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PRE-CONFERENCE

THE CHEMUN CHATTER XVI



CHEMUN XVI
Cohesion and Divergence
November 4-6, 2022

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Welcome to CHEMUN XVI: Cohesion and Divergence

By the CHEMUN Secretariat

Striking a balance between cohesion and divergence has been one of humanity's greatest challenges throughout history. Without cohesion, how can we have unity? Yet without divergence, how can we celebrate our inherent diversity? Perplexingly, while both of these ideas oppose each other, they both are essential. It is therefore important to examine the nature of how **Cohesion and Divergence** manifest themselves in our daily lives — how can we, as a society, employ these concepts to find peace and harmony?

Globally, it is not hard to find forms of social inequality. But is it a result of cohesion, or divergence? Whether it be through gender, ethnicity, race, or sexual orientation, divergence among groups is certainly used as ammunition to discriminate. Equally, however, one may argue that the cohesion within groups of power and adherence to social hierarchies is the factor that creates division and sustains oppression.

Nonetheless, while both of these concepts work to perpetuate inequality, they both are crucial in attaining social justice. As opposed to a means to discriminate, the way in which groups diverge must be celebrated and appreciated. Instead of limiting cohesion to portions of the population, if cooperation existed in a more universal sense, we may arrive at a state of social equity.

The effects of this theme are not limited to social inequality, however. With technology, innovation globalizes and connects our communities, creating cohesion, and yet the differing levels of access to this technology create a divide. This perpetuates wealth inequality: as upper economic classes obtain more and more technology, the gap between them and the poor, who may not have as advanced technology, steepens. Evidently, technology intensifies divergence and cohesion, in ways good and bad.

Beyond inequality, this theme additionally materializes itself within political conflict. Boundaries, religion, and national divisions, forms of divergence, often contribute to wars and disputes, for instance. Yet without these distinctions, without divergence, it's likely we would lose the cultural identities of many communities. On the other hand, cohesion within groups of nations creates alliances, potentially escalating conflict to greater scales as seen with World War 2: agreements among the Allies and the Axis powers expanded the scope of the war. But if cohesion existed in a more global sense, where nations continually worked with one another and for one another, such a conflict would cease to exist.

Thus, it is not about if we are together or apart, but rather, it is about how. How are we divergent? How are we cohesive? And most importantly, how can we work together, as united nations, to employ these ideas to find peace?

Contemplating these questions and others, at CHEMUN XVI, delegates and student officers enjoy an opportunity to undergo debate and discourse on imperative issues. *It is our hope that this conference inspires its participants to make a mark on their communities, today's global issues, and ultimately, our future.*



The Influence of Ads

by Ahana Singh

Are all our decisions really our own? Or are we influenced by very targeted and purposeful ad campaigns orchestrated by psychologists? Marketing psychology is a very large and lucrative field that anticipates buyer behavior by understanding our cognitive biases and influences future behavior. Marketing campaigns can influence consumer behavior because they elicit reactions, utilizing imagery and word associations tied to emotional responses, as everyone has a different reaction to various things. Marketing campaigns bank on six universal principles to convince people to buy their products. Authority, scarcity, commitment, consistency, liking, and consensus. All these in conjunction impact our decision making by swaying us one way or another. In addition, only 8 % of ads are processed consciously; the rest is subconscious. You may not even notice how heavily these ads are influencing your ideas of what is considered "normal" and what is deemed acceptable by society.



Consensus is arguably one of the most important factors in persuasion. Consensus refers to the idea that if more people are doing something other people will too. It alludes to the human tendency to have a sheep mentality. An example of this would be the way that people tend towards bigger more reliable brands such as Nike or Adidas rather than a smaller brand that may even have a better product solely because they are widely known and people have achieved consensus on their quality. Furthermore, another large factor is the emotional quotient. Ads can prey on one's sense of nostalgia, anger, or even self esteem to promote consumerism. A great example of this would be the revival of Ray Bans after the release of Top Gun: Maverick. They were initially popular throughout the 1950s and 1960s but were brought back after the movie. Sales increased about 40% after the release. This is proof of how influential marketing through product placement in movies can be.

Ads sell more than products, they sell values and ideas. They have long term effects that we do not notice. Marketing has a more comprehensive impact on our minds and behavior than we think. The line between what we think we want and what marketing makes us want is more blurred than ever.



Movie Review: After Yang

By Sihyun Joo

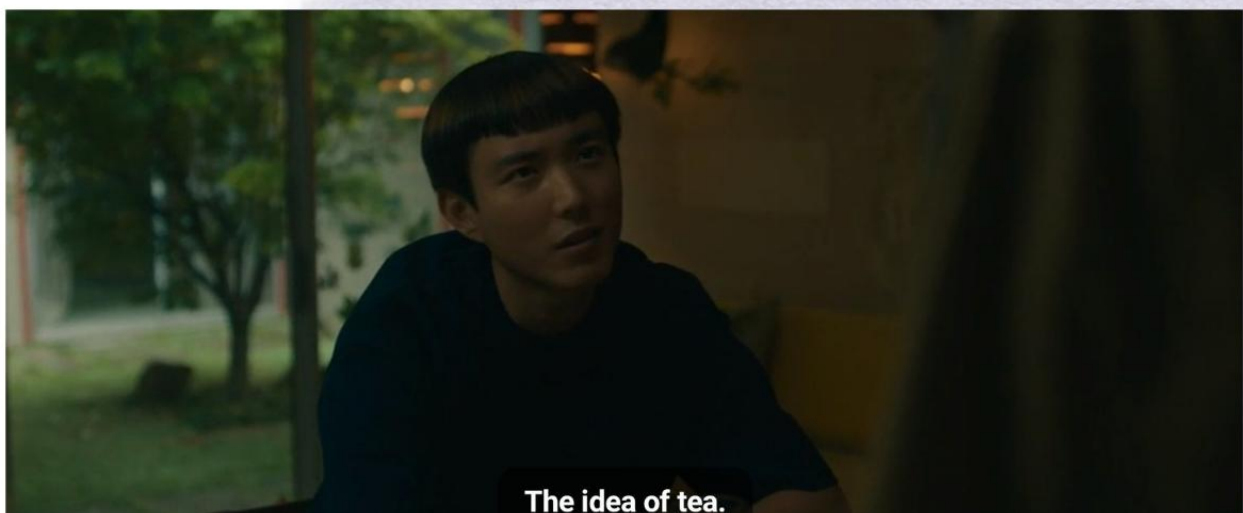
The movie After Yang is a beautiful story about memories that begin to delve into the memories of the Android human 'Yang.' The not-too-distant future depicted by After Yang is a society where Techno-Sapiens is common. Among Android's various purposes, 'Yang' is an intelligent body that is distributed to multi-ethnic and multicultural families and serves as a second sibling who wakes the home nations' heritage. Jake (Colin Farrell), who runs a tea shop, and Kira (Jodie Turner-Smith), who works as an office worker, also form a family with Chinese techno sapiens Yang (Justin H. Min) for their adopted Chinese daughter, Mika (Malea Emma Tjandrawidjaja). Like the title of Alexander Weinstein's novel, which is the basis of the movie, the film slowly observes the aftermath of "Saying Goodbye to Yang" suddenly reaching the family one day. Jake, who was traveling to a repair company, finds out that Yang has a hidden memory in his center and that there was a previous year for Yang as he was an old refurbished product.



"I like watching the way you make tea. It's very beautiful. The way the leaves bloom, and float, and fall. I wish I felt something deeper about tea."

In the movie, Android 'Yang' drinks tea with Jake, who makes and sells tea, and longs to have more in-depth memories of where and when it comes to tea. This is because Android 'Yang' wanted to comprehend the emotional sense and aesthetic beauty of making teas, not merely knowing teas. The term 'tea' is used in the film to refer to experiences about the world and oneself, as well as time and place, in addition to flavor. As a result, this memory is considered to be a crucial component in how humans understand and relate to the world's existence. I was personally interested in the scene where this significant object, 'Tea,' appears. Since Android 'Yang' is techno even when drinking tea, audiences can instantly hear the sound of water flowing through his metal body, allowing the audience to more intuitively feel the difference between human 'Jake' and Android 'Yang,' and soak up the sadness.

I believed that there was a lot in this film to explore and impact viewers' hearts. In addition to what is discussed, After Yang presents a number of implications, including the process of figuring out how to live as an Asian in American society and how sentiments about birth, life, and death are recorded not loss, enabling the viewers to feel the movie's lingering consequences.



Should the Monaco GP Stay on the Race Calendar?

By Felina Lange

The Monaco Grand Prix is one of the most prestigious and historical races in Formula 1 that has been raced since 1929. The Monaco GP's contract is ending this year, and its future is still uncertain. Fans wonder if it's still worth it to race at Monaco.



Monaco might be a significant, historic race, making it definitely outdated for the modern Formula 1 race cars. Nowadays, cars are up to 2 meters wide and 5 meters long, which is much larger than it used to be at the start of Formula 1's history. Street circuits are generally quite narrow, but this track is even narrower making overtakes nearly impossible, especially in the tight corners. Mistakes from drivers, which on other tracks might not be too big of a deal, can turn into heavy damage when occurring in Monaco. A good example of this is Mick Schumacher's (21) crash this season. His Haas split in two as he spun after coming out of the swimming pool chicane, his crash causing damage of nearly \$1 million for the American team. Schumacher wasn't the only one to crash in Monaco this season. At the end of qualifying, Sergio Perez (32) lost the rear of his Red Bull at the exit of the Portier corner and hit the barriers. Monaco is also one of the few tracks that only have one zone where DRS (drag reduction system) is available to drivers, so there are fewer overtaking chances than on most tracks.



Sure, Monaco has always brought in a lot of money for Formula 1 from the number of sponsors and guests that attend the famed Grand Prix, with a hosting fee of about \$15 million being paid to Formula 1, but compared to some of the other races, particularly the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, which bring in up to \$60 million dollars, the money Monaco has always contributed looks like a meager amount. The hosting fees provide Formula 1 revenue that they use as prize money for the teams and help fund their racing operations. Since Monaco's revenue isn't of much value anymore, it probably isn't worth racing there anymore and instead makes way for new races that bring in more money, like the new Miami Grand Prix, which will be raced from next year onwards.



In my opinion, the Monaco Grand Prix isn't worth being on the race calendar again, since it isn't interesting to watch anymore since the track is outdated and not as prestigious anymore. Instead, new tracks should be added to the calendar, or old ones that are more suitable for the current generation of F1 cars should return.

NEED A SNACK?

Try this recipe from [bakeplaysmile.com](https://www.bakeplaysmile.com) for 5 minute brownies!



Ingredients

- 150 g butter
- 275 g (1 ¼ cups) caster sugar see notes
- 75 g (¾ cup) cocoa powder
- 2 tsp vanilla extract or vanilla bean paste
- 3 eggs room temperature
- 75 g (½ cup) plain flour.

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 160 degrees celsius (fan-forced) and line a 20cm square tin with baking paper. Set aside.
- Place the butter into a microwave-safe bowl. Heat for 1 minute.
- Add the caster sugar and sifted cocoa powder and stir.
- Heat in the microwave on 30 second bursts (50% power) until sugar dissolved and ingredients combined - stirring each time.
- Add the vanilla extract and the eggs and whisk until combined.
- Sift the plain flour into the bowl and gently fold through.
- Pour the brownie mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 25-30 minutes or until cooked through.

CHEMUN WORD SEARCH

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