

No. 198 JUNE 2023

THE Sejong Times



CAMPUS

ChatGPT:
To Higher
Education

SPECIAL

I'm a God

CULTURE

Cognitive Bias:
Framing Effect

SOCIETY

The Fall of
Junior Officers

Sejong University Campus English Magazine



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Published by Sejong Times at 209 Neungdong-ro, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul, Korea
Registered on Oct. 7, 1980

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Registration Number: Ma-2186 | **Phone:** 02-3408-3355 | **Email:** thesjtimes@sejong.ac.kr
Publisher: Bae Deg-hyo | **Faculty Editor:** Lee Chung-hun | **English Advisor:** Todd Tate
Editor-in-Chief: Lee Su-jung | **Editor:** Kim Ye-bin, Jeong Ji-yoon, Cha Jun-seok, Park Seong-O
Cub-Reporter: Kang Eun-ji, Kwak Ji-ye, Kim Do-hyeun, Lee Jae-min, Jung Gwang-su
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I would ask, *why*.

Everything was new when I first came to Korea to study at Sejong University. I had to introduce myself to every person I encounter because it is my first time seeing them. I often find it difficult to talk about myself with new people because where to start? Is one to two sentences long enough to describe who I am?

One of my teachers in high school asked me on the first day of school, "Introduce yourself using one word here. Which of the five words here do you place the value on?" I saw the paper on the table where the words, *What*, *Where*, *When*, *Who*, and *Why* written on.

I thought what an interesting way of introducing oneself. Then I immersed myself in thought. I would say, I am the kind of person who places the value on the word, *Why*. Motivation is always important for me. It is the stimulus that makes me keep on going. Thus, finding the reason for everything I do is my priority over all other things.

When I am choosing a topic for the next article, I ask myself, *why do I want to talk about this topic? Why do readers have to know about this article?* Likewise, I looked for the reasons why I should be the next editor-in-chief of the Sejong Times when I was asked to be the next leader. I concluded that the reason why I should be the following editor is that providing an opportunity for the readers to learn new information is what makes me exhilarating. Everyone has the right to learn the news, and I want to be the one to provide the tool for people to do so. I am beyond excited to be the next editor-in-chief of the Sejong Times, and I promise not to forget *why* I decided to be the next leader.

I am the kind of person who put value on *why*. What about you?



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Globalization of Our School

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Sejong University has ranked high in the World University Ranking every year. One of its factors is that it is continuously focuses on the international mobility. Let's find out about the globalization of Sejong University with a brief interview with professor Cho Jin-woo from our school's office of International Affairs.

Q :How many international students are currently at Sejong University?

A: Currently there are about 1100 undergraduate students, 1100 students in graduate school, 500 out to study abroad, and 150 inbound students. Among those 2800 students, over half of them are from China, 25% are from Uzbekistan, and the rest are diverse from Vietnam, Pakistan, Nepal, Malaysia, and much more.

Q: What are some courses that are prepared for undergraduate international students?

A: Sejong University is proud to provide seven learning tracks consisting of entirely English lectures. This includes departments such as media & communication, business administration, hospitality & tourism management and computer engineering. There are of course, Korean tracks which half of our undergraduate students are currently taking part of. Classes are prepared in Chinese for Chinese students majoring in education, music, and Chinese trade & commerce.

Q: What types kinds of support can students get at each departments of the Office of International Affairs?

A: We very recently established our SOS center, short for Sejong One-stop Center. Before that, we still had many students administering, but we had problems to manage and help every students to adjust to our school. The SOS center now helps the overall lives of international students in our school, from administering to graduation, as well as finding employments. It regularly hold job fairs and classes to learn about Korean laws and their visas. It also opens festivals for students to enjoy Korea's traditional foods on holidays. Also the Department of External Affairs is managing partner universities with countries such as France, Germany, and Spain for exchange students.

Q:What do you think is the most important factor in regards to globalization?

A: More than anything else, I hope Korean students and foreign students will be able to blend in. Korean students might have some complaints about foreign students delaying the classes, whereas foreign students have a hard time keeping up due to language barriers. We are currently trying to prepare more activities for international students to blend in with Korean students, as well as with each other. Festivals and events are often noticed via SNS accounts and emails, so I hope every student feel free to join actively.

Q: What are some programs that might be available in the future? Are there any words for students who are currently in or planning to come to Sejong University?

A: We hope to have more English courses for different fields and hope to meet students from more diverse countries such as Japan, Vietnam, and Mongolia, especially graduate school students. Moreover, language is a big part of students adapting in a foreign country, so we hope for students with high TOPIK scores so that they will feel more comfortable using Korean.

I hope students will visit our SOS center more actively. We can provide assistances from our SOS center anytime, but most importantly, be well-prepared for classes and participate in school events.



Chat GPT:



To Higher Education

By Kim Ye-bin

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Sejong Times Editor

Technologies such as deep learning, algorithms, and big data are only narrow or weak AI. Chat GPT, a form of generative or strong AI was launched last November. It is easily accessible without installation of special programs or expertise thus seen used in various fields. By its deep learning technique, which is a type of machine learning that automatically learns itself without any special input, it is able to collect and utilize massive amounts of data. This enables Chat GPT to have not only natural conversations, but also problem-solving skills in order to write reports, translate, and even conduct art activities. Unlike the existing search engines, it is able to write an essay just in seconds by typing a brief question. Chat GPT proved its amazing learning ability by scoring in the top 10% for the SAT and the bar exams. Chat GPT reached as many as 1 million users within just 5 days of its launch. It is time to think about the impacts of such powerful AI on education.

A student in Korea was caught while submitting the answers from Chat GPT for an book review writing assignment in a university. In another university, an education program to root out plagiarism online was conducted and the students signed a pledge that they won't use Chat GPT for assignments. The Ministry for Science and ICT is planning to introduce the Bill of Digital Rights within this year, which won't have any legal force but contains the rights and responsibilities of citizens, businesses, and the government.

Universities abroad have introduced special lectures about AI ethics. In addition, programs in order to detect chat GPT are being introduced, such as Classifier, GPTZero, and Detect GPT, though it is still in the development phase so its accuracy is still quite low.

Without clear standards, while there are positive opinions that using Chat GPT is an attempt to incorporate new technologies into education, but there are also negative views that it is only a case of plagiarism.

"I approve the usage of chat GPT because utilizing useful tools in order to overcome one's limitations is a part of learning."

-Prof. Jeong Seung-ik of Seoul Cyber University

"We taught math to students in an era where we have electronic calculators. Now the challenge for educators is teaching students how the world has changed, and how they can adapt to that change."

-Prof. Ethan Mollick of Warthon School of the University of Pennsylvania

One of the remarkable advantages of chat GPT is that it can collect data more effectively. Students will be able to spend less time collecting and analyzing huge amounts of data and invest more time to come up with creative ideas instead. Chat GPT can also be used as a substitute for teachers and can work as an individual tutor to have mock debates and learn to actively solve problems. Furthermore, even a person with much knowledge won't be able to catch up with AI's vast amount of data, which is still developing. Being able to use this educational tool will be able to help the students realize their full potential. Changes will be needed in education to catch up with the era of rapid technological change instead of restricting them,

“Generative AI probabilistically creates ‘appropriate’ expressions, not ‘accurate’ content. Users should recognize it being far from the truth and be aware of the illusion of creating something that do not even exist.”

-Research report from National Assembly Research Service :
<Emergence of ChatGPT and Challenges in the Field of Artificial Intelligence>

Chat GPT is able to provide vast amounts of information, but its reliability is still questionable. It only summarizes information on the internet, and never says “I have no idea” and instead makes up information with sources that doesn't even exist. An expert might be able to detect the errors but a student in the learning process might unconditionally accept it. Furthermore, Chat GPT only gives out straightforward answers, not the ways leading to those answers. This will inevitably reduce the students' learning abilities in the long term. Furthermore, allowing students to use Chat GPT without a method to distinguish it only seems like a providing a way to cheat.

It therefore looks like Chat GPT won't be able to be perfect substitutes for existing educational methods. However, unlike the previous educational methods that simply required vast amounts of knowledge, creativity and originality is becoming an important virtue for students. Thus, preparation and discussion are needed before the introduction of Chat GPT in educational fields.

At the time when the internet was first introduced, people were amazed at its convenience but were also afraid of how fast technology was developing and even attempted to restrict it. But now, decades later we found ways to utilize it properly and even found ways to integrate it into education. As many technologies did, AI such as Chat GPT will soon become a part of our lives and we will have to go through the process of finding ways to cope with it. An AI business leader stated, “The future will be not about finding answers, but about finding great questions leading to answers.” To obtain accurate and creative answers, *great questions* will be continuously required.

Send a message.



1,000 Won Breakfast

By Kwak Ji-ye

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Sejong Times Cub-Reporter



There was no suitable place to have breakfast at Sejong University for students who came to school early due to having a morning class. Sejong University's *1,000 won Breakfast*, which has been conducted since May 1st, is a project that reduces the breakfast skipping rate of university students and promotes the consumption of rice. The project first started in 2017, and it has recently attracted a lot of attention. The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) announced that support would be expanded as much as possible by drastically increasing the number of universities, budgets, and students in order to implement the project.

This project autonomously started at universities. Which began with Soonchunhyang University in 2012, Chonnam National University in 2015, and Seoul National University in 2015. It then spread to other universities, such as Busan National University and Chungnam National University in 2016. MAFRA reviewed the introduction of the 1,000 won breakfast project in 2016 and promoted the business and budget plan in 2017. The government's support plan was reviewed via surveys on the operation of a university, which was part of the rice consumption promotion project, and a plan to revitalize rice consumption was established in 2017. It is operated in such a way that students pay 1,000 won, the government provides 1,000 won, and the universities pay the rest. This significantly business is now expanding. MAFRA doubled the number of students under the project from 690,000 to 1.5 million, and the budget was increased from 780 million won to 1.59 billion won. This is due to the popularity of the project. Students are showing specific positive reactions especially in regards to the project by heading to school early in the morning in order to eat breakfast on a first come, first served basis, because they can have breakfast for only 1,000 won. The number of students wishing for the business to be continued rose from 97.9% in 2021 to 98.7% in 2022, and recognition about the importance of breakfast also increased from 90.1% in 2021 to 91.8% in 2022, which are according to a survey that was conducted by MAFRA in 2022.



Kwon Joon-yeop, the Deputy Director of the MAFRA

"The 1,000 won breakfast was a great help during my school life as well as for exam preparation. Now that I'm in charge of this policy, I'm going to help university students enjoy a well-prepared breakfast and take care of their health and social advancement."

Kwon Joon-yeop, is currently in charge of the policy as an official at the MAFRA, and he was a regular customer of the *1,000 won breakfast*, when he prepared for exams and studied at school from 2018 to 2020. He passed the administrative examination in 2021 and became an official director of the *1,000 won breakfast* at the Food Industry Department of the MAFRA from December 2022. Kwon said this project is necessary for university students who skip breakfast, which is often due to a lack of time and social conditions. He also reminded us that he could develop his dream as a public official, by enjoying this project. He achieved his dream with the assistance of the project, and he is now in charge of it. He is passionately working in order to expand the *1,000 won breakfast*.

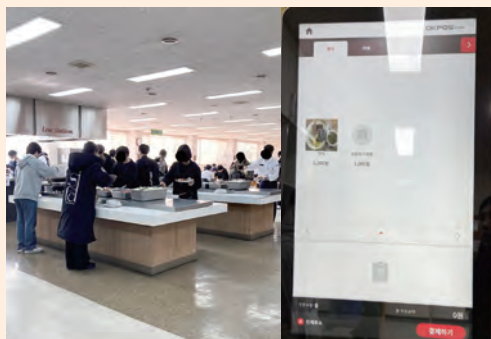
Many universities applied for the *1,000 won breakfast* because of the sharp increase in prices. The percentage of people who do not eat breakfast is the highest in the 19 to 29 age group at 53 percent, so the *1,000 won breakfast* project has currently expanded, which is expected to have a positive effect on students in regards to recognizing the importance of breakfast as well as taking care of meals with the participation of more universities.



The 1,000 won Breakfast at Sejong University

Students can eat Sejong University's 1000won breakfast at Gyejeolbabsang, which is on the sixth floor of the Gunja Hall. It is offered to 300 people according to the order of arrival from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. It is available to any Sejong University student on weekdays until June 21st. The project, which is prepared by Sejong University's student council and the Student Support Agency, is said to have been prepared for more students than before by discussing with the school about the welfare of the students. I visited our school's 1,000 won breakfast on the first day of the project, which was May 1st.

You can choose a 1,000 won breakfast by using the kiosk after you enter Gyejeolbabsang. You can also choose 6,000 won menu items for lunch and dinner, so you must be careful when you choose the 1,000 won breakfast. You can get a meal ticket, a plate, and a spoon after you pay, and you can then freely choose six side dishes and soup. It is a very high-quality meal in regards to the price compared to the fact that triangular gimbap costs about 1,400 won at a convenience store. Let's discuss the opinions from two students who finished their meals. Student A lives in the dormitory, and student B, commutes to school.



Student A said that she often skipped breakfast, because there was no suitable place to eat early in the morning. Student A said after finishing her meal on the first day of the project that she will come to the restaurant more often, because the food tastes good and satisfies her. She hopes the project will continue in the future.

Student B lives about an hour and a half away from school. He replied that he cannot come to eat breakfast every day, but he would use the system on the days of his morning classes. It takes a long time for him to commute to school, so it was difficult for him to eat breakfast due to having to leave home early, which made him hungry and tired. He also said that he cannot eat until the afternoon if there

is a series of lectures, which made it difficult for him to concentrate on his studies. He said it was very nice to eat well-prepared Korean foods at a low price with the introduction of the 1,000 won breakfast. He said that it felt like eating at home instead of eating instant foods.

Students think highly of this project, which positively effects both their schoolwork and health. This project was introduced to our school this year, and it is receiving many positive responses. If students continue to use this program, it will be considerably helpful; in order to have a healthy and enjoyable school life.



The New Library

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Our school has been remodeling the library since February. The remodeling was initiated to make the old library more useful and comfortable. The construction is scheduled to run from February to September 2023, and the asbestos removal and the heating & cooling installation of the library are presently completed. A special system has been in operation since May 15th. People cannot read books in the library, but book rentals can be obtained at the temporary rental room, which is located on the 7th floor, after applying in advance. You can request books by e-mail and receive them. Specific information about the rental procedure is well described on the library's website notice. This system will be continued until the first and second floor access gates are fully installed, and it is expected to be completed at the end of September. However, online usage education must be observed on the library website before being able to obtain a rental. The education takes about 10 to 15 minutes, and it can be completed on a computer in the temporary rental room. However, there is only one computer, so if you complete the education beforehand, you can borrow a book quickly. Furthermore, alternative classrooms for students to use during the construction are available in the Jiphyeongwan, Gwanggaeto Hall, Idanggwang, and Sejong Hall. Go to the timetable in the announcement on the library website for more information and specific time schedules. We will discuss next how the library will be changed on each floor.

B1 and the 1st floor: The YOUNG ZONE

The first basement floor and the first floor, which only had study room desks before, will be changed into individual and group learning spaces where IT devices can be used. There will be a multimedia room, a multimedia education room, and a free reading room for tablets and laptops.



The 2nd floor: COEXISTENCE

The second floor is where the lobby is located. It will be changed into a knowledge creation space where free discussion, learning, resting, and communication are possible. In addition, there will be some group study discussion spaces and cafes. There were no suitable places to sit or study in the past, so this floor will be developed into various types of learning spaces.



The 3rd and 4th floors: The ZERO ZONE

The third and fourth floors will be changed into knowledge learning spaces that can be used quietly. It will consist of a space where individuals can intensively study, and the use of electronic devices will be prohibited.

The 5th floor

Books are provided beginning from the fifth floor. There are books in the general, philosophy, religion, social science, natural science, technology science, art, and language fields from the 000 to 799 categories. You can also find books for assignments here. There are seats you can use, which are not available now, but you can use them after when the construction is complete.

The 6th floor

Books that range from 800 to 999 in the field of literature and history are available on the 6th floor. Also, there are English books, various theses, and OECD data. It should be noted that you are not allowed to check out theses.

The 9th floor

There are publications, such as magazines, academic journals, newspapers, reference books, sheet music, classical books, and recommended books on the 9th floor.

There are many newly developed facilities from the first basement floor to the fourth floor. Construction is ongoing in order to make the library a more pleasant and better place. Students are unable to freely borrow books due to the construction during this semester, and they are heading to other places to study. The library will become a valuable space for students if they effectively use it more often after the construction is completed.

Maurizio Cattelan

<WE>

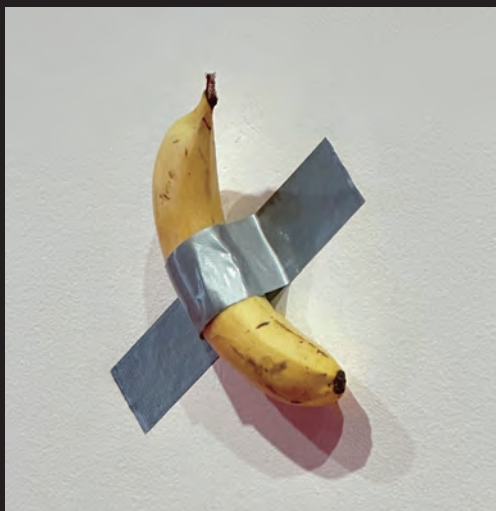
By Lee Su-jung
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 Sejong Times Editor-in-Chief

Can a banana on an empty wall be seen as a work of art? In 2019, a banana duct-taped onto a wall was sold for 120,000 dollars in Art Basel Miami, which caused a big controversy in the contemporary art world. Everyone began to pay attention to Maurizio Cattelan, who created this artwork. Cattelan, who was born in Italy, presents works that satirize the political, religious, social, and the art worlds with wit and paradoxical humor. The first exhibition in Korea is presently being held under the title *WE*. The exhibition is open until July 16, 2023, at the Leeum Museum of Art in Yongsan-gu, Seoul, and it introduces a total of 38 hyper-realistic works of art, including sculptures, installations, murals, and photographs.

Visit the exhibition by Maurizio Cattelan, who is the most controversial artist of this era, to find out what message he is throwing to the world. The appreciation and interpretation of his work is up to you to decide and judge.



The Ghost (2021)



Comedian (2019)



Donghoon and Junho (2023)



Donghoon and Junho (2023)

Donghoon and Junho (2023)

Cattelan's new exhibit this year. Two homeless people, *Donghoon and Junho* (2023) at the entrance of the Leeum Museum of Art, welcoming visitors.

Is there a designated person who is the only person who is invited to the art gallery? Why did Cattelan give this exhibit a familiar Korean name?

Comedian (2019)

One of Cattelan's best-known installations. A student, who is an art major at Seoul National University, peeled the banana and ate it, and the student reattached the peel back to the wall by using the existing tape on April 27th, 2023 during the exhibition.

Do you consider his action as a form of modern art? What comes to mind when you see a banana stuck on a wall?

The Ghost (2021)

Taxidermized pigeons can be found on the floor of the exhibition hall, but at ticket offices, next to exhibition names, and on the window frames.

What message does Cattelan convey through this work?

Maurizio Cattelan said,
"My ideas are all the same but look different."

Repurposing Waste

By Lee Su-jung

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Sejong Times Editor-in-Chief

The earth is our home and where we live. The earth is facing serious environmental issues at the moment, so protecting the earth has become one of the most essential assignments for humans. Many companies are also joining the project of saving our environment, and they are trying to practice ESG management¹ as one of their attempts to achieve their sustainability goals. We are going to discuss various companies and brands that are introducing innovative products that have been reborn via the process of upcycling² in this article.

1. Using environmental, social, and governance factors to evaluate companies and countries on how far advanced they are with sustainability.

2. The reuse of discarded objects or materials in such a way to create a product of higher quality or value than the original. It is different from *recycling*, which means *re-use*, because *upcycling* emphasizes completely transforming the original object into a new product.



©freitag.com



Freitag

Freitag is one of the first fashion brands that started using upcycling in its manufacturing process. It is a Zurich-based bag retailer that was founded by brothers Marcus Freitag and Daniel Freitag. They use upcycled truck tarps and create unique items, such as backpacks, shoulder bags, laptop bags, and even some accessories, which include phone cases and small wallets. The collected old tarpaulins are first taken apart, carefully washed, and cut into different sizes. They are then redesigned and hand-sewn by designers and craftsmen. All products are manually designed, so each one of the products is the only one in the world. Freitag is loved by many people worldwide, and you can even see people wearing them here in Korea. If you are curious, you can visit Freitag stores in Korea, which are located in Hongdae, Apgujeong, and Itaewon.



©solmatesocks.com



Solmate Socks

Solmate Socks is an apparel brand that started in 2000 in the United States founded by Marianne Wakerlin. They create whimsically mismatched socks and accessories using a curated palette of recycled yarns. Marianne started her business with the simple idea, "Life's too short for matching socks." With this simple but unique idea of her own, her brand manufactures colorful socks with different patterns on the left and right. The heel of the socks is double knitted, and the ankle is cushioned to make socks worn comfortably. They create fashionable socks with special color matches that are also comfortable to wear, and above all, they use environmentally friendly materials.

While some brands create bags and clothing through the process of upcycling, there are also food companies that practice food upcycling³ to reduce food waste.

3. Greenhouse gases generated from food waste account for 8-10% of global emissions. Various studies are being conducted to reduce food waste and one of them is food *upcycling*.



©climatecandy.com



©reharvestshop.com

FAVES

The U.S. food startup, *Pureplus* launched its first snack brand, *Faves* in 2021 as a sustainable food alternative to reduce food waste emissions. Six carrots, three beets, one sweet potato, and half a pumpkin are used to make one bag of Faves, known as *Climate Candy*. The agricultural products used in manufacturing are wastes that are not for sale. Here, *waste* refers to agricultural products that have not been selected for sale through agreements with officials in the agricultural sector or are about to expire because they are not sold. Companies collect and convert them into a vegetable powder that can be used to produce new products, applying upcycling. The co-founder and CEO of Pureplus, Amy Keller said, “Faves started to upcycle healthy fruits and vegetables to make candy that is good for people and to solve the climate crisis as well by preventing food waste” and highlighted that “Our brand products are making actual effects of reducing food waste.”

RE:harvest

RE: harvest, a combination of *Re* and *Harvest*, is a domestic food company that goes through food upcycling process to make its products. They make healthy food by utilizing by-products generated in the food manufacturing process. People sometimes are reluctant about making food from by-products by misunderstanding it as food waste, and Min Myung-joon, the CEO of RE:harvest emphasized that by-products and food waste are completely different in that they extract only the necessary ingredients and refer to them as by-products. The company has taken advantage of the things that were thrown away and created its new *renergy powder*. RE:harvest’s *renergy powder* made by beer by-products, has an average of 1.4 times more protein and 18 times more dietary fibers than regular flour, so it is highly nutritious. In addition, RE:harvest used the renergy powder to create an actual product for sale, which is *renergy bar* that is similar to a protein bar, resulting in food upcycling that saves 11kg of carbons to produce 1kg of renergy powder.

Both the fashion industry and food production companies are creating innovative ways to deal with waste on the earth. Why don't you join these environmentally friendly bands and make wise consumption?

✝ I'M A GOD

By Lee Jae-min
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A documentary series was released on Netflix, *I'm a God - People Whom God Betrayed*, which deals with four *cult-religion* associations in Korea, and it caused significant issues during the first half of 2023. As a result, public hostility toward cult-religion has been increasing since the release of the documentary. Most of these religions form a strong centralized system toward the leader, and they consist of a structure where no institutions or people are equivalent to the leader. The leader could make their believers kill other believers who are on the opposite to what they believe by using what they call a well-made structure, and they brainwash their believers cause severe harm to these people.

We discuss three cult-religions that are based on this documentary, which include *JMS*, *Aga-dongsan*, and the *Manmin Central Church*. Their evangelism method is very subtle because they approach normal people by disguising themselves as university clubs or by conducting surveys about topics that are completely regardless of the religion they preach on the streets and they continue to contact them until they become believers. They continue to *imagemaking* in order to prevent their believers from leaving, as well as to hide their true colors

These made-up images have been expanded from offline to online and from Korea to the whole world. For example, both *JMS* and *Manmin Central Church* promoted the image of *globalization* in the 2000s, and gradually began the process of *de-Koreanization*.



Topic 1

JMS: Christ of the 1980s

“At that time, there were no churches college students could gather at that time”, “*JMS* was almost a paradise for college students.” A formal *JMS* believer said.

JMS began in the 1980s with the younger generations. In the beginning, college students who were fascinated by Jeong Myung-Seok, who is the leader of *JMS*, and they created a *JMS* club in their university and launched a missionary campaign in order to install *JMS* deeply into the campus of the university district. Why were they fascinated by the leader?

First, *JMS* is a highly progressive religion. A former believer said, “The regular churches are very conservative, whereas *JMS* was progressive.”, “There were so many activities that I could do, and there are many people in 20s I could get to know, so it was a lot of fun for the young generation.”. There were many activities in *JMS* that people couldn’t enjoy in general churches, so the bonds between believers had become stronger.

The Second point is related to the historical background of the times. The 1980s was a period of a military dictatorship, and the democratization movement was active. There was naturally no space for students to gather, because the freedom of assemblies and association was prohibited. Religious facilities were almost the only place for students to gather during these chaotic and gloomy times, and *JMS*, a religious with highly progressive characteristics, seemed to be suitable for the younger generations during that time.

Third, the doctrines and teachings of the leader are totally different from the conservative church leaders. A former believer said, “I couldn’t always believe all the things that are written in the Bible, which include the issue of salvation, and the issue of resurrection, and I had a lot of thoughts about them, so I visited *JMS* when a friend of mine said, ‘There is a person here who has read the Bible 2,000 times.’”

The leader might seem as if he scientifically analyzed the Bible and explained it in a clear way for a believer to easily understand it. However, the Bible is interpreted and taught as the leader’s wishes behind the scenes and not by the true meaning of the Bible. Nevertheless, it was enough to steal the hearts of college students at the time, so the *JMS* became a large group with 30,000 believers.

However, the leader of *JMS* fraudulently made the possessions of the churches into his own property and additionally committed crimes against his followers. Two of Korea’s official religious groups, the *Korean Presbyterian Church* and the *Christian Korean Methodist Church*, cited *JMS* as an *anti-Christian association* in 2002 according to their own judgments in regards to Bible interpretation, church management, and anti-Christian acts against the Trinity, such as resurrection, and resurrection. Also the church leader has continuously raped female believers since the organizations and establishment and appointed the believers with strong faith as *reporters* so that the reporter could continue to make the leader to rape young females. They a jury sentenced the leader to 10 years in prison for these crimes. Nevertheless, *JMS*, which has many believers, is still active to this day, and it is conduction missionary activities in various universities and colleges.



Topic 2

Agadongsan: Her Darkness.

“You obtain eternal life in paradise on earth.” That’s how *Aga-dongsan* began. *Aga-dongsan* is a religion that was founded by its leader Kim Ki-soon, and it is defunct now, but it was active in the 1980s. The leader created a collaborative village-type religion in 1982, which was called *Aga-dongsan*, and moved the believers to *Aga-dongsan* in groups to live. The leader illegally acquired money that was generated based on the believer’s labor force by fraud. The believer’s who didn’t obey were indiscriminately injured or killed. The believers who died, which was due to opposing the leadership, were buried in *Aga-dongsan* in order to cover up the crimes. In addition, she tried to forcibly rape male believers. Then the leader was indicted for these crimes, but due to various inconsistencies and a lack of evidence, which included some believers recanting their testimonies, the church owner was indicted only for tax evasion and embezzlement. Currently, *Aga-dongsan* was collapsed, but the leader has been released from prison and is taking a lot of money from other sources.

Shinnara Records is a record chain established by religious leader Kim Ki-soon in 1982. Based on this company, the leader has been conducting another profitable business in addition to *Aga-dongsan*. *Shinnara Records* is a company that mainly sells K-pop Idol albums and leads autograph sessions, which is said to be the core of fandom events. Through this, *Shinnara Records* got considerable sales of 57.2 billion won in 2019, 64 billion won in 2020, and 76.5 billion won in 2021. Its net profit, which is the amount limited in sales, has also been in the black.



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Currently, many K-pop idols’ fandoms continue to boycott *Shinnara Records*, and the K-pop idol record distribution industry should also take this as a serious problem. The murder and rape charges of the religious leader Kim Ki-soon have not been revealed so far, and the victims are still sleeping under the ground in *Aga-dongsan*.

Topic 3

Manmin Central Church: the Nightmare of Yeouido

“The religious leader is very amazing. Everything he touched was healed!”, “The eyes of the leader are different from those of ordinary people. He is the only one who can see God.” This is the testimony of a former member of the *Manmin Central Church*. The church leader Lee Jae-rok hired several believers to highlight his made-up abilities to conduct a show in order to cure diseases in front of all the members of the church. The congregation who saw the mysterious ability of the leader was fascinated by him, and gradually the number of followers who followed him gradually increased.

However, the doctrine of the leader was completely different from that of the Christian denomination. The *Manmin Central Church* was determined to be an *Anti-Christian association* by the *Presbyterian Church* in 1990, which considered the leader’s teaching about God, the church’s incorrect doctrine of salvation, the way the church operated, and the interpretation of the church being anti-Christian. In 1999, when MBC, one of



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the Korean broadcasters, covered the corruption of *Manmin Central Church*, and accordingly, they attacked the broadcasting station in Yeouido. The subject of coverage was the leader's gambling behavior and his words and actions that were completely contradicted the church doctrine. The leader did not want his actions to be known to the public, so he gathered 2,000 believers to attack the broadcasting station on the exact time and day of the release. The believers illegally occupied the broadcasting station, and 200 believers broke into the building, broke into the main control room, which is a national security facility, and smashed equipment or assaulted employees. The broadcasting station stopped broadcasting since then, which resulted in the worst performance in 20 Century's broadcasting history.



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The *Manmin Central church* tried to globalize after this affair, and they established an overseas branch in order to embrace foreigners as members. The leader is currently in prison on charges of forcible rape and indecent assault. However, the *Manmin Central Church* has already changed into a foreign-centered religious organization and is gradually increasing its power not within the country but overseas.

Religions that caused social controversy or the religious leaders committed terrible crimes are still actively dreaming of globalization. Both *JMS* and the *Manmin Central Church* have overseas branches in order to attract foreigners, and the number of foreigners is gradually increasing compared to Koreans. Foreigners are being evangelized in the country without knowing the specific details of the religion. Most of their branches are centered on developing countries, and they have established infrastructures, which include schools and roads, in order to receive beneficiaries and to propagate their religion.



The situation in South Korea is no different than the situation that is mentioned above. The evangelism continues on the streets by approaching people in a non-religious manner. *Shincheonji*, which is a representative *Korean anti-religion association*, conducts meeting with anonymous people on the street. However, it is also easy to be deceived and fall into the religion even if a well-known method of inclusion is used. Recognizing that their doctrines are completely different from general doctrines is crucial for our lives, Paying close attention is always required by referring to the following distinctions, which are provided below.



How to distinguish the cult-religion evangelism

- 1st. Groups of more than two people are on the street advocating their perspective.
- 2nd. Someone approaches asking for help with tasks or surveys without stating a clear organization name
- 3rd. Someone Asks for personal information such as your phone number and name.
- 4th. Someone suggests having offline meetings or online afterwards.

Cognitive Bias:

Framing Effect

By Jeong Ji-yoon

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Sejong Times Editor

The proposition that *people judge differently even after seeing the same content* is taken for granted by everyone. This is because the values and tendencies of people who look at certain situations are all different. Let's suppose that a cup is half full of water. Optimists who judge every situation positively will think *half of the water is still left!*, whereas pessimists will think *half of the water is gone!* How about the proposition *even though they are the same person, they sometimes judge differently even if they see the same content*. Those who argue for the complete rationality of human beings see that the proposition cannot be true. This is because the choice of a person with the same preference can never be different if the content remains the same. However, even though it is the same content, a person's choice or judgment may vary depending on the way it is expressed. The method of expressing a specific situation or problem is called a frame, and the phenomenon where the judgment or choice changes due to different frames is called a *framing effect*. This has an important influence on our choices, so framing effects are being used in various fields, such as politics, advertising, and policy making.



Asian Disease Problem Experiment

Tversky and Kahneman's *Asian Disease Problem* is the most representative experiment that visibly showed the framing effect. The experimenter told the subjects, "The U.S. government expects 600 people to die of a rare disease in Asia, and two programs have been proposed in order to prevent it. What alternative would you choose among these?" The alternatives are provided below.

- A) Save 200 people.
- B) There is a 1/3 chance that everyone lives, and there is 2/3 chance that everyone dies.
- C) 400 people die.
- D) There is a 1/3 chance that nobody will die, and there is a 2/3 chance that all 600 people will die.

72% of the participants chose A and 28% chose B as a result of the experiment. However, they got different results when they left the problem setting intact and revised the A and B alternatives to C and D. 22% chose C and 78% chose D despite being the same participants. The way of the expression is different, but A and C and B and D are obviously the same programs. How then did this result arise? The fundamental reason why the results of the choices were different was the difference in the word selection. This is because the participants in the experiment tended to perceive positive words, such as *survive or not die* as being gains, but they felt that negative words, such as *die* were

losses, which lead them to make risk-seeking choices. The result of this experiment shows that framing effects affect the perception and judgment. Also, even the same problems can vary significantly depending on the context that it is presented.



Framing Effects in Marketing

The framing effect is widely used in marketing. Various companies are developing marketing strategies in order to use this effect by taking advantage of the fact that the consumers' perceptions and reactions may vary depending on how they present products or brands. Examples of framing used in marketing are provided below.

1. Coca-Cola

Coca-Cola is very actively using the framing effect in order to build its brand image. For example, Coca-Cola presents its products by emphasizing *the joy of being with friends*. This framing effect plays a big role in regards to creating a perception that consumers can have fun with their friends while drinking Coca-Cola, which naturally leads to an increased consumption of Coca-Cola.

2. McDonald's

McDonald's has succeeded in regards to changing consumers' perceptions by emphasizing fast and convenient food. In addition, it is building a brand image via advertisements that target *children* or *family*.

Companies that use the framing effect play a major role in regards to creating a positive perception of their products or brands by manipulating people's perceptions, which is described above. However, if this is exaggerated or it is way too far from reality, consumers can lose credibility with the product and react negatively.



Framing Effects in Policy

Using the framing effect in policy can have a great influence on the public's understanding and acceptance of a policy. Many policymakers are accordingly proposing and implementing policies in consideration of the framing effect. The following examples are representative policy examples that use this effect.

1. The Wealth Redistribution Policy

The wealth redistribution policy redistributes taxes from the rich, and it provides social security programs to individuals with insufficient economic resources. The capacity of this policy can be increased by framing, which presents the wealth redistribution in positive terms, such as *social fairness* or *resolving income imbalances*.

2. The Energy Policy

The energy policy is a way to actively induce energy conversion in small and medium-sized enterprises and household, in order to solve environmental and energy security problems. The understanding of this policy can be enhanced by framing, which presents energy policies in positive terms, such as *environmental protection* or *energy security*.

Humans with limited rationality easily fall for the framing effect, which is a trick with words. Different choices are made depending on what words are used or in what order the words are placed, even though it is the same content. It provides benefits to companies and the governments that use it, but it also prevents people from making reasonable judgments that can bring more benefits to individuals. Individuals therefore need to accurately determine what the marketing and government policies that actively utilize the framing effect are telling us. We will always have to look carefully when making choices by recognizing the effect of the framing effect on our choices.

The Fear of Missing Out : FOMO

By Jung Gwang-Su
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Recently, *FOMO* has been a hot topic on the internet. However, only few know exactly what *FOMO* is. For that reason, this article will take a deep dive into *FOMO*, the definition of *FOMO*, why it occurs, real world examples of it, and the way to overcome *FOMO*.



The Definition of “FOMO”

FOMO, as defined by Patrick J. McGinnis in his book *FOMO SAPIENS*, is unwanted anxiety brought on by the belief that others are having more fulfilling experiences, often amplified by social media. It also encompasses the social pressure stemming from the fear of missing out on positive or memorable experiences.



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Why Does FOMO Occur?

The existence of *FOMO* can be traced back to both biological and technical reasons. Biologically, our early ancestors recognized that survival in harsh environments necessitated active participation in beneficial groups. Exclusion from these groups or missing out on critical information was the same as a death sentence. This deep-seated instinct has made belonging and active participation in groups a cornerstone of human behavior, fostering *FOMO*.

On the technical side, the emergence of social media and other communication technologies in the early 2000s has greatly influenced the spread of *FOMO*. These platforms allow us to keep tabs on the lives of others, enabling direct comparisons. This, in turn, leads to *FOMO*, especially when our lives or choices seem to fall short in comparison to others.



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How Does It Show Up In Our Daily Lives?

This part of the article will explore *FOMO*'s impact on culture and business.

Culture 1: Black Friday and how it gave birth to *Cyber Monday* and *Giving Tuesday*

Black Friday, a cultural phenomenon spurred by businesses, offers substantial discounts on products the day after Thanksgiving, compelling many to join the shopping frenzy. The fear of missing out on these deals drives consumers to participate, even those initially uninterested. From the success of Black Friday emerged *Cyber Monday*, an extension of the shopping holiday for online retailers. Following these two shopping-centric days, *Giving Tuesday* was established as a global day of charitable giving, marking a shift from consumerism to philanthropy.

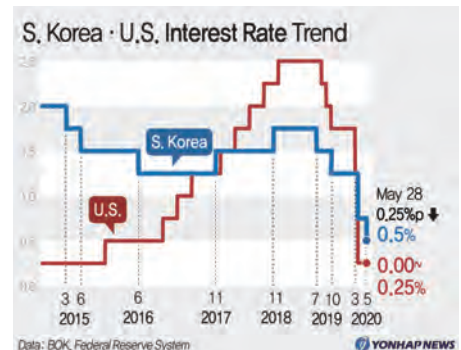
Culture 2: Catch up with the Joneses:

Catch up with the Joneses is a cartoon released in 1913 from the New York Globe. The cartoon satirizes the accidents that take place as the careerist Aloysius and his family struggle to keep up with the neighbor Jones. The cartoon is a similar *FOMO* record that centers on his wife's efforts to dress Aloysius in pink socks, red ties and green garnishes just like her friend Jones who is very successful. They do this because they also want to follow the trend and success that the Jones have.

Business Management: Big Tech Layoffs

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries lowered interest rates and injected funds, leading to the growth of tech companies and over-hiring. However, with the recent inflation, countries are raising interest rates, resulting in corporate financial challenges and subsequent layoffs. This part of the article will explore why this phenomenon occurred.

During the pandemic, countries enacted expansionary monetary policies, lowering interest rates, thus facilitating investment, particularly in tech companies. This, coupled with an uptick in online activities, boosted these companies' sales and stock prices. However, to thrive in the highly competitive U.S. stock market, tech companies needed to outperform their counterparts in sales. To grow and boost sales, companies typically invest in R&D (Research and Development), a risky strategy not offering immediate returns. To do this and to remain competitive, companies often over-invest and over-hire. However, when monetary policies shift from expansionary to restrictive, these companies face significant losses, leading to large-scale layoffs to curb further losses.



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Make your own life priorities and live your life according to it.

To all problems, a solution exists. For *FOMO*, thankfully, the solution was in the book '*Fomo Sapiens*'. The book highlights the impossibility of doing everything others do due to constraints of time and space and the overwhelming amount of information available. It rather suggests creating personal priorities to narrow down choices and improve decision-making. The author encourages readers to reflect on their individual priorities rather than being influenced by others', leading to more satisfactory decision-making. Therefore, after reading this article, let's take some time to think about our own priorities, not others' priorities.

Korean Traditional Desserts

By Kang Eun-ji
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Korean traditional desserts are in their second heyday among young people. The luxurious traditional confectioneries, which were once enjoyed by royal families in the past, have now interestingly caught the young generation's taste. *Yakgwa* have changed their position from being a festival food on holiday to one of the most popular desserts. Only the people who began standing in line very early at a store could get their hands on *yakgwa*. In addition to *yakgwa*, *gaeseong-juak*, *bang heom byeong*, and *geumgyul-jeonggwa* are gaining popularity. Let's discuss a variety of Korean traditional desserts, which are becoming popular.

Yakgwa

Yakgwa means *medicine cookie*. A *yakgwa* is made when the flour dough is shaped like flowers, deep-fried, and then coated with honey. Honey was used as a medicine in the past, and it was well-known for its high nutrition. That is why *yakgwa* was called *medicine cookie*. It was only available on holidays or ritual events, because it took almost a full day to make. *Yakgwa* can presently be easily obtained due to the development of the food factory, but it had been not favored among the young generation. However, it has become so popular, because celebrities have introduced handmade *yakgwa* on broadcasts, which the word '*yak-keting*' has been newly-coined. It is a combination of the words *yakgwa* and '*ticketing*' which means that *yakgwa* is hard to get.



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Gaeseong-Juak

Gaeseong-juak is a snack that was enjoyed at events such as *Yeon Deung Hoe* and *Pal Gwan Hoe*¹ in *Gaeseong*, the capital of the *Goryeo Dynasty*. *Gaeseong-juak* is made by mixing glutinous rice flour and *Makgeoli*², frying it, and then marinating it in brown rice syrup. The outside of the *Gaeseong-juak* is hard as if it is coated with sugar, but the inside is chewy and juicy. And it looks like a mini crispy donut, but its taste is completely different. Recently, *Gaeseong-juak* is paired with various ingredients such as walnuts, strawberries, and cherries.

1. *Yeon Deung Hoe* and *Pal Gwan Hoe*: Buddhist events

2. *Makgeoli*: Korean rice wine

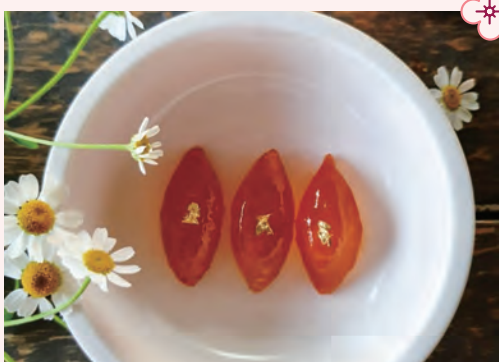
Bang heom byeong (gotgam danji)

Bang heom byeong, which is known as *gotgam*³ *danji*, was an emergency food that was used in order to prepare for a famine. It only requires simple ingredients, such as dried persimmons, honey, walnuts, and chestnuts. You only need to put everything inside dried persimmons. Red beans or citron syrups have been recently added, and young people are enjoying it with coffee or wine. It is especially suitable as a luxurious gift for special people on *Chuseok*. Why don't you give your parents *bang heom byeong* as a *Chuseok* present this year?

3. *gotgam*: dried persimmon



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Geumgyul-jeonggwa

Jeonggwa is a food where fruits or plant roots are pickled in honey and dried by being stored for a long time. *Jeonggwa* can be made with various ingredients, but what I am going to discuss today is *geumgyul-jeonggwa*. A *geumgyul* is a small-sized tangerine that can be eaten up to its peel. Its texture is like a jelly when it is dried, and the scent remains the same, which gives it a refreshing smell and a sweet taste.

Traditional Korean high-end desserts use honey instead of sugar, and they are mostly made with fruits or nuts. As a result, they are attracting people's attention as healthy desserts. Why don't you relax and try traditional Korean desserts with tea?

THE FALL OF JUNIOR OFFICERS

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Introduction | Explanation of the Poor Treatment of Junior Officers

The promise of a private's salary of 2 million won has led to the gradual convergence of soldier salaries with the salaries of junior officers under the Yun Seok-yeol government. This has created a situation where the poor treatment of junior officers in the military is causing a decline in the number of people who aspire to become officers. The rate of support for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), which accounts for 80% of junior officers, has in fact been declining every year. The number of second lieutenants commissioned via the ROTC was in the two thousand range as of 2023, which is a shocking number considering that it has never dropped below three thousand since the establishment of the program. Furthermore, the competition rate for the ROTC support this year was only one point, whereas it was 6:1 just ten years ago.

The Korea Military Academy, which trains elite officers, has also been affected by this situation. The competition rate was 44:1 in 2020, but it has dropped by nearly half to 24.4:1 as of 2022. In addition, the number of voluntary withdrawals has also increased. The number of voluntary withdrawals, which was 28 people in 2021, increased to 40 people in 2022. The Ministry of National Defense has recognized the seriousness of the situation, and it proposed alternatives in order to deal with the situation. The proposals have been met with skepticism by cadets for officer training and junior officers. How poor is the treatment of junior officers? There is a description provided below.

Topic 1

Current Status of the Treatment of Junior Officers

A video was released in order to expose the poor conditions of a dormitory in the Air Force in 2022. The video showed two people living in a small 106.75 square foot room, and it was broadcast on the news, which caused an even bigger commotion. A video showing the poor conditions in the army was also released on social media, which showed muddy water that flowed like a fountain from the sink. The public criticized the Ministry of Defense when they saw these videos for the shocking treatment of junior officers.

In addition, there has been controversy over additional work not receiving allowances beyond working hours and training, such as the *lightning communication* that poses a risk to human rights. *Lightning communication* requires soldiers to carry a mobile phone at all times and immediately respond when a call comes in, or they will face repercussions. The Center for Military Human Rights Korea has pointed out that this type of training constitutes human rights violations, but there has presently been no improvements. We will next review an interview script, which is provided below, and discussed more details about this situation.



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Topic 2

Interview with a ROTC Cadet

Interviewer Hello, I'm Cha Jun-seok, a reporter from the Sejong Times. Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today.

Interviewee Nice to meet you, I'm OOO, a cadet from XX University who is currently enrolled in the ROTC program. I'll do my best to objectively answer your questions.

Interviewer There seems to be a lot of confusion within the ROTC in regards to the poor conditions for junior officers. Can you explain what the situation is like?

Interviewee Many ROTC cadets are contemplating whether to drop out or not and become privates. This is an issue because the pay and benefits for privates are gradually increasing, but the pay and conditions for junior officers have remained the same. Also, if a fourth-year ROTC student drops out in order to become a private, they can receive an exemption from basic training and enter as a corporal or sergeant, which is causing more and more people to consider dropping out.

Interviewer It must be a difficult decision for cadets to consider dropping out in order to receive an exemption from basic training. How is the Ministry of National Defense addressing this issue?

Interviewee The Ministry of Defense is aware of the increasing number of ROTC cadets dropping out and is making various attempts in order to address the issue. However, they seem to be avoiding the current situation, and they are not making a clear promise to *significantly increase pay* or *consider doubling the night duty allowance*. Furthermore, the Chief of Staff of the Army held a meeting about improving the condition of the ROTC, but it was biased to senior officers.

Interviewer I see. What are your thoughts about what you will do in the future, OOO?

Interviewee I chose the ROTC due to my patriotism. However, my patriotism is unfortunately waning due to the poor conditions. The social recognition and treatment of professional soldiers need to be improved in order to maintain patriotism. There are recognition and treatment in the US military that correspond to the patriotism of soldiers. This allows them to conduct their duties with a sense of purpose, but South Korea is different. Fewer and fewer people are willing to sacrifice themselves for their country in a place where there is no room for improvement in the conditions. Some people may say that my patriotism is false, but I believe that there are only few people like Ahn Jung-geun who have pure and noble patriotism. I observe the situation over the next few months, and if there is no improvement in the conditions, I plan to become a private.

Interviewer Thank you for your responses. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

The backbone of the military is its officers, and its officers must be capable for the military to be strong. However, our military is losing capable officers due to inadequate support. South Korea will collapse if this situation continues. A significant increase in support for junior officers in order to ensure the security of South Korea will therefore be necessary. We must wisely deal with the current crisis in South Korea in order to overcome it.



Relationship Between Labor and Society

By Park Seong-O

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Sejong Times Editor



An Overview of the Relationship between Labor and Society

We do labor as members of society. Labor is an inevitable part of human existence from the beginning of human history to the present day and the future. What does labor really mean in our society? Labor is defined in the dictionary as the activities we undertake in order to obtain the things we need to live or as a means in regard to exchanging those things. However, the word *labor* has taken on a broader meaning as society has developed by encompassing various activities and sometimes being used in opposition to *leisure*. The unchanging meaning of labor throughout history is that it is nonetheless an indispensable activity that enhances our quality of life.

Labor can be divided into four categories, which include physical labor, systematic labor, social labor, and mental labor. Physical labor is associated with the primary sector of industry, and it is more likely to be replaced by machines. Systematic labor emerges as populations grow, which forms hierarchies in order to control and manage individual physical labor. Transportation and communication technologies have continued to develop, which the scale of capital has increased, so social labor and mental labor have come to the forefront by providing customers with better facilities. Social labor has especially expanded the scale of the labor environment.

We will discuss the relationship between labor and society next over time and consider the future shape of labor and our stance towards it in the context of social change.

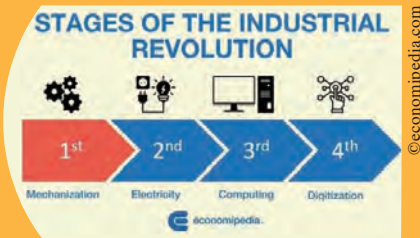


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Social Meaning of Labor in Chronological Order

Labor makes a change with the evolution of society, and the most significant events that have shaped labor's role include population growth, modernization, technological advances in transportation and communication, and the growth of capital. Labor has taken on an increasingly important role in society due to these events. Labor was a synonymous with life itself from 8000 BC to 4000 BC, which was when humans began communal living and agriculture. If humans did not work, their lives would have been in danger. The range of labor markets expanded as the population increased, and the efficiency of labor became the foundation of society. Labor became a means of self-realization due to this social change,



and a person's dream could be equated to a specific job. Developed techniques connected people worldwide without spatial or temporal constraints, and individuals could be involved in more than one form of labor. This has led to the concept of having multiple jobs, so we can no longer solely define a person by their occupations. The meaning of labor has expanded even further nowadays. One of the most important aspects of labor is nonetheless that it is a vital

activity that improves our quality of life.



Recent Aspects of Labor

We presently place a greater emphasis on achieving a balance between labor and other aspects of our lives. We often hear words, such as *work-life balance*, which is a balance between work and life, and *basic income* on various social media platforms. The reason why these concepts have gained a greater amount of attention than they did in the past is that labor is no longer the only way to earn money in order to survive. Our perspective on labor has shifted, and groups and individuals have a louder voice when it comes to labor-related issues. We can now say that we work to live. We do not live to work.



The Reasons Why Several Labor Issues are Emerging Today

Why are we raising our voice about labor now? Labor has been the only means for mankind to lead their lives from a historical context. However, the perspectives about labor have divided into two sides depending on the hierarchies with the development of society and the emergence of welfare systems. Labor still occupies a significant part of their lives in the lower hierarchy, and its importance is much higher. However, people in the higher hierarchy can earn more income via activities that are considered to be less effort demanding. The difference in the perspectives about labor creates a sense of separation in regard to the importance of labor in a person's life, which leads to social issues about it.



Predicting the Future Form of Labor and Our Stance towards New Labor Types

Labor has developed in order to reduce the overall stress on society. AI and robots have replaced human manpower in many areas, and we now must prepare to welcome a new type of labor. Advanced techniques should be used in order to yield unprecedented added value, which could indicate our competitiveness in the labor market.



We should not only acquire knowledge and be familiar with modern technologies. We should also facilitate our existing knowledge and skills in the fourth industrial revolution, because we are armed with high forms of technology. It is not recommended to hide our weaknesses when we enter the labor market. It is better for us to maximize our strengths and make up for our weaknesses. All activities and experiences are good fertilizers in each life in regard to overcoming our shortcomings and utilizing our strengths. We can position ourselves as irreplaceable talented individuals and influential pioneers of the new decade in the upcoming future with this ideal attitude.



Pension Reform and Protests in France

By Kim Do-hyeun

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Sejong Times Cub-Reporter

The photo on the right shows a couple drinking wine even though the street is on fire. This photo shows the daily lives of French people, which their protests have become commonplace amongst the prolonged general strike protest. Large-scale protests in France against the pension reform plan of the Macron government are currently being conducted and the 10th protest was held on March 28th local time. The first large scale protest was conducted when the pension reform plan was announced last January, which include more than a million people. The largest scale protest since the *Second World War* was held soon after on March 7th, which include about 3.5 million people according to the organizer of the protest. Various types of occupational groups, which include transportation workers, public officials, harbor laborers and street cleaner, have been participating in the protests. These protests have been causing problems, such as garbage piling up in downtown Paris and the paralysis of major national facilities, such as the Charles de Gaulle Airport. In addition, some protesters have set fires on streets and in shops, which has caused armed clashes with the police, who are using tear gas and water cannons in order to suppress the protesters. As such, France is experiencing great social turmoil due to the pension reform, which has caused massive protests. The reasons for the French people's opposition against the pension reform plan will be discussed in this article.



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Main contents of the pension reform plan

The main contents of the pension reform plan, which was announced by President Macron, are listed below.

- Increase the retirement age that pension payments begin from 62 to 64.
- Increase the contribution period for receiving 100% of the pension from 42 years to 43 years.
- Increase the minimum pension repayment from 75% to 85% of minimum wage from September 2023.
- Release the senior index¹ of companies with more than 1000 employees from November 2023 and release the senior index of companies with more than 300 employees from July 2024.
- Abolish the early retirement system of government agencies, such as the RATP² group and BDF³.
- Pay 5% more of pension to female workers with children.

Reasons for the reform plan

First, there are financial problems caused by aging and a low birth rate. The average life expectancy in France was 82.5 years as of 2019, and it has been steadily increasing. This is why the French people's period for pension receipt are longer than the other European countries. French people in fact receive pensions for 20 years on average under the current pension system. This is a much longer period of time, compared to Germany, which is 15 years and Italy, which is 17 years. As such, the population and the period to receive pensions will continue to increase.

However, the number of workers who will finance the pension fund will continue to decrease, which is due to the low birth rate. There were 4 pension contributors per a pensioner in 1960, which dropped rapidly to 1.7 in 2022, and it is expected to reach 1.5 in 2040, which is according to the French government's announcement. The French government's budget for pensions reached 15.9% of GDP, which is higher than the EU average of 13.6%, as baby boomers born in the late 1950s and 1960s retired. The French government in this regard expects a deficit of about 41 billion euros in 2050.

There is also a problem, which is caused by a change in the French people's perception of labor. After the legal retirement age was lowered from 65 to 60 as a part of social welfare in 1982, the perception that the French retire early and enjoy their retirement has been widespread. However, some have begun to argue that the rapid retirement of the French people has a negative impact on France's national competitiveness by strengthening the negative perceptions of labor and accelerating the retirement of professional workers. The French government has tried to push for pension reform in response to these complains, but it failed every time due to repeated general strikes and massive protests. The reform plans before the current reform plan were solely about delaying the legal retirement age from 60 to 62.

¹ A numerical representation of the employment points of elderly workers of companies like gender equality index.

² Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens: Paris Transportation Authority

³ Banque de France: Bank of France

Lastly, there is the maintenance of the Macron government's approval rating. Macron won reelection in 2022, and he is currently under pressure to implement his previous promise of pension reform. This is because if the reform plan is not pursued, his approval rating could fall from about 30% to 20%.

Reasons that the French people are opposing the pension reform plan

We need to take a look at the French' perception of the pension and their retirement years in order to find out why the French oppose the pension reform plan. The French recognize the pension system as a solidarity between the young and old generations, and a social security system that allows them to live their retirement years with a certain level of dignity regardless of their job or income. In addition, most French people think that of the pension fund as being their right, and they take it for granted in order to enjoy their retirement years by retiring early. The pension reform plan could bring disadvantages from this point of view according to their rights and guaranteed income after retirement. If the retirement age for receiving a pension is delayed from 62 to 64, the period of working for full pension will also be delayed. In other words, the French are in a situation where they have to continue working in an unstable state after becoming middle-aged. It in particular becomes difficult to continue doing labor as they get old in the case of physically hard occupations, but they have to continue working.

The content of adjusting the contribution period for pension receipts from 42 years to 43 years is also being criticized. "We are increasingly asked for a longer college curriculum, but it's likely that the career isn't as continuous as it was in the past." This was said by 23 years old Maia, who majors in art history and works as a temporary worker at the library. She also said, "If someone



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enters society late due to college studies or works as a contract worker, they are rarely able to complete the 43-year period even when they reach the retirement age of 64.”

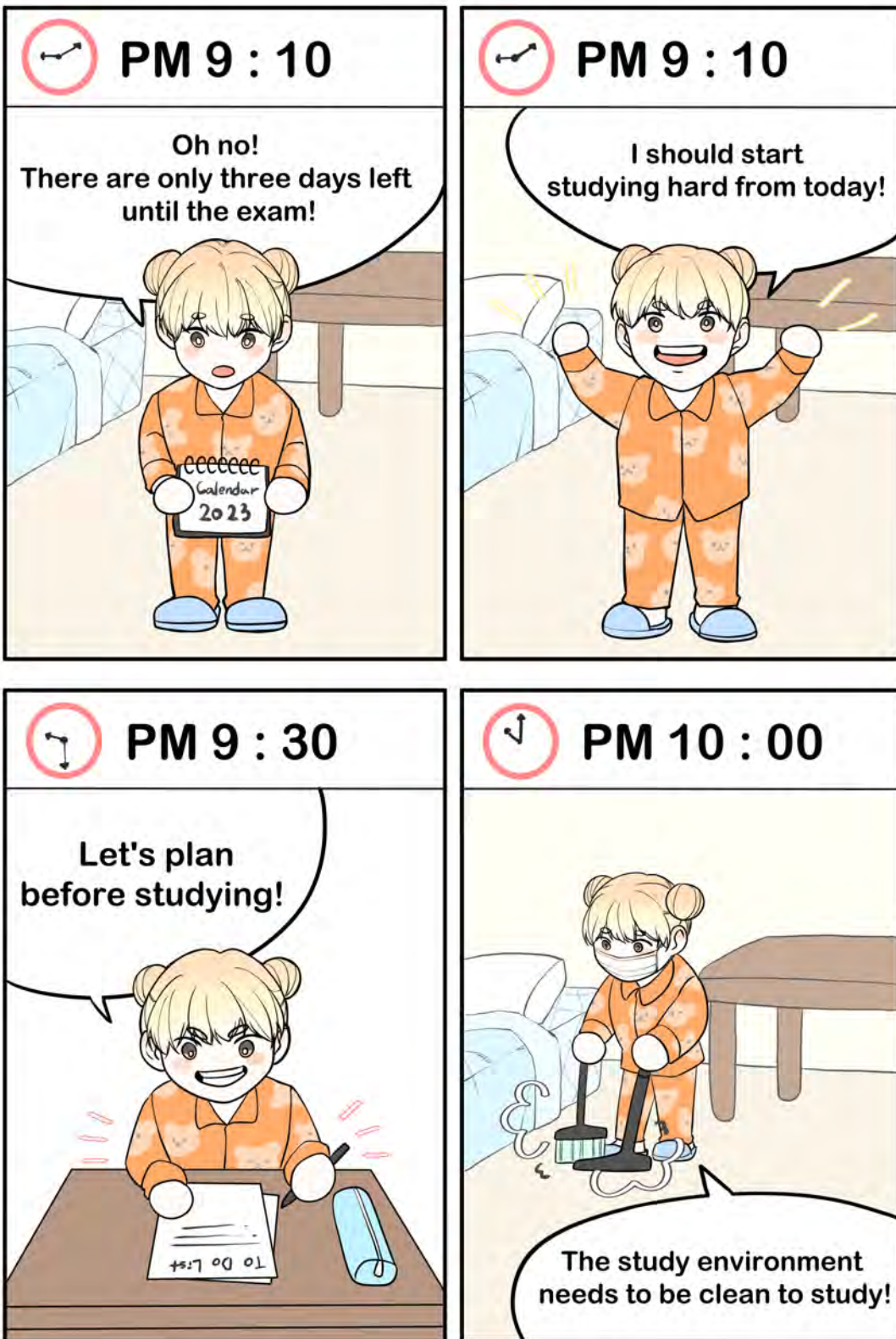
This problem is magnified in the case of female workers. “Pension reform plan is a worsening of inequality,” which is what the French women’s group Les Rosie shouted at the scene of the protest. The average pension for French women is currently about 40% less than it is

for men. This gap is tremendous when it is compared to different European countries, such as Slovakia, which is 7.6% and Denmark, which is 10.6%. Euro News cited the reasons for this gap being due to the relatively low wages of women workers, the unstable hiring condition compared to male workers, and the career disruption of women workers due to childcare. Male workers born in 1972 need to work about five more months in order to receive full pension after the pension reform plan is applied, but female workers have to work up to nine more months, which is according to a pension reform report by the French government. 19% of female workers cannot retire until they are 67 years old in order to receive full pension, which is according to Christian Marti. However, the rate will be about 10% for male workers. In addition, physically demanding jobs with lots of female workers such as teachers and nurses can be severely affected by the reform plan. The French government announced a policy to pay an additional 5% of the pension as a measure for female workers with children. However, this policy is criticized in regards to its effectiveness given that 40% of female workers’ careers are cut off and 30% are part-time workers.

The Macron government’s pension reform and the massive protests and general strikes due to the reform plan are causing huge social impacts. In particular there are numerous injuries on the protesters and police, and damage of property is increasing day by day. Therefore, the French government should find an appropriate middle ground by actively reflecting the opinions of the public and experts.



<Do Not Procrastinate!>





WORD PUZZLE

D	M	X	C	O	P	E	Q	S
T	I	O	P	I	O	V	A	E
W	S	Y	N	S	O	T	T	E
N	I	E	Y	E	I	E	Y	S
Z	D	S	T	R	T	D	U	T
U	N	G	I	O	Q	A	O	K
N	K	Z	Q	F	R	C	R	E
D	E	O	N	L	E	P	R	Y
E	M	E	R	G	E	N	C	E

해당되는 기사 페이지에 힌트가 있습니다.
정답과 설문내용을 엽서에 적으셔서 7월 21일까지 세종타임즈 이메일로 보내주세요. 채택되신 분들께 소정의 상품을 드립니다.

When you find all the hidden words in the puzzle, please send the postcard attached at the end to thesjtimes@sejong.ac.kr by July 21th. There are prizes for those who send in the correct answers.

1. The first large-scale _____ was conducted [p.28-31]
2. The proposals have been met with skepticism by _____ [p.24-25]
3. The _____ of social media and other communication technologies [p.20-21]
4. Countries enacted expansionary _____ policies during the pandemic [p.20-21]
5. the process of finding ways to _____ with it. [p.04-05]
6. Cattelan presents works that _____ worlds with wit and paradoxical humor. [p.10-11]

Dictionary

hierarchy a series of ordered groupings of people or things within a system

leisure time available for ease and relaxation

credibility the quality of being believed or accepted as true, real, or honest

proposition a statement to be proved, explained, or discussed

cadet a student in the armed forces or the police

heyday the period of a person's or thing's greatest success, popularity, or vigor

confectionery food items that are rich in sugar like candy, chocolate, or chewing gum

emergence the process of coming into being, or of becoming important or prominent

philanthropy the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes

monetary relating to money or currency

plagiarism the practice of copying another person's ideas, words or work and pretending that they are your own

substitute a person or thing that you use or have instead of the one you normally use or have

sustainability the quality of causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time

retailer a person, shop, or business that sells good to the public

whimsically in an unusual or slightly silly way that people find either funny or annoying

satirize to use satire to criticize or show that people or ideas have bad qualities or are wrong

paradoxical seeming impossible or difficult to understand because of containing two opposite facts or characteristics

taxidermy is the art of preserving an animal's body via mounting or stuffing, for the purpose of display or study

consumption the act of eating or drinking something

welfare the state of being happy, healthy, or successful

temporary intended to be used for a limited amount of time

construction the act or process of building something

pension a regular payment made by the state to people of or above the official retirement age

retirement an action of leaving one's job and ceasing to work

protest a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something

rental the act of renting something

holiday a day of festivity or recreation when no work is done

Thank You for Your Interest
in SEJONG TIMES

WORD PUZZLE

S	E	M	E	S	T	E	R	O
D	W	D	I	A	U	L	W	K
R	A	I	C	R	A	O	A	O
U	O	P	M	L	S	V	S	N
G	D	A	N	C	E	E	T	X
S	H	I	F	V	L	B	E	T
A	V	F	U	I	T	Z	N	N
R	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E
T	P	O	W	E	R	I	R	C

- How did you come across Sejong Times?
I came across it on the first floor of the student center.
- Is there a specific topic you'd like for Sejong Times to cover?
The future of English Translation
- Which is your favorite article in this issue?
And why?
TCK, it was interesting!
- Are you willing to work as a guest reporter for Sejong Times?
Yes!! I think it'll be good opportunity

* When you find all the hidden words in the puzzle, please send the postcard attached at the end to thesetimes@sejong.ac.kr by May 20th. There are prizes for those who send in the correct answers.

Seojin Lee / English Literature 22

We will continue to strive for
better contents



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Our Magazine

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