



# Point of View

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## Korea's Low Birth Rate - An Ongoing Challenge

by SIOH PARK



Image Source: KSBY

Recently, South Korea recorded the world's lowest fertility rate, according to official data. The birth rate in South Korea has consistently been decreasing over time. Approximately 0.81 of the birth rate is decreasing per year. One main reason for this result is high housing costs.

South Korea has a relatively large number of tutoring academies, and parents often send their children to private education centers. Most parents say that their children are receiving private education in order to get good grades in school and to secure their future. They often feel it is their duty as parents to provide their children with the resources they need to perform well in school and have an educational advantage over their classmates. As a result, the money spent on private education increases. Most of the reasons are based on the money spent on education, food, clothing, and shelter for their family members, so the majority of parents limit themselves to having only one child or not having children at all.

Starting a family is challenging, as there is a significant financial burden in the process of creating a family. However, the most important thing is to live happily and responsibly with one's family. Hopefully, if families feel less burden, they will be able to increase the birth rate again.

## How to Prevent Global Warming

by DAHEUN LEE

Climate change is a long-term problem which causes the temperature and the weather pattern of our earth to change. Climate change is continuously affecting us in many negative ways, such as causing many storms, hurricanes, and many more natural disasters due to the extreme weather change. Most importantly, they cause global warming. If our earth continues to get heated, our future generations would have to live on a heated planet. Humans have to prevent and protect our earth from these devastating effects. In this essay I am going to list two ways to reduce the risk of global warming.

The most effective way to prevent global warming is to reduce the amount of burning fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are a non-renewable energy made from decomposing plants and animals, such as coal and gas (Brown, 2022). In the process of burning fossil fuels, they release greenhouse gasses and carbon dioxide. These harmful substances in the air can heat up the atmosphere, becoming the leading cause of global warming. We have to reduce the amount of fossil fuels and start using electricity from renewable sources.

Regarding the previous paragraph, the second most effective way to prevent global warming is to use renewable resources. Solar energy, energy, and hydroelectric energy are the renewable energies that we have to be familiar with. Using renewable energy will reduce air pollution caused by greenhouse gas emissions, and this can improve our health.

In conclusion, global warming is a serious problem that our society needs to focus and slow-down in affecting our environment. We have to reduce the amount of burning fossil fuels and start using renewable resources instead of resources that can release greenhouse gasses and carbon dioxide. Let's all give attention to this problem and protect our earth.

## Rocket Tech for the Future

by JENO SEONG



Image Source: CNN.com

A new rocket technology, which reduces fuel consumption, is being experimented with. The technology involves a chamber for a rocket to be spun, and when it reaches the right force, it is released into space. SpinLaunch, a company, invented this technology.

The spinning chamber is called the orbital accelerator and is designed with two flat plates with a space for rockets to be spun inside. This technology requires four times less fuel consumption, a tenfold reduction in cost to build, and the ability to launch the rocket multiple times a day. The orbital accelerator comprises a Hypersonic Tether, a vacuum chamber about 300 feet in diameter, and the release/exit tunnel. The goal of launching this rocket is to spin it through the vacuum chamber to build up the velocity that can be safely launched into space.

The benefit of this rocket is that it would require no fuel to reach space. A conventional space rocket requires about 3.5 million pounds of fuel just to reach orbit. However, these orbital accelerators can replace the job of fuels and safely launch the rocket into space. The downside is that the spin launch is primarily used as a way to launch satellites into space. The velocity required for launch is around 5,000 mph, and it would not be possible for people to withstand the speed inside such a rocket.

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## How to Be Good at Something

by JIHOON CHOI

Everyone wants to be good at something, whether it is cubing, sports, or AP psychology. To excel at anything, we need to possess certain traits to successfully master it. This paper will discuss specific "traits" required and include some personal experiences.

In the summer of 2022, I joined AP psychology to accompany my friend and learn more about the subject. Although I was interested, I was disheartened when I saw my grades. However, when I started psychology this year, I began to improve significantly! What made this difference, and how did I achieve it? The first trait necessary for success is interest; you need the courage and goals to devote your time to that particular activity, whether it is cubing, learning, or running.

As seen from the experience above, I was interested in psychology but initially struggled with learning the material.

The second trait needed is practice. Because I finally started to study psychology this year, I was able to improve significantly. As Vince Lombardi once said, "practice makes perfect."

The third trait is a combination of the two mentioned above. We need to be consistently interested and practicing. With constancy, hard work will pay off. Even if we were to be interested in or practice a skill, constancy would be the most important and influential of these two factors.

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## Manchester United's Embarrassing 7-0 Loss in the Northwest Derby

by BRIAN CHOI

A game between Manchester United and Liverpool FC was played at Anfield, home of Liverpool, on March 5, 2023. Fans of both sides were excited about this game since it was the Northwest Derby, and both teams desperately needed a win to secure the Champions League spot for the upcoming season. Both sides did not disappoint in the first half with an extremely tight game. But at the end of the first half, Liverpool's Gakpo scored a goal to make it 1-0. However, despite the great first-half performance from both sides, the second half was an absolute embarrassment for Manchester United. In the second half, Liverpool scored a whopping six goals to finish off the game 7-0. This game was historical, in many ways. Firstly, a 7-0 victory shattered the record as the largest victory in the Northwestern Derby for the first time in 128 years. Liverpool's Mohammed Salah also became the top scorer for Liverpool in the Premier League. But despite the historical events, most fans for both fan bases were either furious or delighted about the results.



Source: The Telegraph UK

With this win, Liverpool now moves up to the 5th spot of the Premier League table and only 3 points behind 4th place Tottenham, and is one step closer to winning the Champions League. Manchester United is still safe in 3rd place with 49 points, but that was not enough to keep the fans happy about the situation. The player who was criticized the most in this game was none other than the team captain, Bruno Fernandes. Fernandes' actions were criticized by the media, getting called "not captain-like" and a "disgrace." The main issue with Fernandes' during the game was his attitude towards not just

his team mates but also to everyone else on the pitch. Many critics say Fernandes failed his job as a captain, and also as a central midfielder. After conceding 4 goals to Liverpool, the captain stopped playing defense, gave weak passes, and did not contribute in the ball transition. Another clip that went viral was Fernandes pushing the lineman after being frustrated by his team's performance. He did not get ejected or anything like that but it was certainly an action that made many fans frown upon. Manchester United fans can never unlive this moment, and it would leave a scar on the club's legacy. On the other hand, Liverpool fans would cherish this moment, and it has certainly been a mood changer for Liverpool's season.

## ICS Pi Day

by SEJIN TENNANT

The mathematical symbol Pi has been around for more than 4,000 years, and it was possibly first discovered by the Babylonians. They initially predicted that pi was 3.15, but it wasn't close enough. Later, Archimedes calculated pi and determined that it was over 3.1 and under 3.7.

Source: Wikitionary

The first Pi Day event was the pi memorization contest. Seungjae Lee took 1st place with 91 digits, followed by Samuel Ma and William Lim in 2nd and 3rd, with 73 digits. Yooseok Lee achieved 57 digits, and Angela Jang had 45. Honorary mentions included Roy Kwon, Jen Seong, and Glen Suk.

The second event featured math-related jokes. First place went to Robert Hong, second to Eddie Koh, and third to Jiwoo Ma.

The third event was pie decoration. Yooseok Lee took first place, Tina Cho came in second, and Angela Jang secured third place.

Lastly, there was a math riddle contest, where the first place team comprised Eddie Koh, Samuel Ma, Justin Koh, Ryan Moon, and San Kang. The second-place team included Daye Lee, Hyeonah Lee, and Hanna Shin. The last place went to Sia, Sarah, and Bomin.

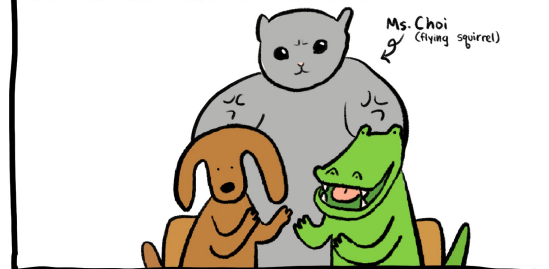
This Pi Day was important because it provided an opportunity for participants to express their math knowledge in terms of the symbol pi.

### THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T DO DURING SELF-STUDY PERIODS...

#### 1. HOMEWORK DUE TODAY



#### 2. TALKING WITH FRIENDS



#### 3. SLEEPING



Artwork by Lilly Kim

## The Crisis in Israel Grows After Bibi Fires Defense Minister

by JAEHYUN JUNG



Image Source: DW

The crisis in Israel continues to escalate after the current Prime Minister, Benjamin ("Bibi") Netanyahu, fired his Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant. This has led to massive protests, gradually freezing Israel's economy. The largest trade union group in Israel, which consists of around 800,000 workers across many different industries, has chosen to go on strike. Prior to the Defense Minister being fired, Israel had been experiencing numerous protests from its citizens. The protests stemmed from the government's decision to overhaul a judiciary that it claims has become too interventionist. If this plan is carried out successfully, many believe that their checks and balances or the money they will receive will be drastically reduced. However, even after all these protests, the government still plans on carrying out its ideas. Additionally, businesses in Israel have warned the government about the potential economic loss that could occur. According to The Guardian, Israel's high-tech sector has an estimated 90% of funds outside of Israel, and there would be a high chance of losing those funds if the plan is executed. This has been the main reason for Israel's recent upheaval. People around the world are eagerly awaiting Netanyahu's next move to see whether he will continue or stop.

## World Champion cuber Stanley Chapel says that the violin and the Rubik's Cube are related

by SIEUN LEE

One of the world's top speedcubers is a student at the University of Michigan. In addition to being one of the fastest speedcubers, this student is also a talented violinist.

In an interview, Stanley Chapel talked about how these two activities work well together. Though he has an equal interest in both, he said that playing the violin had helped him succeed in speedcubing. The ideas he learned from music study like repetition and breaking down things into specific elements assisted him in getting better at cubing.



Image Source: Detroit Free Express

Chapel has some inborn abilities as he is able to remember thousands of algorithms along with applying them to solving the Rubik's Cube and able to perform one of Johann Sebastian Bach's violin sonatas without looking at the music sheets. In addition, he said that years of playing the violin had helped him have his fine motor control already built up.

Chapel solved his first 3x3 Rubik's Cube when he was 14 years old. He then entered his first competition five weeks later with an average of 22 seconds. Then in 2017, he was placed fifth place at the World Cube Association World Championship in the 4x4 blindfolded and 5x5 blindfolded categories. He attended several competitions after that and won in several of the categories.

## New Easter Island Moai Statue Discovered

by YESEONG LEE



Image Source: Daily Express

Moai is an iconic monolithic statue of Easter Island. On February 21st, three Chilean universities' scientific volunteer teams found a new moai during a project to restore the marshland in the crater inside the Rano Raraku volcano. Scientists say it has a big potential because it is the first time a Moai has been discovered inside a lacuna in a Rano Raraku crater. The director there said the moai is at the center of the laguna that has started to dry since 2018. However, the laguna was 2 to 3 meters deep for 200 to 300 years. It meant no human being

could have placed the moai there. Its height is 1.6 meters, and it was found lying down. They announced that they have no plan for where it is because the volcano is a UNESCO world heritage site, and the moai is also an important heritage site.

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## BOOK REVIEW: *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

by HYUNSEO KIM

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"Number the Stars" is a book by Lois Lowry. It is a story of two girls at the time of Nazi ruling Denmark. Annemarie is the main character who has blond hair. Ellen, the friend of Annemarie, is a Jewish girl with black hair. Ellen is going through a life threatening situation because she is a Jewish child. The Nazi soldiers are trying to capture her since she is a Jew, and she tries to hide from them. Annemarie tries to help her best friend as much as she can, and Annemarie's family is also supporting her. There are some situations where Nazi soldiers are suspecting Ellen, but Annemarie's family are able to trick Ellen as their own child because Annemarie's older sister, who died when she was young, also had black hair just like Ellen. They use riddle words to each other on the phone so people will not be wiretapping. Annemarie's family plans to take Ellen out of the country, so she could be safe. This book is a novella, but it makes the story more tense with small incidents between the big incidents. Through this short novel, we can see the estimation of the incidents that had happened in the time period. Friendship of two girls in a threatening situation is also a great part to look through this story. Since this book is a short novel, most people regarding the age would be able to enjoy it lightly.

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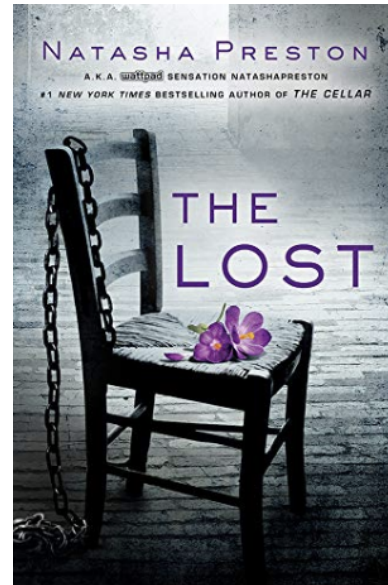


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## BOOK REVIEW: *The Lost* by Natasha Preston

by GEON GO

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In the small town of Aurora, children started to disappear. One day, the main characters Piper and Hazel's classmate disappeared. They were interested in traveling so they decided to find the missing classmate. While finding clues, Piper and Hazel met three university students, and they invited Piper and Hazel to their homes. They thought the university students were a bit doubtful, but they were too hungry and tired of finding their classmates. It was their last memory. Piper and Hazel were awakened in an unfamiliar place, and the building they were awakened to was different from other regular buildings. The university students were the kidnappers of the missing children, and they were doing a test with them. Piper and Hazel has to solve problems, survive traps, and find the missing people.

This book is about Piper and Hazel overcoming the traps and finding their classmate. This book has a very dark and mysterious theme, and it tells how the main characters overcome the ordeal and show their determination to save the classmate and find the missing children from the kidnapper's traps. This book is great to read if you like thrillers and suspense, the writing itself is okay and the story is fun and interesting.

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