

The background of the cover features a close-up of Iron Man's helmet in the upper right corner, with its glowing blue eye. Below it, on the right side, is a dark, textured surface with a metallic Batman logo. The overall color scheme is dark, with the white text and the gold of the Iron Man helmet providing contrast.

The Argus

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HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

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 and academism.

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Editorial

April, a Cruel Month Full of Disaster

In the month of April has been a month full of misfortune for the Korean people. There were many accidents including the sinking of the Sewol ferry, a fire accident that hit Samsung SDS, a bus crash in Daegu, and so on.

The biggest one was obviously the ferry disaster. It occurred on April 16 and it resulted in the loss of many lives and a majority of those who died were high school students. It was the result of the captain's indecisive and irresponsible behavior. The tragedy has transformed the harbor of the coastal city Jindo into a chaotic mess.

Since the day of the disaster, Korea has been full of profound grief, disbelief, and anger. Ironically however, most people who were not directly involved in the tragic event kept going about their daily business in a relatively unconcerned manner. So did I. Most people, including myself, still found pleasure in something, hung out with friends, or were busy getting themselves ready for mid-term examinations. I felt a sense of powerlessness while setting up my priorities for each day. It seemed like there was not enough time to share in the sorrow of people directly related to the tragedy. I knew that I could not help them directly and mourn for them all day, but I still felt downhearted watching most people spend their time on leisure and alcohol.

There is a phrase, "All will be forgotten as time goes by." People who are not connected to the accident apply such a mentality to their own lives easily, get it over the situation, and spend their time engaging in mundane activities. However, people who are directly connected cannot act as such. They may have lost their teachers, pupils, friends, or even more horribly their children. A mother who lost her child said, "It is so hard to bring up a child in the Republic of Korea."

I strongly believe in the principle of invariance that time has. 'Time heals all wounds.' Though I have some doubts, I sincerely hope that time will heal these wounds, too. ☹

Kim Min-jeong
Editor-in-Chief

김민정

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I Need You, Captain!

For about a century, the public has loved superheroes. The public admires the superheroes' power and ability. Unconsciously, people have sought some kinds of exits from their daily lives that are full of unfairness, injustice, and corruption. Their wishes are reflected into superhero movies and it made superheroes be more popular and humane. Because we need, the superheroes exist.

Throw Away the Bad Habits and Show Real Journalism

The Things Slaves Must Not Forget

Buddha's Coming with Countless Yellow Ribbons

Two Aspects of Speculation Worthy of Meditation



▲ Attendees of the event including President Kim In-chul and other faculty members celebrate the HUFS' 60th anniversary clapping their hands in delight.

HUFS Marks 60th Anniversary of Its Foundation

HUFS President Kim In-chul vowed on April 18 to step up the university's efforts to further its development, as the school held a ceremony marking the 60th founding anniversary at the Obama Hall, Seoul Campus. The anniversary fell on April 20.

"This moment, when we gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary and pledge to advance our school, should be the cornerstone of our school's vision to make great strides for a new and further developed HUFS toward the coming centennial anniversary of its foundation," Kim said in his congratulatory address.


Lee Nam-ju, chief of the school's board of trustees, also delivered a congratulatory speech, saying, "Let us not be satisfied with our past. He called for the implementation of a plan to map out the school's future and to focus its

efforts on qualitative development."

Other guests who offered congratulatory speeches included Kwon Sun-han, head of the HUFS Alumni Association, and U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Sung Kim.

The school reduced the scale of the anniversary event in memory of those who lost their lives and their families in the April 16 ferry sinking that left hundreds of people dead or missing.

During the ceremony, President Kim, the U.S. envoy and other participants paid a silent tribute to the deceased.

Mun Myeong-jae, the Dean of Academic Affairs of the Seoul Campus, acted as the emcee for the ceremony, while Kim Seong-su, the Dean of Planning and Coordination, gave a presentation on the school's history. 


By Kim Min-jeong

New Student Representatives for Seoul Campus Elected



International Studies Dept. senior Kim Beom and Hindi Dept. junior Lee Ji-won were elected as the chief and the vice chief, respectively, of the 48th General Student Council on April 2.

The new leadership, led by the two, plans to use the existing slogan of the former 47th General Student Council--the HUFS candle--as it is pursuing the continuity and success of previous policies that have not been fully accomplished yet. The new council leaders promised the creation of several smoking booths on campus and the establishment of a 24-hour cooling and heating service for student spaces.

Other improvements in school systems that the new council seeks include posting full syllabi on all lectures and preventing the random canceling of classes. The reestablishment of an audit committee to improve the transparent management of university finances is also in the list of tasks for the new leadership. The committee, if set up, will monitor the conditions and management of finances in the student associations of all departments. 


By Kim Hae-ju



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Dept. of Russian Wins HUFS World Cup

The Dept. of Russian beat the College of English to grab the trophy in the finals of the 33rd HUFS World Cup held at the Seoul Campus on April 4, marking the second consecutive victorious year.


The match was held as part of events celebrating the 60th anniversary of the school's foundation. The players of the two teams hoped that South Korea's soccer team will yield good results in the coming finals of the 2014 Brazil World Cup. 

▲ President Kim In-chul (7th from R, front) poses with players of the College of English and the Dept. of Russian during the finals of the 33rd HUFS World Cup. The English college players are in white and the Russian majors in red.

Envoys from 3 Countries Visit HUFS


Top envoys from Uzbekistan, Romania and Hungary recently visited HUFS Seoul Campus for talks with HUFS chief Kim In-chul and other senior officials to discuss academic cooperation.

On March 19, Uzbek Ambassador to South Korea Alisher Anvarovich Kurmanov made a visit to the school and exchanged opinions regarding cooperation between HUFS and the embassy. On March 25, Romanian Ambassador to South Korea Calin Fabian and Hungarian Ambassador to South Korea Gabor Csaba came to HUFS. The two ambassadors said their countries would intend to partner with HUFS in mutual academic exchanges.

During the separate meetings with the three envoys, Kim was accompanied by Lee Sung-ha, the vice president of the school's external affairs and development. 

HUFS to Provide Educational System to Seoul Education Office


HUFS agreed with the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education (SEN) on April 14 to offer middle school students opportunities to take part in arts, sports and club activities without worrying about examinations.

The agreement, reached between HUFS President Kim In-chul and Seoul's Superintendent of Education Mun Yong-lin, calls for the University to help middle schools implement a project in which middle school students do not take examinations for a semester. The purpose of the system is to assist students in finding their true course for the future. 

8 HUFSSans Awarded Prodiosa Scholarships

Eight HUFSSans received scholarships from trading company Prodiosa at a lecture room in the BRICs Graduate School on April 7.

Called the Prodiosa Scholarship, the fellowship program was launched in 2010 by Park Jae-jin, an alumnus of the Dept. of Spanish and Prodiosa President. The scholarships, the 11th of its kind, are given every semester.

Prodiosa, based on Mexico City, is the biggest Korean trading company in Central and South America and has six branches in Seoul, Los Angeles and other cities. The enterprise is recognized as one of the top Korean companies in the sector. 

By Kim Min-jeong



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Iranian Cultural Fete Held

The Dept. of Persian held a cultural festival at the Faculty Office, Seoul Campus, on March 26 to help HUFSans understand Iranian culture and the Middle East country.

The 4th Iranian Cultural Festival, hosted by the department's professor Yu Dal-seung, featured a reading of Iranian poems and a traditional performance by the department's students.

Prior to the event, Iranian Ambassador to South Korea Ahmad Masoumifar, who visited the school to take part in the festival, held talks with HUFS chief Kim In-chul to discuss education cooperation between Iran and HUFS. 📷

By Kim Hae-ju

Renowned HUFS Alumni Give Special Lectures

South Korean Ambassador to Spain Park Hee-kwon, a HUFS 1980 alumnus who had majored in Spanish as an undergraduate, gave a lecture to HUFSans on April 9, highlighting his well-known idea that culture is the keyword of success in the global age. He spoke about culturally mixed blood to become a 21st century global talent.

Another HUFS alumnus Kim Sang-kuk, president of the health-oriented food firm, gave a lecture to HUFSans, in which he said a clear goal, positive stance on issues and passion are the three key requirements for success in life. Kim joined the Dept. of Malay-Indonesian Interpretation and Translation in 1984. 📷

By Kim Hae-ju

HUFS, WWF Ink Pact on Boosting Ties

HUFS signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) at the Millennium Seoul Hilton Hotel on March 27, to provide interpretation and translation services to the global environmental conservation body.

Under the agreement, HUFS and the WWF will also enhance their cooperation through international studies, researcher exchanges and academic exchanges.

WWF is an international non-governmental organization working on issues regarding the conservation, research, and restoration of the environment. The WWF was formerly named the World Wildlife Fund, which remains its official name in Canada and the United States. 📷

By Park Hyun-chul

Photo Exhibition Held to Feature Slovakia

Students of the Dept. of Czech and Slovak Studies held a seven-day photo exhibition from April 10 to 16 for celebrating the 10th anniversary of Slovakia's joining in the European Union, in cooperation with the Slovak Embassy in Seoul.

The exhibition, run at the Entrance Hall of the Main Building on the Global Campus, was comprised of two parts -- 11 photos on Slovakia's history and information, and 21 photos showing the East European country's provision of assistance to the world.

Visitors to the exhibition had an opportunity to learn India, Haiti, Pakistan and other countries have benefitted from Slovak medical and educational assistance. The commonality among these recipient countries is that they have all suffered from war and disasters. 📷

By Kim Min-jeong



▲ The exhibition shows the history of Slovakia.



▲ Students of dept. of Czech and Slovak Studies are posing for the camera.

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The Government's Responsibility in a Crisis


By Park Hyun-chul
Editorial Consultant

The Sewol ferry tragedy is the worst disaster since the founding of Korea in 1948. In terms of the greatest death toll, the worst case was the collapse of the Sampoong Department Store in 1995, in which a total of 501 people died. Yet the Sewol disaster primarily resulted in the deaths of innocent high school students, many of whom perished because they were following orders. Hundreds of them are still trapped in the sunken ship off the coast of Jindo, South Jeolla.

In Jindo, families of the missing children are still waiting and weeping. It is a heartbreaking scene to behold. Upon seeing a mother absent-mindedly sitting on a rock, a foreign correspondent quietly clicked a camera shutter, which graphically delivered the tragedy to the entire world.

Families have lost trust in governmental authority because the government has been unreliable from the beginning. Following the egregious mistake of announcing that all of the students had been saved, the government had to reverse its announcement several times regarding the number of passengers in terms of the missing, dead and total survivors. Various government agencies worked out of sync, further slowing rescue efforts. Parents of children attending Danwon High School released a statement that the government has done nothing on its own.

The government's pathetic inability to respond to the accident is reflected in its failure to even grasp the basic situation twelve hours after receiving word of the accident. The figures provided by the Central Office about the number of passengers on the Sewol, the number of rescue workers, and even the number of missing persons changed throughout the day, adding to the confusion. On the evening of the accident, after a string of contradictory reports about the rescue work, the public witnessed the disgusting spectacle of the Ministry of Security and Public Administration and the Coast Guard both trying to avoid responsibility for the rescue work.

The Park Geun-hye administration identified safety as one of its primary governing objectives, even renaming the Ministry of Public Administration and Safety as the Ministry of Safety and Public Administration. Yet judging from the government's performance from the moment the accident occurred through the ongoing rescue efforts, it is doubtful whether even a rudimentary disaster response system was in place. It is no exaggeration to conclude that this is an administration that only pays lip service to safety while it is in reality completely apathetic. 

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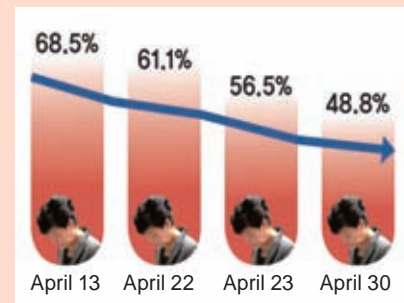
News Briefing

By Jo He-rim

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Park's approval rating drops



According to pollsters, the approval ratings of President Park Geun-hye dropped 13 percentage points to 48.8 percent in the April 13-30 period. Her management of the Sewol Ferry accident has been widely criticized as being incompetent.



Ice Queen's farewell


Figure skating Queen Kim Yu-na bid farewell to her fans as she appeared on her last gala program on May 6.

Line 2 Subway Collisions

On May 5, a train crashed into a stationary train at Sangwangsimni Station on Line 2, leaving at least 246 passengers with mild injuries such as

cuts and bruises. The malfunctioning of a traffic signal system is thought to be the cause. The automatic train stop system failed to maintain a safe distance between trains. With over 200 people injured as a result of human error, public criticism of the incident has been understandably fervent.

NIS espionage scandal

The Seoul High Court acquitted North Korean defector Yoo Woo-sung of charges that he had been involved in spying activities for the North. The prosecution indicted two mid-level NIS officials involved in the scandal. Three prosecutors related to this scandal were forced to submit to light disciplinary actions. Public criticism has been significant, as the punishment for both the NIS and the prosecutors is considered too light for their indictment. 

Campus Briefing

By Kim Hae-ju

Reporter on Campus Section

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Statue of the Founder PROS or CONS

PROS

or

CONS



There were plans to build a statue of Kim Heung-bae, the founder of Hufs, in front of the Main Building of the Seoul Campus to celebrate the Hufs 60th anniversary. However it has been postponed indefinitely because of the strong resistance led by the Seoul Campus GSC.

Kim is said to have records of controversial pro-Japanese activities during the Japanese colonial period.

LD'S First Representative

Noh Hae-rim, a junior of the Language and Diplomacy Division, was elected on April 15 to lead the division's student council. Noh had been the leader of the division's student council since it was formed in 2013. But she lost the post following the disbandment early this year of the student council caused by inner conflicts. The division's students decided to form their new student council on March 27. She won the election with ease as she was effectively the sole candidate for the position.



Smoking Fine

Starting from January 1, 2014, people who are caught in smoking on campus and the intersection in front of the main gate are forced to pay a 100,000 won fine.

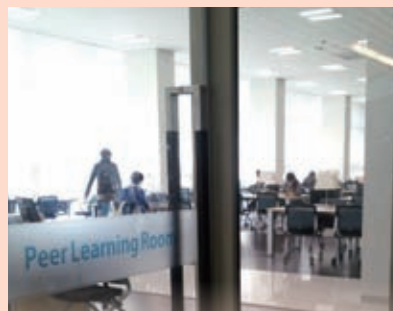
Bamboo Forest

Bamboo Forest, a Facebook page, is rapidly becoming more popular. The Hufs Bamboo Forest was established on January 20, 2014, and contains stories that were posted from anonymous Hufsans. The stories vary by confession of love toward the opposite sex and criticism for the university's policies.



Outsiders


Reports have surfaced on Hufslife and other online communities that students from other universities or local residents are misappropriating campus facilities like the library and study rooms.



▲ Peer learning room in Cyber Building.



Dept. of Autocrat?

The Dept. of Russian used a controversial image of Russian President Vladimir Putin, widely criticized for his autocratic actions, on a poster in the office of Russian majors. The department offered an apology over the use of the image after many Hufsans posted malicious comments for it on the community site Hufslife. 



By Park Ji-yeon

Overseas Correspondent

On the evening of March 5th in Manhattan, New York, a crowd gathered around a Korean lady dressed up in a hanbok. Under the gaze of many a curious eye, she gracefully demonstrated the traditional Korean tea ceremony and cameras flashed from the crowd. This event was the Gallery Opening ceremony for an exhibition called *Strata of Time: Layers of Tradition* at the Korean Cultural Service New York.

Chun Sei-ryun, the lady who performed the tea ceremony, was one of the four artists who displayed their artwork at the exhibition. Among the numerous galleries in Manhattan, the participation of the four artists made the public exhibition a particularly special one. All of them are Korean artists who are actively carrying out their careers in the USA, with their work displaying both Korean and American sentiments.

Profiling the Gallery Exhibition

The four Korean artists who took part in the exhibition were Cho Bongsang, Chun Sei-ryun, Chung Ji-young, and Park Sang-joon. These four talented artists were the winners of 'Call for Artists 2014', a contest that was held by the Korean Cultural Service New York. According to the contest's theme, all of them submitted artwork that shows their Korean background and also the modern aspects of their American lives.

In contrast to what people think of the artists as contest winners, all four of them have great portfolios and a lot of experience as artists, and were not amateurs making their debuts. To be specific, Cho Bong-sang's pieces have been included in exhibitions at the Smithsonian Museum and Philadelphia Museum of Art. He has also been recognized as the "Best Modern Artist" at the North Virginia Art Festival. As for Chun Sei-ryun, she has actively taken part in many gallery exhibitions in New York, Miami, and San Francisco. She is currently the executive director of the Oms Art Gallery. Chung Ji-young's

works were invited to exhibitions in Finland, Canada, Australia, France, China, and England several times. She is also recognized as an artist who makes beautiful artwork with hanji, traditional Korean paper. Last but not least, Park Sang-joon won the "Best Artist" award at the Smithsonian Craft Show, which is the most competitive craft show in America. He teaches ceramics at BRIC House at the present, an open art gallery for artists in Brooklyn, New York.

With these four talented artists and all of their art focused in different art fields, the *Strata of Time: Layers of Tradition* displayed their works from the beginning until the end of March at Gallery Korea, which is located in the Korean Cultural Service New York, Manhattan.

A 'Strata of Time' Gallery Opening

The opening ceremony, made complete with Chun Sei-ryun's traditional Korean tea ceremony, showed the appropriateness of the gallery exhibition's title. Unlike how other art galleries in New York host their



- ① <The Liver of Time>
is made with persimmon dyed linen from Jeju island by Chun Sei-ryun.
- ② <Stem Connection>
is made with thread and wood panel by Chun Sei-ryun.
- ③ <Walking into Scents>
is made with Jang-go and leather by Chun Sei-ryun.

gallery openings by inviting guests and serving wine, Gallery Korea invited guests to wine, refreshments, and also a rare opportunity to see a professional, traditional Korean tea ceremony. When Chun Sei-ryun appeared in her colorful hanbok with old ceramic pots and trays, everybody in the gallery turned their heads to see her and a crowd instantly formed around the stage. As the ceremony began, their eyes quietly followed her moves as she brewed tea leaves and then poured the beverage into cups. The crowd grew larger as reporters from art magazines joined in. Clicking sounds could be heard from the guests' and reporters' cameras, with the

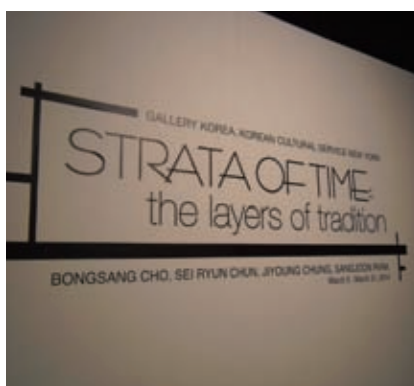
audience members hoping not to miss a single move of the artist demonstrating the thorough traditional process of making tea.

With her paintings and art pieces in the background, the tea ceremony of Chun Sei-ryun showed the exhibition's identity by featuring works of artists who love and respect Korea's traditional culture. The most important reason why the traditional tea ceremony took place is because Chun Sei-ryun's art pieces incorporate traditional tea-dyed leather and hanji. In other words, the ceremony was art itself by showing the gallery guests how Chun Sei-ryun's artwork is made through the traditional tea process.

The Layers of Time in the Art

"Inspired by the high level of craftsmanship that dwells within the deep-rooted culture of Korea, the four artists have reinterpreted traditional techniques into modern forms," said the curator of Gallery Korea. In this way, every one of the displayed works had a mixture of Korean and American art expressed through different materials, which the artists described at the gallery opening.

Walking into Scents, which is Chun Sei-ryun's signature piece, is made with a Korean drum or jang-go, leather, and mixed media. The circular installations



▲ The entrance of <Strata of Time: Layers of Tradition> gallery.



▲ Chun Sei-ryun is demonstrating the Korean traditional tea ceremony.



are pieces from jang-go and the colorful work on it is done with thread installation. Another work of hers, *The Liver of Time*, consists of persimmon-dyed linen from Jeju Island. In this context, both works use traditional and natural materials from Korea that are transferred into modern art. As an artist with the motto “Nature is art and art is nature,” Chun Sei-ryun says that her works capture what she sees from the sky. “I was looking at the sky while I was drinking traditional Korean tea, when I felt like the sky was telling me something. I decided to express it through my art,” she said.

Another main art piece at the gallery was *Whisper-Romance 3*, a ‘one-of-a-kind joomchi’, made by Chung Ji-young who is a professional joomchi artist. According to her explanation, “Joomchi is a unique Korean traditional way of making textured and painterly handmade paper just by using water.” The traditional technique that she uses for her modern art is well-recognized in the craft and fiber art fields of the USA.

Cho Bong-sang’s works are similar to Chun Sei-ryun’s art in that both of them are based on their inspiration from nature. The difference is that Cho illustrates his feelings through metal sculpture. “I try to communicate with people through my metal smithing work. This work is done by combining Korean traditional metal techniques and new metal forming technology,” he said in describing how his art connects traditional Korean art and modern American art.

Another part of the gallery was full of works made from clay which were by Park Sang-joon. As an artist who studies traditional Korean ceramic to express western conceptual arts, Park uses Korean-style rice bowls he makes in much of his work. He explained the meaning of his artwork at the gallery opening by saying that, “I learned how to use clay as a material from Korea, and I am here in USA using it to express my Korean identity through the Western art style.”

As can be seen through the artists’ interviews, every artist has a different taste in choosing their materials: tea, joomchi, metal, or clay. Within all of their works, however, they shared the common feature of using a traditional Korean art to express their heritage and realizing it using a modernized art style.

The Korean Artists’ World in the USA

Strata of Time: Layers of Tradition featured the works of four artists; all of them utilizing their Korean background. However, Cho Bong-sang, Chun Sei-ryun, Chung Ji-young, and Park Sang-joon are not the only Korean artists in America. There is a multitude of Korean artists drawing, sculpting, and designing in Manhattan and the number grows larger when counting all of the Korean artists across the country.

For example, the gallery exhibition that opens a week after *Strata of Time: Layers of Tradition* in the Korean Cultural Service New York features approximately a hundred Korean

American artists. Called the *Shades of Time: An Exhibition from the Archive of Korean-American Artists, Part Two, 1989-2001*, the exhibition is separated into two sections: the Korean-American generation in 1955 from 1989 and the generation from 1989 to 2001. With drawings, installation pieces, mixed media, and computer graphics, this archive exhibition not only shows how large the number of Korean artists residing in the United States is, but also how diverse their fields of artistic expression are as well.

While there are some Korean-American artists like Cho Bong-sang, Chun Sei-ryun, Chung Ji-young, and Park Sang-joon who focus on expressing the inspiration they received from their Korean background, there are also many Korean-American professional artists who only focus on American style modern art.

Strata of Time: Layers of Tradition shows a piece of the huge world of Korean-American artists. Though this gallery may seem like a small art compilation as compared to the Korean-American Artists archive exhibition that displays work from approximately one hundred artists, this gallery was special because the displayed works were selected pieces drawn from a large pool that had ‘the Korean cultural touch.’ As the curator of Gallery Korea put it, “Their works lie in the break between yesterday and today, the traditional and contemporary.”

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I NEED YOU, CAPTAIN!



By Kim Hae-ju
Reporter on Campus Section

“We’ll come back because everyone needs us.”

Right before a MARVEL movie’s final credits roll, one of the characters in each movie repeats the movie’s opening lines. This year in “Captain America 2: The Winter Soldier” (Captain America 2), these lines were delivered in a speech by the Black Widow, a female superhero who helps Captain America in this movie. Since its release on March 26, Captain America 2 has maintained the top spot at the

Korean box-office. MARVEL, the American production company, has released many superhero movies like ‘Iron Man,’ ‘Captain America,’ ‘Fantastic 4,’ etc. These movies are loved by the public. Yet who are these superheroes? Superheroes are not just normal characters. They are real ‘super’ heroes in that they have superhuman abilities and powers. These cinematic superheroes are usually the creations of MARVEL

and DC Comics, the two most prominent American production companies. The origin of those heroes dates back to comic books published around the 1930s. Now, in 2014, they are depicted on the screen and the public still loves them. What has made them so loved for such a long time? The answer can be found in the history of superhero-based industries and other factors related to recent superhero movies. First, let’s talk about the history of superheroes.

The History of the Superhero Industry

The history of superheroes starts more than half a century ago. As mentioned before, the superheroes that we see on the screen come from comic books. Usually, publications invariably reflect the era in which they were released. This also applies to comics as well. The history of superheroes can be divided into three main ages: the Golden Age, the Silver Age, and the Modern Age.

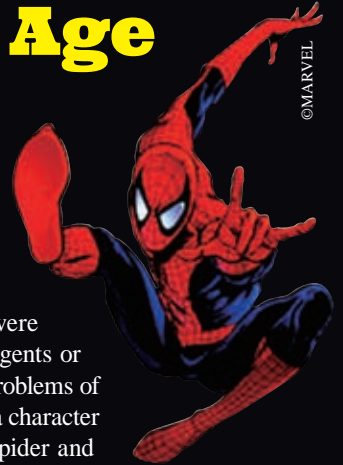


The Golden Age

The Golden Age, from the 1930s to the 1940s, was the heyday of superheroes. After the Great Depression, a depressive gloom held sway over society because of widespread poverty, crime and corruption. Therefore, readers wanted to read something that could remedy these social issues. As such, a famous American comics company named DC Comics created superheroes with supernatural powers who could clearly eliminate social evils. The image of those superheroes ranged from very exotically superhuman to capture the public's envy as well. A representative example is Superman. Superman is from an alien planet and has supernatural powers. He is literally a 'Superman.' He easily overcomes evil with his supreme might. After Superman's introduction in the 1940s, the US entered World War 2 and anti-Nazi superheroes were created to express a powerful image of the US. The US also instituted a voluntary military system, so the image of superheroes at this time was used to gather young men to volunteer for the military. Captain America is one example that shows this tendency. He wears a costume and fights with a shield that symbolizes the American flag. Captain America himself is also a soldier who participated in World War 2.

The Silver Age

During the Silver Age, the tone of superhero comics changed. The Silver Age lasted from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s when McCarthyism was rampant. McCarthyism, led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, was a political movement aimed at eradicating communism in America and it degenerated into a conservative drive to condemn progressive politics as subversive forms of communism. This idea flourished at the height of the Cold War and spread beyond Washington D.C. throughout America. Extreme McCarthyism made Hollywood and other cultural entertainment industries contract due to discreet doubt and conspiracies about rebellious contents. Moreover, comics were identified as being harmful publications for juveniles. As a result, with the leading role of MARVEL Comics, there were some changes made in the portrayal of superheroes. Their enemies became Soviet soldiers or KGB agents or communists. Also, superhero stories in this age included not only the Cold War, but also the structural problems of a competitive society, environmental issues, terrorism and the danger of nuclear weapons. Spiderman is a character who was created during the Silver Age. A normal person, Peter Parker was bitten by an irradiated spider and received a spider's abilities and became Spiderman.



The Modern Age

The Modern Age began in the 1990s and is still going strong. In the 1990s, Hollywood industries expanded greatly and helped many superheroes find their paths to the big screen. In this era, the division between virtue and vice has become vague and the superheroes themselves have undergone conflicted personal issues. Superheroes of the Golden and Silver Ages had been reinterpreted as possessing strong masculine beauty and as being symbols of American capitalism. They have also seen their abilities upgraded every time the film companies release a new serial installment. From a commercial perspective, there should always be new contents in superhero movies to attract the public. Therefore in the Modern Age, new spinoff supporting roles are continuously created. The Batman series show this phenomenon well. From Two Face to the Joker, diverse supporting characters help ensure that viewers never become bored with the main character, Batman.



Through these three main ages of the superhero industry, we can see that the situations of each period are greatly related and our superheroes have also changed with the changing of eras. Now, let us look at the inner factors that show why superhero movies have been well-received for such a long time.

The Inner Attractions of Superhero Movies

Diversity

As mentioned above, superheroes, like Superman and Batman, originally fought crime alone. However, recently superheroes gather and work together. The best example is MARVEL's Avengers. Diverse MARVEL superheroes show up in the Avengers series and they organize a team. With many different heroes on one screen, the movie is able to attract demographic groups that have various tastes. Specifically, this diversity is clearly shown in the personalities and mentalities of the characters.

First, the characters powers are classified as 'almighty and supernatural powers,' 'naked bodies with shields,' and even 'highly mechanized weapons.' Superman, Thor, and the X-men belong to the category of 'almighty and supernatural powers.' The X-men are a group of people with supernatural powers that especially fit this category. Their abilities vary from the ability to control the weather to psychokinesis. Captain America and Batman do not have such supernatural powers, but they have strong bodies and excellent hand-to-hand fighting skills. Captain America's shield and the "Bat-car" are their supporting items, respectively. Iron Man wears high-tech metal suits and utilizes their power. Tony Stark, the alter-ego of Iron Man, is a mechanical genius who builds his own high-tech suits.

Superheroes on screen also have diverse characteristics. Tony Stark, Iron Man, is depicted as a selfish and arrogant capitalist, who enjoys his fame. Therefore, he is not concerned with world peace, but rather he cares about himself. In the first Avengers film, he ignored the call of Shield, an organization dedicated to preserving world peace, because he was spending time with his girlfriend. In stark contrast, Captain America always acts in an altruistic and self-sacrificing manner when faced with danger. In Captain America 2, he remained on a falling airship to stop the weapons of mass destruction of his heroism. In this vein, heroes possess different characteristics and personalities and it has attracted more people to these movies.



The Appearance of the Crisis between Reality and Unreality

Superhero movies are usually about conflict with evil beings or solving social crises. The social crises that appear in movies nowadays tend to range between realistic and unrealistic problems. For example, in Captain America 2, the crisis resulted from the leak of personal information and an undetected government infiltration. Hydra, an evil group that attempts to conquer the world, created weapons of mass destruction from this private information. The group analyzed all available data and used an algorithm to determine all the people in the world who would oppose their rule both currently and in the future. Hydra then appropriated weapons of mass destruction to eliminate these people before they can act. This crisis is highly probable because our society is actually undergoing similar concerns about the security of private information. Therefore, people are better able to identify with the superheroes who fight to solve these problems on screen because they seem to be the resolvers of realistic crises. In addition to realistic situations, some crises portrayed seem to be very unrealistic as well. Fear about unknown aliens from outer space is also reflected in superhero movies. MARVEL does a great job of showcasing this fear in its movies. For example, in first Thor movie, Thor explained how he came to Earth from his home, Asgard. According to him, the whole universe consists of nine dimensions and people can move from one dimension to another through 'wormholes,' a pair of holes that connect two different dimensions. Actually through this hole, unknown creatures with high tech weapons invade Earth and Thor defeats them. This kind of crisis seems really unrealistic, but recently there have been many investigations into similar phenomena and the idea is no longer so improbable. To conclude, it is clear that the crises we see in the movies make us more interested and personally absorbed in them.



The Blurred Lines between Virtue and Vice

Originally, superheroes represented the absolute good. But nowadays, superheroes do not work purely for the absolute good of all. Personal emotions and character traits like grudge-bearing, selfishness, and even cruelty have become the basis of their activities. Therefore, it cannot be said that a conflict between a superhero and his opponents is the same as a conflict between good and evil. For example, in Spiderman 3, Spiderman is exposed to an unknown material from outer space and undergoes a transformation into a dark alter ego. His altered black suit concentrates his envy, hate, violence and so on. In the black suit, he is overwhelmed by his power and even harms

his friend. When he realizes what has happened, it takes great effort to remove the suit. However, his rival takes the suit and becomes Venom, a powerful villain that has the same abilities as Spiderman. Subsequently, the concentration of Spiderman's negative emotions makes Venom especially evil. It means that Spiderman doesn't represent the absolute good and a superhero also can also have negative emotions like anger and hatred. Actually, this image is well represented with Batman. Batman has feelings of darkness, loneliness and cruelty. During his fight with the Joker, he exposed these images to the public and through a series of misleading incidents, he finally disappears for eight years. It shows that superheroes no longer represent to the public the absolute good. Also, opponents of superheroes give rise to the question as to whether they are born evil and bad. For example, Loki, a god of Asgard and brother of Thor, is adopted. He always seeks love from his father Odin, but it is hard for him to receive it so he envies his older brother Thor, who is trusted by Odin. The audience sympathizes with Loki and feels pity when witnessing his inevitable metamorphosis into a villain. In this same vein, the public becomes interested in the conflicts between the superheroes' opponents and it makes them love the movies' plots and characters more.

Superheroes Experience the Same Emotions as Normal People



SSuperheroes also have emotions like normal humans. There are two types of superheroes: ones with innate powers and ones with acquired powers. First, some superheroes are born with supernatural powers like Superman and Thor. Thor is a god, but by the order of Odin, his father and the king of gods, he came to the human world. When he first arrived on Earth, he was an arrogant god, but after some time, he felt emotions like human beings. For example, he felt sorrow about his fall and his father's death, came to love a female human, and had brotherly affection for Loki, his younger brother. Like Thor, Superman also feels human emotions, although he is an alien. He feels homesick for his home planet, Krypton, and a longing to know his parents. These human images of nonhuman beings, like those of a god and an alien, make the audience feel differently about an almighty god than they did initially and help them relate to them. Another type of superhero is one who acquires super powers. They are naturally normal human beings, but they acquire abilities through different circumstances like radioactive contamination or the intake of special materials. Captain America, Iron man, the Hulk and Batman are examples of this type of hero. Iron Man is a wealthy scientist and capitalist and he is a womanizer and materialist. Because of these conditions, he enjoys fame. On the other hand, the Hulk, Dr. Banner, fears his transformation into his hero form because the Hulk is very violent and attacks other people. Therefore, he usually hides in safe places and rarely appears outside. As with normal human beings, these heroes share the same conflicts that arise from ethical dilemmas, egotism, selfishness or altruism. Thus, the public becomes more intimate with them and loves them because they have something in common with normal humans.

We have identified four common factors from the superheroes themselves and in conclusion, they have many characteristics that attract public attention. Now, let us find the remaining factors from the techniques and contents of superhero movies.

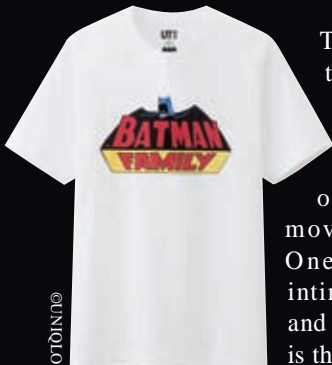
The Raising Popularity of Modern Media Techniques

The development of media techniques has greatly contributed to the public's attraction to superhero movies. The advanced techniques in computer graphics (CG) have especially made movies more realistic and the public can experience a greater feeling of absorption when watching films. The advance of CG has been combined with the advent of three (3D) and four dimensional movies

(4D), which has resulted in a huge success for the film industry. 3D techniques have allowed the viewer to feel like they are a part of movie scenes and therefore the viewer thinks that they are "in" the movie and are a part of its cast. Moreover, after 4D was developed, the movies even stimulated the audience's five senses and movie-goers have become even more fascinated with such films.



The Psychological Attraction of Superhero Contents



There are two traits that represent the psychological attraction of superhero movie contents. One trait is the intimacy strategy and the other trait is the psychological satisfaction strategy.

First, popular superheroes always have symbols like Superman's 'S' logo and Batman's bat symbol. The Superhero industry uses these symbols to make the public familiar with superheroes and utilizes the symbols in other kinds of industries.



In other words, the superhero industry collaborates with other spheres of industry. For example, because these symbols are visual elements, the fashion industry usually incorporates the images into their products. Uniqlo, a Japanese SPA brand, collaborated with DC Comics and released t-shirts for their spring and summer collections that have the symbols of DC Comics' heroes like Batman. Superman's 'S' logo has especially found its way into our everyday lives. The symbol can be found on many different kinds of goods ranging from underwear to caps. This collaboration is just one of many ways in which the public has become intimate with superheroes.

Psychological factors can also be found in superhero movies. Creating a series can be a strategy to induce the public to continuously watch movies. MARVEL released its Avengers series

and individual superhero series like Iron Man 1, 2, and 3, the Spiderman series, and Captain America 1 and 2. DC Comics, MARVEL's rival, also released the Superman and Batman series over a long period of time. Through this series strategy, the hero movie industry makes people curious about the next installment. Hero movies are usually classified as action movies and the public enjoys them as means of stress relief. "People resolve their feelings of anxiety about politics and society through superhero movies in which heroes tangibly defeat social evils and corrupt government officials," said Han Chang Wan, a professor at the Department of Cartoon Animation at Sejong University. In conclusion, superhero movie series meet the public's need for a solution to induce stress release and encourage people to go see every additional installment.

"MARVEL's movies have the power to make me want to find and watch all of the installments in their movie series."

"After I watch a superhero movie, I don't know where it comes from, but I feel like I have the courage to behave like a superhero."

The public has an insatiable need to look for superheroes. While we have 'need' of them, they will meet us in various forms, defeat a variety enemies and help humanity through various crises.

We cannot imagine the history of superheroes without MARVEL and DC Comics, the two prominent American production companies. They are the center of the American superhero industry and they extend their fandoms through the creation of their own ‘universes.’ Let’s see who they are.



MARVEL originated at Timely Comics, a comic book publishing company in 1939. Its name was changed to Atlas Comics in the 1950s and in early 1960s, it became MARVEL with the release of the ‘Fantastic 4.’ It grew to be one of the largest comics company alongside DC Comics and on September 1, 2009, it

was sold to the Walt Disney Company and Disney created a new division known as MARVEL Entertainment.

MARVEL has a number of superheroes: Spiderman, X-men, Fantastic 4, Hulk, Thor, Ironman, Captain America, Ant-man, Ghost rider, Dr. Strange, Blade and so on. Those MARVEL’s characters occupy

one universe called the MARVEL Universe. This MARVEL Universe is MARVEL’s view of the World. In the MARVEL Universe, there are nine dimensions and people can move from one to the other through ‘wormholes.’ It also admits the existence of outer space and even God.



DC Comics started as a comics publishing company in 1934. Its original name was National Allied Publications and now it is a part of the comics publishing branch of Warner Brothers Entertainment. The ‘DC’ of DC Comics came from “Detective Comics,” a famous series from DC Comics.

DC Comics and MARVEL are large companies have controlled 80% of the whole American comics market since

2008. Like MARVEL, DC Comics also has many different characters: Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, V, etc. Not only heroes, but also the villains of DC Comics are famous with characters such as the Joker, Batman’s eternal enemy and Lex Luther, the rival of Superman.

Those characters also share a common world. It is not as explicit as the MARVEL Universe but in certain comic

series, DC tries to show the connections between heroes. In a way comparable to the “Avengers series” from MARVEL, DC Comics has released the “Justice League series.” Batman is the leader of this superhero team, Justice League and heroes like Superman and Wonder Woman belong to this team. In 2015, DC Comics is planning to release the screen version of “Justice League.”

As mentioned above, both companies have the common premise of their own universe. However they differ in some ways.

MARVEL always refers to the MARVEL Universe as its world but the movies of the DC Comics are ambiguous about the fact that they share a common world. For example, in Captain America 2, Hulk does not appear on screen but characters on screen refer to him. However in the Batman series, the audience is unaware that Batman and Superman are friends with each other. The movies of the DC Comics seem to be filmed in isolation. These differences result from the degree of permitted interpretation and

expression of the producers. In the case of MARVEL, it limits the degree and demands that the producers depict superheroes true to their original forms. On the other hand, DC Comics grant a certain amount of freedom to producers to reinterpret the image of superheroes with the consequence that different producers will produce very different versions. The Batman series is the best example of this. The Batman series has been continuously re-released and as the producers have changed, the image of Batman has also changed.

However there is also common ground between the two companies.



▲ Avengers.

MARVEL VS DC Comics



▲ Justice League.

They both utilize the concept of a “parallel universe theory.” Parallel universe theory states that time is

dimensions consist of life. DC Comics does not espouse this theory like MARVEL but indirectly suggests it.

applied to many different dimensions. Therefore, this dimension we are in is not the only dimension and there could be other dimensions where life exists. MARVEL expresses this theory through its “nine dimension theory” that appears in first Thor movie where it says that there are nine distinct dimensions and all

For example, Batman has Kryptonite, a material from Superman’s home planet, Krypton. This is indirectly saying that Batman and Superman are from the same dimension.

This “parallel universe theory” has led MARVEL and DC Comics to create movie series in which superheroes work together in films. Arguably this attracts a larger audience than a movie that features one superhero. The public now wants more complexity and intrigue in its superhero movies. This is what has made MARVEL and DC Comics become the biggest production companies in superhero industry. A

W *Does the word Superhero Mean to You?* (100 HUFSans replied)

1. Why do you watch superhero movies?

1) Recommended: 28

2) Satisfying action: 40

3) Released as a series: 32

2. Do you think the fact that superhero movies are released as a series is negative?

1) Yes : 35

2) No : 65

3. Are you bored with the same superhero characters and stories?

1) Yes : 37

2) No : 63

4. Have you ever felt sympathy for the villains?

1) Yes: 71

2) No: 29

5. Who is your favorite superhero?

1) Superman: 3

2) Batman: 26

3) Iron Man: 36

4) Captain America: 11

5) Others (X-men, Thor, Hulk, etc.): 24





Throw Away the Bad Habits and Show Real Journalism

By Jo He-rim
Editorial Consultant

April 16. A tragic accident recently took the lives of people in an ocean ferry sinking. It drove the entire country into woe for days. The urgent moments still echo in citizens' minds and their sadness will not go away. This incident revealed fatal flaws in the national disaster management system, much to the great disappointment of the country. However, the Korean journalism and the news systems also did not elude the sharp criticism from the populace. The vice of journalism in Korea was shown naked in front of its viewers and it could not differentiate itself from mere bloggers on the Internet.

Voices of deep resentment and confusion were everywhere. Regrettably, the media played a big role in aggravating the chaotic situation. Unverified reports shook the masses and many turned out to be wrong. For example, all kinds of assistance as such as the Sea, Air and Land Team and a number of rescue boats were improperly reported in the news to be at the accident scene. Then, it was announced that everyone on the ferry survived. After that, the number of dead and missing fluctuated back and forth and a lost girl was listed among the survivors. All turned out to be false reports. It is an agony to imagine what the friends and families of the victims must have felt.


So many facts that actually matter were wrongly reported based on the governmental comments and official counts. The media was not hesitant in using the information from the "officials" without really checking the facts.

What about the absurd report that kindly went over the insurance policy for the victims or the interview of an unqualified mythomaniac who claimed that she could hear survivors, but nobody was going to the rescue? Even more, an article recalling the movie 'Titanic,' was printed during this distraught time. In such a catastrophe, they forgot to avoid broadcasting insensitivities that could hurt the families and victims.

People make mistakes and it is also sad to think about all the efforts that journalists make and the hardships they went through at the tragic site. They must have stayed up multiple nights, keeping their mental facilities from breaking down, all of which should be acknowledged by their viewers.

Journalists should not forget that the captain of the ferry received a comeuppance for exhibiting poor work ethics and avoiding his responsibility. Reporters should also be subject to the same scrutiny.

What was missing in all these news reports was sincerity and sympathy. They were just full of the competition for breaking news and sensitive articles that sound 'ear-catching.' This mirrors the current state of journalism in Korea. This is a time for introspection and change.

Journalists are trained to be experts in reporting balanced and truth-verified facts as the Press Moral Code states. To gain the trust of viewers and show that they are different from online SNS bloggers, journalists should think back to the original intention of the code. The power that society holds equals the heavy responsibilities that rest on the shoulders of reporters. Heavy as it may be, viewers shouldn't have to wait for true journalism. 

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The Things Slaves Must **Not** Forget

By Cha Eon-jo

Editorial Consultant

Some troubles in our lives might have been predestined before we were born. When we wore school uniforms, we worried about how to enter famous colleges. When we become university students, we worry about getting good jobs in big companies. When we start to work, other troubles will loom such as saving money and marriage. For people who live a normal life in Korea, this kind of worrying is common. Therefore, some people call themselves 'exam slaves,' 'job seeking slaves,' or 'work slaves,' as a joke. If they feel there are some forces by something in reality, they call themselves slaves who work under their owners.

While the term 'slave' is a slang term for Koreans these days, there was a real person who spent 12 years as a real slave. This individual, an African-American man named Solomon Northup, is the hero of the movie, '12 Years a Slave'. The movie portrays the real life of the main character. Northup had actually been living as a free man in Washington D.C. in the middle of the 19th century. It was a time when slavery still existed in the Deep South of the USA. He earned his living as a violinist, but one day, he

was abducted by white slavers. From the moment the traders called him, not by his real name, but by the new name 'Platt,' he became a real slave. Despite his change in situation, there was a fire burning in Solomon's eyes and he had a strong aspiration towards gaining his freedom. He did not give up trying to escape from the environment he found himself in. Even if there were some times when he felt despair because of his hard life, the flame in his eyes was not doused. He did not give up on his freedom and eventually returned to the family he had not seen for twelve years.

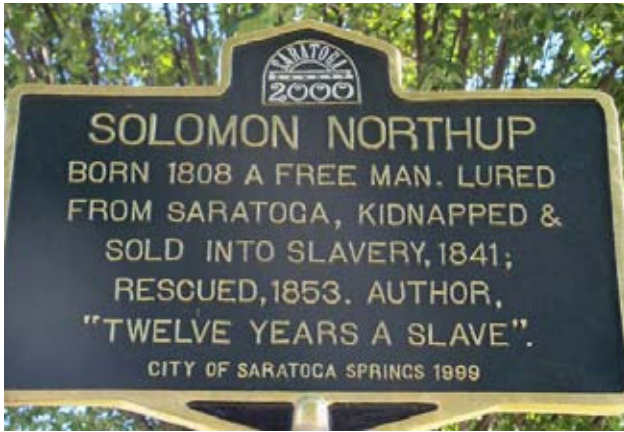
Although it has been over 100 years since slavery disappeared, 'freedom' is still an important topic. The reason why we feel we are bound to something is we think we are not free. Sometimes we think there are no choices, even if we desire to do many things. Finding a job or means of living reminds us of slavery as we think we are not free from social and economic limitations, all to the fault of the government or society. However, no one actually forces us to walk on only one correct road. Have you ever tried to make the best use of your freedom? Compared with the



▲ The Gallery Opening is crowded with people.

▲ Solomon works in the owner's cotton fields.

▲ A slave girl cannot resist the owner's unjust violence.




▲ Solomon was a real person born in the early 1800's. He worked at Saratoga Hotels as a violinist.

present day when everybody is recognized as equal human beings, slaves at that time were treated in terrible ways that bear no comparison to the present. Modern people are not like Solomon, who never gave up pursuing his lost freedom through twelve long years.

Solomon had been hated by a white carpenter. One day, as a punishment, his body was tied to a tree in front of the owner's house. While he was hanging from a branch of the tree, his toes barely reached the ground. However, no one helped him until the owner came to him after dinner. Children played in front of him, and other slaves came and went doing their jobs. The director of the movie showed this scene for a long time. The sun went down beyond the tree he was tied to. It was an impressively long take that gave the audience the illusion of standing in front of him. The angle was similar to the viewpoint of a naked eye, so it was intended to show the slave's miserable life. When the audience felt they could not do anything but look just off-screen, Solomon's pain was delivered to them. The realization of how precious freedom really is was evident at that time.

When the slaves worked in the cotton fields, new scars appeared on their backs, delivered by the owner. To live, Solomon had to flatter his owners and must hide fact that he could read. The slaves had to close their eyes to the unjust violence, sexual assault and more, for death was then permissible. The camera captured one black woman's face for a long time. Her face was expressionless apart from her sad eyes that reflected her pain. However, Solomon was special. The reason why he tried to continually escape was that he held a 'certificate of a free man'. He knew he was not born into slavery. This fact encouraged Solomon to write a letter to his family stating

that he had been captured.

The weather in the movie was always sunny. However, slaves were always working up a sweat, regardless of their desire. The bright sunlight and warm temperatures of the southern USA in the movie resembles the weather of South Korea these days. It forms a link between those scenes and our reality as if they are on the same time line. The thing we must not forget is that that we have freedom and that we can go out for a picnic and enjoy the nice weather whenever we want. Through the movie, we can see the value of even a small moment of our lives. There is no reason for us not to love our freedom. We already have the same 'certificate of a free man' which saved Solomon. 

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Buddha's Coming with Pray for South Korea

By Kim Min-jeong

A great number of lotus lanterns are lit up in the Cheonggye Stream that flows in the heart of Seoul, as a festival was staged to celebrate Buddha's birthday. Along the stream are yellow ribbons draped together to express condolence over the deceased in the South Korea's ferry disaster that left hundreds of people dead.

People beheld the decorations with a mixture of awe and sorrow.

In April, 2014, Buddha was called upon in prayer to see to the peaceful passing of the deceased. 





Two Aspects of Speculation Worthy of Meditation

Professor Lee Dong-ill
Dept. of English Literature

Those good old days is a phrase often used to refer to their childhoods by those who yearn to return to that time, if that were possible, because they believe that the word childhood itself is so evocative in conjuring up the image of a haven free from the burdens of the life and the world. In a sense childhood casts a spell over us, in which we recall again to mind past memories and this leads us to meditate as we review the past, evaluate the present and anticipate the future. In this respect our childhood deserves to be seen as a compass guiding the

whole cycle of life. However many agree that, amongst other things, those beautiful scenes in nature, captured by our physical eyes but now only visible in our mind's eye form an indelible, precious and pleasurable memory of childhood. This benefit of joy and pleasure from the natural beauty is particularly pointed for me because I was brought up in the distant countryside and influenced by nature. During that time purely physical responsiveness was my main means of perceiving the beauty of nature and comprehending the world surrounding me. I was happy and quite satisfied with

the benefits of the senses of sight, smell, hearing, and touch. That was all I was aware of, and I had no expectation of other faculties, frankly speaking, I was unaware of the world of metaphysics, existing beyond the world perceived by senses. Then I thought the age of childhood-euphoria would last forever. But sadly I was destined to pass through childhood into adolescence, when other faculties in addition to the capacity of one's senses are required to understand a world shrouded with uncertainties, mysteries, and un-intelligibility. Vivid memories of bewilderment in the face of the new world of metaphysics can still be recalled. I suddenly found myself standing alone in front of a vast ocean which was constantly stirring up my intellectual, mental, and spiritual curiosities. A mentor, which is such a grandiose word, more likely a senior who was willing to listen to me and give me kind informal advice, was desperately needed to drag me out of this state of perplexity and confusion. However, despite such an urgent need for help, I, in most cases, tried to solve or comprehend the matters by myself instead of turning to someone for help. This attitude of solving problems alone was not confined to me but was the norm amongst my peers. This might expose a certain generational gap not only at home and at school but also in society and in any human organization. But this does not at all indicate that the more senior members treated the juniors harshly or prohibited the juniors from raising any questions which might have caused them embarrassment to answer. Most senior members, including my parents, in my village were kind and treated my friends and me with genuine affection. However, in spite of such kind treatment from senior members, even raising a question about certain matters seemed to be awkward and inappropriate to both young and old. Under such circumstances it seemed

to be presumptuous and impolite for youngsters to put forward an alternative view. Under such circumstances it appeared to be inconceivable for us to refute our seniors' opinions with reference to 'whys' and 'hows'. That sort of audacious attitude might be seen as a challenge to the dignity and authority of seniors, and regarded as a result of bad education at home, hence our parents were blamed for such a misdirected moral education. Thus there was a tacit understanding that we would never normally question seniors by asking 'whys' and 'hows' for fear of offending the senior, consequently leading to a breakdown of order and peace. But, though my parents often told me to obey and respect them, this kind of treatment towards my seniors and the elderly was mainly the result of my own apprehension rather than the teaching from seniors. The word 'respect' for the seniors or the elderly is often differently interpreted in the traditional agricultural society based on big family household in which 3 generations live together under the same roof. It was commonly accepted that they should be respected mainly because they were old and kin even though they didn't deserve to be respected for their wisdom or exemplary deeds. Under these circumstances an appropriate show of respect would be to give tacit approval to senior's words and deeds whilst overlooking their misdeeds and logical fallacies. In a sense this kind of acquiescence to the seniors was a convenient way to avoid unnecessary conflicts amongst members of family and society. That might be why submission is regarded as a virtue and has become a golden rule for moral behavior, maintaining order and peace in a traditional society. I quite agree with the positivity of the golden rule but at the same time I somewhat regret that in my childhood and adolescence I did not have enough opportunity for developing reasoned thinking, supported with

logic, syllogism, and dialectic owing to a certain psychological and physical distance, which was brought about by this traditional virtue in the relationship between the junior and the senior. During my study abroad when I was staying in England I often witnessed the scene of a family outing in the park. It was a bit of a surprise to see that a little child would call his daddy by his first name since it would be inconceivable in Korea for a child to call his father by name. It was just like watching a group of friends playing instead of family outing. In addition, the dialogue between the child and parent created another impression on me because the child would continuously show his curiosity with lots of 'whys' and 'hows' without a tint of hesitation and the parents willingly answered. There wasn't any sign of distance between children and parents, nor any air of authority, but only familiarity like that felt amongst close friends. It appeared as if I was watching a scene in an informal classroom preparing to develop children's logical thinking. Perhaps I envied the English children's lot for their ability to pour out incessant questions of 'why' on their parents to satisfy their curiosities. That was quite a long time ago, but now I see in Korea similar scenes of familiarity and conversation marked with pointed questions of 'why' causing embarrassment to the parents.

As I continued to grow up, passing through the stage of adolescence, I found myself being more inclined to find solutions or answers to difficult matters within myself rather than relying on outside. This tendency of solving a matter by oneself was a common attribute of my ancestors and peers and this might be resultant from the influence of the traditional value of respecting a senior's opinion whilst restraining one's inquisitive mind. This process of solving problems through internalization leads to a

state of meditation where the ultimate answer is expected to be revealed. This internalization and meditation has become a way of reflection unique to the East. However, the answer acquired through meditation, in many cases, does not show a detailed logical procedure, or, to put it another way, a proposition is suggested but without a clear explanation for it. A late Buddhist priest, the Reverend Sung Chul is famous for the phrase 'A mountain is a mountain, a river is a river.' People have wondered at this phrase, confident that this is not all mumbo jumbo, with the expectation that the phrase contains a certain profound meaning helpful for their spiritual training. Their puzzlement is heightened because this phrase lacks any necessary logical explanation. The phrase itself does not contain any clue to account for the meaning that the late priest intended.

Taking the phrase 'a mountain is a mountain, a river is a river' it is hard to deduce from the way it is framed its semantic meaning. To me the phrase is understood to mean 'learn from nature, which is expressed in the form of mountains and rivers, its fundamental basic inner form never changes though its outward features alter in accordance with the change of seasons and like nature one should maintain the calmness of one's mind unswayed by the winds of worldly cares.' Of course I wonder to what degree my interpretation matches the true meaning of the phrase. Likewise, in many cases, words or phrases from the great enlightened in the East need reinterpretation, and their original meanings will depend on the comprehension of each individual person. This tendency in the East towards word expression, lacking logical analysis with reference to syllogism or dialectical reasoning, stands in sharp contrast with the Western literary tradition, which is characterized by an analytical approach based on logic as we see in the writings of those medieval

Biblical scholars such as St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas who endeavored to construe those unintelligible words in the Bible in the light of logic and reason. However, this does not mean that the words from the enlightened in the East like Rev. Sung Chul lack any concrete ideas. They express themselves not in a mere enunciation, but by an enthymeme in which meaning is understood though not asserted. Rev. Sung Chul's legendary training in the Zen seated meditation is well-known, hence it is quite reasonable to assume that his phrase is the outcome of his long mental struggle to find the essence of matter. The method he selected for his spiritual training, reminds me of James Joyce's definition of epiphany 'the groping of a spiritual eye which seeks to adjust its vision to an exact focus- the moment the focus is reached the object is epiphanized.' I think that such a sudden revelation regarding the matter of aesthetics by Joyce has a close affinity with the sudden spiritual awakening attained by the Buddhist ascetics. In a small temple cell in a deep forest a monk is sitting in Buddha's cross-legged position facing the wall with eyes closed for a long time, completely immersed in deep meditation, intent on finding his true self. In the middle of night he rises from his sitting and goes out to the front yard which is filled with bright moonbeams from the sky Unintentionally he touches the wooden crossbar on the gate bathed in the light of the moon and at that precise moment he is awakened to the ultimate answer he has been pursuing. This imaginative scene of awakening might be the example of Buddhist ascetic practices, where speaking is prohibited, and the mind should be freed from earthly thoughts, enabling one to fully focus on the question of, 'Who am I?'

It is difficult to express in the form of words what the ascetics gained from their long and arduous meditation, even

so, it would be difficult to grasp the true meaning of it because the word is not expected to entirely replace the concept of the mind and the subject of one's pursuit, is, in most cases, closely associated with a universal truth of metaphysics, which is revealed through an extremely individual inner search. Therefore, considering the challenging practice of meditation and the limitation of expression by means of words it is quite natural to conclude that we would have great difficulty understanding the true meaning of words from the enlightened such as Rev. Sung Chul's unless we undertook the strict practice of meditation, thus having spiritual empathy with them, prior to the application of reason and logic. I imagine that Rev. Sung Chul could have left a lengthy sermon in the form of a logical discourse, containing the same message as the short phrase 'a mountain is a mountain, a river is a river.' But he didn't. Again I imagine if he had done so then he might have worried whether readers or Buddhists would be more interested in the pedantic phrases charged with logic and reason rather than the practice of mind. In this respect his teaching seems to have some remote affinity with Saint Paul's 'the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life'(II Cor. 3:6). A



Possibility of Student magazines' development

When I first read The Argus, I was astonished to its depth and sharp viewpoints through the issues and the diversity of topics. Usually the student newspapers or magazines easily miss those things and become a light kill-time and are thrown away. But The Argus was different. Of course its quality is the highest among the other universities' magazines and even maybe it's easy for The Argus to be compared the major magazines. I could feel the members of The Argus have made many efforts on their magazine and love it. But more supports and interests are needed for its further improvement. My best friend also works for my school paper therefore I know how the conditions for those who work are poor. Better conditions make better outputs. If the university wants to get more fame with The Argus's achievement, invest more. Its value and prospect for investment are unquestionable. I just hope The Argus to leap more where none can be competitive to it.

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The Argus, Hermes for On-campus Issues

Sometimes I feel a sense of distance from current on-campus issues. Whatever General Student Council or student associations fights for and what they request to the university, I don't know for what they have done. However, someday I picked The Argus, placed near the door of the Social Science College building, and read. Its cover, the jumper written question mark, intrigued me. The wide unit admission is also applied to my department, Public Administration. But I hadn't realized which negative things it generates. The deep consideration and sharp analysis for the admission system let me know about the freshmen's sorrow and complaints. I felt far closer to the issue than looking simple posters that include student association's object statements for the wide unit admission systems. I hope that The Argus continuously monitors various on-campus issues and delivers them quickly and with its own critical view like Hermes, a wise god of transition and boundaries.

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A Country



The country less conscious of the people
The country that thinks little of the people
The country that stops eyes and ears of the people

North Korea
South Korea



Pray for South Korea



The Argus
www.theargus.org