

Student Reporter

Coding Experiences are Beneficial for Everyone



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The KD python project our group worked on was interesting and fun
[Source: Author, Group 3 of KD python project]

People around the world often say, ‘we are currently living in the era of big data,’ because it can be effectively used to improve operation and marketing that increases profit and quality of life. To effectively analyze the data that is spread all over the world, we can use coding.

This summer, I participated in Korea daily python with data science project (KD python project in short) and Hackathon at the University of Southern California. The KD python project lasted 6 weeks, which consisted of a lecture on using python to do data analysis and a project for students where we used what we learned. It was done in a group, and we researched to

find out if ‘home team advantage’ is true in the NBA, and if Covid influenced this. We chose the year 2018 for the season with the normal audience and 2020 for the Covid season, where the audience was reduced to almost 10%.

After we collected data from credible sports websites such as ESPN, we analyzed it using python, and the results were noticeably clear and interesting. We found out that the win rate at home was higher than away in both 2018 and 2020, showing that the ‘home team advantage’ is true. Furthermore, we also found out that low audience attendance, in general, decreased ‘home team advantage.’ 2018 showed a strong

relationship between home games and win rate, while 2020 showed a weaker relationship. While doing the analysis, we also unintentionally found that teams with stronger fanbases performed better throughout the season. With such results in our analysis, our group managed to get second place.

The USC Hackathon lasted the entire day on 23rd of July. A hackathon is an event where people gather to make a project with programming and coding within a given time. This hackathon was for university students who came as trainees from Korea, but high school students were also able to participate. I formed a team with 2 other high school students, and we decided to find out what people should do to prevent suicide individually and as a government. We thought some activities could cause depression and a higher suicide rate, so we found data on what activities people spend their time on throughout the day. There was a lot of analysis on the amount of lead in the air and crime rates due to loss of sanity, but not a lot of analysis on the suicide rate, so we decided to include that in our project.

We used regression analysis in python. There were a lot of activities, and most of them did not show a relationship between suicide rates. However, activities such as meeting friends or sleeping correlated with a decreased suicide rate while working increased it. As expected, the amount of lead in the air correlated with the suicide rate as well. This led us to the conclusion that, as individuals, we can try to get more sleep and socialize, while governments should put effort into reducing the amount of lead in the air to prevent suicide.

The ability to code will become an important skill in people’s lives. Professor Kim, who oversaw both events, once said during his lectures on KD python, “When you are coding, errors are your friend. Do not be afraid to face them because it will help you get better.” While coding, not only do people learn how to program, but they learn how to deal with problems. Coding and data analysis is a fantastic opportunity for not only the ones who are willing to pursue a career in engineering but also for every other student who wants to prepare themselves for the future.

Student Reporter

Taking Solace in Astrology



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We’ve all come across astrology at some point in our lives, whether it be an acquaintance casually asking for your zodiac sign or pausing to read an Instagram meme post of “the zodiac signs as.” The practice has rooted itself in online culture, although this isn’t the first time this has happened. Astrology has preexisted in various mediums for several thousand years, most recently during the prominent New Age movement of the 1960s-1970s, which ignited a range of spiritual practices that rapidly grew in Western society. Between then and now, astrology “went back to being a little bit more in the background,” says Chani Nicholas, an astrologer based in Los Angeles. “Then there’s something that’s happened in the last five years that’s given it relevance for this time and place. Millennials have taken it and run with it.”



Tarot card reading is deeply connected to astrology and is utilized as a spiritual tool of inner wisdom and guidance.
[Source: Author, Catherine Han]

In a sense, astrology is a perfect match for the internet age. The accessibility of more comprehensive, thorough information online has offered this cultural stir of astrology an express sophistication. The practice assigns meaning to the positions of the sun, the moon, and the planets with-

in the 12 signs of the zodiac. All of these then translate into projections regarding personality, life cycles, and relationship predictions, which fit seamlessly online, where topics like pseudoscience and wellness often provide internal reassurance to users. However, the “full-fledged” side of astrological dichotomy - that goes beyond lighthearted horoscopes - allows one to express not only personality and temperament but also life’s obstacles and opportunities, which is a fascinating way to represent life events and identify some possible coping mechanisms.

Individuals are more likely to turn to astrology when stressed. According to the American Psychological Association survey data, millennials were placed as the most stressed generation, as well as the generation most likely to state their stress has increased in the past year. If in-

creased stress levels make astrology appear shinier, it’s unsurprising that more people seem drawn to it. For instance, Julia Zhou, a recent high-school graduate, says she turns to astrology looking for help during times of stress. “Reading my horoscope is mostly for fun, and I can tease my friends with it, too,” she says. “But ultimately, I do gain a lot of comfort from positive forecasts when I’m particularly distressed some days.”

Astrology can be a solace when we feel stressed and overwhelmed by the uncertainty of the future. But think of astrology’s predictions as Dumbo’s feather, a magical touchpoint that lends you confidence and comfort, until you realize that you were always capable of flying with your own power. But regardless, the allure of the magic feather is what makes people seek it in the first place.

Student Reporter

Goodbye Postmates



Alexis Choi
Grade 10
South High School

From all the acai bowl and cloud bread recipes rotating around the internet, one might think the world is going through a serious home-cooking phase. Despite the obsession with trending recipes and cooking shows, however, preparing meals from scratch at home is becoming rarer, as people are choosing to eat out and order delivery at an increasingly greater rate.

To be fair, home-cooked meals can be much less convenient than modern delivery apps such as Postmates and Uber Eats, which allow one to effortlessly transport all manners of restaurant food to their doorsteps with just a few taps. Even eating out at restaurants can seem like less work than putting together something at home, especially for those with busy schedules that do not accommodate preparing fresh meals. However, cooking actually saves time in an unexpected

way: once someone becomes a little familiar with it, it can be quicker to prepare, serve, and eat a home-cooked meal rather than driving to a restaurant, waiting to be served, eating, waiting for the check, and coming back home.

Others stay away from cooking due to the thought that home-cooked meals are more expensive than eating out. However, this is a common misbelief! Although fresh ingredients give off the image of being as pricey, as they are high-quality, dining out usually costs even more. According to Business Insider, Americans eat out an average of 5.9 times a week. Multiply that by four weeks in a month and twelve months in a year, and it’s clear that a sizable amount of money disappears on food. And that food that may not even be healthy. By cooking at home, people can eat healthier meals. Instead

of consuming hidden amounts of sugars, salts, and other artificial ingredients, people can create a more nutritionally-balanced meal with a controlled level of seasoning and oils. Not to mention, they can also ensure a properly prepared meal free of any of the various foodborne pathogens that can sometimes be found in restaurant foods and pre-packaged items.

Another large reason people stray away from home cooking is that they simply lack confidence in the kitchen. This is common in young people today, and it’s a natural feeling for those without experience in cooking. However, cooking is a habit and skill that will last for the rest of one’s life. By no means does someone have to be a MasterChef level cook; even being able to pull together a basic meal is an ability that will bring a myriad of physical, mental, and social advantages.



Cooking is a skill more people should acquire! [Source: Author, Alexis Choi]

Cooking is a crucial part of life that more people should incorporate into their daily routines! By preparing even one meal a day by hand, many will find that they are spending less on food, saving some time, eating healthier, and appreciating their meals more. So next time you get the urge to eat out, perhaps you should search for a recipe and spend some time in your kitchen instead!

Student Reporter

Welcome Back to School!



Aspen Lee
Grade 8
Santa Fe Christian
Middle School



Santa Fe Christian's Newly Constructed Middle School Building
[Source: Author, Aspen Lee]

The very first bell rings, but less than half of the students are on their way to class. Middle school students at Santa Fe Christian, SFC, are rushing out of their cars to get to advisory before they get their first tardy. The brand new middle school building was just finished in time for the first day, but the new way of drop-off and pick-up seems to cause more stops and delays. Teachers are starting to take attendance, and parents are shoving their children out of the car.

The first day of school is always exciting, especially if you're taking your first step into a brand new campus you've never seen before. This year, SFC Middle School students came to school with the feeling that they were walking into a new world. Every wall is painted a clean shade of white, the ceilings are lined with brand new circular lights, and the giant three-story building overlooks the ocean. Everything is just how the students imagined it would be.

Or so they thought. The reality was much different than what the students imagined. On the morning of the first day of school, a long line of cars was waiting to drop their children off at school. After getting dropped off, the students rushed into the new building just to find themselves lost and not able to find their class. This was the reality the students of SFC Middle School faced on their first day back to school.

On that special day, students slept past their alarms and got ready in five minutes just to learn they had to wait even longer to see their friends. Cars ready to drop off students were stretched from the traffic lights to the exit of the school gates. At 8:02 a.m., most students were not in their homeroom classrooms yet. Thirty minutes later, the second bell rings, alerting the students that period one of their block schedule has started. Introductions were shared, and teachers spoke elegantly as they explained how the year would look.

The same as any year for the students. To the teachers? Hundreds of new names to remember faces to distinguish, and hobbies to know. Every course is a surprise as to which younger sibling they will meet and which best friends shouldn't be sat next to each other.

At the end of the day, the first day of school was a blast for most. Eighth-grade student, Malia R., stated, "Finally seeing everyone's faces again was such a pleasure! The new building's cafeteria and classrooms are so modern and make me so excited to return to school every morning!" Selah N., an incoming sixth-grade student, mentioned that she felt so welcomed to the school, and the teachers she got to know made each class entertaining, fun, and interesting! Overall, everyone had a wonderful first day, and luckily no tardies were given out as adjusting to the new classroom locations made it harder for everyone to get to class on time.

Student Reporter

Skipping to the Dessert



Audrey Park
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When looking at the amenities that are included in a trip's package, one wouldn't see bold claims like "most memorable fine dining encounters" and expect them to be met. I went on an Alaskan cruise trip a week before the start of high school, and the previous thought ran through my mind when I initially read the roster of accommodations the ship would provide. However, the fine dining experience I had on this cruise taught me always to be ready to have my preconceptions challenged.

While the average dining experience already offered me a lavish catalog of food and appropriate furnishings, the most unforgettable memories were created through the fine-dining kitchen's culinary creations. When guests weren't in the common areas and



An American adaptation of crepes with gelato and a dessert menu from the cruise's fine dining restaurant.
[Source: Author, Audrey Park]

buffets to enjoy a casual getaway, it was easy to assume that the doors to this formal restaurant were open. The details that the restaurant refined to sell this formal theme was in the frequently edited menu, the

dress code, and most importantly, the desserts.

When perusing the restaurant's menu, one fascinating detail I noticed was that the items would change daily. Not only did this give the illusion of a new experience every time I visited, but it also allowed me to sample celebratory desserts from all over the world. I had a difficult time recognizing a lot of the desserts, let alone pronouncing their names. Trying recreations of cultural desserts, such as the Mochaccino Semifreddo, left me with a craving for more tiramisu-based dishes. This dessert uses a fairly common trend in Italian cuisine by having gelato as a structural foundation. Compared to the dining experiences I had outside of this cruise, recreations of celebratory foods have never

been such a highlighted memory. Furthermore, my satisfaction with the Swan Profiterole emphasizes the authenticity that most of these recreations shared. To specify, I was already familiar with the French dessert from sampling European cuisine. Not only did the dish revitalize some sentimental memories I had of trying European desserts, I was able to enjoy the restaurant's accurate interpretation of it. Although the cruise set a standard of featuring different meals in the average dining experience, I mostly favored the attempts that the fine dining restaurant made in imitating all these cuisines.

While I normally wouldn't describe my summer with a week's worth of lavish dining, one thing's for certain: this experience was the perfect cherry on top.

Student Reporter

K-Pop and Korean Culture at KCON USA LA 2022



Angel Song
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From August 19th to the 21st, KCON USA in Los Angeles was held at the Crypto.com Arena. K-Pop fans flocked to this arena from all over Los Angeles, as well as other cities and countries. This year's KCON was an opportunity for fans to learn more about K-Pop, K-Beauty, K-Food, and Korean culture.

KCON began in Los Angeles in 2012. It expanded to New York in 2015 and slowly spread Korean culture to other cities worldwide, including Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, and Tokyo. Now it is held on almost all continents, in many different countries. It is hosted by South Korean entertainment companies CJ ENM and Mnet. CJ ENM is a South Korean entertainment company created by the CJ group striving to provide Korean entertainment to the world. The company's most famous productions include Crash Landing on You, Queendom 2, I-LAND, Mr. Sunshine, and many other famous works that garnered international

attention. Mnet, another host of KCON, is a South Korean television music channel owned and operated by CJ ENM. Mnet takes care of many South Korean entertainment activities, mostly related to the K-Pop industry. Mnet is also known for hosting not only KCON but the Mnet Asian Music Awards at the end of each year, where many artists are highlighted.

This year was very special for KCON, as it was the first in-person KCON in Los Angeles since 2019 and its 10th anniversary as well. Many K-Pop artists attended this festival for international K-Pop fans. The lineup included popular K-Pop artists such as Ateez, ENHYPEN, ITZY, KEP1ER, LOONA, NCT DREAM, NMIXX, Stray Kids, and The BOYZ. As the festival was held over the course of three days, each day showcased different artists' performances. For instance, on August 19th, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, groups such as CRAVITY and STAYC attend-



KCON 2022 right before the seats filled up with fans—it was a good opportunity to see artists up close!
[Source: Author, Angel Song]

ed. Rather than performances, this day was mostly for introducing rookie K-Pop groups. As the official KCON concerts started on August 20th, new artists were added to the lineup, including ENHYPEN and NCT DREAM.

At this year's KCON, there were not only impressive performances but also opportunities to interact with various artists before the concert. From August 20-21, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, artists who were set to perform came out for a

certain amount of time and interacted with their fans. In addition, there were short performances and mini meet-and-greets.

One of the most extraordinary things about KCON was the diversity of the fans. Each fan was different, and even the groups they supported were different. That was easily seen by the diversity of the lightsticks. It was amazing to see hundreds of fans with different backgrounds and favorite K-Pop artists unite over the same cause: Korean culture.