

The Argus

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Single Life By Choice?



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The Argus

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Editorial

No Prosperity Without Working Rights

“WE LOVE YOU, CUSTOMER.” Every time you shop at Emart, the nation’s largest retailer, you would hear the sales personnel utter this phrase. Following an in-company announcement with music, a group of weary looking women repeats this phrase almost like a parrot every time customers pass by.

Not surprisingly, Emart has not had a labor union where workers could demand work environment improvement. The reason now became quite clear. On Jan. 18, the Ministry of Employment and Labor declared that they began a special labor inspection of Emart, which is suspected of placing employees under illegal surveillance for the sake of preventing its workers from forming a labor union.

Ironically, this company has long proclaimed it is pursuing an “ethics-based management” strategy. Its two-faced behavior and malpractices have recently provoked fierce anger among the public and because of that, the newly established Park’s government launched tougher legal penalties over Emart. Last month, the government told it to hire ten thousand of its temporary employees as full-time employees.

The problems surrounding Emart, an affiliate of the Sinsegae Group, does not end here. It is also under suspicion of ignoring the labor protection law. It has been proven that Emart has forced illegal dispatch labor to work beyond regular work hours and frequently laid off contract workers.

The so called “Emart incident” implies that Chaebol has behaved as if they were standing above national laws. Furthermore, part-time workers and poor working environment are still a prevalent issue in Korea. The new government seems to put much more pressure on the conglomerates than that of its previous one, yet it has a long way to go in terms of improving working rights. We must remember that the prosperity we enjoy comes from the hard work of others. 🙏

Woo Hae-chung
Editor in Chief





Cover Story

The great solo life in a fancy studio with a stable job is what we hope for our future. However, that is a story for only small portion and life is tough for most of single households. As single households have evidently been increasing, reaching 25.3% of the total number of households in Korea. Now it is the time to take a look.



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HUFS Enhances Understanding of Overseas Koreans



On Feb. 28, a signing ceremony between our University and Overseas Koreans Foundation (OKF) was held to make a business agreement.

President Park and Kim Kyung-keun, chairman of the OKF, put their

heads together to cultivate students' understanding on the overseas Koreans of 7.2 million people across the world, making a contribution to strengthen mutual cooperation between national university students and new generation of overseas Koreans by opening a new course for "Understanding Overseas Koreans" here at HUFS.

On the same day, Cyber HUFS and the OKF signed an agreement on utilizing the quality online educational materials of the two institutions in teaching to teach the Korean language and culture to the next generation of overseas Koreans. 

By Yoo Suh-kyung


Entrance Ceremony of the Gifted Education Institute Held at Global Campus

The entrance ceremony of the HUFS Gifted Education Institute was held in the Engineering Building of the Global Campus on March 9.

The ceremony was performed with the congratulatory words of Lee Hyeon-hwan, vice president of the Global Campus, an oath by a representative of the students, Kwon Yu-jin, and a speech by Kim Won-hoe, the head of the center.

Vice president Lee said, "HUFS is the best foreign studies institution in the country and in the mathematical field, our great faculty members are arranging for better programs. The students associated with HUFS will experience an assortment of advanced programs to better help them become globally talented people. To achieve this, our

students will have to strive really hard." With a message of congratulation and gratitude to both the students and their parents, center head Kim also said, "We are lucky to have these excellent students. They will be superior through this 1-year-program and we will do our best to help them grow through incessantly developing our practical programs."

After the ceremony, 60 students started the first course of this semester. They will show their intelligence through 90 hours of class and a camp program during the summer vacation. 

By Kim Min-jeong


Former Member of Congress Appointed as a Chair-professor



Park Jin, former Chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Unification Committee of the National Assembly, was

appointed as a chair-professor of the U-PEACE Department of HUFS Graduate School of International and Area Studies.

President Park announced during the ceremony, "Park Jin's range of activities in politics, diplomacy, national security, and trade relations corresponds with HUFS global image. His professional knowledge degree will have a great effect in cultivating men of talent."

Park Jin studied at the College of Law of the Seoul National University and passed the Foreign Service Examination, graduated from the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University in the U.S. and obtained a doctor's degree in political science at Oxford University. While serving in the 16th, 17th, and 18th sessions of the National Assembly, Park also led the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs, Trade and Unification Committee and the Asia Future Institute. 

By Kim Ji-hyeock

‘HUFS Candle,’ Newly Elected GSC of Seoul Campus

Jo Bong-hyun and Kwon So-jung were elected as the new members of General Student Council(GSC) of the Seoul Campus on April 7. During their campaign, they pledged to ensure transparency in GSC management, improve campus services for students, and to bring changes in curriculums in favor of the students. They intend to put these promises into practice by altering GSC rules in ways that it will more efficiently run in sync with day-to-day school affairs such as opening more classes for double major students, installing outdoor smoking facilities and replacing old library materials. The newly elected GSC body promised to concentrate on these three matters, reflecting the students’ point of view.

These various promises all lead to a single goal, which is to restore students’ trust in GSC. In order to achieve this ultimate goal, both of the GSC-elects are putting in a lot of effort these days to involve GSC in more open communications with the general students. “Whether our projects are really successful or not is not really important. We are doing our best to work for the thing that really matters: to restore transparency and credibility of the GSC body, beginning from us,” said Jo Bong-hyun and Kwon So-jung. They also promised to focus on



▲ (L)Jo Bong-hyun (09’ Dept. of English Education) and (R)Kwon So-jung (10’ College of Business and Economics)

listening to the students’ voices and open up to them. 

By Park Ji-yeon

‘Chaeum,’ GSC of HUFS Global Campus Carries Out Their Pledges




© Chaeum

▲ (L)Jeon Hyung-keun (08’ English-Korean Interpretation and Translation) and (R)Lee Sang-ho (10’ Dept. of Hindi)

Near the end of 2012, the candidate party ‘Chaeum’ was elected as the new General Student Council(GSC) of Global Campus. In 2013, Chaeum started to carry out their pledges, and showed their aspiration about the year ahead.

“To change the existing phone chargers, to make the classroom environment better, to expand internship credit, to recruit more full-time professors, to allow dormitory students to choose their own food expense options.” These are part of their pledges based on students’ opinions and needs. Still a lot of promises they made remain to be kept, but it is expected to be carried out with much anticipation.

The vice president of the GSC, Lee Sang-ho said, “During the election campaign, we have always said that we will collect students’ opinions to improve the school. Until now and even in the future, our determination will not change. We, ‘Chaeum,’ will try hard to make our university a better place by communicating with students honestly and openly.” 

By Kim Min-jeong



Korean Language Institute in Bangkok Receives Appreciation Plaque

HUFS provided their appreciation to the Thailand Bangkok Korean Language Institute on March 8. On behalf of President Park Chul, Chung Kyung-won, the vice president of External Affairs and Development delivered a plaque of appreciation to Kim Sang-nam, the director of the Korean Language Institute.

Interest in learning Korean as a second language is growing in Thailand, which Kim is taking a part of as the director. The Korean Language Institute in Bangkok has ties with the HUFS Center of Korean Studies, which is the center administration headquarters of the project dispatching Korean language teachers to Thai schools. Through this program, 64 students who graduated with Korean related majors and possess a state registered education license were sent to 60 different schools in Thailand this year.

Chung especially expressed gratitude for the institute's cooperation with the HUFS project of sending students as Korean teachers to Thailand. "We are making efforts to establish a way for Korean language education to advance into the global world. Sending Korean teachers to Thai schools is one of the programs that we are carrying out," informed the HUFS Center of Korean Studies. 📷

By Park Ji-yeon

Further Student Exchange Program with SUNY

On Feb. 27, 2013, Daniel M. Tramuta, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services at State University of New York (SUNY), and other representatives and assistant directors from Geneseo, Oswego, Brockport, Oneonta, and Stony Brook campuses discussed further measures relevant to the expansion of

student exchange program between HUFS and the SUNY campuses.

SUNY students who came to study through HUFS-SUNY educational cooperation program had a welcoming ceremony at Obama Hall. 📷

By Park Ji-yeon

Ex-Vice Minister Becomes Visiting Prof.



Kim Tae-seok, ex-vice minister of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, was appointed as a visiting professor of HUFS. He is supposed to deliver a lecture called, "The Theory of Welfare for Migration

and Multicultural Families," in the Graduate School of Education during this semester. Kim was in a variety of positions related to gender equality, adolescent and family problems through his 30 years of public service. He will teach graduate students how to apply the theories to practice based on his experiences. 📷

By Yoo Suh-kyung

News Briefs

By Park Hyun-chul
Editorial Consultant



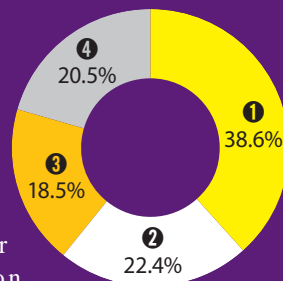
Politician

Former presidential candidate Ahn Cheol-soo declared his bid for the seat in parliament. The parliamentary seat for the Nowon district became vacant after Roh Hoi-chan, co-chairman of Progressive Justice Party, was convicted by the Supreme Court last month of violating the Communications Protection Law.

Tuition fee

Four out of ten students get support from their parents to pay for their college tuition.

According to a survey conducted by a recruiting portal site called



- ① Getting support from parents
- ② Taking out a student loan
- ③ Paying for tuition with scholarships
- ④ Paying for tuition by part-time job

Alba Heaven from 1,406 students, 38.6 percent of them said that their parents entirely paid the tuition fee, while those who took out a loan and those who paid for their tuition with scholarships take up 22.4 percent and 14.5 percent, respectively.

Approval rating

A poll conducted by Deahaknaeil Research Laboratory for Twenties showed the university student's approval rating of 34 percent for the President Park Guen-hye. Also, the poll showed that male students support the President Park more than female students.

Men 38% Women 30%

Marriage

Nine in ten women hope to move a step up in society by means of marriage, according to a survey conducted by the matchmaking firm Dnoble and Payopen, an agency to provide salary guide on the average salaries for a variety of occupations.

Women 87%

Men 45%


Decree

A decree to fine those who engage in "excessive" public exposure passed at a Cabinet meeting presided over by President Park Geun-hye. Many netizens criticized the decree, as it brought back memories of similar restrictions on skirt lengths in the 1970s under the rule of the late President Park Chung-hee. A national police agency official said that people can be fined if they expose their naked body or any part of their body which give other people an unpleasant feeling. However, they did not elaborate further on standards of "exposure and the level of shame and discomfort" in detail. The decree is expected to go into effect starting March 22. 📷



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Hope for an Early Spring

Spring clothes the land with green grass. The Argus hopes for an early spring to melt harsh realities. 

By. Park Hyun-chul
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Memories from Military Warm India

By Park Ji-yeon
Junior Reporter



▲ Kwon O-yeob, manager of 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali'

Kkal-kkali

The official name is "Frost protection inner cloth." Korean soldiers receive it as one of their military supplies. It is designed to be worn inside the jackets on the field in winter for warmth.

Campaign's Online Sites

<http://www.facebook.com/77z77z2>
<http://77z77z2.blog.me>

Where to Send

Korea, Busan Suyoung-gu Suyoung-dong Hyundai Apartment 108-1302, Manager of 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali'



The Korean men who have finished their mandatory military service rarely wear their "kkal-kkali" for outdoor activities as civilians. They usually either wear it at home in winter or keep it deep in the closet. However, nobody can deny the fact that they will throw away kkal-kkali someday. From this, Kwon O-yeob(Pusan National University, Dept. of Business) thought of a brilliant idea.

The very beginning

According to Kwon, a light bulb popped in his head when he saw his kkal-kkali resting on his chair, "Why

not send this to those who really need it?" He started to develop the idea by gathering kkal-kkali through donation. With his friends together, they now send these to northern India where the homeless and elderly die of the severe daily temperature difference. However, as a mere university student project that did not belong to an organization, this 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali' campaign has had a hard way to come to where it is now.

"We met each other at Pusan National University's global volunteering program for students in Cambodia last January," said Kwon and fellow members, Jang Dong-hyeon(Pusan



© TVN drama

'Pureun Geotap' is a TVN drama that shows the life of Korean soldiers in the military. It can be seen how soldiers wear kkal-kkali in winter in the drama.



National University, Dept. of Design) and Park Hye-young (Pusan National University, Dept. of Communication). This is where their story starts, at a small elementary school in Cambodia. They saw with their eyes that Cambodian children did not have school bags and pencils at school, which made them recognize the need to improve the poor education condition for Cambodian children. Back in Korea, Kwon planned on making bags and pencil cases of the same design, keeping in mind a hint a Cambodian teacher said to him. The teacher said that children are sensitive about getting presents with different designs, which was why kkal-kkali caught his eye. Every Korean man who finished their military service has this light, thin and warm clothing. It could be very useful, however, nobody ever considered the possibility of kkal-kkali for another use.

The first obstacle

Unfortunately, the team had to change their plan of making bags and pencil cases out of kkal-kkali. The time and

money of sewing the cloth was too long and expensive. It was better to donate money to the Cambodian children. "We thought it was the end of our project when we found this out. Everybody felt depressed and lost their will to go on and continue. However, we thought of the effort we put into this work and why we gathered in the first place," recalled Park. It was around then when a missionary who was interested in 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali' gave them advice to send the clothes in its whole condition to places that need warm clothing. After some research, Uttar Pradesh, a state in northern India, was chosen to be the most appropriate place where kkal-kkali is needed. Uttar Pradesh is a place where the temperature drops from 28 degrees Celsius to two degrees Celsius every day from November to February. "Due to this large daily temperature difference, unlike our image of India to be a hot country, 135 people died of cold last winter in this area. It is especially the elderly and homeless who suffer in the cold," explained Kwon, for the reason they chose Uttar Pradesh.

Challenges continue

Changing the aim of the campaign, however, was not the key to the smooth path. 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali' faced several more obstacles. The biggest difficulty was that veterans were not really willing to donate their kkal-kkali for others. Several donors admitted that they wanted to keep their kkal-kkali because it had all of their memories during their military service. They emphasized that it is similar to the school uniforms that we cannot manage to give away. This is why the catchphrase of this campaign became "Add new memories to Kkal-kkali" because it means that donating is adding another memory to your kkal-kkali. Another obstacle was that it was difficult to spread the campaign to others. Unlike other university students' activities that are sponsored by large companies, the team had to ask and look for places where the members could stand and explain about their activity. Interview requests to magazines, including "Daehak Naeil" were declined and some did not send a reply. At the end, Kwon grasped the opportunity to talk about the campaign in a Podcast called "Busan Student Aged 23.4" and at a lecture called "Ignite Busan."



▲ Kwon O-yeob did a presentation about 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali' at a lecture called 'Busan Ignite.'



▲ An Indian woman got kkal-kkali so that she can wear it in the cold winter.

Special campaign, it is

Like this, as a campaign and project that solely started based on the students' experiences and interests without the help of companies or organizations, 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali' had a tough way to come. "The work we are doing is special, because we added our own experience in Cambodia and our passion as a university student," answered Kwon, Jang and Park to the question about the difference from other students' extra-curricular activities. "I'm sure that every university student has a will to do something special for the society, and I hope students will go into action like me," added Park. The fact that they do not have strict rules to follow, an end date of the activity, an official supervisor that tells them the way, and a company's taste that they have to consider when planning are also differences that makes them truly enjoy this campaign.

"I hope those who get to know about our campaign will be able to wear a smile. After all, our ultimate goal is to make a positive impact on the society," said Kwon at the end of the interview. These students' words prove the introduction 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali' starts with: "This campaign is managed by seven Pusan National University students who wishes to do an exciting and meaningful job. We do not belong to any kind of organization or company." Nobody pushed the students to do this activity; they started it by their will, which is why they faced a lot of obstacles and changes. Wouldn't this be the reason why their passion seems brighter than others? 📷

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► People in Uttar Pradesh received kkal-kkali last winter.



All Photos provided by 'Let's Gather Kkal-kkali'



University Marriage, What is *Marriage* to You?

By Jo He-rim
Associate Editor

Marriage is said to be the start of a second life and it is something one should consider and think about. Marriage requires a great sense of responsibility, endurance and caring for the other person. It also reflects culture as it is what creates family ties to society. How much have you thought about marriage as a university student? Would students from other cultures have different views on marriage? The Argus interviewed five HUFS students to find out.

Brain Swap

Panya Keochanthala



Exchange student
- France

Sven Sittler



Exchange student
- Germany

Ronald Langeveld



Division of
International
Studies
- South Africa

Daria Burolo



English Linguistics
- Croatia

Lee Ji-eun



English Linguistics
- Korea

The Argus: What do you think about university student marriage?

Panya Keochanthala: For French students, it is not normal to get married during their university years. In France, the job market is very competitive and when you have no job experience and you tell an employer that you are married, it can be a negative point for you. Maternity leave is legal and this can be a little bit of a trouble for the employer, especially for women.

Daria Burolo: Personally, I could get married right now! When the circumstances are right, you can get married. It is just that I want to graduate before I do.

Sven Sittler: It depends on each individual, but I say, for university students, marriage almost never happens. Even if women get pregnant during their university years, it is likely that they would not get married. The current way of thinking in Germany is to invest time in studying and develop oneself to get a job that will earn money. Therefore, marriage is considered after achieving all other goals.

Ji-eun Lee: I personally do not want to. I have not seen that many married university couples in Korea and I wonder what it would be like to be married so young. There must be advantages and

disadvantages.

The Argus: What is the general impression of couples living together before marriage?

Panya: In France, it is not a big problem. My cousin has been married for nine months now, but she lived with her boyfriend for about two years. This usually happens between people in serious relationships, after getting to know each other better.

Sven: In Germany, if you are in a serious relationship, at some point you will live with your partner.

Daria: There are many people living together even before they are married in Croatia, and I support it. It is important to actually know what it is like to live with the person you are going to marry so that there will be less trouble after marriage. Also, if you try to find a roommate, why can't it be your boyfriend?

Ronald Langeveld: Actually this is a very sensitive topic in South Africa. This is because of the conservative atmosphere. Older people are especially conservative, but, in general, we are getting more liberal these days.

Ji-eun: There are some negative views on this topic in Korean society. I personally think living together would

ruin the joy of marriage as you will know everything about your partner beforehand.

The Argus: What is the most important factor when choosing a partner?

Panya: You marry for love. In France, it is very likely that you meet people in your environment. Money and status are not the big factors.

Daria: In Croatia, you usually hang out with people you meet in your surrounding environment, parties, and bars. You date them and you marry! There are some people trying to find their mate through the Internet, but we see them as lacking ability to attract people offline. There are some conservative parents who want their child to marry a Catholic Croatian, but not many.

Sven: Social surroundings affect you the most when you meet your partner. You would usually meet people who are in the same or similar social status as you.

Ji-eun: Your feelings toward your partner would matter the most of course. However, there are many people just going on blind dates with a view to marriage in Korea. Job stability and their personality cannot be ignored.

The Argus: Where do people in your culture generally get married?

Daria: Most of Croatians are Catholic, so it is very likely that they would have their wedding in a church. Afterwards, they have different types of ceremonies and parties with friends and family. I have been to a Korean wedding and it looked like a show.

Sven: I am not sure what a typical marriage would be in Germany. Legal marriage is performed in city halls, but there are so many people pursuing so much diversity that marriage is all up to the couple's interest.

Ronald: It is hard to generalize in South Africa. Mainly, we would get married in churches, like in the west. However, it all differs on culture. There are 11 official languages and everyone has their own culture. For example, in ethnic groups like Zulus, the man will buy stock animals from the woman's parents to get permission for marriage and carry on their traditional marriages on farms.

The Argus: When would be the average age for marriage?

Daria: I say it would be 25 to 35 years old, just generally. It is important to find a stable job first though, if you want to have a child.

Panya: Age always depends on people, but for women, I think it is usually around 30 years old or 27-28, depending on the environment.

Ronald: The average age may differ for women and men, it seems like the age is higher for men than women. For example, it would be a little early for men to get married at 25, but would be okay for women.

The Argus: Do you think women should quit their jobs after they get married?

Panya: In France, I do not think so if the woman has a decent job. The maternity leave system is very good.

Ji-eun: Korean society could be said to be a little conservative still, but thoughts are changing so that women should work both for the household and their outside life.

Daria: Currently, the economy is unstable, so many people are jobless. Why should women quit after they marry? Besides, women's rights are very strong in Croatia and maternity leave is guaranteed.

Sven: In the past, many women in Germany would have quit their jobs after marriage. Now, it is different. I personally do not mind, but if I have a child, I do think that the mother should be there to take care of them. She could work, but will have to spend some time with the child. It is the same for men.

Ronald: No, women have to help the men with the income. In South Africa, many families have nannies, so there is no reason for women to stay at home.

The Argus: Regarding the cost of marriage, what is the ratio of payment between a man and woman?

Panya: Actually, regarding the cost of a wedding, it depends on the situation of the couple. Men and women are equal and if one can afford more, then that person will pay more. If a man tries to pay more than he should, it would be considered as an act of ignoring the woman.


Daria: Marriage and housing are two different matters. Usually, a Croatian couple will get married and stay in their parents' house until they find a suitable house and move out. The cost all depends on the couple's situation and one is not obliged to pay more than the other.

Sven: I heard that in some countries in Asia, a man brings more to the marriage than a woman. That does not happen necessarily in Germany. If the woman can afford more, she will. It all depends.

Ronald: A bride's father usually pays

for the big part of the wedding. The man will buy the house and most of the things inside the house.

Ji-eun: The ratio depends on each couple, but there are some typical sayings related to this in Korea. It is a little similar to South Africa; man provides the house while the woman buys the things inside the house.

Marriage may or may not be a distant topic for university students. What is interesting was, though the interviewee's answers do not represent the whole population of a country, cultures definitely affect how students from different countries think about marriage. What is marriage to you? 

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In Campus, To Smoke or Not To Smoke

By Park Ji-yeon, Kim Min-jeong
Junior Reporter

"I hate breathing other people's smoke," said Baek, a HUFS student. She had made a promise to meet her friends in front of the Globeedorm on the Seoul Campus and she was waiting for her friend at the gate. At that moment, smoke blew in her face and made her frown. She knows that this area is not for smokers, but she has no way to stop people from smoking.



Baek Su-bin
12' Division of Int'l Studies
Seoul Campus



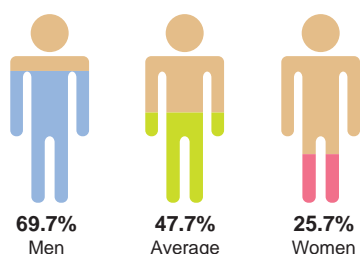
"Is there a place where I can smoke without having to consider other people's eyes?" complained HUFS student Lee on the Global Campus. After class, Lee was smoking during the break time. To him, this was one of the greatest times which he could enjoy. He went down to a cafe with his mates and had a seat outdoors. He smoked as usual, but suddenly some complaints could be heard. "Oh, smokers! Let's move." He did not mean to give people unpleasantness, but despite intentions, he did.



Lee Hwan-hee
12' Dept. of Hindi
Global Campus

Some discomforts exist between smokers and non-smokers. However, there is no appropriate measure to resolve this problem. In society, the rights of non-smokers are rising, but there is no sign of change on the HUFs campus. At least one in two university students takes a drag, which makes it hard to press smokers without any alternative. Is it impossible for both smokers and non-smokers to coexist in the same place?

Average Smoking Rate of University Students



Korea No Smoking Institute 2009 Dec.
(1846 students from twelve universities)

According to the responses of Seoul Campus smokers, the places they usually use for smoking are the 6th floor in the library, both entries of the Humanities Building, and the bench next to the library on the Seoul Campus. Also on the Global Campus, smokers frequently use the Engineering Building, outdoor cafe terrace, and the entrance of the dormitory. The places they usually smoke have common characteristics such as good accessibility and because of these traits, there are always enough smokers to create of a 'herd mentality' that encourages other smokers to also join in.

**"You cannot smoke here."
"But there is an ashtray!"**

There is a contradiction on our

campus. It is definitely true that the entire campus is a non-smoking area under the law enacted last year, but in reality, the campus is fair game. All smokers have their smoking time regardless of the rule, and ashtrays exist. In addition to this, cigarette butts are found without difficulty. Although there is dissatisfaction about the situation, no action is being taken by the school to incorporate suggestions by the smoking and non-smoking students about designating smoking areas to fix the problem. To put it concretely, students only have a voice about creating an area for smokers. Their suggestions are seen as complaints and no one tries to make an actual change. Second, the school can let students know about the new national smoking law and about the existing places for smokers. To this the Facility Management Team replied that, though there is an official smoking area on the 6th floor of the library on the Seoul Campus, it is difficult to officially publicize this fact to the students. "Issues

of smoking on campus are very sensitive. We hope the students can make rules and make regulations without the need of the administration to interfere," said Yun Yisik from the Facility Management Team.

Smoking issues that are coming to a head

Smoking issues come from shortage of both physical and official place at school. These two stem from both students and school in charge who avoid responsibility. In the case of the Seoul Campus, there is no place to smoke outdoors. Literally, the campus is too small and this makes it hard to provide space for smokers. On the contrary, the large size of the Global Campus has a different problem; the official smoking area is not enough for smokers though it has large space. On account of these reasons, some tacit conflicts exist between students on both campuses. However, more importantly, no one tries

Smoking Spots



▲ Seoul Campus - (L) Humanities Building entrance, (R) Library staircase



▲ Global Campus - (L) Main Building's smoking area, (R) Engineering Building entrance

Misleading Spots



▲ Seoul Campus - An ashtray built in with a trashcan in the Main Building.



▲ Seoul Campus - Large cans that are placed on tables next to the Humanities Building are used as ashtrays.



▲ Global Campus - An ashtray placed where there is no smoking sign.



▲ Global Campus - The outdoors are implicitly considered as a smoking area.

to take responsibility. The school has a sense of the smoking problem, but they consider it a very sensitive question related to student rights, so strong sanctions cannot be made. All they do is simply put ashtrays on campus so that smokers can put their cigarette butts there, which provides for a cleaner view, but provides no resolution to the issue. In the case of students, though they have a lot of interest about campus smoking issues and have awareness about the dissatisfaction of both sides, they do not frankly express or state their opinions at all. They just feel the discomfort and cannot get anyone to solve the problem for them. It is definitely OUR campus and students have a just right to claim foul, but they do not recognize it. Is it okay as it is now?

Solutions are needed

Space and Expression. These two concepts, together, are the straight forward answer. With this answer, plans and solutions are needed now. There are several cases of universities that have successfully presented ways to solve the problems.

► Campaign of students

In Gachon University, there was a campaign of students protesting to stop smoking and drinking in the school building. Although this example has limits in that it reflects only one side of the issue, this campaign was special because there have not been many cases of university students declaring their rights regarding smoking issues on school campuses. Using this as an example, students should make their opinions stronger and be able to express themselves through campaigns and other ways. Staying silent and keeping negative opinions unvoiced is not helpful

for students to change the campus.

► Promoting smoking areas

Every public area, including university campuses, has rules about smoking issues. There are places that are set up for smokers and rules about where it is not allowed to smoke. However, many universities are passive when it comes to their role about informing students about these places and rules. In order to prevent further conflicts and issues between non-smoking and smoking students, universities should clearly communicate the present rules to students. In the case of Baek-suk University, they put up a notice entitled 'Officially selected places to smoke on campus.' This notice shows where smoking students should go when they need a place to smoke. Baek-suk University is almost the only case where the school administration officially gave notice about the places students are supposed to use as smoking areas.

► Making use of space

The most effective way of providing service to both non-smokers and smokers on campus is to install a separate smoking room for students. However, as it has not been long since the smoking issue has come up on our campuses, the student councils had been slow in handling both sides of the conflict. Korea University's student council ordered the creation of smoking booths on each of their campuses, which are now used by many students. However, considering Korea University's wide campus, only a small number of students who have classes nearby the smoking booth tend to use the service. However, the small Seoul Campus of Hufs will make better use of a similar smoking booth because smokers will have greater accessibility. Also, according to the Hufs Emergency Measure Committee, it would not be difficult for the General Student Council(GSC) to provide such

smoking booths for students. As long as GSC's plan makes sense to the school administration, managing budget for smoking facilities will not be demanding. Using these points, students who faced conflicts regarding smoking in the school areas can expect a better condition on campus.



▲ Smoking room on the 6th floor of the Seoul Campus library.

As one of the longest and most tense controversies, the smoking issue is something that neither the school nor the students wish to be involved in. However, both the students and the school should quit being bystanders and start expressing their opinions. Since this social issue has spread onto campus, it is up to the people who use the school area that should solve this problem. Smoking regulations are being made for public areas and smoking booth corporations are growing, which signals the growing possibility for the HUFS campus to find a common ground between the smoking and non-smoking students. 📷

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All photos taken by Park Ji-yeon, Kim Min-jeong

Peek into Other Campuses

From last year September, many universities started taking actions about smoking areas in campuses. Regarding the fact that the elected General Student Council(GSC) in HUFS promised to proceed with such changes, there is a need to take a look at how other universities managed changes.

Korea University

Korea University is the first school that made a smoking facility in the campus for students. The ventilator, smoke collector, fabric deodorizer in the booth makes the smoking room seem like one in an airport. However, there is only one smoking room in each campus, which makes it inefficient in the means of accessibility for students.



Park Ji-yeon / The Argus

Chung-Ang University, Sogang University

Chun-Ang University's GSC marked eleven smoking areas in campus September last year. Students who smoke are encouraged to use these areas that are marked in green tape. A similar case is Sogang University, which chose 23 smoking areas in campus last year September.



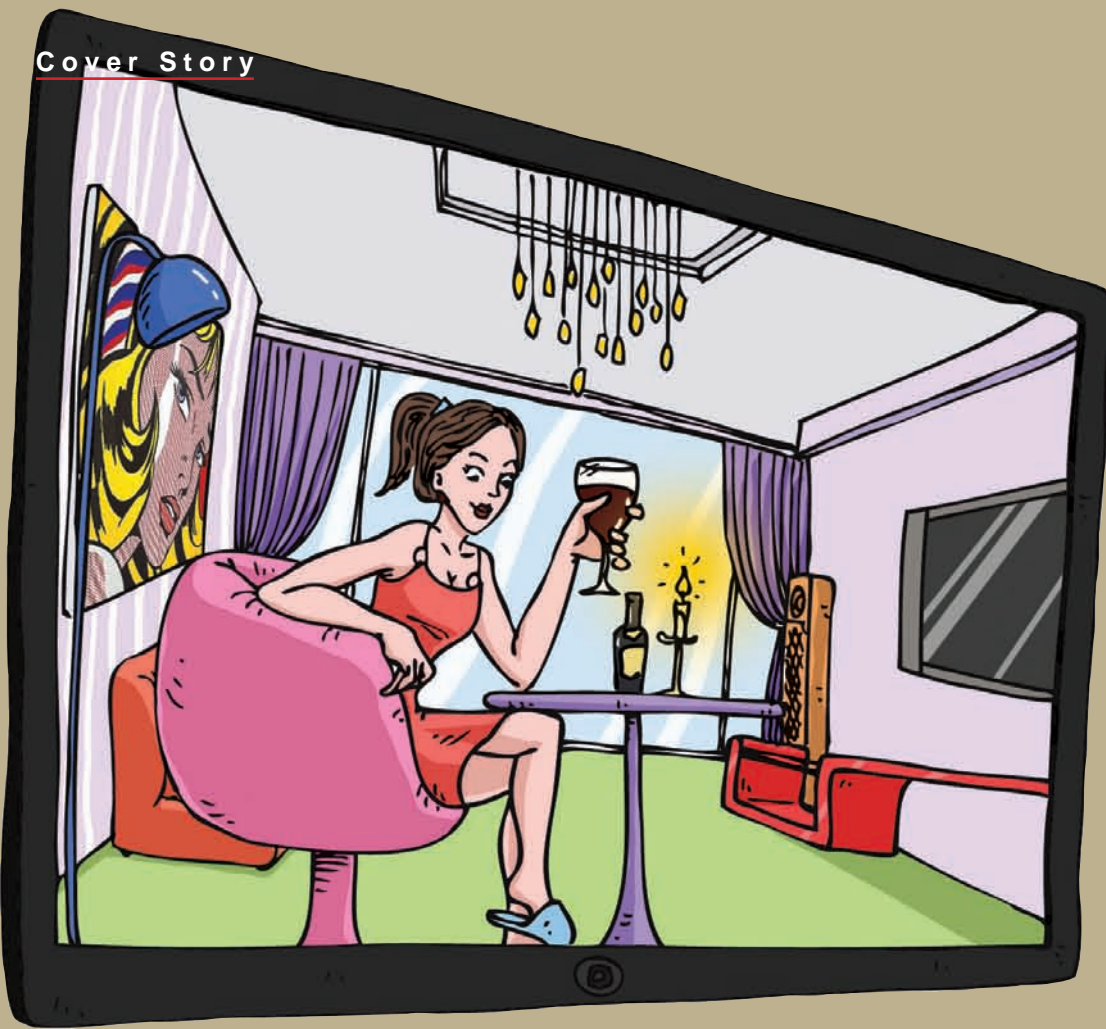
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Gachon University

The GSC of Gachon University last year did an antismoking campaign along with several clubs and the ROTC. Though the GSC changed this year, they are going to continue this campaign by setting it as a school rule. University students' doing such campaign is hard to find in campus, which makes the effort Gachon University students put into this campaign special.



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Single Life By Choice?

By Kim Ji-hyeock, Jo He-rim

Associate Editor

A lady in her late 20s enjoys dinner at a trendy restaurant with her friends. After sharing many laughs and conversations, she heads back fancy studio where the colorful night view from the living room greets her. After checking her email for tomorrow's work, she takes a sip of wine and looks out the window. Since returning home, she doesn't talk to anyone except for exchanging a few Kakao Talk messages. It is a typical imagery of a fancy single lady spending her night. Perhaps a lot of college students envision a life as such. However, is the reality really that glamorous?



Focus on singles

According to the research of Statistics Korea, the portion of the single household increased to 25.3 percent in 2012, five times more than it was 30 years ago. As this tendency continues it is predicted the portion would reach 34.3 percent by 2035. This evident increase is analyzed by scholars as a result from the generational shift in which young people focus and care for more on their personal life than their family. Some of the reasons for young generation's individualistic character are due to how patriarchal aspect in Korean culture is weakening and that the status of women in Korean society is going up.

What is more, the single households are drawing companies' and governments' attention. They judged that these freedom seekers are emerging as trend leaders who take the name of best consumers in recent times. On March 6, Business Research team of KB Financial Group, which is one of the most competitive private research institutes, reported that the notion of 'Solo Economy' is most noticeable trend on these days.

'Solo Economy' means that companies concentrate on developing products for single households as they are on the increase. In any convenience store and markets, lots of goods aimed for singles can easily be spotted, such as small-sized beverages, seasonings, and instant food products.

The wave of Solo Economy expands from the foods to the home appliances. Recently, an engineer who developed mini-sized drum washing machine won a prize, Engineer of the Month from Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology for the product's popularity and practicality of the item. Other services such as karaoke or restaurants for single men and women have been created continuously.

While many business people give attention only on the bright aspect of single households, there is another aspect that needs to be focused. Nowadays, TV programs show viewers those who enjoy fancy single life. The media often portrays single men and women seeking their personal freedom and refusing to be confined as if it represents all singles' lives in Korea. It is true that some people refuse to put their energy on making their own family and pursue their personal development such as career, leisure, identities to be happy. They chose this lifestyle just depending on their willingness. But, unlike the fancy single life shown on TV shows, there are lots of singles who suffer from economical problems such as low income, and fixed expense on residential, in reality.

Those fancy shapes of the single household do not belong to entire single men and women. More than half of the whole singles actually do not want to live alone. There are various aspects of the single households which make the singles live alone. They need their own family.

What is worse is that single households embrace lots of dark sides of the society. All ages of the single households are





▲ Food products and home appliances are introduced for single-households.

connected with some problems. Young singles face youth unemployment, middle aged singles suffer from family disorganization, and old singles are exposed to severe depression.

Singles behind the light

Actually, fancy and superior single men and women, the so called “gold mister” and “gold miss” who can afford trendy life with their stable and sufficient source of income are not the majority of the single households. Those people are not close to our real world. Actually quite many people work in sales position or service industry and their monthly wage are not enough compared to the average salary of non-single households per person, according to the research of Seoul. In reality, 45.1 percent of the single household lives on less than one million won, and 31 percent on more than one but less than two million won for a month. On the other hand, the portion of the people who live on more than two million won is only 23.9 percent. These figures indicate that most single households are not in good condition economically.

Experts also analyzed that most of the singles are not living the fancy life. “Singles who can afford luxury lifestyle are less than a quarter of the whole singles. The majority of them are financially oppressed,” said Yang Jeong-seon, a research member of Gyeonggi Family & Women Research Institute (GFWRI).

Experts usually classify the single

household in four groups, including the gold mister and gold miss. The first group consists of 20s who prepare for their marriage and future life. University students, job seekers or job starters live alone around the university downtown or Gosichon. Especially singles who prepare examinations for jobs gather for the better accessibility to hakwon, private educational institutes. These people lack the financial ability due to their circumstances, so they cannot afford the single lifestyles that we see on TV.

The second group is single men and single women from 30s to 50s created by family problems. These people usually face economic hardships. Some became a single because they are divorced, some left their family to economically support their children’s education, and some people live apart because of financial obstacles. Being apart from families, they have to get through economical challenges without support of the families.

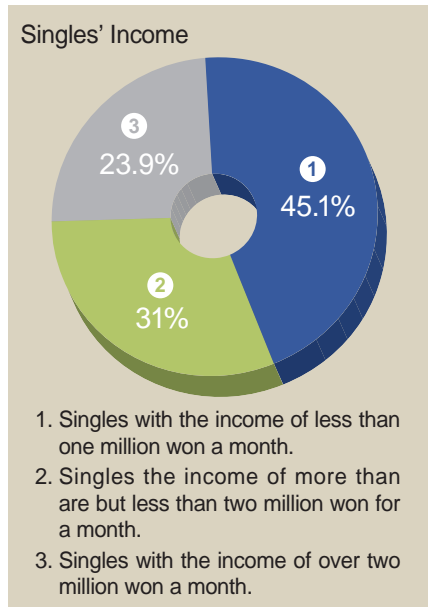
The third group consists of the elderly who live alone. They are also unstable economically. As the social responsibility for supporting old parents seems to lighten, the old who have to earn their own living is increasing. According to Business Research team of KB Financial Group, 44.5 percent of elderly people earn living themselves. This tendency will be maintained. A lot of experts predict that the number of the senior citizens who live alone will increase in high degree. Actually those singles in reality are not connected fancy

life at all.

Singles need families

Like the wrong images of the singles and their luxurious lifestyle usually promoted by the media, there is another misunderstanding point the singles. Normally people think about the single households being very independent and having strong individualistic character. It is considered that singles make their decision to live alone for a better life. A research by LG Economic Research Institute, ‘Lifestyle of one-person households in Korea and Japan’ in 2011, says singles show preference of living alone due to their character.

However, this fact does not mean that the singles do not need their own families. Yang pointed out the misunderstanding. “It is hard to define that the repulsion on the patriarchic aspects of the traditional family system exists deep inside the society. Actually people still want to have their own family. And it is one of the most important factors in their happiness,” she said. Actually singles want to belong to their families. For example, the major goal of the 20s group mentioned above





▲ A woman living alone is having her meal in a restaurant at a “Gosichon.”

is preparing for their marriage. For them, living alone is just a course to make their own families. Middle-aged men and women also have desires for having families. For the old, the situation is not different. Being a single is not a completely intended choice.

According to a research delivered by GFWRI, most people want to marry and have their own children. When it comes to happiness, they put their priority on family. To a question, “what is the most ideal type of the number of the members of household?” only 1.9 percent of the single men and women answered, “Single.” Moreover, to the question, “what do you think is the necessary factor for the happiness in your entire life?” 48.7 percent of the people answered “happiness and stability of my family.” It is larger in number compared to the percentage of 33.7 to the answer, “successful achievement in my career.” The singles consider that organizing family is important.

Singles: a mirror reflecting social crises

The phenomenon of increasing the number of single households reflects various kinds of social problems. The problems they have are also big issues

in modern Korean society. Media and scholars have alerted those problems such as youth unemployment, family problems, and the rapid increase of elderly people. The problems the single households face reflect all these chronic social crises.

These problems lead one-person households to depression. According to the report delivered by the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA), singles exposed to the social problems mentioned above suffer greatly, which leads them to feel chronic depression. In the case of 20s and 30s, this tendency is expressed most significantly. To the question “what is your major problem?” about 42.5 percent of them answered that they feel some loneliness and unrest, and sometimes they need someone who cares for them when they experience health troubles. When it comes to 40s and 50s, this tendency gets higher. About 54.9 percent of respondents answered that they suffer from psychological problems.

This result shows that the biggest problem is that single households have a potential risk of maintaining their mental status. If someone who lives alone loses the ability to maintain his or her income because he or she gets hurt or suffers from illness, they cannot help but to lose


the financial status which then runs in a cycle. This gives the single households a feeling of instability. For example, just from these psychological pressures, single men in their 40s are three times more vulnerable to a brain stroke. This can be exemplified by a statistics, which explains why people who die alone without anyone’s care are increasing continuously. It is crucial that society should care for the psychological status of the singles.

Like these three groups, there are so many people who live alone due to some unavoidable reasons. Media and companies say the important thing is that market’s new trend has begun in the Solo Economy which belongs to the intentional single householders, gold miss or gold misters. However, we have to focus on those ‘unintentional single householders,’ who need the support from the society.

Time to act for the singles

Attention to the increase of singles is needed. Those one-person households embrace their problems. However, the problems are linked to the deepening situation of social problems. Maybe those unintentional singles are victims of modern society. It is duty that society gives hand to someone who needs help such as the singles.

Actually, nowadays some alternatives for this phenomenon are being developed, such as “Night fellowship service,” which escorts a woman who needs some help to walk back home, and build a public rental housing which provides housing for a low price.

The small supports are not enough to help the increasing number of singles. The problems will deepen if they are not cared for at a right time. It is now time to take a look at this big change in the society and act. 

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Future Monologue

An article predicting the future, 20 years from now

By Jo He-rim, Kim Ji-hyeock

Associate Editor

Mar. 20, 2033

"In response to the rapid increase of single-person households, the new administration has come up with a housing policy that will offer financial aid for flat-sharing university students. The policy also aims to make use of the increasing number of available houses in the suburban area," the anchor's clear voice from the morning news rang in my head. 20 years ago, I was a reporter for a magazine and I remember writing about the rapid increase of single-person households in Korea as my very first feature item for the news. Only in the year 2013 had media and research institutions actually begun to point out the increasing number of people living alone, their percentage estimated to be almost 25 percent of entire Korean households.

Although I have had my share of experience living alone when I was in the 20s, never at the moment had I imagined my future family to be dispersed all over the country. As a result, after 20 years I am still living alone, with my child away in university and me, divorced. Yes, as of today, 2033, single person households take up more than 50 percent of the entire Korean households. The numbers are greater and larger in other countries.

20 years ago, I moved to Seoul all the way from Daejeon after I had graduated university with hopes and dreams. I had to struggle and work hard for four more years to become employed in the newspaper agency, all the while living alone in a tiny studio near Sinchon. That had been my first experience living by myself. My previous dreams of freedom and the images of modern career woman were brutally shattered and were instead replaced with loneliness and pressures of job-hunting. While writing the feature article, I realized that all the Hollywood imageries of independent single business women and men were merely the cases of those on top of the glass ceiling.

As if my feature on single-households had initiated it, products aimed at those living alone began to pour out into the market a couple of years later and I myself found it pretty convenient as well. For example, even a special bowl for instant noodles was invented for those eating alone so that one could fix their cell phone above the bowl and watch movies or video clips on it while eating. I thought it was over the board at the time being but now I own a couple in my kitchen as well. It was a world where doing something alone did not deserve curious looks from others. Eating alone in a restaurant was not a big deal. I could even go watch movies in a special theater designed for a single audience.

As so many people were living alone as well, it was even considered trendy to host parties for single people living in the same building, as most of the houses were one-room apartments and houses. That is where I had met my now ex-husband. Both just employed and eager to make some savings, we dated for a long time. We just liked being together

and marriage did not really enter our plans. Our parents could not understand this and urged us to get married. Come to think of it, I think I regret this a little as many of my friends are still unmarried, enjoying their lives with their long-time partners.


I find the new housing policy quite welcoming. "Mom I got a room! It is 15 minutes from school and both of my roommates also go to the university." My daughter, Seon-ah, happily reports to me over the phone. You may call it a generation gap. With half the population living alone, it has become so hard to get a decent studio and it has, in reverse, left an overflow of big empty houses. Now they are becoming filled with flat-sharing university students. Envy arises inside me. Seon-ah, so young and enjoying her youth. Having roommates will be better than living alone. I had retired from my job a couple of years ago. Now I was really alone, once again. Had I ever imagined myself to become the living example of one-person household that I had written about?

I call my ex-husband. He has been living alone since the divorce and I just believe he would know how to deal with living alone. "Don't worry too much, you will be fine." Jun-seok hangs up. More than 50 percent of the households in the entire country are living alone, so what is the big deal? I had not imagined the world to change so much since 2013. Jun-seok tells me I will be able to find great communities services that I can join. He also suggests working as a 'Care-sitter.' When I began gathering resources for the feature, I had a somewhat negative view on the whole propaganda on one-person household in the media. I had initially thought the economy was only trying to gauge money out of the poor people living alone and the government was not doing anything to solve the problem. Good products and services were only for those with money.

A 'Care-sitter' is someone who takes care of babies for working parents. It is a new type of job that is recently being promoted by the government. Retired women are encouraged to apply for 'Care-sitter,' since few married women stay at home nowadays. The government is promoting this not only to increase the employment rate, but also to ensure sufficient child-care services. Many experts over the years have been stressing the importance of children experiencing sufficient direct contact with people around them in order to nurture their independence. Some direct man to man contact seems to be the best prescription for me right now.

After my duty today, I visit the silver town down in Yang-pyeong to secure a house for my future. There are only a few nursing homes nowadays. The trend has moved on to silver towns, designed to provide comfort and convenience for its tenants. I remember these towns being very expensive many years ago when it had been introduced for the first time, but now it has become common and affordable. I am not excited to age but the silver community seems to be pretty interesting with everyone getting together every day, trying to make their lives a little more fun and active.

2013...

Individual thoughts and society trends have been changing all the time throughout the history. However, family structures in a society are something that can greatly influence the society. Laws and social systems should alter to fit the changing unit of the society, but they are currently generally focused on two to four people households. The current increase in the number of single-person households should be on the watch list. 



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© Dongdaemun-gu Fire Station

*“When I am called to duty, God
Whenever flames may rage
Give me the strength to save some life
Whatever be its age”*
- from a fireman’s prayer

By Kim Min-jeong
Junior Reporter

Homage to Firewomen

Firefighters have previously been perceived as a masculine line of work due to the extraordinary level of physical strength required. Regardless, there are firewomen actively pursuing their careers. This month, The Argus met Jang Jeong-ae, one of the firewomen of the Dongdaemun-gu Fire Station. She is in charge of fire prevention education and public relations. Her duty also includes educating evacuation situations doing promotion work in the media.

The Argus : How did you become a firefighter?

Jang Jeong-ae(Jang) : Initially, I used to be a nurse in an emergency room. But after the Seongsu bridge collapsed in 1994, voices began to arise that there should be experts included in the ambulance crew. So that year, there was a special recruiting for medical team as firefighters. I applied and became a firewoman.

The Argus : What did your friends and family say about your choice?

Jang : They were against my choice not only because of the difficult working environment, but also because of the general attitude towards nurses. The co-workers perceived me as a nurse, not a fireman. They thought I should continue duty as a nurse.

The Argus : Generally speaking,

people think that a firefighter falls into the men’s line of work. Is there any glass ceiling on the ground?

Jang : Of course. Firewomen face thicker glass ceilings than any other line of work. In the field, people are no longer surprised by female and we are respected like any other firemen. In the offices, however, superior officers are still reluctant to receive firewomen as their crew. It is true that females lack in

physical strength compared to men, so it is not that easy for men to force females to work in the field. Also, women have the right to have maternity leaves and menstrual leaves, and these reasons make superior officers try to avoid recruiting women. Nowadays, it is enforced by the law to have a certain quota for female workers and they usually take up desk jobs after taking basic firefighting training.

The Argus : Fireman had been ranked the most respected job. Do you feel respect from the general public in the field as well?

Jang : Actually, no. When I used to be in the ambulance, at least people said “thank you.” However, no one says anything like that now and instead people get angry at us for arriving late at the scene. Being in a line of public service, we have no power to force or control people. We are the most respected public servants but are also easily subjected to public denounce. For example, in the case of Sungnyemun Fire, the public couldn’t understand why we didn’t extinguish the fire quickly, but we had our reasons for it. If we had put out the fire as usual, we could have seriously damaged our historical legacy. So we did our best, while at the same time factoring in everything to minimize the damage on our precious heritage.

The Argus : In fact, the poor working environments of firefighters have been recently raised to public attention. Budget cuts, locally employed public servants instead of national, and some of the firefighters are even doing double-shifts due to serious manpower shortage.

Jang : Some people say that we have low efficiency. That is, our equipments and manpower are not in function 24hours-7days. And they think the problems above do not matter. But I want

to say there are several “invisible” duties in our society like fire prevention. And I hope people do keep in mind that fire stations are not private enterprises aimed at profit making. We are an important part of the society.



© TwitPal_em914

▲ The fact that fire fighters wear old fire-retardant clothing because of budget problem shows their poor working condition.

The Argus : The general public is now aware to a certain degree of these severe workloads and poor working conditions. However, why isn't the working condition improving?


Jang : I think the problem is that voices are raised, but they are not followed by real actions to solve the problems. For instance, we had to convert an ordinary van into an ambulance due to the budget cuts. It was not comfortable at all for the patients and it caused them sore backs. All of the patients complained about it. But we had no alternatives at that time. We know that the general public is now aware of our poor working conditions. But I want them to take some real actions as well, so that the policy makers will act on it. We have no choice but to continue to do our work because we are

“public servants.”

The Argus : Why are you still doing this job despite all these difficult circumstances?

Jang : Because I want it. Like all of the other fellow firefighters, I believe that my line of work is meaningful, significant and worthwhile. And also as a firewoman, I have an ambition to climb to a superior rank in the office one day. Although an increasing number of women are being employed in the public sector, the glass ceiling still exists. I want to become the first woman to break this barrier and find solutions to the difficult working conditions for firefighters both in the field and in the office based on my own experience.

The Argus : Is there anything you would like to add for students of HUFS?

Jang : Turn your eyes to various things. These days, careers seem to be decided at the early stage of middle school. But I think this is wrong. I want to tell young people to “do what you want,” but even this seems to be limited to the few who possess the financial means. So instead, I would like to tell the young to have various experiences even if they seem to be irrelevant to your immediate job-hunting process or career decision. In my case, I have 12 certificates for nurse, matron, engineering in firefighting equipments, child care and education, recuperating and so on. I have not just limited my potentials to being a nurse and a firefighter, but have offered myself various other opportunities as well. It could be hard to “take the road not taken,” especially when young people are striving to accumulate superficial abilities, but you can always choose the “new path.” 

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The Great Chain of Competition and Violence

By Jang Ho-joon

Editorial Consultant

South Korean President Park Geun-hye visited an elementary school in Seoul on March 15 and said that a creative education should be encouraged and can help prevent violence in classes. Officials of Park's administration explained that her visit was to clarify her goal of making children happy through the growth of their dreams and talents through education.


It is considered that her recent statements have been aimed at serial incidents caused by school violence. On March 11, a tragedy occurred. A high school freshman committed suicide, leaving a note detailing his suffering of violence by his classmates in Gyeongsan, a city in North Gyeongsang Province. Through the principle of cultivating what each student likes and takes interest in, the government officials intend to decrease the use of violence in classes.

People can easily discover violence in almost every social event. There are not only scenes of physical violence, but also those of spiritual and linguistic conflict, which include the lack of contact, and arguments without the acceptance of other opinions. These phenomena might arise due to fear that one should defeat others to get a thing or a position.

This fear dominates the whole society with the prevailing sense of ownership. Even in domestic and school education, educators justify the rules of competition to our children, which unconsciously promotes toleration of violence against others. Grades on tests are the most efficient tool to measure each student's rank, which serves as the standard of one's success. As a result, students consider the ranking system as a natural step, and become insensitive to other people's cases.

After graduating from high school, people dream of lives free of struggles against others. Lots of adults, including twenty years old, search out concepts which can console their mental states from the great chain of competition. By glancing into major bookstores, people can find some words used in most bestselling books. With some variations, terms such as "suffering", "healing" and "dreams" are dominating the minds of youths in our society.

In the daily struggle to live, people realize that they have become used to snatching things from others and follow the same rules in each new society. Unfortunately, they also learn that books and celebrities encourage them to be competitive against others. Pursuing a dream can trigger the start of a war to fulfill a goal and deny it from others. After "healing", people return to battlefields of competition and repeat the violent struggles, pursuing to get what others have. Thomas Hobbes is quoted from his work "Leviathan", "Such a war as is of every man against every man."

Each school's educational system continuously instills the structure of ownership and competition in students' minds. President Park declared that encouraging children's dreams and talents can cease the struggles against others in grades and relationships. Simultaneously, it is said that private academies in South Korea prepare materials which emphasize interdisciplinary studies according to her statements. Although it is impossible to gauge the overall image of school policies in Park's administration, cutting the chain of competition should take precedence over all other activities. 

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Sleepless Night in Mapo Grand Bridge



All photos taken by Kim Ji-hyeock

By Kim Ji-hyeock

Associate Editor

We commonly witness the suicide in dramas or movies, where characters leap to their deaths, overwhelmed by their emotions at the apex of depression. For example, Javert, a police officer in the timeless classic *Les Misérables*, who has been chasing Jean Valjean for most of his life, decides to jump off a cliff and drown himself upon realizing the ugly reality that his beliefs and faith do not coincide with the reality anymore.

People of in Seoul, which is inarguably one of the busiest and most hectic cities in the world, also commit frequent suicides or make attempts at one. Interestingly, the Han River which is the symbol of the nation's economic success is one the most "popular spots" for committing suicide. There are a total of 31 bridges connecting the northern and southern part of the city. Apparently these bridges, among them the infamous Mapo bridge, seem to allure those seeking dramatic settings for the last moments of their life. But did they really have to make that choice? What made them actually step over those handrails? As such, serious concerns have been raised regarding the issue of increasing suicide rates.

Bridges, the last moments of life

The relatively high suicide rates of Korea are well known. Not many find this hardly surprising. According to the 2012 OECD health data, Korea's suicide rate ranks the highest among OECD countries. The respective suicide rate of men and women is higher than the average rate of OECD. While the OECD average suicide rate for 2012 is 19.1 men per million, and 5.1 women per million, Korea boasts 39.3 men per million, and 19.7 women per million.

Under such circumstances, bridges in Seoul have become the most notorious sites for suicide. According to the Metropolitan Government of Seoul, between the years 2007 and 2011, there have been someone leaping off a bridge every two days, and someone drowning in the Han River every five days. In total 108 people died on the Mapo Grand Bridge, 72 on Hangang Grand Bridge, 61 on Wonhyo Grand Bridge, 57 on Sogang Grand Bridge, 48 on Yeongdong Grand Bridge, and 42 on

Seongsan Grand Bridge. We can find a similar phenomenon in San Francisco. A documentary film, "The Bridge," directed by Eric Steel, features real suicide attempts by twenty people. The film casts light on the suicide problem of San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge. According to the film, since the opening of the bridge in 1937, an estimated number of 1,300 people have jumped off the bridge. Like those in Seoul, many had chosen the bridges as the setting for their last moments.

Mapo Grand Bridge: the bridge of life

The Mapo Bridge is the place where you can find the answer to increased suicide rates: lack of communication. One can find the Mapo Bridge just outside of the subway exit one. A headstone with the name of the bridge carved on it greets visitors. The bridge seems to be pretty much obscure during the day. Cool winds blow through the bridge. There are cyclists cycling pass.

Traditional Korean music flows out of traditional Korean music players in a park near the bridge. No one pays attention to the handrails. But on a closer look, one can find rows of LED sensors on them. Various encouraging comments are written on the handrails as well, in hope of deterring dramatic attempts. Some lyrics of a bright song are also written on the handrails.

When the sun sets and darkness settles in, the bridge designer's ultimate intention is finally revealed. When the LED sensors perceive someone approaching the handrails, they light up as if welcoming or embracing the visitor. All of a sudden, the bridge is a warm, even romantic place. People of all ages and romantic couples stroll along the bridge, enjoying the beautiful lights and warm sensation. Several shelters have been put up for those who wish to take a break during their walk.

Walking along the bridge, a public phone labeled the "Life-phone" can be found among the rows of LED lights. There are two buttons and a receiver on



the phone. One button is for the direct hotline of 119, and the other connects you to suicide counseling service. This phone was designed by Life Insurance Philanthropy Foundation, which supports people in need through donations and public fund raisers. Several comments on LED lights lead people to the phone, with messages like “do not be depressed, there are people who can listen to your problems. Try just one phone call and you will get better.” If someone calls the counseling service, an expert counselor answers the call and listens to the caller’s stories and gives him advices. During the first nine days since the phone had been installed, roughly 60 calls were made to the counseling service and the callers actually received real help. The bridge is no longer a place where people come to end their lives, but to find second chances.

Communication, the healing code for depression

The LED lights on the Mapo Bridge began from the idea that people who attempt to suicide might be actually just in need of little communication. It was planned and put into practice by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and Samsung Life Insurance. They hoped that the lights could offer people with a sense of comfort and warmth by installing electric voices that chats and tells jokes. They believed communication could be effective for people suffering from depression.

The city of Seoul bustles with tens and thousands of different lives. Everyone has their own stories and agonies. But most of them share common needs; they need communication. Communications can be useful in curing mental disorders. In fact, there is a therapy that uses communication as the main tool of treatment. According to a research, the number of people in their 20s suffering from depression is on the increase, but most of them do not take it seriously. The Seoul Suicide Prevention Center says

that 60 percent of the people who tried to commit suicide turned out to have mood disorders such as bipolar disorder, depression, and manic psychosis. In addition, about seven percent of men who had previously experienced depressions were led to commit suicide. This could also mean that mental disorders resulting from stressful social relationships could lead to depression.

All over the city, more and more people are facing unavoidable stress on the daily basis. People look for the places where they can kick back and relax. Amid social pressures and loneliness plaguing the city, the Mapo Bridge has become a kind of symbol that encourages more communication between people. Take a walk along this special bridge with your loved ones. Try stirring up small conversations with those around you every day, at your work or school. The Mapo Bridge could help you learn the key to reaching into the hearts of others.



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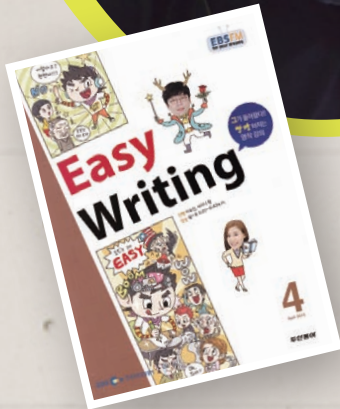


My New Job as a Radio Host



Eugene Lee

Foreign prof. in the Eng. Lit. Dept.



Outside of HUFS, I have a prosperous career as an English education content specialist. Megastudy, Samsung Everland, and Yearim Publishers are some of the partners who have sought my expertise. Before reaching where I stand today, over half of my 10-year experience is full of failures. But somehow I found ways to spring back from my setbacks like a Russian tumble doll. Nevertheless, I was taken aback when EBS FM Radio asked me this February to be the host and magazine writer for an English writing program.

Teach how to write in English over the radio? The idea caught me by surprise but I was intrigued so I said “yes.” After I gave my consent, I went through a grueling series of auditions. Despite having no experience in radio, I got the job because my previous host had to leave and EBS desperately needed somebody. Luck found its way to me unexpectedly. But luck only opened the door and played no part in solving the problems. Here are the insights of the problem-solving process, which might be helpful to some.

The first problem was to understand why my previous host had to leave. With an incredibly difficult task, he did an incredible job. The only problem was that over the year and a half that he hosted, he worked *too* much. For the magazine, he wrote a different topic for each day, six days a week. Intuitively, I knew that I could not do that. Young people tend to believe in possibilities; old people tend to understand possibilities. From the get-go, I admitted my shortcomings and suggested a new format. Fortunately, EBS accepted it with open arms.

Instead of describing a new topic every single day, I proposed to have one topic per week. The number of topics is a crucial factor that determines the energy invested for writing. Another issue was that the previous version of the program focused on the TOEIC and NEAT Writing Sections, which are not popular categories. So instead of





narrowing down the listenership, I suggested journals for half of the week and essays for the other half. Changing the frame of thought resulted in a manageable new format.

The second problem is the listeners' resistance to change. With any attempt of change, people who resist always exist. I was mentally prepared for the backlashes to my appearance. But I was not mentally prepared for the taunting by listeners. Middle school students also listen to the program and I was surprised to see the listeners, anonymous people to me, giving me advice on how to run the show and what to teach. In my early twenties, I was a "keyboard warrior" so I understood this phenomena as the misdeeds from my past coming back to haunt me.

Seeing that I was stressed out from the complaints by listeners, my PD told me that such complaints are actually signs of interest. She told me that one way to measure the popularity of a radio show host is to count the number of complaints. Indeed, after seeing a wave of praises the complaints started to appear on the Internet message boards. Her words reminded me of the 10% rule in the publishing industry. For any book, 10% of the readers will think it's a great book and 10% will think it's trash. Adapting to this situation will take time but I'm getting used to it.

The third problem, however, was much more serious and is a problem yet to be solved. My dramatic storytelling skills are my strength as a speaker. My friends call me "healing Eugene" and often seek my presence when life requires discussions. I'm a dramatic storyteller because the range of my voice goes from very low to very high when I speak. This, however, is a crucial flaw for radio hosts. Most male hosts speak in a high-pitch tone. My voice is way too low. In addition, my voice is husky, so I probably have the worst-quality voice in Korean radio history.

My co-host, who has the loveliest voice I have ever heard, brought yogurt and Korean rice cakes to clear my throat. Unfortunately, her remedies didn't help. Since we prerecord the programs in the morning, I tried to overcome the problem by waking up 4 hours before the recording session. A dramatic effect was not noticed. I was told to lose weight and that is slowly taking progress but my love handles stayed with me for a long time. To the problem of voice, I have found no solution except for my determination to improve it.

A month has passed since I started this job. Despite the negative aspects described above, there are positive aspects that cover the dust. I made two new friends—my co-host and PD—and I'm starting a new career in the media. Of course, many other positive things occurred to me since I began this job but such stories are generally more boring than those of problems and challenges. I would like to end this essay with a few words of advice for students preparing careers that involve storytelling such as the media, publishing, and marketing.

Be original. Everyone is original but not everyone is willing to be original. Make a habit of telling an interesting story to friends and family. *Be open.* People often want personal and honest stories from others without first being personal and honest themselves. Tell your own story first instead of requesting others to do so. *Be smart.* I still learn English by reading the latest books and visiting websites. If you want to make a career in a certain area, never stop learning knowledge in that area even when you have the career you dreamed of. 📻

* Prof. Eugene Lee's radio program is aired on EBS FM 104.5 between 6:20 AM to 6:40 AM from Monday to Saturday. The title is Easy Writing.




‘The Argus’ Follows Its Name; Diverse Viewpoints

‘The Argus’ has a special meaning in its name. ‘The Argus’ is the name of a creature that has 100 eyes from Greek mythology. That means that The Argus will keep their keen eyes open aware of all the issues happening around them, highlighting them in diverse viewpoints. This issue thoroughly proved their name value.

The columns Youth Casting and Footsteps casted a light on issues that were outside of our interest. Youth Casting touched the issue points ‘foreign exchange students’, ‘the disabled’ at the same time. On the other hand, Footsteps showed the shadows and unknown history of Yeosu, which was one of the most vibrant cities last year due to the Expo and song Yeosu Night Sea. These two columns were very exciting to read because I could learn things that I did not know of. I am looking forward to these columns in the next issues, too.

Nonetheless, the main coverstory also brought an issue that is not well-acknowledged into light; our trace in cyber space that remains after death. In an era where cyberspace takes up most of the space, this issue is a fundamental problem that is not tackled.

Overall, ‘The Argus’ successfully pulled out their job of keeping its eyes wide open at all times. Thanks to ‘The Argus,’ I could also keep my eyes wide open to the issues surrounding me! 


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To Make a Better ‘The Argus’

It was the first time I read ‘The Argus.’ First of all, I like ‘The Argus’ dealing with various topics like campus, national, culture, etc.

Particularly, I was interested in the article about Yeosu in the latest issue. I got to know not only the Expo 2012 Yeosu but their painful history and tourist attraction through specific photos. Also, volunteering work of HUFSan in the Pyeongchang Special Olympics Winter Games was impressive. My major is about foreign language, so while reading, I hoped to take part in national events as a volunteer like her one day.

I want to make a suggestion for ‘The Argus.’ I hit upon a great idea. I think it will be awesome if ‘The Argus’ treats restaurants. News about the restaurant selling unique food will attract HUFSans who learn of foreign cultures. There would be more faithful readers if they get useful information like above in this paper. I guarantee subscribers will love this guide. 

Seo Yun-ji 12’

Dept. of Spanish Interpretation and Translation

Independence





The Argus
Will Be Casting YOU



The Argus

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