

Student Reporter

The Benefits of Growing a Lemon Tree



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Lemon water with freshly sliced lemons inside is a great energizing drink on a hot day!
[Source: Author, Rubie Choi]

If you are considering starting a garden or having difficulty deciding what you want to plant, you can plant a lemon tree! They don't require a lot of maintenance, except for an abundant amount of

sunlight. The trees usually range from small to medium sizes, so they do not take up a lot of space. Lemons are not seasonal, allowing you to grow an abundant amount of citrus all year round.

Rich in calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium, and vitamin C, lemons help to establish and preserve strong bones and a healthy heart to protect you from illnesses, such as cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure. This fruit also supports the immune system, eye, and skin health because they contain antioxidants, carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. During flu season, lemons are incredibly beneficial because placing even the tiniest slice of the citrus in warm water or beverages can help you, battle symptoms and instantly feel bet-

ter. Lemon water can also be used to fight anxiety and depression. The juice gives the body a shot of energy when it is digested. Even the smell of lemon has been proven to pacify the nervous system. Such a source of welfare can be grown in the comfort of your own backyard!

Not only are lemons high in minerals, but they can also be used when cooking! Many professional chefs squeeze lemon juice onto meat because the juice helps to permeate the cut with taste and moisture. Many also use this juice to dress their salads in replacement of store-bought dressings that are filled with excess salt and sugar, which are high in calories.

Many are reluctant to start growing trees in their backyard

due to fear of insects destroying the plants, but bugs do not harm the lemon trees. The citrus attracts insects such as lady beetles, lace wigs, and praying mantis, which are favorable because they prey on creatures that are harmful to the plants. By planting a citrus tree, you can help the environment while also adding a fresh piece to your garden!

A tip that I have picked up these past few months while growing a lemon tree is to collect lemons only when they are ripe. In contrast to other fruits, lemons do not ripen after picking, so you should always pick your citrus when they are very yellow and round. After harvesting, it is recommended to store them at room temperature and away from direct sunlight.

Student Reporter

Consider the Bench in Public Places



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Benches. Humble, simple pieces of public space that provide comfortable sitting room for anyone. Public benches encourage people to go outside and allow anyone to sit and enjoy the fresh air. Scattered throughout cities, marking bus stops, and located around parks, public benches are found everywhere.

Everyone has seen a public bench before, but have you ever noticed their sometimes odd shape or a bar separating the bench into two seats? Even if you have seen this, you might have thought the purpose is exactly as it seems- to separate the bench so there was a clear distinction where each person sits. Although cities claim these odd shapes and bars along the center are exactly that, they seem to serve a deeper, more hostile purpose.

Hostile architecture has existed since the 19th century in the form of anti-urination technology.



Hostile architecture is found commonly everywhere- particularly in urban and suburban settings.
[Source: Author, Jocelyn Cho]

However, hostile architecture as we know it became common in cities in the late 1900s. Spikes started appearing on the ground in areas where homeless people would reside, making a place where a homeless person once could find rest soon became a place impossible to lie down on. Oddly shaped planters that don't provide space to sit down on, spikes along the ground, barriers on benches, and fencing along a sheltered area are all common examples found in al-

most all cities.

Many people argue that hostile architecture provides safety to the general public by preventing loitering and drug drops. The argument for hostile architecture is usually along the lines of a measure to prevent and reduce crime by the homeless. Although this may work, it's a short-term response to homelessness, not a solution. These structures ignore the root of the problem, and like

other deterrent strategies, does nothing to reduce the unhoused population.

Rather than working to decrease the homeless population, hostile architecture focuses on the aftermath. Although it is true that benches are not put in public to provide a sleeping place for homeless people, it's worth considering if hostile architecture is efficient or ethical. Effective ways to address homelessness include funding low-income schools, addiction help centers, and mental health crisis centers. In doing so, some of the causes are addressed, rather than the effects.

Homelessness has been on the rise, and with COVID-19 hitting as hard as it has, our empathy should be at an all-time high. The next time you walk on the street, look for the nearest public bench and check for hostile architecture. Consider the reason why it's there, and how we can address it.

Student Reporter

The iPhone: One of Man's Greatest Inventions, and Temptations



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The iPhone. One could call it one of man's greatest inventions, the "technology that changed everything", as its catchline exclaimed many years ago. Every year for the past few decades, the world held its breath for a fresh model, and Apple churned out a version newer and shinier than the last. But recently, this change is becoming increasingly difficult to see. The new phones are carbon copies of the preceding model, with an added camera or a slightly brighter screen. Is this a valid reason for people to flock to the stores and empty their pockets on a brand new phone each time it is released? Do we actually need it? Society, Apple, and consumerism say yes. But really, we should be saying no.

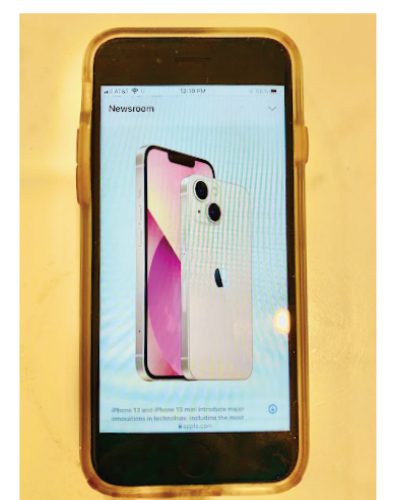
The urge to acquire new phones every year stems from consumerism, which Apple avidly promotes to the public. The notion is that obtaining goods and services from the market is invariably an attractive goal that dictates

an individual's happiness and welfare. Apple and society overall project this false idea, leading people to believe that they are inferior or less happy if they possess an older version of the technology. This can cause people to feel pressured to buy newer versions, even feeling ashamed of having an older phone. But to owners of the more elderly iPhones, there is no need to be uncomfortable when you stand next to someone with the latest, sparkly model. Regularly swapping out your perfectly operating phone just to have the latest version is wasteful and unnecessary. The iPhone 12 and even earlier models still have fundamental, advanced functions that fulfill the most necessary purposes in life. In fact, the major differences between the latest iPhone 13 and its preceding iPhone 12 are a slightly advanced camera, longer battery life, and minuscule changes in the design—definitely not a rational motive for most people to pour money into changing their

phones.

Not only is it wasteful for consumers, but unnecessarily replacing phones is detrimental to the environment and poses many moral issues, as Apple is widely known to unethically produce its goods using child labor and cheap sweatshops. The material that phones are made of is difficult to mine and forms toxic side products, and with every phone we buy, the destruction posed on the Earth by humans grows greater.

At the end of the day, a phone is still a phone. Once the excitement of a new technology dies down, there is no true reason for having a phone that is slightly more advanced in technology for hundreds of dollars more, not to mention the significant environmental and humanitarian harms. If people work on purchasing new phones with the intent of using them for as long as possible, society can break the mold and learn to be more appreciative and respon-



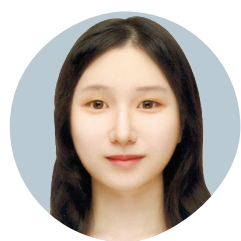
The idea of replacing functional phones for new models is wasteful, and not a beneficial mindset for anyone to have.
[Source: Author, Alexis Choi]

sible with what is already owned.

The iPhone 14 will inevitably come out later this year. As Apple's company slogan says: Think Different. But, don't just think differently—act differently. Act differently against the current societal norms, and real changes can happen.

Student Reporter

Wrapping Up Winter With Music



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The Andong Arts Center where the Winter Art Festival took place. [Source: Author, Jessica Kim]

It has been hard to enjoy the arts since COVID-19 due to social distancing policies, and most public performances being canceled. However, the February of 2022 finally meets with a festive mood with the 5-day Winter Arts Festival that took place in the Andong Arts Center.

The Andong Winter Arts Festival has been held annually since 2019. Its purpose is to promote continuous art activities by local organizations and

activate art culture in everyday life. For the music festivals, there were a total of 5 themes this year, and a different team performed each theme. From January 5th to 7th, the music teams were recruited in many different genres, such as classic, traditional Korean music, and dance. Not only did the teams need more than two years of experience performing together, but they also had to go through a rigorous review process by committee members specializing in arts and culture.

The first concert, on February 12th, was the Northern Gyeongbuk Saxophone Ensemble's Open Concert. This team was founded in 2006 and has since shared its talent with the community by performing in health care facilities and schools, as well as performances such as this one. On February 16th, the Ato Ensemble performed the 'Classic in Joy, Anger, Sorrow, Fun.' Ato Ensemble is a team consisting of young professional performers. For this concert, they showcased various works of classical composers that express the various emotions of life. The Sounds of Rapids took the stage at the third concert, on February 18th. The theme of this stage was Spring Greetings with Acoustic Guitars. The Sounds of Rapids is a guitar team composed of middle-aged adults who love music. The perspective of the performance was to thaw winter and bring the hope of spring to the audience. On the 19th, the Cosmos

Saxophone Orchestra hosted the Goodbye COVID Concert. This orchestra is made up of workers who live in Andong. Their program is made up of lively songs that will banish worries from listeners' minds. As a finale of the Winter Arts Festivals, the Andong Accordion Club and the Ungbu Elderly Band performed the Fresh Breeze Concert on February 20th. Although the average age of the performers is 68, their passion for music is still young. They hope to give nostalgia to the middle-aged audience and a unique experience to the younger listeners.

The past few years have been a rough time for everyone. However, occasional events like this Art Festival can become a huge source of energy for others to keep going. The joy of music will restore vigor not only to the listeners at the 2022 Andong Winter Arts Festival, but also to the entire city.

Student Reporter

Coming-of-Age All Around the World



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I never had birthday parties growing up because of the fact that my birthday was right next to the holiday season, and many people were out on vacation or staying with family. However, ever since I was young I swore that I would have the best Sweet 16 birthday party. This past January was my sixteenth birthday. Although I didn't have the magical birthday I dreamed of when I was younger due to the rising COVID-19 cases, I invited a few friends over to have dinner. We sang, played games, talked, and ate a variety of foods cooked by my parents.

All around the world, there are many different coming-of-age traditions people follow when children turn a specific age. In America, teenagers have what is called their Sweet 16. Sixteen is the age where teenagers can get their driver's license, which comes with a lot of freedom. Some



The traditional ceremony of a Quinceañera, a coming of age birthday celebration. [Source: Ashly Figuerora]

families celebrate this day by throwing extravagant parties while others make it more informal and casual. Sweet 16's are more popular among girls rather than boys, as it celebrates

the end of their childhood and the new beginning into their womanhood. While there are no specific set traditions people follow on Sweet 16, father-daughter dances and passing down heirlooms are commonly seen.

In the Hispanic culture, rather than celebrating a girl's sixteenth birthday, they celebrate their fifteenth. This tradition is called the Quinceañera. From the fancy limousines to the exquisite ball gowns, it is a very costly party that requires the contribution of all family members and relatives. The day usually starts with a religious ceremony at the church where a special rite is written just for the Quinceañera. The birthday girl also chooses close friends and family to be in her Court of Honor. A venue can also be rented where family and friends eat delicious foods, listen to music, and dance.

Instead of celebrating the transition into adulthood on their birthdays, in South Korea, there is a special day in the third week of May called the Coming-of-Age Day. Those who turn 20 are given perfume or twenty roses on this day to celebrate finally becoming an adult. It is uncommon for middle or high school students to wear perfume, as they are more widely used in college, which is why new adults are given this gift. It also represents the idea that people will remember you for a long time because of your scent.

There are a variety of coming-of-age ceremonies celebrated all around the world. Each and every tradition is celebrated in their culture's own unique way. Despite the differences, the main goal of these ceremonies is to welcome children into a new chapter of their life.

Student Reporter

Immersive Van Gogh: A New Take on Experiencing Art



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I entered into a large, pitch-black room when images of the classic Starry Night paintings virtually projected itself onto all sides of the exhibit. From one second to the next, these images cohesively transitioned into the next artwork, as the walls reflected stunning virtual projections of artistic beauty. At the Original Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit in Los Angeles, viewers can enter a one-of-a-kind gallery exhibit virtually displaying Van Gogh's artistic prowess.

Unlike a traditional art gallery exhibit with an array of real-life paintings, Immersive Van Gogh is unique in that the art is presented in the form of a constantly looping, 30 minute video presentation through projected artworks. With a 3D experience and accompanied by original music, Van Gogh's art truly does seem to come to life in this exhibit.

While the beginning of the video presentation seemed somewhat exotic with a horror-like soundtrack and abstract images being displayed, the mystical feeling asso-

ciated with Van Gogh and Post-Impressionism eventually appeared through the music and artwork on the screens. Throughout the course of the presentation, the immersive experience slowly became a reality for viewers.

These Van Gogh Immersive exhibits have begun opening in select cities across the US, and even throughout the world, since last year. They have been described as being virtual reality exhibits of Van Gogh's art, providing a completely different experience in terms of appreciating art.

These exhibitions, at least the one in Los Angeles, have also been designed to be pandemic friendly, with timed entries in order to limit capacity, as well as mandatory masking and vaccination. In addition, inside on the exhibit floors are projected illuminated circles where families can sit and watch approximately six feet apart from others. These socially distanced seating circles are also designed to give people space to smoothly enter and leave the exhibit.



Viewers can sit on the floor or on benches, which are socially distanced from another so everyone can safely enjoy watching the video presentation of Van Gogh inspired artworks. [Source: Author, Jonathan Kim]

Inside the exhibit, there are also two separate rooms and floors to view the presentation of the artworks. Whether one watches from one room or the other does not matter, as they all showed the same video presentation, but viewing from the second floor can provide a different experience by giving viewers the opportunity to watch with a broader perspective.

However, despite the impressive nature of these virtual artworks, it is important to keep in mind that the exhibit only features a presentation show of Van Gogh inspired

works, not any of his actual paintings. While this may not seem like a large detail to most viewers, for those desiring to see Van Gogh's actual works, the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit is not the place for that.

Nevertheless, the detail in the presentation of the artworks and overall atmosphere is what truly made visiting the exhibit a memorable experience. For those looking for a unique artistic experience, contrary to the traditional feel of an art gallery or museum, the Van Gogh Immersive Experience is one that I recommend visiting.