

## GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d   &amp;   W e s t w o o d

## WILL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHANGE OUR CULTURE?

In the last few years, artificial fiction into our everyday life. We scroll TikTok, and even when we ask

But AI is not only a tool for change our culture. This AI destroy creative jobs, express ourselves? One art and journalism. AI pictures, music lyrics example, programs paintings in a few can write short stories worry: If a computer will human artists still also face this problem news quickly, but it emotions or deeper

intelligence (AI) has moved from science use it when we watch Netflix, when we ChatGPT how to cook something.

information — it is starting to makes many people ask: Will or will it give us new ways to of the biggest fears is about can now generate realistic and even write books. For like MidJourney create seconds, and chatbots or poems. Some artists can produce art so fast, be needed? Journalists — AI can summarize often misses human analysis.

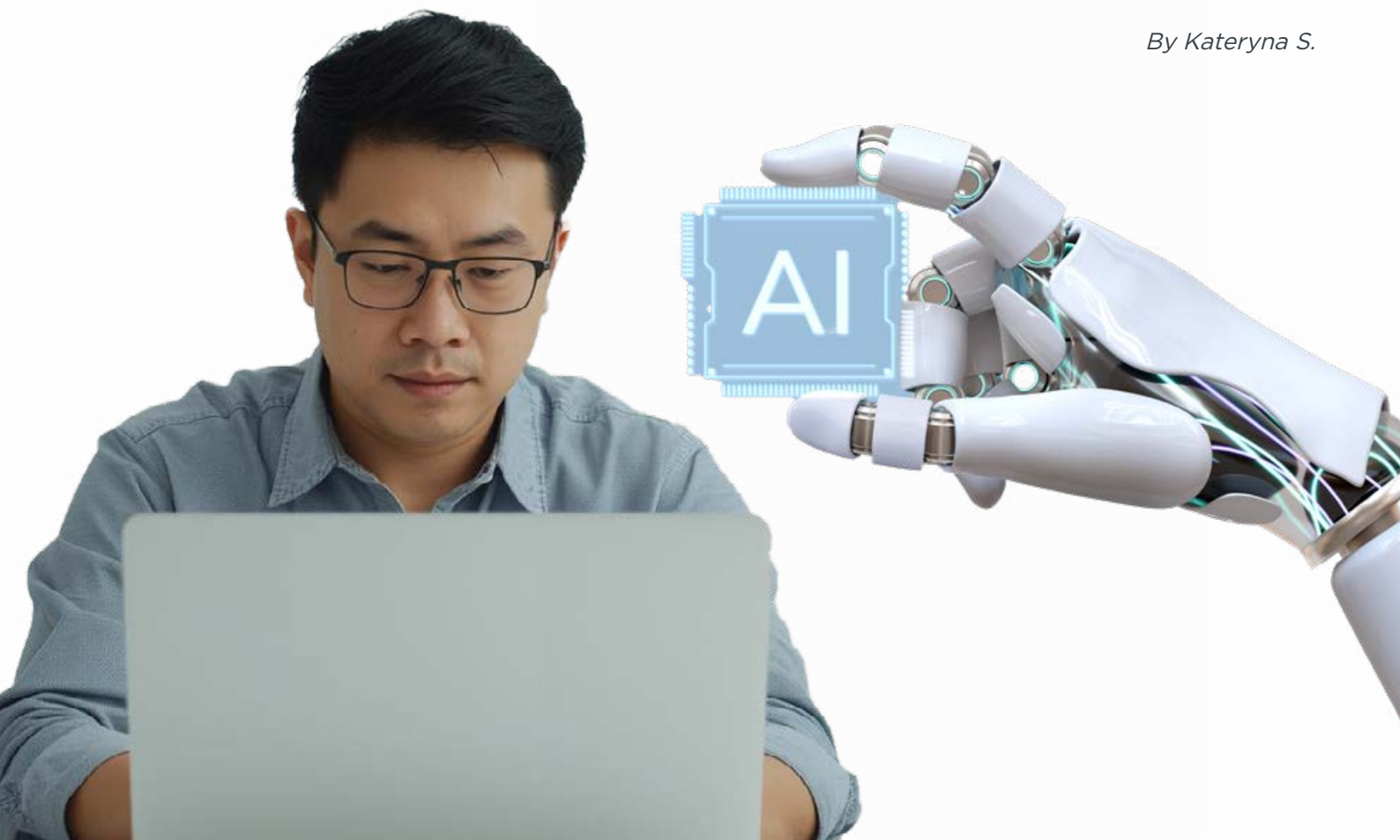


At the same time, there is hope. Many young creators see AI not as an enemy, but as a partner. A student who cannot draw can still make beautiful illustrations with AI. A beginner musician can use algorithms to create new sounds. In this way, AI opens the door for more people to try creative work, even if they do not have traditional skills. Culture can become more democratic, because everyone can share their ideas with the help of technology.

Of course, there are ethical questions. Who owns AI art — the programmer, the user, or the machine? How do we protect original creators from plagiarism? These debates are important, and schools and universities should also take part in them. The younger generation will decide how AI becomes part of our culture.

In my opinion AI will not replace human creativity. Culture is about feelings, experiences, and imagination — things that machines cannot really have. Instead, AI will be like a new instrument, similar to how the camera changed painting or how the internet changed communication. It will challenge us, but it will also inspire us. The future of culture will depend on how we choose to use these tools — with fear, or with creativity.

*By Kateryna S.*



# J-TREE: A PLACE FOR NATURE-LOVERS

Joshua Tree National Park is a unique desert landscape in southern California. It is named after the iconic Joshua tree, a twisted yucca that has become a symbol of the American Southwest.

The park is known for its dramatic rock formations, wide-open skies, and rich desert wildlife. It's a favorite spot for hikers, climbers, and stargazers, with picturesque sunsets and some of the clearest night skies in the U.S.

I visited Joshua Tree in December 2024 with my friend's family and a few close friends. Among all the places I've traveled—San Francisco, San Diego, Morro Bay, Seattle, New York, and Georgia—this one stands out the most. I'll never forget climbing massive rock formations nearly to the top with my friends, watching the glowing desert sunset in the park, and lying under the sky full of stars at our Airbnb. We even saw several shooting stars that night! If you love nature, I'd highly recommend adding Joshua Tree to your list.

*By SoYeon*





# EXPLORING PORTLAND'S LAID-BACK CHARM



I took a short trip to Portland, a city known for its creative and relaxed vibe. On the first day, I visited Stumptown Coffee and Case Study Coffee Roasters to try their lattes, and both had their own rich flavors which impressed me. Then I went to the well-known Voodoo Doughnut, grabbed a doughnut, and had a picnic in Laurelhurst park while enjoying the beautiful lake and trees.

After a brief rest at my accommodation, I stopped by Deschutes Brewery to try one of their craft beers. The city felt calm and laid-back, which made it a good spot for a quick solo trip.

On the last day, I walked along the waterfront, took in the view, and ate tacos from the Saturday Market before heading back. The trip was short but gave me a good taste of Portland's unique city.

*By Dakyung*





## WALKING ALONE, FINDING MYSELF

Recently, I haven't had much motivation. I haven't felt like doing anything... So I decided to go for a walk. Usually, I put on my earphones, block out all the sounds, and walk along the beach from Venice to Santa Monica. Walking alone, without thinking about anything. This is precious time for me. The ocean breeze, the beautiful sea, and the wide sky all heal my heart. I thought this was only my habit, but later I found out there is some science behind the reason why I feel better after walking.

When we exercise, even just walking, our body lowers stress hormones called cortisol. At the same time, our brain makes endorphins, the "happy hormones." Also, walking outside near the ocean can increase serotonin, which makes us feel calm and positive. Venice Beach and Santa Monica are very popular tourist places, but for me, as a Japanese student, they feel like the real LA. There is a big sense of freedom.

Everyone enjoys their own time, and I can feel that energy. That is one reason why I love Los Angeles. After the walk, I always feel lighter. It's not only in my mind. It's a real effect of exercise. The next time you feel stress, try to move your body, even a little. You may also find your own refresh method.

*By Shiori*



## YOUR SIX FLAGS GUIDE: TOP RIDES & MONEY-SAVING TIPS

For the ultimate thrill-seekers, Six Flags has a lineup of coasters that will get your heart pounding. The massive Goliath lives up to its name with a terrifying drop and incredible speeds. For a classic, intense experience, you can't go wrong with Scream, which features seven inversions. If you're looking for a ride that combines speed and unique elements, try Crazanity, a pendulum ride that swings riders at dizzying heights.

For a truly unique experience, don't miss Tatsu, a flying coaster that lets you soar through the air like a dragon. Viper offers a looping experience that's a blast from the past, with multiple inversions and drops. And for a one-of-a-kind ride, X2 is a 5D coaster that uses special effects and music to enhance the experience as your seats spin independently.

To save money on food and drinks, a great tip is to purchase a group meal plan. Many Six Flags locations offer different dining passes that can significantly reduce the cost of your meals and drinks throughout the day. Instead of buying individual meals for everyone, a group can invest in a plan that often includes a certain number of meals per day, as well as a reusable drink bottle for free refills. This is an excellent way to budget for your trip, as you know your food and drink costs upfront. It also saves time because you don't have to worry about paying for each item separately at different food stands. This is especially helpful if you're visiting with a large family or a group of friends, as the savings add up quickly.

*By Jisoo*

# WHY “KARAOKE CULTURE” DOESN’T WORK IN AMERICA

The other day, I talked to a Korean friend about Japanese and Korean culture. Then I realized that not only Japan but also Korea has karaoke culture. We often went to karaoke after drinking parties with friends in Japan. So I would like to share the culture and think about why the culture doesn’t work in America.

First of all, do you know karaoke? Karaoke was born in Japan in the 1970s. We would, and still do, sing songs in a private room for about 5-10 people. And also you can sing songs by yourself. We can sing almost any song, and we can compete for the singing score given by the system.

When I was a student, I often went to karaoke with my friends after school on weekdays and competed for the score! Since I started to work, I go there after drinking parties, but we don’t compete for the score, we just have fun. In this way, we are able to enjoy karaoke in different ways. And the most attractive point is the reasonable fee. In Japan, we can enjoy all-you-can-drink and all-you-can-sing for only 10 dollars! That’s why students often go to karaoke.

Karaoke is really enjoyable, but why isn’t it popular in the U.S.? I think there are three factors, but this is just my opinion.

First, there are a lot of outdoor activities in the U.S. In Japan, there is not much large space to play sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball. If we want to play sports, it usually costs more money than indoor activities. And in many parks, ball sports are not allowed because they might be dangerous for pedestrians. On the other hand, in America, there are a lot of places to play sports, and anyone could do whatever they want.





Second, there's a difference in the style of houses. Since Japanese and Korean houses are a little bit small, a karaoke club is a very convenient spot to gather many people. On the other hand, in America, many people live in suburban houses with large living rooms or backyards, so they can gather a lot of people at home. That is why home party culture is more common than Karaoke.

Third, the difference in the drinking culture. In Japan and Korea, people usually have a first round, second round, and even a third round, and karaoke is a common choice for the second or third round. In America, people usually go to bars or gather at someone's home, and there is no cultural flow that naturally leads to karaoke.

In conclusion, karaoke is cheap, casual fun with friends, so it has become popular in Japan and Korea. (In Korea it's known as noraebang (노래방), which translates to "song room.") But in the U.S., because of the variety of activities, the housing environment, and the difference in drinking culture, karaoke has not spread widely. However, more recently, private karaoke rooms have started to spread in big cities, especially in Asian communities. In addition, the Japanese amusement complex ROUND1 has also expanded into the U.S., and people can enjoy karaoke along with bowling and arcade games. In this way, there is still a good possibility that karaoke culture will expand in a new style in America.

*By Isshin*





# KOREAN HOLIDAYS: SEOLLAL AND CHUSEOK

When people think about holidays in Korea, two special days stand out: “Seollal,” the Lunar New Year, and “Chuseok,” often called the Korean Thanksgiving. These holidays are more than just time off from school or work—they are moments when families gather, share traditions, and celebrate their heritage.

Seollal is celebrated on the first day of the lunar calendar. On this day, families dress in traditional clothes called “hanbok” and perform a deep bow called “sebae” to their elders, wishing them health and happiness for the year ahead. In return, younger family members often receive money or words of wisdom. A special dish called “tteokguk” (rice cake soup) is served, and eating it symbolizes growing one year older. Families also enjoy traditional games such as yutnori, a board game played with wooden sticks.



Chuseok takes place in the fall, on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, when the harvest season is at its peak. Families honor their ancestors by visiting graves and offering food in a ritual called charye. A signature food of Chuseok is songpyeon, half-moon-shaped rice cakes filled with sweet ingredients like sesame or beans. People also enjoy cultural activities such as folk dancing and wrestling, celebrating both family and community.

For many Koreans, Seollal and Chuseok are as important as Thanksgiving or Christmas in the United States. Like American holidays, they bring families together around the dinner table, strengthen family bonds, and remind people of their cultural roots. The next time you meet a Korean friend, ask them about their holiday traditions—you might find surprising similarities to your own.



*By Seunghee*

# FROM SEOUL TO SEPHORA: HOW K-BEAUTY TOOK OVER U.S. SKINCARE ROUTINES

Recently, I have been closely observing the growing popularity of K-Beauty in the United States, particularly through platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and beauty retailers such as Sephora. What captures attention is not only the unique product offerings but also the overall shift in consumer preference toward natural, healthy-looking skin and gentle yet effective skincare routines. This aligns perfectly with the strengths of Korean beauty brands, which are often known for their innovative ingredients and skin-friendly Formulas.

From my personal experience as both a consumer and a marketer, several Korean brands stand out that I would definitely recommend. Mediheal's sheet masks are a staple for me—the Madecassoside version is excellent for calming irritation, while the Rose PDRN mask brightens and refines skin texture. I was also impressed by Cell Fusion C's Cooling Mask, which is especially soothing after long days in the sun. For daily care, I enjoy Innisfree's Green Tea Seed Serum for lightweight hydration and their Bija Cica Lotion for acne-prone skin. These products highlight how Korean skincare manages to be both effective and gentle—qualities that resonate strongly with American consumers.





In the makeup category, Rom&nd's lip tints and Dasique's eye palettes have achieved strong recognition overseas. Their success lies in offering subtle yet long-lasting colors that enhance natural beauty, which fits well with the current preference for effortless, minimalist makeup looks. Laneige's Lip Sleeping Mask is another cult favorite, loved for delivering real results—something I've personally repurchased multiple times. It's no surprise that influencers and content creators consistently feature these products in their routines.

From a marketing perspective, K-Beauty has successfully established itself by aligning with consumer needs for authenticity, gentle formulations, and accessible luxury. Social media engagement and influencer partnerships have amplified brand visibility, while authentic user reviews build trust and encourage trial. Particularly in the U.S. market, where transparency and relatability are highly valued, these strategies have fueled impressive growth.

Looking ahead, I believe Korean beauty brands can expand their influence even further by educating consumers about specific ingredients—such as centella asiatica for calming or green tea extract for antioxidant benefits. Tailoring campaigns to highlight how products address local skincare concerns, like dryness in colder climates or irritation from sun exposure, could also strengthen global appeal.

Ultimately, what excites me about following K-Beauty is not only discovering new products but also observing how consumer culture evolves across borders. This perspective allows me to connect my personal interest in skincare with my professional passion for marketing and communications. Whether through digital campaigns, influencer engagement, or customer education, I am eager to contribute to sharing the value of Korean beauty with a wider audience.

*By Hyeseung*





## A FALL FULL OF FOOTBALL

I'm planning to go to many football games at stadiums this fall. I've already been to an NFL preseason game and a USC college football game.

In the preseason game, the Rams versus the Chargers, the Rams pulled off a big victory. I remember how amazing the cheering was at the USC game.

Since I played football in high school and college in Japan, watching games in the US has been a wonderful experience for me. My family is also planning to come to LA, so I want to take them to a football game and cheer together!

*By Ryusei*

## FARMERS MARKET FINDS NEAR UCLA



On Thursday, August 21, 2025, a vibrant farmers market near UCLA drew a large crowd of visitors. The event, at Broxton Plaza in Westwood Village, offered a wide variety of fresh fruits and foods to sample, creating a lively and flavorful atmosphere. One of the most memorable items for me was tomato jam—something I had never encountered in Korea. Most of the products were organic, and the vendors welcomed everyone with warm and friendly attitudes.

If you're interested in visiting a local farmers market yourself, try searching for the Westwood Village Farmers' Market on Google Maps. It's held every Thursday and it's a great place to explore fresh produce, meet friendly vendors, and enjoy the lively community atmosphere. Don't miss out—go check it out!

*By Soeun*

# TABLET VS. PAPER: THE DIGITAL NOTE-TAKING DILEMMA FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



In today's lecture halls, the once-familiar rustle of notebooks now competes with the quiet scribble of styluses on glass. For modern university students, the question of how to take notes—tablet or traditional paper—is no longer just about preference, but about learning style, memory retention, and even one's philosophy of productivity and focus.

Tablets, especially when paired with digital pens, have become increasingly popular among students who value convenience, flexibility, and organization. With apps that allow handwriting directly on PDFs, automatic cloud backup, and even audio-synced note-taking, tablets blend analog-style input with digital efficiency. For students juggling multiple courses and managing tons of reading material, having everything in one device can be a game-changer.

On the other hand, many students still swear by the tried-and-true method of pen and paper. Writing by hand on physical paper fosters a tactile connection to information that some believe boosts comprehension and memory. Research from institutions like Princeton University suggests that taking notes by hand may lead to deeper cognitive processing and better retention compared to digital methods—even if they're handwritten on a screen.

Each method has its drawbacks. Tablets, while powerful and portable, can be distracting with the lure of notifications, apps, and web access. Battery life, eye strain, and the occasional software glitch can also disrupt focus. Paper notebooks, although distraction-free and mentally grounding, lack the searchability, portability, and backup safety of digital tools. Misplacing a notebook could mean losing weeks of study material.

The choice between tablet and paper is shaped by more than just habit. It depends on the student's field of study, their need for visual or linear thinking, their environment, and how they engage best with information. Some students even choose to combine both: using tablets for organized, shareable notes and PDFs, and paper for brainstorming, sketching, or memorization. Technology continues to evolve, and note-taking with it. Apps are now capable of transcribing handwriting, summarizing key points with AI, and syncing with lecture audio to provide full learning context. At the same time, a return to minimalist, screen-free tools is gaining appeal among students looking to reduce digital fatigue and distraction.

In the end, the debate isn't really about which medium is objectively better—it's about which one helps each student think more clearly, stay more focused, and learn more deeply. Whether you're flipping pages or tapping a stylus, what matters most is that your notes reflect your mind at work.

*By Yunseo*



# HOW MANDARIN MAKES FOREIGN WORDS ITS OWN

I was actually really happy when Gina, who seemed really curious, asked me some questions about Mandarin. Mandarin is one of the most complex languages in the world, which makes it both fascinating and challenging to learn. So I thought I'd pick one fun example from what we talked about and explain it more clearly.

“Some foreign words that seem like common sense to you might be totally unfamiliar to us.” That’s because many foreign words get translated into Mandarin, and those translations can change so much that we don’t recognize the original meaning at all. But that’s also what makes it interesting! Sometimes, we create completely new terms to translate foreign words, which are often based on the meaning or context. We usually base the translation on the characteristic, affected body parts, or the general meaning of the word. So even though the word is new to us, we can still guess what it means.



Another method we use is phonetic translation – we choose Mandarin characters that sound similar to the original word. This is more common with names of people, places, or countries. Sometimes, the government provides official combinations of characters to represent country names. But because some characters are rarely used, we might forget how to write then and use other characters with the same sound. It still makes sense, even if it feels a little strange.

For example, San Diego is written as “聖(Sheng)地(De)牙(Ya)哥(Ge)” in Mandarin. These four characters each have their own meanings, but in this case, we just use their sounds – not their meanings.

But sometimes we get lucky and the characters both sound similar and form a beautiful phrase. Like Yosemite, which we write as “優(You)勝(Sheng)美(Mei)地(De)” – it not only sounds similar, but the characters themselves mean “excellent, victorious, beautiful place.” Even without knowing where it is, just seeing the name makes you want to visit!

Isn’t that interesting? I could go on and on about this, but I’ll stop here for now!

*By Min*

# OASIS ROCKS THE ROSE BOWL

If you've been living under a rock, you may not have heard that the famously battling Gallagher brothers, Noel and Liam, have reunited for a 2025 tour with their band Oasis. The Manchester duo and their bandmates finally came to Los Angeles for two nights this weekend. I happened to be given an extra ticket, so I can give you a real review (because I didn't pay for it, so I can be impartial). Simply put, Oasis was amazing! Their songs and the atmosphere Sunday night (September 7th) was on fire. Noel (the older brother)'s voice hasn't changed a bit and Liam's voice was the best it has been in recent years. But you should be careful about the traffic, or else you might end up riding the last train home, which will be crowded. And I was super thirsty after the show because of all the singing I did :)

Highlights of the show, at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, included "Champagne Supernova" with fireworks! It was literally a supernova. But my favorite was "Rock and Roll Star." I had never listened to that song before, but I liked it. Also "Some Might Say" (my original favorite) and "Don't Look Back in Anger" were fantastic too. Oasis is gonna hold a concert in Seoul and Tokyo soon. Catch them if you can or be friends with someone who has tickets.

*By Harim*





## LIFE IN 2030

*By Deborah*

I don't have plans yet for the fall, but it will be my birthday and my husband's birthday, so we'll make plans but at this time we don't have any yet.

So I answered this question: write a paragraph about where you see yourself in five years. In five years' time, I see myself as a mother of three, still married and director of a humanitarian association to help the underprivileged, create humanitarian trips, and things like that.



## AUTUMN IN LA

*By Maria*

I'm excited for autumn because it is one of my favorite seasons. I like the colors of the trees and the weather is not cold, but it's perfect for wearing cozy sweaters. One of my plans for this coming season is to buy some new sweaters. Another thing that I want to do this autumn is make pumpkin-spiced lattes at home now that I've bought a coffee machine. Also, I want to go to a pumpkin farm and take some nice pictures.

## FREE AND LOVING IT IN LAS VEGAS

This fall, I'm going to be in Las Vegas, where I'll start studying business at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). I'm really looking forward to learning more about business and starting this new chapter in my life.

Since I'll be in Vegas, I'm sure I'll also check out some of the famous places, like the Strip, the Bellagio fountains, and maybe Red Rock Canyon.

The city can be crowded, and the heat will be hard to deal with. Still, I think both the good and the bad will teach me a lot, and I'm excited to experience it all while focusing on my studies.

*By David*

