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The SNU Quill

SEOU NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE JOURNAL

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ENGLISH-LANGUAGE JOURNAL
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It has been only a little more than a month since I officially took position. Thus, I feel the slightest bit bewildered, the slightest bit overwhelmed, yet full of honor and pleasure to introduce myself as the next Editor-in-Chief of the SNU Quill. The product of a frenzied yet worthwhile winter break, I present to you all the 57th volume of the SNU Quill.

With technology seeping into the crevices of every inch of our lives, this issue, our Feature session tackles the subject of artificial intelligence (pg. 6 and pg. 10). Reporter and Feature Editor Tommy Lee discusses the fate of man as mechanical bodies with computational minds began to replace beating hearts with flesh and bones (pg. 8).

Our SNU Society section is always committed to covering a wide array of topics relevant to the SNU community. This issue covers theft in the dormitories (pg. 16), dongari life (pg. 20) and an exclusive interview with the president and vice-president of the Student Council of SNU by Reporter Seung Eun Kim (pg. 14).

Our Arts & Culture section strives to not only inform but also challenge and stimulate. This issue includes the humorous and intriguing thoughts of Reporter John Kim as he gazes at the famous Guernica painting (pg. 26) as well as an article that questions the creation of sequel after sequel of some of our favorite Disney classic movies (pg. 24).

With all the other articles now complete, it’s time for the last piece: the editor’s letter. As I sit down to write this letter with the once empty pages of our magazine now filled, the photos all pasted, the i’s all dotted, I can state with certainty that this hectic and endless busyness has been one that can be summarized in but a single word: gratitude.

To our amazing readers, our relentlessly supporting and forgiving publisher, our generous sponsors. And of course, the team. Our reporters, our photographers, our designers—our Quillers.

You guys make it happen. You guys keep me going. Thank you.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
FRANCES SEOWON JIN

FAREWELL TO TWO QUILLERS

We bid farewell to two individuals, DaHyun Diana Cho and Bora Lee. Diana (Dept. of English Language and Literature ’11), who joined the Quill in 2012, served as an editor before becoming the Managing Director. Bora (Dept. of International Relations ’13) joined in 2013 and later became the Editor-in-Chief. Under your leadership, Quill has flourished and evolved. Thank you. For the replies to urgent messages at 3 am, late nights at the publisher, and last minute solutions to unexpected panicky moments. For the unending guidance and continuous support. For the sharing of relief and accomplishment when each volume was published.

We started as strangers and now we part as friends.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
FRANCES SEOWON JIN
The idea of artificial intelligence has captured humanity for a good century, bolstering our imagination and questioning us with the existential challenges of what it means to be human. Today, humanity is witnessing the development of AI at an extremely rapid pace, a huge step towards unprecedented development, but possibly a devastating one, according to some of the most renowned researchers of this field.

The public’s interests seem to lie primarily on its entertaining uses, and commercial motives that may spawn lucrative business opportunities. The bigger issue may be elsewhere. Held in July of last year in Buenos Aires, the International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) gathered some of the most renowned scientists and researchers across the globe to warn the potential risks of artificial intelligence: artificial intelligence, if misused, may be an agent of irreversible disasters on humanity.

These voices of caution are not new. These conferences about the potential disasters of AI research were held as early as 1969, when scholars were already wary of potentially “intelligent” machines. In 1965, British mathematician Irving John Good was among the first to write of an “intelligence explosion”, stating that if machines can surpass humans in the slightest degree, they could augment themselves at an exponential rate without human input. The idea, with the help of other scholars, later developed into the concept of technological singularity. What these scholars foreboded was an hypothetical situation of unimaginably complex artificial intelligence.

Recently, Elon Musk and Bill Gates exhibited their profound concern over AI during their interview with Baidu CEO Robin Li earlier in March of last year. Musk denied the notion that his concern over the dark side of technology is irrelevant as “worrying about overpopulation in Mars”. The danger of AI, he points out, is that humanity is utterly unprepared for adapting to what may bring unpredictable changes. Much like a nuclear research with its potential for destructive arms, AI research therefore calls for an emphasis on AI safety instead of advancing AI technology.

Moreover, Gates highlighted the frightful possibility of artificial intelligence making the human mind obsolete, something that may be viable very soon. When “superintelligence” is out into effect, it will instantly grow something that may be viable very soon. When “superintelligence” is out into effect, it will instantly grow exponentially without human input. The idea with the help of other scholars, later developed into the concept of technological singularity. What these scholars foreboded was an hypothetical situation of unimaginably complex artificial intelligence.

Despite these challenges, however, some have committed themselves to raise awareness about AI’s potential risks, just like the members of IJCAI. Several technology giants announced last December that they decided to invest $1 billion to OpenAI, a new non-profit company dedicated “to advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return.” The creators of OpenAI, including former Google researcher Ilya Sutskever, Elon Musk and Sam Altman, believe, “Because of AI’s surprising history, it’s hard to predict when human-level AI might come within reach... As a non-profit, our aim is to build value for everyone rather than shareholders. Researchers will be strongly encouraged to publish their work, whether as papers, blog posts, or code and our patents (if any) will be shared with the world. We’ll freely collaborate with others across many institutions and expect to work with companies to research and deploy new technologies.” Despite not being of any high magnitude, these efforts are essential in defining the vectors of AI research today.

Unprecedented Risks of the New Era
Why Elon Musk and others are obsessed with risks of artificial intelligence

By: Seungju Lim
Humans are unreliable. We are made of flesh and bone, and therefore we are lazy or dumber. Horses do not have jobs because they are made of sinew, and as a result, we are inefficient, prone to failures and inconsistencies that are outside of our control. Hence, men have sought to correct their failures with man-made machines, with tools specialized to do particular tasks as efficiently as possible. Throughout history, the invention of new tools and machines caused the demand for human labor to dwindle. Today, technology continues to displace human jobs at an even larger scale. Our jobs, both the physical and the intellectual, are actively being threatened by innovations in robotics and artificial intelligence. However, we cannot stop this. We can only brace ourselves for the inevitable.

Horses were once one of the most prominent helpers to human labor. We bred them and turned them into tools for our comfort. Horses became such a significant part of society that at that point, no one imagined society could exist without them. Yet, here we are today and the thought of having any horses do the work that a truck or a car could do seems primitive and inefficient. Therefore, is it not just as likely that labor we employ today will eventually be perceived as such? The point is, horses never became lazier or dumber. Horses do not have jobs because they became unemployable.

Today, physical labor is done at a large scale by machines. 90% of the physical labor needed in some Chinese factories is done by robots, and this number will inevitably rise so that thousands of scientific research and recommend diagnoses at a level that is far more consistently accurate than those given by traditional human doctors.

However, this same technology can be used not only to create better doctors but lawyers as well. Contrary to popular belief, much of a lawyer’s work is not spent in courtrooms dramatically arguing against the moral failures of others. No, much of a lawyer’s work is spent carefully scanning legal documents and committing themselves to hours of research to help support their case. This is something artificial intelligence can easily do in the near future as well as pinpointing key words and scanning millions of legal documents in a matter of seconds. So if artificial intelligence can do these jobs that seem infinitely difficult to a majority of the population, then surely artificial intelligence will be a welcome substitute for any menial and tedious office job, like filling up an excel sheet. The day is coming when both physical and intellectual jobs will no longer be done by humans. Humans will be unemployable. But perhaps you are still unafraid because your particular fascination is with the arts. Technology is coming for your jobs too.

According to Richard Susskind, a UK government advisor and visiting professor at Oxford Internet Institute, author of the book Future of the Professions: How Technology will Transform the Work of Human Experts, artificial intelligence will not only replace the roles of doctors and lawyers, but architects too. According to Susskind, instead of thinking about a profession as a single, large and difficult thing, it is easier to divide a job into multiple simple tasks that an artificial intelligence can perform effectively. As a result, some have created artificial intelligence that can play chess at a level superior to nearly all humans.

Music that, put to a blind test, is indistinguishable from music written by people. Certainly you could say that even then these robots are not actually practicing creativity, granting that creativity is some unique and spontaneous thing specific to the human mind. However, just as in the past when chess was believed to be a singularly human achievement, now we have artificial intelligence that can play chess at a level superior to nearly all humans.

In the future human labor will be displaced not because we will become lazy or incompetent, but because we will become unemployable. We will be outmatched by machines that are far superior than us at completing their tasks. If you want to stop this, you cannot. There will be no halting the progress of technology. And if you are afraid, then you have every right to be. However, on the flip side of fear is hope. Hope that artificial intelligence will bring forth a new age for our civilization, a better one. A society that is so far ahead, so awe-inspiring and incredible that we cannot imagine what it will be. Maybe artificial intelligence will grant us new jobs we did not even know existed, just as the internet has created jobs that twenty years ago would have sounded like nonsense? What is a Youtuber after all? Or a blogger? There are many reasons to be afraid, but also many reasons to remain hopeful. The most we can do is to brace ourselves for whatever is looming right above us, and embrace the era of the unemployable man with open arms.
The Role of AI in Social Media

Is artificial intelligence shaping the future of social media?

By JAEHEE JANG

The expanding potential of artificial intelligence has been verified by our modern world’s human-machine interactions, and a brief inspection of people’s daily lives today demonstrate how deeply entwined humans and machines are. The exponential growth of machinery indicates that the adaptation of such advancements in society will continue to increase even more in this digital age. While some might associate the idea of artificial intelligence with a conversion into a science fiction world, it is probable that in the near future the applications of artificial intelligence will be subtly incorporated into various fields of work, for instance social media.

Artificial intelligence is an efficient tool that supports social media, primarily performing tasks such as assembling data. The collected user-generated data is then analyzed to recognize the patterns among the massive load of information. The fact that the structure of social media is constructed upon the website’s ability to synthesize such data indicates that the role of artificial intelligence will only expand even more, corresponding to the further developments planned by the developers of various social media websites.

While it is debatable whether Facebook is a leader in this expansion of artificial intelligence, clearly it is one of the major players in the field of social media. Not that long ago, the founder and CEO of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, revealed that the goal is, “to build AI systems that are better than humans at our primary senses: vision, listening...” Facebook’s artificial intelligence research was initiated in the late 2013, as a partnership between Facebook’s research lab and New York University’s Center for Data Science was formed in joint efforts to discover the new possibilities of machine learning. Zuckerberg announced that the significance of the integration of artificial intelligence with Facebook lies in the prime purpose of social media: to connect people. He explained this by saying, “if you take a photo of a dog or write a post about politics, we should understand that so we can show that post and help you connect people who like dogs and politics.”

Today, we can view some of such deep learning technology functions operating in Facebook, where its pattern recognition algorithm coordinates a system that enables a more personalized user experience. Hence, the website is able to assist users in tagging friends in photos, suggest topics of interests, and promote suitable services, to the right users, at the appropriate time, without having to invest a lot of manpower in deciphering such information.

Such information acquired from social media users is also being used in marketing to promote the product of interest unique to each and every consumer. Through artificial intelligence social media sites are capable of obtaining data that better comprehends the lifestyles, hobbies, and spending habits of each individual users and hence, these websites are able to offer more personalized suggestions and select suitable advertisements to be shown. This is also known as programmatic marketing, and as the increased buying and selling of media is driving even more advanced artificial intelligence, it is anticipated that programmatic marketing will become the future of advertising. Being able to buy the specific audiences will assist in evaluating the right person, right time, and right ad, and additionally the algorithm created combinations of advertisements will function in an efficient method, incomparable to the manual work of humans. Moreover, through artificial intelligence, various companies have been conducting multiple experiments in efforts to optimize the productivity of ads.

Not that long ago, M&C Saatchi, in a joint effort with Clear Channel and Posterscope, publicized that they had developed an artificially intelligent outdoor campaign. Its creators view upon what is claimed to be “the world’s first ever artificially intelligent poster campaign”, as a test of automation technology and computational creativity. The poster has been created to ‘evolve’ into different ads based on its audience’s reaction to the initial ad displayed, resulting in ads that are all individually unique. The chief innovation officer of M&C Saatchi, David Cox exclaimed that, “it’s the first time a poster has been let loose to entirely write itself, based on what works, rather than just what a person thinks may work.”

Furthermore, while Facebook is exercising great influence in this arena, its not the only one who has high prospects in the social media areas. In 2014, Google acquired DeepMind, an artificial intelligence company, for over $400 million, and together, these joint forces are aiming to “build algorithms capable of learning for themselves directly from raw experience or data.” Recently, a computing system developed by DeepMind topped a professional human player and European champion at a game of Go, a major breakthrough for artificial intelligence. While machines have defeated most games that are considered measures of human intellect, the ancient Chinese game Go, had been a continuous challenge for AI researchers, until now. This win achieved through the machine’s deep learning is a crucial component of social media. More importantly, Google, one of the largest search engines with access to vast data hints at even more effective deep learning technologies, in which machine intelligence can not only absorb and utilize information that is already existing, but also learn by itself from the patterns in order to accomplish a specific objective.

The potentials of artificial intelligence in improving the accuracy and efficiently of handling data demonstrate how the claim that AI is the future of our social media is plausible. The personalized involvement social media sites promise to offer is indeed, something to anticipate as the frontiers of user experience in social media is furthered.
CAMPUS NEWS

Student commits suicide and online dispute occurs

On December 18th, an SNU Biological Sciences undergraduate committed suicide at Sillim shortly after posting a will on SNULife. According to the will, he felt indignant at the society that “bullied” him and followed a different “rationality” from his. He also stressed that sufferers of depression require “practical consolations” rather than groundless words such as “everything will be all right.” It was later revealed that he had caused a minor collision with a rented car and had been burdened with heavy fees.

Many news media that wrote on the incident suggested that the student ended his life because he felt despondent about his social class, quoting the words “what determines survival is not the color of my frontal lobe but rather the color of my spoon (family’s economic status)” from his will. His parents, however, in a statement that was subsequently posted on the SNU Bamboo Grove, denied such reasoning and maintained that their son’s decision was mainly due to stress from the rental car accident.

Other issues ensued. On the day of the student’s death, Han, an editorial staff at Future Korea Weekly, criticized the late student for his “weakness of mind,” and called his will a “self-justification for escaping” in his Facebook post. Consequently, much opposition arose when students found out that Han had been invited to speak as a guest instructor at SNU in a spring semester course “Engineering Frontiers and Leadership 3.” After a number of students sent complaint emails to the supervising professor, Han was withdrawn and replaced.

An online dispute developed when Han, in another Facebook post, wrote that the Engineering student committee had opposed him as a “pack of dogs” and caused his removal from the course. The Engineering student committee reacted by issuing an official statement asserting that the committee itself had not protested against Han, and that complaint emails against him had been sent voluntarily by individual students. The statement also demanded removal of past Facebook posts regarding the matter and a public apology. Although Han angrily denied the accusations at first, he later partly apologized.

Chonghak speaks on SHINE’s extravagance

After finally obtaining the expenditure details of SHINE, on December 23rd, Chonghak (student council) disclosed the spending details and issued a review on SHINE’s financial management. SHINE is a group of student ambassadors affiliated with the university headquarters that met much criticism earlier last year when it was suggested that it was receiving unreasonably large financial grants. Chonghak maintained that SHINE had indeed spent excessive amounts of money, pointing to expenditures such as almost 1,000,000 won on promotional print materials and 150,000 won per member on a photo shoot, all during one recruitment season. As for the spending of 1,200,000 won on a homecoming day, Chonghak called it “unacceptable” because it was unrelated to SHINE’s role. Chonghak criticized SHINE for not showing consideration of the fact that it was using students’ tuition fees. Moreover, Chonghak demanded more transparency and student rights regarding the university’s financial administration.
Internationally Detailed

By Seong Eun Um

I had waited three weeks for this interview. Three weeks was torturous for a reporter constantly pressured by upcoming deadlines. The moment I stepped into the Chongbak (student council) room, I could instantly picture their hectic schedules. With stacks of boxes and booklets spread around the room, there was barely space for me to sit. The whiteboard, which had schedules written all over, amplified the chaotic ambiance.

The 58th Chongbak was elected into student assembly with a promise of “a united movement in pursuit of diversity,” which poses a curious question: do international students have a part in their definition of diversity? The SNU Quill interviewed president Bo Mi Kim (Dept. of Political Science and International Relations) and vice-President Min Seok Kim (Dept. of Consumer Science and Child Studies) of the 58th Chongbak in order to figure out the details.

1 How does Chongbak communicate with international students?

Min Seok: We try to listen to the voices of international students by contacting SISA (SNU International Student Association). Despite our attempts to contact SISA, we hardly received responses from them. It was difficult to set an appointment date or discuss in detail. We are not quite sure how SISA is organized.

Bo Mi: To facilitate communication, it would be better if SISA was better organized. If they were organized into different subgroups, we will be able to listen to their stories more effectively and reflect them in our future plans.

2 The SNU Quill has written about the difficulties confronted by Muslim students in SNU. Has the student council ever tried to help the Muslim students, or are the solutions in progress?

Min Seok: Yes, we are well aware of the daily struggles that Muslim students face due to a lack of support from SNU. I have a couple Muslim friends who are having a hard time. We have actually discussed providing halal food in SNU as a part of a school cafeteria menu. However, we could not develop the idea as one of our election promises because we did not know enough about the Muslim community or the halal tradition. We were unsure if we could confidently execute the promise without knowing the details. Chongbak would like an input from the Muslim community. It would be great if the Muslim students formed a group and elected a representative to deliver their needs.

Bo Mi: The 57th Chongbak has put halal food on the agenda of the Committee of Amelioration of Educational Environment. We proposed that SNU either have halal food as a cafeteria menu or have small pack halal food sold at the convenience store. This plan was in progress but as the committee was watched over by the Board of Audit and Inspection, everything was halted temporarily during the inspection process. This does not mean that the plan was completely drowned. If this gets back on progress, we are hoping to prepare halal food this semester and hopefully have it ready for next semester.

3 International students also face a barrier when renting a room. They often suffer from language impediment and a lack of understanding of Korea’s unique room renting system, jeonse. Are there any plans to help the bewildered students?

Bo Mi: Yes, we have contemplated much about this issue. I actually lived in a goshiwon when I was a freshman and at the shared kitchen, I met an international student from the College of Natural Sciences. I was shocked that an international student was not given a dormitory room and had to live in such a small goshiwon. I know that a dormitory for international students do exist, but a room for every international student, this is not the case. We have a program called “a house for all” which provides a share house exclusively for SNU students. There are different types of houses students can choose from, ranging from apartments near the station of those in goshiwon. We are planning to execute a second round of this program solely for international students. We would also like to translate our “2016 SNU Off-Campus Housing Guidebook” in English.

4 Another issue for international students would be socializing within the SNU community. What do you think about this problem and what are some solutions?

Bo Mi: It is often challenging for international students to mingle with other Korean students. This is absolutely not their fault. The university is accepting foreign students and professors, as an increase in the number of international community helps elevate world university ranking. However, compared to the soaring increase in the international population, SNU has little to no program or aid. I can especially empathize with international students because during high school, I spent a year in the United States. Everyday was a challenge living in a different country. Also, I have written a thesis on difficulties of international students in my college writing class. A counseling center for international students does not exist and a community for international students is not well founded. The student council members would like to communicate more with SISA and figure out what is most needed in the international community. Then, we can report it to the head office for further aid.

5 What efforts did you make in order to make the pledges known to international students?

Bo Mi: We were rushing through the preparation this time. We honestly had no time. Last time when I was running for the vice president for 57th Chongbak, we once posted an English translated speech at the school cafeteria. I thought this was crucial as international students are a part of the SNU community. The 56th Chongbak has once translated the booklet in English and Chinese. We would love to have someone competent in English to help us translate our work, and we will look into this issue more closely for sure.
Lost & Not Found

Theft in SNU dormitories

In the past year, how many times have you experienced theft?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2 times</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 times</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 or more</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Do you think communicating through the whiteboard in each dorm helps reduce theft?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Item(s) Stolen From Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item(s)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and drinks in the refrigerator</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toiletries</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes on the drying rack</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From left in the room</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By JINA NAM

Home—even if it is just a dormitory room—is where you want to feel comfortable and safe. However, it seems as if quite a few students in the SNU dormitories do not feel this way, one of the main reasons being frequent cases of theft. SNU Quill conducted a research in an attempt to understand the scope of theft in the campus dormitories.

“I could tell they drank my milk!”

Theft in the dormitories seemed only like a nasty rumor until the results of the survey came in. Results from 33 students indicated that whether they lived in the newer 906 dormitory buildings or in the oldest 921-926 buildings, 45.5% of the students had experienced theft. They found their items gone at least once or twice just in the past year, with a couple of students experiencing theft more than five times a year. The common kitchen areas in dormitories have fridges used by all residents; a hotspot for hungry hands to handle foods that are not their own. Reportedly, 55.6% of stolen items were food and drinks from the fridges—even the ones labeled by their owners—making them the most common items stolen in the dormitories. Next up at 52% was clothes on laundry racks, taken from the dormitory’s shared laundry rooms. Student Lee, a resident of the dormitories for four years and a victim of dormitory theft, recalled a couple of moments where she would find her half full carton of milk empty the next day. There was a time when someone stole her favorite t-shirt from the laundry room as well: “I have to go get it out just when it finishes so I can make sure no one steals anything... I’ve heard that some people even got their underwear stolen from the laundry rooms too.”

So What Can We Do?

With items being stolen in our dormitories, the students and dormitory RAs took up measures to try to prevent further cases of theft: but are these methods effective enough? Apart from directly reporting to their RAs, students file their complaints on dormitory theft through community whiteboards placed in all dormitory buildings. While the RAs always read the comments and understand the gravity of theft in their buildings, there is little they are able to do. So taking the suggestions of some students, they considered placing CCTVs in the common areas such as the kitchen and laundry rooms. The dormitory head office, Gwanaksa, even conducted a survey to install CCTVs: surprisingly though, the majority of the votes were against installing them. The RA theorized that many questioned the effectiveness of CCTVs as they would take a long time to install, and it would still be hard to identify who is stealing and how to catch that person. “I would still like to have CCTVs installed as a precaution. I think it’s the best thing the school can do as of right now,” student Lee commented. “The whiteboards can help solve other problems like loud noises, but with theft, not so much.”

Apart from the option of installing CCTVs, the dormitory has been providing labels for students to mark their possessions in the fridge and laundry rooms. They even lent locks with bags for students who wished to keep their things in the fridge without them being taken. Still feeling unsafe with these measures, many students just choose not to put things in the fridge in the first place. “One student actually installed a mini fridge in her room,” the RA commented, “It’s not against dormitory protocol, but in order to install one you need to talk to your RA about it first.” In other cases, residents like student Lee wait till the winter to use their window sills as their personal fridges. This might be a possible option for students, especially foreign students who suffer losing their homeland snacks by putting them in the common fridges: “When people steal things from foreign students, they know it’s not theirs! So I don’t understand why they do it, but I’m pretty annoyed,” student Lee defended. The RA also empathized, “I especially feel bad for the foreign students because not only do they get their food stolen, they can’t really express their anger about it. The Korean students probably don’t take the time to read the English on the boards so they don’t know much about it.”

Punishable by Law

Even though it is a clear that theft is an issue to be seriously dealt with in the dormitories, the exact number of theft cases that occur in a year, let alone one semester, is almost impossible to find out. From the RA’s point of view, it is not often that students actually come and talk to them about people stealing from them, even if they can tell that theft is a big issue just by looking at the furious comments on whiteboards. Even in the survey, only 18.2% of the victims confessed that they reported it to their RAs directly. “We don’t know exactly how many cases there are, but one thing is for sure: once they are found, there is no mercy and they are immediately kicked out of the dormitories,” the RA remarked. For example, there was a time a female student got caught immediately expelled from the dormitories, after uploading a photo on Facebook wearing a shirt she “borrowed” from her roommate. While some of the students who are drinking someone else’s milk here and there, or borrowing a roommate’s t-shirt without permission might think there was no harm done, it is a big breach against dormitory rules. Not only that, but even petty theft can be penalized legally as a crime.

A fellow SNU grad student, the RA continued to commented, “Whether you’re in SNU or not, the fact that you are in college should mean that you have some sense of culture, manners and morality in you. I would like to think that in college, SNU or not, we shouldn’t have to deal with something like theft: something kindergarten children wouldn’t even do.”

If our dormitories must serve as temporary homes, what does it become if we feel no sense of comfort or security to even leave our milk in the fridge? Can we still call it our home?
Winnie the SNU

The quest for honey and the fierce registration battle

By YEA WON CHOE

Battle Royale

Course registration is the war of all against all. Despite the prevalent individualism and ambience of laissez-faire within SNU, for the day that one subject becomes everyone’s business. As SNU’s course registration system is more or less a first-come-first-serve based system, it is viewed as a gateway to the age of limitless competition. Of course, the pressure of having one’s doom sealed in a few seconds is quite severe. Accordingly, the students usually hone the necessary armors and gears, if it means an all-night standby in a PCbang, or borrowing another student’s account. With much fuss over course registration, it is nearly impossible to satisfy everyone.

The two most recent course registrations have been especially problematic. In the 2015 fall semester, the server crashed down and the students were unable to connect to the registration site. The College of Humanities, after keeping its quiet for so long soon became the axis of evil. Students were shocked to find that they were unable to register for any of the Humanities major courses. As a result, even the students whose student ID ended with an even number were denied their right of registration. Those wishing to take any of the Humanities major courses were left with a single option to wake up at 7:00am on February 1 to do a separate course registration.

However, on January 28th, 2016, the problem arose not from the SNU Central Information Systems and Technology service but more from the frontier. The College of Humanities, after keeping its quiet for so long soon became the axis of evil. Students were shocked to find that they were unable to register for any of the Humanities major courses. As a result, even the students whose student ID ended with an even number were denied their right of registration. Those wishing to take any of the Humanities major courses were left with a single option to wake up at 7:00am again on February 1 to do a separate course registration.

According to the SNU Information Systems and Technology team leader Lee Deok Im, the incident on July 30th was due to “a failure to predict and prepare for the often versatile server load.” The SNU IT service got into work the next day and the same crisis was not to be seen. Since such issues only emerged on the first day of course registration, voices of dissatisfaction arose especially amongst students whose student ID ended with an odd number. “I don’t know until when but I will keep being treated as the beta testers for all course registration,” said one of the comments in SNUlife. The chaos of July 30th slowly died down, with expectations that history would not repeat itself.

The two most recent course registrations have been especially problematic. In the 2015 fall semester, the server crashed down and the students were unable to connect to the registration website or were logged in to another student’s account. According to the SNU Information Systems and Technology team leader Lee Deok Im, the incident on July 30th was due to “a failure to predict and prepare for the often versatile server load.” The SNU IT service got into work the next day and the same crisis was not to be seen. Since such issues only emerged on the first day of course registration, voices of dissatisfaction arose especially amongst students whose student ID ended with an odd number. “I don’t know until when but I will keep being treated as the beta testers for all course registration,” said one of the comments in SNUlife. The chaos of July 30th slowly died down, with expectations that history would not repeat itself.

The quest for honey

The fuss over course registration is essentially due to the desire to sign up for the so-called odd-number, a newly coined word which literally means “honey course,” and refers to courses that deliver “easy A’s with minimal work. Examples of such odd-number include courses from the SNU Physical Education Department or the Department of Arts, mainly because such courses are known to be relatively stress-free, one credit, easy-A. Another example is a course named “Understanding Death: A Scientific View.” Not only did the fascinating subject that prompted students to choose the course but also the professor’s creed to evaluate his students by absolute evaluation seduced many A-diggers.

The essence of this warfare can be explained as an extension of competition. With the students’ every sense focused on climbing the ladder of meritocracy, no credit could be wasted on time-consuming and nebulous subject matters. Such trend could be clearly seen in the recent imbalance in course registrants and increasing number of course cancellations. Indeed, in the 2015 spring semester, amongst the General courses the department with the most cancellations was the Department of Humanities, with 7 out of 21 cancellations. In contrast, the most popular Department majors are those from the Department of Economics, Business Administration and Law mainly due to their deep connectivity with employment and entrance to Law Schools. Indeed, those with a more critical view point out that the whole hassle over the course registration is due to following the “blind-majority.” If one fills up one’s “schedule with whatever they want, the hell’s with course registration” said a student from the Department of Humanities who preferred to stay anonymous, who, after a failure on January 28th, smugly texted the writer after succeeding on the second go on February 1.

Against All Odds

The coping mechanism demonstrated by the Humanities Department brought widespread debate amongst the students. While many agreed that setting the same day for a re-registration would have been fairest for those who were unable to register, others argued that the fairest way would have been to let the “even-number” students register normally and to set a separate re-registration day for the “odd-number” students. What more, the Humanities crisis re-heated the odd-even debate that took place on the previous July. A vast number of students questioned the current set-in-stone rule of “odd-first, even-second” rule in course registration. Some suggest that switching the order around every other year would be a better and faireer choice.

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Any Other Options?

Clearly with the issue coming to a head, some schools have attempted to make a breakthrough. Yonsei University’s Yonsei Course Enrollment System (Y-CES), which was introduced since the 2015 fall semester, gives each student a choice to distribute a certain amount of mileage on the course a student wishes to take. Therefore, for example, if student A is given 36 mileages for 6 subjects, student A can distribute a total of 36 mileages on the 6 subjects in the order of most desired. Therefore, amongst the students who registered for the class, the student who allocated the most mileage will be granted the right to sign up for the course. If the allocated mileage is the same, criteria such as whether the course and the student’s major matches, the number of courses a student registered, and whether a student registered for graduation are taken into account. According to the admins of Yonsei University, the renovated Y-CES system is expected “to put an end to the past uninstructive behavior of first-come-first-service.”

What’s Next?

Course registration is a series of suffocating, severe, swift clicks that decides one’s fate of the whole semester. Up until now the brutality of the system has frustrated many. Nonetheless, changes have been taking place both inside and outside, ranging from Yonsei’s Y-CES to the Student Council’s discussions to improve the current course registration system. Meanwhile, we ought to brace ourselves for any “odd mishaps.” As brutal as the system seems, to some, it may be a wake-up call to tighten up one’s reflexes for competition mode.
Two Dongari You Probably Did Not Know About

Flying on the Ground
Bringing the fictional world of Harry Potter to life, the SNU dongari Seoul Puffskein plays Quidditch, a ball game with the magical touch of a broomstick.

Starting with four Harry Potter fans with previous quidditch experience abroad, Seoul Puffskein, the first quidditch team in the nation, was created last year in September 2015. The co-ed team has since expanded to fifteen fixed members including international students and Harry Potter virgins, enlightening muggles about the wizarding community. For those who desire daring activities, the team currently holds weekly sessions, practicing throwing and blocking balls with one hand and holding a wooden stick between their legs with the other while running.

In the books, Quidditch takes place in mid-air with flying balls knocking off players from bewitched broomsticks and whooshing through hoops to score points. The game ends when a player manages to catch the fluttering golden snitch. Quidditch in the muggle world, however, is quite different. The game consists not one but two snitches—one for each team. To end the game, players tackle opponents to snatch the opponent’s golden snitch, a small ball attached to a player.

President Annie Lee (Dept. of International Relations ‘12) boasts, “Quidditch is a creative sport open for anyone who seek to break through their creative blocks.” She admitted that because players run with sticks between their legs, they receive odd stares and get laughed at. However, because quidditch is a sport that requires a little bit of imagination and a good sense of humor, the unusual position of the stick becomes a unique and integral part of the sport.

This summer, the team plans to represent Korea in the Quidditch World Cup that takes place in Germany, starring as the protagonist in their own fantasy world and bearing the scarlet and gold badge in their hearts.

Making Wine More Approachable
Wine is not exclusive for the wealthy elite, according to SNU wine tasting club “Wine Just Guides the People.” While such clubs may seem such an extravagance, especially when Korea’s reputable alcoholic beverage soju is sold at a dirt cheap price of 1,050 won per bottle, “Wine Just Guides the People” offers members the chance to enjoy wine at affordable costs.

Formed in 2012, wine tasting club allows members to taste a variety of wine at a relatively affordable price of 20,000 won to 25,000 won per meeting by focusing on cheap but quality wine bought at supermarkets and sharing the costs among members, unlike the usual wine tasting club with high membership fees due to the costs of eating expensive dishes such as steak while tasting wine. Different from other clubs, this wine tasting club’s budget is predominantly expended on wine; wine clubs in other universities typically spend vast amounts not only on wine but also on snacks.
ARTS & CULTURE

A STORY NO LONGER OURS
ON GUERNICA AND ART IN GENERAL
AT A GLANCE

PHOTOGRAPH BY SUNG YUN BAE
A Story No Longer Ours
Challenges to modern animation sequels

By Soo Jin Kwon

What could provide a greater comfort against the unstoppable passage of time than the knowledge that one will never be too old for a Disney movie? As a “90s kid who grew up in the golden era of animation films, it is undeniably exhilarating to see headlines confirming the release of an animation sequel, albeit only for a moment. Nowadays, animation sequels seem to be a trend in the cinematic world, as evidenced by the number of sequels that are being released. The Disney Pixar movies *Toy Story* (1995), *Finding Nemo* (2003), and *The Incredibles* (2004) are some of the finest masterpieces from the old days, unveiled by the kinds of entertainment that are offered in today’s cinemas. These three works all have returned or are planned to return to us as sequels to their originals. While news of our childhood heroes returning, some after a decade since their first appearances, is at first music to the ears, there are reasons to contemplate the significances of their return to us now grown-up individuals.

In 2015, Pixar released a second sequel to one of its most successful animation film series, *Toy Story*, and plans on releasing a third sequel by 2018. When *Toy Story 3* (2010) was released, it soon acclaimed the honored title as one of the highest grossing animated films of all time. What was Pixar’s key to success? Certainly, Pixar’s beautiful, high quality animations and comical yet heartwarming content played a part. Yet it seems that the long wait between the first sequel in 1999 and the second in 2010, the gap of 11 years, was one impacting factor too. 11 years is time enough for a child to mature into adulthood, a time for new generations of babies to be born and watch *Toy Story* for the first time. Personally, having watched *Toy Story 2* countless times as a child, growing up to watch the second sequel was worth the endless wait. The time gap between the two sequels was perfect to awaken long-forgotten and what was thought to be well-stowed-away memories of the past, and be a comfort to those afraid of growing up.

Nonetheless, the need for a fourth *Toy Story* remains speculative. A fourth movie intensifies the notion that sequels have become a necessary evil. For similar reasons, there is need for more discretion when producing other animation sequels, such as *Finding Dory*, which will be released this summer and *The Incredibles 2*, to be released in the near future. If the quality of the animations level up to the standards of their originals, the two sequels may attract new, young fans. However, pulling on the heartstrings of old, returning fans may be a challenge. Comparatively, *Toy Story 3* was an exception because the movie showed a grown-up Andy that mirrored the original audience that has also grown up. For these reasons, *Toy Story 3* aroused bittersweet sympathy and attachment.

Meanwhile, *Finding Nemo* and *The Incredibles* did not have this kind of special bonding between the main character and the audience like in *Toy Story*, and thus reaching out to old fans may be a greater challenge. Moreover, the passage of time and our changed society will naturally affect different facets of a movie, be it the plotline, the humor, or the characters, which will lead the audience to subconsciously compare the movie with its predecessor. Animation producers will have the pressure of overcoming such barriers to prove that animations return as sequels for those dearly waiting fans, and not just for commercial purposes. With such risks at hand, we should consider again whether to welcome animation sequels, or rather to watch new animations, which may not be true to our style but at least not interfering with memories of a picturesque childhood.

Think back on the movie scenes of the past that so deeply immersed us into the plot, incited ingenuous laughter, or generated a drop of a heartfelt tear. The influence of animation films is not to be underestimated, as much as everything we have experienced in our childhood has contributed in some way to shape who we are today. We may have forgotten many moments of our past, yet these can be awakened through the astonishing power of animation films, which bring out our most innocent, childlike sides, time-travelling us back to the day when we were watching the films for the first time. One may never be too old to watch an animation film, yet judging from the countless animation sequels that have failed to touch us and are likely to fail us in the future, perhaps this saying is only valid for those original movies that each one of us grew up with and treasured as a child.

Timeline of several animation sequels to be released.

Andy and his toys in *Toy Story 2* (1999)
A grown-up Andy says goodbye to his toys in *Toy Story 3* (2010)
As the final days of 2015 quietly lay down to expire, my family and I decided to vault into Spain with prodigal verve for the better part of two weeks. We lounged through Barcelona, Seville, Toledo, and La Mancha, taking siestas and ingesting tapas with frightening alacrity. On our penultimate day, we found ourselves in Madrid, and having run out of things to do, we decided to go the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, which is apparently acclaimed and famous.

The Reina Sofía emerged, confoundingly, out of the wilting asphalt and thin cobbled sidewalks surrounding it. Inside, we relinquished our bags to the care of some oversized, padlocked cubbies, climbed up a flight of marble stairs, then came upon the first exhibition: Postmodernism. I wandered from wing to wing, smiling as though I understood modern art. I could hear a looped recording of a screaming woman in some distant room, but nobody seemed upset. I passed through an empty room with dark blue walls, and only after I left it did I realize that the room itself was the art. I began to wonder strange things about vague and fuzzy subjects: What was I? Who was I? Where was color, and when was light? And what was I doing in a modern art museum?

I didn’t recognize Picasso’s Guernica as much of anything at first glance—just another big depressing painting in a museum full of big depressing paintings. It took a throng of Japanese tourists and my mom whispering “Look! It’s Guernica! See? It’s just like in the travel guide!” for me to understand what I was looking at. It was a famous painting, I stared at it, waiting for grand, spectacular notions regarding the meaning of life and the catastrophe of war. Nothing came. I waited some more. Nope. And so my academic smile fell away and I came to terms with the very uncomfortable fact that Guernica was nothing but what I saw it to be—horribly and scandalously unentertaining.

The crowd swirled. Viewers had their brief, pretentious, self-reflective moments, then walked off, so that others might have their own. I lingered. Why did that horse have a needle for a tongue? Why was everything monochrome? Why were the faces all disembodied like that? I understood that the painting was supposed to be ugly, because war was ugly, but that couldn’t be it. There was no way that a simple statement of war’s de facto unpleasantness was what made Guernica one of the greatest pieces of art in the twentieth century. I had to be missing something. I unclenched my hand and found nail marks. This was stupid. Art was stupid. Why was I so angry? And more importantly, why was I failing to understand what was being said?

Feeling immensely crabby, I returned my attention to the painting. It was still ugly. Then I wondered, tangentially, if Picasso himself saw the world flickering in stop motion: the woman to the left, howling at the sky, cradling a small corpse. The man to the right, shrouded in darkness, screaming. The desiccated, severed hand, clutching the hilt of a broken sword. And all the littered carcasses, rent atop the altar of that screaming, red-mouthed god named democracy.

And all of a sudden, it occurred to me that everything I was feeling—all this confusion and frustration and disjunction—might be exactly what Picasso was trying to convey. Maybe, when he thought about the Bombing of Guernica in 1937, he felt confused and angry and incoherent, just as I did in 2015.

Articulated this way, this idea’s trite in the extreme. The notion that art conveys an artist’s subjective experience is both lame and uninspiringly obvious. What isn’t obvious, though, is that with art, my personal experiences are just as important as the artist’s own creative intentions. Because when you interact with art that is well-made and authentic and human, you understand that what you’re really doing is having a conversation. A conversation, as author David Foster Wallace might say, between consciousnesses. And if the art’s really well-done, like Guernica is, it will make you feel a little less alone. A little less assaulted by the anthems of money and desire and power that surround us.

None of this is to say that Guernica is immediately or obviously pleasant. It’s not. Its subject matter deals with total psychic horror, and it presents homo sapiens at its most careless and imperial and destructive. It makes me pray, desperately, that we will never see anything like it again. And therein lies its humanity.

I left the Reina Sofía feeling like a star—lonely, heavy, incandescent.
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세상에서 가장 작은 커피 KANU

at a glance: winter edition

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