



Resignation of medical school professors spreads amidst conflict with government



Currently, at Chungbuk National University Medical School and Hospital, over 60 out of approximately 200 professors have already submitted resignation letters.

By Yeon Kyung-han

As the conflict between the government and the Korean Medical Association over increasing the number of medical school admissions nationwide continues to escalate, the movement of medical school professors to resign has further intensified.

The government has put forth an increase in medical school admissions to address issues such as the so-called “emergency room merry-go-round” and “open-run in pediatrics.” This fact is included in the “essential medical policy package” announced by the government early last month. It focuses on increasing medical personnel, strengthening local medical services, expanding medical accident safety nets, and ensuring fair compensation by prohibiting mixed treatments of covered and non-covered medical services under health insurance.

However, the medical community nationwide has raised significant concerns, particularly regarding the expansion of medical school admissions. They argue that expanding medical school admissions to as many as 2,000

lacks a scientific basis. According to them, simple expansion without prior improvements in infrastructure and establishment of medical accident safety nets is expected to only lead to a significant increase in plastic and cosmetic surgeons. They prompt calls for a reevaluation of these assertions. In the medical field, it is argued that the main reason for the avoidance of mandatory medical service is not a shortage of personnel, but rather the problem of the current medical system, where the work is hard, but the compensation is woefully inadequate.

Despite the nationwide opposition from medical schools, the government recently finalized the allocation of 2,000 additional admissions. According to this policy, Chungbuk National University (CNU) Medical School, one of the national universities playing as regional hubs, received the highest increase of 151 admissions nationwide, bringing the total to 200. This marks an increase of more than four times from the current 49. However, the majority of professors at the CNU Medical School have expressed doubts, stating that securing

medical school professors within a short period is practically impossible. They anticipate a significant decrease in the quality of education as the number of students increases fourfold.

Based on these complaints, the CNU reported its intention to the government to construct a new medical building, the Medical School Building No. 4 (32,008 square meters). It is 1.8 times larger than the combined area of the three existing medical buildings. The CNU also requested a budget of 111.9 billion won to build it by 2030. They also stated that, in order to accommodate the increased number of medical school freshmen from 49 to 200, they would need to equip the new medical building with ninety 10-person practice rooms, one hundred and twenty professor research rooms, and other facilities.

However, despite this, issues raised by

medical professionals persist. Due to the prolonged vacancy crisis in specialized fields for over a month, medical school professors have been reducing working hours because of accumulated fatigue and shrinking outpatient services. Moreover, at the CNU Medical School and Hospital, over 60 out of approximately 200 professors have already submitted resignation letters. This is significantly close to 30% of the total workforce, posing a further risk of medical vacancies at the CNU Hospital, a regional hub medical center.

CNU medical professors are discussing measures to continue outpatient treatment temporarily until the resignation letters are resolved, but they are also considering reducing the treatment hours for outpatient consultation, surgical, and inpatient treatment within the legal working hours of 52 hours per week.

“We should not look what they did then, rather look what we do now.”



▲ Director Jonathan Glazer

what we do now.’ Our film shows where dehumanization leads at its worst. It shaped all of our past and present.”

“Right now, we stand here as men who refute their Jewishness and the Holocaust being hijacked by an occupation which has led to conflict for so many innocent people. Whether the victims of October 7th in Israel or the ongoing attack on Gaza — all the victims of this dehumanization, how do we resist?”

By Shin In-ho Jonathan Glazer, director of *The Zone of Interest*, won the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film. During his acceptance speech, he spoke out against Israel’s military actions in Gaza, connecting it to the themes of his Holocaust film. Glazer, who is Jewish, emphasized the relevance of his movie’s exploration of evil to the present day.

“All our choices we made to reflect and confront us in the present,” Glazer said. “Not to say ‘look what they did then’ — rather, ‘look

Opening game of Major League Baseball is hosted in Korea for the first time



Seoul Series had been a highlight for many Korean baseball fans since not only were they watching two of the best teams in MLB but they also had Asian star players.

By Seo Yoon-kyeom

The Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres went head-to-head for 2 games in a row from March 20th in Gocheok Skydome. It was the first time for Korea to host the opening game of Major League Baseball (MLB). These games were part of a world tour that the secretariat of

MLB was conducting with the hope for the globalization of baseball.

Each team arrived in Korea on March 15th and had a short time to get used to the time difference. Before the opening game started, both teams had two friendly matches on March 17th. Team Korea was the common opponent for both teams, with Kiwoom facing the Dodgers, and LG against the Padres. Both teams had an opportunity since Gocheok Skydome is Kiwoom’s home field and LG was the champion of Korea Series last year. In the games, the Dodgers won two games in a row, 14:3 against Kiwoom and 5:2 against Team Korea. The Padres also prevailed against LG with scores of 5:4, and 1:0 for Team Korea.

This series had been a highlight for many Korean baseball fans since not only were they watching two of the best teams in MLB but they also had Asian star players. In the Dodgers, they had Ohtani, who was the MVP in American League, and Yamamoto Yoshinobu, who transferred to the Dodgers this year with a fantastic career in Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) as a Pacific League MVP three

years in a row. Likewise, there were 4 Asian players in the Padres; Darvish Yu, Kim Ha-seong, who won the Golden Glove award for utility last year, Ko Woo-seok, who recently joined the team from LG Twins, and Matsui Yuki, another Japanese player.

The starting pitcher for the Dodgers was Tyler Glasnow (Right-handed Pitcher, RHP) and Darvish Yu (RHP) for the Padres in the opening game. Glasnow said, “There’s no jetlag and I did bullpen pitching as usual.” Darvish said, “I’m in good condition now. I’ll do my best in the game,” hinting at self-confidence.

At the opening match held in Korea, there were many events that could only be seen in the Korean baseball stadium. Korean cheerleaders added passion to the game. Additionally, the opening match was more colorful with Aespa’s celebration stage in the first round and that of (G)-idle stage in the second round. Various stages and passionate matches were broadcast live on Coupang Play. As it was the first MLB opening game to be held in Korea, it attracted the attention of many people.

Dr. Cha Woo-kyu, President-elect of Korea National University of Education

By Shin In-ho (CEO of The *Monday Times*)



Recently, education-related issues in South Korea, ranging from the closure of primary, middle, and high schools due to declining population, to university collapses and changes in university admissions, are more prevalent than ever. In response, The *Monday Times* met Dr. Cha Woo-kyu, President-elect of Korea National University of Education, the only specialized comprehensive university for teacher training in the country: –Ed.

Q: First of all, congratulations on your election. Could you briefly introduce yourself and the Korea National University of Education?

A: I am currently serving as a specialist member of the National Education Curriculum Committee of the National Education Commission and as a Self-assessment Committee member of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. I also served as the vice president of our university until recently. In addition, I am involved in academic activities, serving as the president of the Korean Association for Population Education Society and the Korean School Safety Society.

The Korea National University of Education (KNUE) was established in 1984 and is now about to mark its 40th anniversary. Our university is genuinely a comprehensive teacher's university, as we train teachers for kindergartens, elementary schools, middle and high schools, and special schools. Moreover, we have the

most teachers nationwide coming to complete their postgraduate courses, and we are promoting training for kindergarten directors, elementary, middle, and high school principals nationwide.

Q: What role has the KNUE played over the past 40 years, and what does the future KNUE aim for?

A: The KNUE has been producing excellent teachers nationwide and operating a comprehensive teacher training institute and a remote education training institute for re-training teachers across the country. However, I think it's no longer enough to just train and re-educate teachers. In addition, due to the low birthrate issue, the number of students is rapidly decreasing and school closures are increasing. Accordingly, the number of teachers will also continue to decrease, too. Therefore, in the future, our educational targets should extend beyond teachers to include educationalists engaged in educational activities across various institutions.

Q: Universities are facing the crisis, with the population decrease. What are the problems and challenges the KNUE is confronting?

A: Due to the rapid decrease in the number of elementary school students, the number of prospective teachers is inevitably decreasing. In this critical situation, cases have arisen where regional flagship universities and education universities are merged. However,

“In the era of globalization, I believe it is crucial for the youth to understand the essence of the unprecedented changes and play their roles effectively to foster mutual coexistence.”

the integration of teacher training universities should be considered in a way that can bring about synergy effects between each university while maintaining the identity of the teacher training university, rather than simply integrating with the regional flagship university. In addition to this, I believe that we must turn this crisis into an opportunity by promoting various linkages, such as operating a joint curriculum with universities with various expertise or further activating exchanges.

Q: You have established the Population Education Culture Association and has been making various efforts to address population decline. What solutions do you propose for the population cliff?

A: Many people often say that stable housing supply and good jobs are prerequisites for marriage and child-rearing. However, I don't think that these conditions alone are sufficient. I believe that issues related to personal perceptions and societal cultural phenomena are also crucial. In this regard, I think the government and society should show more interest and support for educational institutions and media organizations, so that they can play a more active role in addressing these aspects.

Q: The world is facing various issues. In response to these challenges, what changes do you believe are necessary for education in South Korea? Additionally, what are your thoughts on the current university entrance examination system?

A: Until now, education in Korea has primarily focused on preparing students for higher-level schools, and university entrance exams have typically been centered around academic subjects. As a result, students have not had enough opportunities to deeply contemplate various social issues both within our country and globally, nor have they had the chance to work together to solve these problems. I hope that the education

system and university entrance examination system can work together to facilitate more interdisciplinary and integrated discussions and exploration of global issues. By actively engaging in educational activities that involve critical thinking and finding solutions to these problems, we can better incorporate these topics into school education.

Regarding the university entrance examination system, we are considering a direction that allows for more emphasis on rolling or non-scheduled admissions. Furthermore, I believe that a new admission system should be introduced. Rather than a standardized nationwide entrance exam, we need to select students who possess the qualities that modern society requires through more careful consideration and research.

Q: What mindset should young people in Korea have as global citizens in the 21st-century era of globalization?

A: In the era of globalization, I believe it is crucial for the youth to understand the essence of the unprecedented changes and play their roles effectively to foster mutual coexistence. In a global society like the present, we should have a mindset to understand and coexist with other ethnicities and nations, that is, a consciousness of being part of the global citizenry. We need to develop the capacity to participate and actively implement actions for mutual development.

Q: Could you please share a message for the young readers of our newspaper?

A: Korea is an extremely developed and exemplary country that the whole world admires. I wish our youth would live with a sense of self-pride and self-esteem. A life of serving others and sacrificing for them is possible when self-esteem and self-respect are secured. I hope that our young people will actively participate in caring for the world. I look forward to you becoming a great figure who can play a significant role not only domestically but also globally.

Meeting for establishment of Cheongju City Youth Activity Promotion Ordinance



By Yu Cheol On March 23rd, at the Cheongju Youth Center (CYC, Director: Kang Gyeong-gyu), a meeting was held together with Cheongju City Councilor Yu Kwang-uk to discuss the establishment of the Cheongju City Youth Activity Promotion Ordinance. This meeting was arranged to gather various opinions of the youth, who are stakeholders in the ordinance, before its establishment. Members of Cheongju Youth Participation Committee (CYPC) and the Cheongju Youth Center Youth Operation Committee (CYCYOC), consisting of middle and high school, and college students in Cheongju, attended the meeting along with Cheongju City Councilor Yu Kwang-uk, CYC Director Kang Gyeong-gyu and officials to share their opinions on the establishment of the youth activity promotion ordinance.

They discussed various proposals and opinions regarding the establishment of cultural spaces, sports facilities, youth-specific spaces, and convenience facilities for youths in the Daehyeon Underground Shopping Mall in Cheongju, which is known to be under renovation, as well as other requests for what they desire for Cheongju City and the Youth Center.

The CYPC and the CYCYOC conveyed their appreciation to Councilor Yu, Director Kang, and everyone involved for listening to their opinions and making efforts for the youth. They stated, “We hope that the ordinance will be established soon and that youth activities in Cheongju City will be activated.”

The Youth Activity Promotion Ordinance is being prepared to establish the basis for local government-led youth activity promotion projects in accordance with the Youth Basic Act and the Youth Activity Promotion Act. Its main contents include securing youth activity facilities and supporting youth activities and events.

After the meeting, an appointment ceremony was held for the CYCYOC members, followed by discussions on its activity plans. Director Kang stated, “I encourage you to share your opinions as a member of the CYCYOC, so that youth activities at the Youth Center can faithfully meet the wishes of our local youth and be operated properly.” Meanwhile, the CYPC have conducted various activities requesting Cheongju City to implement various policies for youths as confident members of the local community.

Sejong Global HS starts “Conversations with Global Researchers on Regions”

By Shin In-ho On March 18th, Sejong Global High School (SJGHS, Principal Park Hee-dong) invited Professor Kim E-je from Gyeongin National University of Education to hold a session on “Conversations with Global Researchers on Regions.”

The conversation held on this day followed the format of the “Global Regional Studies Academic Exchange Program,” focusing intensively on exploring avenues for “Korean Identity” and “Global Research,” aiming to promote understanding of Korea to the world and vice versa.

Students will delve into national, regional, and global issues based on geography with Professor Kim E-je, as regional researchers, engaging in online platforms (blogs) to serve as civilian student diplomats, connecting with youths from over 120 countries.

Professor Kim introduced “How to become a Global Talent in the Age of Connectography Revolution,” expressing her hope that Korean youths could learn and grow more by venturing abroad through diverse communication with foreign peers.

Geography teacher Won Yo-han of the SJGHS expressed his hope for students to grow into global leaders through exploring various global issues based on regional studies and communicating with youths worldwide.

A 3rd year student, Gong Tae-kyun, who participated in this program, stated, “I am excited not only about introducing our country through cultural exchange activities with overseas friends but also about delving deep



into the study of a specific country I have chosen through local research, broadening my perspective on the world.”

Principal Park Hee-dong remarked, “We hope our school will further develop as the cradle of global leadership, and our entire educational community will strive together to nurture talents demanded by society.”

SJGHS students will continue communication through the platform with students from over 120 countries until the end of December, conducting regional research and exploring global issues.

The SJGHS has been conducting various online and offline classes, cultural exchanges, and academic exchange programs with institutions such as Georgia State University in the United States, Canberra Grammar School in Australia, Nara Prefectural Nara International High School in Japan, and Taiwan Cultural High School.

The Baby Panda, Fu Bao: Is she really necessary to go to China?

By Amy Lim



The first panda born in Korea, Fu Bao, which literally means “a treasure bringing happiness” is scheduled to return to China early in April. The baby panda was born and raised at Everland in Korea, but according to China's

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, she must return to China before she turns four, which is their ideal mating age. The announcement of Fubao's birth in July 2020 cheered South Koreans, who had been left fatigued for the previous few years after the COVID-pandemic. Visitors to Everland were delighted to see the baby panda grow up.

On March 3rd, the last day Fubao could meet with visitors, fans had to wait for six hours to enter Everland Zoo to say goodbye to her for just five minutes. The zookeeper was moved to tears by their outpouring of gratitude and love for Fu Bao despite the lengthy wait.

This love for pandas has been reported by various foreign media including CNN. Kang Chul-won, the zookeeper responsible for Fu Bao's birth and growth, expressed his affection for Fu Bao in a TV program. “Fu Bao is my baby forever, and no matter where you are, I will always be by your side,” he said. He is so attached to Fu Bao that he communicates with her in Chinese, fearing that Fu Bao will not be able to understand her Chinese keeper once she returns to China. He will stay with her until the time when she is repatriated to China.

Word Search By Kim So-young

This puzzle was created using the 115th edition of The *Monday Times*.

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

admission	war	unveil	collector	multiple
festival	advice	resident	reflection	desperate
mindset	bless	disaster	outlet	journey
bedbug	hero	reason	perilous	language

Word Search 정답을 4월 14까지 아래로 보내 주시면 추첨하여 소정의 상품을 보내 드리겠습니다. (정답 4월 15일 본사 홈페이지 게시)
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영어회화
(OR코드로 음악 감상)

The value of kindness: Lessons beyond the classroom

By Hwang Kyong-ho



Hwang Kyong-ho, CEO of ConnectEdu, was raised in Chuncheon and graduated from Gangwon National University. He embarked on his career teaching at various middle and high schools. His academic journey continued at Victoria University of Wellington, where he earned a Diploma in TESL and an MA in Applied Linguistics. Currently, he is dedicated to narrowing the educational divide between urban and rural areas in English language learning through a digital platform enhanced by AI technology. – Ed.

My son attends a high school in Auckland, sometimes called “college” in New Zealand. He loves playing in the school orchestra and soccer with his friends. One day, after having fun playing badminton, he accidentally forgot to take his bag with him and left it in the classroom. When he returned to get it, he found that the school was locked up, leaving him without his wallet and bus pass, which he needed to get home. Feeling panicked in front of the locked doors, he realized he had to ask someone for help. So, he bravely asked the principal if he could borrow 5 dollars to get home safely. The principal kindly gave him 10 dollars

instead, helping him out and making a lasting impression on him with this act of kindness.

When my son told me this story, I asked him, “Did you return the money to the principal?” My son told me that he returned the money to him, saying, “Thank you, Sir. I could go back home safe, thanks to you.” The principal replied, “Thank you for giving me the chance to help you.”

The principal turned a simple act of helping into a meaningful moment of connection between them and a great lesson for my son. I found out later that the motto of his school was “To love and to serve.”

I was especially moved by the principal’s kindness and thoughtful words to my son, “Thank you for giving me the chance to help you.” This is not an expression commonly heard in our schools, prompting me to reflect on the essence of education. While we focus on preparing students for exams and careers, we often overlook something crucial for cultivating their personal growth and ability to coexist peacefully in society.

Education transcends achieving high grades, securing spots in prestigious universities, or obtaining highly paid jobs. Numerous institutions globally, including Korea, take pride in having “Veritas: Truth” in their motto as a foundational

principle. However, this truth should extend beyond academic accomplishments and competitive endeavors; it must deeply embed itself in pursuing justice, fostering kindness, love, service, and harmony among individuals. It should involve what benefits all humans regardless of race, social status, or wealth.

Building such a good society is challenging when recognition is reserved for a few, leaving the majority overlooked. This raises a critical question: Do we aim to cultivate a society where all the credit goes to a few who get good test scores while a much larger part of the society is supported by other people, or do we strive to create a community where mutual respect and coexistence are universally accessible? The responsibility lies with parents and educators. We must think about the values we are imparting to our children.

A healthy society grows when more individuals are respected and want to participate in its development. The first step towards building a healthy society would be ensuring that everyone is respected and treated with dignity and fairness. A small act of kindness towards young people by adults sets a good example, showing the behavior we want young minds to learn.

Accademia Nemo: Bridging artistic frontiers

By Ilaria Righi (Special Correspondent in Italy)



Last year I had the chance to work at the Florence Korea Film Festival 2023, where I came to know the Accademia Nemo, one of the most important cartoons and art academies in Europe, for the first time. At the time, they were collaborating with two Korean Webtoon artists holding a masterclass for the festival’s audience and the academy students.

Given that Accademia Nemo has always been a school that looked to the future and change, it is certainly not surprising that they are among the first to open up to Korean culture and its artistic productions.

Once dominated primarily by Western and Japanese comics and animations, Italian audiences have increasingly embraced the captivating storytelling and unique visual styles offered by Korean webtoons and manhwa, Korean cartoons. This growing popularity can be attributed to several factors, including the accessibility of digital platforms, where readers can easily access translated content of many stories in K-dramas already popular and the diverse genres and themes explored in Korean narrative. In addition, the collaborative efforts between cultural and educational institutions concerned, such as TAEGUKGI - Toscana Korea Association for the Florence Korea Film Festival and Accademia Nemo, have played a significant role in introducing and promoting Korean artistic productions to Italian audiences, further fueling the diffusion of Korean webtoons and manhwa across the country.

I had the privilege to have a short interview with Federica Fabbri and Luca Chiarotti, representatives of the Accademia Nemo. We talked about the institution’s pioneering efforts in fostering artistic exchange and their recent connection with Korea.

Q: Could you provide a brief introduction to Accademia Nemo for our Korean audience?

A: Certainly. Accademia Nemo was founded in the year 2000 and was the first school in Europe to offer courses in emerging artistic professions such as animator, concept artist, game artist, and E-designer (illustrator). Our mission is to provide high-quality education while preserving our European artistic identity. We attract students from Italy and beyond, offering them updated teaching and inspiring workshops with international artists.

Q: How does Accademia Nemo position itself in the international context?

A: Over the past 20 years, Accademia Nemo has grown to become one of the largest and most reputable schools in Europe. We strive to compete with American and Canadian institutions while maintaining our European artistic style. Many of our alumni are now established professionals in animation, games, and film studios worldwide, showcasing the impact of our education on the global stage.

Q: Could you elaborate on Accademia Nemo’s engagement with the Japanese and American artistic scenes?

A: Italian entertainment preferences underwent a significant shift in the late 1970s with the influx of Japanese animation. Since then, our institutions have embraced diverse artistic traditions through lectures and master classes by international artists. These interactions have enriched our students’ perspectives and celebrated the cultural nuances across various artistic realms.

Q: How did Accademia Nemo first come into contact with Korean culture?

A: Our engagement with Korean culture developed through two fronts: the growing presence of Korean series and films on our platforms and our proximity to the Florence Korea Film Festival. The collaboration between people from our academy and the festival led us to encounter Korean webtoon artists, sparking our interest in the medium’s potential. This encounter inspired us to integrate webtoon lessons into our curriculum, breathing new life into the art of comics.

Q: What are the prospects for collaboration with Korea?

A: We are currently collaborating with the organizers for the Busan Webtoon Festival and recently launched a webtoon creation contest based on our original story. These ventures signify our commitment to fostering cross-cultural dialogue and artistic innovation with Korea.

Accademia Nemo’s journey shows the transformative power of education and cultural exchange, transcending borders to shape the future of artistic expression. As it continues to explore new frontiers and embrace emerging trends, it remains dedicated to inspiring creativity worldwide.

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Seolsani and Kaale in the Himalayas

By Jo Hyeon-seong (Dongrae Middle School in Busan)



My name is Jo Hyun Sung, a 2nd year student at Dongrae Middle School in Busan. I’d like to introduce a few things I experienced during the 18th Himalayan Hinterland School Expedition program that lasted for 15 days and 16 nights, which I had to participated in thanks to the urging of my parents.

Traveling alone... This was my first trip without my mom and dad. The idea of going to the unfamiliar country of Nepal in the Himalayas wasn’t something I was initially enthusiastic about. My older brother, who is now in his final year of high school, said it wasn’t possible for him to participate in the program because he’s a student preparing for college entrance exams. Why would they send a first-year middle school student like me to such a faraway place? I hesitated a lot.

However, over the 16 days, I climbed the Himalayas on my own, made friends, and with the help of Captain Kim of the expedition and several teachers, I became a proud member of the expedition team. As I write this with a joyful heart, I can’t help but wonder how much I would have regretted it if I had ignored my parents’ urging and missed this opportunity.

The Himalayas, known as the roof of the world, are truly a majestic range of mountains. They stretch over

2,400km from east to west, with more than 14 peaks over 8,000m high.

We saw the Himalayas from the plane flying from Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, to Pokhara. We enjoyed the panoramic view of the endless snow-covered mountain ranges and the beautiful Himalayas. It was felt like a dream to be embraced by the Himalayas.

People in Nepal, commonly referred to as Nepalis, consist of around 30 ethnic groups. The mountains are high and the valleys deep, and so traveling to visit one another is difficult. However, they live peacefully without conflict. According to Captain Kim, it’s all thanks to the power of their religious faith. Their daily lives are intertwined with their faith. Nepal is a Hindu country, and it’s said that there are as many gods as people there. They say that, if there were 10 people in Nepal, 8 would be Hindus and 1 would be Buddhist. It gives us a hint how devoted people here are in their religion.

When we visited schools, they always wore smiles on their faces. They were friendly and always smiling. When they saw my facial expression, they might have thought, “This boy must have come here to fight.” It made me a little ashamed.

Nepalis love animals very much. Dogs, cats, ducks as well as cows, horses, mules, and yaks, all roam the streets alongside people. “Seolsani (Snowy Mountain)”

and “Kaale” are the names of the Himalayan dogs I met while trekking. “Seolsani” is white, and “Kaale” is black. Of course, I named them myself. Advisor Yoon taught me those words.

I saw the mountains while walking during the day, but at night, the sky was filled with stars. I hadn’t realized there were so many stars in the sky until I came here. For the first time in my life, I saw countless shooting stars streaking across the sky. Brothers and sisters such as Ji min, Ye-ra, Jeong-su, and Jeong-min, and mischievous teacher Gyul, and Advisor Yoon, are all special people to me.

The Bhutanese movie *A Yak in the Classroom*, which we watched together at the Australian Camp and Low Camp, was also a memorable and good movie.

“Namaste” is a common greeting used by Nepalis. Captain Kim taught us that it means “I salute the god within you.” Until now, I have only lived in the visible world, but Nepalis see the world with their hearts. I think that’s why they greet each other like that.

Trekking in Nepal this winter was the best trip of my life, and I think it will continue to be so in the future. My heart, once stifled and heavy, feels as light and free as a butterfly, now after completing the Himalayan expedition, like Mungi, the protagonist of the novel *However the Sky* is Clear, written by Hyeon-deok, which I read in my Korean textbook.

Proclamation of Nashville Korean American Day

By Shin Hee-kyung (President of the Korean American Association of Greater Nashville)



On March 2nd, 2024, the Korean American Association of Greater Nashville held a Korean American Day Proclamation Festival at Tusculum Hills Baptist Church. It was to celebrate the two proclamations made at Nashville City Hall on February 6th, declaring the Korean American Day and Lunar New Year Day at the same time, and to commemorate the March First Independence Movement.

Prior to this event, I gave a two-hour lecture and brought with me a traditional Korean dance team. This was done for approximately 500 students and teachers at Percy Priest Elementary School to showcase Korean history, culture, and language.

After contacting the mayor’s office and the city council, I was able to invite the top city officials. During the event, Mayor Freddie O’Connell proclaimed the Nashville Korean American Day in person and gave me the proclamation document signed by him on behalf of the Koreans in Nashville. Afterwards, Vice Mayor Angie Henderson read a proclamation outlining the official use of Lunar New Year rather than Chinese New Year as well as the specific origins of the culture. Additionally, Council member Terry Vo recognized our organization by reading the proclamation document of the Nashville Korean American Day, which was officially signed by 15 members of the city council. He presented it in a frame prepared by the council member’s office.

I placed a large paper at the entrance of the venue with

“Happy Korean American Day” written on it, allowing residents to directly write their wishes or messages to the city government, whether in Korean or English. The mayor asked the volunteers, who were proudly dressed in Hanbok, to bring the roll of paper to the mayor’s office. So many felt it was like a dream come true that our wishes and hopes could be delivered directly to the mayor.

In my welcoming remarks, I suggested that the Nashville government should open doors to many talented people and businesses from the Republic of Korea. Since I believe Koreans, who have always risen up with a spirit of resilience for freedom and independence from foreign invasion and oppression, would bring in more prosperity to the local community, I suggested myself as a liaison. I also expressed my gratitude for the great leadership of the city government, ensuring equal rights for Koreans, Asians, and immigrants, while helping them lay down roots in Nashville as their second home.

Following the congratulatory speeches of the distinguished guests, the reading of the Declaration of Independence, and the 3 hoorahs, the second part of the ceremony featured a variety of performances, chorus by 35 preschoolers sung while waving Taegukgi, traditional dances, an orchestra band, Taekwondo demonstration and Nanta performance. After a blind elderly Korean man sang “the Stranger’s Sorrow,” there was a ceremonial moment in which the honored guests bowed in front of the elderly Korean residents who had undergone language barriers and hardships as first-generation immigrants. All were



touched. There were moments of laughter as a council member bent awkwardly with stiff legs. However, I felt the significance of this event when I saw the elderly thrilled with pride, saying that they were being publicly valued for the first time in the United States.

The Korean American Association of Greater Nashville tries hard to hold big international events while comforting those in need and/or grief, sending donations to disaster areas across regions and races, though we inevitably suffer from debts. Many people, young and old, participated and volunteered to make this possible.

Without even a half day’s rest, I have encouraged Koreans to unite ourselves by uploading maxims and adages, news articles, and entertainment in both languages onto the community chat room. Now, not only did we receive three official declarations from the city government, but I also received praise from local leaders and officials. This festival made me feel rewarded to showcase the pride of my compatriots, bringing honor to our motherland, by presenting the vision of K-Leadership throughout the world.

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Oppenheimer won the Best Picture and 6 more trophies at the Academy Awards



On the 96th Academy Awards, *Oppenheimer* won 7 awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor, and Best Supporting Actor, and it was nominated for 13 awards.

By Jung Hyeon-kyeong

The Academy Awards is the best film award in U.S, hosted by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science (AMPAS) and the 96th Academy Awards were held at Dolby theater in Los Angeles on March 10th. The movie *Oppenheimer* was awarded the Best Picture there. The movie also got 6 more awards. This was no surprise at all. Because of the favorable comments by lots of critics and success in box office, many people predicted *Oppenheimer* would win many prizes at the Awards.

Al Pacino, who is famous for the movie *The Godfather*, was awarded the Best Picture. He said that it was an honor to present the Best Picture. He also mentioned that 10 wonderful films were nominated but the only one will take the award for Best Picture. He finally called the winner of the Best Picture *Oppenheimer*. Christopher Nolan, Director of the movie, and actors like Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, and Rober Downey Jr. came up to the stage together.

Emma Thomas, the co-producer of *Oppenheimer* and wife of Christopher Nolan, said “Any of us who make movies know that you kind of dream of this moment. I could deny it, but I have dreamed about it so long, but it seemed so unlikely that it would ever actually happen.” She also gave special thanks to Nolan, saying she was really grateful to him. This award is the very first Academy Awards for Nolan. She also mentioned that the success of the movie was thanks to fantastic collaboration and team work by both the cast and crew.

Oppenheimer is about a real person Robert Oppenheimer and his Manhattan Project. On the 96th Academy Awards, it won 7 awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor, and Best Supporting Actor, and it was nominated for 13 awards. The Best Actress went to Emma Stone of *Poor Things*. Da’Vine Joy Randolph won the Best Supporting Actress for *Barton Academy* and Justine Triet won the Best Original Screenplay for *Anatomy of a Fall*.

Past Lives, ignored at Oscars, still makes history

By Sophia Choi



The 96th Academy Awards on March 10th unveiled a much-expected Oppenheimer dominance. While the evening saw acknowledgments across various categories, unexpected losses, such as Martin Scorsese’s Killers of the Flower Moon and Celine Song’s *Past Lives*, which both left the event with zero Oscar wins. Political films have always been the Oscar voter’s love, as seen by the movies awarded at the show. Still, some cinephiles think *Past Lives* deserves a little more, and Oppenheimer deserves a little less, just like those who believe Barbie deserves a costume design award over *Poor Things*.

Korean-Canadian director Celine Song’s *Past Lives* was among the ten films competing for the Best Picture Oscar but notably missed out on recognition at the prestigious awards ceremony. It is the writer-director’s acclaimed debut film about her own immigrant youth experience, a significant

aspect that could have at least been highlighted well with a best screenplay win. “It is quite autobiographical in some ways.” It is very much an adaption of my life into a love story,” Song said.

The film has been praised for its captivating plot, which is reminiscent of the director’s background in theatre production. Its simplistic story beats carry a larger emotional weight through the story of the two main characters as they meet after years apart. A concept that is described in the film is in-yun, a Korean word that denotes something along the lines of fate or soulmates, emphasized through how the characters manage to reconnect one another so many times.

As the first film by an Asian female director to be nominated for an Oscar, *Past Lives* also connects audiences with a bicultural background to the movie’s story, following the footsteps of Minari, which was nominated for Best Picture in 2021. The protagonist of the film, whose experiences mirror that of the director’s own life, moves to Canada at age twelve after growing up in Korea. Celine Song thinks it’s remarkable how audiences worldwide respond to the film, “this makes me feel less lonely, and that’s what you dream of as an artist.”

Outside of the Oscars, *Past Lives* was highly regarded in several other awards, including the Independent Spirit Award for Best Feature and Best Director. Despite losing for Best Picture, the film is still a worthwhile watch to experience the characters and story for oneself.

South Korean missionary arrested on espionage charges in Russia

By Kim min-ju



On March 11th, a South Korean, Baek, was arrested by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) on charges of espionage in Vladivostok, Russia. This is the first case of a South Korean being arrested on espionage charges in Russia.

Mr. Baek, a 53-year-old South Korean male, is known as a missionary who has been involved in rescuing North Korean defectors for nearly a decade, shuttling between China and Russia. He is now detained in Lefortovo Prison in Moscow on suspicion of passing classified national information to foreign intelligence agencies. Local media revealed that the related criminal case documents have been classified as “top secret,” but did not mention what information Mr. Baek received or to which agencies he passed it.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that Russia kept silent about Baek’s arrest to South Korea and notified with a paper through diplomatic channels just last month. Concerns have arisen that this incident could further strain the relationship between South Korea and Russia, especially considering that South Korea was designated as an unfriendly country by Russia due to its participation in Western sanctions against Russia following the Ukraine war in February of 2022. Andrei Rudenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, expressed hope, stating, “We hope this incident will not affect the South Korea-Russia relationship,” while also adding, “This case needs to be carefully reviewed.”

In addition, the foundation to which Mr. Baek belongs has stepped forward, asserting his innocence. Lee Seon-gu, Chairman of the Sharing Rice Love Foundation, stated, “The espionage allegations are either due to a misunderstanding or political motivation.” He also emphasized, “Mr. Baek is a missionary solely dedicated to missionary work and humanitarian aid.” Furthermore, he explained that Mr. Baek served as the head of the Vladivostok branch in Russia, exclusively engaging in conventional missionary activities without any other involvements. He suggested that his arrest might be a retaliation against South Korea for joining sanctions against Russia following the Ukraine conflict.

Regarding the current situation, Deputy Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated, “Since the moment our embassy became aware of the arrest of our national, necessary consular assistance has been provided.” He added, “We hope our national returns safely to the embrace of their family as soon as possible, and we are in communication with the Russian authorities as needed.”

The Words the April 3rd Incident Gave to Me

By Yu Cheol (Editorial Director)



The Jeju April 3rd Incident refers to a large-scale civilian massacre that took place on Jeju Island over a period of about seven years from 1947 to 1954. Han Sang-hee’s *The Words the April 3rd Gave to Me* describes the stories related to this incident as a family narrative.

For the average reader, there might be concerns about the darkness of the content before reading the book. Indeed, the media coverage of the April 3rd Incident has mostly focused on the details of the incident and its aftermath, making the content heavy and grim.

However, the author, Han Sang-hee, dispels such concerns. Just like the title suggests, the April 3rd Incident as told in this book “gives” us words. With a calm and composed tone, she describes historical truths, the domestic and international situation at the time, the reasons behind the incident, the merciless slaughter by the perpetrators, the difficult survival and restoration of the survivors, the process of healing and overcoming the pain, and the lessons learned from it.

It is truly remarkable that so much content is narrated within a single book. Even experts acknowledge that nearly everything about the April 3rd Incident is encapsulated within this book. Through this book, readers encounter the author’s high intellectual level. Furthermore, readers may find themselves reflecting on the author’s efforts, perseverance, diligence, and sense of duty or destiny.

The author, Han Sang-hee, encounters the April 3rd Incident through a frightening dream at a young age. In the dream, she finds herself washing her hands by the seaside and touching bones, which she then piles up in a communal graveyard. Through this dream, the grandfather sacrificed in the incident approaches the author. From then on, she embarks on a long

journey to seek answers to her “questions” about the April 3rd Incident. People’s responses to these questions varied. Some talked about the US military government, others about our Korean government, and still others about soldiers and police, or the brutality of the armed forces. What exactly is the truth behind the incident? Her curiosity only grows. In time, her curiosity is satisfied through reading the “Truth Investigation Report.” In her book, she narrates the process of the April 3rd Incident and the horrifying stories of the crimes committed by the perpetrators from a comprehensive perspective.

However, at this point, she embarks on a new journey. While it is common to focus on anger towards the perpetrators and compensation for the victims, she starts asking new questions. How did the families of the victims overcome their pain? How did the children left alone in devastated villages restore the Jeju community? What made it possible for them to recover from their scars? This portion of the book allows her readers to admire her persistent searching and her expressions of profound emotions.

Here, she introduces the theory of “banality of evil,” acknowledging that humans have both good and evil within them. In other words, anyone is capable of committing evil deeds. However, through the examples of individuals who risked their lives by refusing to obey unjust orders during the incident and in this way, saving many lives, she emphasizes the importance of “citizenship of goodness.” Ultimately, she suggests that we should have the courage to practice “citizenship of goodness” which goes beyond just reflection on the “banality of evil.”

The author, Han Sang-hee suggests that the April 3rd Incident can serve as a living textbook even now for embarking on the path of peace and human rights with a global citizen consciousness. By proposing “restorative justice” through apology, forgiveness, and reconciliation, she presents the modern significance of the April 3rd Incident.

Rwanda selected as a guest country for the Coffee Expo Seoul 2024

By Maronko Moise (Special Correspondent from Rwanda)



The Coffee Expo Seoul 2024, themed “Coffee for Better Tomorrow,” took place on March 21st at COEX A and B Halls in Seoul. It was held until the 24th, featuring many coffee-related companies, providing attendees with an opportunity to explore various coffee-related products and industry trends in one place.

Rwanda was selected as this year’s guest country for the Expo. From the entrance, Rwanda’s booth extended an invitation to explore the world of coffee from Rwanda, which is known for producing high-quality Arabica coffee.

Rwandan coffee has a rich and complex history dating back to the early 20th century. Coffee was first introduced to Rwanda by German missionaries in the late 19th century, but its cultivation on a larger scale began during the Belgian colonial era in the early 20th century. During this time, coffee production became

a significant part of Rwanda’s economy, and the country gained recognition for its high-quality Arabica beans. However, the coffee industry faced challenges during periods of political instability, such as the Rwandan Civil War and the genocide in 1994, which severely disrupted coffee production and trade.

In the years following these conflicts, Rwanda underwent significant efforts to rebuild its coffee industry. Through initiatives, Rwandan coffee regained its status as a top-quality specialty coffee in the international market. Today, Rwandan coffee is celebrated worldwide for its distinct flavors, including fruity and floral notes, as well as its smooth and moderate richness.

The Coffee Expo continues to establish itself as an excellent platform promoting innovation and development in the coffee industry. Through this event, attendees experienced diverse coffee cultures and the latest trends, reaffirming the significance of coffee-producing countries like Rwanda. A visitor there, observing everyone’s efforts towards a better coffee culture, said, “I wish this kind of expo will be held more often, so that we can enjoy a variety of coffee products more comfortably.”

Exploring *Demian*: Identity, family, and adversity in today’s world

By Park Min-ji (Incheon Ara Middle School)



In the winter vacation, I happened to read Hermann Hesse’s novel *Demian*. The novel offered a light to understand myself. It explores the essence of identity and family amidst adversity, providing valuable

insights that resonate deeply, even in our troubled times. This novel is written by the German author Hermann Hesse. It portrays people’s cruel behavior and the state of affairs during the First World War.

There are three reasons why I love this novel. First, it allows me to think deeply about my identity once more. The best line, in my opinion, is: “Birds fight to get out of their eggs. An egg is a bird’s world. Anyone who wants to be born must destroy a world. The bird flies towards a god. The name of the god is Abraxas.”

In this book, Demian, Sinclair, and Mrs. Eva, Demian’s mother, appear, and Abraxas, a mysterious god with both good and evil aspects, is seen in Mrs. Eva. Also, Demian kisses Sinclair on the battlefield and disappears in front of his eyes. Through this scene, I was surprised to realize that Mrs. Eva and Demian represented another inner side of Sinclair. The person he had been conversing with up to that point was actually a manifestation of his own inner self, making it a truly remarkable story of self-discovery.

Second, I realized the importance of a family through this book. It criticizes the horrors of war and the destruction of human dignity, making me appreciate the importance of a family even more. Reading this book, I was reminded of a recent event in my life. My father moved to a new house last week. I realized the importance of family support. If my mom and I didn’t help my dad, he would be very tired. It made me appreciate the importance of a family even more. So, from now on, I will do my best for my family.

Finally, based on the friendship between the protagonists, Sinclair and Demian, the book reflects on the challenges they face in the process of growing up, overcoming them, and reaching self-actualization through enlightenment. Good and evil coexist within humans, and I hope that this book serves as an opportunity for teenagers going through puberty to introspect and reflect on themselves.



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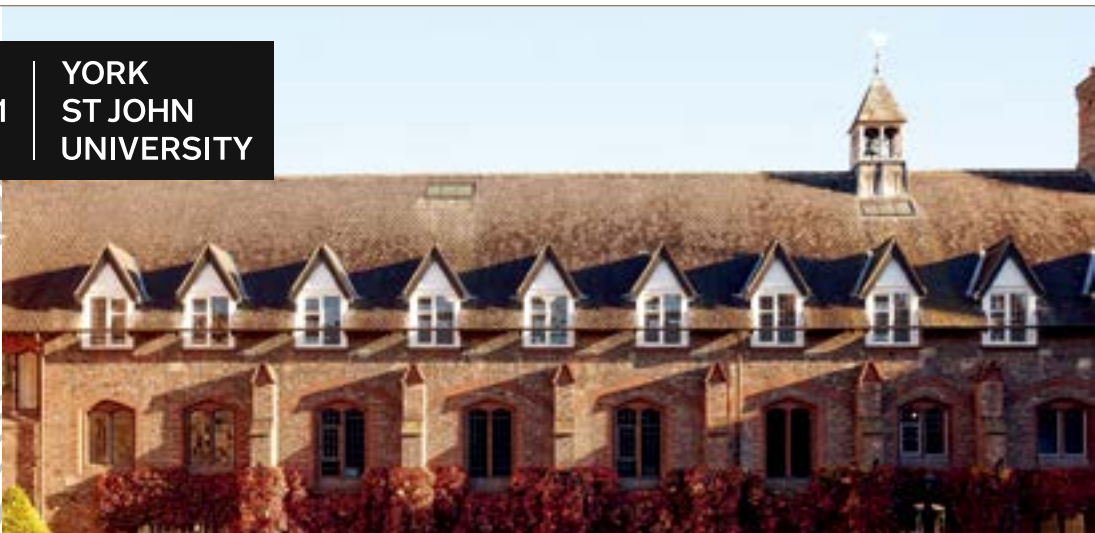
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