



Back in good old mood

In recent years, “retro boom” has happened among people of the digital native generation, who grew up and became adults in the internet-friendly environment. “Showa retro” means one of the retro booms to long for the days from 1950s to 1960s.

One of the goods that symbolizes “Showa retro” is printed glassware. The Kugayama Times interviewed Mr. Kentaro Kawashima of Ishizuka Glass Co., Ltd., which is famous for their printed glass products. Glasses with familiar patterns such as flowers and animals became popular around 1955 but were discontinued for a while. However, on November 30th, 2018, the reproduced versions were released and supported by strong fans. With popular patterns, glasses used tempered glasses to make them hard to

crack. Sales had remained strong, but they have shot up since around last summer thanks to the retro trend.

Mr. Kawashima says that the reason for the Showa retro boom is that the digital native generation can enjoy the atmosphere of the good old days with retro patterns. Some people buy such glass products with nostalgia for the Showa, while those who were born after the Showa Era buy them because they are fascinated by the retro patterns. The concept of the Aderia retro series, their original product line, “nostalgic and new” expresses the desire to be accepted by all generations.

Maintaining the originality of the glassware in the 1950s and improving the product quality have led to the popularity among the young. It is not always the case that new things become in fashion, but old ones often make a



Photo by Mayo Tsukada

“Cream Soda Rose” and “Cream Soda Green” at der Koffer, a retro-style coffee shop, located in Azumabashi, Sumida-ku.

comeback and gain popularity again. Even with the passage of time, the goods people are attracted to will not change.

By Yura Yamagishi, Kanna Torigoe, Mayo Tsukada, Haruka Watanabe and Natsumi Goto

Edible insects save the world

Recently, edible insects have been attracting attention from the perspective of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). About 1900 kinds of edible insects are eaten all over the world. Crickets, grasshoppers, silkworms and caterpillars are some of the most popular insects for eating. The trigger was a thesis published by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2013, pertaining to the potential of entomophagy in the light of health, environment, society and livelihood. According to JMA Research Institute Inc, the global market for insect food is expected to expand to 7 billion yen in 2019 and 100 billion yen in 2025.

Entomophagy is high-protein, rich in vitamins and minerals. Dr. Yoshihito Iuchi, a professor in Yamaguchi University, said that eating edible insects can contribute to weight loss and having external skeletons of edible insects, which include dietary fiber, improves intestinal environment. Moreover, the intake of antibacterial substances



Photo by Haruna Yamazato

“Peperoncino of Kyoto cricket” at TAKE-NOKO Restaurant

help people to prolong their lives. According to Takahiro Kajikuri, CEO of Ellie Inc., a silkworm includes not only 62 kinds of nutrients, but also considerable amount of essential fatty acid called the omega 3, which is not included in other food very much.

Farming insects have a less environmental impact than livestock. Insects emit almost no methane, a type of greenhouse gas, which is said to be one of the causes of global warming. Insects can also be raised with food waste use and compost.

Insects can be bred in a small area and are relatively easy to collect, cook, produce and process, developing countries can produce entomophagy because the breeding is low in cost. Since Ecologie Inc. consign rearing crickets to farmers in Cambodia, it contributes local farmers to improve the standard of living.

Michiko Miura, a store manager of TAKE-NOKO, a physical shop of TAKEO points out that edible insects spread in foreign countries more quickly than in Japan. In Thailand people have eaten them on a daily basis. Thai government is promoting insect farming now. However, they are spreading in Japan because of the benefits they have. It will not be so long before there are insects on the table for granted.

By Haruna Yamazato, Sayaka Shishido, Koharu Niibori, Sarah Nakamura, Remi Fujikura, Marika Igarashi

Mubus moves community!

Community buses are spreading all over Japan as a means of transportation. It is smaller than a city bus and has a shape that makes it easy to make tight turns even on narrow roads. In addition, it runs in areas where bus transportation is unavailable or inconvenient, and the fare is cheaper than other buses. Nationwide 1058 municipal governments operate community bus services. The pioneer of the community bus, “Mubus”, runs in the city of Musashino in Tokyo. One of the motives that led to the introduction of *Mubus* was a letter from an elderly citizen, claiming that she could not ride a bicycle, drive or use a bus due to the distance to the bus stop, but that she still wanted to go shopping in the town. Musashino City Hall (MCH) had a hard time considering convenient routes for their citizens, and after the 7 years started *Mubus*. Both adults and



Photo by Musashino City Hall

Mubus has a fun design with the numbers from 0 to 9 in 10 colors, expressing the hope that people of all generations can easily ride the bus.

children can use *Mubus* for 100 yen. According to the survey conducted by MCH, the main reason for choosing the bus is its low fare.

However, *Mubus* is in deficit because of its inexpensiveness. MCH covers 60 million yen in the

red for citizens to make use of the economy bus.

Also, considering the walking distance of the elderly, the bus stops are stationed at 200m intervals. In addition, *Mubus* is barrier-free. Low-floor buses to eliminate steps at entrances, and

less slippery floors on rainy days have been installed.

Mubus is not only excellent in terms of convenience, but also contributes to local revitalization. *Mubus* has a bulletin board on the bus as a place to share information about the community. According to MCH, the introduction of *Mubus* has provided more opportunities for the elderly and others living in areas with inconvenient transportation to go out. This has made the city of Musashino even more vibrant. As a result, community buses widely spread to other local governments, and improved transportation convenience throughout the country.

By Renka Harada, Kinu Hattori,
Cocona Hori, Chieri Toba,
Kurara Harukawa

Railroad elevation expected to enhance QOL

Chitose-Karasuyama has many supermarkets, convenience stores and restaurants, and is a city bustling with people of all ages, from students to the elderly. “Chitose-Karasuyama has lots of shops so I can enjoy shopping.” said Yura Matsumoto, a college student who has kept using the station for a long time. “But the streets are so narrow that they need to become more spacious.” she added. Also, “The public transport is really good in Chitose-Karasuyama except the unopened railroad crossings. I sometimes waste my time waiting forever until the gate opens.” said Riho Takahashi, who has lived in the city for many years.

Chitose-karasuyama station which many Kugayama students use will be reborn as an attractive, lively city. Keio Corporation has embarked on the construction of elevated tracks on the Keio Line and rebuilding of stations. In this construction, a total of 7.2 km of elevated structure is planned from Sasazuka Station to Sengawa Station on the Keio Line. As a result, 25 railroad crossings will disappear, and 7 urban planning roads will be multiple levels. Removing the railroad crossings would not only reduce traffic

congestion and accidents but improve safety along the roads and the railroads. The improvement of the surrounding environment of the stations includes more barrier-free access and makes changing trains smooth. Escalators and elevators will be available at each station so that everyone will be able to use the stations comfortably in the future. According to the Keio corporation, the construction is currently expected to be completed by 2030.

The construction around Chitose-Karasuyama station is scheduled to begin in the fall this year. Accompanying the project, the Setagaya Ward is trying to realize a town where people can live comfortably with the newly completed station by cooperating with its residents, residents’ associations, companies and nonprofit organizations. The town development committee, which was established in December 2019, devised their ultimate goal called “Chito-Kara Machizukuri Design” this April. In order to achieve the goal, they are planning to secure safe walking space for everyone so as to promote the interaction between the people who live to the north and south of the station.



Photo by Rio Matsumoto

People waiting for the Karasuyama railroad crossing during the morning commuting hours.

Furthermore, they are trying to adopt the concept of universal design in the town development.

It is hoped that Chitose-Karasuyama will hopefully develop into a diverse city where residents, business owners, and visitors can feel at ease and live comfortably. The construction of

elevation also improves the quality of lives of the residents.

By Rio Matsumoto, Yuika Shimizu,
Akira Imai, Masahiko Adachi,
Asaha Minatoya

“My Bottle” eco-activity

Why doesn't the consumption of plastic bottles decrease overall? From the Graph1, the consumption of plastic bottles has increased in Japanese society. Although recycling of plastic bottles is progressing here, it is not 100% and some of them are discarded as trash. One of the ways to break this situation is through "My Bottle". If you use "My Bottle", you can take care of the environment.

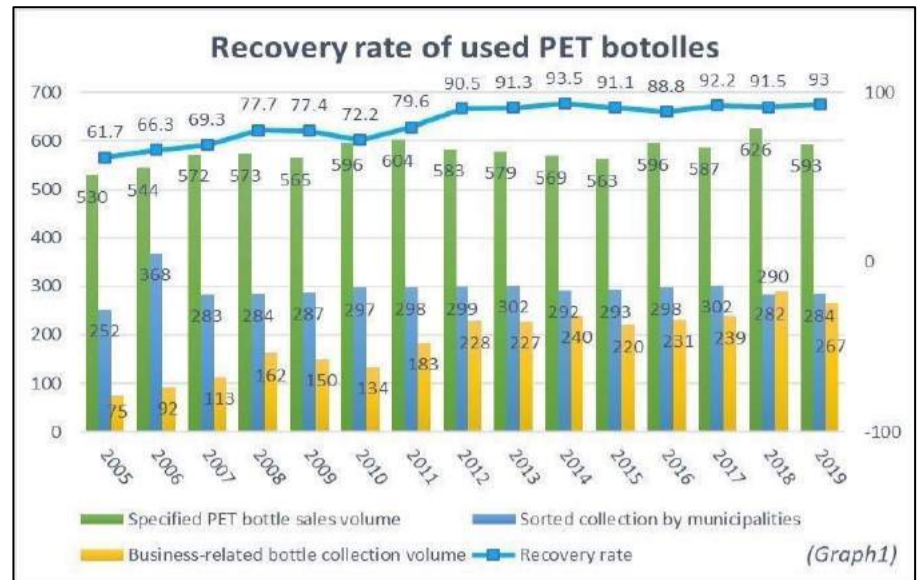
100 students from Kokugakuin Kugayama High School answered a questionnaire about "My Bottle". 64% of students uses their own bottles and replenish their own bottles with cold water from machines. The reasons for using the cold-water machine were that "It would not cost money." and that "It would be convenient to replenish immediately." The reasons for using vending machines were "I want to drink something other." and "It's easier to buy." In addition, not only students but also teachers use it in the school. Mr. Kurokawa, a chemistry teacher uses it to keep the environment clean, and when replenishing it, he uses the water supply at the science teacher's room. At

school where water can be replenished easily, people can in use "My Bottle" proactively.

So why is the use of "My Bottle" less widespread in society? Some companies do not see the excessive use of plastic bottles as a problem. At the workplace of a female office worker, an office worker, she says that she always brings her own plastic bottles with her, and when she runs out of bottled water, she buys water from a vending machine in the office because there are no cold-water machines. Even if workers bring "My Bottle", they cannot replenish them, which is a problem.

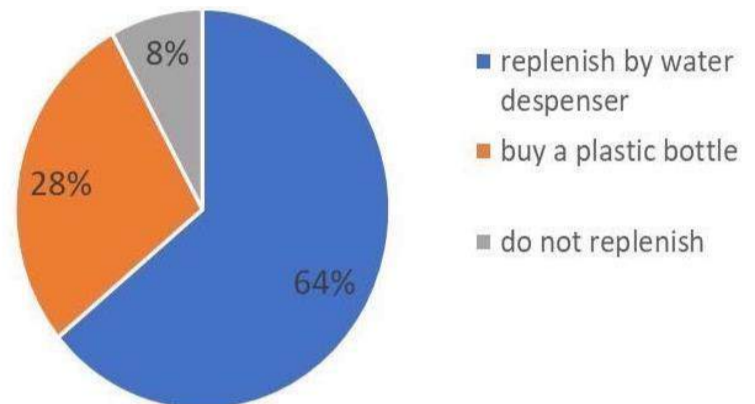
So, Amazon, one of the foreign capital companies in Japan, started a “My Bottle Project” by Team My Bottle in 2019. (This project is inactive now because of Covid-19.) Amazon has set up a place to replenish water in this company and launched a plan to discount 20 yen off the water than before by using "My Bottle". As a result, they could achieve decreasing the number of used plastic bottles. We launched a plan that if workers there use the cold-water machines, they can save 20 yen to get water.

In this way, individual



Original data from Japan Soft Drink Association by the Kugayama Times.

What do you do when the water bottle is empty?



(Answers from 100 students)

efforts will lead to a decrease the society as a whole. In order to reduce the number of plastic bottles that can become trash, it is important not only to recycle but also to work on things that can be done close to home.

By Nodoka Okada, Kaho Inagaki, Saho Kaneda, Towa Shinden, Yui Shimamura, Yura Kho, Hanin Go

Co-education? No, it's “Betsugaku”

Kokugakuin Kugayama Junior and Senior High School adopted a special system. It is called “Betsugaku”, which means that boys and girls take classes separately. In 1985, a girls-only class was established in the school, which had been a boys' school, and has continued ever since. In the school, boys and girls spend on the same campus but do not

share classroom and take classes separately. On the other hand, there are club activities in which boys and girls work together after school. There are many questions about Betsugaku because there are so few in Japan. Therefore, we conducted a fact-finding survey of our students.

First, with regard to club activities, 22 clubs of the 56 club activities, including the

soccer club and the dance club, are for boys or girls only. However, 34 clubs, including the brass band club and the badminton club, are welcome both boys and girls. In terms of the frequency of conversations between boys and girls in those club activities, more than half of them often talked as friends.

Then, we also surveyed students to find out what they thought about Betsugaku. Some students are negative about Betsugaku, claiming that there are teachers who are stricter on boys than girls, or that they have less interaction between boys and girls than expected. As positive opinions, it is easy to express feelings and concerns with other people of the same gender, and it is possible to maintain a moderate sense of distance between boys and girls. Hideaki Kunikiyo, the principal Kokugakuin Kugayama Junior and Senior High School, explains



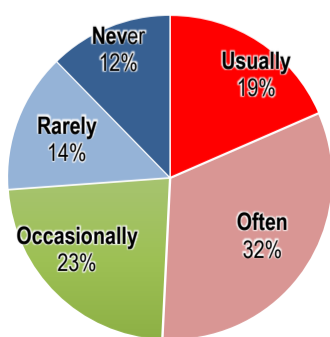
Kokugakuin Kugayama

Betsugaku is also featured on the poster to introduce the school.

why Betsugaku is being continued, “Giving adolescents learning guidance and lifestyle guidance that matches the characteristics of boys and girls are important for living in society in the future.”

By Mao Daicho, Ryota Yoshida, Rinno Asagami

Chart 1 Degree of interaction between boys and girls in club activity.



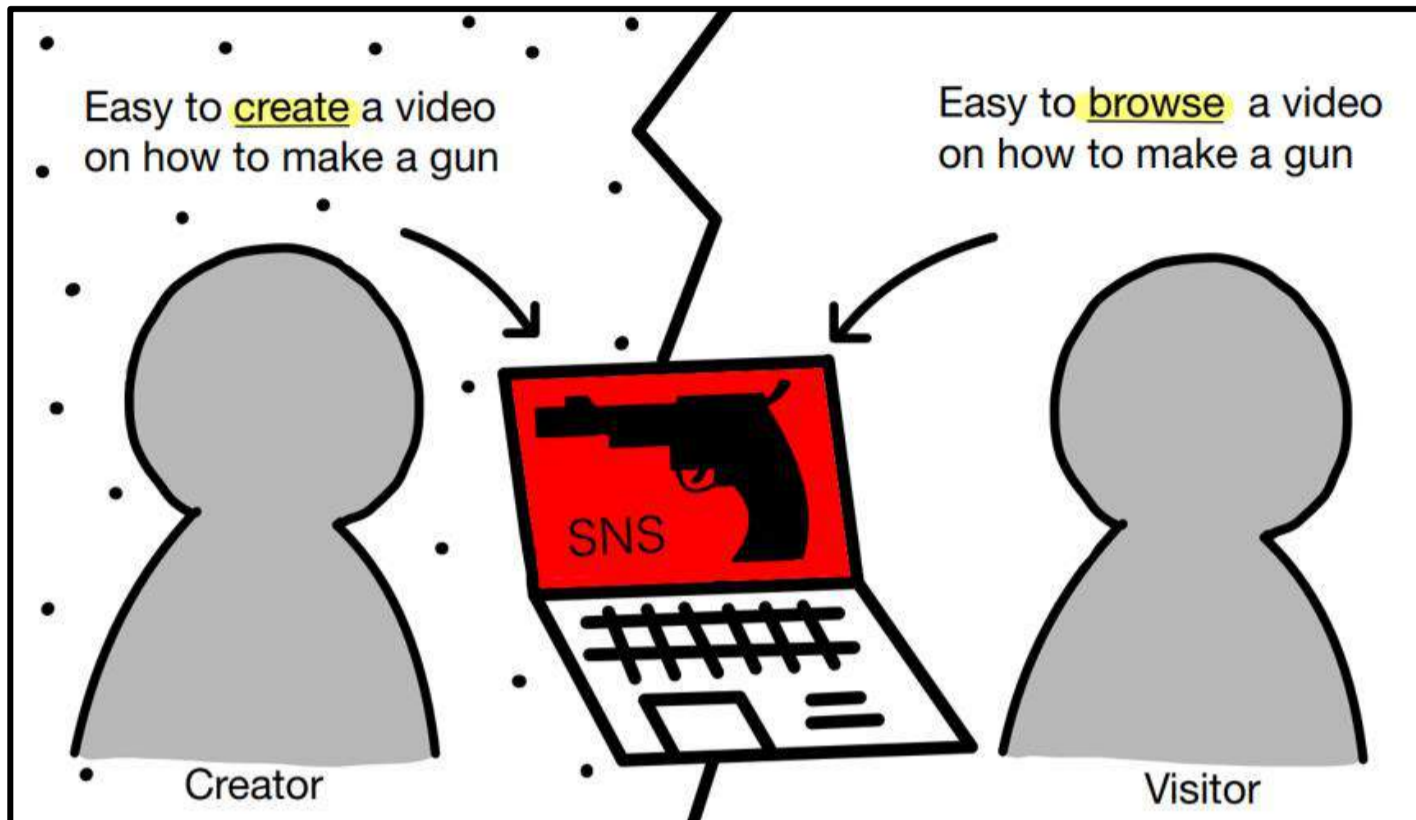
(Answers from 65 students)

Chart 2 How do students think about Betsugaku?



(Answers from 153 students)

Can handmade gun's information restricted?



The internet has made it easier to access information on how to make guns.

By Satomi Nagasaki, Yuina Komukai

Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated by Tetsuya Yamagami. The weapon was a gun which was made by Yamagami himself. He based on the Internet how to make a gun. The affair that happened in Japan, which has a low rate of gun crime, shocked the public.

One of the problems of this case is that people can easily search how to make guns. Is it the best for the society to allow to see web pages connecting crimes and the people driven to commit a crime can easily access?

A lot of information was posted on the Internet about how to make guns, bombs, and other weapons. In some cases, video-sharing sites

and social networking service providers have their own rules. They are prohibiting from posting such dangerous information, but they are not fully restricted. The Internet is not just for Japan, and it is difficult to crack down on information posted on services outside of Japan.

It is also a problem that it is not easy to restrict making videos of how to make guns. People are free to express their thoughts and beliefs without external restrictions, which are guaranteed by the Japanese Constitution, for freedom of expression is considered an essential element of democracy. Strictly speaking, the Constitution also stipulates that

restrictions may be imposed on expression that disturbs public order and morality, but the operation of these restrictions is extremely limited. There are only a few restrictions on discriminations or sexual expressions.

The Kugayama Times interviewed Hiroshi Unoura, Professor of Bunkyo Gakuin University, who is researching the society of the United States. According to him, in the United States there are 45,000 people died by guns in 2020. It means that 123 people per a day killed by guns.

According to National Police Agency, in Japan, only 4 people

were killed by a gun in 2020. Compared with the United States, Japan is the country which has a lower rate of gun crimes. Gun dangers in Japan are said to be one of the least countries because there are laws that strictly limit the possession of guns.

Similar to it restricts selling or having guns, if publishing the way of making guns is restricted, copycat criminal may be able to prevent. In reality, however, imposing restrictions on the creation and viewing gun-related videos have some complicated problems.

Tottori Prefecture has a precedent. It designated a book which was written on the way of making laser guns, as a danger. It restricts to see the information that directly connects the crime and Amazon.com, Inc. stopped selling the book to youth. This has caused a stir, as Amazon users outside the prefecture are no longer able to purchase the book. The publishers protested the validity of ordinance of one municipality regulating the entire Internet.

Like this, it seems that it is possible to limit to get information which is considered to be dangerous. However, the possibility of a criticism cannot be denied. How to deal with such a situation is emerging as an issue.

By Satomi Nagasaki, Yuina Komukai, Haruka Takahashi, Sakurako Nakatani, Akito Morimoto, Kenta Kiyohashi

Kugayama Times asked Professor Unoura about the gun situation in the United States. He said, "To be a gun society relates to one of the major military superpowers." The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the right to keep and bear arms. Guns are so closely associated with the States that there are gun shows and sales. According to Professor Unoura, gun rights and gun control are in a tug of war. If regulations are too strict, a certain number of gun supporters will sue. There are limits to restrictions on gun owners.

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