

YOUTH FORUM NEWS

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Sapporo University

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ESS Club going strong after 50 years

By Mizuki Ando

The Sapporo University ESS club has a long history. The ESS club has been in existence since the founding of the university.

Actually, Prof. Mitarai was an ESS member in the inaugural class. This proves that ESS club activities have continued for 50 years.

However, the club has not always been stable.

There was also a period when activities were declining. However, ESS has maintained energetic activities for the last ten years.

ESS now has 41 members. There are twelve freshmen, nineteen sophomores, and ten juniors.

There are more males than females. The ESS supervisor is Prof. Bossaer.

The club has activities every Tuesday from 6 p.m. They mainly have a

discussion on one topic and sometimes they participate in some contests.

Exchange students and other native speakers often come to visit and communicate with ESS members.

The 44th Recitation Contest was held on June 11, 2017. This contest was for freshmen members.

It was held by HESSL. HESSL stands for Hokkaido English Speaking Society League. HESSL is organized with six member universities.

The SU ESS members participate in the contest every year.

Five universities participated in the competition this year.

This contest has three categories: poetry, speech, and drama. Twelve students took part in their first contest.

They performed *Stand by Me* in the drama category, "Letter for my

Children" in the poetry category, "How I Learned to Trade Stocks in Prison" in the speech category.

They aimed for victory in all of the categories. They made a good effort and won the first prize in the speech category, and won third prize in the drama and poetry categories.

They were really disappointed that they could not win in all categories, but even if they could not get first place in the drama and poetry categories, any award is appreciated.

Their performances were very moving and they tried new things in the contest.

All in all, this was a good opportunity for the new ESS members.

After this, there will be more competitions.

They will surely try many new things and have many great experiences.

Hokkaido's First Owl Café

By Ayano Nagata

There are quite a few Owl Cafés in Japan, but there is only one Owl Café in Hokkaido.

It opened about two years ago and many celebrities come to the café.

The Owl Café is located 4 minutes on foot from the Sumikawa Subway Station.

You can enjoy tea and eat while you watch the owls.

They also sell accessories and straps at the café.

You can touch the owls or actually put an owl on your shoulder.

On lucky days you can see an owl flying outdoors.

The Owl Café is open from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

After 3 p.m. the lights inside the shop are turned down so the mood changes.

The café is closed every Wednesday and every third Tuesday.

The price is ¥1,200 for one hour with one drink.

They serve cola, orange juice, coffee and you can enjoy latte topped with cream that looks like an owl.

If you pay additional money, you can also order rice balls, cookies, cakes and more.

If students present an ID



card on weekdays, it only costs ¥1,000.

There are various discount systems besides this.

When entering the café, the owls will welcome you from behind the glass.

There are six different types of owls.

Among them, "Snowy Owl" is conspicuous.

As you all know, this owl appeared in the *Harry*

Potter movies.

The owls here seem to be accustomed to humans.

They are never afraid to have their pictures taken.

They spread their wings and look straight at you, so you can expect good pictures.

However cute, the owls are also carnivores. You can see such aspects of the owls during the mealtime.

If you pay an additional fee, you can also feed them.

In short, owls have a healing effect while you drink a café latte.

You should give it a try.

Opinion

Parent's economic gap creates children's education gap

By Yusuke Utsumi

In recent years, the social problem of parent's economic gap has been a factor in the falling percentage of students enrolling in universities.

Japanese education is ranked highly in the world, but children of low income households can't attend university lecture classes while children of affluent have no obstacles. The Japanese educational system doesn't spend a lot of money for students, so higher education is covered by private savings.

Leading universities are monopolized by rich families and the economically weak can't afford to go there.

Also, they can't afford to attend cram school because their parents can't pay expensive monthly fees.

Because of this, their children can't receive a poor secondary education, so they can't get into a national university.

In addition, they can't enter a private university without taking on large student loans.

Also, Japanese companies take students' parents' academic background into account when hiring, so this creates a gap in

wages.

It's becoming increasingly difficult for children from economically challenged homes to break free from this vicious circle. This negative spiral is created by gaps in income, education and wages.

The Japanese government should cancel the repayment of student loans in order to close these gaps.

If this were introduced in Japan, the child poverty rate would decrease dramatically. Out of 34 developed countries, Denmark ranks 1st while Japanese is ranked 25th.

This is related to the different social welfare systems in Denmark and Japan.

In other words, it is related to how taxes are used.

In Denmark, for example, education is free from elementary school to graduate school.

The Japanese government should use taxes more effectively to resolve various income gaps, and they have to release information to the public as to how their taxes are being used.

America vs North Korea

By Akihiro Kudo

News of North Korea's nuclear missile program has gained a lot of attention in Japan recently.

This is a very serious problem and there are several reasons why this is coming to a head.

A military confrontation with North Korea would be disastrous not only for North and South Korea, but for Japan as well.

First of all, the U.S. and North Korea have had bad relations since the Korean War (1950-1953) when North Korea tried to take over the southern part of the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. has supported South Korea since then.

Even now the governments of North and South Korea have not signed a peace agreement, so technically they are still at war.

Secondly, although the U.S. as the world police has been sanctioning North Korea for many years, they have had no direct talks with them.

In the meantime, North Korea has continued its nuclear and missile program to provoke America.

North Korean leaders think that having a strong military is a symbol of their power and they want to be considered equal to the U.S.

Finally, there is Trump, the new U.S. president. President Trump's philosophy seems to be "Peace through strength," and he has applied pressure to North Korea.

In contrast, North Korea has provoked American military power, so it is often stated that they may go to war with each other soon.

If that happens, Japan will also be caught up in the war.

Since Japan also has U.S. military bases, there is more than enough reason for an attack on Japan from North Korea.

If President Trump attacks North Korea, Japan must make up its mind to do three things: assist the U.S. in a

counter attack, help evacuate Japanese and Americans who live in South Korea and also help any South Korean refugees.

These three things are very important and they are very difficult to do without some advanced planning by the Japanese government.

In this sense, Japan has a grave responsibility to bear if war breaks out on the Korean peninsula.

As a result, the U.S and China seem to be cooperating more to solve this problem. For example, China has stopped exporting food, fuel and other necessities to North Korea.

Since North Korea is dependent on Chinese trade, North Korea will suffer greatly.

If its economy collapses, North Korea will not be able to continue its missile program.

We will have to wait and see how this plays out. Hopefully, it will take a turn for the better.

Movies

Beauty and the Beast

By Tomoko Ishizuka

Beauty and the Beast is a live-action Disney movie which was released this year. It opened in theaters on April 21, 2017.

Since its opening it brought in more than ¥21 million at the box office with an audience attendance of ¥1.5 million in its first 6 days.

The story takes place long ago somewhere in Europe.

A handsome prince is transformed into an ugly beast by a curse.

If the prince can't find love before all of the rose petals fall, he can never return to his human form.

The beautiful Belle was captured by the Beast when she went to his castle to search for her father.

Director Bill Condon has

directed many famous movies, such as *Gods and Monsters* and *Dream Girls* and is famous in the American movie industry.

Belle is played by Emma Watson. She is a British actress known for her role of Hermione in the Harry Potter series.

Beast is played by Dan Stevens. He is a British actor known for his role in *Sir Lancelot in Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb*.

In this movie Emma Watson received an award for her performance, and the film won the Best Picture Award.

This story comes from a literary work by Gabrielle-Suzanne de Villeneuve who wrote about a human-animal



marriage in 1740.

The shortened version that is widely known now was written by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont in 1756.

The first film version, *La Belle et la Bête*, was released in France in 1946, followed by an Australian version in 2009 and another French adaptation, *La Belle et la Bête*, in 2014.

There are two Disney *Beauty and the Beast* movies. The first was the animated film *Beauty and the Beast* in 1991, and now the live-action film this year.

This film is a combination of animation and live-action. However, there are some

differences between the animated version and the new live-action version.

First, in the animated version, Belle's mother was never seen, but in the live-action movie the mother died of an illness when Belle was small.

Another difference was that in the animated film, Belle's father was very ill, but in the new version he was not sick.

This movie is very beautiful and it's interesting because there are some different scenes from the animated version.

You will definitely enjoy the new *Beauty and the Beast*.

The Fast and the Furious 8: The Fate and the Furious

By Iguchi Kengo

The eighth installment of *The Fast and the Furious* series, *The Fate and the Furious*, which is called *Wild Speed: Ice Break* in Japan, opened in Japanese theaters on April 28, 2017.

Since its opening in the U.S. on April 14, 2017, it has grossed about \$98.78 million at the box office in its first three days.

After that, it made about \$1.2 billion worldwide. This makes it the 12th highest grossing film in history.

The Fast and the Furious series began in 2000. All of films were a big hit, but this film was the biggest.

There are two reasons for this: First, the featured actors were Vin Diesel as Dominic Toretto and Paul Walker as Brian O'Conner.

The second reason is that Dominic, although he treasures his friends and



family, seems to betray them in the previews released before the film's theatrical release.

This is an action movie series, so there are a lot of car chase scenes.

Tragically, Paul Walker died in an accident in 2013 after filming *The Fast and the Furious 7*, so the next film received much attention.

There were memorable scenes in this film. One was where Dominic "Dom" Toretto and Letty Ortiz are on their

honeymoon in Havana.

Dom is approached by the elusive cyber terrorist Cipher, who coerces him into working for her because she revealed that she is holding Dom's ex-lover and DSS agent Elena Neves and their son hostage.

Another memorable scene was when the team intercepts Dom after he steals the nuclear football, but Dom escapes, shooting and apparently killing Deckard in the process.

Most people say that this was the best film in the series.

If you enjoyed the previews of this film you won't be disappointed.

If you haven't seen any of these films, then you should watch all of the previous films before seeing the newest one.

Art & Leisure

PIXAR Adventure in Sapporo

By Yuri Kikuta

The Pixar Adventure Exhibition was held at the Sapporo Convention Center from April 28 to May 7, and was open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The ticket price was ¥1,200 for adults (junior high school students and above) and ¥ 600 for children (4 years to elementary school).

The advance price was ¥ 1,000 for adults and ¥500 for children.

The theme of this exhibition was the world of adventure starts with “What if.”

It was an experiential exhibition where you can enter and enjoy in the Disney-Pixar movie world.

In this exhibition you are able to experience the world of four Disney-Pixar movies.

In the *Toy Story* area you can enter the world of Woody and Buzz.

In the *Monsters, Inc.* area you can meet monsters when you open the door.

In the *Finding Nemo* area you can chase after the shark Blues, enter the pelican Nigel's mouth, and experience Blues chasing you in the sea.

In the *Cars* area you can take pictures with McQueen, Meters and Carrera with the city Radiator Springs in the background.

Besides being held in Sapporo, the Pixar Adventure Exhibition was also held in Sendai, Tokyo, Fukuoka, Nagoya, and Osaka. More than 250,000 people went to the exhibition.

The exhibition was very crowded as it was held during Golden week.

There was no prohibition against taking pictures in the venue, so everyone took



pictures in the four areas.

The venue was not very big and you could see everything in about an hour if it was not crowded.

Many Disney-Pixar related items were on sale. Those items are sold only at the PIXAR Adventure.

The items included tote bags, backpacks, mugs, pouches, key holders and so on, and they were all cute.

If you ever get a chance to go to the Pixar Adventure exhibition sometime in the future, you won't regret it.



Legendary Artists of the 20th Century

By Takumi Takada

The Legendary Artists of 20th Century exhibition was held from April 22 to August 15 at the Hokkaido Modern Art Museum.

This is the 40th year the museum has been open.

This exhibition was a special exhibition showcasing the masterpieces of European and Japan Artists in the 1920's.

The general admission fee for adults was ¥510.

The admission fee for high school and college

students was ¥250.

This exhibition mainly displayed the works of Ecole de Paris's artists, including Jules Pascin, Chaim Soutine and Moise Kisling.

Many Japanese artist's works were also displayed there.

Yuzo Saeki and Tuguharu Fujita were among those on exhibition.

Ecole de Paris had a big influence of artists in later generation and consisted of a group of foreign artists

who lived in Paris.

There were many artists who left their homeland and lived a poor and miserable life, and the house and atelier in Montparnasse is where they created their art.

At the museum, the pictures were displayed on the walls and an explanation about each artist was written next to their picture.

The most important works of Ecole de Paris's artists were there.

The paintings “Playing

Man” by Chaim Soutine and “Street in Montrouge” by Maurice Utrillo were truly amazing.

Many pictures were displayed on the first floor of the exhibition hall.

If you have an interest knowing more about Ecole de Paris, please visit this exhibition.

You will learn about many artists of Ecole de Paris even if you don't know anything about art or about the Ecole de Paris artists.

Moerenuma Park Cherry Blossoms

By Mayu Kasai

Every spring, the cherry trees all over Japan burst into bloom.

Japanese people can't wait for spring to come so we can enjoy the cherry blossoms in full bloom.

In Hokkaido the best time for cherry blossom viewing is during Golden Week.

There are lots of cherry blossom viewing spots in Sapporo.

Moerenuma Park is the most famous cherry blossom viewing spot. It is located in Higashi Ward.

If you go to this park, you can use a car, taxi or other transportation.

It takes 30 minutes by car. This park is far from city.

During this period, many people go to Moerenuma Park to see cherry blossoms.

This park has a whole forest of 2,300 cherry trees. This number is the largest in Hokkaido.

There are various types of cherry trees in the park.

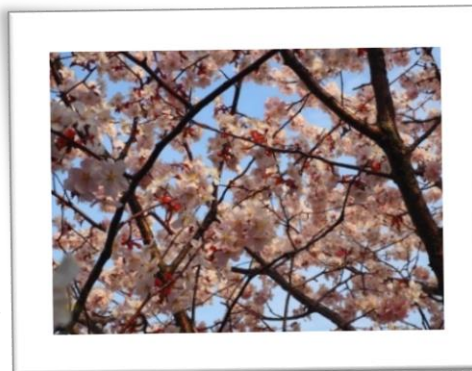
For example, Yoshino cherry trees, wild cherry blossoms and this year

cherry blossoms began blooming on April 30 and were in full bloom on May 5.

The best time to see cherry blossoms was May 4th to 6th.

In Moerenuma Park everyone can enjoy Hanami because it has a play area that not only kids can enjoy, but adults as well.

There is a rental cycle in the park, so you can enjoy watching cherry blossoms while riding.



The rental fee is ¥200 to ¥300 for 2 hours.

Adults can enjoy eating, drinking, and singing under the cherry blossom trees.

It's best to see the cherry blossoms with family, friends or that special someone.

K-Pop gaining popularity in Japan

By Haruka Shudo

In the 1990s, K-pop became popular in Korea. K-pop was influenced by Japanese J-pop music.

Today, there are a lot of K-pop idols that debuted in Japan. In the late 2000s, Korean culture was becoming more popular in East Asia.

In 2003, the Korean drama "Winter Sonata" was a big hit in Japan.

The leading actor in the drama, Bae Yong-joon, had a lot of middle-aged women fans.

Also, the group KARA's song "Mister" and Girls' Generation song "Gee" became very popular.

After that these two groups appeared in NHK's New Year's Red and White Singing Festival, many people copied their dance moves.

But the group KARA disbanded after that. Then, not only dramas, but also movies, music and language became popular.

In 2004, sales of the NHK Hangeul textbook became a best seller following English and the Korean singer PSY's song.



The song's music video became very famous. View counts on YouTube reached more than 28 billion.

This song reached No.2 on the U.S. Billboard Charts, which is a record for a Korean singer.

In 2009, the K-pop group Big Bang debuted in Japan and won best new artist in The Japan Record Awards.

Their song "Fantastic Baby" was a big hit all over the world and then they went on their first world tour.

In 2015, Big Bang went on their second world tour, but recently they have stopped touring.

The K-pop idol group TWICE is popular lately. In 2015 they debuted in Korea and three of their members are Japanese.

Their song "TT" is popular and young women copy their dance moves.

They debuted in Japan on June 28, 2017. They will be more and more successful from now on in Japan.

There are many K-pop groups which are active in Japan, so everyone should try to listen to K-pop when you have the chance.

Travel

Low-Cost Carrier flights take off

By Kanna Kudo

Have you ever flown on a Low-Cost Carrier (LCC)? LCCs provide only basic services, run efficient operations and cut extra costs. For example, they cut in-flight meals and there is a strict weight limit on carry-on baggage.

The number of LCC flights have increased in Japan this year. Jetstar increased its number of flights to 36 and Vanilla Air increased to 60 flights compared with last year.



The number of LCCs flights from New Chitose Airport have increased 30 percent.

The first LCC introduced in Japan is Jetstar in 2007 and LCCs rapidly became popular in 2010. The first fully owned Japanese LCC was Peach in 2011.

LCCs change fares depending on seat availability. If tickets are in high demand, the fare increases. LCCs have a time sale system. During a time sale you can get a one way ticket from Sapporo to Tokyo for only ¥1,990.

However, the time sale system is random and it's first-come first-serve, so you need to check the website frequently.

Here are some of LCCs that operate out of New Chitose Airport. Jetstar is owned by JAL and is based in Narita, Kansai and Chubu airports.

There are 11 domestic flights and 17 foreign flights. Jetstar flies to Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, New

Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Peach is operated by ANA and is based at Kansai Airport. They have 12 domestic flights and 4 foreign flights to Korea, China, Taiwan and Thailand. One way fare from Sapporo to Tokyo can be as low as ¥3,990.

Vanilla Air is also operated by ANA and is based in Narita Airport. They have 6 domestic flights and 4 foreign flights to Cebu Island, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taiwan. One way fare from Sapporo to Tokyo can be as low as ¥5,050.

To sum up, the advantages of using LCCs are their cheap prices and their new equipment. The disadvantages of using LCCs are the overweight baggage restrictions and drinks and meals cost extra. Also, the seats are very narrow.

The reason why LCC flights have increased in Japan is exactly what its name implies—low cost.

Things to see and do in New York City

By Shione Morioka



Do you like to travel? New York City is one of the most popular tourist destinations.

New York is about a 13-hour flight from Japan.

First, you'll need to know some basic information about

New York. In the spring they hold the annual Easter Parade.

Easter is a Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter is a national holiday. In the summer there are firework displays on July 4.

The Fourth of July is Independence Day in the U.S. It's also important to learn about the history or culture of places you visit when you travel.

You can enjoy your travels more if you know your destination's history and culture. Let's look at some of New York City's history.

As you probably know, the Statue of Liberty is the symbol of New York. France gave this statue to the U.S. for its 100 year anniversary. If you look at the feet you will notice that the chains and shackles have been torn off. This represents



liberation from oppression. All people are equal and free.

When we think of the U.K. we think of tea, and when we think of the U.S. we have an image of coffee. Those images are deeply rooted in the American War of Independence.

When America was still a British colony they mostly drank tea. But in 1773 the British government raised taxes on tea, which angered many of the colonists.

That December a group of men dressed as Native Americans boarded some ships filled with tea at night and threw the tea into the sea. This was one of the first incidents just before the revolution. From then on, people began drinking coffee.

There are a lot of coffee shops in the U.S. In New York City there is a coffee shop named Think Coffee. The coffee in a shop called MUD Coffee has a dark taste, and the Italian shop Sant Ambroeus is popular among celebrities.

This coffee shop has been used in the TV drama *Gossip Girl*. *Gossip Girl* is a love story set in New York City. You should watch this drama if you are planning to go to New York. You will feel like a celebrity!