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Hansung News

Singing About Our Youth and Romance : The 2026 Daedong



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Mental Health Special
ADHD Medication Misuse in a Hypercompetitive Society

Culture
Why Are Memes More Than Just Simple Jokes?

Campus Isn't Just About Classes

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As a new semester begins, we naturally check our class schedules, find our classrooms, and settle back into the rhythm of campus life. University is, without question, a place for learning, and the classroom is where much of that learning takes place. However, when we look back on our college years, the moments that stay with us the longest are rarely those spent sitting in a lecture hall.

If you ask graduates what they remember most about university, few would say they remember the day they aced an exam or listened to a memorable lecture. Instead, they often recall laughing with friends at campus festivals, meeting new people through student clubs, staying up late preparing for campus events, or working together to create meaningful projects as members of student media organizations. These experiences outside the classroom often leave a far deeper impression than classroom learning.

University education is about much more than academic knowledge. Student clubs teach us how to collaborate with people from different backgrounds. Student councils help us develop responsibility and leadership while serving the campus community. Academic societies encourage us to explore our interests beyond the curriculum. Campus newspapers show us the value of observing, questioning, and documenting the world around us, while campus broadcasting stations teach us how to communicate effectively and create content that connects with others. These lessons cannot be found in textbooks or lectures, yet they often become some of the most valuable aspects of a university education.

Of course, this does not mean that every student must participate in countless extracurricular activities. There is no single right way to experience college, nor is there a fixed pace that everyone must follow. Some students find fulfillment by focusing on their major, while others discover new opportunities through activities outside the classroom. What truly matters is not following the same path as everyone else but creating a university experience that reflects who you are.

The new semester is not only a fresh start but also another opportunity to explore campus in new ways. If your routine has mainly consisted of going back and forth between home and class, perhaps this semester is the perfect time to pause and look around. Visit the club fair, attend campus events, or consider joining a student organization or becoming involved in a campus media organization. Even a small step outside your comfort zone may lead to unexpected friendships, valuable experiences, and memories that last long after graduation. Although we spend much of our time at university earning credits, what ultimately shapes us is the people we meet and the experiences we share. Years from now, we are unlikely to remember every grade on our transcripts. Instead, we will remember the moments when we laughed together, overcame challenges, and grew alongside one another.

This semester, let us embrace not only the learning that takes place inside the classroom but also the countless lessons waiting just beyond its doors. After all, university is not simply a place to attend classes—it is a place to discover ourselves, connect with others, and grow into the people we hope to become.

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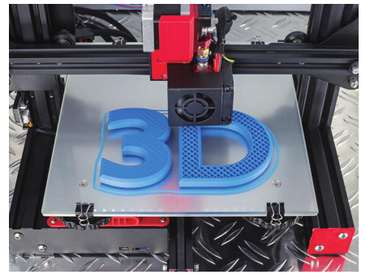





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Relationships: A Lifelong Challenge Achieved Through Listening

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Are the words and actions I choose for others truly for their sake?

Most of us live our lives intertwined with others. There are people with whom we merely exchange hellos, those with whom we only share meals, those we intentionally make time to see, and those who feel like family. Within these various relationships, we engage in conversations and sometimes offer advice for the other person's well-being. However, there are times when what we say and do for them doesn't actually help. When this pattern repeats, relationships can strain or drift apart. Then, what does it take to maintain a healthy relationship?

First, for a healthy relationship, we must remember that the other person and I are fundamentally different. As we grow closer to someone, the boundaries between us tend to blur. According to neuroscience, the brain region that is activated when we think about ourselves is also activated in the same way when we think of someone close to us, such as best friends, a lover, or family. Psychology explains this through "Self-Expansion Theory." As a relationship deepens, the boundaries of our ego expand to include the other person. Consequently, we feel their joy and their struggles as if they were our own. This is also why breakups are so devastating; the brain perceives it as the shattering of the self that the brain had come to include. Similarly, the reason we quarrel more with family and nag them is that we unconsciously regard them as "ourselves" and try to control them, leading to friction. Furthermore, as we grow closer—especially over a long period—we fall into the illusion that we know everything about the other person.

However, this way of thinking can be arrogant. We are separate individuals. When we sometimes barely know ourselves, how can we claim to fully know someone else? As people graduate, get jobs, build careers, or pursue new hobbies, they form other social relationships and develop new facets of themselves, or perhaps their personalities evolve. Even our tastes in food and fashion change as we grow. Therefore, rather than assuming, "Oh, he will definitely react this way," it is much better to ask and have an open conversation.

Most importantly, we must maintain a proper distance. This can be either physical or psychological. Have you ever experienced moving into a dorm or living alone after staying with family, only to find yourself fighting less with your parents and actually feeling more affectionate toward each other? When we see each other too often and stay too close, we might inadvertently treat the other person carelessly, regarding them as an extension of ourselves. Thus, keeping a healthy distance rather than being overly attached can often be the secret to sustaining a healthy relationship. Second, we should offer advice only when the other person is ready to accept it. Unwanted advice can feel like pressure and sometimes a form of violence. Even if what we are saying is objectively correct, if the other person can't accept it, it sounds just like nagging. In that case, your advice loses its effectiveness. In worse cases, it may drive them to cut off the relationship with you. Therefore, it is wiser to swallow those words for a moment and wait until they genuinely need them—that is, when they are ready to listen—so your words can have a more meaningful impact.

Moreover, sometimes wanting what we believe is "best" for them is actually just our own greed. For instance, imagine a friend whose life revolves entirely around caring for her sick mother. If you were to advise, "You should be independent of your home and live your life for yourself," would that really be for her? If she leaves her mother behind to live independently, will her mind really be comfortable? Will she be able to do that? Probably not. She has chosen this lifestyle because her mother is her priority, and she does not want to live with regret. To a friend in this situation, words like "Get out of the house, become independent" are not helpful. It might be that you are forcing something impossible from her perspective. Perhaps you simply find it painful to watch her struggle, and you are mistaking your own wish for her to change as concern for her well-being. Finally, the choice is our own and so is the responsibility for its consequences.

In the end, everyone must live their own lives; no one else can live it for them. Just as I make my own choices and bear my own responsibilities, the other person must do the same. We should neither try to live their life for them nor interfere. In particular, unless we can take full responsibility for someone until the very end, we should be careful with our words. If someone chooses the option we recommend and things go well, they will thank us. However, conversely, if things take a turn for the worse, they will resent us. For example, if the stock price rises when you ask the other person to trust you and invest in a stock, the other person will thank you, but if it falls, he will resent losing money because of you.

We should stand beside the other person as equals, supporting them. It is far better to maintain an equal relationship than a hierarchical one. Let us not try to be someone's parent or boss. Let us help them as a friend or a colleague. Do not try to teach them. And we must remember that our advice is merely a reference for them, not a rule they must follow. My friend once confided in me that he didn't know what he wanted to do and felt like he shouldn't keep living this way. Remembering what he used to be interested in, I eagerly tried to find a career path for him, asking, "How about this job? What about that one?" My friend chose one of them, but three months after saying he would pursue it, he changed his mind, saying it seemed too difficult. At that moment, I felt a complex wave of unpleasant emotions. One of the reasons I felt upset was that my friend hadn't listened to my advice. I realized then how dangerous this mindset was. Since that day, whenever someone approaches me for advice or guidance, I remind myself: "My words are not absolute. They are just a reference. The choice belongs to him, and I am not the one making the decision." I also stopped emotionally exhausting myself by treating his problems entirely as my own. Because I had over-identified with my friend's worries, I had felt rejected when he chose not to take my advice, mistaking his choice for a disregard of my feelings. This, I believe, ties back to the healthy distancing I mentioned earlier.

I believe human relationships are a lifelong lesson. Sometimes, not knowing where to draw the line makes me want to run away from relationships altogether. Two years ago, I shared a concern with my teacher. I said, "A friend of mine suddenly cut off the relationship with his friend without saying a word. I wish he had just been honest, explained the situation, and wrapped things up neatly. It's so frustrating to watch." After listening, my teacher said, "Yet, even doing that might have been too hard for your friend. Given the circumstances, that might have been the only way, and wanting him to act differently... might just be your own wish. Let's just stand by him a little longer." I don't think I thought from his point of view at the time, saying I was right in the long run. Cutting off the relationship could also be an act of courage.

In conclusion, rather than doing or saying things "for" the other person, simply listening in silence can sometimes be the truest way to care for them. Granted, listening attentively is no easy task. There is a saying that we have two ears and one mouth so that we may listen more than we speak. I will try to be a friend who listens well rather than speaks much, quietly standing beside them from the side—like a tree that always stands in the same place.

Singing About Our Youth and Romance :The 2026 Daedong Festival





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From May 13 to 15, Hansung University hosted its three-day Daedong Festival across the campus. This year's Daedong Festival was held under the slogan "Ode to Youth," a theme that beautifully celebrates the passion and spirit of young students.

The opening day began with an opening ceremony, followed by a performance by the student club 'Tal-Pae.' Various clubs and promotional booths operated during the day, providing visitors with a variety of entertainment and making the first day lively and engaging. At the same time, many students visited the photo booth in front of Changui-gwan from day one to take pictures with their friends. This exciting atmosphere continued into the night, when the Film Festival held on the Grass Square featured *F1: The Movie*, giving everyone a memorable evening.

On the second day, the 48th Naksan Music Festival was held by Hansung University's broadcasting station, HBS. The theme was "A Letter Sent with a Song." Participants performed original songs, and last year's winners, 'Surfer Jet (서퍼제트)' and 'Grazie (그라찌에),' gave special performances. The Grand Prize was awarded to 'Soongan-Jeobchagje (순간접착제),' while the Excellence Prize went to 'Pa-a-ran (파아란).' The student clubs 'Brillante,' '4line-mic,' and 'Triax' energized the festival with their performances. Amid loud cheers from the packed audience, guest artists BOL4 and YENA performed, making the night even more exciting.



Integrating Space Reservations: The Path to a Smart Campus

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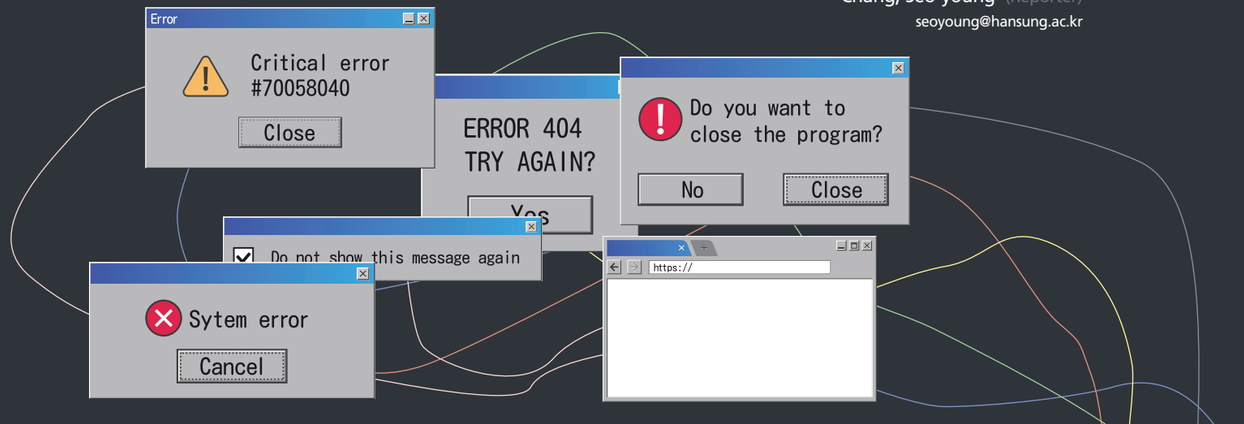


Hansung University is a space where academic work and various student activities are ongoing, leading to a steady student demand every semester for access to campus resources such as seminar rooms, practice rooms, and a variety of equipment. Having access to a place outside the classroom for group projects, club meetings, or personal self-study is an essential part of campus life. Currently, students can apply to use campus facilities and equipment through the "Facility Use/Reservation" page in the "Campus Life" category on the official Hansung University website. However, a closer look reveals that the reservation system for campus facilities is fragmented, spread across different administrative departments. This decentralized management approach is becoming a problem, causing unnecessary administrative waste and confusion for users trying to utilize the resources.

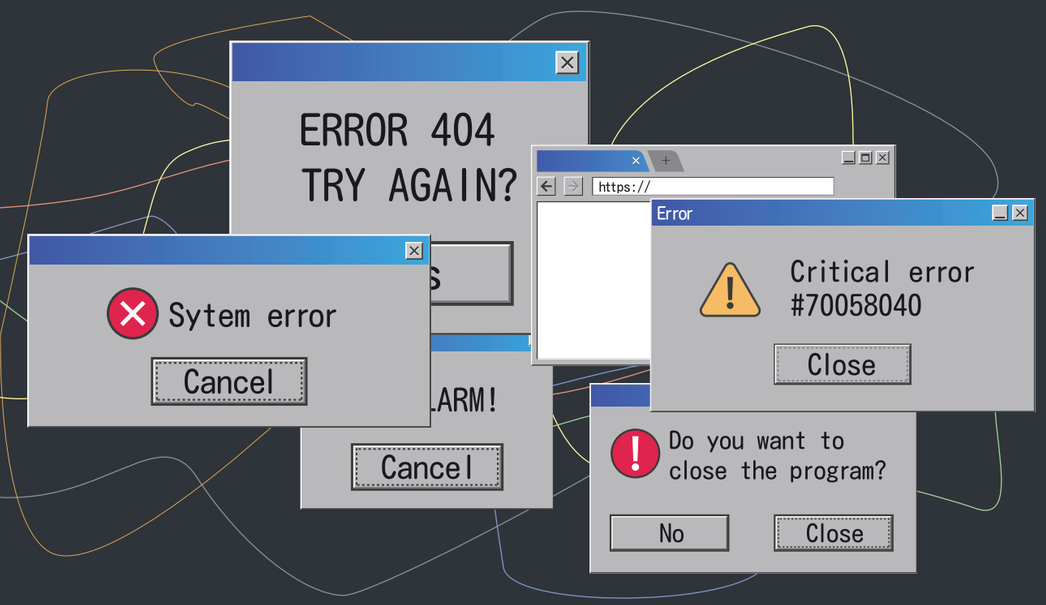
The first difficulty is the limited accessibility of information caused by the scattered reservation framework. Under the "Study Space" category on the "Facility Use/Reservation" page, the website provides detailed usage guidelines for each location. However, clicking the online reservation link for a specific place leads to individual systems run by different departments in charge, such as the Center for Smart Convergence and Digital Education, the Global One-Stop Center, Hansung University Digital Library, and the University Job Plus Center. Furthermore, some links are broken due to a lack of continuous webpage maintenance, showing an error screen that reads "Menu does not exist" upon connection. Regarding this, Kim, Seong-hyeon, a senior majoring in the Literary and Cultural Contents track, answered, "the process feels unnecessarily complicated."

The different reservation methods used by each office are also a major factor adding to the confusion. In the case of the "Sports Space," there is no online booking system, so students are required to personally download, fill out, and submit a separate application form. The problem is that even after going through the required steps and receiving approval, there is still a possibility that the reservation might be canceled due to official school events. Transitioning to a real-time online reservation system instead of manual paperwork would allow both students and the school to respond more flexibly to applications, cancellations, and schedule changes. In addition, the administrative procedures for the "Auditorium and Event Space" are split depending on the location. While some venues require submitting a written request to the managing division in charge, others require applying to the IT Infrastructure Team through an electronic approval process, a disconnection that highlights a lack of procedural consistency.

The inefficiency of venue classification on the webpage and the issue of outdated information are also challenges that must be addressed. Currently, the webpage groups locations into four somewhat broad, purpose-oriented categories: Study Space, Sports Space, Auditorium and Event Space, and Empty Classroom Status. However, this is an unintuitive classification system from the perspective of students, who navigate the campus and recognize venues based on actual campus buildings such as Changui-gwan, Sangsang-gwan, Naksan-gwan, and the Engineering Building. In addition, although the "Empty Classroom Status" category is split into Mirae-gwan/Woochon-gwan and Tamgu-gwan/Jinri-gwan with shortcut links provided for each, both links have been neglected and display only the current time, prompting calls for urgent improvement.

Even after completing the complex application process, the fact that it is not easy to check the real-time availability and final approval is a significant challenge. This is because the calendar within the reservation window only lists the rooms that have already been booked, along with the applicants and scheduled times, making it difficult to grasp at a glance what users need most: "which areas and time slots are currently empty." Furthermore, due to the separate approval workflow of the department in charge, the actual reservation status is not reflected immediately. Yu, Jeong-hwan, a sophomore majoring in the Web Engineering track, pointed out, "It is disappointing that the waiting time for the current confirmation method is so long," and added, "We need a student-friendly system that peers can use intuitively." This lack of transparency in operation even leads to the problem of "no-shows," where people reserve slots but do not show up. Currently, there is not even a systematic regulation to control this, frequently causing a waste of resources where other students who actually need the space are unable to use the facilities.

As such, the necessity for an overall innovation of the campus space and equipment booking system, which is most closely connected to students' daily lives, is constantly being raised. The fragmented reservation channels, lack of transparency in status updates, and mixed application methods cause unnecessary confusion for university members trying to access campus facilities and ultimately hinder the efficient utilization of school resources. Therefore, it is time to invest in practical smart-campus infrastructure. A key step would be introducing an integrated mobile platform that unifies the scheduling functions currently scattered across administrative departments. Establishing a single, intuitive, and centralized booking interface will substantially reduce administrative burdens for students. Ultimately, this consolidation will maximize the use of campus facilities, fostering a more vibrant environment for all activities.



A Guide to Earning High-Success Points on and off Campus

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A During the busy university life of registering for classes and preparing for major exams each semester, there is another essential task that often adds to their burden: earning the '800 High-Success Points,' which is one of the mandatory graduation requirements. However, a significant number of students still do not fully understand this system or struggle to find activities, resulting in difficulties right before graduation. To ensure a timely graduation, let's explore key strategies for effectively earning High-Success Points both on and off campus.

The simplest approach is to use the on-campus 'Smart Self-Care System.' By accessing the 'High-Success Programs' menu within the system, you can find a list of programs currently recruiting participants across various categories, such as learning enhancement, counseling support, and startup assistance. On campus, take a close look at the promotional bulletin boards installed on each floor of the campus buildings. Posters for various contests, support opportunities, and short-term projects hosted by school departments or clubs are regularly posted here.



Off-campus activities include certifications, language proficiency tests, contest awards, and volunteer work. National technical certifications award High-Success Points according to their grade, while ITQ and MOS certifications award 10 points per subject. Language proficiency tests and the National History Proficiency Test, which are essential requirements for employment, also offer points ranging from a maximum of 50 to a minimum of 10, depending on the score. In particular, while language test scores are strictly recognized only once during enrollment, an additional point is awarded only once if the score has improved compared to the previous submission. The 1365 and VMS off-campus volunteer activities award 5 points per hour, up to a maximum of 50 points per semester. However, if the activity is identical to an on-campus volunteer program or a social service curriculum course, it will not be recognized as a duplicate. Furthermore, for all off-campus activities, the 'activity period' and the 'application semester' must match.



B Currently, to encourage student participation in High-Success activities, the school operates the 'Hansung Challenge Scholarship,' which boldly excludes major course grades and selects recipients based solely on High-Success Points. This scholarship system targets domestic students enrolled in their 7th semester and divides them into four groups: Humanities, Social Sciences, Engineering, and Arts, selecting recipients in order of the highest scores. The top scorer in each group receives 3 million won, while excellent performers receive 1 million won.



The maximum recognized limit per semester for regularly enrolled students and students on leave is capped at 200 points. The maximum points a student can receive from a single program is also limited to 200 points. However, points earned in excess of the limit can be carried over directly to the next semester within the scope of that semester's maximum recognized limit. For graduating seniors, the limit is expanded to 400 points.

Don't delay your graduation; start earning your High-Success Points today to claim your rewards.

Until Artificial Intelligence Becomes a Part of Daily Life

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Today, artificial intelligence has become closely connected with daily life. According to the 'Global AI Diffusion Q1 2026 Trends and Insights' from Microsoft, 37.1% of South Koreans have used AI. This figure increased by about 6.4 percentage points compared to H2 2025. As a result, AI is increasingly used in daily life. However, AI has not provided customized answers to the needs of users or solved complex real-life problems from the beginning. Therefore, this article explains how early AI evolved into today's AI.

The Early Definition of AI: Alan Turing's "Turing Test" 1950

The Turing test is an idea that was first introduced in Alan Turing's paper *Computing Machinery and Intelligence* in 1950. The test is an experiment that judges whether a computer has intelligence. A computer would be judged as possessing intelligence if, in conversation with a machine designed to respond like a human, a human evaluator cannot identify whether the partner is human or machine. The test has strongly influenced the direction of AI development.

The First Learnable Artificial Neural Network Model: The 'Perceptron' 1958

In 1943, a method was proposed to imitate the way the brain works to make computers process information as the brain does. This idea later evolved into the artificial neural network (ANN), which has become one of the foundations of modern AI. Later, in 1958, Frank Rosenblatt developed the perceptron, which was the first trainable model that was capable of learning from examples. The perceptron is the most basic model of an ANN. It receives several inputs, applies weights to each of them, and returns a yes-or-no result based on the sum. The perceptron raised expectations about the realization of AI; however, it could not solve problems that were not linearly separable. In addition, due to the limitations of hardware capabilities and the lack of data at the time, AI research encountered stagnation.

The Development of the Artificial Neural Network: The 'Multilayer Perceptron' and the 'Backpropagation Algorithm' 1986

The multilayer perceptron is an ANN model that consists of layers of perceptrons. The model was expected to solve problems that were not linearly separable, which the previous perceptron could not handle. However, as there was no method to train the model efficiently, it was hard to use, even though it had been suggested earlier. Afterwards, in the 1980s, as the backpropagation algorithm developed, major advances occurred in AI research. The backpropagation algorithm is an algorithm that updates the weights in a perceptron to enable the ANN to learn. Through the algorithm, training for the multilayer perceptron became possible; therefore, the foundation to handle more complicated tasks was established.

From the Development of 'Deep Learning' to Today's AI Technology 2026

As the theoretical foundation was being established and hardware, such as GPUs, was being developed, ANNs could be developed much further. For example, these developments contributed to the rise of deep learning. Deep learning is an AI technology that finds features from data and trains itself by utilizing a multilayered ANN. Today, it is the foundation for not only generative AI models, such as GPT by OpenAI and Gemini by Google, but also several other AI technologies. Not only deep learning but also many of today's AI technologies would not have been developed without the foundation of earlier work. Today, history and the present are becoming the foundation for future development.

Unpredictable Weather: A Warning from Our Changing Earth

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Recently, South Korea has experienced unusual weather phenomena unlike those in the past. During the summer, record-breaking heat waves have persisted, and during the rainy season, sudden torrential downpours have repeatedly caused flooding. Short, intense rainfall resembling the squalls often seen in Southeast Asia is becoming more frequent, changing South Korea's rainfall patterns. Weather phenomena that once occurred only during certain seasons are now difficult to predict and disrupt people's daily lives. This is not only a problem in South Korea; similar changes are occurring worldwide, making it a global issue.

The Northern Hemisphere has been severely affected by extreme heat. In many regions, including Europe and the United States, temperatures have remained much higher than in the past. Summer heat waves usually appeared only temporarily; however, extremely high conditions have recently tended to last much longer. People are suffering from health problems such as heatstroke and dehydration, and the risk of wildfires is also increasing. Across Europe, many people have died because of the high temperatures. In early July, large wildfires broke out in Andalusia in southern Spain, and wildfires near Athens and Thessaloniki in Greece spread, forcing residents in several communities to evacuate. During the same period, severe heat exceeding 40°C led to the cancellation of some Fourth of July parades in the United States.

While the Northern Hemisphere has experienced extreme heat, some parts of the Southern Hemisphere are experiencing the opposite. Argentina has experienced unusually severe cold weather. In early July, the weather in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, is normally similar to late autumn in Korea, which ranges from 7°C to 15°C. However, due to a cold wave originating in Antarctica, the perceived temperature dropped to 0°C, and rare snowfall was recorded along the coast. On July 2, Chile also recorded lows of –4°C, prompting the government to issue a Code Blue emergency alert to provide additional support for homeless people. As a result of climate change, extreme situations where one region becomes hotter while another freezes are expected to become common.



Recently, the heat dome and El Niño have attracted attention as major causes of extreme weather. A heat dome is a phenomenon in which a strong high-pressure system in the upper atmosphere acts like a lid and traps hot air. Because the heated air cannot escape, it remains over one area for a long time and causes temperatures to rise even further. In addition, clouds do not form easily, allowing strong sunlight to reach the ground and causing high temperatures to continue for days or even weeks. When a heat dome lasts for a long time, the use of air conditioners increases sharply, raising electricity demand and placing pressure on power supplies. El Niño is a climate pattern where sea surface temperatures in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become higher than average. When El Niño occurs, some regions experience severe drought while others experience heavy rain and flooding. As a result, global rainfall and temperature patterns can shift, leading to different forms of unusual weather in various regions. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) officially confirmed that El Niño had developed in the tropical Pacific in July 2026. The organization stated that as this phenomenon becomes stronger, the possibility of droughts, heavy rainfall, and heat waves around the world increases and also emphasized that accurate seasonal forecasts and early warning systems are essential for protecting lives and reducing damage to communities.

Extreme weather does not simply end with changes in the weather but influences every aspect of society. Heat waves threaten people's health and may reduce agricultural production. The decline in global grain production and agricultural damage will eventually lead to imbalances in food supply. In addition, the climate crisis causes the greatest harm to socially vulnerable groups. It may become a disaster that especially threatens the lives of older adults, infants, young children, and outdoor workers. If the unusual pattern persists, more people may be forced to leave their homes, increasing the number of climate refugees. Additionally, changes in ecosystems will cause some plants and animals to lose their habitats and face the risk of extinction. Businesses are also directly affected. Productivity at industrial sites decreases, and increased electricity use raises energy costs. Moreover, government spending on responding to natural disasters continues to rise.

Experts predict that severe weather will occur more frequently in the future. The WMO has warned that record-breaking heat waves, torrential rainfall, and other events may become more frequent and intense because of rising global temperatures. Furthermore, it emphasized that if the climate continues to warm, extreme weather could become the new normal and that long-term policies and social preparedness are necessary. The World Weather Attribution (WWA) also concluded that the recent European heat wave was significantly intensified by climate change.

Such climate-related disasters are expected to become even more frequent. It is not a problem for only one country or one generation, but a common challenge that the entire world must solve together. To address this issue, governments should continue promoting carbon neutrality and climate adaptation policies while actively cooperating with the international community. Individuals should participate in responding to climate change through everyday actions such as saving energy and making environmentally friendly choices. The choices and actions we make today will determine what kind of planet future generations inherit. It is time to stop ignoring the Earth's warnings and work together to create a sustainable future.



NEWS ON KOREA

Healthcare Void: Its Reach from Emergency Rooms to Daily Life

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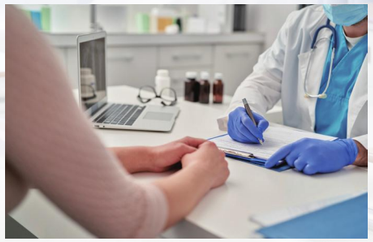
Emergency rooms refusing to accept patients and the resulting repeated hospital transfers have become a growing concern in South Korea in recent years, and are no longer a tragedy confined to specific underserved regions or vulnerable populations. The healthcare gap was once considered a problem limited to mountainous areas with weak medical infrastructure or rural towns facing population loss. However, it has now spread nationwide, including the outskirts of the Seoul metropolitan area and university districts, emerging as a systemic crisis that threatens the daily lives of all citizens.

The Reality of the Vacuum Proven by Statistics



The core cause of this healthcare shortage lies in a sharp decline in the recruitment rate of residents in essential but unpopular medical specialties that are critical to saving lives, such as pediatrics, emergency medicine, surgery, and OB/GYN (obstetrics and gynecology). According to the *First Half of 2026 Resident Recruitment Results* released by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the shortage in essential medical departments has reached a critical level. In particular, the application rate for pediatrics was only 20.6%, while OB/GYN (61.4%) and surgery (67.7%) also fell well short of their quotas. Emergency medicine also failed to fill its capacity at 55.3%. Conversely, the application rate for non-essential departments such as orthopedics, rehabilitation medicine, radiology, and plastic surgery reached as high as 100%. Demanding environments, frequent night shifts, and the burden of legal disputes over unavoidable medical accidents are pointed out as key factors discouraging young doctors from entering.

Loss of the Golden Hour Caused by Systemic Paralysis

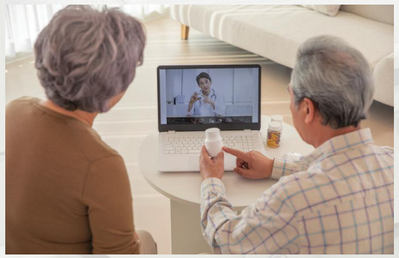


The shortage of specialists has led to the structural paralysis of emergency rooms at regional flagship national university hospitals and major hospitals in the metropolitan area. In the past, emergency rooms operated under a 24-hour patient admission system through the cooperation of residents and specialists. However, following staff shortage, the workload on the remaining medical staff has intensified. According to the *Emergency Medical Status Statistics* by the National Emergency Medical Center under the National Medical Center, the total number of ambulance re-transportation cases reached approximately 3,249 in 2024. Notably, 26.6% cited the need for specialized emergency medical care 'due to a lack of specialized medical staff or equipment' as the reason. Emergency rooms depleted of medical personnel have no choice but to limit patient admissions while prioritizing critically ill patients. This makes patients who require timely treatment, such as those with acute enteritis, high fevers, or worsening underlying diseases in the elderly, lose valuable time in the ambulance or waiting room. Given the epidemiological characteristics of public health, where securing the golden hour for acute diseases is just as crucial as managing chronic illnesses, the paralysis of emergency services strikes a fatal blow that directly threatens the people's right to life.

Boom in Telehealth and Alternative Consumption

As it becomes increasingly difficult to receive timely in-person treatment, anxiety-driven healthcare behaviors are spreading among the public. Citizens are relying on telehealth services before visiting a hospital or attempting self-treatment centered on OTC (over-the-counter) medications. According to the *Telehealth Treatment Pilot Project Statistics* from February 2020 to February 2025 released by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, during the period when regulations were relaxed to fully permit telehealth treatment in response to resolving the healthcare void caused by the collective resignation of residents from February 2024 to February 2025, the monthly average number of telehealth consultations reached 200,000. This is a noticeable increase compared to the monthly average of 140,000 during the previous implementation period of supplementary measures. The average monthly number of patients utilizing telehealth medical services also rose to 180,000 (up from 140,000 in the previous period), with a cumulative total of 4.92 million citizens using telehealth medical services since the introduction of the system. Furthermore, the demand for OTC medications, chosen as an alternative to hospitals, has skyrocketed.

As shown in the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety's *Pharmaceutical Production Performance Statistics*, domestic OTC production, which includes representative antipyretics, analgesics, and cold medicines, grew significantly by about 9.9%, rising from an annual 3.8 trillion KRW to 4.2357 trillion KRW, breaking records. This demonstrates that citizens who cannot endure the long lines before the opening of nearby clinics or the high thresholds of emergency rooms are choosing pharmacy stock medicine and telehealth services accessed through smartphones as the best alternatives. However, this alternative consumption has limitations, as it lacks the accuracy of in-person diagnosis and continuity that constitute the essence of medical care. Telehealth treatment, which relies on video or voice calls, makes palpation, auscultation, or real-time blood tests impossible, raising concerns that it may lower the accuracy of initial diagnoses. For instance, cases are frequently reported where patients mistake serious conditions for mild digestive symptoms, relying solely on OTC or telehealth prescriptions, thereby missing the proper treatment window and worsening their symptoms. Temporary reliance on medication without a specialist's detailed diagnosis merely masks the root cause of the symptoms and accelerates the weakening of the long-term public health safety net.





Seeking Solutions Through Structural Improvement and Advanced Global Cases

Ultimately, the shortage of medical personnel and the collapse of essential healthcare are not just numbers on a statistical chart. They represent a public safety issue that the entire population experiences in their daily lives and a grave challenge upon which the right to survival depends. To resolve this, fundamental structural improvements are urgently needed beyond short-term increases in the number of medical professionals. Alternatives drawing attention recently from the government and public health academia include Japan's 'Regional Quota System.' Japan meaningfully reduced its regional medical vacuum through a system that mandates medical school graduates to serve in their respective regions for a set period. South Korea should also implement practical measures, such as expanding financial support so that doctors can remain in essential and regional healthcare with a sense of duty, and establishing a legal protection system that mitigates legal liability for medical accidents when there is temporary reliance on medication. Providing a safe healthcare environment where all citizens can receive timely treatment when sick, regardless of their place of residence, is the most fundamental duty of the state. Now is the time for policy decisions to normalize the healthcare system and establish a sustainable public health safety net.

ADHD Medication Misuse in a Hypercompetitive Society

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A scene from the hit Netflix drama *Teach You a Lesson* highlights South Korea's intense academic competition. Driven by intense competition with the sole goal of entering a prestigious medical school, a high school student in Daechi-dong collapses during an exam with a sudden nosebleed. The cause is an overdose of methylphenidate, the active ingredient in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) medications. Parents in the show view the drug as a tool to boost focus and actively encourage their children to take it. While this portrayal is fictional, it reflects a growing real-world phenomenon where ADHD drugs are widely viewed as performance-enhancing study aids.



According to the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service, South Korea's total medical costs for ADHD rose from 46.1 billion won to 190.9 billion won over just four years. The total number of patients has also surpassed 260,000 nationwide. Prescriptions are heavily concentrated in prominent private-education districts such as Gangnam and Songpa in Seoul and Bundang in Seongnam. The number of ADHD prescriptions peaks in October, right before the annual college entrance exam, and then drops sharply in November and December.



Yet this rising trend is not entirely negative. National health insurance began covering adult ADHD treatment in 2016. Since then, the number of psychiatric clinics has grown from 1,208 in 2019 to 1,760 by the first quarter of 2026. This expansion has greatly improved public access to mental health services. At the same time, improved public awareness about mental health has allowed many untreated patients to finally seek proper medical care.

The problem arises when this increased medical access meets a highly competitive society, leading to drug misuse among young adults. Ministry of Food and Drug Safety data shows that methylphenidate prescriptions grew from 170,530 patients in 2021 to 392,239 in 2025, a 2.3-fold increase. This rise is steepest among young adults. Annual prescriptions increased by an average of 373 percent for people in their 30s and 28.9 percent for those in their 20s, marking the fastest growth rates across all age groups.



Experts point to South Korea's extreme focus on performance and endless competition as the main drivers of this phenomenon. Just as intense academic competition drives up prescription rates among teenagers in high-pressure school districts, young adults in their 20s and 30s face high unemployment and demanding corporate cultures that require constant self-improvement. Instead of addressing the root causes of their stress and anxiety, many people use medication for a quick boost in work performance. This is further fueled by social media, where ADHD is often discussed lightly as a simple personality trait or trend, encouraging people to self-diagnose and seek prescriptions.



Medical professionals warn that ADHD medication does not improve learning ability in healthy individuals. The drug is designed only to normalize neurotransmitter activity in patients who suffer from neurotransmitter disorder. Healthy people who take these stimulants long-term can suffer from anxiety, insomnia, headaches, and heart palpitations. Severe cases can lead to hallucinations, delusions, or cardiovascular complications. For growing children and teenagers, taking the drug without a diagnosis can also harm physical development and stunt growth. Most importantly, the central nervous system stimulants used for ADHD are strictly regulated as controlled narcotic medications in South Korea. Obtaining or taking these drugs without a proper medical diagnosis is a serious crime punishable under the Narcotics Control Act.

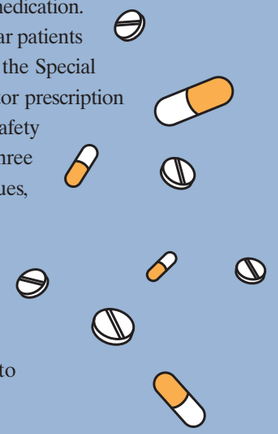


Institutional responses to drug misuse and illicit distribution are not limited to South Korea. From 2025 to early 2026, the international community also introduced a series of policies to curb the misuse of stimulants, including methylphenidate. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) adopted a resolution in 2025 to strengthen international cooperation and prevent stimulant misuse. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has consistently warned against the dangers of prescription stimulant misuse and drug sharing while expanding non-pharmacological treatment options by approving LumosityRx, a prescription digital therapeutic for adult ADHD, in December 2025. In February 2026, New Zealand reformed its system to enhance treatment accessibility, allowing vocationally registered general practitioners and nurse practitioners to diagnose adult ADHD and initiate stimulant prescriptions.

Amid this global trend of tightening regulations and adopting alternative technologies, South Korea is facing a drug supply shortage because a surge in prescription demand is inadvertently harming actual patients who genuinely need the medication.



Some pharmacies have run out of stock, directly disrupting daily life for regular patients who require consistent treatment. In response, health authorities launched the Special Monitoring Task Force for Medical Narcotics on July 1 of this year to monitor prescription drug abuse. The Narcotics Policy Division of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety also cut the approval time for manufacturing changes from six months to three months to speed up imports. While these measures have eased supply issues, experts say stronger monitoring is still needed.



While it is crucial to ensure that patients have easy access to treatment, the government and society must also prevent these medications from being used as cognitive enhancers. In a society where competition often comes before human well-being, ADHD drugs should not be turned into another tool for survival.

Turning Imagination into Reality with a 3D Printer

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A 3D printer is a machine that makes three-dimensional outputs by building objects layer by layer based on 3D design data. Unlike a 2D printer, which prints letters or pictures on plain paper, a 3D printer produces solid three-dimensional objects on a surface. The outputs made in this way can have the same precision and shape as the design. Additionally, 3D printers can print complex structures, such as hollow interiors or lattice structures, which are difficult to produce using traditional manufacturing methods.

3D printers can be categorized by the layering method and the material. Three of the most representative methods are FDM, SLA, and SLS. One of the most common and widely available methods is FDM (Fused Deposition Modeling). FDM is a method that builds up layers using melted filament (usually plastic). It is easy to use and cheaper than others, so it is used for educational purposes or as a hobby. Another method is SLA (Stereolithography). SLA prints products by using UV or laser light on liquid photopolymer resin to solidify. As it features high precision and a smooth surface, it is used for high-quality outputs, such as figures or models. Another method is SLS (Selective Laser Sintering). SLS is a method that shapes objects by sintering material using a laser. It can shape complicated objects without additional support structures and produce strong, durable parts. Therefore, it is used for industrial prototypes and functional components.

As 3D printers can print different materials in designed shapes, they are being used in various fields. First, 3D printers are used in medicine. Hospitals are using the machines to print patient-specific simulators that match the size and hardness of real patients based on CT or MRI data. Medical staff then use the simulators to practice and improve their skills. Additionally, they use 3D printers to produce customized implants from materials that are safe for humans. Research is also being conducted to print artificial organs tailored to individual patients using bioprinting.



Second, 3D printers are used in construction. They are used to construct buildings by depositing concrete layer by layer. This method can significantly reduce construction time and labor costs while enabling the production of complex and precise structures that are difficult to achieve with traditional methods.

Finally, 3D printers are used in the aerospace industry. To reduce weight and increase durability, 3D printers are used to manufacture integrated components from metals or high-performance materials. In addition, an experiment was successfully conducted to 3D print with metal in the space environment aboard the International Space Station (ISS). This experiment confirmed the potential for manufacturing or producing required parts directly in space.

As explained by the examples above, the potential of 3D printing is limitless. Individuals can use 3D printers to create products that are difficult to find on the market or customize items to suit their own needs. They can also make anything from simple toys to practical household items or educational tools. Another advantage of 3D printing is that anyone with a shared design file can produce the same object.



Currently, Hansung University is providing students with access to 3D printers. If you are interested in 3D printing or have a design you would like to print, you can reserve a 3D printer on the Center for Smart Convergence and Digital Education website. Before making a reservation, you should prepare your 3D design file and check the estimated printing time using the instructional video on the website. As our university also offers an extracurricular program on how to use 3D printers during the semester, students have an opportunity to learn the basics of 3D printing.

THE SHIFT from SHORT to LONG FROM MEDIA

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Although short-form videos lasting less than a minute dominate today's media landscape, hour-long video podcasts are rapidly gaining popularity on YouTube. According to YouTube's official blog, monthly active viewers of podcast content have already surpassed one billion, making podcasts one of its major content formats. This trend reflects a response to "popcorn brain" and dopamine fatigue, as viewers seek emotional stability and deeper engagement by choosing longer content.

A prime example of this trend is "B-Side Talk Show" (B-ju-ryu Cho-dae-seok), a popular series on Toss's financial channel "Moneygraphy." Hosted by a unique trio—drummer Kim Ganji, rapper Hukky, and publishing editor Kim Min-kyung—the show explores pop culture and niche tastes. Instead of one-sided information delivery, the hosts share their candid opinions and preferences through relaxed, long-form conversations. This authentic approach has helped them build a deep emotional bond with their audience and a loyal fan base.

The popularity of video podcasts has spread beyond entertainment channels led by traditional broadcasters. MinumsaTV is a publishing house that has expanded beyond traditional print media into digital content. Editors on the channel gather to discuss books in casual conversations that often last more than an hour. As audiences immerse themselves in these discussions, they naturally broaden their perspectives and discover new reading interests.

The rise of long-form media reflects the changing media consumption habits of people in their 20s and 30s. Rather than watching a screen continuously, they prefer a background-viewing style, leaving videos playing in the background while eating, working, or doing chores. Content without frantic editing or distracting subtitles can provide a sense of visual and auditory ease, making it well suited to everyday listening. Today, subscribing to and listening to a podcast goes beyond simply gaining information; it has become a way to develop a sense of belonging among people who share similar interests.

Why invest an hour in a video when people could just watch a highlight reel? The answer lies in the craving for authentic, unedited human thought processes. Long-form content delivers the narrative depth and context of a story that short clips can never capture. Leaving in verbal slips, long pauses, and trivial chatter to flow unfiltered can build greater trust between creators and viewers.

Consequently, the return of long-form media shows that viewers are actively stepping away from passive algorithms in order to embrace the full context of a conversation. As director Shin Wooseok of Dolphiners Films noted in a Google Korea interview, what truly matters is not technical sophistication but the "power to move people's hearts." Moving forward, competitiveness in the media industry will be determined by a clear identity and deep empathy that make viewers feel their time has been well spent.



CULTURE

Why Are Memes More Than Just Simple Jokes?

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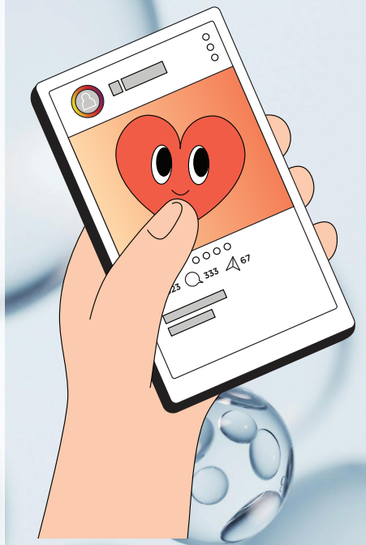
Every day, dozens of new memes appear on our smartphone screens. Consisting of short videos, images, and simple captions, memes spread quickly through social media and online communities and have become part of our daily lives. In the past, they were often regarded as simple jokes that became popular for a short time and then disappeared. Today, however, memes have evolved into a new form of cultural content that enables people to express their thoughts, emotions, and even social messages. For young people who are familiar with the digital world, memes are more than entertainment. They have become a kind of language, a means of communication, and a cultural tool that connects people through shared experiences.

Memes are easy for almost anyone to relate to. Without long explanations or detailed stories, a single picture or short video can clearly express a situation or emotion. Common experiences, such as the stress of exams, the tiredness of Monday mornings, or the embarrassment of making a mistake, become more interesting and easier to recognize through memes. Simply recognizing and laughing at the same memes helps create a sense of connection and allows people to communicate more easily with one another. This form of communication also goes beyond language and nationality. Many memes are adapted to different cultures and languages, while those that become popular in one country often gain new meanings when they spread to another. Because people from different backgrounds can still relate to similar emotions and experiences, this type of content has become a global part of digital culture.





In recent years, not only companies but also public organizations have started using meme-based content. Traditional methods of promotion often fail to attract the attention of younger generations. Companies use popular online trends and meme-based content to introduce new products and create a friendlier brand image. Public organizations also use such content to communicate public policies and safety guidelines in a simple and enjoyable way. A good example is the Seoul Metro, which has used meme-based content on its official social media accounts to introduce subway safety rules and proper escalator etiquette. By using popular online jokes and trends, the information became more interesting and easier to remember, and many young people shared it. Another example is the Korea Expressway Corporation, which has used meme-style videos in campaigns to prevent drowsy driving and promote road safety. These examples show that meme-based content is an effective communication tool because it is engaging, easy to remember, and widely shared.

Social issues can also be shared through memes. Topics such as environmental protection, climate change, voting, and school bullying often attract greater public attention when they are presented in the form of memes rather than through long explanations. On social media, a single meme can be shared by thousands of people and help raise awareness of important issues. Young people, in particular, are increasingly learning about social issues through memes and often use them to express their own opinions. In the past, people mainly learned about these issues through newspapers or television news. Today, memes have become yet another way to bring social issues into everyday life and encourage greater public interest and participation.

However, memes do not always have a positive influence. Memes that contain false or misleading information can spread quickly, causing misunderstandings. Because they are short, humorous, and easy to share, many people repost them without checking whether the information is accurate. This is especially problematic when memes are related to politics or social issues, where facts and personal opinions are often mixed together. As a result, people may develop incorrect ideas or beliefs. Another serious problem is that some memes mock or demean other people. Memes that joke about someone's appearance, job, hometown, gender, or other personal characteristics may seem harmless, but they can hurt the people involved and reinforce social prejudice. Since the internet allows users to remain anonymous, these kinds of memes are created and shared more easily. Even if they begin as simple jokes, they can eventually lead to hate speech or cyberbullying as they continue to spread online.



Even so, memes have become an important part of modern society. They are no longer simply a form of entertainment but also an effective way to communicate ideas, share information, and encourage public participation. As digital culture continues to evolve, people should use memes responsibly and verify information before sharing it with others.

When used responsibly, memes can do much more than simply make us laugh. They can help people better understand one another, share useful information, encourage social participation, and continue to play an important role in connecting people in modern society.

A Quiet Pause at the End of the Day

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The evening sky at the end of a busy day invites us to pause and slow down for a while. Even the most familiar routine can feel different as the colors of the sky begin to change.

In the rush of everyday life, we often overlook the beauty that surrounds us. Yet taking a moment to appreciate the sky and nature can turn an ordinary moment into a meaningful memory. The evening is more than just the end of the day; it offers us a chance to reflect on the day that has passed and the day to come. Even a brief pause can restore our energy, and the peaceful scenery offers quiet comfort before night falls.

Amid the demands of university life, taking time to wind down at our own pace is just as important. Sometimes, a quiet moment spent looking at the sky leaves a stronger impression than a carefully planned trip. The scenery at the end of the day offers us a small moment of rest, helping us face tomorrow with ease.

Word Review

No. 163 Word Review

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❶ printer
❷ festival
❸ climate
❹ meme
❺ mental

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QR로 접속

Letter to the Editor

Name

Major

Student Number

Phone Number

Cartoon

Why Is My Cup Wet?

Cartoonist : Jang, Yu-Jin wkdsbwls0310@gmail.com




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