

Vol. 4 Issue 1

October 2022



MONARCH

Student Run Newspaper

ARTICLES:

SOCIAL

PROBLEMS IN KOREA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM(pg2)

ENVIRONMENTAL

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS(pg3)

ELECTRIC ENGINES CHANGING MOTOR SPORTS(pg4)

DID YOU KNOW PARKS CAN SAVE LIVES?(pg5)

LOCAL

SOMETHING NICE TO DO IN THE SEASONS OF GIVING(pg6)

FUN THINGS TO DO ON CHRISTMAS(pg[👑])

PROBLEMS IN KOREA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM



by **Dawon “Cherry” Shin**
(Northwood High School)

South Korea is well-known for a lot of aspects: Kpop idols, food, and its competitive education system.

Korea is famous for having extremely high-standards in education. It provides high quality education for students from both schools and private academies in all subjects. Korean students show exceptionally high skills in math compared to other countries. Some of the factors include the non-calculator policy. Unlike America, schools in Korea strictly prohibit the use of calculators. This enhances the students' mental math but may also limit certain calculations that may be impossible for a human brain to calculate. Similar factors allow Korea to rank 8th in literacy, mathematics, and science world wide.

However, these achievements are accomplished from the sacrifices of Korean students. The “education fever” forces Korean students to go to school 16 hours a day. After school,

all students from age 7 to 17 go to cram schools or hagwons. Even elementary students have a lack of sleep due to loads of hagwons every single day after school. School ends at 5pm, cram schools end at 11pm-12am, and students start their homework at midnight. All of these efforts are for one and one reason only: to go into the SKY universities (Seoul, Koryo, Yonsei). The degree and the university one came from generally determines the idea of “success” in South Korea. The competition to go into one of the SKY universities is severely harsh; just missing a mark or two from the final exam at the end of your high school year determines which university you end up in. GPA is the only factor that universities consider when they choose students in Korea, resulting in low interests in extracurriculars and severe competition.

This extreme competitiveness may give Korea a significant advantage. After the Korean War in the 1950s, Korea was one of the poorest countries in Asia. Education was the hand that forced South Korea back up into economic thrivingness. However, this came with another consequence: extreme suicide rates. It would be impossible to go through all the hours of repetitive studying for years without depression, anxiety, and stress. The anxiety of rankings at school, the stress of not being the number one, all

the overload of homeworks and assignments from 7 or more cram schools will certainly impact one's mental health. South Korea has the highest suicide rate in all of OECD (The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development). Suicidal thoughts come from the feelings of failure when students get unsatisfactory grades.

I believe this education system in Korea should change. Students will continue to go through the same, repetitive style of living generation after generation, and the standards of “high” grades will increase accordingly. We should all understand that one's grades, one's university doesn't determine how smart a person is. The reason we learn should be to apply these facts in real life to solve real life problems, which comes from experiences rather than sitting on desks 16 hours a day with a pencil in one hand.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

by Ben Song (Crean Lutheran)

Chernobyl was an accident where the nuclear reactor exploded due to malfunctions on 26 of April in 1986. This occurred near the city of Chernobyl in the Soviet Union which is now known as Russia. The technicians at reactor four tried a poorly designed experiment shutting down the regular and safety system the nuclear power plant usually runs. This caused the core to go out of control and melt which was the cause of this explosion. This not only caused extreme radiation within a thirty-kilometer radius but also caused mutations, an inheritable change in the genetic material of an individual, of biological creatures living within that area from the extreme radiation. After the explosion, the energy of the radiation broke the DNA of some of the plants and animals living within the area. Since the damage was severe and the DNA could not be repaired, this caused anomalous mutations in Chernobyl such as facial malfunctions, extra appendages, abnormal coloring, or reduced sizes of animals. Oxidative stress and the lack of antioxidants also caused the development of nervous systems to change which include reduced brain size and impaired cognitive abilities.

The animals' deformities in Chernobyl were so severe they ended up living for only a few hours. Not only animals but humans, too, were mutated and some people even died. Because the nuclear power plant was only 10 miles away from the village of Chernobyl, people also faced severe amounts of radiation. This caused heart defects, genetic mutations, cancer, down syndrome, and more.

Nuclear power plants, however, have benefits and accidents like this that occur rarely. They provide the world with most of the electricity. In fact, a small amount of nuclear fuel can produce huge amounts of electricity. Nuclear power plants also have flexible output controls and are neat, clean, quiet, and very economical. This is why people use nuclear power plants. They take up less space than other power plants but still manage to produce the most electricity than any other type. They are also very quiet unlike the steam power plants (thermal power plants) that most people use to produce electricity. Also unlike steam power plants, they use uranium as fuel and not coal. Coal is said to last for only 200 years and because coal is a limited

resource, steam power plants will not last long. Other fossil fuels such as petroleum and natural gas will only last for 40 to 60 years. In comparison, uranium is also a limited resource but it is said to last for five billion years.

Nuclear power plants are huge in scale, power, benefits, and disadvantages. This could cause huge consequences such as the Chernobyl accident which happened due to the carelessness of both the technicians and the workers. So, when using nuclear power plants for their many benefits, people have to be careful using them because major accidents could cause harm to the environment and humans.



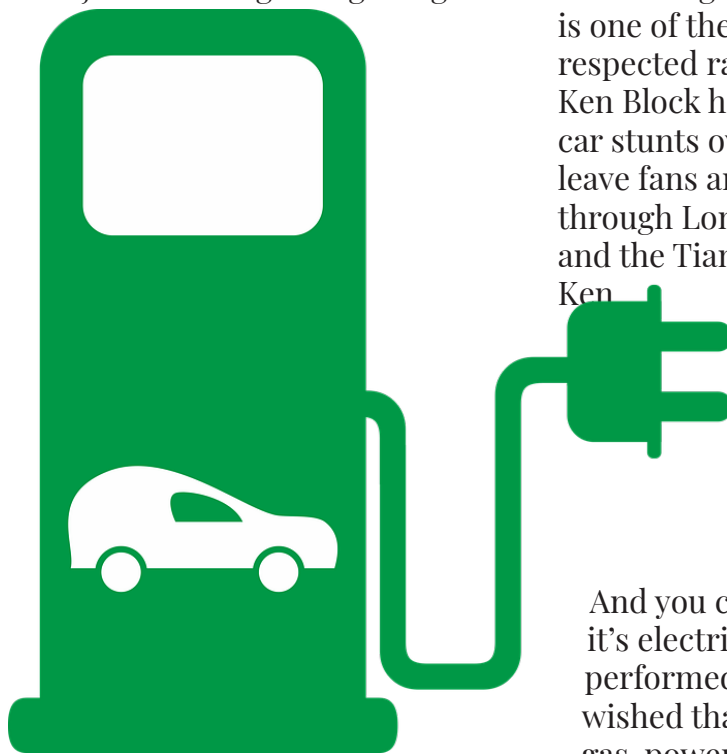
ADVERTISE
WITH
MONARCH
AD SPACE

ELECTRIC ENGINES CHANGING MOTOR SPORTS

by Jayden Lim (University High School)

Motorsports is a genre of different types of competitive racing that involves high-performance powered cars. Motorsports can range from multiple types of racing, such as rallying, drifting, motocross, etc. The most popular ones are Formula 1 and Nascar, F1 is known as the most popular racing series worldwide. Formula 1 is about different car brands each representing a driver to race their car. Their vehicles are not just regular cars you see on the streets. These single-seated, open-cockpit cars are meant for high performance and make roughly around 1000 horsepower. Each car is designed by different car manufacturers who focus on making the car as best as possible. With new generations of cars constantly evolving, motorsports must also adapt to the new change. However, with electric vehicles overtaking the car generation, it will change the concept of motorsports. The generation of cars will be overtaken by electric vehicles, meaning it will also have to change the sports cars we see on the streets. With these sporty gas-powered cars being replaced, car enthusiasts are very upset with this change as EVs don't bring the same sense of excitement. But what does this say for motorsports?

Electric engines bring many perks, but it doesn't fit the criteria performance-wise. For starters, EVs may be fast, but their batteries run out faster. One of the biggest problems with electric engines right now is how the battery lasts for a short amount of time compared to gas-powered cars. If this problem is not solved and replaces gas-powered cars in motorsports, people are going to have a fun time just watching cars getting



cars in general, you would know that a pure roar from the engines is one of the best things about a car. Especially in motorsports, hearing that scream coming from the cars is what fans and racers love. With no roar, there is no thrill for the fans and the silence makes you want to leave, might as well put on some headphones and play "loud car noise" on Youtube to try to make it better. Ken Block, a professional rally driver for the Hoonigan Racing Division is one of the most popular and respected racers in motorsports. Ken Block has done some insane car stunts over the years that leave fans amazed, he has raced through London, Pikes Peak, and the Tianmen Mountains.

Ken has driven some wild vehicles that people admire, but his recent car that he drove in Las Vegas has left his fans disappointed.

And you could guess why: it's electric. While he still performed amazingly, people wished that he would've used a gas-powered car because they want to hear the engine noises, saying how "The electric engine just steals so much enjoyment." Hopefully, there will be ways to improve these problems. EVs may be beneficial on daily streets but it's quite clear that they aren't the best fit for motorsports.

recharged every 5 laps. Another downside of an electric engine in a motorsports vehicle is that there is absolutely no sound when accelerating. If you are a car enthusiast, or just like

DID YOU KNOW PARKS CAN SAVE LIVES?

by Calvin Pang (Arnold O Beckman High School)



How green spaces prevent premature deaths

Before continuing, ask yourself this question: where is the nearest green space? If the answer is less than 300 meters, then the chances of a premature death occurring is lower than if farther than 300 meters, as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). On top of that, these green spaces are recommended to be at least 3.7 acres to be effective. Not only do green spaces support positive mood and cognition, lower anxiety, higher creativity, mindfulness and social connectedness, but also prevents heart disease and premature deaths of babies. These benefits are not only achievable with green spaces, but also blue spaces such as the sea, rivers, lakes, canals, waterfalls, and even fountains. A study shows that children

that attend greener schools with more trees and natural play areas have been shown to have better brain development and exam results. However, their psychological welfare isn't the only thing threatened. According to The Conversation, "43,000 premature deaths could be prevented annually in more than 1,000 European cities..." The American Heart Association presented a study showing that green spaces and better air quality were associated with a reduction in the number of deaths from heart disease. The increased amount of nature cleanses the air of carbon dioxide which allows for better air quality. Even urban planners strive to make it possible to see at least 3 trees from their home and have 30% of tree-canopy cover in the neighborhood.

Local Neighborhoods

In the city of Irvine, there are a whopping total of 63 parks, significantly high compared to the 15 parks in Tustin. Santa Ana also has lots of green spaces with 47 parks. However, though comparatively large, approximately only 1.41% of Irvine houses are within the WHO recommended distance to a green space, resulting in many potentially preventable deaths, some even premature. This incredibly low percentage of households within 300 meters of a green space further emphasizes the lack of parks in Tustin and Santa Ana. Also, it can be chalked up to the income differences between the cities.

Conclusion

As a result, the general health of our communities are declining, and will continue to if nothing is being done. We need green and blue spaces in order to combat the growing issue of global warming, not only for us in the present, but also in order to ensure a bright future for the next generations to come. Additionally, by lessening the economic deficit between cities, it can improve health in underdeveloped cities.

November Socials

Something nice to do in the Seasons of Giving

by Terry Bang (Arnold O Beckman High School)

There are thousands of people and children who have very unfortunate circumstances who may not have the same Christmas experience that the majority have.

Here are some ways you can help people have a better Christmas experience. In order to help the homeless you can donate clothes, blankets, food, toys, and other items to help those in need. You can go to a local homeless shelter near you and donate all these items. The salvation army is also a

very good source to help and donate to the homeless. Donating to these charities helps spread kindness and the Christmas spirit.

In addition, you can also help impact the lives of children by donating a little bit of money and time to these unfor-



fortunate majority. One charity is called Operation Christmas Child. Donors can fill shoeboxes with toys and necessities to give to children on Christmas day. Let these children know that there are hundreds of people who care for them. Another charity is called One Simple Wish, where children in foster care ask for a gift such as toys or cameras and other items. Donors can help buy these children things that they could only dream of in their situation.

Fun things to do on

Christmas by Kayla Park (Irvine High School) Christmas is a very festive holiday. Everyone is singing Christmas carols, sitting by the fire, drinking hot cocoa, making memories, and being in the presence of your loved ones. Christmas isn't Christmas if you don't have anything fun planned. Christmas planning doesn't have to be complicated. It could be simple, like watching a movie, wrapped around in your blanket with your friends or family. It could also just be hanging out with friends and just having a good time all together.

There are many places you can go to on your Christmas holiday. For example, Rovaniemi a city in Finland is known for being "official" the hometown of Santa Claus. Bethlehem, PA is literally known as Christmas City. The city would do an annual Christkindlmarkt. A heart-warming holiday event with live Christmas music and artisan vendors. Leavenworth, a city in Washington is known to be the most "Christmassy" town in America. The

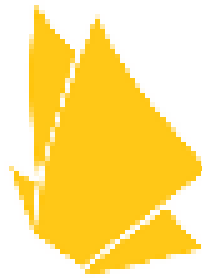
town goes big for Christmas, having 21 miles of Christmas lights decorating the town. McAdenville a town in North Carolina, is known to be a real life Christmas Town, having a deck of 375 trees surrounding the little town and 500,000 red, white, and green twinkling lights.

Going to places isn't the only fun thing you can do on Christmas. There's an entire list of what you can do on Christmas that doesn't involve traveling. For example, you could decorate your house with Christmas lights while joking around with family and friends. If where you live snows then maybe you could light the fireplace and cozy up while watching your favorite Christmas movie/show or you could even go sledding with a few friends of yours. Family game nights are a classic, laughing and joking around with the people you grew up close with. Even helping your mom around the kitchen could be fun, catching up with your mom on life. You could also do karaoke with friends and family with Christmas carols.

Christmas is a great holiday, it's a time to get together with people you love dearly. Christmas comes every year, so don't worry if you didn't have fun on this one. There's always a new year. Have a happy holiday.

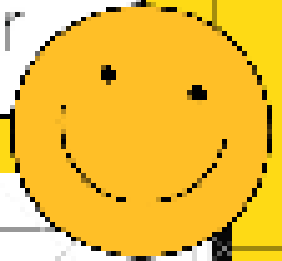


WE ARE



MONARCH

Student Run Newspaper



**JOIN
OUR
TEAM!**

**POSITIONS
AVAILABLE**

- President
- Editor In Chief
- Design Head
- Media Head
- Website Manager
- Marketing Head
- Each Division Head

ESG

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SOCIAL
GLOBAL**

Follow Our
Instagram & Twitter
[@monarch_esgnews](#)

Go subscribe our website

Masthead

October Editor-in-Chief | Calvin Pang
Head Design Editor | Eugene Kwon
Head of Publicity | Dawon “Cherry” Shin
Branch Supervisor | Jayden Lim
Branch Supervisor | Benjamin Song

Staff Writers:
Terry Bang
Kayla Park

Advisor | Jaeyoung “Geoffrey” Kang

Publisher | I.V.A.

