

The Argus

First Issue Published July 1, 1954

Vol. LVI No. 429
APRIL 26, 2010



Searching for
Missing Children
Is Everybody's
Business

Visiting(07-09)

A Bohemian Falls in Love with Himalayas

Proud HUFSan(10-12)

Kim Kwang-sup, Kang Seung-joon

Feature(14-17)

The Constitution of Korea and Its Peculiar History

Reportage(26-29)

Tidal Power Plant to Destroy Livelihoods

From International Eyes(34-36)

Breaking the Wall, My Name is Khan



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

Published monthly except the school holidays by and for students of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. The Argus, the oldest campus English newspaper in Korea, pursues the highest standard of campus journalism.

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Printed by **HONG DESIGN** | Tel: 464-5167 Fax:
464-5168

C O N T E N T S

Departments

Campus	News Desk	04
	Visiting	07
	A Bohemian Falls in Love with Himalayas	
National	Proud HUFSan	10
	- Linguistics, What I Love	
	- Don't be Afraid of Your Dreams	
	Feature	14
	The Constitution of Korea and Its Peculiar History	
	Cover Story	18
Culture	- Missing 'Missing Child'	
	- Twenty Years Searching for Missing Persons	
	Reportage	26
	Tidal Power Plant to Destroy Livelihoods	
	People	30
Miscellany	A Media for The Citizens; MapoFM	
	Review	32
	Are They Different? Can They Make a Difference?	
	From International Eyes	34
	- Breacking the Wall	
Miscellany	- My Name is Khan (And I am Not a Terrorist)	
	Editorial	02
	Voicing Opinion in Public Ensures Liberty	
	Road Casting	03
	Door 19	13
	Bravol! Your Campus Life	
Miscellany	Bookopening	25
	Beyond Long Story	
	Letter to The Argus	37
Miscellany	The Argus Representing Students' Opinions	



Visiting- The Argus spent some memorable time interviewing the photographer and documentary maker Park Jong-woo.



Reportage- Tidal plants are slated to be built in the Ganghwa island coastal sea. The Argus visited the island, and listened to the voice of Ganghwa residents.



Cover Story

Searching for Missing Children is Everybody's Business

Advertisements for missing persons can be seen almost anywhere these days, from the Internet to electric bills and cellphone messages. Still, attention tends to fade after the initial disappearance is made known. The cover story for this edition of The Argus looks into the work that goes into locating missing persons, hoping to raise awareness of a task often relegated to specific civic bodies but one that should in fact be taken up by society at large.

Missing 'Missing Child'

While the state's policies on missing children have been constantly revised, ways of dealing with child abduction and similar crimes involving minors need to be further enhanced. The following details the problems facing the country's system for locating missing children, while suggesting an alternative approach that could ensure a safer society for our youth.

Twenty Years Searching for Missing Persons

The Argus visits a national organization dedicated to finding missing children and family members, as well as raising public awareness of missing persons. The group regularly works with police investigations and has often provided aid in places overlooked by the authorities.

Voicing Opinion in Public Ensures Liberty

In an unusual criticism of institutional learning, two Korean university students last month said that there is no reason for any university to exist anymore. Their remarks have created ripples in the Korean university community as well as in the cyberworld. For many reasons, as the two argued, Korean universities have failed the meaning of learning. Even though the two students did not come up with specific alternatives to the university system, their message is loud and clear- there is no alternative for constructive criticism and for voicing students' opinions openly.

Kim Ye-seul, a junior at the Korea University, hung a poster at the backgate of the university's business school that read, "Today I quit being a university student. I mean I give a denial to it." Kim also said in the poster that universities in Korea have become merely an authority for issuing certificates, where education is of secondary concern. She thinks that Korean universities do not nurture students' potentials and only train them to secure a good employment. Someone attached a note next to Kim's poster that read "I support your brave choice and you are not alone." A blog supporting Kim was also created in the popular web portal, Daum.

After just 19 days of Kim's hanging the poster, another poster supporting Kim was seen in College of Social Sciences building at the Seoul National University (SNU), considered to be the topmost university in Korea. The poster titled "Today I deny the university and start fighting" was authored by Chae Sang-won, a junior at the university. He said that he was highly inspired by Kim's act. He also added that encouraged by Kim's poster, he decided to express his own thoughts on the problems of the Korean university system that were so long suppressed in his mind. However, unlike Kim, he did not leave the university but chose his own way of solving the problems of the university system while being a part of it. He said he will begin his campaign by calling for a reform in some courses provided at the SNU.

The two incidents created a uproar among the college students because of their extreme and idealistic nature. What is more important here is the revelation that the students' concerns can be voiced publicly when they act together. Kim's was a brave and courageous act that helped lots of issues concerning Korean university education to surface. Even though these two incidents may not immediately change the university system, it is important that the voices of students are heard openly and in public. It is also important because the concerns of the university students had not been heard or talked about openly in public until recently.

It is important to voice our opinions in public. To do this, a correct understanding of our own social problems is required. We ourselves should be the ones who start to answer our questions, solve our problems and create alternatives. It is high time for the university students to come together. However, most of the students are not eager to make their voices heard. They focus more on their personal matters than on the social issues primarily because they are not hopeful that their voices will ever be heard.

The problems we students face are best understood by a fellow student. The problems that exist in the university system affect us immensely. If we have no interest in our own social issues, there will be no one to solve them. No matter how insignificant these issues look, they may very well develop into significant ones affecting the society as a whole. It is important that we all work together and voice our opinions loud and clear and also try to offer suitable alternatives. A series of small changes can bring a major positive change in our society.

Editor-in-Chief
Hwang Jeong-hyeon

Road Casting



Lee Yeong-eun / The Argus

Bobby Kim
(English Literature)

Reporter(R) : How did you feel when you first arrived in Korea?

Bobby : I was confused and I felt lost. I felt like a foreigner even though I am a Korean descendent. I've never visited Korea before and I lived in Ecuador all my

life. I came to Korea only once before and that too for a two-month long vacation. I never felt at home in Korea.

R : What made you come to Korea?

Bobby : My dad made me come here to "find a wife". Well, at least that's what he says but I really don't know why I'm here.

R : What do you think about Koreans?

Bobby : They seem really cold until you know them well but once you get to know them most of them are really polite and hyper.

R : Are you getting along well

with other members of the HUFs community?

Bobby : Yes, but language and culture creates a lot of boundaries.

R : What did you find to be the most challenging aspect while adapting to the life in Korea?

Bobby : Traveling. I've never travelled in Korea save Busan and the Jeju Island. I want to visit more places but I have no idea how to get there.

R : What is the thing you will miss the most once you leave Korea?

Bobby : The internet speed and the bars that are open until six in the morning.



Lee Yeong-eun / The Argus

Ayman Hesham Mohamed Rashad Gomaa
(Arabic with minor in international economics and law)

Reporter(R) : How did you feel when you first arrived in Korea?

Ayman : It was a bit hard because not a lot of people speak English and I did not have any friends here or did not know anyone who could help me. During the first few months I wanted to go back home as soon as possible as I had problem communicating as I did not speak any Korean.

R : What do you think about Koreans?

Ayman : Well, like everywhere else, not everyone is the same. I met a lot of great people here in Korea who helped me and they were kind to me. On the other hand, I also met some selfish people who with whom I had some bitter experiences. However, most Koreans are kind and willing to help and most Koreans of my age accepted me readily into their groups, which was very nice of them.

R : Are you getting along well with other members of the HUFs community?

Ayman : Definitely yes! I have made a lot of friends- we study together, go out together and help each other! Initially it took time to make friends here, but the thing about Korea is that when you make

one friend, your circle grows quickly as you are introduced to your friends' friends and so on

R : What did you find to be the most challenging aspect while adapting to the life in Korea?

Ayman : The address system as in terms of honorific and casual, the age system and the food. The Korean food is too spicy for me. Furthermore, I am a Muslim so I could not eat anything as most of the food items contained pork.

R : What is the thing you will miss the most once you leave Korea?

Ayman : I will miss the friends that I have made here and the good experiences and memories. But I have a feeling that I will definitely come back to Korea for I have fallen in love with this land!

Watch for The Argus reporters in the campus. **The Argus will be casting you.**



Lee Young-eun / The Argus

▲ The opening ceremony of "Humanities Course of Hope in Seoul". Participants of the course will be offered various courses in disciplines ranging from humanities to business.


HUFS Conduct Opening Ceremony for "Humanities Course of Hope in Seoul"

HUFS, in collaboration with the Seoul city, held the first opening ceremony for the "Humanities course of hope in Seoul" in Aekyoung Hall at HUFS on the 26th of January, 2010. Shin Myeon-ho, welfare director of the Seoul city; Kim In-cheol, Vice-president of HUFS and Lee Young-hak, Dean of the College of Humanities at HUFS (Yongin campus) spoke on the occasion. Including professors and officials, approximately 200 people attended the hour-long ceremony.

This joint project between the Seoul city and HUFs targets the homeless and low-income residents of Seoul. Through its humanities-oriented management and training programs, the project aims at encouraging self-sufficiency and self support among the under-privileged population. The program intends to motivate the under-privileged people to restore self-esteem and to get back on their feet again as proud members of the society.

The six-month long course plan is divided into four different categories. In the basic course participants will be taught about the basics of a society, the recovery of identity, confidence and six concentrated insights into humanities-orientated subjects such as philosophy, history, literature (writing), and the arts. The self-support course includes a series of lectures conducted in association with professional consulting firms on topics such as, starting a business and managing finances. The celebrity lecture course provides lectures conducted by professionals in specialized areas of society, culture, economy and health. The course also includes cultural experience module where participants will visit historic sites, attend performances and will have a chance to get themselves acquainted with various literary works.

HUFs has become a part of this project this year and joined four other universities that have been a part of this project since the last year. The four universities are Kyunghee University, Dongguk University, University of Seoul, and Sungkonghoe University.

This project and the courses offered have been receiving praises from the community and also from the previous participants. "It gave me another chance! Now I have the confidence and strength to live my life to the fullest again," said a lady in her forties who wished to remain anonymous. She completed the course last year and found it so beneficial that she had brought a friend along for the ceremony. The daughter of a participant who is enrolled in the course beginning March 29th was enthusiastic and optimistic: "I believe and hope that this project not only serves as a stepping stone to upgrade the skills of our people, but also helps spreading the value of the humanities." 

By Lee Yeong-eun

First graduate students graduate from the UN College of Peace




Strategy and Public Relations Team

▲ The first batch of graduates of UPEACE pose with Park Chul, president of HUFs (third from the left) displaying their degree certificates.

On March 26th, the students who completed their study in the HUFs-UN College of Peace (UPEACE) graduated to become the first class of graduate students finishing this joint degree program. The commencement ceremony was held on the Seoul campus, which also handled the 2009 graduation ceremony.

Our university recently formed the Department of International Law, Media and Peace, and Human Rights for the joint degree in collaboration with UPEACE in 2008. During their 1st and 4th semesters, the students were required to study in the Graduate School of International and Area Studies at HUFs, and they spent their 2nd and 3rd semesters at UPEACE in Costa Rica. By passing the final examination of defending a thesis, the students earned a degree from both universities.

Lee Sung-eun and Ju Yun-jung earned their master's degree studying International Law and Human Rights. Lee Hw-yun and Choi Yu-na graduated studying the Media, Peace and Conflict Studies. All of them received degrees from both of the universities.

At present in 2010, the departments of International Law, Human Rights, Media and Peace, and Sustainable Development will be combined to form the Department of UN Peace. After graduating from their courses of study, students will have the opportunity to work in related fields at international organizations such as the United Nations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and so on. 

By Kim Jun-kyu

Students Rise Up for Their Rights



Hwang Jung-hyun / The Argus


The GSC at the Seoul campus to install an information booth in front of the GlobeeDorm.

The General Student Council(GSC) of HUFS Seoul campus announced that they will hold a General Assembly on April 7th for the purpose of discussing students' rights. HUFSans have been outraged at the recent

hike in tuition fees, and they have announced that they will hold the Assembly reminding the audience of the last meeting, held in 2009, which was an event that was held outdoors after five years, from 2004.

The members of the GSC passed out flyers inviting all HUFSans to participate. The flyers say that the more people come and participate in the Assembly, the stronger their voices will get. Consequently, the students will earn their rights.

Also, they say the raising of tuition fees must be stopped. In addition, they say that a committee on tuition fees should be formed in order to protect students' rights.

Not stopping at reminding students of the Assembly in 2009, in which thousands of HUFSans participated and successfully obtained what they were demanding, the GSC is also handing out a questionnaire asking the students about the second majors that students have to undertake along with their first major. With conflict in store between the school and the students, the day of April 7th is approaching. 

By Kim Jun-kyu


Alumni Executive Meeting held to discuss the 56th anniversary celebration of the foundation of HUFS



Hwang Jung-hyun / The Argus

▲ HUFS president Park Chul and Alumni Executives pose for a photo on April 2 to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the foundation of HUFS

A Meeting was held on April 2, 2010 at the sky lounge Minerva in the administrative offices to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the foundation of HUFS. HUFS

president-Park Chul, president of the Korean Distributors International-Yong Earl-shik, chairman of International Diplomacy and Security Forum- Kim Hyeon-uk, Dean of External Affairs- Jang Tae-yeop were among the dignitaries who attended the meeting. The meeting gave an update to the attendees on the latest activities on campus including news about the inauguration of the 9th HUFS president, the 2010 HUFS freshmen festival and the fifth KOTRA intern ceremony. The status of the current constructions was also reported in the meeting. The construction status of the underground complex and remodeling of the old main building on the Seoul campus, construction of a second dormitory and the English village on the Yongin Campus and a global campus on Songdo, were highlighted in the meeting. 

By Kwon Jeong-a

A Bohemian Falls in Love with Himalayas

By Lee Kyeong-eun

Associate Editor of Campus Section

Accomplished photographer and documentary maker Park Jong-woo graduated from HUFS and worked as a photo journalist for the prestigious newspaper Hankook Ilbo. He has contributed photos themed on Korea to various magazines all over the world including the German magazine GEO and the Italian magazine Airone. He has traveled to more than 100 countries and has worked in areas ranging from the Himalayas to the wilds of Africa. For 20 years he was involved in a project where he worked in the Himalayan region. Park shoots documentary films a well and has produced some popular documentary films including a series on the ancient tea route that was a megahit on television channels like KBS and SBS.

The Argus met Park Jong-woo at his office in Gwanghwamun. Clad in casual wear Park was busy dealing with an unforeseen situation that arose while shooting at the demilitarized zone(DMZ)-without a doubt, a sensitive zone. It all seemed to be a part of the day's work for a photographer who has travelled all over the world on various assignments including the ones deemed too dangerous and risky.

Nevertheless, we managed to ask him a few questions about his life, his passion of photography,



his favorite photographer and many other things.

Argus: *You studied at the HUFS and became a photo journalist after you graduated. It seems like your major fitted you well?*

Park Jong-woo (Park): No, the major did not fit me at all. Instead of studying at school, I went around taking pictures. Despite of the fact that many photographers take their first step in photography by getting involved in the photography circles at schools, I was not there in any of the circles.

Argus: *Then what was your first step in photography?*

Park: I was influenced by my mother. Her hobby was to take pictures and she always carried a Petri camera with her. When I was in the middle school, she gave me her camera as a gift, saying "Take pictures on your own now."

Argus: *Some photographers say that they get some inspirations or motivations to do their work. What inspires or motivates you to take pictures?*

Park: I do not work with any particular inspiration. As I began my career as a photojournalist, I take photographs related to the story and assignment I have been given.

Argus: *What about the stories you covered about the Himalayas and especially the ancient tea route?*

Park: There are various minority groups that reside in southern China especially in the Himalayan area. When I was in China, I stopped by a book store browsed through their shelves. In the store, a picture attracted my attention.

It was the ancient tea route. The road served as a trade route for selling and buying tea and horses. The Himalayas are stretched from the east and to the west, and I focused on the trade routes that are stretched from the north to the south and they are in very height altitude areas.

Argus: *Your works usually depict traditional cultures. Do you have any special*

A part of the Himalayan epic through Park's lens



©Park Jong-woo

interest in that area?

Park: When I was a photojournalist and reported the news, I realized that news become old as time goes by and they lose their significances. In other words, after a certain period of time, no one finds old news striking. That is the reason I decided to quit my job. Nowadays, I take pictures of things I consider more significant. The Himalayas and the traditional cultures, the civilizations and the minority



Enchanting landscapes are Park's usual workplace

©Park Jong-woo



Life along the ancient tea route

groups nested in there are undergoing considerable changes. I want to take pictures of those things and preserve them for posterity before they change beyond recognition. It was not the minority groups in the Himalayas that I focused, but I focused on the valuable things that are in need of preservation.

Argus: *During your assignments, I heard, you have been through a lot of mishaps. For example, you were bitten by animals and you even fell down from a cliff on the ancient tea route. Could you tell us a little more about that?*

Park: I thought it was really the end of me when a horse carrying salt pushed me off a 40 meter tall cliff. Fortunately, a tree branch prevented me from falling further and I survived. Accidents are part of this job.

Argus: *Don't your family members prevent you from taking up hazardous assignments considering the accidents you have been in?*

Park: Not at all! On the contrary, I travel outside of Korea with my family members. As my wife is a teacher of in an elementary school, she has time to travel with me in vacations. We always take a tour whenever we have a vacation. My son, Jun, who is still a teenager, has

traveled to more than 40 countries with us.

Argus: *You do still photography and videography simultaneously. What is the difference between the two, and which one is the one you like the most?*

Park: In still photography, I may fail to record the best moment, but in case of videography I can cover all the sequences of an event. In taking still pictures, you cannot capture all the moments that tell a complete story. In other words, I have to fill in by telling the story and show only the best picture.

If I have to select one of the two methods, I'm going to opt for still photography.

Argus: *Who is your favorite photographer?*

Park: He is Olivier Föllmi, who takes pictures in the Himalayas like me. But he has done more than what I have ever tried. He took a Tibetan boy and a girl to Switzerland and raised them as his son and daughter and educated them, which is really admirable. On the other hand I have just taken pictures of poor children. In other words, I have not been able to change anything while Olivier Föllmi has made real changes in people's lives. He even had taken pictures of the two children growing up, and held a photo

exhibition later. The pictures were good, they were really good!

Argus: *Any advice for the HUFSSans?*

Park: Actually, many HUFSS alumni are spread all over the world. Wherever I go abroad, I always meet our alumni in a foreign country. It is a very thrilling experience. Most of them are businessmen abroad and unfortunately, many of them do not take any interest in the culture of the places they live in. But I think it is very important to understand and eventually fall in love with a foreign country and its culture. I met an alumnus in Tanzania, for example, who was a businessman in the country. But he seemed to have no interest in Tanzania, and the Tanzanians. I think one has to understand and accept the local cultures.

Secondly, I hope the students today were more ambitious. The students today seem to have very low ambitions and passions compared to the university students before. I want the students to do what they want to without worrying about earning money. I can tell this with conviction as I have seen many cases where a person concentrated on a field that looked pretty unyielding. However, those people eventually earned their living very well with their efforts. For instance, there was a Japanese photographer who was obsessed with the sea and photographed only the sea. It looked pretty unrewarding at a time when journalism was the mainstream of the field of photography. But nowadays the mainstream has changed and has become more image-oriented. Hence, the Japanese photographer's pictures now have become extremely valuable. In other words, it is alright for one to indulge in one's passion regardless of what others say or do. 📷

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LINGUISTICS, WHAT I LOVE

By Suk Gee-hyun

Reporter of Campus Section

Language is a privilege that the humans have and at the same time, it is a distinct social phenomenon. A society without a language may well be akin to a tree without its root. People often forget how closely language is related with our lives but the professor interviewed here says that studying the basics of each language is good discipline for growing one's creativity and logic. If you have studied any language at all, you will get a strong sense that he truly knows what he's talking about.

Kim Kwang-sup is a professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) and a director at the TESOL Center. He himself graduated from HUFS as an English major and went through the same graduate school. "I've stayed in the States as a visiting student, when I was 29. I had never gone abroad before then." It is hard to believe that his sustained interest in studying English linguistics did not come from his experience abroad. What led him to tread this path was a book he read in his junior year at HUFS. It was a book written by John Ryan about Noam Chomsky's theories on language. A student who did not even know that there was such a field of study as linguistics, Kim immediately decided that this was his calling. For him, there was no need to ask "why" or "how" as he



closely followed the development of linguistics throughout the years.

Going through Kim's profile, it is clear that there was something that set him apart from other professors. He earned two masters degrees from two different schools: one from HUFS and the other one from the University of Maryland. He explains that he was very lucky to become a professor at the age of 31, which is quite early for scholars in the field of humanities. When he thought that the next thirty years were going to be nearly the same as before, he desired a greater challenge. "I just think it was too early to become a professor. I chose to go to the University of Maryland and broaden the scope of my study from English Linguistics to Linguistics generally. It wouldn't have made a big difference for the outcome in terms of employment, but I gained much experience and

interacted with many different people." One of them is Norbert Hornstein, who is often called the godfather of linguistics. Kim says it was a big help not only to know Professor Hornstein personally as well as through his published work.

According to Kim, the theories of Noam Chomsky which he studied in his junior year at HUFS affected him so profoundly that they inspired him to write for Linguistic Inquiry (LI) published from Chomsky's home institution MIT. Considering that only a few Korean scholars were able to make it through the competitive selection process to publish in Linguistic Inquiry, one could grasp the scale of his work. Kim modestly explained that his paper was about the usage of "that" and "for" in English sentences; when it is used, how it is used, and the rules followed in its usage. But it was hard to shake the thought that holding on to the same words and analyzing them can be exhausting. "When people choose to become a scholar, there are usually two reasons: they want to become rich or they want to become famous. Obviously, what I study isn't a financially promising job. I feel pride




that language is the basis of every study. The excitement of studying that “root” is unexplainable,” he said. “It’s like how people watch sports games for fun with full knowledge that it’s not an economically productive activity. I just happen to like linguistics.”

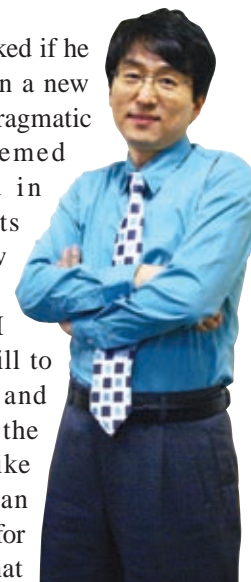
This year in February, he presented his paper on “Control, Repair by Ellipsis and Default Case” at the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 28 Symposium in the U.S. Also in February of 2009, he presented “Movement Paradoxes and Topic Phrase” in 7th General Linguistics in the Old World(GLOW) in Asia Symposium, held in Indonesia. To the envy of all others, it was Kim’s curiosity and interest

that were the source of power in his works. “There are three kinds of people who study: one who’s good at it, one who tries hard for it, and one like me who has nothing else to do but studying” Kim said, smiling.

Time has flown by and it has been already been over two decades since Kim promised to devote himself to the field of linguistics. As a Korean saying goes, a decade changes a river and a mountain. Kim feels that the next generation should do more than what he has done. Delving into language will not by itself bring about any development in people and in society. He believes in what he calls ‘Language + Contents.’ It is his strong belief that in contrast to earlier times, society now needs pragmatic

language. When asked if he would like to begin a new study to develop pragmatic language, he seemed more interested in educating students with the knowhow and output that he has built up. “I consider myself still to be pretty young, and while I still have the energy, I would like to try developing an education program for linguistics. It’s what I’m doing right now, but I would like to put more effort into it.”

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Proud HUFSan ② Kang Seung-joon

DON'T BE AFRAID OF YOUR DREAMS

By Suk Gee-hyun

Reporter of Campus Section

Recent news about a female student from Korea University stating that she quit from school has inflamed Korean society. She blamed society and universities for not providing the students with an environment for a real education. But she is not the only one who has experienced the same anxieties. Even generating an official term called “spec”, people have started to care about the number and the scale of qualifications as future



▲ Kang was nominated for Short Film Corner in 2009 Cannes Film Festival

employees.

Kang Seung-joon is a student at HUFS who proves that this Korea

University student may have been too pessimistic in her views. He explained that the aforementioned student has a point, but he wishes that she had let herself go from all the pressure. “When I look at freshmen and sophomores these days, I feel like they have less of a chance to find out what they like. Of course, school grades and extra-curricular activities all matter. But what’s the point if you end up not even knowing who you really are or what you want?” he said with a shrug.

Kang’s experience in Cannes Film Festival in 2009 was what



immediately grabbed this writer's attention. Call him a movie producer, a TEDex Operation Manager, and Andres Seung-Joon Kang. Right now, he's attending HUFs in his last year as a Spanish major. Over the last three years, he has broadened his interest into a hobby and then into his career. As if it's a ritual process to become a great figure, he also had his turning-point to start his career in the film industry. One of his professors of Spanish awakened this interest in Kang by playing a movie by Quentin Jerome Tarantino the acclaimed director of "Kill Bill" and "Inglorious Bastards." As the number of directors who attracted Kang's interest increased, he started to dream about becoming a director himself one day.

"I met a guy in the army who also liked Tarantino. We often shared our ideas and decided one day to make a film together. That's how The Horn (Kyung-Jeok) was made and we made it to be a candidate at last year's Cannes Film Festival." Kang said walking on the red carpet was a fascinating moment, though he was not recognized by any paparazzi. "When I went there, I learned why

Cannes is known to be the



▲ Song Kang-ho was also in 2009 Cannes Film Festival for his movie Thirst

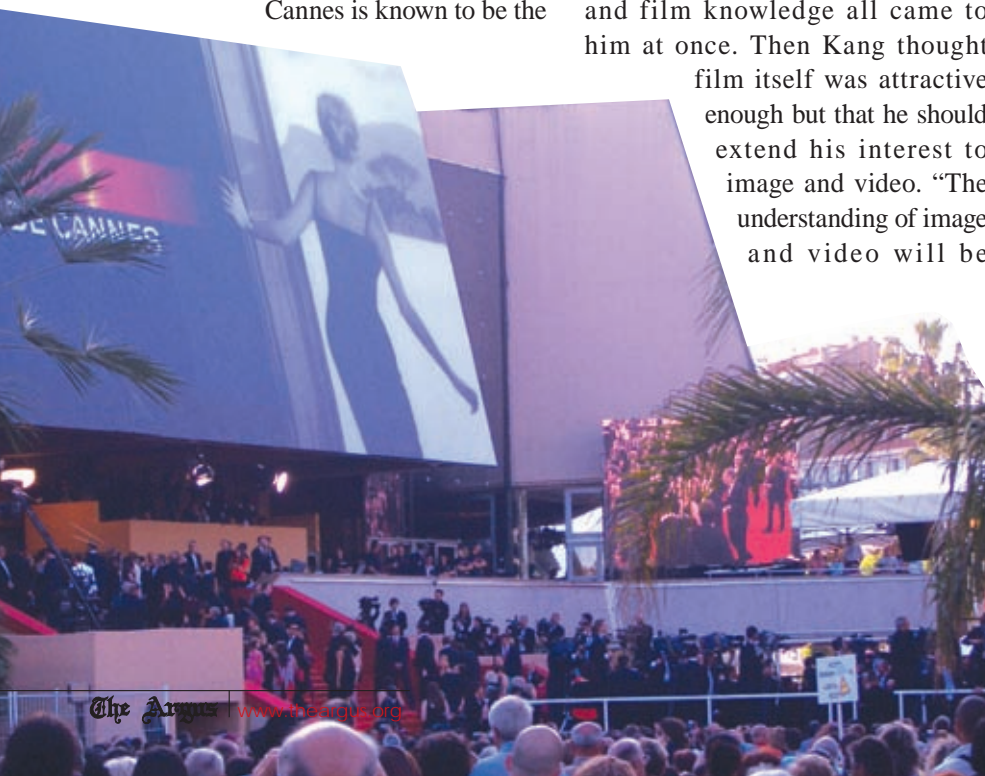
best film festival in the world. People are only interested in which dresses actresses wear and how much those cost. However at the festival, people feel, evaluate, and do business with film. It's fantastic."

Kang's interest in the film industry is no vague fantasy. He built up his ability through various experiences over the last few years to 'connect the dots.' "Participating in producing a film gave him an idea of how the system works. Technical, synopsis, and film knowledge all came to him at once. Then Kang thought film itself was attractive enough but that he should extend his interest to image and video. "The understanding of image and video will be

inseparable from any industry. Even now, companies are in dire need for better and more creative story-telling in marketing" Kang said while explaining his plans after graduation.

Kang has just finished another film to compete in this year's Cannes Film Festival. He says Journey (Yeo-Haeng) is based on a Korean folk tale about a son and father which is called 'Goryeojang.' This story is described as a journey that a father takes on a ship. The result of Kang's application to compete in this year's Cannes Film Festival comes out in April, and if he is lucky, he will make another flight to Cannes, France, to make a second appearance on the red carpet. "Just have a lot of experiences. Face difficulties. And when it flashes into your head that you're desperate for something, you'll figure out a way," Kang said as a piece of advice for his fellow HUFsians. 📷

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◀ Actors and actresses walking on the red carpet

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6/7/10/11. Friendship brings joy to everyone and the campus life makes everlasting friendships

4. Love: It soothes your heart, makes you strong and brings peace to your mind

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12/15/16. Passion and dedication drive us on

13/14/17/18. United we stand: We reach the stars and make our own destiny

19. Escape from the busy schedule for a while and take refuge in the lap of nature



The Constitution of Korea and Its Peculiar History

By Kim Ro-na
Guest Reporter

By Lee Bo-mi
Reporter of Campus Section

It is easier to find breaking news from troubled places rather than those from developed nations where the quality of life matters more than controversy. Obviously, the stories and pictures from the bloody student protests after the Iranian Presidential election are not something young Koreans can expect to see on Korean television broadcasts today or would even be interested in if they were. Like the people of other nations, Koreans are not satisfied living under the economic recession, but at least Koreans are not living in the grip of the struggle between life and death. The series of peaceful Candle-light vigils protesting several political issues reflect how Koreans have matured their protesting methods, and more importantly, show that the authorities cannot oppress civil movements by force in Korea. The news of fierce Iranian protests, though, seems to be a repeat of Korean modern history.

The world of brutal and violent battles between the government and citizens took place in Korea as little as thirty years ago. Before the time of the Candle-light vigils, Koreans also struggled to fight for democracy and many sacrificed who resemble the actions of today's Iranian citizens. As the first civil movements in Korea, especially those led by students - the 4.19 Revolution in 1960 marks its 50th anniversary this years - The Argus traces back to the origins of today's Korean democracy.

We, the people of Korea, proud of a resplendent history and traditions dating from time immemorial, upholding the cause of the Provisional Republic of Korea Government born of the March First Independence Movement of 1919 and the democratic ideals of the April Nineteenth Uprising of 1960 against injustice...

Above is the beginning of the first sentence of the Korean Constitution, the Preamble. It is a statement of the Constitution's general objectives, style, and character that reflect where this country finds its ideals. However, since the birth of the Republic of Korea, the Preamble has been changed several times. In fact, much of the Constitution was manipulated during the



▲ A boy's body with tear gas shell plugged into his eye socket was pulled out of the shore of Masan bay after violent demonstration against fraud election.

long years of dictatorship. Some government administrations added or erased words in their favor to justify themselves in diminishing the call for democracy.

The current Constitution was initiated in 1987 as a sign of ending the military dictatorship after fierce student resistance re-gained the line of “the April Nineteenth Uprising of 1960 (the 4.19 Revolution).” Because the ideals of the 4.19 Revolution guarantee the right of resistance beyond law as the last weapon of democracy, authoritarian states do not welcome such a constitution to reaffirm this natural right. Although both the “March First Independence Movement” (Samil-jeol) and the 4.19 Revolution reflect the Koreans’ maverick character of fearless revolt for independence and against injustices, unlike the Samil-jeol, long years of military dictatorship challenged this, and mostly erased the appeals of the 4.19 Revolution, and confused Koreans in their quest to establishing the representative democracy that this country stands for.

Ridiculous challenges that the

4.19 Revolution faced imply the complexity in Korean modern politics. Even after hardly bringing down the First Republic, the Koreans failed to continue the first real democratic government - the so-called the Second Republic - because of the outbreak of the military coup d’etat by then General Park, lead on May 16, 1961. Unfortunately, the long-lasting dictatorship blurred the core values of the revolution and its short-termed liberal government. However, regardless of its previous turbulent status, the 4.19 Revolution marked the first citizens’ outcry - especially from students - against the first republic, which came to an end in a week. Even with its immature plans, the demonstration showed the natural right of resistance that fermented in the student revolution, and later appeared in the liberal movements that finally brought down the end of the military dictatorship in the late 80’s.

From the birth of the First Republic to the outbreak of the 4.19 Revolution, as if brutal oppression under the Japanese Imperial Colonization was not enough, Koreans faced a sudden but long lasting division of the country and a disastrous civil war, the Korean War. In fact, after the war, his vulnerable administration turned into a powerful patriotic and anti-communist state with an authoritarian temperament with support from his police force

and U.S. aid. At the time, the national economy relied on only U.S. support for capital. Yet there was still a great admiration for President Rhee, much of the ire was directed at his vice president, Lee Ki-boong. Very loyal to President Rhee, Lee’s power was retained by Rhee despite great unpopularity. A month before the 4.19 Revolution, it was Lee’s election in which he received nearly 100% of the vote in the fatally flawed process that exasperated the students and led to the uprisings.

Students and intellectuals could not endure the rigged election, another violation of the representative system by the Liberty party. The student demonstration in Daegu on Feb, 28 and in Pusan and Masan from March through April, escalated to “Bloody Tuesday” on April 19. Especially when Kim Joo-yeol, a teenage boy who had been reported missing for days after the street rally in Masan, was found dead. The news of outrage by the citizens of Masan after witnessing pictures of Kim’s face with a tear-gas bullet in it on the Masan shore, spread widely and touched off national protests. On April 18, a group of Korea University students demonstrated against the government and were ambushed on their way back home by anti-communist Youth Groups who were really gangsters. The news covered the front page of the Dong-a Ilbo and outraged the public to stage even



► “Repay for the students’s blood!” university professors led the way to demonstration under Martial Law.

larger protests.

On April 19, it all came to a boil. Even worse, Lee Ki-boong authorized the police to fire upon the protesters. Dozens of students were killed and hundreds were wounded. When journalists questioned the wisdom of this move, Lee brazenly responded, “After all, we gave guns to the police so they can shoot.” Despite the deployment of the military, artillery and armored vehicles, the demonstrations only grew larger, and at times, violent against the authorities. As the saying goes, the jig was finally up for the administration when 259 professors of universities in Seoul participated in peaceful parades with the slogan “Respond to the sacrificed students’ blood,” on April 25 and asked for the resignation of the whole administration and representatives including President Rhee. Lee Ki-bung’s family committed mass suicide on 26 April. That same day, President Rhee announced his resignation and the dissolution of his notorious political party, the Liberty Party. Finally, the 4.19 Revolution shifted political power from the Liberty Party to its most powerful rival, Democratic Party.



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Although the students were triumphant in changing the politics of Korea, the consequences of the demonstrations somehow played wrongfully everywhere. Moreover, the nation fell into a polarization of politics and society that led to a period of considerable political disorder. The new liberal government, even with the honest and intelligent leader, Chang-myeon, ended in May 1961 by the military coup d’etat.

While most praised the courageous resistance to Rhee’s corrupt government, some critically examined the consequences of the 4.19 Revolution that failed to maintain a liberalized democratic government.

According to Kang Jung-man, author of *A Brief of Modern Korean History* - Hankuk Hyundaesha Sanchaek, the role of nationalism in the 4.19 Revolution that praised the voluntary sacrifice of young students in the name of patriotism swung the other way. He finds the success of the military coup d’etat of 1961 a direct result from the students’ overwhelming excitement about nationalism, which eventually let them approve of the Coup.

Kang points out it was the university professors who specifically demanded the resignation of the government, including President Rhee, during the 4.19 Revolution. Because university students who were emancipated by elitism could not develop their outbreak in favor of the old hierarchy, he tracks down why the students failed to lead in changing the society.

The unfolding of history is not always great and perfect, however. The significant meaning of the



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revolution was in the efforts of how to take up the revolution’s goal, which failed. After the 4.19 Revolution, however, Koreans guaranteed basic rights that had been put off in the Constitution and legislated a special act to punish anti-democracy severely. Also, for the first time, civilians asked for inquiries into the actual state of things about massacring civilians. These experiences eventually helped Koreans make sense about human rights.

Among the independent countries in post-World War II, only the Republic of Korea overthrew a dictatorship by citizen power. The student protests helped the triumphant moment of citizens’ justice to be written into Korean hearts that grew into the break following demonstrations after the Korean-Japanese rapprochement in 1964, the Yushin Constitution of 1974, and the Military government of 1978, which at last established the current and the longest lasting Korean Constitution.

Today, with the spread of the

Candle-light vigils to protect the hard-earned democracy, the Koreans still remember that it is their own right of resistance against any government authority suspected of risking the people's sovereignty and lives. This natural right of resistance, reaffirmed by the Preamble, shows through in the Korean democracy from the 4.19 Revolution.

On the year of its 50th anniversary, today's college students, the counterpart of the leaders of the 4.19 Revolution, are only vaguely aware of the beginnings of Korean democracy in the year 1960. However, Korean modern history tells its people that democracy does not come in peace, and asks for the blood and sacrifice, especially from the young people.

Living in a prosperous time with confidence, Korean college students may cherish the virtue of democracy better with remembrance of that time of reckless but courageous outcries that happened 50 years ago. 

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The 4.19 Celebration of Each University

The 4.19 Revolution delivered the news of the outbreak of student demonstrations from middle school to college students calling for democracy. To find its today's status, here, The Argus presents the list of the 50th anniversary programs at these universities.



HUFS



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The 4.19 celebration is led by the student council every year. HUFS always holds a marathon and biking events from HUFS Seoul campus to the national cemetery for the 4.19 Revolution. This year it will be the same.



Seoul National University (SNU)

The Student council leads the 4.19 celebration and the SNU president will participate in the event this year. The monument for the 4.19 Revolution is at SNU's Kwanak Campus. The President of SNU and representatives of the student council will conduct a silent tribute at the monument on the morning on April 19. In the afternoon, the annual street march from SNU Kwanak Campus to Silim Subway Station will be held by the student council and they expect over 500 students to participate.



Yonsei University, Sinchon Campus

Yonsei University originally had no event for the 4.19 Revolution. Instead, Yonsei has held an annual event for cherishing the memory of the late Lee Han-yeol, patriotic martyr, on June 9. The date of his death is a celebration day for several student protest movements, including the 4.19 Revolution.



Korea University, Anam Campus



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Korea University refers to the 4.19 event as the 4.18 celebration because of the political ambush of Kodai students that took place on that day. The student council arranges this event vigorously and many students participate in this celebration in different scales and varieties.

The 4.18 event at Korea University is an annual event organized by the student council to commemorate the students' voluntarily participation in 1960. This 50th anniversary will be held both by the student council and the university itself.

On the morning of April 18, about 700 people both from the general public and students will participate in the 4.18 marathon led by the student council. In the afternoon, Korea University students will participate in the run for saving the country and visit the national cemetery for the 4.19 Revolution.

For this major annual event, 3,000 to 4,000 students will participate. In particular, this year is also the 50th anniversary and the student council that planned a distinctively bigger event for the 4.18 celebration.



Missing 'Missing Child'

By Kwon Jeong-a

Reporter of National Section

On Christmas in 2007, two elementary school students were missing in the city of Anyang. The police carried out a massive search to find the missing children, but the girls were found dead near the discovered scene of the incident 3 months later. They were cruelly slashed to death and their parents still grieve for the death and abduction of their children. Can society have a true safety net for our children?

Process of Dealing with Missing Child

There are 2 main institutions taking charge of missing children: the Police and the Ministry of Health and Welfare. When a child is reported missing, the police document the incident. Then, the police pass the data of the missing child over to National Center for Missing Child, a department of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. They also collect personal information about the missing child from other institutions and build a composite of information from various sources. Next, the police start the investigation into the missing child on the basis of the overall information they collected. These days, the dedicated team of the Police Agency for Missing Children is primary group in charge of the reported incidents.

The following table indicates the range of missing children according to the law.

Regular missing child	Child who got lost and cannot find this or her way home
Child being found	Child who is being searched for
Cared child	Child who left his or her parent and is being cared for at the police station or welfare center
Extended missing child	Child who is not discovered within 48 hours after being reported by the parents
Abandoned child	Child who is abandoned on purpose by parents or guardian

To make the search in more a concrete manner, the police operate the Child Safety House and an abduction & disappearance alert system. The Child Safety House is a place whose location is easily approached by children. It takes part in caring for missing children and providing a safe environment for the children. The abduction & disappearance alert system, which is called Amber Alert System for Missing Kids, issues a warning alert for serious abduction cases through media so that people can report if they discover the child. The Ministry of Health and Welfare takes charge of affairs such as constructing a database of missing children, carrying out the welfare system for their family, and educating children to prevent them from being kidnapped. The Ministry of Health and Welfare is the national center to which the task of finding missing children is specially entrusted.

The Problems of Handling the Incidents

When abduction became a hot issue, the police investigation system was mentioned and criticized often. As a result, the police lately amended the law for finding missing children and established the “Police Agency for Missing Children” to cope with the cases of missing children. However, the Police Agency for Missing Children is not an independent institution, but is an affiliate of the Department of Women and Youth.

The Department of Women and Youth takes responsibility of affairs such as the care of youth, missing child management, women’s counseling, sexual violence and domestic violence, prostitution and other miscellaneous tasks related to women and children. Finding missing children is merely one of the jobs the department takes.

Though each local police station has a specialized team for missing children’s affairs, the team has to take care of various jobs besides the missing child incidents. Lee Yoon-Ho, professor at the Department of Police Administration, said, “Abduction is a difficult case if the direction of the search is not found in the early part of the investigation. However, the police are making a specialized team and not dealing with employing new staff who can independently take care of the job. In this way, one who is assigned the task of finding children should also take care of his own duty at the same time.” Since the police are expected to be responsible for the heavy burden of performing various tasks, they cannot concentrate constantly and efficiently on cases of missing children. In this sense, such a team cannot be referred to as a dedicated team, and at the same time, the notion of specialty also seems to collapse. The fact is, in Korea, there are not many professional individuals who are suitable for the job of finding missing children. This means that resolving missing children issues is difficult for the police due to lack of scientific methodology. Therefore, when the early part of the investigation fails, the missing child is occasionally found dead.

It is difficult for the Abduction & Disappearance alert system to spread warning to many people, since the system is connected to only particular channels of the mass media.

Newspaper and public TV alert only cases of children on which the police are seriously stuck. The Alert system also uses electronic display, which is limited in transmitting the full information. Only subway line No.3 has an electronic display capable of showing a photograph and the displays in other places have to rely on brief information of a missing child through short text messages. Such circumstances make it more difficult for people to be informed of missing children.

The table below indicates participating mass media for the missing children

	Mass media	Alert type
Broadcasting (3)	KBS, KTV, mbn	Abduction
Public institution (2)	city of Seoul Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs	Abduction/ Disappearance
Newspaper (18)	KyungHyang, DongA, MaeKyung, ChoSun, Herald, etc.	Abduction
Mobile Communication Agency (3)	SKT, KTF, LGT	Abduction/ Disappearance
Internet site (6)	Naver, Daum, Neowiz, Yahoo, Paran, Nate	Abduction/ Disappearance
Financial institution (5)	KukMin, ShinHan, NongHyup, Woori, Kiup	Abduction/ Disappearance

Weak Point of the Prevention Program

The Ministry of Health and Welfare, an institution related to children (i.e. kindergarten files for education), educates children to prevent their being lost. The National center for missing children accepts applications from institutions for the educational prevention program and sends a group of specialists to educate. They educate children through singing songs, presenting puppet shows, or explaining with pictures. Children are taught things such as “Let your parents know where you are going”, “Walk along main roads with a friend”, “Don’t follow stranger”, “Don’t respond to calls or knockings when you are home alone” etc.. Then supposing a kidnapping situation, the specialists teach children to say their own name, phone number and names of their parents, by using slogans such as “Do not move when you get lost from your parents”, “Memorize your own name, your parents’ names and your phone number”, “Ask help from adults near you or notify the police using a public telephone”.

But, a representative of the National Organization of Finding Missing Children and Family said, “Prevention education is somewhat remote from reality; it is indeed far from the actual circumstances when abduction really occurs.” However, kidnapping, indeed, takes place more often by using mild trick or giving a sense of closeness rather than taking the child by force. In addition, the society teaches children that they should respect and treat elders politely, which makes it hard for children to express negative impressions against adults who actually approach them to hurt them.

The police have run about 25,000 Child Safety Houses across the nation since 2008. However, management of the Child Safety Houses is too poor to be truly valuable in caring for

the missing child. In principle, the owners of public stores near schools or some spots easily approachable by children can serve as Child Safety Houses for the police, who can further decide if the designation is qualified or not. However, the reality is that only the police is equipped to take care of such cases. Lee Yoon-Ho, a Professor at the Department of Police Administration, said, “We have not had enough time to run Child Safety Houses efficiently. Because the crisis situation about kidnapping has already spread to public awareness. So we need to set up Child Safety House quickly as a countermeasure. However, measuring and managing Child Safety House in a short-term period does not make running the system efficient.” If the previous owner retires after managing a Child Safety House, the newly assigned owner usually does not have a great knowledge about the system. As a part time worker in a store does not fully understand the whole affairs of the store, so the new owner of a Child Safety House does not have a full understanding of his or her job when he or she start.

One owner of a stationery store said, “I saw an elementary school student bullied by his friends near my store. Since the situation looked urgent and serious to me, I called the police to report. However, when the police arrived, the students denied that they were involved in such a case and it became hard to prove the fact. Also, since there are many critical incidents that occur in alleys, I doubt that Child Safety Houses can function well.”

Experts associated with missing children said uniformly that the punishment penalty for such cases is too feeble. Indeed, many crimes are assigned a much lighter punishment than they should get, due to complex conditions they are involved.

In October 2007, one elementary school student was abducted and the abductor demanded a large amount of money from the parents of the child. However, the abductor set the child free when he sensed the investigation, which made him sentenced to only 6 years. Another case occurred in Daegu in July 2009. In this case, the child escaped himself and was not hurt at all, so the abductor was sentenced to no more than 5 years. In cases of abandonment, the parents who abandoned their child on purpose are considered criminals, but they are usually let off only with a warning. Many authorities claim that the criminals think lightly of committing against innocent children.

How to Promote Efficiency in Dealing with the Incidents

The Police Agency for Missing Children is made for professional investigations. However, since the police in the present are not well-prepared as technical investigators, the

early part of the investigation is criticized in many cases. So, the investigators participating in cases of missing children should have special training in crimes against children. In the U.S.A, the independent unit of Crimes Against Children (=CAC) exists under the FBI. CAC has a special team of Child Abduction Rapid Deployment (=CARD), which employs skilled investigators and specialized equipments. The CARD team gets help from profilers who can conjecture on the type of criminal perpetrating the incidents at the beginning of the investigations. Using diverse academic approaches, profiling analysis of the case can track peculiar signatures of an incident or judge the original purpose of the crimes. Thanks to the profiling procedure, the CARD team can use a scientific approach in their planning of the investigation. In addition, there is dynamic cooperation between CAC and the non-profit organization of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (=NCMEC). NCMEC specially investigates non-criminal cases of disappearance or extended missing incidents.

The Abduction & disappearance alert system in Korea also has a problem in diffusing warnings. The French system uses a variety of mass media for issuing the Amber Alert System. TV programs scroll captions for 15 minutes at a time, and the radio provides frequent amber alerts. Also, broadcasters are ready to stop broadcasting if necessary. An electronic display is shown in many public places such as station, airplane, etc, which makes the warning process more effective. On the other hand, the present Korean alert system is not effective enough. A more efficient alert system for the general public should be equipped so as to provide information about missing children to the public.

More Efficient Ways to Prevent Missing Child

Then, how can we cope with the case of missing children in more efficient ways?

First of all, we should get more practical education. In the U.S.A, NCMEC runs their own homepage which provides a manual for preventing cases of missing children, in which they give detailed explanations of precautions classified by different places. Besides, NCMEC runs a regular training program for parents about twice a month. This comprehensive training program is an 8-hour class which provides updated information on the dynamics of crimes committed against children, sexual abuse and exploitation, profiles of victims and offenders, and the latest prevention strategies to protect children in the real world.

Child Safety Houses need more continuous public relations and administration. A numerical increase of Child Safety Houses does not make society safe. Professor Lee Yoon-Ho




Kwon Jeong-a / The Argus

▲ “Safety house for children” sign : if a child runs into danger, they can take refuge here.

at the Department of Police Administration said, “To make a society free from fear, we should have more Child Safety Houses and manage them well. Also, cooperation with School Zone to provide location information to teenagers can be desirable when necessary.”

Existing laws are inadequate in dealing with the problem of missing children effectively. Punishments regarding abductions are summarized as follows. “Those who abduct, attack, beat or do severe actions against children or minors, are sentenced to imprisonment for 5 years to life.” “Those who lure children or minors or prevent children from going home by any possible means will be sentenced to imprisonment for at least 5 years”. However, the specialists associated with missing children’s affairs said, “We need stricter laws for punishing criminals who commit crimes against children. In this way, we have to build up a social attitude that kidnapping is considered to be wicked.” Such a thing is needed to make society safer for children.

A society is responsible for the safety of its members. In particular, children must be taken good care of as socially weaker individuals. To solve the problem of missing child efficiently, all of society should cooperate constantly. We should not entrust the responsibility totally to the police anymore. All the related organizations, such as the police, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, schools, children’s welfare centers, civic groups and diverse social elements should work together. Along with such collaboration, improvement of social awareness is also necessary. The problem of missing children problem is not merely the trouble of their families. We should have critical eyes about our surroundings with respect to the security of children. When awareness is widespread among the public, society can serve as a real safe-guard for children. 

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Twenty Years Searching for Missing Persons



By Kim Jun-kyu

Associate Editor of National Section

Are people aware of missing persons in our society? Are people concerned enough to care about those who have disappeared?

The answer to both these questions are not good. The issues of missing people as they are treated in the media are not the only problems the public needs notices in the world. Still, little attention is given to the missing and they are forgotten easily. To address the issue of the missing, the 'National Organization for Finding Missing Children and

Family' was established. This organization is actively finding missing people and taking actions to enlarge the public's awareness and concern for those who have disappeared. Plus, the Organization fully cooperates with the police in searching for those people who are missing.

To learn about this group, The Argus contacted the leader of the organization, Na Ju-bong, so we could listen to the voice of the organization looking for missing children and family.

Argus: How did your organization begin? And what motivated you to

look for missing people?

Na Ju-bong(Na): We started the organization in 1991. We noticed that many people just disappeared without any traces their families could follow. Also, the government was not helpful at all at that time. So many of families that had missing members had to travel all around the country searching for their lost loved ones. The heads of these families, typically the father, had to travel by himself with leaflets appealing for help. In addition, while searching for their loved ones, income to maintain the livelihoods of these families fell because of all the expense and time the fathers had to devote to travelling and searching. So, you can see that these families had to endure many difficulties, in addition to their heartbreak.

Because there were so many missing people at that time, the people looking for their family members got to know each other from searching the whole country for their loved ones. So in 1991, more than 200 men held an assembly in



Na Ju-bong works to help locate missing persons.



Na Ju-bong

Cheongnyangni, Seoul, to petition the government for help. As a result of that meeting, the National Organization for Finding Missing Children and Family was established. To help alleviate problems caused from the suffering of having a family member missing, these families have united in order to help each other and, moreover, do all they can to prevent the tragedy from happening again.

Argus: *Is there anything that the government and the police have not done well? The police are in charge of searching for the missing, and as you said before, the government had been of no help. Related to this question, have there been cases in which the police and the organization have looked for the same persons but came up with different conclusions?*

Na: To answer the first question, you might ask what the Korean government did, for I said they were of no help. In the 1990s, the government agency charged with finding the missing was sparse. The agency took reports about all types of missing things. The missing items, animals, and human beings were all dealt with by one agency. So efforts focused on finding lost human beings did not exist.

Connected to this problem, there was a case that the police could have solved had they had the proper resources and focus. A boy mentally challenged was lost and the parents of the boy contacted me. At that time, the organization was not yet settled, so actions such as helping the police or talking to the government about these problems could not be done, so I alone had to help find the missing boy. First, the parents reported the loss of their child to the police. But as I mentioned before, the police at that time handled all sorts of missing things and were not focused on missing

people. So the parents' call to the police about their handicapped child was not given any greater urgency that trying to find other things, such as a missing bicycle, for instance. When I heard about this, I started tracking after the boy and helping the parents. We finally found the corpse of the child close to the playground where the parents first reported him missing.

Also, related to this, the police have had a lack of information about these cases. So the organization gathers all the information about each case to help the family. If there are any misunderstandings between the police and the families, we help the families with the police so these cases can go forward.

Argus: *Some systems really had problems, as you mentioned. Are there things that have changed for the better, thanks to your group and the work you have done trying to find missing people?*

Na: Over the years, we have worked hard to change a lot of the procedures and make them better. First, we petitioned the police to change how they go about searching for missing people. Now, the police have different departments for finding lost animals and property, and the search for missing people is concentrated in one department. Also, in the past the police looked for a missing person for only fifteen years, but that is too short of a time to solve many of the cases. So we petitioned the government to give more time to search for each person, and now, each case is active for twenty-five years. Also, we helped change the law about searching for missing people. We have helped change two existing laws in particular, in order to make them fit better in our society. Plus, thanks to the help from many families, laws have been

enacted to make the search for missing people more effective.

Argus: *Wow! You are not only helping these families, but also helping make the laws and procedures better. Doing all of this work, surely you must encounter many difficulties. What troubles does the organization face now?*

Na: First, money is always an urgent problem. Although we work for the good of people, money is hard to come by. We get very little, except for three million won from the Dongdaemun-gu office every month, and the support from families who have missing family members. As you can see, the office of our organization is in a container next to the street, and this is because of our lack of money. Now we have electricity in the container, but it is hard to bear. Also, to maintain activities, we use a lot of paper to print up information about missing people, and that takes a lot of money too. And there are more expenses besides these.

Another difficulty is that we do not have the resources to raise our voices as strong as we would like to. Of course



Na's office is on the brink of being closed.

Kim Jun-kyu / The Argus

we have made some changes, but lots of things still need to be done. We have conducted more than 3,000 interviews with government officials, and sent lots of messages to the president of the country, but sometimes it seems useless. But the lack of citizens' awareness is the most difficult problem we face.

Argus: *Above all other problems, why is the lack of citizens' awareness the biggest problem? And related to this matter, what do you think about the peoples' awareness through advertisements appealing to them to be on the look-out for missing persons?*

Na: As an expert on the matter of missing people in our society, citizens' awareness is the biggest problem today. Having searched for missing persons for twenty years now, I have seen members of our society always turning away from the problem. Of course, when big cases like "the Frog Boys" come along, the entire country gets interested, but only for a week, or a month, at the most. As time passes by, the citizens lose their interest and that's why the plight of missing persons continues to be a big problem. To take care of this, people have to be aware and truly care for the

families who have missing members.

This lack of concern is why the advertisements have not had a big effect. For example, when messages were first sent to cellular phones advertising about those missing, many people called to help. But as time went by, these people lost interest and now complain that the messages are annoying. This is just one of the problems we face.

Argus: *Keeping going while facing all these difficulties, it doesn't seem to be stopping you. What are the plans you have for the future?*

Na: This office is designated as a volunteer service center. So, many students visit our office to help. They usually hand out flyers printed about the missing people. Because these students find us, we expect that many advertisements will be sent to the citizens. Also, we will educate the student volunteers in ways they can help us. First, we educate them about the seriousness of the problem. Also, we plan to protect or to move our office to a more stable place. For the public good, the organization must exist, and for the organization to exist, we need an office. So we will do our best to find ways to protect our office.

Argus: *In finishing the interview, what do you want to tell to the readers? If you have a message to tell us, what is it?*

Na: No one forced me to do all these activities. I do not get much help, and to maintain these efforts, my wife has had to sell shoes on the street, so I have not been able to act as a good husband and father for my family. But the reason why I do this, in spite of the difficulties, is because it is work that needs to be done. I feel our society is being negligent about this problem and so I am acting to fix it because it needs fixing. For my family, for my neighborhood, and for my country, we need this movement.

Lots of things have changed compared to the past. In the past, there was nothing. But now, we have set stepping-stones through all the generous work of all who those who have helped us. It has been difficult and challenging work, but it's been worth it. Many other people are taking up this work and that is most rewarding to me. As a citizen of our society, I hope others will succeed me in this work to make our country better. With the awareness we are helping to spread, people will be able to make the world better. 🌍

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Kim Jun-kyu / The Argus



Na's team publishes fliers carrying information about missing persons

Kim Jeong-a / The Argus



A poster for a movie depicting the agony of missing persons. Na contributed a good deal to the production.



Beyond Long Story...

By Kwon Jeong-a

Reporter of National of Section

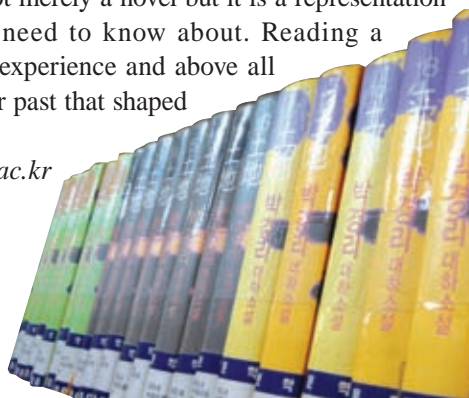
Hello HUFs-ans! Are you enjoying the campus life? While you enjoy the campus life it is also important that you devote a lot of time reading not only your course books but also some non-course books! This month professor Kim Seoung-Hwan in the Department of South Slavic Studies recommends us a book titled 'To Ji' written by Park Kyong-ri.

First of all, he recommended 'To Ji' because it can help you in developing a calm personality. The society today is fast and extremely competitive. Many of us including students have no time to relax or to sleep and reading a novel of 'To Ji's volume certainly needs some hard work. But let me assure you that while reading 'To Ji', your mind becomes so tranquil that it's worth it to read for the long hours.

Professor Kim also explained that 'To Ji' portrays a vivid picture of the social environment during Japanese colonial rule. 'To Ji' also describes wounds inflicted on our community during that era. He said observing the society may not be the exact purpose of reading literature but 'To Ji' portrays such a vivid picture of the horrendous brutality of the Japanese colonial rule that it stands out as a unique piece of literature. Thus you can immerse yourself in the background while reading 'To Ji'. Finally, Professor Kim also appreciated the tragic love stories in 'To Ji'. The love stories were written in such a subtle manner that it moves any reader who reads it. He said it surely is a representative Korean epic novel tradition.

Many students are probably afraid of reading 'To Ji' considering its volume. However, if you use your time wisely, the campus life gives you enough opportunity to read an epic novel like 'To Ji'. Besides 'To Ji' is not merely a novel but it is a representation of the spirit of a time and age we all need to know about. Reading a voluminous novel can too be an exciting experience and above all it can be a great way of knowing about our past that shaped our present. 📖

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Why not borrow "To ji" this week?

Tidal Power Plant to Destroy Livelihoods

Does Tidal Plant Play a Role as Real Environmental Friendly Generation?

By Kwon Jeong-a
Reporter of National Section

Ganghwa Island, Incheon is known for having many different kinds of seafood and a clean environment. In particular, fishermen catch different kinds of seafood, such as shrimp, short-armed octopus, large-eyed herring, perch etc. Almost 80 percent of all salted shrimp caught in Korea is produced in Ganghwa. These days especially, proper water temperature, the level of sea water and suitable salinity make for a more abundant catch of fish. But there is argument between fishermen who live in Ganghwa and the government. Many fishermen are afraid of losing their livelihood. What accounts for the conflict on this peaceful island?

Tidal Plant to be Constructed on Ganghwa Island?

Two years ago, Ganghwa residents heard the news that two tidal plant projects will be conducted in Ganghwa's seashore. One is the Ganghwa tidal plant project and the other is the Incheon Bay tidal plant project. First, Incheon city hall will supervise the Ganghwa tidal plant project. It will be carried out on the northern part of Ganghwa through connecting Ganghwa Island, Gyodong Island, Seogyeong Island and Seokmo Island. Incheon announced that it will construct sluices between those islands. Next, the Incheon Bay tidal plant project will be overseen by Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs. The Incheon Bay tidal plant will be constructed on the southern part of Ganghwa, and the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs has announced the construction of a sluice between Gang-hwa Island and Yeongjong Island.



K.F.E.M.

Mechanism of tidal plant is as follows: An artificial structure will be built between islands.

Entire Livelihoods Likely to be Burnt up because of Tidal Plants

Ever since the announcement of these projects, most Ganghwa fishermen have opposed building the tidal plant. This



K.F.E.M.

Ganghwa Island has well preserved mud flat.

reporter of The Argus visited Ganghwa Island to listen to fishermen's opinions more up close.

When the reporter arrived in Ganghwa, it was ebb tide, and a marvelous mud flat could be seen. As is known, the Ganghwa mud flat is very clean and a variety of species of organisms live on it.

As Ganghwa is a small island, an impressive view of it could be seen even before arriving there on the bus. Ganghwa residents are well acquainted with their neighbors. Whenever resident take a ride on the bus, they say hello to each other. Sometimes, the driver lets residents get on the bus even if they have insufficient bus fare. It is different from desolate city life, and exudes a vibrant and peaceful energy.

Protest placards stand out in stand out sharply against this harmonious rural backdrop and are first to attract one's attention at the fish market located on the seashore. These notable placards speak for the strong voices of the local fishermen. The reporter was able to meet and talk with the fishermen there who opposed the tidal plant projects. Fishermen opposed the tidal plants because of their structure. The mechanism of a tidal plant is as follows. First of all, a floodgate (penstock) is constructed between two islands. Seawater is thus stored inside the floodgate to harness the tidal forces that are made by the ebb and flow of the tide.

By regulating the pressure of the stored water, waterpower is generated.

Above all, fishermen emphasize the importance of maintaining a clean marine setting and mud flat. They assert that making a floodgate will disturb the flow of seawater. They believe that constructing an artificial structure in this natural setting, regardless of its objective, will end up ruining the environment. Therefore fishermen assume that the marine life on which they depend for their livelihood will decline sharply upon construction of the tidal plants.

Not only Structure but also Construction Procedure

As the tidal plant will be constructed in the sea, there needs to be fastidious examination and caution. Despite this, fishermen said, they have yet to see any evaluation of environmental impact being conducted. Representatives of Ganghwa Fishermen's Countermeasure Committee said that the government exaggerated the outcomes of its examination. Fishermen assert that development and preservation cannot coexist, as the government is insisting. Most fishermen said that environmental impact evaluations have revealed major problems and show that the tidal plants will exert a negative impact on the marine environment.

Next, reporter asked questions at a briefing session. Usually, when a new business starts in a local area, a business information session is held to explain the business' activities to local residents. But in the case of Ganghwa, the briefing session that took place was poor in quality. Most fishermen do not know much about this. According to one representative of the Ganghwa Fishermen's Countermeasure Committee, the briefing session was totally formal and meaningless. He also said that the briefing session was of a



Kwon Jeong-a / The Argus

At fishermen's market, notable protest placards attract attention. Most fishermen oppose tidal plant strongly due to expected destruction of marine environment.

sort that favored building the tidal plants rather than explaining business to the local residents. Even the officially invited guests were farmers and residents whose occupations were totally unrelated to fishing.

No mere Fishermen's Issue now

On the 25th of March, a press conference and demonstration were held in protest of the construction of the tidal plants. First, the Energy Justice Action group, the Ganghwa Fishermen's Countermeasure Committee, the Korea Federation Environmental Movement of Incheon, and the Ganghwa People's Solidarity group declared their unified opposition at the press conference. The press conference was held at Incheon City Hall for about one hour. Through the press conference, many opinions against tidal plant construction were aired. This showed that opposition to tidal plant construction was not merely a self-serving position of fishermen wanting to catch more fish.

A delegate of Energy Justice Action asserted that the Ganghwa tidal plant project started with an inappropriate energy policy. Under the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) which is the renewable energy policy adopted by the government, every electricity-generating company must provide renewable energy, regardless of whether the means

of energy production may have other negative effects on the environment. Because of RPS, electricity-generating companies need to harness renewable energy source on a large scale. However Korea has too few resources to allow for such large-scale generation of renewable energy. As a result, companies are attempting to construct manmade structures at the front of the Ganghwa seashore in order to generate renewable energy. The aforementioned delegate of Energy Justice Action called the project nonsensical, adding that building tidal plants is not part of a global tendency on the contrary, it is a phenomenon peculiar to Korea. He suggested that tidal plants be considered more critically for their ability to generate renewable energy in ways that avoid upsetting the natural environment and destroying the livelihoods of people who depend on its preservation. In addition, he said that because RPS comprises many subsections, there should be strict, detailed clauses on the meaning and implementation of renewable energy.

A representative of the Ganghwa Fishermen's Countermeasure Committee said that fishermen will lose their livelihood if the tidal plants are constructed. He strongly asserted that many fish will lose their spawning grounds and fishing grounds will diminish. He said it will lead not only to environmental destruction but also a serious crisis for fishermen.



Ganghwa fishermen earn living by selling marine products. But we will not see fresh, abundant seafood anymore.




A press conference is held at Incheon City Hall on 25 March.

The Korea Federation Environmental Movement of Incheon has publicized information on tidal plants' impact on the environment. According to their sources, the Ganghwa tidal plant will be 27 times larger than Yeouido, and the Incheon bay tidal plant will be 67 times larger than Yeouido. It is a manmade structure of such a massive scale that its construction will create a critical situation for the environment.

While, he said that the Ganghwa mud flat is already recognized as valuable natural ecological resource. The northern part of Ganghwa mud flat is designated as natural wetland reserve. Furthermore, Ganghwa is being examined for designation as a national park or even as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Moreover, three major Korean ecological resources, including the major mountain range of Baekdudaegan, Korea's western sea mud flat, and the DMZ are meet on the Ganghwa seashore. Besides these, there are other many reasons that testify to the value of Gang-hwa mud flat. Thus construction of tidal plants on it would be irrational and wrongful.

The abovementioned representative of Ganghwa People's Solidarity issued a resolution protesting that there has been no official open forum, no face-to-face talk with mayor, and no opportunities for local residents to voice their opinions. Furthermore, the evaluation of environmental impact has been distorted and the government has

made a deceptively positive portrayal of the business plan. She said that opposition will continue until tidal plant construction is discontinued.

After the press conference, there was a fishermen's demonstration in front of Incheon City Hall. This was their third official demonstration. Many fishermen and others who are opposed to the building of the tidal plants gathered there. Although they live in Incheon, it is hard for fishermen from Ganghwa Island to come to downtown of Incheon. In spite of this, many fishermen took to the streets to protest against the plan. Moreover, the demonstration has by now spread to include all of Incheon's fishermen. Fishermen who live on Ganghwa island, Yeongjong Island, and the Siheung seashore all joined in accord. Hence many fishermen showed who came from different areas. They protestors marching through the downtown street have demanded an official declaration that the plan of building the tidal plants will be scuttled. It has also become evident that the tidal plant issue will affect local election results. 

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Ganghwa fishermen demonstrate in front of Incheon City Hall and march through downtown street.



O Hye-kyung
Assistant administrator
of the K.F.E.M.

INTERVIEW

The Argus met with O Hye-kyung, assistant administrator of the Korean Federation Environmental Movement (K.F.E.M) of Incheon to ask in more detail about environmental aspects.

Argus: For energy to be generated by a tidal plant, there is no need for fossil fuel. Thus tidal plants are considered to be environmentally friendly means of energy generation. In consideration of this, are tidal plants a must for protecting the environment?

O Hye-kyung(O): In Korea, environment friendly energy is called ‘New Renewable Energy’. But other country call this ‘Renewable Energy.’ Sustainability is the distinct feature of renewable energy. Europe also conduct renewable energy projects on a small scale and in various locations. But the Korean new renewable energy business operates on a quota system. The government mandates that every company that operates power plants generate a designated percentage of its energy from renewable sources. So each corporation is forced build a new renewable energy plant to comply with its mandatory percentage. For this reason, corporations work on new renewable energy projects in the easiest, cheapest way possible. Ironically, this leads to tidal plants being constructed on seashores and solar heat collection facilities are built on mountaintops to generate electricity, merely as expedient ways to implement policy without sufficient regard for whether these methods are truly environmentally friendly.

Argus: So then, aren't tidal plants an environment friendly means of producing energy?

O: No, they are not environmentally friendly. Besides large-scale tidal plants are never intended be environmentally friendly. In France, there is tidal plant on the Rance River. It is quite small in scale, in contrast to the Ganghwa case. Yet France said this plant had a much more destructive impact on the environment than expected. So it took a very long time for water quality to be restored, and France does not construct tidal plants anymore.

Argus: The Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs said it conducted environmental impact assessment for three years and claimed that no problems were identified. The Ministry further asserted tidal plant does not just store seawater but it is also possible to for seawater to flow through the tidal plant. They insist they can do promote development and environmental preservation at the same time. Is their plan feasible?

O: There are many frustrated plans for tidal plants in other countries concerning which environmental impact assessments have been carried out for ten years. Their results show that the needs of development and environmental preservation can't be satisfied at the same time.

The mere flow of seawater through a tidal plant doesn't preserve the environment. Even the construction of a bridge can destroy a mud flat. Human beings never expect environment including seawater flow, mud flat shape and pristine wildlife habitats. Do you know of Lake Sihwaho? An environmental impact assessment must have done about Sihwaho before starting the project there. But the environment there has been utterly destroyed, as you know. ☹

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By Kim Jun-kyu

Associate Editor of National Section

Did you know there is a radio station in Korea that is making moves for a better life? If you go to Mapo-gu in Seoul and tune your radio to 100.7MHz, you will be listening to this station. MapoFM is for the people and by the people. This is how MapoFM works. Unlike radio stations in the established media, MapoFM is run with citizens' help, and all the radio programs are produced by volunteers. In this way, MapoFM is unique compared to other radio stations.

The Argus decided to look into the workings of MapoFM, and find out what inspires people to volunteer their time and efforts in making this radio station succeed. We had the chance to talk to the general manager of MapoFM, Song Deock-ho.

Argus: How did MapoFM get started? And what motivation and purpose makes MapoFM work?

Song Deock-ho : First, it was started with thinking about the media as it exists. I thought the current radio stations only speak for those with power in the society. In our community, most people have less opportunity to let their voices be heard through the media. Far worse, their voices have less force in getting their ideas out to the public.

I started with this idea and recruited people who also thought like this, so that we could make a radio station dedicated to giving all the people a voice in our society. At this radio station, anyone can participate and talk. Compared to mainstream-media, which has always been there, it is worth it to us. Because thinking about those who have always had the power to speak, such as those in politics, business, military, and other such authorities, the average citizen never had much opportunity to reach out through the media.

Argus: Preserving the individuality of MapoFM, what

and how do you and the station do that?

Song : We have made four rules as a broadcasting station working for our community: To contribute to local autonomy, to do our best to make our community better, to speak for the people with less force, and try to make a healthy community culture. With these four principles in mind, we go forward.

Starting at 9:00 AM and broadcasting until 1:00 AM the next morning, we are on the air. In our case the people of Mapo, almost all the radio programs are about Mapo community news. The community previews facts about Mapo and cultural items such as independent musical bands, and minority issues such as the disabled or lesbians. Especially, the cultural problems in Mapo are unique compared to other communities. This makes our radio station much more valuable to our listeners than other media.

I strongly feel that our radio station is working fine. We offer

the opportunity to people who need to speak about themselves, and we are making steady progress. We are going in a different than the rest of the media.

Argus : *It's great to hear that it's working for you, but I suppose that there are some serious difficulties. What difficulties have MapoFM had, or still have? And if you there are things you would do differently, given the chance, what would they be?*

Song : There are three big difficulties that have occurred since we opened, and have not yet been changed. The short-wave, on which our radio station broadcasts, is the first problem. Because the government won't allow us to broadcast on a longer wave, we face troubles getting our signal out. Our signal cannot even reach all of Mapo. Therefore, everyone who would want to, cannot listen to our radio program. So we have difficulties gathering supporters to help us. This problem leads us to a lack of funds.

Plus, our station is run by volunteers. It is not a bad idea, but the people working at our station are all amateurs. So our skills at media presentation don't have the quality of the professionals.

Argus : *Facing these difficulties,*

MapoFM still seems to work for the community. What are your plans for the future?

Song : Most of all, MapoFM is trying to widen the radio wave in order to grow bigger. We work for the community and moreover, the society. But we are limited in many ways. If we solve this problem, we will be able to grow bigger, and achieve a higher quality of broadcasting.


We have been on the air for five years. We are planning to evaluate the past five years of operation, and make goals for the next five years. Plus, we are planning to unite with other groups in our community. One of our major goals is to get more people and organizations to participate in MapoFM.

Argus : *Taking these actions seems to be of great value to you. Can you please tell us about that?*

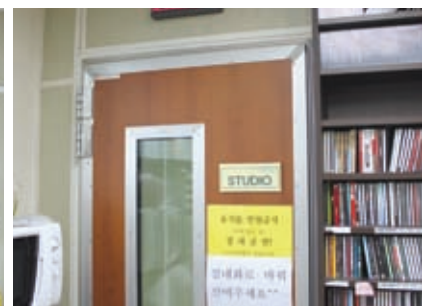
Song : I always have these ideas in mind. These actions help build the road that can lead our society to better lives for everybody. Related to this, we have helped people who needed a hand. For example, On Ahyeon, which is a part of Mapo, is redeveloping. To redevelop an area, the people who live in that place have to move. But in the case of Ahyeon, few families could afford to move because of financial

difficulties. By neglecting these people's problems, the association in charge of redevelopment blocked all attempts to help the people and the families had to continue to suffer. MapoFM reported the problem to the people, and with the listeners' help, the people could finally move. It was a meaningful action, because the police and the government did not help the families needing help.

Argus : *What can you tell our readers about your work? If you have any words or a message you want to tell them, please let us know.*

Song : In our society, the media for the community is very small. In Japan, more than 200 community media stations exists. Also, other foreign countries have community media in every village. Compared to this, Korea comes up lacking. This means that citizens can't speak out. I want Koreans to be aware of this. We need to participate in our communities, and in our society, and media is the most effective way to do it. Moreover, the actions to change our society must occur in the minds of the people, and we can get these ideas to the people through media. 

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Kim Jun-kyu / The Argus

Though MapoFM is a non-mainstream media, their studio is abundant with positive energy as they continue to serve the local communities through radio waves.



Are They DIFFERENT?

Can They Make a DIFFERENCE?

By Lee Yeong-eun

Associate Editor of Culture Section

The mentally-challenged exist and yes- they are different. But why do people cast awkward glances at them? Or why do children have to hurl verbal abuses at their handicapped peers? Do they really deserve such ill-treatment just because they were born different?

From the World of “Radio”

In the movie “Radio”, Cuba Gooding Jr. plays the role of Radio, a mentally-challenged American. Based on the true story of the life of James Robert Kennedy, “Radio” wishes to highlight how the society can be vicious in treating the mentally-challenged. Radio is not only shunned by his neighbors, but also by his peers who delight in giving him a hard time. He lives a life, constantly struggling with the stigma associated with his conditions. The film also emphasizes how people are unwilling to give the mentally-challenged people a chance. When Radio was spotted by then assistant coach of T. L. Hanna High School football team, Harold Jones and was given the opportunity to help coaching the high school team, people had severe misgivings about Radio’s

abilities. Breaking down people’s prejudices and misgivings, Radio proved himself to be an important part of the T. L. Hanna High School’s football team. The message that the movie intends to convey is the fact that most mentally-challenged people are unable to lead a normal life; however, that does not make them any less human or a social outcast. In fact, the mentally challenged can also live an equally meaningful life contributing to the society and bringing joy to others.

Living in Another World

The world of the mentally-challenged people is isolated from the rest of the society. They have special schools, special workplaces and also special care centers to cater to their needs. This isolation makes it easier to care for the mentally-challenged people with their special needs. However, living in an isolated world that is invisible to the rest of the society created a lot of misunderstandings about the mentally-challenged people. The lack of interaction, due to their isolation deepens the prejudices the society holds for them.

Just a Taboo

The society is well aware of the cognitive deficiencies of the mentally-

challenged. In spite of that their expectations are guided by their perspective of ‘normalness’. In case of Radio, his neighbors and peers, instead of trying to understand and accept his disabilities, judged him on the basis of what they see as an acceptable behavior and used their judgment as an excuse to ridicule and ostracize him. The inability to see the difference between their superficial expectations of a normal life and what is realistically possible for a mentally-challenged individual, leads some to unfairly label them as retards.

They the mentally-challenged are often penalized for their inability to conform to what is socially considered as normal. For some, the mentally-challenged individuals taking part in the special Olympics is also a failure. For these people, the courage and achievements of the mentally-challenged people such as, participating in special Olympics, is utterly insignificant and is merely a reminder that they are not normal and worse still- ‘a failure’. In case of Radio, he was only to be met only by people’s misgivings when he was chosen to help out in the football team. Right from the beginning, the team treated him as a nuisance and dismissed him. As it was done with



Google

“Not far away from Home, even Koreans are Guilty of such Shallow Expectations from The Mental”


Radio, the society still prevents the mentally-challenged people to prove themselves, unleash their full potential and to contribute to society.

Not far away from home, even Koreans are guilty of such shallow expectations from the mentally-challenged people. While discussing the mentally-challenged, tones can be hushed and tinged with exasperation. Walking down the streets, the mentally challenged attract cold silent stares, as if they come from an alien world. Koreans are still limited in their exposure to the mentally challenged. Even though there are people who compassionately shower their love and care for these special individuals, still there are many who are unaware of how to accept and deal with these individuals.

Being Comfortable in Yourself

When Radio was finally accepted by his community, it was not because he changed and became 'normal' but instead, because people finally changed their attitude towards him. People were aware that Radio was still 'different' and would not be able to conform to the 'normal' life others were living. However, they realized that even though Radio was different, it hardly made a difference he was

still human being of flesh and blood like others. Radio was able to break the stereotypes the society held for the mentally-challenged individuals and was treated with love and understanding. He found himself an environment that let him live normally in his own rights and still bring joy to others' lives. Radio was accepted and respected in the society and in return he also served his role with pride and honor.

If the society insists on the Mentally challenged to live their lives conforming to the norms of the 'normal' society, the result will be nothing but failure. When Jones befriended Radio, he realized that Radio had his own 'normal' life. He also realized that Radio was a boy who needed the love of the society. This realization made Radio a part of the society and enabled him to contribute to it. Any mentally-challenged individual is undoubtedly a part of the society and is capable of contributing immensely to the society. They just need a little love and understanding and an opportunity to give back to the society. 

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Breaking the Wall

By Evgeniya Akulova

Reporter of Culture Section

“I can NOT do this anymore! I’m tired of being excluded! How can I break this wall?” Julia exclaimed, as she slammed the door. That was the last day she attended a school club meeting, her last attempt to become a part of Korean society...

Look around. What do you see? I see a colorful world. The world where you can meet different people, different races, and people who speak different languages. The difference is what makes our world beautiful. And it is complicated and it hurts when something that makes you unique, is not embraced.

In our university there are many students from different countries, different cultures. Every day they pass you by happily smiling, but is there something wrong? Look carefully... Why do we not see Korean and foreign students walking together? And why in this university, where students are supposed to be open-minded, Korean and foreign societies are divided into two different worlds?

“I think that Koreans and foreigners have a difficult time understanding each other principally because of the cultural differences, and maybe also the language, sometime the language can constitute a barrier.” said Livia Cleciu, a student from Rumania.

Of course, one of the main problems is the language barrier. Many foreign students, who came to HUFs, do not know the Korean language and take only English speaking classes, or they are just beginning to learn the Korean Language from the very beginning. That is not enough for free conversation. For Korean students, language is one of the central reasons why they cannot communicate with foreign students.

Park Hyun-keun, a student from Russian language department, said: “A lot of Korean students think: “All foreign students can only speak fluent English. So, how can I talk to them if my

English is not perfect?” With this perspective, Korean students think they cannot communicate with foreign students even if some of them can speak English really well”.

Another problem is that both Korean and foreign students are too shy. Nobody wants to make the first step, so they wait for the others to make it. Time is going and nothing changes, but they are still waiting...

Anyway, there is one more problem, which ruins any attempts to start friendship and builds an enormous wall between Korean and foreign students. And the name of this wall is called, difference. Yes, exactly the same difference I mentioned before.

“I guess this is the problem with Koreans, they treat us as foreigners, they see us differently,” said Livia. Unfortunately sometime it is true. Some people do not really care if you are a boy or a girl, what is your favorite color and whom do you want to become. They just call you a “foreigner”, like a nickname, a cliché, which means that you are different and not like them.

The member of ISO Shin Ji-a said: “Koreans normally do not have many chances to meet people from other countries, especially if you are white or black. We all have black hair and dark brown eyes. In that light, they are not just used to seeing people with different features.”

That is why, sometimes, it is so difficult for foreign students to become a part of Korean society, not like a “foreign friend” but just like a “friend”. Foreigners try to break the wall and knock on the door, but no one answers. And they give up. So in the end, foreign students spend time practicing English with other foreign students from other countries. Then upon returning to their home countries, they keep good memories about friends from different parts of the world, but nothing about Koreans.

Livia said: “In this moment I do not have any Korean friends on whom I can rely on, but I still hope that it is not impossible. Some Koreans want to be friends with a foreigner because they want to practice their English or other languages. But as I said before, I still hope there are genuine people, who just want to have a foreign friend without having self gratification interests”.

Of course, there are some people who try to build a bridge of understanding between foreign and Korean students. For example, ISO members gather all foreign students and help them to understand Korean culture, their way of life. So, foreign students do not feel lost and lonely.

“We have different programs inside of ISO that can help us to make the distance between foreigners and Koreans shorter” said Park Hyun-keun.

“We work hard. We try to find ways to get to know you. I don’t think we are trying to get to know you guys because of the fact you guys are the foreigners. Obviously, we are all different.” added Shin Ji-a.

Fortunately, today there are more and more students in our university who are not afraid of the difference and easily becoming friends with students from different countries. But those of you, who do not want to accept it or maybe feel afraid of being excluded again, do not be afraid! You are the one who can make the difference. Just try! As Shin Ji-a said: “Don’t wait for others come to you. We are all adults.”

Our university is like a mini-model of the world. You can meet people from different countries, of different races and who speak different languages. “Come to HUFs. Meet the World.” Make the first move and don’t hide from a great life experience. So what are you waiting for?

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MY NAME IS KHAN

(AND I AM NOT A TERRORIST)

By Prihantoro


Reporter of Culture Section

‘Put your hands over your head!’ One of the customs officers shouted harshly to a man after taking off his jacket and shirt. The man was bewildered, but too powerless to fight back with two other customs officers surrounding him. ‘Now, your mouth. Open it!’ The officer continued, checking his mouth, nose and his hair like a veterinarian doing a health check on a cow. Another officer checked his bag. Instead of finding anything wrong, he found a card written ‘Autism Alert’.

That was the very ‘warm’ welcome that greeted Rizwan Khan, an Indian who was arriving in the U.S. Besides working, he wished to convey a message to the President of US. The dialogue above was excerpted from one of the scenes of ‘My name is Khan,’ a movie that I want to share with all HUFs and Argus readers. Khan is a Muslim who received awful treatment from people in the U.S. whose minds were misled after the 9/11 tragedy. His son died from this unfair treatment, and he left his family to seek justice. Khan finally met the president, delivered his message and got his justice, but it was not as easy as one might think.

During his ordeal, Khan was once tortured and sent to prison without any trial, just because he was suspected of being a terrorist. Although Khan was born with autism, he was blessed with honesty and his help-giving hands. One time he returned to a flooded and stormy area to help a devoted black Christian family that once gave him dinner during his journey. Khan wanted to convey the message that to help others, you don’t have to ask their religion or consider the complexion. Indeed, Khan successfully motivated many people to lend their hands to help those in need.

Directed by Karan Johar, this movie illustrates some ideas of Islamic philosophy. From this movie, Khan asks us to remove the ‘terrorist’ label and see Islam from a correct and fair perspective. For those who want to know more about Islam through movies, and hopefully the ones starred by the leading actor Shahrukh Khan, I strongly recommend that you watch this noble movie.

What the movie tells is what all the Muslims including me would like you to hear: My name is Prihantoro and I am not a terrorist. I am a Muslim. 

prihantoro2001@yahoo.com






The Argus Representing Students' Opinions

Like me, there are many students in our university who are interested in The Argus. Every time a new issue of The Argus is displayed on the shelves, they disappear in the blink of an eye. You might think that it is a bit exaggerated, but I really want to assure you that The Argus is very popular among the students of our university!

Let me tell you about my opinion on what makes people to reach out their hands and grab a copy of The Argus. I think a lot of students want to read the articles in The Argus to improve their English reading skills. For sure, reading articles in English can be one of the ways to learn the language. However, that is not the only reason why this magazine is so popular. In fact, there are many more reasons! The variety of materials in The Argus attracts students' attention. The articles talk about the current issues about politics, economics,

culture etc. as any other magazine does. However, unlike other magazines, The Argus focuses on the campus life and gives a medium to the students to express their own opinions.

As The Argus is the representative magazine of the HUFS, I look forward to seeing many articles written by our university students. In my opinion, if The Argus can include articles written by not only The Argus members but also by other students, many students will feel more closeness to the magazine. Like The Argus, the giant with a hundred eyes, I hope that you, at The Argus, too can include a multitude of views from the hundreds of eyes across the two campuses. 

Yun Ye-seul

*(School of English Interpretation
and Translation-09)*



Lee Jong-ho
Cartoonist
of The Argus





The Argus
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