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Final Issue



thehowler

The Worldwide Economic Effect of COVID-19

Hsinchu, Feb. 20th (Alex Tung)

The outbreak of the Coronavirus in Wuhan has hugely affected the international economy. In order to prevent a greater spread of the viruses, factories in Wuhan were being forced to shut down by their government. However, they couldn't import the raw materials, and the end products couldn't be exported out of Wuhan. As a result, the economy in Wuhan has been stagnant for weeks. On a grander scale, the global economy has even decreased.

China is the world's second largest economic nation, so that economic stagnation could threaten global economic growth. Economic forecasters expected China's overall economic growth to collapse from 6% to 4.5% in the first quarter of 2020 and global growth to decline by about 0.1%. However, they also believed that China's economy would

soon recover if the coronavirus was controlled appropriately.

Nonetheless, the coronavirus has also affected the stock market. For instance, shares of Apple fell 2.6 % on Tuesday, February 18, due to the shortage of supplies from Wuhan's

Lastly, China is also the world's largest oil importer since it has the largest population in the world. With the coronavirus affecting manufacturing and traveling, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has anticipated the first drop in oil demands in a decade. This

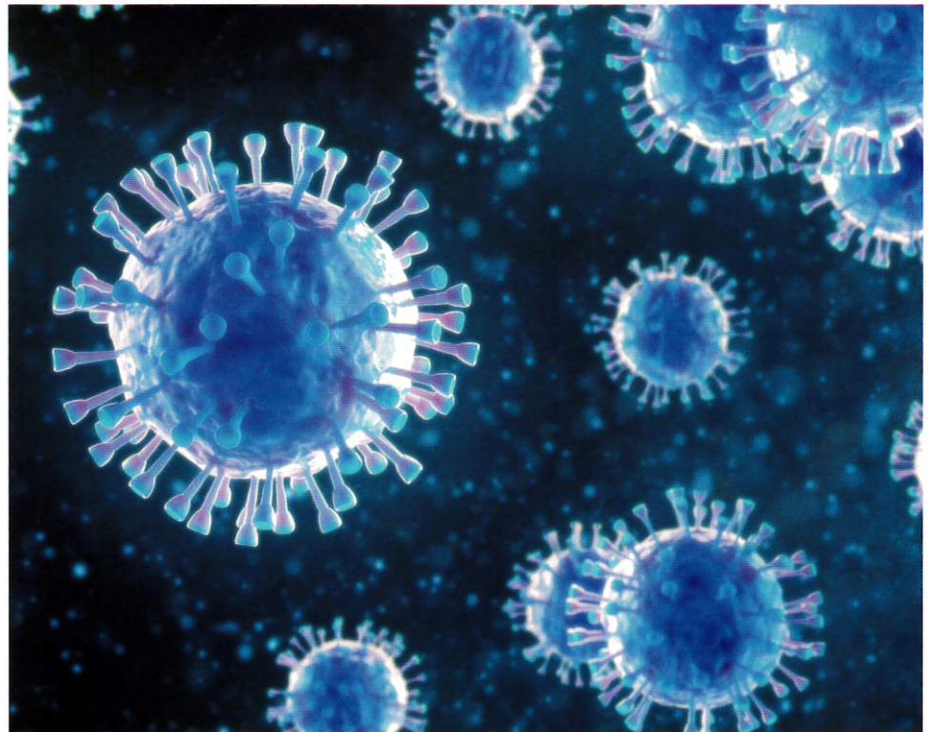


Photo courtesy of news.umich.edu

industry. However, the good news is, shares of pharmaceutical companies and the medical sectors have increased their stock values. For example, shares of pharmaceutical businesses in Shanghai and Shenzhen have spiked by 10%, which is the daily maximum allowed. Therefore, the coronavirus tends to have both positive and negative effects on the stock market and economic growth.

is also part of the reasons why global economic growth could decrease even more. Finally, if the coronavirus is eradicated, there would still be considerable changes to the worldwide economy.

Teacher Spotlight

Mr. Scott Austin
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Local & International

Winter Performance

Hsinchu, Jan. 17th (Richard Lin)

Winter performance is an annual event at HAS where students have the opportunity to rise up and shine, showing a different perspective of themselves in front of their parents and peers. The 2019 Winter Performance was extremely successful and everyone who attended had an unforgettable night.

HAS also held a raffle where tickets were sold to earn money for World Vision, a charity organization that focuses on bringing clean water to impoverished countries. HAS has been cooperating with World Vision for several years. The two prize winners for the raffle were Mr. Swarhout aka the GOAT and Ms. Burden.

As it came to the club performances, the dance club, led by Angel Lin, had a stunning performance despite only two of their member's

California, 小情歌, and 黑暗騎士. This was the first time the rock band had ever performed jazz music. Plus, the members had their first opportunities to play solos. They sure knew how to "rock" the crowd with their incredible performances. Last but not least, Student Council, led by Mrs. Wilson, came up with a perfect performance to end the night. Winter performance has never disappointed, and this year was no different.

Facebook Faces Antitrust Charges

Hsinchu, Feb. 21st (Bill Cheng)

Facebook, an American social media and technology company, has proven itself to be more than capable of providing a convenient, free, and widely popular social communication platform.

However, inquiries about the ethicality of this company are beginning to arise, questioning Facebook's dominant control over other competitor applications and its possible violation users' privacy. Regarding these inquiries, Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO and major stockholder of Facebook, has responded, saying that the average American uses eight different applications per day to connect to their friends, implying the presence of other competitors. Perhaps the more important question is whether Facebook is leveraging its advantages over other competitors and exploiting their



Students showcased their talents by performing music, dances, or a short skits. They started preparations two months before the show and sacrificed their free time after school. Moreover, every grade was required to give a five-minute short performance. The performances were mostly student-led and student taught. Many students brought their classes' together and showed leadership. With their creativity, they manage to make up their own dances and create a full production. Besides performances,

performing—Angel Lin and Dasha Zaytseva. They wholly demonstrated how professional dancers would perform. The audience was thrilled and went crazy for them when they walked on the stage. Their performance amazed the crowd and etched a memorable memory into the audience's mind. Moreover, Rock Band, another major club at HAS, led by Mr. Maginn also had solid and sensational performances. As usual, they had a 1 hour long set and played a total of six songs—Iron Man, Cantaloupe Island, Hotel

Local & International

power. Although Facebook owns a major portion of the market, studies suggest that 12% of market share in advertising belong to other entities which technically support Facebook to not be a monopoly. According to the Cambridge English dictionary, a monopoly is “an organization or group that has complete control of something, especially an area of business, so that others have no share” which contradicts the false claim that “Facebook is a monopoly”. Furthermore, it is impossible for Facebook to be considered a monopoly because the Latin root “mono” of the word “monopoly”



Photo courtesy of pngitem.com

simply means “one” and companies such as Snapchat take up a portion of the overall market even though minimal. With regards to privacy, Facebook users are allowing the company direct access to personal files by agreeing to certain terms regarding the permission to access their contacts, text messages, call logs, location, camera storage, and network connectivity which contribute to possible leaks of private information and insecure uses of the application. Moreover, as Facebook’s privacy issues roam out of control, the Federal Trade Commission has stepped in to conduct further investigations.

In order to amend these issues, Facebook introduced new privacy controls, and an expanded bug bounty to prevent world-wide bugs. To summarize; although Facebook cannot be considered a monopoly, Facebook can acquire its user’s private information through accessing the user’s personal data and text messages.

Hsinchu Zoo Reopens!

Hsinchu, Jan. 17th (Ethen Chiu)

The Hsinchu Zoo is located in the east district of Hsinchu City. It was originally founded in 1936. It is the oddest public zoo in Taiwan. Hsinchu Zoo covers about 2.7



Photo courtesy of taiwannew.com

hectares of land and was closed in May, 2017 for a reconstruction project that included the refurbishment of animal habitats, construction of family friendly restaurants, facility renewals, and more.

After 2 years of reconstruction, the Hsinchu Zoo finally reopened on December 6, 2019. The zoo indeed

has many more facilities that are more comfortable for both humans and animals at the zoo. According to the official website for Hsinchu Zoo, the goal of this reconstruction was to create a fenceless and nature-like environment for the animals to live in, and for the visitors to more easily learn about the wildlife. Moreover, the construction also made both the animal habitats and visitor walking areas at the zoo bigger.

In order to make the zoo as natural as possible, the zoo created a food forest. The 11,036 square foot food forest contains 80 types of edible plants with a total number of over 6000 edible plants. This is designed not only to offer food for the animals but to also make spaces for the animals that aren’t just made

out of concrete and walls. Overall, this makes the animals feel more at home.

To conclude, the Hsinchu Zoo is a zoo that is beneficial for both the visitors and the animals because it educates informs people about the different species during their visit to the zoo.

Life

Plastic Bags

Hsinchu, May 29th (Evonne Hsu)

Have you noticed that most plastic bags are tangled in trees, floating in water, and lying on the roads? Plastic bags are everywhere in the world today. It has become part of our lives. They are a convenient way to carry groceries when people go shopping. Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide. However, people never notice their seriously negative consequences. They are one of the main causes of ecological collapses, and therefore plastic bags should be banned.



Photo courtesy of noted.co.nz

First of all, plastic bags cause harm to nature environments. Plastic is made out of petroleum. When producing plastic bags, it requires a lot of energy and this energy comes from burning fossil fuels. When oil is burned, it creates greenhouse gases. These gasses lead to the greenhouse effect, which causes earth to increase the temperature. Even with a tiny change in earth's temperature, it can still have huge impacts on the world. Even plants are influenced from the harm caused by plastic bags. When plastics break down in soil they release harmful chemicals that can harm microorganisms that plants rely upon for survival. Additionally, plastic bags can get caught on plants,

preventing them from getting the light or nutrients they need.

Another critical cause is that plastic bags are harmful to marine and wildlife. Things that harm them, not by predators, but by the actions of humans. Animals suffered from huge consequences because our plastic waste is not properly disposed of. When plastic waste is released into the ocean, it carries them very far from its original source polluting to different regions of the world, which causes more lives to be harmed. Nearly 100 million marine animals die each year from consuming plastic waste. Plastic bags are often mistaken for food by turtles, which their bodies cannot digest, leading to death. In fact, researchers from the University of Queensland determined that roughly 52% of the world's sea turtles have eaten plastic wastes. However, sea turtles are not the only species suffering from plastic bag pollution of the environment. Animals also become entangled in those plastic wastes. Many birds were caught in plastic bags, unable to fly and feed, they strangled themselves to death.

Though, some people think that plastic bags are reusable and should not be banned. It is true that reusing plastic bags will have less effects toward the earth. But, people never really reused those plastic bags once they were being used. And those plastic bags that were being used ended up being everywhere.

These consequences of plastic bags can be seen all over the world. Plastic bags contribute to climate change, and they kill wildlife. The impacts of plastic are dramatic for the

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How Valentine's Day Came to Exist

Hsinchu, Feb. 23rd (Molly Cheng)

From ancient Roman times, men whipped women on Lupercalia, February 14th, to show their love. Men would sacrifice goats and dogs and use their skins to whip women because they believed that it would increase fertility.

Valentine's Day was named after two men that were called Valentine, who were killed in different years on the same day, February 14. The first Valentine was a Catholic priest. Legend said that Valentine died because he didn't follow the rule that if a young male got married, they had to work for the military, but he had a secret marriage ceremony, so he was beheaded during the 3rd century BC.



Photo Courtesy of wikipedia.org

In 5th century BC, Gelasius I combined Valentine's Day and Lupercalia, an ancient pagan festival, and copied the ceremony that was

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Life Sports

HAS vs. Morrison Basketball Game

Taichung, Jan. 11th (Alex Tung)

On Thursday, January 11th, Hsinchu American School had a friendly varsity basketball match against Morrison Academy in Taichung. The HAS players gained valuable experience from Morrison because Morrison has always been a tough contender. Although HAS didn't win the friendly match, they still put a lot of effort into it. It was a pretty close game, with the final score being 48 to 54. HAS was down by eighteen points at the beginning

of the game, and Coach Swarthout, almost gave up on them. However, due to the exceptional cooperation between the starters (Peter Cheng, Alex Tung, Kerdis Pan, Bill Cheng, James Chang) and their firm determination to achieve victory, HAS was able to curtail the gap to only six points by the end of the first half. Unfortunately, HAS wasn't able to reduce the point gap further, and sadly, they were defeated. Most of the HAS players had remarkable stats: Peter the beast scored twenty three points, six rebounds, five

steals, and one block. Bill tallied seven points, seven rebounds, five steals, and one block. Kerdis put up twelve points, five rebounds, three steals, and one block. Alex scored four points, eleven rebounds, two steals, seven assists, and two blocks. James earned two points, one rebound, two assists, and one block.

Ken, Ray, and Andy all contributed to the team a lot by participating and trying their best throughout the game. They also cheered louder than any of the Morrison cheerleaders. It was an enjoyable match.

Teacher Spotlight

Mr. Austin

Hsinchu, Jan. 17th (Evelyn Kuo)

Q: Which part of the state are you from?

A: I'm from the SW Coast (Coos Bay/North Bend) and Eugene.

Q: Why do you like Taiwan?

A: I like Taiwan because it's beautiful and the medical care is amazing.

Q: How were you like when you were in high school?

A: I was a nerd and a distance runner.

Q: What did you do before you became a teacher?

A: I was an academic before I became a teacher.

Q: What is your favorite Taiwanese food?

A: My favorite food in Taiwan is stinky tofu.

Q: What countries have you visited? Which one do you like the most?

A: I've visited France, Hungary, Croatia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Israel, Canada, Hong Kong, the Czech Republic. My favorite is Israel.

Q: Have you ever had any pets?

A: I have a German Shepard dog back in Oregon.

Q: What is your hobby?

A: I love reading in my spare time.

Q: What do you normally do during the weekends?

A: I spend my weekends in Taipei with the Chabad Jewish community.

Q: If there's a time machine, what would you like yo change in the past?

A: If I had a Time Machine I think I would try to stop the Holocaust if I could.

Q: Why do you like teaching social

studies?

A: I love History and politics.

Q: Which schools have you taught before?

A: I've taught at SE Career Technology and Career Academy, Orr Middle School.

Q: What is your favorite event at school?

A: I enjoyed Lock-In and the Christmas Concert a great deal.



Photo Courtesy of Mr. Max

Life

Technology

Sony PS5 2020

Hsinchu, Jan, 17th (Angel Lin)

The new PS5 will be launching in the latter months of 2020. They imagine it will launch in November. The Sony Corporation believe it will make a wonderful Christmas gift.

The PS5 logo is incredibly familiar. It's identical to the PS4 logo, save for the updated digit at the end. It's exactly as expected, and instantly recognizable as part of the PlayStation brand.



Photo Courtesy of playstation.com

wRyzen processor and a Navi graphics chipset, combo that will allow games to load faster and more efficiently.

The PS5 will also go green, as part of the Playing for the Planet initiative. This will be done in two main ways. The first of which is an integrated system-on-a-chip with all of the components held on a single substrate. The second will be a new Sleep mode. The PS5 will sport a sort of suspend-to-RAM mode that will freeze gameplay using drastically less power than the PS4.

The Sony Corporation wants to improve on the PS4 functions. Comparing PS4 to PS5, Sony notes an improvement in sound quality and visuals. In short, the games will load faster, take up less space, and

look a lot better. Sony said that they anticipate the first-year sales for the PS5 to be similar to that of the PS4. However, it depends in large part to Sony's willingness to price it competitively. The PS series has always attracted a lot of attention from gamers past to present. Since news of PS5 came out, people's curiosities have peaked and they have begun to look forward to the release.

Animal Crossing and Nintendo Switch Globally Sold Out

Hsinchu, May, 11th (Andrew Chen)

Animal Crossing: New Horizons is a social simulation video game released on the Nintendo Switch platform, on March 20, 2020. By mid-May, the game had 13.41 million units sold globally, including both physical and digital copies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries have carried out instructions such as to stay at home, socially isolate, and quarantine themselves to control this catastrophe. However, all these instructions contributed to the success of the game since playing video games is a good way to kill time and escape from reality.

In the game, the players are allowed to customize their own character through the settings. As the game starts the customized character will move through a deserted island by purchasing a package from Tom Nook, a raccoon figure who is the guide and manager of the island and resources. Animal Crossing

is a game that takes place in real-time and is famous for its freedom to explore the free world. By collecting resources, craft items, and catching animals, the players can develop their islands into vibrant communities. Thanks to the degree of freedom, players can personalize the game since there are no tasks assigned for players to accomplish. Players can play the game in a variety of styles; they can dedicate their play to capturing different kinds of fish (since there are 80), building their houses, which consist of functional kitchens, beautiful living rooms, and comfortable bedrooms, or making money by buying and selling turnips, or opening up a clothing store that you could sell and share



Photo Courtesy of instant-gaming.com

your own designs to other players from all around the world.

When it was first released, it was sold out on every website and store in Taiwan. There were resellers who were selling it at a much higher price, so I decided to get a digital copy which I had to wait for hours

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Life

Food & Culture

Art in Venice

Hsinchu, January 17 (Andrew Chen)

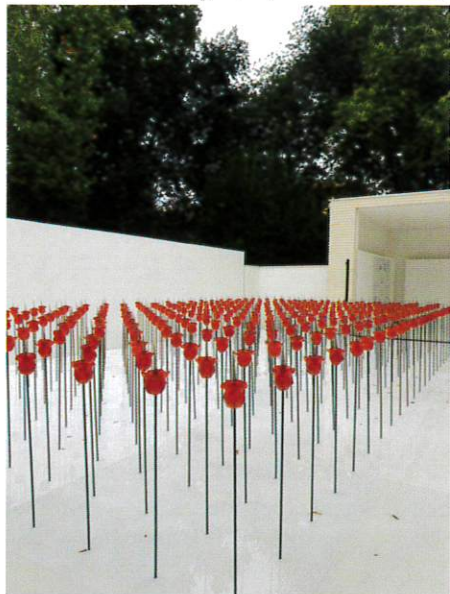


Photo Courtesy of Andrew Chen

In November 2019, I visited Venice, Italy, or as some people might call it “The Floating City”. While I was there, I went to a well-known art exhibition called, “Venice Biennale”. It was built in 1895 and is famous for its contemporary visual art exhibition held biennially (every two years in odd-numbered years). The exhibition presented work by artists from all around the world, such as Norway, Russia, Ghana, Serbia, Egypt, India, South Korea, Japan, and more, and represented many different mediums and art forms displayed randomly. So, as you walk around the pavilions, you might see a beautifully detailed painting, but then find yourself staring at a life-size airplane model that was made inside out. I was fascinated by the number of pieces of digital art, 2D art, sculptures, and installations that surrounded me. The pieces ranged from as small as a piece of A4 paper,

to as large as a classroom.

The exhibitions at the Venice Biennale were separated into two different parks: the Giardini and the Arsenale. The Giardini consisted of the central pavilion and some national pavilions, whereas the Arsenale presented more national pavilions from different countries. What is also worth mentioning is that the Arsenale area was

renovated from old shipyards, sheds, and warehouses which made it historical and meaningful. Each Venice Biennale has its own theme. The one I attended in 2019 was the 58th, themed — May You Live in Interesting Times. It was referring to the precariousness we have nowadays, such as nationalist movements, and displaced people across the globe. It allowed us to

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How to Cook Eggs

Hsinchu, January 17 (Hannah Li)

Eggs are an extremely versatile food. They taste great alone, make super sauces, and can dress up leftovers into a whole other meal. But are you sick of olive oil fried eggs yet? Here are some special ways to make your eggs more appetizing like a MasterChef! Amiel Stanek, an assistant food editor at Bon Appétit, takes a look at the incredible, edible egg and demonstrates how flexible this viscous protein can be prepared with 59 different recipes.



Photo Courtesy of lovemysalad.com

Sunny side up eggs

- What you are looking for is slippery whites and a yolk that is just runny and ready to burst
- There’s no need to flip it but just add a little bit of salt
- You can eat them with mushroom toast or with rice for breakfast

Pickled Eggs

- Give the eggs an eight minute boil egg then pickle them in a beet-infused vinegar mixture
- Pickling Mixture: Distilled white vinegar, a cup of water, a bit of salt and sugar, and then throw in the beets, put the lid on, and wait for one day
- You can taste some of the sweetness and also a fresh new taste that you might have never tried before.

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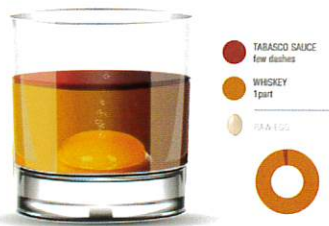


Photo Courtesy of Steve Billman

Amber moon eggs

- A better version of the prairie oyster egg, with a little bit of salt and some tabasco and liquor
- It’s just like a cocktail song with a smooth texture traveling down your throat

Life

Travel Ski Trip in Japan

Japan, Jan. 17th (Chris Tung)

It was finally Christmas break, everyone was excited to stay home and play video games or going on a trip. Families planning to go on a trip had already ordered tickets for flights, friends had made plans to go watch movies, and even couples had romantic dinners planned. Christmas break was like a paradise, freedom with no homework to worry about. On the morning of December 20th, my family went on a wonderful, unforgettable trip to Japan not only to ski, but also to eat wonderful Japanese food.

Although the airplane took a long time to reach Japan, my brother and I had fun watching movies. Once we arrived in Japan, the coldness hit our defenseless bodies. After a long



Photo courtesy of snowjapan.com
time checking out, we decided to go eat some delicious food. The salmon roe was delicious, like a combination of saltiness from eastern Asia and the freshness of the sea, it was my favorite. Not only was the salmon roe delicious, but so was the ramen. We ate three bowls in one sitting even though it was the morning.

Finally, it was time to check-in to our hotel - Kiroro, Akaigawa Village. Luckily, our family had a room on the seventh-floor where there was a wonderful panorama of the mountains and the ski hill. In the evening our family went to rent our equipment and to find a coach. Although it was a little expensive, our family didn't care about it because of the fun we would have later.

In the morning, we didn't have breakfast because we figured that it was time to meet our coach. We quickly dressed up and went to the ski resort. Our hotel was a few-
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Queen's Head

Hsinchu, Feb. 23rd (Evelyn Lin)

One of the most famous natural tourist attractions in Taiwan is "The Queen's Head," which is the most spectacular sight in Yehliu and is often rated a top national tourist draw. The number of tourists in Taiwan has increased significantly in recent years since "The Queen's Head" was found in Yehliu, and it has attracted people from all over the world to travel to see it. How was the Queen's head created, what is attractive about the Queen's head, and what is the most significant issue for the queen's head?

The Queen's Head is spectacular due to its shape which was formed by water erosion from the sea. People from all around the world are interested in how it was formed and want to see it, therefore, people travel to Taiwan and this has caused the number of tourists in Taiwan to increase greatly.

The Queen's head was created by natural erosion of the stone caused by wind and sand. It is a kind of mushroom rock, also called a pedestal rock which is mostly found in desert landforms. These kinds of rock shape differently through erosion and weathering, glacial action, or from a sudden disturbance. A sudden disturbance such as an earthquake could cause a serious problem for the mushroom stone due to its weakness.

Some people might wonder, what is erosion and what does it do to the rocks to form such beautiful natural artwork? One main type of erosion is called wind erosion, which is



Photo courtesy of taiwannews.com.tw

when the wind blows sand and other sediments against the rocks. The rocks slide past each other with their rough surfaces. Over a long time of rubbing against each other, the rocks, break each other up into sand. Another type of erosion is called water erosion, which is the process of removing soil materials by water. This kind of erosion sometimes depends on the weather, it could be either slow or rapid.

Recently, the Queen's Head has been in danger of being beheaded. What might be causing this? The strong ultraviolet light from the sun every day? Wind erosion? Water erosion?

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Life

Taiwan's Best Travelling Spots

Hsinchu, May 25th (Evonne Hsu)

Taiwan is a country that is located in Eastern Asia, and is filled with beautiful scenery, serene temples, and tourist spots to enjoy all year round. It is a travel destination that is rarely visited by Western tourists. However, those who have visited Taiwan have been impressed by Taiwan's incredible nature. Here are some sites that are considered the most popular tourist attractions in Taiwan.

Sun Moon Lake is the largest body of water in Taiwan. It is about a



Photo Courtesy of nிக்கెমবেল.com

three hour car ride from Taipei City. This lake gets its name from its shape. The eastern side of Sun Moon Lake is shaped like the sun, while the western side is shaped like the moon. Its deep green water and spectacular mountain backdrop are like the seasons, it cycles through different forms of beauty. Besides the scenery, tourists can also enjoy boat rides, cable cars, yachts, Taiwanese street food, temples, and more. It is a popular tourist destination for its beauty and surrounding sights.

Kenting National Park is located on the southern peninsula of Taiwan. Its landscape is divided

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Science Blackhole Information Paradox

Hsinchu, May 25th (Kelly Loo)

According to NASA, a black hole is an area in space where gravity is so strong that even light cannot escape it. Space-time curves around it due to its inescapable gravity. Although black holes cannot be seen, the orbits of planets and stars around black holes are studied, proving their existence. Information refers to the specific state of particles in the universe such as shape, position, velocity, etc. This information can be used to predict what will happen to the particles in the future or in the past. The event horizon of a black hole is a line where nothing can escape when passed, along with the object's information. The photons from the object stretch out to a point where it is not visible to the human eye.

Physicist Stephen Hawking discovered a piece of information that changed what we knew about

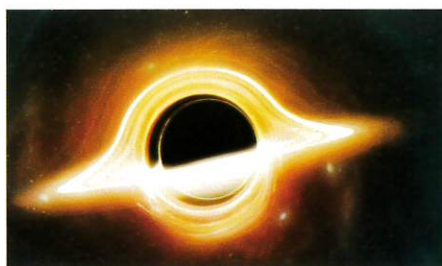


Photo Courtesy of Forbes Magazine
black holes: Hawking Radiation. He found that black holes are not entirely black, but have a small glow, suggesting that there is thermal

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Art & Literature Attack on Titan Season 1

Hsinchu, May 25th (Ethen Chiu)

Have you ever watched or heard of the anime "Attack on Titan"? This anime talks about how three kids Eren, Mikasa, and Armin join the army to defeat human-eating giants that have invaded their home. For those of you who have watched it before, this article will briefly organize and review the first season of "Attack on Titan. And for those of you who have no idea what this anime is, you will get an overview of the series' first season.



Photo Courtesy of yahoo.com

To get into the plot, we must first understand the setting. About 100 years ago, a king and his people built three circular walls: Wall Maria, Wall Rose, and Wall Sina; from the outer to inner. These walls protected people from human-eating giants called titans. They looked like humans but with heights that varied between 3 meters to 15 meters, and the only way to kill a titan was by attacking the back of their neck. People's caste level determined where they lived, the areas inside Wall Maria were for

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Life

Art & Literature

Ozan the Almighty

Hsinchu, May 25 (Edward Kao)



Photo Courtesy of wallpaperup.com

The man that was titled Ozan the Almighty,
Practiced fencing under the town's conformity.

Outcasted by society for his swagger actions,
He grew weary and had many infractions.

Until the day the orcs marched towards small Amberfield,
The villagers with no defenses squeaked and squealed.
As they thought of someone with combat experiences,
They had no choice but to seek Ozan for assistance.

The prideful yet cunning Ozan accepted the deal,
As he thought this would be a good opportunity to prove his steel.
Armed with a small rapier and an armor of steel,
The brave lad named Ozan charged in the battlefield full of zeal.

He came clashing and slashing all around,
And had miraculously saved the entire town!
He was deemed a hero that day,
and God knows it'll only last

for today.

Or at least it's what they thought,
As Philatanus the Perilous came in with an onslaught.

The dangerous pyromaniac is skillful in pyrokinesis,
Burning down wood is what made him perilous.

He marked Ozan with a firmly gaze,
Lighting him on fire;
fiercely ablaze.
Before his body parts could even detach,
The combustion of the brave lad Ozan turned him into ashes.

The town screamed in horror and dismay,
As they were made Philatanus' prey.
All that's left of Ozan is the ashes that remain,
Forgotten by the people; along with his legacy and the story of the slain.

Kite Runner Book Review

Hsinchu, January 17 (Kelly Loo)

Warning: This article contains spoilers.

The Kite Runner is a beautiful novel by Khaled Hosseini published in 2013. This historical fiction occurs during the historical period of the Taliban monarchy. It takes place in Kabul, Afghanistan and follows the life story of Amir, whose father is wealthy and lives an extravagant life. Their servants, Ali and Hassan, are good friends of the family – Amir's father and Ali were best friends and grew up together, akin to the

current relationship between Amir and Hassan – and are a father-son duo. However, Ali and Hassan are Hazaras, an ethnic minority, causing them to be prone to discrimination and snide remarks in public from the neighborhood boys, especially Assef and his sidekicks Wali and Kamal. Assef believes that he is superior as he is the only blue-eyed Afghan due to his German mother.

Overall, the plot of the story flowed beautifully, making a complete circle. The initial settings and characters might be hard to grasp at first, but Hosseini did an amazing job of creating a backstory for Amir and Hassan, establishing the brotherly bond they share.



Photo Courtesy of ahoffmankiterunner.tumblr.com

The actions each character takes is related to an event that happened in the past, thus creating a logical flow in the story. Amir believes that taking part in the kite competition would earn his father's affection, so he does whatever it takes to win. He did manage to put a smile on his father's face but at the expense of Hassan, who was sexually harassed by Assef. This establishes that Assef is a rough individual, which can be seen later on in the story. Hosseini made Amir and Hassan drift apart to thicken the plot of the story and make the ending more meaningful.

Amir and his father escaped Kabul and migrated to Fremont, California where he got married and his father

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Life

Fashion

2020 Fashion Trends

Hsinchu, February 26 (Hannah Li)

Designers in 2020 gifted us with collections that were the perfect marriage of wearable and innovative. The trends you'll see highlighted below are the ones repeated most frequently throughout the collections. They're the most digestible and we're predicting they will be the heavy hitters all season long. Our list includes an assortment of styles that are equal parts fresh and nostalgic. With that being said, it is with great excitement that we present to you our official spring/summer 2020 trend guide.

The first runways addressed the current climate crisis, these designs took comfort wear to new extremes with voluminous quilted jackets and strange hybrid creations, born out of our current radioactive dystopian world.



Photo Courtesy of vogue.fr

After seasons of more conceptual fashion, a return to a style code with elegance at its core is shaped on the runway. Which brings back the late 1970s and early 1980s bourgeois, refined silhouettes with skirt-cum-culottes, blazers, sharply pleated

trousers, tailoring and trench coats...the key is creating coherent looks with precise cuts.



Photo Courtesy of vogue.fr

Check: The potential for variation around such a simple motif is vast. Worn head-to-toe or color-blocked is a sure-fire way to self-confidence.



Photo Courtesy of vogue.fr

Neon: The neon trend lit up the runways this Fashion Week, drawing inspiration from the 1980s, rave culture and even the nuclear apocalypse as demonstrated at Marine Serre - bold color-blocking is a given. It's a blatant call for attention and reaction: "What do I want? To shock people, to force them to reflect," said Yves Saint Laurent to Vogue in 1971 after the presentation of his notorious Scandale collection.



Photo Courtesy of vogue.fr

In conclusion, the 2019-2020 Fall/Winter collection is a season

of contrasts. In one corner, designers are paying homage to the not-so-discreet lavishness of the French bourgeoisie. In the other, punk spirit can be felt in the air, laughing in the face of convention and inspiring the silhouettes of the femme rebelle. But these two opposing influences share a common denominator - they celebrate the woman of today, rather than create an impossible ideal of what she should be. These are the trends defining the fashion landscape of Fall/Winter 2019-2020.

Animals

Raccoons

Hsinchu, February 26 (Evelyn Kuo)



Photo Courtesy of pinterest.com

The name "Raccoon" is from the Powhatan word "Aroughcun", which means "animal that scratches with its hands." The Aztecs went in a similar direction when naming the raccoon. They named it "Mapachitli" or "one who takes everything in its hands." Today "Mapache" means "Raccoon" in Spanish. Their eyes are black, with 5-6 black ring patterns on their tails. They have a body length of 65

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Plastic Bags

environment and all living things. It is a serious issue that must be addressed. If a change is not made, it could lead to unknown issues for future generations. As a result, bringing your own reusable bags when shopping will decrease plastic bag pollution. Fewer animals will die. Fewer bags will be produced. Less petroleum will be used. In other words, there would be no more contribution to the problem.

Valentine's Day

included in many other religions. Valentine's Day is still a ceremony for drunks, even though Christians have modified Valentine's Day, but it hasn't changed the main reason for Valentine's Day; reproduction, and love.

At about the same time, the Normans also celebrated Gallatin's Day. Gallatin means "the love of women". Gallatin and Valentine sound similar, so people might have gotten confused. As time passed by, this holiday became more lovely and popular in England and Europe. During the Medieval times, it was popular for people to hand out handmade cards during Valentine's Day.

During the 19th century industrial revolution, handmade cards were replaced by cards made by factories. Now, the economy of Valentine's Day has gotten stronger, with sales in America being 17.6 billion dollars in 2017. Why do people hand out cards during Valentine's Day? It is because when Valentine went to jail, he wrote a letter to the girl he liked. Why are roses related to Valentine's Day? It is because Charles II brought Persian "Language of Flowers" back

to Europe in the 1700s. Every woman enjoyed the language of flowers as they believed roses was Venus, the Roman Goddess of Love's, favorite flower. That's why roses represents Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day was named after Valentine. It became famous in the world because people handed out their hand made cards and this tradition was passed to the world. The language of flowers was also brought from the Persians. Because of this tradition, there are many companies that exist.

Animal Crossing

to download. I was extremely excited about the game since everybody was talking about it. I got to customize the look of my character, chose the landform of the island, name the island, and decide the location of my tent, which became the location of my house. In the first few days of getting into the game, I spent hours collecting resources, cutting trees, fishing, and capturing insects to sell for money so I could build my house. Later on, I went on a flight to other deserted islands to gain a variety of resources and meet animal friends which I invited to join my community on the island. After a few weeks with the game, I can say that it is a good game if you are into developing and creating your own world. However, the game is extremely time-consuming which can bother some gamers.

Art in Venice

discover things that we did not already know, and offered a different viewpoint for people to see the time and world we live in.

A piece that I found interesting

was Microworld, 2018, which was created by Liu Wei from China. The large-scale installation was made from aluminum plates which formed geometric shapes which were highly-polished. What surprised me was the size and shape of the installation. The size of the plates were larger than a fully grown man, and the way the artist made such large symmetrical pieces in real life was enchanting. Another of my favorites were the sculptures from the Russian national pavilion which were put together by various artists. The theme of the pavilion itself was surrounded by Gospels and tried to create an image of a hell-like dystopian world. The sculptures were in the shape of humans and were in actual human size if not slightly larger. The detail of the sculptures made the audience feel like the people were coming out of lava, fire, and ash, which successfully brought to life the feelings of insecurity and danger from this dystopian world. The last piece that I would like to mention was called Shells, 2016 by Mari Katayama, an artist based in Japan. The works from her were mainly surrounded by things she made or collected. She also used her body as material. She was born with a rare congenital disorder that affected her bones, so she had her legs amputated when she was younger. The photographs include poses with her outgrown prosthetic legs and leg braces but she made them look beautiful by sewing in pink leather, wearing fairy-tale shoes, using patchwork fabrics, and wearing home-made clothes. The art can be easily connected to the theme of the biennale, and shows that there are many kinds of beauty

Continued...

at this time and in the world we live in.

I was totally charmed and inspired by the different pieces composed by the artists from all around the world and displayed at the 58th Venice Biennale, as well as the beauty of historical Venice.

How to Cook Eggs

Souffle Omelet Eggs

- Separate the white, and beat the whites until they are fluffy like you would for a meringue, then fold the yolks back into the whites and transfer that to a hot pan with butter

- Put a lid on to make sure the top cooks, then fold it and flip it out onto the plate

- This fluffiness creates a light, cakey sort of texture. is extremely time-consuming which can bother some gamers.

Frittata Eggs

- Basically a quiche without a crust

- Crack some eggs, beat them together, add salt, two ounces of milk.

- Start on the stove top, medium-high heat, when the edges starts to set, then finish in a 350 degree oven for about 15 minutes until it's golden brown and the center is set

- The egg is fairly tender, and you can also add cheese to bring more flavor to the eggs.

Ski Trip in Japan

hundred feet away from the ski hill, so we had to either take the bus or the gondola to reach the ski lift. As we took the gondola, the chilling-wind blew onto our faces. The nostalgic views of people skiing and the snow brought back memories of previous years. The coach was already waiting, he had brown eyes,

curly hair, and he spoke Chinese, which was good for our family. As in previous years, our parents let us work with the coach while they were discovering new routes. After the coach brought us to the mountain-top, Alex, the coach and I went down the fascinating slope. Although at first we were not able to handle its speed and fell, the coach taught us new skills to handle the speed and to be able to accelerate at any time. We skied until the afternoon.

When we arrived back at the hotel, I went directly to the onsen. It was really comfortable, my muscles relaxed and the water made me want to sleep. In the evening, mom bought us tickets to see a magic show. At the start of the show, the magician performed some cool magic tricks such as switching cards without touching the participant, swallowing a whole balloon, and cutting paper into pieces and then putting them back together. At the end of the show, we got to meet the magician. We learned that he spoke French, even though I studied French at school, I was too nervous to talk with him, so instead we went back to the hotel.

The next few days were about the same. After five days and four nights, we had to go back to Taiwan. Leaving Japan was very emotional, and as the plane soared through the sky, we watched through the little window as the island of Japan slowly disappeared. Our time there was awesome, and we hope we can all go back again soon.

Queen's Head

Or sand erosion? Well, to answer this question, all of them are actually

working together to cause the neck of the Queen's head to become thinner and thinner. Scientists have been finding ways to use nearby structures to strengthen the neck of the Queen's head. Measuring at its narrowest part, in 2008, it had a 138 cm circumference, and now, it has a 126 cm circumference.

To summarize, Yehliu is a good place with many spectacular art pieces made by the natural erosion of water, wind, sand, weather, and sun. It is a fun place to travel to, and it is a very good tourist attraction. If you want to see the famous Queen's Head, you might want to visit it as soon as possible, before it is beheaded. Come and visit the Queen's Head and make an impressive and timeless memory!

Taiwan Travel

horizontally by mountains into two parts. The park is famous for its beaches, waterfalls, grasslands, tropical forests, and sand dunes. There are also a variety of outdoor activities, such as scuba diving, banana boat rides, water scooters, and submarine rides. Moreover,



Photo Courtesy of vivalifestyleandtravel.com
Spring Scream, an outdoor music festival, is held in early April each year. The festival has a variety of music, attracting thousands of music lovers.

Taroko National Park was built in the mountains near Hualien. It is one of the most visited national parks in Taiwan. Taroko National

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Park is well known for the gorge itself and the waterfalls that make it so appealing. It is also a popular spot for hiking, rafting, and river tracing. Taroko National Park is certainly worth a visit when in Taiwan.



Photo Courtesy of taroko.gov.tw

Blackhole

radiation. He theorized that black holes emit radiation, meaning that subatomic particles “arising naturally near the event horizon may result in one particle’s escaping the vicinity of the black hole while the other particle, of negative energy, disappears into it” (Gergerson). A particle with positive energy is emitted from the black hole, while a particle with negative energy relative to the outside universe enters it. The particles fall into the black hole while other particles escape it before having the chance of canceling each other out. During Hawking radiation, the black hole is losing energy due to the unbalanced charges and thus losing mass until it disappears in a final burst. The limitation of this theory made by other physicists is that it goes against unitarity, the conservation of quantum information, and experiments are inconclusive in proving or disproving this theory. This thus leads to the paradox of information entering the black hole as lost forever.

This new discovery puzzled astronomers as information is

seemingly destroyed, which disobeys the law of the conservation of information, as stated before. They tried to resolve this puzzle by stating the following: Hawking was wrong and black holes do not evaporate, or the information goes through a wormhole into a new universe. Physicist John Preskill from California Institute of Technology mentions that information somehow leaks out, which needs a deeper understanding of quantum gravity to understand the mechanism behind it. Hawking and American physicist Kip Thorne argued that the information in a black hole was too scrambled to be retrieved for evaporation. Hawking proposed an “apparent horizon” which, unlike the event horizon, is where information is temporarily held. The information eventually escapes, but cannot be detected. However, Hawking radiation has not been detected, so scientists are unsure if the direction they are heading in is correct, or if there is any way to solve this paradox. Even so, any information learnt contributes to the understanding of the universe, including disproving Hawking Radiation.

Attack on Titan

people who were from the bottom caste level. Oppositely, the royal family and government body were located in the center of the walls, the area inside Wall Sina.

The story starts as a titan with a height of 60 meters (Colossus Titan) and a titan covered with armor (Armored Titan) broke into Wall Maria and let other giants enter the area inside Wall Maria. Eren’s mother was killed during the

chaos, at that moment Eren swears that he will remove every single titan from the planet. Five years later, Eren, Mikasa, and Armin join the Survey Corps. Yet, the Colossus titan once again appeared and made a hole in Wall Sina. While Eren was in battle with the titans, his body transformed into a titan’s body. Soon he realized, in order to become a titan he must hurt himself whenever he had a strong consciousness of doing something. He started using the power of titan to kill the titans. Finally, he carried a rock to seal the hole in the Wall Sina.

After the battle, the Survey Corps believed Eren would be the greatest weapon for the humans. Soon the Survey Corps began the 57th exploration outside Wall Sina. On their way, they encountered Female Titan. Her intention was to capture Eren. The corp protected Eren at all costs. Eventually, Eren and his friend made it back from the exploration. The exploration was intended to find out the potential enemy hiding in the corp. Thus, Eren and his friend successfully exposed the person who had the power of the Female Titan inside her, Annie. Eren and Annie shortly fight as Titans inside Wall Shina. When Annie loses the fight, she immediately covers herself with an indestructible crystal material so as to hide the information Eren wanted to know about the enemy, and the first season end here.

‘was both intense and shocking because of the realistic characters and settings. The scenes when Eren fights the titans are truly epic. Although season one ends by leaving a bunch of questions unanswered it is a great build up to season two. The

Continued...

fans are definitely looking forward to the next season.

Kite Runner Review

died of lung cancer shortly after. This symbolizes a new chapter of Amir's life and that he has to take control of things as he was not under his father's wing anymore. Multiple parallels are present throughout the novel, adding to the story's effect. Hassan is deadly accurate with the slingshot, which he used to hit Assef when he was bullying Amir. Years later, Sohrab used a slingshot to save Amir when he was being beaten up by Assef. Hassan chases kites after Amir cuts them down during kite competitions, crying out his key phrase, "For you, a thousand times over", meaning that he would do anything for Amir. Sohrab was suffering from a post-traumatic stress disorder and tried to commit suicide when he learned that he might have to go back to the orphanage where it was suggested he was sexually harassed. Amir tried multiple methods to cheer Sohrab up because Sohrab wouldn't talk to him. They ended up going to a park one day with other Afghans flying kites. Amir cut down a kite and ran it for Sohrab, saying, "For you, a thousand times over."

I highly recommend this book as it is an easy read with a deep message about the struggles of people during times of conflict. It also shows the power of love and friendship as Amir and Sohrab connected due to Hassan. The ending is beautiful and everything fell into place, creating a wholesome end to a rollercoaster of a story.

Raccoons

to 75 cm and a tail length of about

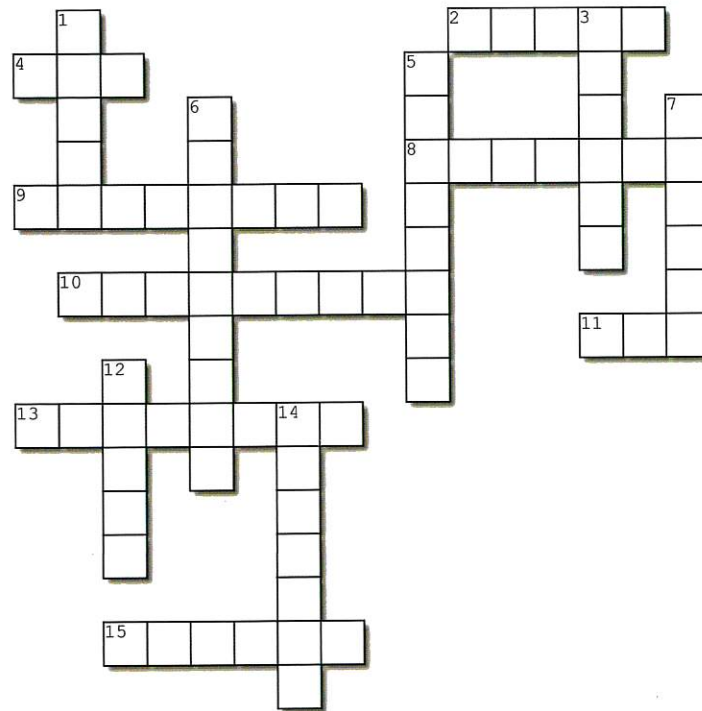
25 cm. Most of their fur is gray, and some is brown and black. There are also rare albino species.

Omnivorous, eating fruits, insects, bird eggs and other small animals in their diet, raccoons are wild nocturnal animals that are very adaptable to life in human cities. Some ethnic groups even use cities as habitats. Raccoons that live in the suburbs often sneak into human residences to steal food. In addition, the black stripes around their eyes have led to them being called "food thieves". Raccoons generally have a lifespan of 3 years, and the longest known longevity in the wild is 12 years. Raccoons are nocturnal animals, thus, they have poor eyesight in the daytime, but they have a very good sense of touch. Before a raccoon wants to confirm whether the food can be eaten, it will touch the food with its touch nerves on its palm. "Cleaning food" is the process by which raccoons use their front paws to understand food. The presence of water helps raccoons better understand the shape and texture of food. Currently, wild raccoons mostly live in North America.

As wild animals, raccoons have very sharp claws and teeth, so the problem of "how to avoid raccoon trouble" has always been a headache. In order to reduce the damage done by raccoons, many cities also provide a lot of suggestions such as to rub soap on the grass, sprinkle hot sauce on the vegetables, place fruits in the garden, sprinkle mustard oil next to the trash can, turn on black lights outside at night, and take away pet food outside.

Classified

Senior Farewell Crossword



Horizontal:

- 2. The only senior that is good at dancing.
- 4. The only senior (male) that is under 160cm.
- 8. The senior that is often called a “knuckle-head” by \$warthout.
- 9. A person who has successfully completed a course of study.
- 10. The action of leaving, especially to start a journey.
- 11. The senior that always get swimming awards.
- 13. Word used to express wishes for success.
- 15. The genius senior that rarely shows up at school.

Vertical:

- 1. The senior that is well known for good basketball skills.
- 3. The senior that is brave enough to date a teacher’s daughter.
- 5. A fancy way to say goodbye.
- 6. The crazy twin seniors. (Family)
- 7. The ‘emo’ senior.
- 12. The senior that almost skipped most of the school year.
- 14. The only senior that is going to Germany for university.