

The Argus

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How Much Do You Know?

Just like the Wizard of Oz
plays tricks with magic



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

Cover Story



How Much Do You Know?

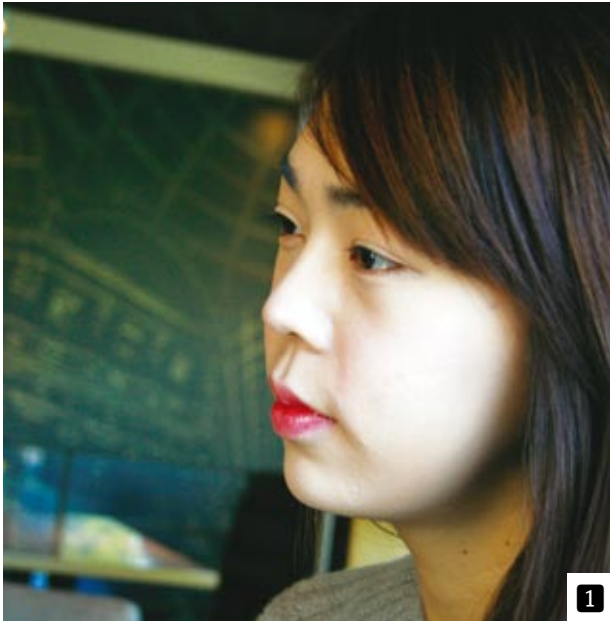
Economic status is getting better these days, and people start to open their wallet to purchase high-priced goods to show their identity through the goods. The cell-phone is the one of the goods. However, people barely know the function of cell-phone and are deceived by the company.

How much do you know the truth of cell-phone? The Argus revealed the truth.

C O N T E N T S

Departments

- **Campus**
 - Pandora's Box** 03
Possible Loss of Jagokdong
Site Jeopardizes Future Development
 - News Desk** 04
 - Cover Story** 14
Just Like the Wizard of Oz Plays
Tricks with Magic
 - Visiting** 18
Do You Have a Philosophy in Wit?
- **National**
 - In-depth Report on Nation** 06
Abandoned Culture Zone, Garden5
 - Reportage** 08
Suitable Punishment for Child Abusers?
 - People** 10
Queer as Folk
- **Culture**
 - Culture Insight** 24
Luxury Goods, Anyone?
 - Lives** 26
Korea's First Transgender Supermodel
 - Review** 28
Carnality, the Shadow behind Humanity
 - Overview** 30
Make Seoul a Pleasant Place to Live,
Just Not to Visit
- **Theory & Critique**
 - T&C Tower** 20
The Challenges of Pioneering Space
 - Digest & Focus** 22
Human Rights in Neo-Liberal Society
- **Miscellany**
 - Editorial** 02
Gov't Must Protect Free Speech
 - Door 19** 13
Thank You, for All You've Done for Me
 - Letter to The Argus** 31
Review on The Argus



1 Lives - Choi Han-bit, South Korea's first transsexual super model, works to overcome ingrained social prejudices.

2 Digest & Focus - What is the meaning of human rights in modern society? An activist who has fought for over 20 years to protect the rights of others gives readers the opportunity to think about this question.



The Argus

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Golden Saying | Editor-in-Chief

To live anywhere in the world against equality is like living in Alaska against snow.

— Nobel Prize winning American author William Faulkner

The South Korean government arrested and detained Nepalese migrant worker and activist Minod Moktan early last month, deporting him back to his native Nepal on Oct. 23 some 18 years after he first arrived in the country. Minod, or Minu as he is known in Korean, arrived in South Korea and 1992, when he began work at a sewing factory in the city of Uijeongbu just north of Seoul. He soon thereafter became involved in campaigns to improve conditions for the nation's growing migrant labor force, including the making of a film documenting their difficulties, drives to protest government crackdowns on migrant laborers and a music band to enhance the lives of his fellow immigrants. His arrest has led to growing public criticism over the government's migrant worker policy. Since the inauguration of the Lee Myung-bak administration early last year, the number of deported migrant workers has reached over 32,000, higher than the 20,000 deported under the previous Roh Moo-hyun administration. Faulkner's saying casts the government's policy in a disturbing light, and should arouse in the public a sense that the country must move to rid itself of such racist tendencies.

Gov't Must Protect Free Speech

Son Seok-hee, popular host of the late night MBC news program “100 Minute Debate,” announced on Oct. 22 that he was leaving the show. His decision follows the departures of Kim Je-dong from a KBS 2TV program he had been with for the past four years and Yoon Do-hyun from a music program with the same broadcaster.


The managements of the MBC and KBS networks insist there are rational reasons behind the departures of these three figures. KBS has claimed that Kim’s replacement by comedian Ji Seok-jin was prompted by a desire to reform the show’s content, while Yoon was let go because of his high salary, which made him too expensive for the show. MBC, meanwhile, says Son’s high salary was also the reason for his departure.

Despite the broadcasters’ claims, each of the three celebrities shared one thing in common. Son, Kim and Yoon were all friendly with the former administration of late President Roh Moo-hyun, while each was equally as uncomfortable with the current government.

During funeral ceremonies for Roh, both Kim and Yoon led the public in expressing their grief over Roh’s tragic suicide, which many linked to a government-led corruption probe. All three also took part in candlelight rallies last summer denouncing the Lee Myung-bak administration for its decision to resume imports of U.S. beef.

The abrupt departure of these popular TV personalities has led to speculation, given the backdrop of their political leanings, that the current government exercised some influence in the network’s decisions to push them out. Whether this is in fact the case or not, the network’s claims have not assuaged people’s suspicions.

There is widespread opinion that the current government actively suppresses political opposition. To allay such fears, the government must come out publicly in support of free speech and must show that it is willing to hear voices of political dissent. When American filmmaker Michael Moore released “Fahrenheit 9/11,” which condemned the Bush administration for its decision to go to war in Iraq, there was no talk of suppressing the film.

A healthy society requires that its leaders are willing to listen to an array of opinions. The future of the nation will be bright only when its leaders display this kind of courage and wisdom. 

Editor-in-Chief
Park Hyun-chul



Possible Loss of Jagokdong Site Jeopardizes Future Development

By Lee Jin-woo
Editorial Consultant

The HUFS General Student Council (GSC) sent a text message to all students on Oct. 14, informing them that a government housing project that encroaches on land held by the University could pose a problem for its future development.

Describing the Jagokdong site located in Seoul's Gangnam Ward as significant for the University, the GSC raised the issue at the second annual student meeting.

Almost all students at HUFS are aware of the higher tuitions that have been imposed, coupled with a reduction in space at the Seoul campus, which hampers the school's long-term development. In this regard, it was expected that utilization of the vast area available at the Jagokdong site would contribute toward the growth of HUFS and allow it to meet the needs of its students.


However, the government has designated the University's land as part of an area where affordable houses for low-income families will be built. The measure will likely cause the University to lose a third of the Jagokdong land, which has not been utilized.

This issue was on the table as the final agenda item during the students' conference. The GSC explained the details of the decision by the government and stressed that the school should take the issue under consideration.

Students present at the meeting, organized by the GSC and held on Oct. 14, adopted a resolution calling for the school's retention of the land in question and for the establishment of a special committee to deal with the issue,

HUFS's involvement with the Jagokdong site first emerged in the 1990s, when the school launched a probe into corruption allegations involving foundation members. Since then, the site has been seen as central to the future of HUFS despite the fact that it has been designated a greenbelt zone, which severely restricts development on the land.

If such restrictions are lifted, the site's location in the affluent Gangnam Ward would provide HUFS with an invaluable opportunity that would allow it to stand out among the other major universities here. The Jagokdong site is located just minutes from the No.3 subway line and a 15 minute walk from the Bundang line.

The greatest weaknesses of HUFS are its high tuition costs and the limited size of its Seoul campus, despite its land holdings in Jagokdong. The university must assert itself on this issue to ensure that the needs and interests of HUFSans are met. The school's future lies in its taking a stand on this issue. 

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Health Service Holds Lecture on Maintaining a Sound Mind

Mental health experts gathered at HUFS on Oct. 9 to deliver a lecture under the auspices of Seoul Mental Health Center (SMHC) on maintaining mental health.

SMHC, which works to provide early treatment of mental diseases among Seoul residents, has recently stepped up efforts to promote its “Touch Friends” campaign, which aims to enhance understanding of mental illness and related treatments among the city’s 20-something population. Launched in 2007, the drive has involved various events such as a Free Hugs campaign and marches by university students.

“It is relatively easy to treat or prevent mental illness for people in their 20s,” said Cho Yu-seon, a social worker

with SMHC. “However, it is important because the longer an illness progresses, the harder it is to treat the disease. This campaign is meant to inform students of how important it is to detect these signs and treat illnesses in advance.”

The lecture at the Seoul campus of HUFS was held at Aekyung hall in the International Building.


Shin Dong-geun, a neurologist at Yong-in Mental Hospital, delivered a speech about the relationship of mental illness and artistic expression. He discussed the basic concepts and symptoms of schizophrenia and melancholia, describing the works of French sculptor Camille Claudel, who suffered from the former disease, and Michelangelo Buonarroti, an Italian painter and



Jang Ho-jun / The Argus

actresses from the Korea Association of Drama Therapy perform a skit about a typical case of schizophrenia.

sculptor diagnosed with melancholia, or what is more commonly known today as depression.

Performers with the Korea Association of Drama Therapy then performed a play illustrating signs of schizophrenia and melancholia. 

By Jang Ho-jun

HUFSans Offer to Help Indonesian Earthquake Victims

A group of students from the Department of Malay-Indonesian raised some 2 million won during charity events held for victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Indonesia in September.

The two events, a three-day bazaar and a five-day fund-raiser, ran from Oct. 12-16 at the Seoul campus’s College of Law. All proceeds from the events went to support victims of the quake.

“The earthquake claimed thousands of lives while countless people are still missing. This calamity spurred our professor to gather the department’s student president and respective representatives to organize an event to help these people,” said freshman Lee

Hyeon-ju, a student representative from the department.

The department held a similar event after Indonesia was struck by a tsunami that claimed tens of thousands of lives in 2004. The funds collected from the latest events will be used to provide shelter, food, and medical aid in the hopes of helping victims rebuild their shattered lives.


Professors and students from the department will also be making individual donations to supplement the total proceeds.

“I think the event is so much more significant because students are showing so much interest in matters that are occurring outside our country, and even



Dept. of Malay-Indonesian

Faculty members and students from the Department of Malay-Indonesian pose for a photo on Oct. 12 to promote a fund-raising drive for Indonesian earthquake victims.

more so because they have this sense of love and responsibility for a country whose language they are majoring in,” said English linguistics major Jeong Sun-hoa. 

By Lee Yeong-eun

HUFS Alumnus Gives Lecture on Practical Tips for Interpretation

HUFS alumnus and expert interpreter Yoon Kang-ro stressed the importance of mastering a mother tongue as well as a variety of English accents when honing interpretation skills during a special lecture at the Seoul campus on Nov. 3.

A graduate of the Department of English Linguistics who has worked as a simultaneous interpreter for years, Yoon spoke to a gathering of aspiring interpreters mostly from the College of English.

“Interpreters must be proficient in their mother tongues. If an interpreter is poor at his or her mother tongue, an accurate interpretation that captures the original meaning is almost impossible,” Yoon said during the lecture organized by the college’s general student council.

“Words originating from Chinese make up a very large portion of the Korean vocabulary, therefore interpreters must be adept at using Chinese character-based words,” Yoon said.

He also stressed that there were multiple ways of speaking English, from the accents found in Britain and America to the English spoken in India



Yoon Kang-ro, a HUFS alumnus, gives a special lecture at the Seoul Campus on Nov. 3 on how to improve interpreting skills.

or Singapore, noting that an interpreter “should be on alert not to be confused by diverse accents and meanings of words of English.”

Kim Jong-heon, a freshman attending the lecture, said he was “very impressed” by Yoon’s enthusiasm and described the lecture as “very interesting.”

Yoon also discussed his work with various international sports bodies, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Korean

Olympic Committee (KOC).

He studied English-French interpretation at Graduate School of Interpretation and Translation after completing his undergraduate degree in 1980.

Yoon’s lecture was part of a series of talks organized by the general student council of the College of English aimed at introducing HUFS alumni to current students. 📷

By Lee Kyeong-eun

A brief profile of **Yoon Kang-ro**

- Born on May 18, 1956
- Graduated from HUFS, majoring in English linguistics
- A member of the IOC evaluation commission for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing
- The Asian Games chief coordinator for the Olympic Council of Asia
- The KOC deputy secretary general
- The secretary general of the 2010 and 2014 PyeongChang Olympic Winter Games bid committee





Suitable Punishment for Child Abusers?

By **Kim Jun-kyu**

Reporter for the National Section

Horrible facts involving crimes against children in Korea have recently come to light. In December of 2008, Cho Du-sun, 57, beat an 8-year-old girl unconscious before sexually mutilating her body. The resulting injuries left the young girl with permanent scars and a loss of some 80 percent of her internal organs, including her anus and colon. She will wear a bag attached to her stomach for the rest of her life, while her attacker received a mere 12-year sentence, the punishment made more lenient in light of the fact that Jo was drunk during the time of the attack.

Koreans were appalled by Jo's attack and even more so by the light punishment he received. Many joined a campaign aimed at convincing the government to impose harsher punishments for criminals who prey on young children. "Sexual abuse of children is murder and attackers must be sentenced to the maximum penalty allowable under law," read the campaign slogan. More than 90,000 people signed the petition. Below is an analysis of the issue from a legal perspective.

Laws regarding sexual abuse

There are currently five categories that cover laws regarding sexual abuse of children. The first involves rape of children below 13 years of age, while the second deals with the insertion of an adult's sexual organ or any other object into

the mouth or anus of a young child. The third involves assault against a minor, while the fourth deals with threats against children. The fifth deals with acts of adultery committed with a minor or other lewd behavior involving children.

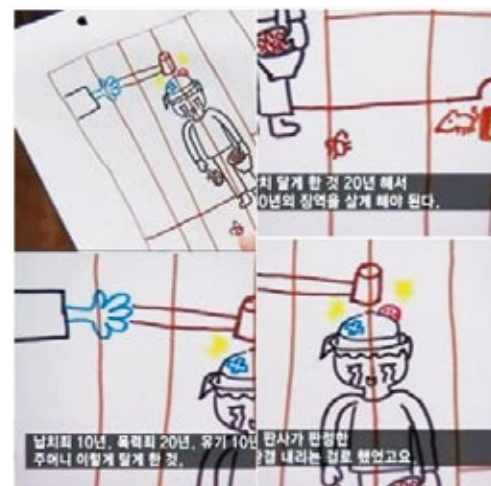
Criminal in the first category face a minimum of seven years in prison, while those in the second category can be sentenced to a minimum of five years. For the final three categories, violators can either spend three years in prison or pay a 10 to 30 million won fine to the victim.

Current trends in sexual abuse cases

Analyzing recent judgments against sexual offenders, nine out of 10 judges tend to lighten the punishment even after extenuating circumstances are brought to light. While the Supreme Court ordered that investigations be conducted into sexual crimes against children in July 2008 in order to stiffen punishments, many judges have continued to hand down light sentences that often involve simple probation.

According to data collected by assembly member Park Min-sik, 10 affiliated courts under the High Court of Seoul handed down 55 simple probations out of a total of 95 cases involving convicted sex offenders, or a total of 52.4 percent. This figure demonstrates that court decisions are far from being in line with what the public is demanding.

In one example, the District Court of Seoul sentenced a man convicted of raping a woman and later trying to rape a young girl to probation, only because the man said that he regretted his actions and that he had reached financial agreements with the woman and the girl. In the District Court in Suwon, a



A drawing from the sexually abused child shows her wish to sentence heavy punishment to the offender.

man who tried to rape a girl with a knife was only sentenced to three years probation because the man was drunk at the time.

Similar confessions of drunkenness have lightened the punishments for 18.9 percent of those convicted of sex abuse. In 10 out of the 95 cases cited, an examination of the victim was not allowed in court, which means that in only 85 of these cases was an examination of the victim even considered. In 63 cases the punishment was lightened, even after examination of the victims. Currently, this is how the law operates in Korea concerning sexual crimes.

An advanced country?

Other countries handle the sexual abuse of children quite differently. In the U.S., a system known as Megan's Law requires that authorities inform a neighborhood when a known child abuser has been released from prison. In 2007, a two-strike system was upheld that legally isolates criminals who have been convicted twice of child abuse. In Texas, bulletin boards are placed in front of a criminal's house that read, "Danger. A criminal convicted of sexual abuse lives here." Stickers with the same meaning are attached to their cars. In Louisiana, Texas and California there are laws legalizing castration through chemistry.

In Poland, laws allowing castration using chemistry apply to criminals who have been convicted of sexual abuse against children. In China, having sexual relations with a child under 14 automatically draws a death sentence. The United Kingdom enacted a law sentencing to life in prison

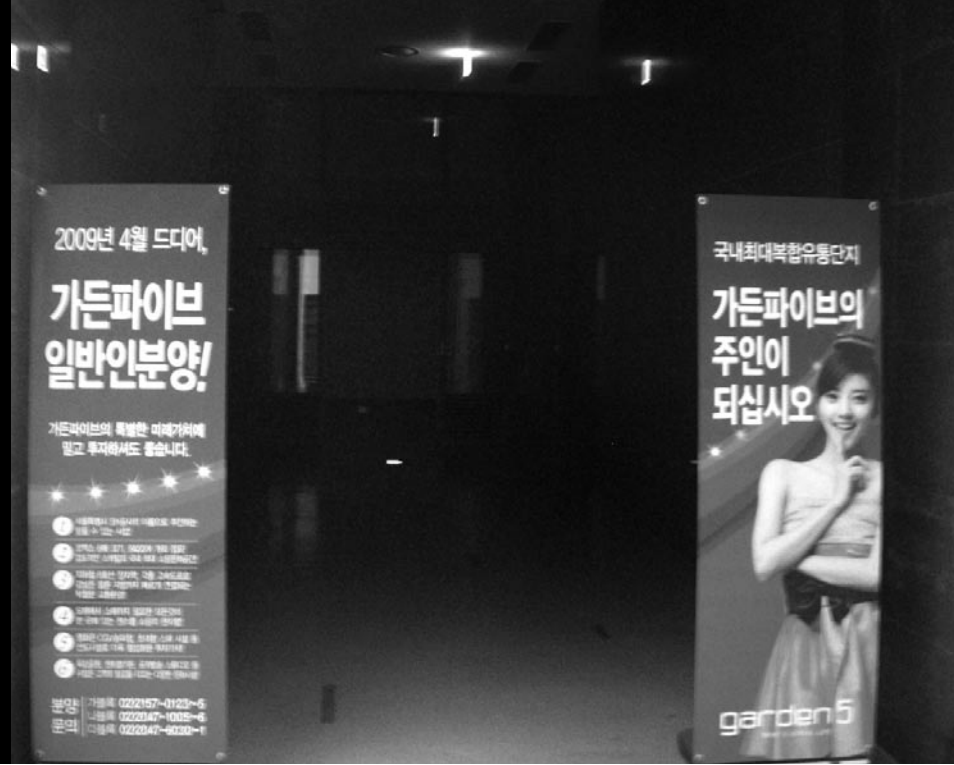
those convicted of sexually abusing a child younger than 13. Criminals must let the police know where they live, and the police then pass this information on to the schools. Germany requires that criminals have their information posted publicly for a fixed period of time, while those convicted twice have their DNA entered into a database. The Swiss have enacted a law to isolate dangerous people from the rest of society.

Korea, unlike these other countries, is the only one that actually lightens punishments for sex offenders, even showing greater leniency in cases where the criminal was drunk at the time of the attack. Considering that other advanced countries make punishments more severe when the attacker is drunk, this just does not seem right.

The Korean government recently started a system of electronic tagging of sexual predators though so far it has not had much effect. The numbers of closed-circuit televisions are going to be increased and information about sex offenders will be opened to the public, while guardians will be appointed to protect children on their way to and from school. The Sunflower Children's Center, the nation's only center dedicated to helping children who have been the victims of sexual abuse, said, "We will use special consultants to help and prevent damage to the children." ☞

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Abandoned Culture Zone, Garden5



By **Kim Jun-kyu**

Reporter of National Section

The opening of Korea's largest shopping mall, Garden5, has been delayed because many of the shops have yet to be purchased by merchants. When the Seoul government made plans for the renovation of Cheonggye stream in the center of the city, merchants and residents in the area were promised a space in Garden5.

But due to the unforeseen expenses involved in the Garden5 project, as well as to its limited space, the government has yet to make good on its promise. The result is that many of the people who made room for the restoration of the urban stream have now been left hopeless, while work on Garden5, billed as Asia's largest shopping mall, has gone to waste.



▲ Empty building



Empty spaces

The biggest dispute over the Garden5 project involves terms put forward by the government as reparation for those displaced by the restoration of the Cheonggye stream. The problem has led to serious delays in the opening of the mall, originally scheduled for last December and later moved to April of this year. A new target date was set for September, and then again pushed forward to February of 2010. So while construction has been completed, the shops remain empty and the place deserted.



◀ A garden5 advertisement over the iron-barred gates

▶ Everything is empty in the Garden5



▶ Few people using the facilities



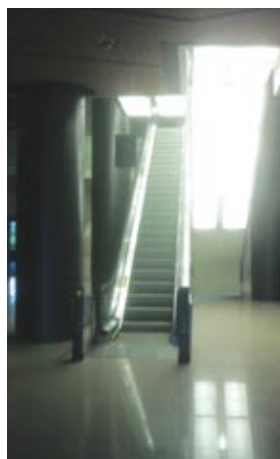
Few users

The only facilities the visitors can use are the wedding hall, the spa and the CGV cinema. These three facilities are in good condition, but only a few people use them. Garden5 is composed of three main areas: a specialized retail area, a distribution area, and an activity area. The only facilities that are being used, however, are in the specialized area. The spa and the wedding hall are in the activity zone and do not have many costumers even on weekends. Meanwhile, the CGV cinema is located

far away from the other two facilities. Very few people go to the CGV, even on weekends.

Waste of energy

The benefits of the Garden5 project are far outweighed by its demerits. The project is of no real use and is therefore a waste of energy. The organization of the area is inconvenient, with facilities far too spread out from one another. Escalators run and lights shine on a deserted area locked



▲ An escalator running for no one

behind closed doors, while empty elevators display slogans promoting Garden5. The whole project is an enormous waste of valuable resources.

Completed?

One of the most peculiar things about the Garden5 project is that it is not completely finished. To earn the 'Biggest in Asia' title, Garden5 was connected to the underground. Danger signs are all over the place, with sand and dirt and construction materials lying all around. Next to the water fountain and not far from the CGV, an empty phone booth stands, its square frame not yet fixed to the ground on which it rests.



▲ Garden5 is not complete in build

Despite being billed in TV advertisements as the biggest culture zone in Asia, Garden5 is not ready for people to enjoy. Like the clean eight-lane road in front of the store area, it is not being used by people. In order to function as a great shopping mall and the culture zone that it was intended as, lingering disagreements between the government and those promised spaces in the mall should be resolved before the entire plan proves to be a huge waste of money. 🇰🇷

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Queer as Folk

By Hwang Jung-hyun
Editor of Culture Section

What would it be like if a lesbian ran for the National Assembly of South Korea? Do you think she'd have a chance to win? Most people would consider that impossible and reckless. They'd also be worried about possible attacks on her political party from violent homophobes. Surprisingly, though, just such a scenario emerged when Choi Hyeon-suk ran for the National Assembly in 2008. Her campaign garnered a lot of public attention.

The positive attention was totally unexpected as fellow campaigners had worried that her candidacy would put their party in an awkward position. Hot as it was, the attention was short-lived. No homophobes came forward, which had nothing

to do with Koreans' permissiveness toward gays. Koreans are little interested in homosexuals. They don't know about them and don't want to know about them. Talk of Choi's sexual orientation, like that of Hong Suk-cheon, the country's first openly-gay celebrity, was dismissed as gossip.

Politically, the episodes of Choi and Hong were non-issues. Although the lesbian movement surfaced here about 10 years ago, popular attitudes remain unchanged while public attention is virtually absent. As such, The Argus went looking for stories of lesbians who are doubly oppressed by Korea's traditional patriarchal and heterosexual-oriented society. As the first group in the country to push for greater equality for lesbians, the Lesbian Counseling Center in South Korea is still actively fighting discrimination and trying to facilitate greater communicate with society at large.

Ya-reung and Seon-eui are two representatives from the group. The Argus had an opportunity to sit with them and hear their views on the struggles lesbians in South Korea continue to face and what their group is doing to address these challenges.

Argus: *Your organization split from Chodonghoe, the first Korean gay-lesbian rights association. You then changed your name from Kkirikkiri to Lesbian Counseling Center in South Korea. It looks like you've gone through a lot of changes. How did the center get started?*

Ya-reung: In the early 1990's, a group of foreigners in Korea formed a lesbian association called Sappho. Then they got together with some gay males and formed Chodonghoe. At first, their focus was on AIDS and safe sex at a time when Korean society understood very little about gay sexuality. In fact, Koreans believe that sex between

gay males is filthy, associating it with AIDS. But the movement in question was all about gay males. Lesbians were a different matter altogether. So we split from Chodonghoe and called ourselves Kkirikkiri.

At first we wanted to let people know there was such a thing as a gay female. We wanted to be recognized. Back then, people only knew about gay males in terms of homosexuality. Also, we focused on correcting popular misconceptions of gay people. However, we felt that we could be of greater help to lesbians by offering counseling rather than by trying to correct public misconceptions. That's where we got the name LCCSK. What we are doing now is raising the confidence level among lesbians and helping them to know who they are.

Argus: *I have heard that sexual minorities in Korea aren't really in touch with one another either socially or ideologically. In Korea, homosexual clubs open to both males and females are few in number. There are only lesbian clubs or gay male clubs as far as I am aware. What do you think about this situation? What is the reason for this?*

Ya-reung: People regard homosexual issues as all the same. But gays, lesbians, trans-genders, and a-sexual people are quite different if you look closely. How we feel about ourselves and society varies. So the values or aims differ among sexual minorities. For example, many homosexuals feel uncomfortable about interacting with the heterosexual world. However, some trans-genders embrace heterosexual values. Actually some of them try very hard to gain social acceptance by changing genders.

Seon-eui: Furthermore, the aims or methods of pushing for greater equality



also vary even among lesbians. Some lesbian organizations don't care about counseling. They prefer campaigns or demonstrations. Their political tastes are also different. Some NGOs actively associate with progressive parties while others don't. So, my question is, "Why should homosexuals unite?"

Ya-reung: For what reason? Maybe that kind of attitude is the answer.

Seon-eui: Just kidding. Of course, it's a nice thing to associate and I hope there can be more chances to get to know each other.

Argus: *"Fight the patriarchal, male-dominated, heterosexual society." That's the motto on your webpage. It's clear that lesbians are still discriminated against in society. Can you give us some details?*

Ya-reung: For teenagers, discrimination at school is serious. Inspection of lesbians is actually conducted nationwide. When a girl sports a crew cut or a tomboy look, teachers regard them as peculiar, abnormal. Her peers also become suspicious. Also, when a school learns that one of its students is gay, teachers attempt to convert them into becoming heterosexual.

One's teenage years are an important period for discovering one's identity.



The suppressive social milieu makes lesbian teenagers feel miserable and thus they try to deny who they are. Some of them injure themselves in order to avoid coming to class. The fear of isolation and self-denial is serious and poses a very serious mental blow to these kids.

The situation is not very different for adult lesbians either. They experience discrimination at work, and are sometimes too scared to come out because we often get dismissed due to our sexual orientation. Many of us get threatening letters or experience sexual harassment. We get fleeced at times for money too. And our problems do not stop at home. Our parents try to force us into a heterosexual marriage and some lesbians do marry a male just to win social approval.

Seon-eui: Also, our masculine appearance is often another object of frequent discrimination. People always ask us why we don't dress like a woman and they even tell us how to dress. But that's how we are. Our identity is denied like this in everyday life. These little things may seem trivial but it does affect us a lot, doing damage to our sense of self-esteem.

Argus: *The issue of self-denial is a major concern. What kind of activities are you involved in that help the lesbian community deal with this?*

Ya-reung: With respect to our counseling center, we advise our clients to come out or search for their identity. Also, when there is an incident involving sexual harassment or blackmail, we

help them find legal solutions. Most lesbians tend to solve their problems by themselves because that's how they have lived in this heterosexual world. Many don't really even know about the existence of a lesbian center.

We also provide an educational program on lesbian identity. Surprisingly, many homosexuals happen to have homophobic tendencies because Korean society teaches that being heterosexual is the only right way to be. We want lesbians to be proud of themselves and ask for help when they encounter a problem.

We are also going to publish a book based on research and interviews we have done since 1994. We teach at various organizations to help counter away social prejudice and we are working on ways to have the term "lesbian" added to the declaration of human rights, which still does not recognize homosexuals. So when a legal issue arises, lesbians are put at a disadvantage. We want to correct the law so that more lesbians can be treated in an open and above-the-board manner.

We have also been monitoring press articles about homosexuals, many of which contain distorted views about lesbians. We try to take our issues to the court but usually to no avail. Monitored reports will be distributed to media organizations and

governments. We also hold a "queer parade" once a year and we hold conferences with other entities representing oppressed minorities.

Argus: *Tell us what you hope to achieve in the future.*

Ya-reung: We once conducted research on issues involving teenage lesbians. We know that many of them are seriously oppressed and suffer in school, so we wanted to conduct research on how schools fuel this discrimination and how it affects these girls. We thought such information would be helpful when consulting with education officials or trying to address government policy. But the most important reason for the project was to help improve the self-identity of teenage lesbians. In the end we had to stop the project because of financial difficulties. Its scale was too large for us and it required large expenses. When our financial circumstances improve, we certainly will restart the project.



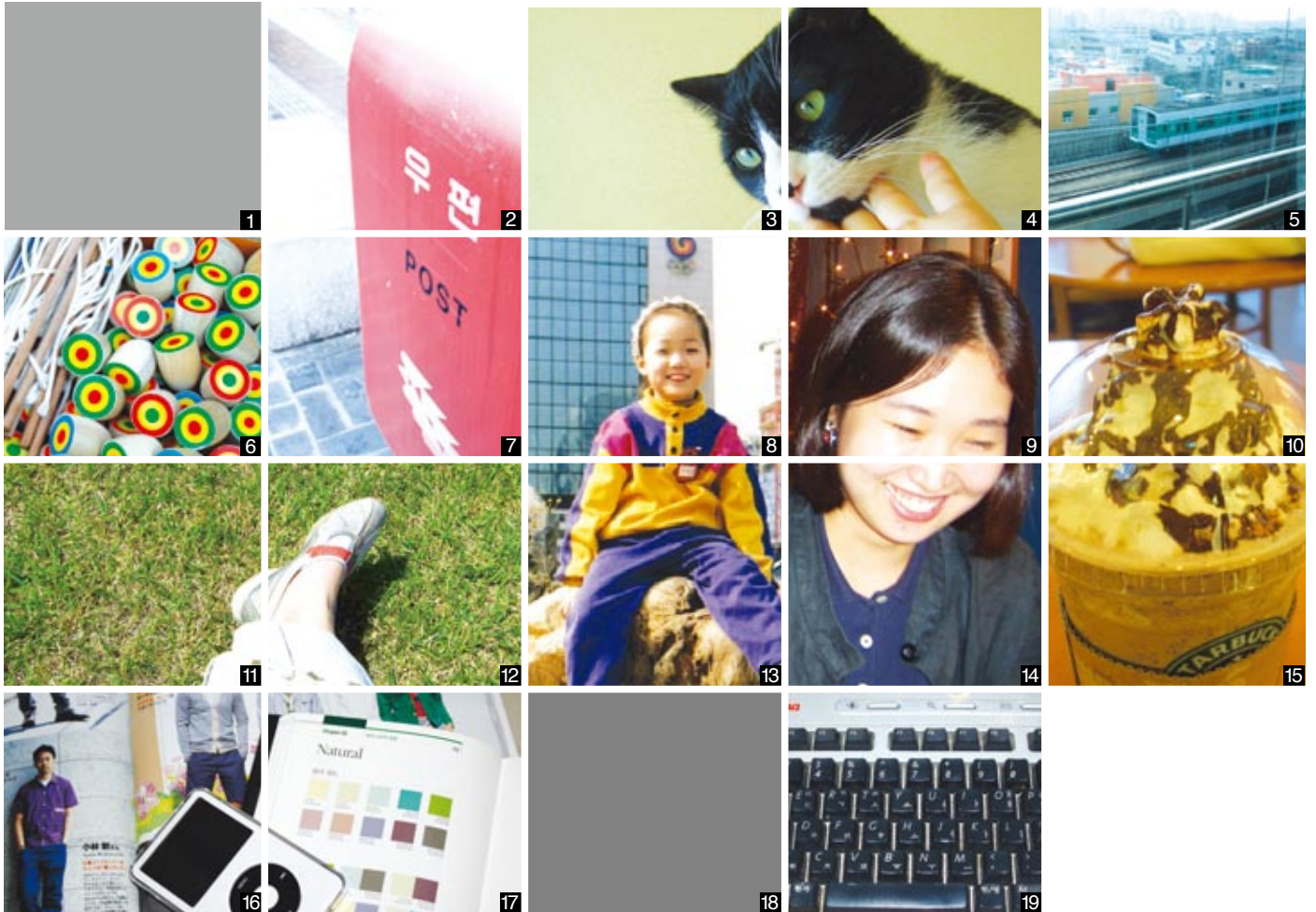
Argus: *Any word for gay students at HUFS?*

Seon-eui: Be proud of who you are. Many young gay people feel intimidated and isolated.

However, it is important to know you are not wrong and there are many people out there who are just like you. 🙋

junghyun@hufs.ac.kr

Thank you, for All You've Done for Me



2/7 Twitter's grandfather knows well how to send a thank-you card: red mail-box at Insa-dong, Seoul

6 Thank God it's still around: Korean Traditional w ooden top and sticks.

5 No matter how hard it rains, snows, or how hot the sun may be, I run for you: Seongsu Station

16/17 Fashion, Music, and Color: Three perfect collaboration makes campus life always fashionable

10/15 Thank you for giving so much whipped cream!

19 Thank you, keyboard!

Just Like the Wizard of Oz plays Tricks with Magic

How much do you know?

By Jeon Seong-jin

Associate Editor of Campus Section

Hwang's Law states that the progress of development gets faster and faster, so much so that people now encounter newer and more advanced electronic devices almost on a daily basis. The development of electronic devices is indeed getting faster. Companies that make these products are competing to release more cellular phones or portable devices to outdo each other, and for the consumers, this is a plus. They are able to choose among a lot of products. However, just as the Wizard of Oz plays tricks in the famous movie, there are some things that consumers should be aware of. Typically, these are the very things that are difficult to notice. Devices that look the same are actually different in their specifications, even if they may cost exactly same.

Have you ever noticed how products differ?

With the economy stronger than ever, people are buying more products. Even if the price of a product is high, many consumers will buy it anyway to show their identity through devices they have. Because of this, Korean companies use high-end marketing methods to sell their products for high prices with premium options. For example, recently, a company has released a new cell-phone in collaboration with Parisian luxury brand, and it costs over 980,000 won as pre-order items on web shopping malls. Even though it is an expensive item, over 15,000 units have already been sold. Just like this, people are willing to spend a lot of money to show off with things such as trivial accessories, and even name brand pairs of snickers.

But the problem is that with these high-end marketing methods and fabulous commercial on television, consumers often fail to notice the details of devices. One of the latest models of device made by a Korean company carries a higher price than another model, even though their unit cost at the factory is the same, as illustrated in the model comparison in the following chart:

1. Company A Model Comparison

	T	SHOW	OZ
Product Name	W850	W8500	W8550
GPS* Available	O (T-Map**)	O (K-Way***)	X
Google Map****	X	X	O (Free)
USIM***** Available	O (3G*****)	O (3G)	X (2G*****)
Inner Memory	About 400MB	About 400MB	About 200MB
DRM***** Free	X	O	O

- Values are based on web sites functional information. (<http://www.anycall.com/>)

* GPS: Abbreviation of Global Positioning System

** T-Map: SK Telecom Korean road navigating application for charge

*** K-Way: SHOW Korean road navigating application for charge

**** Google Map: International mapping service based on Google technology

***** USIM: Abbreviation of Universal Subscriber Identity Module; used to identify personal cell-user information for mobile service usage

***** 3G: Abbreviation of 3 Generation; a kind of communication standard which is faster than 2G using 2GHz frequency

***** 2G: Abbreviation of 2 Generation; a kind of communication standard based on wireless telephone technology

***** DRM: Abbreviation of Digital Rights Management; a kind of regulation that prohibits copying behavior without permission

2. Company L Comparison

	T	SHOW	OZ
Product Name	LG-SU630	LG-KU630	LG-LU630
GPS Available	X	O	X
Inner Memory	80MB	133MB	68MB

Values are based on web sites functional information. (<http://www.cyon.co.kr/>)

As these tables show above, each specification of models are different in inches. Especially for the case of company A's comparison, it differs a lot in functions, such as GPS availability, or DRM Free availability. These are things that consumers do not pay much attention to.

Wireless service distributors' regulation

It is easy to assume that there are differences between models because there are three major wireless communication companies in Korea, and there is competition between them. Also, the four major cellular phone producers make slightly different products for each wireless carrier. What is little known, however, is that the wireless distributor chooses which products to release for its service. Even

though producers release new cellular phones, there would be no users if the carriers decided not to use them.

For example, SK Telecom's service T's latest cellular phones show differences in User Interface (UI) service, or instant messaging service.



1. UI comparison between IM-S330, IM-S330K

These two models have the same design and specifications; however, they have different UI service. Model IM-S330 has a button to access the main menu but the button of Model IM-S330K is on the opposite side. Originally, one company's models were designed to use a navigation key with up, down, left, and right buttons to access the main menu. But the communication carriers dictated different buttons on the devices they would use at each respective carrier.

2. Instant message menu comparison

What the right model shows on its menu, the left model shows T's developed message menu. What matters here is that this is not the only problem of the design. One cellular phone is designed to generate one developer's menu and Operating System (OS); however, other carriers use different interfaces and OS's, and of course, this creates problems. The model on the right can access the message menu for one second after the user clicks the OK button, but the user of the model on the left will spend two or three seconds more to access the same menu. This delay is caused because one communication company developed a program that cannot operate on this model well.



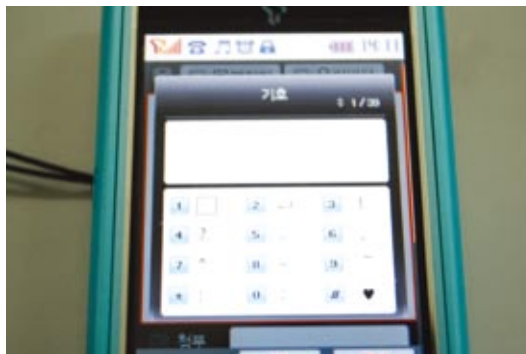
Convenience does exist

1. Unification of SK Telecom's UI system

In regular sequence from the left, Motorola's MS-600, MS-500W, and Pantech & Qiritel's IM-S330

2. Same arrangement of special character in message writing menu


A couple of years ago, SK telecom announced that the unification of UI tasks will help cell-phone users' convenience. This has been promoted to eliminate confusion when a user changes models. As you can see from the above



comparisons, that even though different producers have created these different models, the menu and arrangements are exactly same, so that even though users will change from an old model to new one, she-or-he will experience little confusion and will be able to use the new model easily. Because manufacturers make phones to suit the carriers, typing methods and characters differ between companies. For example, one company provides the “Cheonjiin” method, and Pantech & Quritel provide the “SKY-I” and “SKY-II” methods. These differences can be difficult for users to get accustomed to quickly. However, users can at least get used to the same menu so that special characters and tasks do not need to be changed so that when a user handles a cellular phone from another manufacturer, there will be no problem in using the new handset.

Personal preferences should be accommodated

From the point of consumers who prefer to use certain models, there are profits here, for sure. As many models are released day after day, there are also many people who want to use and experience new models now. Rather fitting oneself to new circumstances every time one changes models, it could be much more reasonable to insert exactly same UI system in new models. On the other hand, from the point of view of consumers whose tastes count more for identity than for ease of use, the models they choose should satisfy them too.

For instance, a certain model of a cellular phone was used in a commercial film by a popular star, and because of this, many people wanted to have this model for themselves. If what matters in making choices are communication companies' regulations, the companies need to consider this because consumers are now “prosumers,” which means they have become much more intelligent than in the past. What is really important is that consumers have an opportunity to purchase wisely, and not out of ignorance, when they choose to buy a new handset. 

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By Jeon Seong-jin
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The technological explosion that the world has witnessed over the past several decades has radically transformed the way live. Sites like Google and MySpace or social networking services like Twitter have turned ordinary lives into fast-paced and highly interconnected ones that are awash in information and countless data.

Likewise, an individual's worth or merit has to a large degree become digitized. When in need of cash from an automatic-teller machine, one must first have a plastic card with a magnetic strip that attests to his or her creditworthiness. At the library, a student cannot borrow a book without first proffering his or her card with corresponding pin number. People's own confidence and sense of dignity are intertwined with the little gadgets they carry around with us.

The Argus recently met HUFs alumnus Kim Jun-hyun (Dept. of Philosophy- 99) to discuss his efforts at creating television programming that breaches the digital wall surrounding audiences, cool media that reaches viewers through humor and wit.

Argus: During the 1970s and 80s, Korea's economic situation was far worse than the recent downturn. Back then, most people were focused on how to attain a good life, on how to eat and live well. Universities also came under the sway of this pervasive atmosphere, with the best students opting for what became known as the "popular departments." You must have felt this as well, so weren't there any hindrances when you finally decided on your major?

Kim Jun-hyun (Kim): My grandfather opposed my decision to study philosophy. He pressed me to go into

Do You Have a Philosophy in Wit?

history, which at the time was one of the more popular departments. When I look back, I think he did so because like many others, he felt that one's major determined future success. Nevertheless, I stuck with philosophy and I have never regretted the decision.

I went abroad to study in Europe. During that time I wore a jacket made by the philosophy department, which always drew laughs from students at HUFS who thought the term "Philosophy" emblazoned on the jacket was somehow hilarious. On the other hand, most of the people I met in Europe praised my interest in philosophy, saying it was a lofty pursuit. In Korea, philosophy as a major does not hold much allure for students who are simply looking to get rich instead of discovering some universal truth of striving for self perfection.

As far as obstacles to choosing my major, I did not experience any. Rather, I have found that the combination of my major and my having graduated from HUFS has been an enormous benefit to my life. Still, most Korean parents continue to spout the same old stereotype that a major in philosophy will not lead to an abundant life.

Argus: Did you experience any major turning points during your school days?

Kim: Definitely. It came during the Cheongryangje festival, an annual festival celebrated by Mohyun Dormitory at the Yongin campus, in 2003. I harbored a dream at that time of becoming a television announcer, so I applied to act as a moderator for the event. After the six-hour performance, a man approached me with his name card and said, "I have never seen

anyone as funny as you at this or any other university festival." He told me to call if I was interested in going into the entertainment industry. That was the biggest turning point of my life. A year later I got a job as the main host for the campus-wide Daedongjae festival and then applied to KBS after graduating in 2005.



Argus: Can you explain your position with KBS's "Gag Concert" team?

Kim: The common perception is that a "comedian" is sort of stupid, someone who simply follows the director's lead. The reality is that it takes me and my team a week to prepare for just one gag. From Monday to Thursday we discuss different ideas, practicing different routines. Then on Friday we go before the producers and rehearse a scene. If they approve, then it goes on the show.

Coming up with new ideas week in and week out is not easy. I sometimes go to a particular spot looking for trendy items or creative ideas. They can hit me while fishing, or glancing through old photos, or just trying to get a sense of someone's character. One of the phrases used by DJ Byun, "it's all

good," actually came from something one of the show's producers used to say. The show not only has to make people laugh, it has to be meaningful in some way.

Argus: Do you have any advice to offer HUFSans looking to break into the TV industry?

Kim: I have always told students the three things they should do while in school are: become a couple, win a scholarship, and go on academic probation. Entering into a relationship while in school gives you the opportunity to learn about what that means. I think it is very important to understand people after graduating. And by relationship I do not just mean between a man and a woman. That same sense of connection should be there in all one's daily interactions.

Winning a scholarship not only provides much-needed cash, but also shows the fruits of your efforts. What you go through to earn that award is what will carry you to the next level in your own personal development.

Ironically I also say that students should go on academic probation. I do not mean that you should just drop everything and go spend all your time in a club. But more important than studying for that next test is figuring out what your life is really about. Studying takes up so much of a student's life and is a source of great anxiety. What I want to say is that even on academic probation your life goes on. 📖

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The Challenges of Pioneering Space



<http://soundofscience.files.wordpress.com>

By Jang Ho-jun

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

On Aug. 25, the eyes of South Koreans were trained on the Naro Space Center, located on Oenaro Island off Goheung on the country's southwestern coast, as they awaited the launch of the Korea Space Launch Vehicle (KSLV-I).

The nation took great pride in the event, which would mark the first launch from Korean soil of a satellite bearing rocket after long years of development. The launch, however, proved only a partial success as the rocket failed to place its payload -- the Science and Technology Satellite 2A -- into proper orbit due to a malfunction of the fairings system. Researchers have since been working to improve Korea's rocket technology in preparation for another launch in 2019.

Around the same time, space experts

from around the world came to Korea to attend the 60th International Astronautical Congress held in the central city of Daejeon. Both the launch and the conference demonstrate Korea's growing interest in space exploration. But why do countries spend such astronomical amounts on space technology? Perhaps, as with space itself, the field holds the promise of an infinite potential to improve the quality of human life.

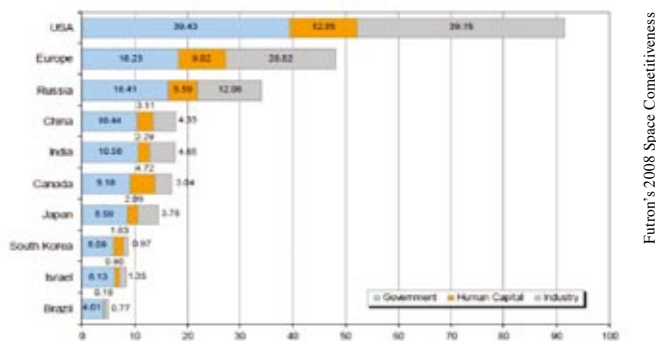
Current state of space development

Space exploration began 60 years ago, during the Cold War. In that long-running conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the two sides competed to produce satellites. Starting with the Soviet Union's Sputnik, the world's first satellite, the two superpowers competed to develop the rocket technology needed to launch satellites. Countries including

China, Japan and India, meanwhile, gradually strengthened their own technology in space development and the satellite industry. The participation of Korea came relatively late. Its first satellite, the KITSAT 1, or "Uribyul" as it was also called, entered orbit in 1992. The country has since come a long way, speeding up development of both satellite and rocket technology.

Why nations invest in the space industry

Satellite technology significantly contributes to national security by way of monitoring important information or by guiding missiles accurately to their targets, to give just two examples. Korea has manufactured more than ten satellites so far, though most used parts or engines built in other countries. This opens up the possibility for countries that developed these parts to take information gathered by the satellites



Futron's 2008 Space Competitiveness

▲ The graph shows levels of competitiveness in the global space industry held by major countries.

without the permission of its owner. This is a key reason why states are so eager to develop their own, domestic programs.

A robust space industry also enables governments to apply up-to-date technology to other industries like mechanical engineering. Space development programs employ technologies from diverse fields, including engineering, electrical and meteorological. A space program's need for precise processing and assembly skills can in turn be used in these other industries. Space is, in addition, the arena for the development of such materials as super fibers, currently being developed in the U.S., which can greatly enhance the telecommunications and broadcast industry.

A final reason for a country's active participation in the development of space involves climate change. Jean-Jacques Dordain, Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA), said in an interview with the Chosun Ilbo, "The ESA spends 25 percent of the institute's budget on researching climate change and other environment phenomena. Scientists accelerate these efforts through the use of satellites that monitor weather conditions." South Korean president Lee Myong-bak emphasized recently that the space industry is critical to "the survival of mankind because it can help curb the greenhouse effect by using satellites to monitor carbon gas

emissions."

Obstacles to space development

As pointed out above, governments push the development of the space industry with great necessity. However, the fact cannot be ignored that stronger and wealthier states with higher levels of technological prowess

lead in this process. In other words, those countries working to develop their space technology industries must rely on stronger states, thereby running the risk placing national interest behind their technology drive.

The term "core technology" refers to the necessary skills for manufacturing a satellite, carrier rocket and launching pads. Only nine countries have succeeded in launching satellites with rockets using domestic technology. Other countries rely on the purchase of needed parts from these key nations. Transferring the knowhow behind the production of rockets, however, is strictly prohibited by the Missile Technology Control Regime, an international treaty aimed at preventing the development of missiles.

Furthermore, developed countries like the U.S. control export licenses and other regulations when selling core devices to less advanced nations. One researcher in South Korea's space program recently complained that a scheduled launch site

in China for a small satellite had to be changed "due to the disapproval of the U.S.," which he said was "likely worried about a technology leak to China."

Conflicts in space are another critical issue as countries increasingly rely on weapons systems that involve missile-guiding satellites. One example of this was when China knocked out its malfunctioning satellite by missile in 2007. The Outer Space Treaty, which represents the basic legal framework of international space law, went into effect on Oct. 10, 1967. In the preface to the treaty it says, "Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies." Despite this statement, the reality is that space has become a key zone of conflict where more powerful states dominate those that are less-advanced.

A final problem involves the growing amount of "space junk," the discarded remains of devices that states have sent up over the past decades that have since malfunctioned yet remain in orbit. These parts later fall back to Earth or collide with still-functioning satellites or shuttles. Lee Sang-ryool, executive director of satellite R&D for the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, said, "Space debris in low orbit moves at a speed of 25,200 kilometers per hour, which can lead to a major accidents ... An international committee should be established to deal with this issue."



http://sis.sapo.pt

▲ KSLV-1, South Korea's first rocket using indigenous technology, demonstrates the advance made in the domestic rocket industry.

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Human Rights in Neo-Liberal Society

By Jang Ho-jun

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

The Autonomy Library at HUFs recently hosted a series of lectures focused on human rights. The first lecturer in the series, which ran from September through October, was activist Park Seok-jin of Sarangbang Group, who introduced audiences to some basic facts about human rights.

The second lecturer was Yu Eun-sook with the group CHANG: Korea Human Rights Research Center. Having spent the past 20 years working to safeguard the rights of minority groups in Korea, Yu touched on the plight of human rights activists under the current government in Seoul and the definition of human rights within a neo-liberal society.

Digest

Start with a basic question: How

should individual rights be interpreted? Regrettably, there are those who believe that the term “human rights” implies simply protection from others, like an automatic-teller machine that provides cash only when needed. The idea of human rights has always run against conventional wisdom, which largely prevents minority groups from enjoying the same kinds of freedom and protection. The French philosopher Jacques Ranciere put it best when he said human rights should speak for “people without voices.”

The idea of human rights in Korean society is a fairly recent one. In the pro-democracy demonstrations of the 1980s, during Korea’s period of military rule, the term most often heard was “civil rights,” which conveyed the narrower notion of political rights, or more simply the right to vote.

As the country’s military rulers gave way to more democratic institutions, paving the way for the election of

Kim Young-sam, the direction of this dialogue turned toward the protection of those at risk of falling through the social safety net. Such groups included the handicapped, immigrant workers and sexual minorities. Movements soon emerged advocating first for the protection of the rights of the country’s disabled. Demonstrations against the curtailment of immigrant workers’ rights followed, with increased awareness and acceptance of homosexuality coming soon thereafter.

Laws under a neo-liberal system are not, in and of themselves, enough to ensure the rights of each member of society due to inherent biases that favor those already higher up the social ladder. As such, there came a need to demand such protection, which ultimately led to the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 2001, an independent agency whose mandate is to ensure the protection of inviolable human rights.

The NHRC has, since its creation, worked to promote the underlying values that give meaning to the term human rights, such as the right to assembly or the livelihood of the nation's part-time workers. When the agency came out against Seoul's decision to send troops to Iraq in 2003 to aid in U.S.-led war efforts there, then President Roh Moo-hyun commended the body for living up to its mandate. "The NHRC was founded precisely to give voice to such issues," he said.

For six years the NHRC has worked to safeguard basic freedoms that would otherwise be undermined by the free-market values of a neo-liberal society. Its position has, as a result, been continuously threatened by those less inclined to favor such freedoms. A crisis emerged when the chairperson of the NHRC was recently replaced, while the agency's staff was reduced by 21 percent. Such moves demonstrate that the human rights situation in South Korea has sadly regressed.

Focus

In her lecture, Yu emphasized that "Human rights have three basic traits:



Zack Lee

a moral imperative; the evaluation of governance -- decrying Hitler's policies, for instance; and to complement the legal system, which alone cannot ensure the protection of certain basic rights."

In 1948, following the end of World War II, the United Nations announced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Six decades later, the world seems to have forgotten these principles as neo-liberal values have again taken hold. Take for example, the U.S.'s refusal to join the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children. The reason for its position is to allow certain states to carry out executions of children under 18.

Under a neo-liberal system, everything -- people, the state, industry -- is placed under the vast umbrella of the market. Survival depends on the circulation of money and goods, putting a price on the very lives of those the system is supposedly meant to benefit. It promises wealth for anyone who makes an effort, while driving people to struggle against one another for a piece of the pie.

The recent tragedy involving residents of Yongsan, in central Seoul, displaced without compensation by redevelopment in the area highlights the erosion of human rights under a neo-liberal system. The strike by workers at Ssangyong Motor Co. protesting planned layoffs, or the plight of part-time workers whose jobs are threatened by revisions to a law on non-regular workers, demonstrates this conflict between basic human rights and neo-liberal values. The victims in these and similar cases could not prove their monetary worth, while the legal system itself protected those violating their most basic freedoms.

Clashes between society's haves and have-nots go back ages, yet in a neo-liberalized society these tensions become pronounced. The value placed on a



▲ Human rights activist Yu Eun-sook gives a lecture at Hufs on Oct. 9.

human being under a neo-liberal system is not unlike that given to a commodity, leading to a view of human rights as being intended to secure an individual's wealth. The basic struggle for equality becomes concealed by neo-liberal values as one of equal opportunity, at least for the winners.

In a neo-liberalized society, the values of human beings are divided by attainable things like wealth or personal abilities: appearance, language, and so forth. The merits of goods are considered as those of people, making people with competence think the value of human rights could be used to protect them anywhere. There had been troubles between those who had and did not even in primitive ages, but the modern capitalized Neo-liberalism conceals the basic struggle in the name of equal opportunity, for the winners.

Yu finally pointed "People should be able to enjoy human right surely and immediately, if born as a human being. The rights do not mean just the equality of chances, but values which can be shared together by becoming liable to each other. Immigrant workers in 1990s did not demonstrate to raise their wage or improve working environment. Their statement was 'Please, do not hit us!'"

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Luxury Goods,

Anyone?



By Lee Yeong-eun
Reporter of Culture Section

What better way to spend one's fortune than by splurging on brand name goods? Names like Armanis and Louis Vuitton are seen everywhere on Seoul's streets. And their presence is justified. A "Korean Happiness Index" unveiled in February shows that people strongly believe that money determines happiness. So it seems people with money to spend are happier spending on brand name goods. Nonetheless, to do so during such a tumultuous crisis



that Korea is currently facing speaks volumes. With consumer spending on

brand name goods on the rise, it may be a hint of the love affair between Koreans and their luxury brands.

Unfair to call spending on luxury goods an obsession

Luxury goods improve the quality of life. Compare the dining experience provided by a fine restaurant with a more modest one. While both experiences are fulfilling, there is an intangible feeling of quality attached to the former. And that is why people pursue luxury goods. According to Maslow's Hierarchy of Need, to appreciate quality is at the apex of human needs. That is to say, once all fundamental needs such as food and shelter have been met, people will seek pleasure in more lavish lifestyles. As Korea becomes more developed, it has become increasingly common to see citizens pursuing extravagance to keep themselves happy. While it may seem superficial, if spending on brand name goods makes Koreans happy, then the increase in spending on luxury goods should be seen as an inherent right to pursue happiness.

Korea's economy may be recovering from the shocks of the financial crisis.

Therefore, the increased expenditure on luxury goods is not a sign of obsession, but a manifestation of Koreans' optimism in their future economic prospects, similar to how Americans increase spending at the first sign of recovery from the sluggish times that followed the September 11 terrorists attack. With reports of a global recovery from the recent crisis, Koreans' confidence is buoyed by the optimism that the worst is coming to an end. Having restrained themselves in years past, isn't it reasonable for Koreans to pamper themselves with a little indulgence to make up for the misery they have endured?

Luxury goods seem to be an acquired taste, a sign of the spender's sophistication. When luxuries come to mind, they evoke the feeling of fine taste along with an intangible quality. Their high prices are justified by their ability to satisfy the finer appetites of Koreans. More mundane brands fail to create a similar experience for consumers. Therefore, spending on luxuries cannot be described as an exercise born out of obsession. Instead, it is an evolution of the taste

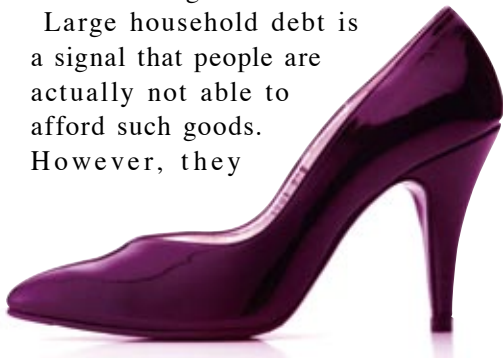
of Koreans. Wine connoisseurs with a single sip can detect whether champagne is of a superior standard or not. Similarly, spending on luxury goods is an appreciation of the subtle quality of life by Koreans. We cannot mistake such passion for the better things in life as mere nonsensical obsession.

Is there a good excuse for these compulsions?

Having become a habit, consumers will find ways to justify their spending on luxuries. While such reasons are plausible, they are more likely to be excuses to cover up a loss of self-control over these urges. Luxury does improve the quality of a person's sense of well being. But the issue is that overspending on such goods is a sign of obsession.

Occasional indulgence does bring joy. It vindicates the value of hard work. And it is also a motivation to spur people on to strive harder. However, overspending on luxury goods only dulls the joys they bring. One reason why designer-goods cost so much is that they create an illusion of rarity to those who come to possess them. Such illusion provides a sense of accomplishment and the feeling of elation when one finally possesses a long-sought-after luxury item. Overspending subdues such powerful emotions, and people acquire luxury goods only because they are accustomed to buying them. Therefore, purchasing these items has just become an expensive, and ironically, an unrewarding habit.

Large household debt is a signal that people are actually not able to afford such goods. However, they



Ralph Lauren, Chanel, Guess, and Bvlgari are just some of the many brands popular in Korea today.



have let their urges and their greed cloud their judgment. The price of living a lavish lifestyle is a hefty one. Zipping around in a Porsche is an expensive affair. To buy a Louis Vuitton bag can cost approximately US\$1500. It should be common sense that few people can afford them.

But what is surprising is that ordinary spenders believe that good economic times will last and that their lavish lifestyles can be sustained indefinitely. Such irrational exuberance can only be explained as misguided financial knowledge brought about by their attachment to a luxurious lifestyle. Therefore, when the house of cards built on the illusion of unending wealth finally and inevitably came crashing down, many people were exposed. Soaring household debt is evidence that many people in reality are in fact unable to afford such goods but still choose to do so. Their desire for brand name goods had misled them to incur detrimental expenditures.

People may want luxury goods not because their tastes have become more refined and sophisticated, but because everyone else wants them. Chances are that a person may be lured into acquiring a luxury brand after hearing incessantly about it from people around them or from seeing everyone on the street owning one. It is not even for bragging

rights. It is so as not to feel ostracized for being in the minority that is unable to afford these expensive goods.

The best illustration of this is the existence of imitations. If people truly appreciate luxury goods for the value they represent, why are there people willing to pay for fakes at an exorbitant price? It is their fear of being out-casts that drives them to possess such goods.

Moderation is the key

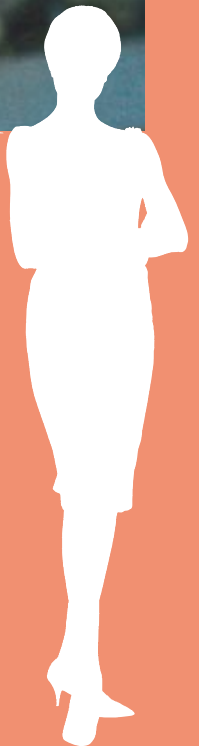
By all means, Koreans can occasionally splurge on luxuries to keep themselves happy. However, moderation, as with all good things in life, is the key to ensure that such happiness lasts, for the finer things in life should be sipped slowly to be appreciated. Gorging on luxury goods will not only demean their true worth, but will be unhealthy for the spenders and their pockets. Now, with the economy in the process of recovery, it is still a poor time to splurge on luxury goods. While superficially it may be happiness that Koreans are seeking -- which in itself can be an unhealthy obsession -- it is a terrible situation to possess a house full of luxury goods and be insolvent. ☹

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Choi Han-bit performs a Korean traditional dance in the 2009 supermodel contest.

KOREA'S FIRST TRANSGENDER SUPERMODEL



By Kang Hye-rim
Associate Editor of Culture Section

Social stigmas against transgenders remain very strong even today. Most South Koreans tend to think of them as “undutiful children,” betraying the debt owed to their parents, or even as “monstrous.” But according to South Korea’s first transgender supermodel Choi Han-bit, undergoing a sex change operation allows a person to “uncover their original self by altering a faulty exterior.” Choi’s refusal to submit to societal prejudice has led her down the road to success.

Becoming a supermodel

One of the most striking supermodels of 2009, it is hard to believe, given Choi Han-bit’s elegance and feminine beauty, that she was once a man. But it was not simply Choi’s beauty that has led her to enter the world of supermodels.

Argus: Given the predominant negative attitude toward transgenders, was it a difficult decision to become a supermodel?

Choi: It was not a difficult decision. I am legally a woman, and I felt that I could qualify for the competition and that I could overcome any prejudice I might encounter.

Argus: What will you do now that the competition for top supermodel for 2009 has ended?

Choi: I will take up the challenge again next year. I draw a lot of strength from the unwavering support of my parents, and I want to test my appearance against other beautiful women, so I will compete.

Argus: How would you describe your personality?

Choi: My individual qualities are being openhearted and outgoing. I have a commanding presence and a very direct attitude. I don't hide anything, which is why I have been so public about my sexual orientation.

I majored in dance, which is a very insular world where gossip travels fast. All the dancers knew me and I did not want to hear gossips about myself so I came right out and told them who I was. I wanted to have confidence in my existence.

Argus: Do you have any regrets about coming out?

Choi: People say that if I had not come out I might have been included in the top 11 supermodels of 2009. But I don't regret my decision. I think the judging was fair, though I get upset that people thought I might receive some sort of consolation prove for being transgender.

Before I came out I had already been included in the top 50, and I can say with confidence that I have been working hard to improve my standing. I multiplied

efforts to improve my walk and I spent most of my time training. Fellow models can attest to the hard work I have put in.

Argus: What was your first thought after the contest ended?

Choi: Cheesecake! There is nothing as hard for me to bear as being told not to eat the cheesecake in order to stay fit.

Argus: Who was your first love?

Choi: My first crush was in middle school. I went to an all boys' school and was known for my feminine appearance, long hair and for wearing a pink backpack. One day a group of seniors came over to me and after examining my features determined that I was a girl. I was thereafter treated like a princess, and one of those boys gave me a chocolate gift basket and a love letter. I would like to see him again.

Argus: What do you think of Ha Ri-su, who gained popularity as South Korea's first transgender entertainer back in 2001?

Choi: I respect her a great deal. When she first came out, the word transgender was almost completely unknown here, but she overcame the obstacles and achieved success. That is really praiseworthy. And the fact that she is happily married makes me want to get married as well.

I met her five years ago while working on a TV program. She noticed me and later told me many things that proved very helpful to me in the long run. It is my goal to create a life for myself like hers, with a happy family and successful career.


Argus: What kind of advice can you offer other South Korean transgenders?

Choi: There are many transgenders out there, and I would like to offer them a sign of encouragement. All

transgendered people live with one small but difficult hope, which is to lead life as an ordinary woman. And I would like to tell them not to run in fear, and that only by living your truth you will be able to achieve your dream.

Life after the 2009 supermodel competition

Choi Han-bit began to appear more frequently on local television programs after the 2009 competition, turning up on such shows as Hwang Jae-bock's wedding collection stage. Her schedule has grown increasingly full, though she maintains a refreshingly upbeat attitude and open mind toward her newfound success.

"I am always thankful for the support I receive, and I want to show that I am making my best efforts," she said. 

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South Korea's first transsexual super model Choi Han-bit talks about her life story.



Carnality, the Shadow behind Humanity

By Lee Yeong-eun
Reporter of Culture Section

The bible speaks of how David was blessed by the Lord to become the King of Israel. But despite the success and fortune he enjoyed through the grace of the Lord, he still ended up indulging in sinful lust. Mesmerized by Bathsheba's beauty, David's temptations urged him to seduce the married lady and have an illicit affair with her. Perhaps, even the bible is trying to forewarn man of his darker self, lurking in his shadow.



▲ "David and Bathsheba" by Jan Matsys, 1562. While David was taking a walk on his roof, he saw Bathsheba taking a bath and immediately desired her.

Similarly, "Eyes Wide Shut" explored how successful, married individuals succumb to carnality. The most powerful message sent out in this film is perhaps the confirmation that deep down, everyone has sexual fantasies and can be influenced by their instincts to lust, willing to play in high stakes games of seduction to satisfy their carnality.

Eyes wide shut

In the movie "Eyes Wide Shut," Alice and her husband, William, attends a party where they are both hit on sexually by other guests. While neither gives in to their carnal impulses, Alice's confessions of her fantasy cause William to be extremely shocked and overwhelmed. He cannot accept the fact that his wife actually had these fantasies of other men to the extent of being willing to give up their marriage and family. He then begins to see everything in a different light and curiosity builds up, causing him to go further to satisfy desires once unknown to him. He has steamy encounters with other women, though they are always halted by divine

fate. His misadventures eventually bring him to a masked orgy party, where influential members of society enjoy themselves in decadent acts to satisfy their lust.

With Tom Cruise as William and Nicole Kidman as Alice, "Eyes Wide Shut" delved into the murky depths of sexuality. Through both William's and Alice's stories, the film examined many concepts like the fundamental differences in reasons why men and women pursue their lusts and whether it is morally right for married couples to lust over other people.

How mankind came to lust

It is fascinating how human beings are drawn to flesh sexually. One theory is that lust may be a tool of survival left over from our primitive past. For men, lust drives them to engage in sexual acts with more than one partner so that they will have more offspring. For women, lust drives them to search for the strongest partner so as to ensure her child is equipped with the best genes to overcome challenges for survival. Therefore, it seems lust was initially an act of self-preservation.

Yet, before anyone despairs over his or her apparent doom to crave for darker pleasures, it should be kept in mind that upbringing can also curb such tendencies. It would seem that certain virtues, such as faithfulness and respect, can help us control our carnal cravings. A child, growing up with



such principles preached to him-or-her incessantly, will have fewer propensities to seek out pleasures from the flesh. On the other hand, if a child grows up in an environment that not only exposes but also condones lewd acts borne from our lustful nature, she-or-he may grow up embracing his-or-her darker personality. Lust may be a battle to see whether our upbringing can arrest our inbuilt biological clockwork.

The noble values of the contemporary Korean society are the set of principles we have kept from the past. Ideas such as faithfulness, the sanctity of human life, self-discipline, and more are deemed relevant even in modern times. For children, such values are preached to them as part of their upbringing. Adherence to them is greatly encouraged, for they are believed to guide people to a more virtuous life. However, lust presents a challenge to their existence in the Korean society.

Erosion of noble values

Illustrating this is the blooming erotic culture on the web. The Internet has allowed the faster dissemination of indecent content. Its vast network has also provided people with easy access to a burgeoning market for lewd services. In the past, people may have been ashamed of exposing their bodies and sexual needs to public eyes, but today, people have no moral qualms about exposing their bodies to others. Traditional values have been challenged and subsequently replaced when lust manifested itself on the Internet.

Another scenario where traditional and nobler principles have been supplanted by lewd acts is in the area of marketing. Marketing strategists are now exploiting the lusts inherent in human nature to sell their products. Today, huge brands employ attractive and sexy models to star in their commercials. The biggest evidence of such deplorable sales

tactics is the employment of grid ladies dressed in revealing clothes in car road-shows. To the general populace, such advertisements seem to confirm that being hot and sizzling is not only acceptable but also encouraged. It fuels the disregard of traditional sense of decency and spurs people to embrace a hotter appearance.



The movie “Eyes Wide Shut” depicted how a concealed desire for the flesh can be harmful to a person’s psyche. While initially true to his wife, William was willing to explore further and risk his faithfulness when his curiosity for other women was perked. The moral compass, a guide that is supposed to lead a human being to a virtuous life, can be corroded by the insidious urges a person feels. The simpler yet peaceful lifestyle, safeguarded for humanity by the old virtues is shattered by lustful thirst.


Characters in the movie preferred the thrills of illicit affairs and wild parties. They had degenerated into savage creatures eking out an existence dictated by their impulses.

Similarly, lust has eroded certain traditional values in contemporary Korean society. This is because such values go against the essence of

carnality. While traditional principles place the human body on a sacred pedestal, carnality has degraded this bastion of respect into a tool to satisfy our unholy hunger. The orgy party in the film bears powerful testimony to this. Women walk around naked, drawing lustful glances. The decadent gathering has a darker twist. Both men and women revel in ritual sacrifice of a beautiful lady. Virtues such as respect and self-discipline are absent from the eyes of these depraved animals. They had been submerged by ills such as hedonism and mindless pleasure.

Understand and not chastise

The idea of men becoming beasts brings to mind the tragic case of eight year-old Na-Young. The young child became a victim of sexual violence of 57-year-old Cho. Not only did she have to endure rape, her organs were permanently damaged by Cho Dun-sun.

The gradual replacement of old values is a product of the cultural revolution. However, it is a call of concern because the values associated with lust are a threat to the moral fabric of society. While morality has always been a gray area, it cannot be denied that traditional principles and beliefs are nobler in nature. It instills self-discipline and encourages restraint over a lustful nature that can harm the person as well as society. If Korea is serious about preserving its rich moral traditions, it must acknowledge and not chastise lust that is inherent in human nature. No amount of warning and scolding has ever managed to eradicate social ills. It is through showing understanding that can convince people that a more virtuous life is the better way to live. 

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Make Seoul a Pleasant Place to Live, Just Not to Visit

By Hwang Jung-hyun
Editor of Culture Section


In 2007, the International Design Alliance, a strategic venture of global bodies representing the design industry, designated the city of Seoul as a World Design Capital (WDC) for 2010. The title is part of a biennial global competition open to cities around the world, and is conferred on those that have demonstrated exceptional progress using the varied tools design offers. A city is appointed as a WDC every other year to celebrate its achievements and to share them with other cities.

In preparation for the event, major projects launched by the Seoul metropolitan government include the Seoul Design Olympiad, the U-Design International Competition and construction of Dongdaemun Design Plaza. The South Korean capital's designation as a WDC offers it the chance to enrich its local culture while refurbishing its reputation as a comfortable and attractive global city.

Of course, the designation, its accompanying slew of design events and its tourist attractions are expected to boost the country's design industry, raising the brand of the city itself. But what is most important, as far as the city's residents are concerned, is that a genuine upgrade of Seoul's brand value depends mostly upon the citizens themselves rather than superficial improvements.

Seoul is a living, breathing city where some 10 million human beings eat, play, feel, think, study, work and sleep. As the main constituents of the city, Seoul's citizens should be its main focus, with all designs ultimately geared toward them. Only when a city's residents can truly describe their home as pleasant will, it become a global city. As such, Design Seoul is a great opportunity to enrich the lives of the city's inhabitants.

The culture and identity of a city is its very foundation. Culture opens a society's eyes to dignity and meaning. It is comprised of a shared sense of values, customs, heritage, art, food, clothing and shelter. These elements help define a region's uniqueness and history. They enhance a city's growth potential and are essential to Seoul's becoming a global city.

Seoul's upgrade should be focused on its most important element -- the -- city's residents. The charm of cities like Paris or London, both of which attract tourists from around the world, comes from the fact that they are not just beautiful places to visit, but beautiful cities to live in. Seoul must work to promote this ideal for its own residents, to create a more pleasant and comfortable city that lives up to its own growth potential. 

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Review on The Argus



The Argus on Sept. 7 dealt with the issue of unemployment of the young.


Argus: What did you think about the September issue of our magazine?

Lee Tae-jun (Lee): I'm willing to give it an A plus. First of all, I am very much satisfied with the detailed reports in the cover story, which dealt with youth unemployment. Especially, the front cover expressing the contrast between white and blue gives a strong impression to the reader. Also, the article about youth-unemployment is worthy of praise as it is supported by various and objective statistical data.

Argus: Which column was most interesting?

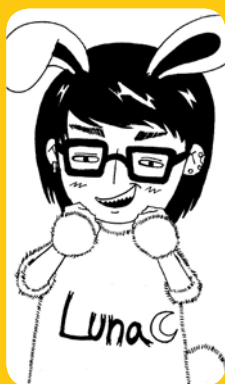
Lee: The most interesting column was Door 19, made up of various photos about a theme. It is new and striking. I feel that the column gives a relaxing moment to readers.

Argus: Do you have any wishes for The Argus?

Lee: I hope that more professors will contribute to your magazine. It is very nice that we could read lots of English articles in which professors give students good advice on campus life and share their experience with us. 

Lee Tae-jun


(Department of Bio-technology-09)



Bea Yeon-joo
Cartoonist
of The Argus



Sponsored by Dept. of Philosophy at HUFS

The background of the entire page is a traditional Korean ink wash painting (hanja) of plum blossoms. The painting features dark, expressive ink strokes for the branches, which are adorned with numerous small pink buds and larger, vibrant pink flowers. The overall style is elegant and artistic. In the center of the page, a white banner with a black outline and wavy ends is superimposed over the painting. The banner contains the text 'The 2nd HUFS Debate Contest' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'The 2nd HUFS' is in black, 'Debate' is in a bright blue color, and 'Contest' is in black.

The 2nd HUFS Debate Contest

The Department of Philosophy at HUFS is pleased to announce that it will host this year's HUFS Debate Contest, with the championship trophy to be given by the HUFS president, in November.

The debate, the second of its kind, is part of the department's efforts to provide HUFSSans an opportunity to discuss social issues that have generated controversy in Korean society.

A total of 16 teams, selected by the department, will be competing in the championship debate contest with the topic of "Saving the country's four rivers," which has come into a controversy as the government has pushed ahead to implement a restoration project for the country's four major rivers with the aim to rebuild its main waterways.

Details on the contest schedule:

- Quarterfinal Match (one hour) : Nov. 9
- Semifinal Match (one hour) : Nov. 16
- Final Match (two hours) : Nov. 26

For more information, including the venue and time of the matches, contact the office of the Department of Philosophy through the following e-mail address: 302jenius@naver.com or Kim San-bae, chief of the contest's organizing committee at 010-7532-4651.

Awards

The champion and runner-up teams will receive an award of 500,000 won and 300,000 won, respectively, and a certificate with the president's seal. The organizing committee will also give a gift certificate worth 100,000 won along with a certificate with the president's seal to the Best Speaker.

A gift certificate will be offered to all of the teams who partake in the contest. Through a draw, HUFSSans who attend the final match will have an opportunity to win a free ticket to Everland Resort in addition to the gift certificate.



ACADEMISM AND JOURNALISM

THE **ARGUS**

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