



October 2022 Edition



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Spirit Day

Run by the Highschool Student Council, High School students get a day to refresh their brains and purely enjoy the day with some water and activities under the sun!

As Spirit day was on September 30th, each grade dressed in the assigned color: freshmen were red, sophomores were blue, juniors were green, and seniors were black.

As the day started the students enjoyed the performances presented by Palette and made flags that represented their own grades. Then all the high school students moved to the nearby field outside the school. In the field, students were able to enjoy water activities related to the theme: Olympics!

The students played track and field while trying not to spill water. Then students played musical chairs, red light green light on the slip-n-slide, dodgeball, and many other activities! When students returned to school, they were given time to relax and cool down while getting face paint or playing board games.

As the end of the day came, the Seniors were the ones who claimed victory along with the Sophomores who received the prize for the great spirit.

We hope to see another spirit day full of spirit next year! Thank you HS StuCo!



La Niña and Pakistan

Monsoon seasons have existed in Pakistan for decades, but why were the impacts especially severe this year? May experts and climate organizations like World Meteorological Organization say that the irregular floods are due to La Niña. La Niña is a weather phenomenon where heavy rainfall and flooding take place due to an unusually cooler surface temperature of the Pacific Ocean. While La Niña usually only takes place once every few years and does not happen in consecutive years, this year was the third year that La Niña happened. It is also expected that 2023 will not be the end of the floods and that they may get worse than they are currently. All of this is due to climate changes from pollution and global warming where ocean surfaces cannot maintain regular temperatures.



The 2022 monsoon in Pakistan has caused a great deal of trouble for Pakistan. A huge rainfall caused massive floods and landslides, severely damaging the lives of Pakistanis in almost every way possible. Floods are also occurring nationally, which is unprecedented in any country — they usually happen in one specific region. According to the Pakistani government, the floods have caused at least 1700 deaths and negatively affected more than 33 million people. Around 45 billion USD worth of loss was also seen where businesses were wiped out physically and resources such as food were all ruined. Since Pakistan relies heavily on its agriculture industry along with its livestock, the flood was especially harsh. Approximately 1.2 million livestock was killed and key crops like rice and cotton disappeared by 15% and 40%, respectively. Therefore, it is highly likely that Pakistan will have a hard time recovering from this year's floods while next year may also cast additional damages.

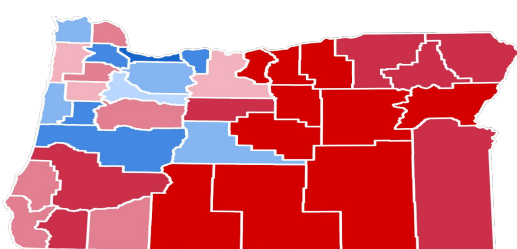
BFS is conscious of these impacts and being an international school, cares about issues outside of Korea as well. To help the refugees of the floods in Pakistan and support Pakistan in its recovery, the National Honor Society of BFS is organizing a stationary drive and a fundraising event.



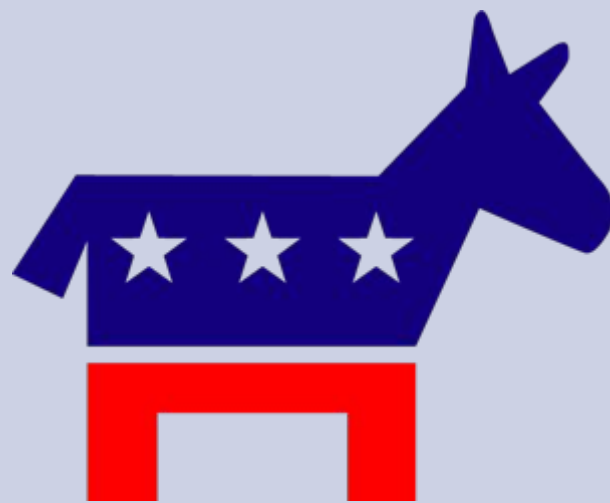
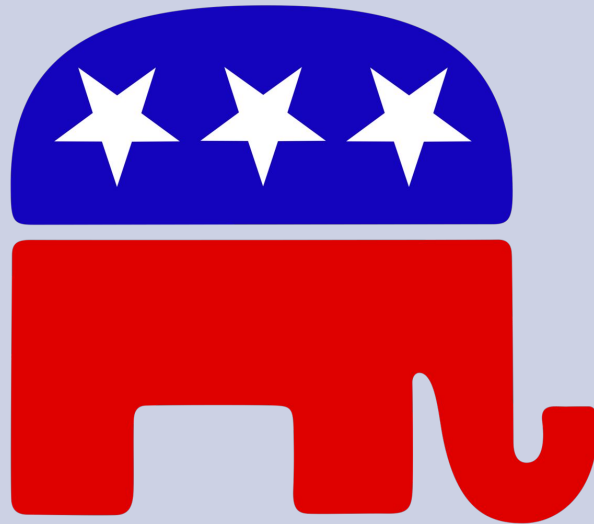
Source: CNN and WSJ

Should the ‘Growing Republicanism’ in Traditionally Blue Oregon be That Surprising?

In the past four decades, Oregon has not had a Republican governor in office. During the 2020 election, Biden won the state by 16 percentage points. Because of the traditionally liberal state’s political history, Biden stepping in to promote the Democrat candidate, Tina Kolk, during this year’s unusually tight midterms race was rather surprising. Aside from Kolk, this year’s candidates include Republican Christine Drazen, who is estimated to be in the lead, as well as independent Johnson, who has been drawing support from typical Democrat voters. Although the idea of a Republican governor in one of America’s more progressive governments may seem surprising, a closer look at a recent political movement between the urban and rural areas may show otherwise.



Source: CNN



The most recent Great Idaho movement began in 2019, Mike McCarter officially started a Facebook page where he gained support from many Eastern Oregonians. As of October 2022, nine counties have voted in favour of the movement and three more are voting next. As mentioned by the Greater Idaho Organisation, the plan is to redraw the Oregon-Idaho border where fourteen eastern Oregon counties, which is also two-thirds of the state’s land mass, secede from Oregon and join neighbouring Republican Idaho. The movement is fueled by the idea that western, urban Oregon and eastern, rural Oregon have different cultures and values.

Not only that, but by looking at the map of the 2020 election, many Eastern Oregonians feel disregarded by the state’s liberal politics and having their Republican votes ignored by the Democratic majority.

Greater Idaho

Despite the strong support of the resistance, given that redrawing borders is a complex issue requiring the approval of the Oregon Legislature, Idaho Legislature and Congress, it is unlikely that this proposal will pass. In addition, one must carefully consider the possible impacts of the border change such as its effects on state debts and pensions, state pride, and presidential elector votes just to name a few. Most importantly, redrawing the border could affect how America deals with political polarisation issues in the future. As stated by Oregon Live, “the solution to this political alienation... cannot be redrawing state borders every time a political minority... feels aggrieved.” Constant regrouping of citizens based on their political views would only further the national division caused by partisan polarization. No matter where you are in the US, there’s bound to be a political minority as humans naturally have different opinions compelling us to master the art of compromise as well as spark debate to move society forward.

Although the movement may not pass, the ideas presented must not fall on deaf ears in the political majority. Ideally, As a republic, the government should represent the people as a whole, considering the needs and interests of all citizens, not just the dominating majority. In the end, as shown by the Greater Idaho movement, the Republican party in Oregon has always been there, but its presence hasn’t been felt by many until this year’s governor race. However, whether or not Biden’s speech will have its intended effect or if the Republican party will hold office on the West Coast is a question yet to be answered by Oregonian voters.

The History of Halloween

Candy. Costumes. Movies.

Halloween has it all. Sure, nothing can really beat getting presents on Christmas or your birthday, but this spook-tacular holiday will surely always hold a place in our hearts. But have you ever stopped to ponder: just how exactly did it all begin? Why do we go trick-or-treating? Why do we dress up? Why IS it all so scary? Let's review the intricate past of one of the most cherished celebrations on the planet.

First of all, Halloween...wasn't always called "Halloween." No, it was actually called "Samhain." Originating from the Celts, a group of people who lived in Northern Europe about 20 centuries ago, Samhain was a festival that took place on October 31st each year. In Celtic culture, this was the very last day of the year and a time when it was believed that the souls of the dead would return to Earth.

The Celts believed that upon arriving, the dead would wreak havoc, especially through nature. They also would attempt to prophesy the future during the day of Samhain, which was thought to work better while there was a strong spiritual presence. They also sacrificed food through the usage of bonfires, intended to please those who had arrived from beyond.



Eventually, after many geographical, political, and religious conflicts, other cultural holidays became mixed in with Samhain. For example, Roman celebrations such as "Feralia," a day to honor the souls of the dead, became intertwined with the festivities and traditional activities of the day.

During the period of time from the early 600s to the 900s, Christianity slowly weaved its way into the festivity. November 2nd was coined as "All Souls' Day", which performed a very similar function to the basics of Samhain, including the reliance on costumes and parades to attract its participants. The name "All-hallows" soon developed and resulted in the day before being known as "All-hallows Eve". Over many centuries, this would become our one and only "Halloween."

Source: CNN



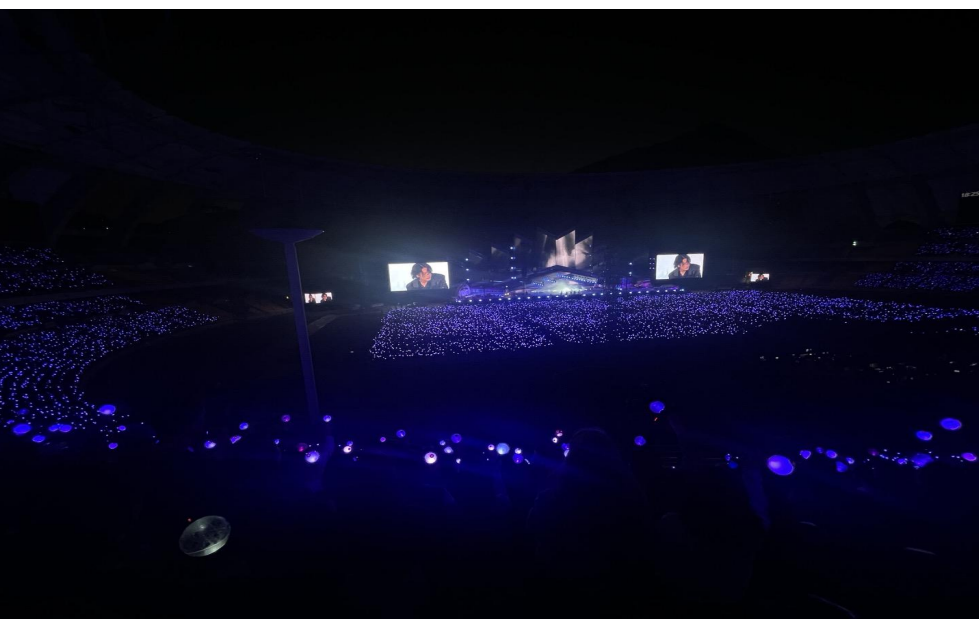
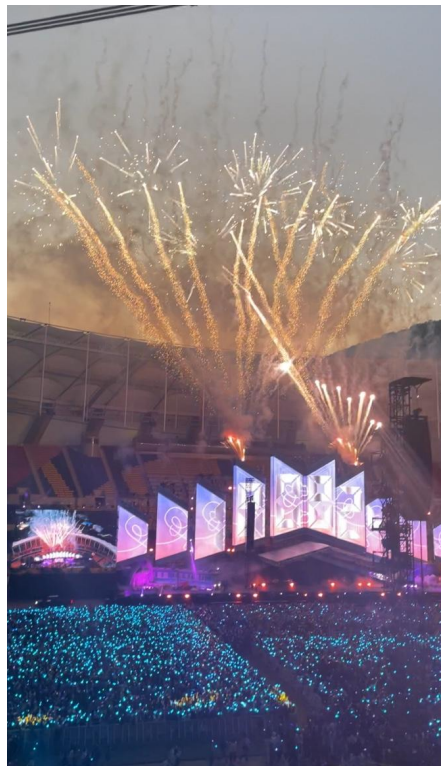
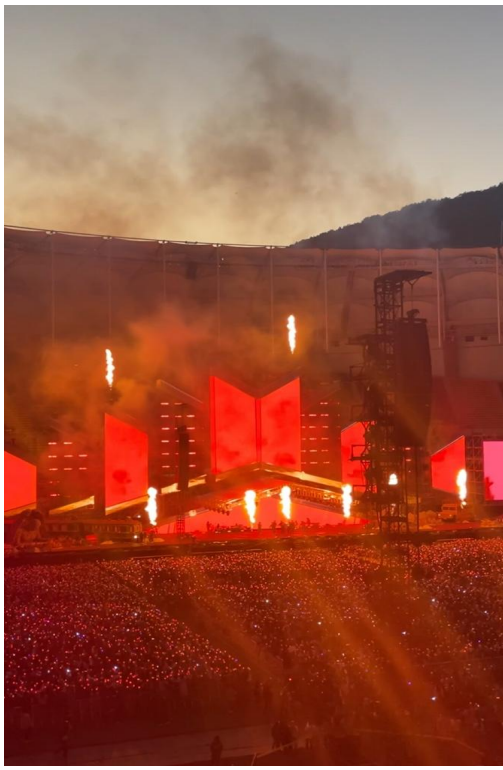
Halloween in the Modern World

As Halloween assimilated into the Catholic world, it began to lose its Celtic roots. As people immigrated to America, only a few Celtic regions of Europe, such as Ireland and Wales, still kept the ancient traditions. Only after the Irish Potato Famine in the 1840s resulted in the widespread movement of Irish people to the US, did the culture of Halloween begin to blossom and reach fruition nationwide.

However, some aspects of the holiday have largely remained the same. Superstitions surrounding nocturnal animals (e.g. your friendly neighborhood bat) continue to influence Halloween accessories and decorations. Themes of spontaneity and fun have stood the test of time, and of course, we can't forget costumes - which started from posing as supernatural beings on All-hallows Eve.

So now that you've taken a little lesson on the background of this celebration, dress up! Buy some candy! Get with friends! Most importantly, don't forget to say "trick-or-treat!"

"Halloween wraps fear in innocence, as though it were a slightly sour sweet. Let terror, then, be turned into a treat." - Nicholas Gordon



The moment I go on top of the stage, I feel the sound of your cheers.
— BTS

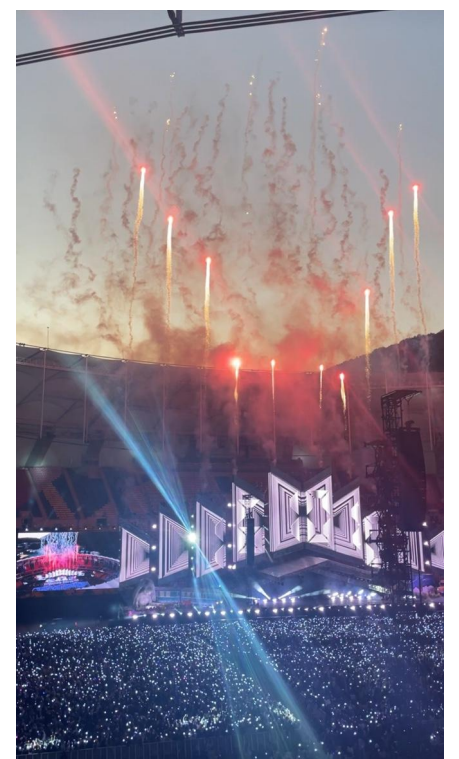
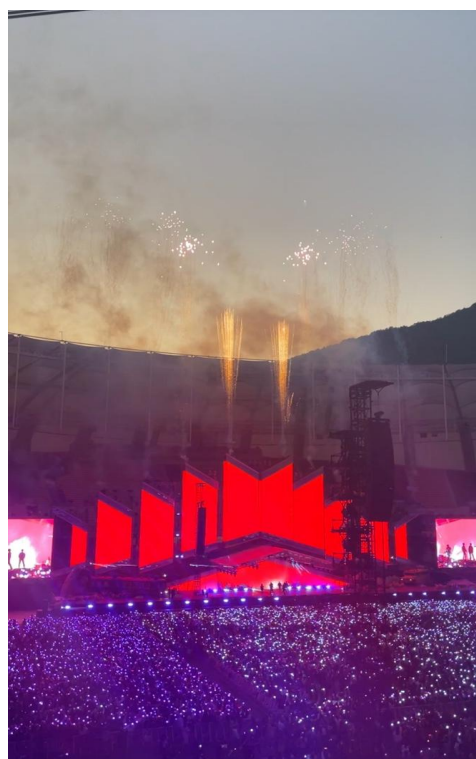


BTS Concert

The most recent BTS concert, 'Yet to Come', was held in Busan on October 15th, 2022. The news went viral since it was a free concert in Busan, and there had not been a BTS concert for about 3 years. The Yet to Come concert was located in Busan Asiad Main Stadium, in Yeonje gu. Ticket sales started on September 30 2022 and were all sold out within less than five minutes. Although tickets were free, since there were limited amounts of tickets, people had to get tickets from Interpark and it was first come first serve. About 50,000 people attended the concert in person, and the concert was live streamed as well. 15 million fans watched the concert live stream. The free-of-charge "BTS 'Yet to Come' in Busan" concert was held in support of Busan's bid to host the 2030 World Expo and represented an attempt to introduce the city and Korean culture globally.

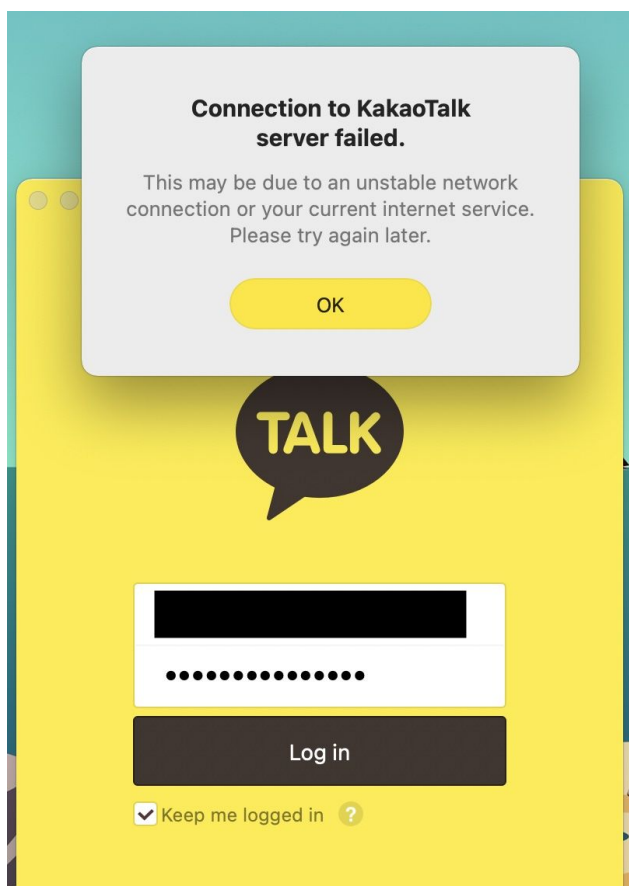
The concert started at 6 pm and ended at 8 pm. BTS performed their songs Run, Mic Drop, Ma City, Boy with Luv, Save me, Epilogue: Young Forever, Butterfly, Butter, Dope, Idol, and Fire. This concert was very special to many ARMYs (BTS fandom name) because BTS is going on a hiatus. The oldest member, Seokjin Kim is going away to serve in the Korean military, thus this K-POP boy band is taking a break and will be releasing solo albums. Not only this, it was an in-person concert for the very first time after COVID-19, and it was also merely a few days after BTS Jimin Park's birthday, where fans celebrated his birthday at the concert. After the concert, the 50,000 people started singing happy birthday for Jimin Park, as if it was planned.

Many people attended the concert from international countries, and many fans were wearing purple; the signature color of BTS. Some fans who failed to get tickets even surrounded the stadium from outside, just to listen to the sounds of the concert. Overall, the concert was viewed by 50 million people worldwide and proved the continuous level of popularity of both BTS and Kpop.



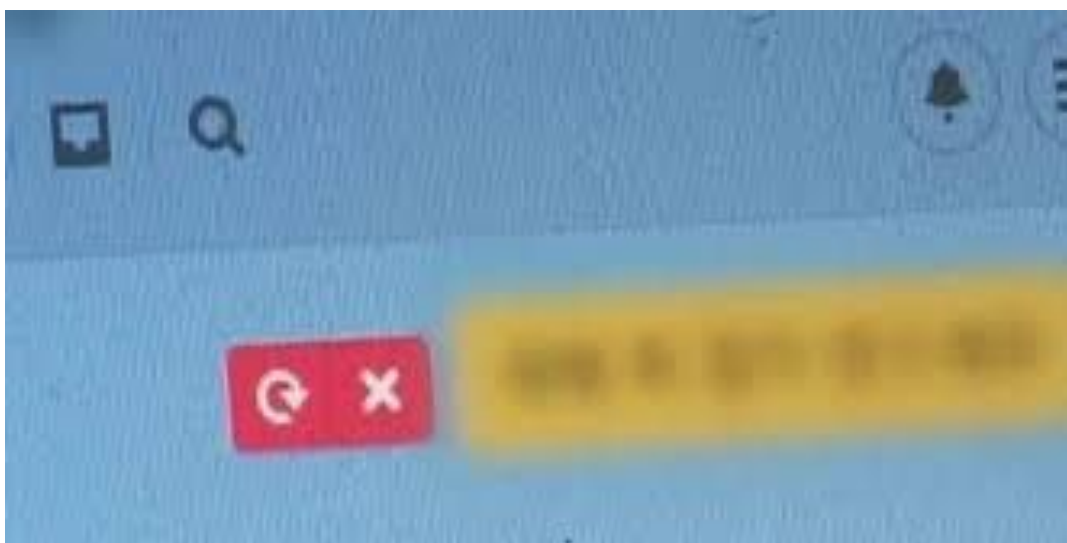
Messages Go Up in Smoke

Many users complained about various inconveniences caused by a fire in the data center by posting things such as 'KakaoTalk error', 'KakaoTalk server exploded', and 'KakaoTalk is not working' through SNS. People tried to find other ways to communicate with each other, which was not easy. Kakaotalk has 47 million monthly active users in Korea. Almost every person in Korea is using Kakaotalk. People rely on it so much that they don't even know what to do when it's gone, leading many experts to conclude that the Korean government needs alternative methods to communicate.

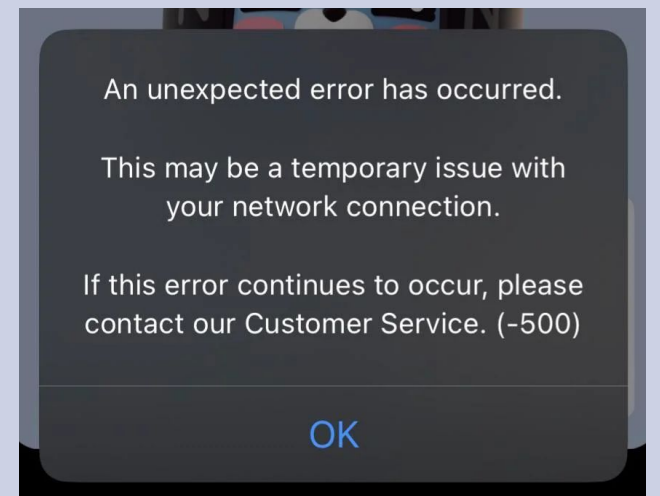


Experts blamed Kakao for its lack of preparation for a possible disaster, having no disaster recovery plans or backup sites for the country's biggest messenger program. "If Kakao protected its data with a hot site, or a backup site, the service disruption would have been quickly resolved," said an official from a local tech firm, noting that Kakao failed to make sure its data was backed up properly.

Some people mentioned that the loss of service makes them appreciate it more. People took Kakaotalk for granted before, acting like it is obvious that messages should be sent and received. This was a wake-up call for everyone.

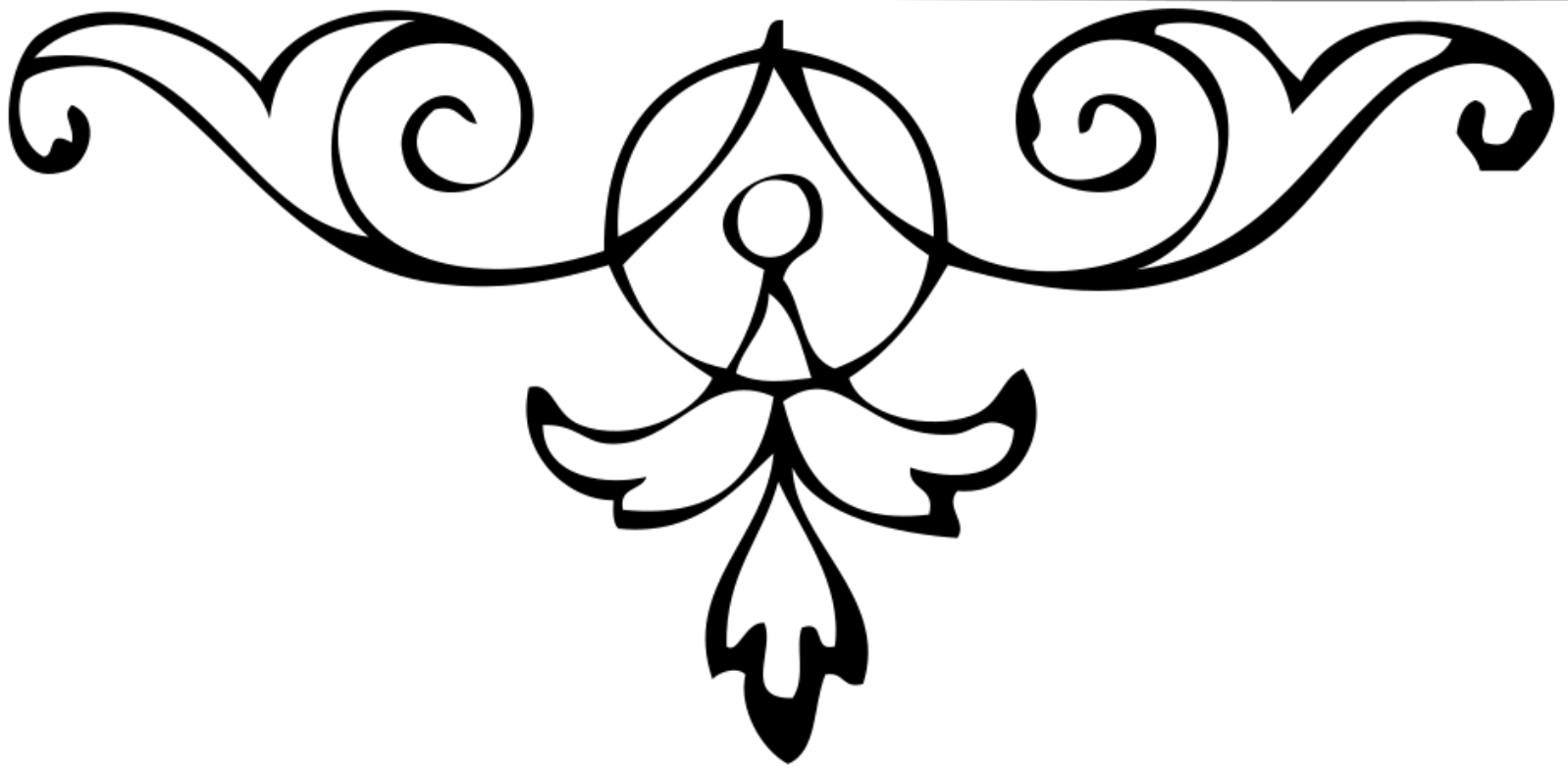


Response from Kakao Team



Source: Chosun Ilbo

“The service error occurred due to an unexpected fire at the data center. Our mission now as the leading corporation of Korea for messaging is to increase the stability of our system and construct more data centers. We will work hard to earn back the trust of people back”
- Kakao Corporations



Thank You

Mr. Cassinello
Mr. Brenneman
Ms. Choi
Student Council
All students

