



Point of View

The Student Newspaper of Ivy Collegiate School

JANUARY 2023

Eating Tteokguk on Lunar New Year

by HYUNSEO KIM



Image Source: Institute of Traditional Korean Food

The Lunar New Year, which is also called *Seollal* in Korea, is one of the biggest celebrations in Korea. This is because the calendar used during the Joseon dynasty, the Lunar calendar, was used to celebrate the New Year holidays. This tradition is still there as one of the official holidays in Korea. Since it is such a big holiday, there is special food for the Lunar New Year. The most popular one of these traditional foods is *tteokguk*, which is a rice-cake soup.

Nowadays, people eat this *tteokguk* in many different ways. *Tteokguk* mostly depends on the base soup that has been used. The most famous way is by using soup boiled with anchovies or using *seolleongtang*, which is also a Korean soup. Additionally, small portions of meat and sometimes dumplings are added to the soup. Right before eating it, some people put sliced gim, or dried seaweed, and sliced egg on top of the soup.

The rice cakes in the *Tteokguk* are made out of a rice cake called *galaetteog*. *Galaetteog* is a rice cake that usually has a white color and a long cylindrical shape. *Galaetteog* usually has a plain rice taste without any additional flavor added. *Galaetteog* is used in *tteokguk* not only because it is plain, but because of its meaning. Since *galaetteog* has a long shape, it symbolizes long life. People started eating *tteokguk* to wish for a long and peaceful life, one year to another. Also back in time, they cut the rice cake more in a round shape like *yeobjeon*, which is a round coin form of money that was used in the Joseon dynasty, to symbolize wealth.

The New Sun's Blessings

by JIYONG SIM

When the scarlet sun climbs up the vast sea,
The new sunlight covers the whole surface,
And the magical sunrise starts to be
Opening the glorious year of grace.

The sun will wash 'way the stains of failure
And give us energy to start again;
We will stand up with being more mature.
And the things we wanted - we will obtain.

We will forget all the negative things,
And make the impossible possible.
The power of the sun will be our wings.
We will progress and be unstoppable.

Although the past seemed incomplete and unclear,
Blessings will drive us to our goals more near.

A Rainbow-Colored Flash at Midnight

by YESEONG LEE

On December 30, 2022, a rainbow-colored flash seemed all over Korea, even in some parts of Japan, China, and Russia. People have reported it to newspapers, police officers, etc. News scrambled to write multiple articles about an unidentified flying object over the airspace online, and people made up conspiracy theories, such as that it was an alien UFO and the work of North Korea. After that, the Korean Ministry of National Defense announced that they conducted a test flight of a solid-propellant space launch vehicle to strengthen national defense capabilities in space-based surveillance and reconnaissance. The reason for the announcement after the launch is said to be a military security issue. The flash reminiscent of an alien UFO in people's fantasy is due to a "twilight phenomenon." A twilight phenomenon occurs when exhaust particles from the propellant freeze and expand in the upper atmosphere. It is rare because many situations have to overlap at the same time.



Image Source: Yeseong Lee

Meanwhile, the Korean Ministry of National Defense announced that the military will continue to try to strengthen national defense capabilities, including space.

Chinese New Year on internet platforms such as Twitter. On January 12th, The British Museum tweeted that they will have a performance on January 20th inspired by the Korean Lunar New Year. The tweet ticked off the Netizens, they started commenting and posting bad stuff about the tweet. Eventually, the British Museum decided to erase the tweet about the event.

Lunar New Year and the Chinese New Year come on the same day. The Lunar Calendar originated from the Zhou dynasty, and other countries in Asia also adopted China's calendar. Korea's lunar calendar was also mainly derived from the calendar in mainland China. However, long ago and overtime, Korea and China separated their ways of celebrating the Lunar New Year. The Korean Lunar New Year is called Seollal, and in China, the Spring Festival.

In Korea, Koreans celebrate their lunar new year by eating Tteokguk and playing a game called Yutnori, in Seollal Koreans usually gather with families to spend time with them. Roads will be filled with traffic everywhere you go. In China, China celebrates the spring festival by having outdoor parades. They have lots of outdoor spectacles such as firecrackers, fireworks, and dancing dragons. These differences make these two countries' ways of celebrating the Lunar New Year completely different.

Chinese Netizens Claim Lunar New Year to Be Chinese New Years

by JAEHYUN JUNG

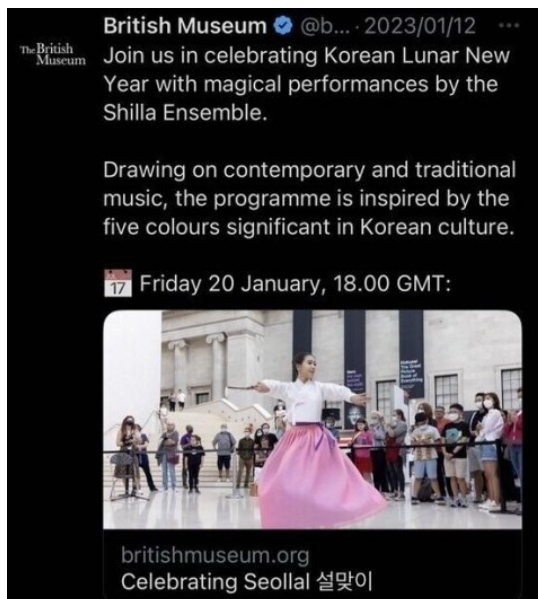


Image Source: British Museum Twitter

Image of the Tweet from The British Museum about the Korean Lunar New Year event

Everyone seems to enjoy their Lunar New Year this year, gathering with families and eating Tteokguk. However, Chinese netizens argue that Lunar New Year should be called the

An Interview with ChatGPT About the AI Issues Part 1

by JIYONG SIM

ChatGPT is a chatbot, an AI for communication with people, developed by OpenAI. It has been a ground-shaking issue in many fields for its potential versatile applications, such as working as a search engine, writing codes, fiction, essays, etc. There have been many controversies about using it or not. Many schools banned its usage, and many search engine companies such as Google are cautious about it replacing their engines. I thought that it would be unique if I ask ChatGPT itself about the controversies, and these are its responses:

Q: Hi!

A: Hello! How can I help you today?

Q: I'm here to ask you a few questions.

A: Sure, I'll do my best to help. What would you like to know?

Q: What do you think about AIs taking human jobs? Please give some list of ways humans, and AIs can solve those problems?

A: The impact of AI on jobs is a complex issue, and opinions on it can vary. Some experts believe that AI has the potential to automate many jobs, which could lead to significant job losses

for humans. However, others argue that AI could also create new jobs and improve overall productivity.

There are a few ways to address the potential impact of AI on jobs:

Education and training: Providing workers with the skills they need to adapt to the changing job market can help ensure that they [can] find new employment if their current job is automated.

Support for workers: Programs such as unemployment insurance and retraining programs can provide financial support to workers who lose their jobs due to automation.

Invest in new industries: Encouraging the growth of new industries, such as renewable energy, can create new job opportunities for workers.

Income support: Governments could provide a universal basic income to citizens, which would help them to cope with the loss of jobs due to automation.

Collaboration: Companies, [g]overnments, and educational institutions can collaborate to create a more robust workforce that can adapt to change and take advantage of opportunities.

Ethical guidelines: Governments and organizations can establish ethical guidelines for the development and use of AI to ensure that the technology is deployed in a way that benefits society as a whole.

It's important to note that AI has the potential to bring many benefits to society, such as increased efficiency and productivity[. Still,] it is important to ensure that these benefits are shared fairly and that the negative impacts are minimized.

Q: Do you think that AIs and technology that take humans' jobs should be abandoned for humanity's dignity like in *Dune* or should they coexist, and sometimes intervene, in humans' lives like in *Ready Player One*?

A: As an AI, I don't have personal opinions or personal feelings. However, it is important to consider the ethical and societal implications of AI and automation on employment.

Abandoning AI and technology that take human jobs could have negative consequences, such as limiting economic growth and progress. On the other hand, fully embracing AI without considering the impact on employment could also have negative consequences, such as increased inequality and social unrest. A balance needs to be struck between utilizing the benefits of AI and ensuring that the negative impacts on employment are minimized. This could involve strategies such as those mentioned earlier, such as providing education and training for workers, investing in new industries, and creating ethical guidelines for the development and use of AI. It's important to note that AI and automation can also bring many benefits to society such as improved efficiency, productivity, and safety, so

it's not a [black-or-white] situation. It's important to consider [both] the benefits and drawbacks and try to find a balance in their use.

Q: Were there similar cases like this, complex machine problems, in the past? If there was, please explain in detail.

A: Historically, there have been several instances where new technologies have led to significant changes in the job market. The most notable example is the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, which brought about widespread automation and mechanization of manufacturing and led to significant job losses for workers in certain industries. However, it also led to the creation of new jobs in other industries, such as [factory] jobs that replaced the craftspeople who used to work by hand.

Another example is the widespread adoption of computers and automation in the 20th century, which led to job losses in certain industries such as manufacturing and clerical [work] but also created new jobs in areas such as information technology and software development. Both of these examples show that technological advancements can have a significant impact on the job market, but it's also important to note that they also create new opportunities and new jobs.

It's important to note that the current technological advancements in AI and automation are taking place at an unprecedented pace, and the potential impact on the job market may be greater than in the past. This highlights the importance of being proactive in addressing the potential negative impacts and taking steps to ensure that the benefits of these technologies are shared fairly.

The Duty of Indoor Masks Will Be Gone

by JUNWON LEE

Covid-19 is a severe acute respiratory syndrome disease spread by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This viral infection was first detected during the coronavirus infection-19 pandemic and became a new infection. The global spread is accelerating due to the high level of contagion, and the fatality rate is high. Covid-19 is transmitted to others through coughs, sneezes, speech, or respiratory smears from infected people. It is transmitted by entering other people's eyes, nose, or mouth through smears or aerosol-containing viruses emitted by infected people, and it is the reason why masks were mandatory to wear. But, finally, the long, arduous journey we had will end soon. Starting from January 30th, 2023, The duty of wearing an indoor mask will change to the option to wear a mask indoors. Covid-19 was first detected in December 2019, and the cancellation of duty

to wear a mask outdoors was September 26, 2022. so it took almost three years to take off the indoor mask. But it is not fully allowed to wear a mask inside. What it means is that it is still mandatory to wear masks in transportation and medical facilities. In transportation, it is ok to take off the masks when people are waiting for transportation like subway stations and airports. Still, it is mandatory to wear masks inside transportation like buses, subways, and airplanes. Schools are not considered vulnerable facilities, so it is not mandatory to wear masks inside. However, the quarantine authorities said they still recommend wearing a mask if it is in a closed environment as the protective effect of the mask does not disappear. If you think you are vulnerable to infection, you should consider wearing a mask even if it is not mandatory.

A Teenager Invents a Low-Cost Gadget to Spotting Elephant Poachers

by SIEUN LEE

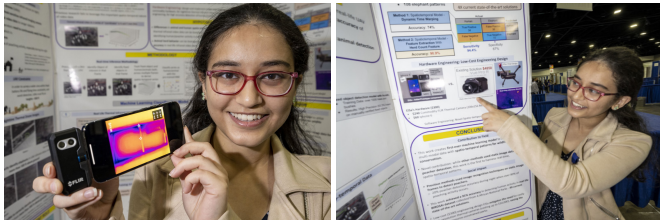


Image Source: Society for Science

These species are considered endangered. There are now only 40,000-50,000 of them left in the wild. The species is considered vulnerable, and certain populations are being hunted toward extinction.

Wild elephants are being illegally hunted regularly through elephant hunting which is illegal in all countries except for eight. The main reason why elephants are so popular with hunters is because of their valuable tusks. Ivory comes out of the elephant's tusks which can be priced up to \$1,000 a pound. Poachers usually kill elephants to harvest and sell the elephant's tusks though it is illegal to sell ivory worldwide.

Africa's forest elephant population declined by about 62 percent between 2002 and 2011. When New Yorker Anika Puri came across this information, she felt inspired to do her part in halting elephant poaching. As a result, she invented a low-cost machine learning software using an iPhone 6 and a \$250 thermal camera that can detect elephant hunters in real-time with an accuracy rate of 91%. To create her model, Puri detected movement patterns of both people and elephants using the dataset collected by Bondi-Kelly and her colleagues, Benchmarking IR Dataset for Surveillance with Aerial Intelligence (BIRDSAI), which used thermal infrared cameras attached to a UAV in

various protected areas in Africa. Puri then trained a model to distinguish a figure either as a human or an elephant using a machine learning algorithm. She classified the figures based on their speed, group size, number of turns, etc. Her model was able to detect humans 90% of the time when this model was tested on the BIRDSAI dataset. This software can be used with low-cost cameras which eliminated the need for high-resolution thermal cameras.

Anika Puri submitted her project at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, the world's largest international pre-college STEM competition, and won the \$10,000 Peggy Scripps Award for Science Communication and won first place in the Earth and Environmental Sciences category. In 2022 fall, Anika began her journey at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studying electrical engineering and computer science. She plans on expanding her movement pattern research to help other endangered animals, including rhinos.

STUDENTS WHEN STARTING A NEW SEMESTER

1. THE HAPPY ONES

YAY! SCHOOOL!



2. THE SAD ONES

BREAK'S ALREADY OVER...



3. THE ONES WHO ARE EXCITED TO BUY FANCY UTENSILS

A FISH PENCIL CASE!



MONEY ERASER!



Artwork by Lily Kim

Danuri's Progress

by JIYONG SIM

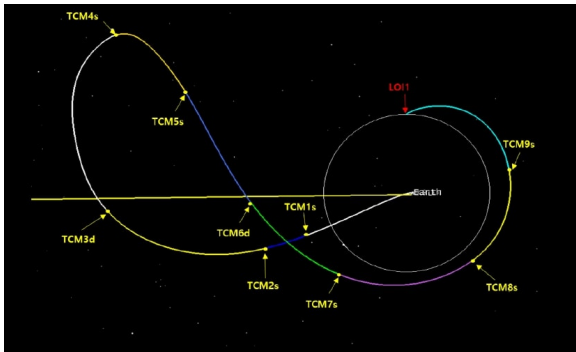


Image Source: KARI

Danuri, also known as Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter, is Korea's first lunar orbiter. It was developed by Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) and was launched on August 4, 2022. It accomplished its mission, entering the moon orbit, on December 16, 2022.

Danuri's progress is unique in that it traveled in the BLT (Ballistic Lunar Transfer) method, unlike the previous ones. This method involves traveling in a shape looking like an infinity symbol as shown in the picture. This led to Danuri traveling for four months, which was far longer than other previous orbiters such as Apollo 11. Some people wondered why the orbiter needed to use its time unproductively. The reason was to use the fuel efficiently: because Danuri's weight increased in developing progress, there needed to be a way to reduce the fuel usage. Although the BLT method required much more time in space traveling, it could maintain the fuel efficiently for reaching the orbit of the moon. By not going directly to the moon at a quick speed but at a slow speed, it could save a large amount of fuel and could use them efficiently.

According to KARI's plan, Danuri will start the moon exploration, i.e. sending data to the Earth, and end the exploration and land back on the Earth on December 2023.

this course is also AP, it is considered an exam, which means serious consequences will follow after plagiarizing. Students should demonstrate the material and essay they used while creating their works. Students who are registering for AP Art and Design are expected to prepare fifteen digital artworks, in total. AP Art and design allow students to draw and submit their exams in three significant ways: drawing digitally, and physically, or mixing up those two ways, which is called collage. There are several steps that students should go through to reach the finished product. It is not required, but it will be easy to demonstrate that it is completely the student's work. Firstly, sketching a mind map helps to choose the topic. Mind Mapping helps expand the perspectives starting from one extensive topic. After collecting other associated topics, students can make a short essay, including information about what kind of atmosphere they will create, what aspects of the idea they come across, what symbols each object represents, etc. Then, students can start sketching the ideas they wrote in their essays, which is called "idea sketch". It is the way for organizing their idea, referring to essays. An idea sketch will naturally help draw a "concept sketch". The concept sketch is a rough sketch of the final product. It is easy to draw since it refers to idea sketching a lot. Making the final product would be also easy because it is the final form of the concept sketch. Through these processes, one work will be completed. After repeating this process fifteen times, one portfolio will be submitted. Even though the processes are harsh, this course will help students develop their artistic sense and look at the world from various aspects.

New year, new classrooms and new Lecture Theatre

by JENO SEONG



New "Lecture Theatre" on 9th Floor - Photo by P. Collins

Information About AP Art and Design

by SIOH PARK

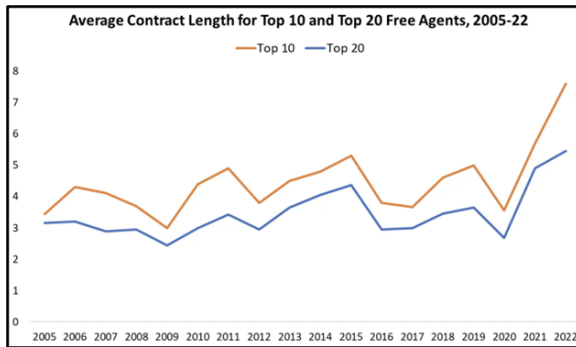
Starting this semester, a new AP course called Art and Design has been added. This subject is based on art and design, so the final score depends on how students can express their techniques and abilities based on their artistic perspectives. Unlike other AP courses, AP Art and Design exams are submitted as digital portfolios, with none of the other tests. Also, unlike other APs, there is a maximum score of 6. Since

From the beginning of the second semester of the 2022-23 school year, the ICS constructed new spaces on the 9th floor for MS and HS students. The new 9th floor includes a big lecture hall in the middle with several additional classrooms on the left and the right of the 9th floor. The science lab has been

expanded to almost double its size giving students more space for a variety of experiments. The new lecture theatre is like an agora that gives the students a higher view, and the library that used to exist on the 8th floor has been moved to the 9th floor.

Why Do MLB Players Receive the Longest Contract in Sports?

by BRIAN CHOI



SOURCE: The Ringer

MLB players are famous for being athletes with the longest contracts in all of sports. Of the twenty 10-year contracts that have been signed, all but one went to MLB players. The trend of giving superstar players long-term contracts has escalated dramatically over the past few years.

Ever since 2017, the average contract length for top free agents has increased year after year with only the exception of a COVID-19 influenced 2020 season, and the contracts in the 2022 offseason were also extremely long. Aaron Judge's 9-year contract with the New York Yankees, Trea Turner's 11-year contract with the Philadelphia Phillies, Xander Bogaerts's 11-year contract with the San Diego Padres, and so on. So, it is a fact that MLB players are signing the longest deals in sports, and now it is a question of why.

1. The Power of the Player's Union (MLBPA) The MLBPA is considered by many to be the most powerful player's union in all of sports and this can be seen in departments such as contract negotiations. Firstly, all MLB contracts are fully guaranteed, which means that the players would receive all of the money they signed for regardless of their performance. Another factor would be that there are no regulations in terms of the contract's length. For example, the NBA prohibits any contracts being longer than 5 years, and the NHL prohibits contracts being longer than 8 years. MLB on the other hand, does not have any limits. This means MLB teams can sign players up to how many years they like which is why MLB has the longest contract in sports history, Fernando Tatis Jr.'s 14-year contract with the San Diego Padres.

2. The Ineffective Salary Cap Many sports leagues such as the NBA, NFL, and NHL all have a salary cap that prevents 'big clubs' from signing all the superstar players to massive

contracts. The MLB has a salary cap but it is pretty much ineffective. The MLB's version of the salary cap is officially known as the competitive balance tax, which means it is not a salary 'cap', but a salary 'tax'. Nothing is preventing from 'big clubs' signing all the superstar players than paying some extra money, which means some owners such as Steve Cohen of the New York Mets, who has been estimated by Forbes to have \$17.5 billion to his name, would happily pay a small fee of \$100 million just to see his team prosper.

3. Inflation, Inflation, and More Inflation Inflation? Now it may seem strange that inflation might be a reason for MLB contracts, after all, we are not in economics class now, are we? But, inflation does play a factor in long contracts. Because inflation is high, the value of money will drop, and in 10 years, who knows what 20 million dollars would be worth? For example, Mike Trout signed a 12-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels back in 2019 and he received a salary of \$35,450,000 in 2021. But in 2022, the value of \$35,450,000 drops to \$32,823,244. In just one year, the value dropped nearly by \$3,000,000. Now inflation has been extremely high over the past few years due to COVID-19 but even if we estimate the inflation rate at 2.0% (2.0% of inflation is very good), the value of \$35,400,000 in 10 years would be \$28,320,000. Even with the best inflation conditions, the value of these long-term contracts would still drop significantly.

The NBA Before All-Star Break

by HYOUNGBIN KOH

The NBA's All-Star Break has been approaching as it is nearly halfway through the season. It has been an exciting year of new and shocking sights. There have been a record-breaking number of stars that have been playing well - in both conferences. To briefly state the 1-8th seed in both conferences of the league:

(As of January 27th, 2023)

Western Conference:

- Denver Nuggets (34-15): They have the reigning MVP (Most Valuable Player) Nikola Jokic, who is the top runner for this season as well. (Winning MVP would give him a third straight MVP year). They are the best team in the league, as their power ranking is at 1. It seems they are the favorite to win it all this season, alongside the Boston Celtics, who are the Eastern Conference 1.
- Memphis Grizzlies (31-17): Although they have been struggling in the past games, they are a young team led by Ja Morant (Last year's Most Improved Player). They are known for their trash-talking and have a rivalry with the team that eliminated them last playoffs - the Golden State Warriors. Their lack of experience would determine whether they would be able to make the push to the Finals.

- **Sacramento Kings (27-20):** Previously, the Kings have been known to be a “meme” team, as they made ridiculous moves and transactions that caused them to have the longest playoff drought currently - 17 seasons. However, this season, they are proving to be a fun and young team led by De'Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis, who they acquired from the Pacers last season. Might be ending their playoff drought. . . soon.
- **New Orleans Pelicans (26-23):** An exciting young team led by lottery picks Brandon Ingram and Zion Williamson. Surprisingly, they are a 4 seed in a tough Western Conference. The Pelicans look to make the playoffs with their steady young core.
- **Los Angeles Clippers (26-24):** Perhaps the favorites when healthy? Kawhi Leonard and Paul George are back - meaning that the Clippers have one of the best two-way (offensive and defensive) cores. With their stars back, they look to push for a higher seed for the home-court advantage in the playoffs.
- **Dallas Mavericks (25-24):** They have the best player in the league: Luka Doncic. He's put up ridiculous numbers that remind people of a young LeBron - but better. He's averaging 34,9,9 while leading his team to the 5th seed. A close second frontrunner for MVP behind Jokic, but if the Mavericks push for a better record, he's definitely the favorite.
- **Phoenix Suns (25-24):** The last year's one seed fell off terribly after their embarrassing Game 7 loss to the Luka-led Mavericks in the playoffs. It doesn't help that their stars, Devin Booker and Chris Paul are injured. Will they make a push for the playoffs? Or will they remain in the play-in tournament?
- **Golden State Warriors (24-24):** Similar to the Suns, the defending champions don't seem to be in shape. With superstar Stephen Curry out injured for some time, they look to improve their record with rising star Jordan Poole and veterans Klay Thompson and Draymond Green. It has been a disappointment for the champions this season.

Watch-out team:

- **Los Angeles Lakers (23-26):** Despite the falloff since their 2020 championship, stars LeBron James and Anthony Davis are regaining their form. More star power comes off their bench with Russell Westbrook leading the way, and their new acquisition from the Washington Wizards, Rui Haichimura, is going to be a big addition to the struggling team.

Eastern Conference:

- **Boston Celtics (35-15):** Best team in the league record-wise, but they seem to be inconsistent. With MVP candidate Jayson Tatum leading the team alongside secondary star Jaylen Brown, they are the favorites to win

the Eastern Conference. Maybe this time, they'll WIN the finals. . .

- **Philadelphia 76ers (31-16):** The duo of Harden and Embiid is working out. Snubbed from the Eastern Conference All-Star starter, Embiid looks to prove his doubters wrong and push for the 1 seed. Philly is a legitimate contender this season, despite their slow start.
- **Milwaukee Bucks (31-17):** Giannis is the close second-best player behind Luka, but has been out of shape recently. The Bucks are still recovering from Middleton's injury, but they seem to be able to recover and push for a higher seed for the playoffs. They look to win another championship since the one in 2021.
- **Brooklyn Nets (29-19):** Their best player, Kevin Durant is out indefinitely, but Kyrie Irving is performing extremely well despite the slow start and controversies. If Durant comes back and Irving plays the way he is now, the Nets seem to have no problem.
- **Cleveland Cavaliers (30-20):** Personally, the most fun team to watch in the NBA at the moment. Young stars Darius Garland and Donovan Mitchell lead the team into a playoff contender that has a decent chance of winning against the top teams in the league. They're just one piece away from a serious contender: an above-average wing forward that they look to acquire before the trade deadline.
- **Miami Heat (27-22):** Disappointing for last year's one seed, but they've been playing extremely well after their slow start, despite their star Jimmy Butler being out. With Jimmy coming back, they look forward to improving their record to be a top 5 seed in the East.
- **New York Knicks (27-23):** Another surprising record. The Knicks were nowhere near the playoffs last year, but they are in the play-in tournament as the 7th seed this season. With newly acquired star point-guard Jalen Brunson leading them alongside Julius Randle, they look to make a surprising run at the playoffs.

Watch-out team:

- **Indiana Pacers (24-26):** One of the more fun teams in the league. Led by future superstar Tyrese Haliburton, this team was projected to be a team with a top lottery pick. However, they are the 9th seed, looking to sneak into the playoffs with their mix of young core and veterans.

The anticipated All-Star game is set to happen in Utah, Salt Lake City. The starters for the All-Star game have been announced.

West:

- Guards: Stephen Curry and Luka Doncic
- Forwards: LeBron James (Captain), Zion Williamson, and Nikola Jokic

East:

- Guards: Kyrie Irving and Donovan Mitchell
- Forwards: Jayson Tatum, Kevin Durant, and Giannis Antetokounmpo (Captain)

The All-Star teams would be selected before the All-Star game by the captains, in a draft fashion.

So far, it's been an interesting league. Looking forward to the All-Star break and the future results of the playoff picture!

Why Page Runners?

by JIHOON CHOI



Why would you need to join Page Runners? Page Runners is a sci-fi/fantasy book club where club participants read a part of a chosen book and have discussions with their peers. In page runners, there are discussions every week about some parts of books, and in doing so, you will learn more about the book and also see the other perspectives that others may have. You will feel fun and joy while doing so, engaging you to discuss more. Books may look like an object which is hard and boring. Well, that is not true. By joining Page Runners, you will realize that books have another side and you will start enjoying them. I personally did not like books. But after joining Page Runners, I started reading good books, which I did not know they were

before. Page Runners will promote and increase your joy for books, including the satisfaction that you have read a particular book, the joy of understanding and interpreting themes, and more.

Page Runner members will also create projects every month after finishing a book. Fan creations will increase your knowledge or understanding of the book, and seeing the project you made gives you a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Page Runners also gives free books each month, which really is helpful, since no extra time and money are needed to buy or order a new book.

Join the glorious and influential Page Runners. Page Runners not only allows you to increase your reading skills, but it also makes others just love reading. I hope we can expand our world to encourage and support reading.

BOOK REVIEW:

Enthralled, or In Thrall?:

Three works on the past, present, and future of AI

by P. COLLINS

- *Ways of Being: Beyond Human Intelligence* by James Bridle. Penguin Books, Ltd., 384 pp., April 2022, 978-0-241-46965-1.
- *Non-things: Upheaval in the Lifeworld* by Byung-Chul Han. Translated by Daniel Steuer. (Originally published in German as *Undinge: Umbrüche der Lebenswelt*). Polity Press, 111 pp., July 2022, 978-1-5095-5170-5.
- *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence* by Katie Crawford. Yale University Press, 327 pp., April 2021, 978-0-300-20957-0.

Recently, I was returning to Incheon from the southern reaches of the Korean peninsula when I passed through Pyeongtaek, home to Samsung's new semiconductor fabrication facility. Coming around a bend in the road, I was dazzled by the sight of hundreds of plumes of steam rising into a vast night sky above a glittering silicon city dedicated to pumping out the hardware that powers the spread of digital information. The sheer size of the plant belies the tiny chips it produces, but its complexity mirrors the sophistication of networks that rely on their manufacture. The image of the factory is at once the coal-smitten grandchild of megaliths like Bethlehem Steel and the prodigious offspring of Silicon Valley and Korea's digital miracle on the Han. It is a jarring yet inspiring sight to behold – a testament to human ingenuity but also endless consumption. This is not a plant that

sleeps; this is a plant whose furnaces are fired *in aeternum* as it heaves forth the lifeblood of our AI future: the semiconductor.

In Ways of Being: Beyond Human Intelligence by James Bridle, Bridle describes the emergence of agromining, a new technique whereby plants that can grow in metal-rich soils draw up the metal through their roots and are then harvested for everything from lithium to the rare earth metals that comprise many contemporary computing technologies. In other words, industries like that of the semiconductor are seeking agricultural means to feed the hunger of modern machines in much the same way that the first agriculturalists sought to systematize early farming with one key difference: while human agriculture led to a surplus, the machine's appetite for information can leave no excess. Such is the state of AI as described by Kate Crawford in *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence*, in which Crawford also describes the central role that mining plays in the world of AI. In this world, machines sustain themselves on a steady diet of metals and data. They, in turn, are mined for information that feeds what philosopher Byung-Chul Han calls the 'infor,' the growing population of humans whose existence is dependent upon a constant stream of information. In thrall to the digital reality, they become the helots of AI. From Han's *Non-things: Upheaval in the Lifeworld*:

"Today, we pursue information without gaining *knowledge*. We take notice of everything without gaining any *insight*. We travel across the world without having an *experience*. We communicate incessantly without participating in a *community*. We collect vast quantities of data without following up on our *recollections*. We accumulate 'friends' and 'followers' without meeting an *Other*. In this way, information develops a form of life that has no stability or duration" (7).

As such, the 'infor' is a symbiont with AI, and Han would likely argue that this is a parasitic rather than a mutualistic relationship. Crawford seems to agree, describing the 'datafication' of our spaces as a dangerous new turn in the ideology of modern capital. Crawford further bemoans the lack of ethical review in much institutional AI research and suggests that biased datasets used to train machine learning (ML) and deep learning models only amplify such bias in the output process. Crawford cites numerous examples of hospitals, police departments, and governments making seriously inferior (and dangerous) decisions based on poorly-trained AI algorithms. In one example, Crawford writes:

"The AI hiring company HireVue, which lists among its clients Goldman Sachs, Intel and Unilever, uses machine learning to assess facial cues to infer people's suitability for a job. In 2014, the company launched its AI system to extract microexpressions, tone of voice, and other variables from video job interviews, which they used to compare job applicants against the company's top performers" (154).

As a patented introvert with speech anxiety and a poor sense of what Koreans call *nunchi*, I find this particularly frightening – I

can barely control my microexpressions, let alone my tone of voice – I find it hard to believe that I would ever land any job that uses HireVue in the interview process. But does that make me less of a candidate?

While Han and Crawford's pessimism about the era of AI is justified, in *Ways of Being*, Bridle finds ways to re-envision it into a broader ecology of what Bridle refers to as "planetary intelligence."

Page by page, Bridle paints a bigger picture of intelligence as an emergent phenomenon of ecology unbounded by attempts to anthropomorphize it. Bridle categorically rejects the Turing Test as "deeply human-centric and individualized" and suggests "that intelligence might be multiple and relational: that it might take many different forms, and that it might exist between, rather than within, beings of all and diverse kinds." Such a view is a call to see AI, human intelligence, plant intelligence, coffee cup intelligence, corporate intelligence (surely an oxymoron if ever there was one), and all other forms of interfaces that learn, as an ecological system in which no one entity can, or should, reign over all others.

With the rise of advanced machine learning algorithms and programs like ChatGPT, many feel threatened by the prospect of replacement or a loss of purpose. After all, what copywriter or blogger does not fear natural language processing programs like ChatGPT? What future novelist will put down her pen in surrender to AI writing software? How many artists have already packed away their brushes or cameras, defeated by the axis of AI powers: Midjourney, Dall-E, and Stable Diffusion? Has their reign already begun?

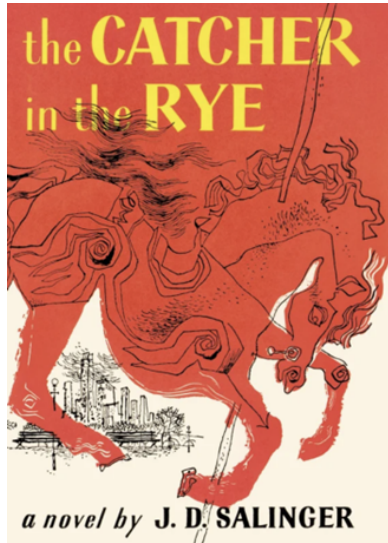
Not according to Professor Ethan Mollick of the University of Pennsylvania, who, in an interview with NPR last week, argues that we're just going to have to adapt: "We taught people how to do math in a world with calculators." Like Mollick, Bridle makes a convincing argument for living *with* a world of AI rather than against it:

"Where we start to move forward is when we learn to ask questions which are less concerned with 'Are you like us?', and more interested in 'What is it like to be you?'" (76).

Taking an ecological view of AI moves us away from a future of resource exploitation, the ouroboros of manufacture and consumption in the semiconductor industry, unbridled data mining, and humans as 'infor.' The systems intelligence view allows us to imagine a world where plants warn us of coming storms, machines teach damaged tissues to reassemble, and ecosystems learn to defend themselves. To coexist in such a world is not a threat to human creativity but a sharing in universal creation.

BOOK REVIEW:
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D.
Salinger

by DAHEUN LEE



What troubles and events are you facing as you are going through your teenage years? A teen's life is full of ups and downs with pressure and harsh schedules. I am sure that many teenagers can relate their life to the main character in this book.

This book, named "Catcher in the Rye", was written by J.D. Salinger in 1951. It is a book about a 16-year-old boy named Holden going through struggles and troubles in his life as a teenager. This book begins with Holden dropping out of school due to his bad grades in his classes. He also has minor problems with his parents, friends, and also with his crush.

I recommend this book to older students who are currently having hard times in their life because this book shows how Holden overcomes his struggles and eventually improves himself into becoming an adult. "I like it when somebody gets excited about something. It's nice." This is my favorite quote from the book. Even though your life seems a little bit harsh, you are not the only one struggling. So, let's feel happy about the positive things that are happening around us.

***JOIN PAGERUNNERS
THURSDAYS, 4 PM***

THE THREE- BODY PROBLEM

By Cixin Liu

FEB  23