forbes described Wish as a “disaster and disappointment” because of its loosely designed storyline framed into the cliché “plug-and-play princess movie with the silly sideskicks” formula. Furthermore, BBC movie critics stated that the movie felt like an awkward marriage between old and new days, all leading up to a “lukewarm conclusion.” Indeed, it is unavoidable that the movie was an attempt to replicate past successful movies to celebrate the anniversary. Despite playing down the magnitude of excitement from watching a new film, such criticisms of Wish were something Disney was ready to face, producing a movie dedicated to the preceding years of classical Disney.

Synopsis (*Spoiler Alert)

Once upon a time, a girl named Asha lived in the Kingdom of Rosas, ruled by the mighty magician King Magnifico. On her grandfather’s 100th birthday, Asha approaches King Magnifico in the hopes that he will grant her grandfather’s wish. However, King Magnifico denies her request and locks down on her wish. From this event, Asha senses that King Magnifico is hiding dark intentions. She tries to convince her friends that the king is not as good as he seems, but no one listens. In despair, Asha looks up at the sky and sings out her dreams. Suddenly, a magical star appears and tells Asha that it will help her bring down King Magnifico. Will Asha reveal the malicious king’s dark side and make her wish come true?

The Classical Disney

As the 100th anniversary film of the Walt Disney Company, Wish is underscored by musical references to classic Disney melodies. In addition, the original soundtrack (OST) is reminiscent of the musical fantasy of Disney’s century-long history. The animation and videography of Wish also play a role in creating a nostalgic atmosphere. The iconic watercolor animation takes the audience back to the origins of Disney. Moreover, Wish also draws attention to the evolution of Disney characters’ values through its main character, Asha. Initial Disney classics were characterized by the cliché story of a princess meeting a prince who makes her wish come true. However, in Wish, Asha acts as a symbol for all modern princesses by figuring out her wish autonomously and making her dream come true through her choices and plans.

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Once upon a time, a girl named Asha lived in the Kingdom of Rosas, ruled by the mighty magician King Magnifico. On her grandfather’s 100th birthday, Asha approaches King Magnifico in the hopes that he will grant her grandfather’s wish. However, King Magnifico denies her request and locks down on her wish. From this event, Asha senses that King Magnifico is hiding dark intentions. She tries to convince her friends that the king is not as good as he seems, but no one listens. In despair, Asha looks up at the sky and sings out her dreams. Suddenly, a magical star appears and tells Asha that it will help her bring down King Magnifico. Will Asha reveal the malicious king’s dark side and make her wish come true?

The Classical Disney

As the 100th anniversary film of the Walt Disney Company, Wish is underscored by musical references to classic Disney melodies. In addition, the original soundtrack (OST) is reminiscent of the musical fantasy of Disney’s century-long history. The animation and videography of Wish also play a role in creating a nostalgic atmosphere. The iconic watercolor animation takes the audience back to the origins of Disney. Moreover, Wish also draws attention to the evolution of Disney characters’ values through its main character, Asha. Initial Disney classics were characterized by the cliché story of a princess meeting a prince who makes her wish come true. However, in Wish, Asha acts as a symbol for all modern princesses by figuring out her wish autonomously and making her dream come true through her choices and plans.

Disney through the Years

Disney designed Wish with many references from past classics. Asha’s cloak in Wish is the same as the Fairy Godmother’s cloak in Cinderella. Furthermore, the seven friends of Asha in the movie pay homage to the seven dwarfs in Snow White, with each friend’s name starting with the same letter as the corresponding dwarf’s name. Such Easter eggs invite the audience on a magical trip across time with Disney.
An Invitation from Gwangju

The crisp air from the last cold snap of early March is yet to fade away. Nevertheless, budding flowers and blissful sunlight, as well as the buzzing atmosphere on campus, are sure to melt the hearts of Kingos. How about welcoming this new, vibrant season with a short trip? Here is an invitation from Gwangju, the southwestern city of Korea, that will welcome Kingos with its various gems. Now, open the invitation with the Sungkyun Times (SKT) to explore the iridescent lights and charms of Gwangju, awaiting to embellish the new beginnings of Kingos.

Light Village: Bitgoeul

“Light Village: Bitgoeul,” a pure Korean word that means “Light Village,” produces many virtuosos of Korean traditional music. As the city of democracy and peace, Gwangju is also known as the home of three charms. In the 1980s, Japanese colonialism, and the Gwangju Democratic Movement, which inspired a nationwide resistance against the suppression of colonialism.

Bitgoeul, a pure Korean word that means “Light Village,” producing many virtuosos of Korean traditional music.

First, as the city of democracy and peace, Gwangju is the home of three charms. For its versatility, this city of light became another name for Gwangju. In the 1980s, Gwangju, a city in South Jeolla Province, is one of the six official metropolitan cities of Korea. In the 1980s, Bitgoeul, a pure Korean word that means “Light Village,” became another name for Gwangju. For its versatility, this city of light is also known as the home of three charms. First, as the city of democracy and peace, Gwangju is the home of righteousness, or ye-hyang, which translates to “home of art.” From producing many virtuosos of Korean traditional music in the past to currently hosting the Gwangju Biennale Festival every two years, the city has continuously upheld its artistic heritage. “Home of taste,” mi-hyang, is the last name of Gwangju. Five main dishes, including songjeong teogsal (grilled short rib patties) and horibap (barley rice), as well as the Gwangju World Kimchi Culture Festival, prove the significance of this title. These three charms are infused in every corner of Gwangju, captivating the hearts of its visitors.

How to Visit

To travel from the Humanities and Social Sciences Campus (HSCC), Kingos can take Line 4 at Hyeohwa Station and get off at Sinyungsan Station. Leave the station at Exit 3 and take the Yongsan Station KTX to Gwangju Songjeong Station. Leave the station at Exit 4 and take Line 1 at Gwangju Songjeong Subway Station to get to Namgang Station. Then, leave the station at Exit 3 and walk for 15 minutes to arrive at the House of Choi Seung-hyo in Yangnym-dong. Kingos leaving from the Natural Sciences Campus (NSC) can take Line 1 at Sungryemunwan University Station and get off at Yeongtaek Station to take the SKT. Get off at Gwangju Songjeong Station, and the rest of the route is identical to the route from the HSSC.

From the Virtue of Righteousness: Ui-hyang

Spirit of Independence at Yangnim-Dong

Stepping the tranquil roads into Yangnim-dong, Kingos can see the House of Choi Seung-hyo. This house is a traditional Hanok built in the Japanese colonial period by an independence activist named Choi Sang-hyeon. It was later purchased by Choi Seung-hyo, whose name eventually became the title of the house. The Hanok’s rough wooden texture harmonizes with the verdant landscape, gifting its visitors a picturesque view. Seokgansu, a narrow stream of water flowing out from the rocks behind the house, creates a small pond in the front garden, completing a pristine atmosphere. Within this ethereal view, Kingos must create a small pond in the front garden, completing a pristine atmosphere. Within this ethereal view, Kingos must

245 Bullet Holes, 245 Stories

Taking the Geumnam 55 bus for about five minutes from Yangnim-dong will take Kingos to Yeonil Building 245, the site of the Gwangju Uprising of 1980. This building was renovated as an exhibition building to commemorate the fight for democracy in this nation after the National Forensic Service identified 245 bullet holes on its walls that prove the helicopter shootings by the military.

Exhibit inside Jeonil Building 245

The first destination for Kingos is Yangnym-dong, where visitors can appreciate the brisk forest air and the beauty of Hanoks, traditional Korean houses that hold remissent traces of the Joseon Dynasty.

To travel from the Humanities and Social Sciences Campus (HSSC), Kingos can take Line 4 at Hyeohwa Station and get off at Sinyungsan Station. Leave the station at Exit 3 and take the Yongsan Station KTX to Gwangju Songjeong Station. Leave the station at Exit 4 and take Line 1 at Gwangju Songjeong Subway Station to get to Namgang Station. Then, leave the station at Exit 3 and walk for 15 minutes to arrive at the House of Choi Seung-hyo in Yangnym-dong. Kingos leaving from the Natural Sciences Campus (NSC) can take Line 1 at Sungryemunwan University Station and get off at Yeongtaek Station to take the SKT. Get off at Gwangju Songjeong Station, and the rest of the route is identical to the route from the HSSC.
Furthermore, on the third floor, an exhibit titled *5.18 and the Press* reports the history of governmental suppression of the freedom of the press during the uprising.

Lastly, in the basement, a coffee shop called 245-G looks like a cozy resting place for its visitors. The SKT encourages Kingos to take a seat on the retro couch and reminisce about the values of resilience, justice, and freedom that this city upholds.

### Hub of Asian Art

**To Its Thriving Artistry: Ye-hyang**

**Hub of Asian Art**

After appreciating Gwangju as the home of righteouness, it is now time to venture into the city as the home of art. This next journey begins at the Asian Culture Center (ACC), which preserves the tradition, manifests the present, and foreshadows the revolutionary future of Asian art and culture. Not only does the ACC capture the artistic beauty of Gwangju, but it also encompasses the entirety of Asia, functioning as the home of Asian art. The exhibition at Kingos must visit is the permanent exhibition, which showcases art pieces that encompass the entirety of Asia, functioning as the home of Asian art.

**A Roadmap of Follies**

Now is the time to leave the planned exhibitions and begin to appreciate the daily charms of Gwangju through a folly tour. The original definition of a folly is a piece of architecture that merely serves as a decorative sculpture after losing its functional purpose; however, follies in Gwangju are responsible for urban regeneration. In Gwangju, various series of follies structured with specific themes surround the city in an organized pattern. As the sun slowly sets, travelers can let follies guide their walk around the city, only to realize that the charms of Gwangju have already taken place in their hearts. For Kingos, the SKT recommends a short walking course called the Gwangju Folly Tour III. The tour starts with a view folly, located on the rooftop of Gwangju Visual Content Center right near ACC. The bright pink, stripe-patterned folly lends a step into the city for Kingos to view the glimmering night view of the city for Kingos craving a warm dinner, a cook folly called Cheongnyang is the next destination. It serves Bulgogi jeongol in a Hanok building that adds a cozy atmosphere. Ultimately, enjoying the nightlife of Gwangju while following various follies can bring Kingos unprecedented joy in the middle of the seemingly plain sights of the city.

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**Good War, Bad Peace**

Recently, the peace of humanity has slowly been breaking down with the threat of war increasing in many countries. In particular, the Russia-Ukraine War in February 2022 and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that erupted in October 2023 heightened international tensions. Additionally, as the pro-American political party won Taiwan's 2024 presidential elections in January, disputes among China, Taiwan, and the United States (U.S.) have escalated to extremes. The Chinese government has warned that peace will depend on the outcome of the Taiwan presidential election, intimating the possibility of using force. As a country in an armistice, Korea is also nearing a war crisis. Two U.S. experts on North Korea, Robert Carlin and Siegfried Hecker, commented in January that there is a great possibility of Kim Jong-un, the Supreme Leader of North Korea, making a strategic decision to start a war just as his grandfather did in 1950. In response to North Korea, Yoon Suk-yeol, the president of South Korea, expressed a strong willingness to retaliate at a Cabinet meeting in January.

The New Cold War perpetuates the remnants of the Cold War and creates a perilous atmosphere that extends to the present day. It is not an exaggeration to say that every moment human history has always been with war. According to American historian Will Durant, the No War era is only 270 years long among the 3,500 years of human history. However, there have also been consistent claims for anti-war. From ancient Greek philosophers to humanitarianists, numerous Western thinkers have claimed anti-war. In the East, Mohism typically opposed the offensive war during the Warring States period. Even during World War I, socialists held a Zimmerwald Conference to support the war's end. During World War II, an international peace organization, the United Nations (UN), was established at the suggestion of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the U.S. president of that time. The clamors for peace still exist today. Authorities arrested 18,000 Russians for participating in anti-war protests in response to the Russia-Ukraine War, and 500 students from Massachusetts University were arrested while protesting against the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hence, the movements for peace have continued with the history of war to this day.

Unfortunately, most efforts that have advocated for peace have been persecuted. Yet, the anti-war movement will be the key to keeping the world peaceful, especially during the precarious recent conditions. The flap of a butterfly's wings can return as a tornado on the other side of the world. Even a minor idea or action against war can lead to peace, saving countless lives. Wars producing terrible sacrifices must stop. As Benjamin Franklin claimed, "There never was a good war, or a bad peace." Now is the time to shout anti-war. The world should recognize that nothing is better than peace. How will our era be marked in history? With war or peace?
Dive into thought-provoking debates with SKFC. Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. for three hours, we debate on a wide array of topics including but not limited to politics, social issues, culture, economics, and law. In line with our slogan, “Youth towards Diversity,” we encourage the discussion of multifarious perspectives to lead our generation into the future. Join us also for the exhilarating Freshman Debate Competition at the end of every semester.

Seongbulhoe Recruiting (HSSC Central Student Club)
- Recruitment Period: Continuous

The Buddhist club Seongbulhoe is welcoming new members! Embark on a spiritual journey through our Dharma Gatherings, where you can have insightful discussions with experienced monks and practice mindfulness alongside club members with our meditation challenges. We also offer volunteer activities, temple stays, and joint Dharma Gatherings. As members of the Korea Buddhist University Federation (KBUF), share your experience with like-minded individuals from other universities.

SCOOP Recruiting (HSSC Central Student Club)
- Recruitment Period: Continuous

Welcome to SCOOP, an all-women’s basketball club of SKKU! We are in search of new players to join our club this season. If you want to improve your basketball skills or meet people with similar interests in basketball, we have the perfect club for you. We train on Mondays, Thursdays, and either weekend at Sanggye Middle School, HSSC, and NSC respectively. Each semester, including holidays, our members must pay a club membership of W35,000. We are excited to meet the talented new faces of our club’s next championship!
THE
SUNGKYUN TIMES
58-1학기 수습기자 모집

기자 모집 일정
원서접수
3월 4일(월) ~ 3월 10일(일)

필기 및 면접시험
필기 | 3월 11일(월) [오후 6시, 서면 진행]
면접 | 3월 12, 13일(화, 수) [시간 추후 공지, 대면 진행]

지원자격
4학기 연속 활동 가능한 재학생

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