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HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

The Argus

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Editorial

Inequality for Whom?

There are various types of social inequalities. We can find them with class, race, gender, and so on. Especially these days, many people feel the inequality of capital.

In June, the Korean National Statistical Office revealed that 65.6 percent of people are middle-class based on economic indicators announced by the OECD. However, in reality, most of these people did not believe that they were middle-class. According to a survey result obtained from MBC, a broadcasting station, only 36.9 percent of people answered that they belong to the middle-class. Watching the difference between the ideal and the real, they began to recognize the inequality of capital and realize the power of money.

When prices went up and wages became stagnant, the middle-class tried hard to maintain their lives. Women in this class went out to work and both men and women lengthened their working hours. In the end, they started to get into debt. Although they did everything they could, their lives were still poor.

Recognition of capital inequality is based on becoming aware of the inequalities in education and information. The more people are rich, the better quality of education they can receive and, in addition, the more access to larger amounts of information.

Deciding that life is meaningless without money, many people chose not to easily provide their labor. They decided to become NEETs which means 'Not in Education, Employment or Training.' Furthermore, they rejected to have babies. That is, market revitalization through production and consumption did not occur and the middle-class started to disappear.

65.6 percent of manpower has become lethargic. The tax burden has greatly increased and consumer goods like snack foods and cigarettes are becoming more expensive. It seems that society has widened the gap between people's economic classes.

We cannot solve capital inequality only from an individual's efforts anymore, but also require the government's assistance for economic redistribution. Also, I hope people do not feel endless frustration. Clearly, there have been similar cases in the past and the future has changed for the better by waking people's minds. We can also join them and I believe that we will. ☺

By Kim Min-jeong

Editor-in-Chief

김민정

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Cover Story

A Small House Makes Me Small
Can I Get My Home?

At the beginning of the semester, many university students worry about their housings. The Argus looked into this problem and witnessed how hard it is to get a house that has a nice living condition and also fits in the students' budget. The Argus also covered the LH student subleasing policy that has several flaws.

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South Korean Armed Forces Day

On Oct. 1, 1950, South-Korean forces broke through the 38th parallel during the Korean War.

Subject Grade	Dept. of English Language and Literature	Dept. of Business Administration	Dept. of Chinese Language and Literature	Dept. of Political Science and Diplomacy	Dept. of Administration
Highest	✓				
Upper		✓	✓		
Upper-Middle				✓	✓

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<The results of HUFs from JoongAng Ilbo's evaluation>

Dept. of English Language and Literature on Top in Evaluation by Joong-Ang Ilbo

A Korean newspaper company, Joong-Ang Ilbo, announced results of Korean University Department Evaluation from Sept. 1 to 2 and HUFs' Department of English Language and Literature ranked the first.


Joong-Ang Ilbo evaluated a total of 148 universities according to 16 characters of departments which are eight departments on humanities & social sciences and eight science & engineering departments around the country this year.

And HUFs' Department of English Language and Literature was nominated as the top ranking among the 89 same courses of other universities in the country.

Professors of the course wrote and translated 0.44 pieces per person and the class was also well-assessed. The president of the Department of English Language and Literature, Park Woo-

soo, said the faculties of the department are using various cultural contents in the lectures, moving away from the previously studies of classics only focused on the lectures.

Besides, the Department of Business Administration and Chinese Language and Literature of HUFs ranked high as well. Also, the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy and the Department of Administration received mid-high rankings.

HUFs also proved its outstanding work on the departmental evaluations for science and engineering. The Department of Industrial and Management Engineering, Department of Electronic Engineering, and Department of Statistics ranked mid-high on the evaluation. 

By Lee Yu-jin

Yongin City Calls for New Railway Plan




©ever-line

▲ A light rail line in Yongin stops at a station.

The City Council of Yongin, a city south of Seoul where HUFs Global Campus is located, adopted a bill on Sept. 26 asking the government for the connection of the city's light rail line to a double-track electric rail line that is being built between the nearby cities of Seongnam and Yeosu in Gyeonggi Province.

Residents in Yongin have been calling for connecting the Seongnam-Yeosu electric railway, whose completion is scheduled for 2016, to the light railway in their area, located south of Seongnam.

According to officials at the City Hall in Yongin, the city's residents and local politicians are circulating a petition for the connection, demanding that the planned electric railway's route be expanded from Yeosu to Everland in Yongin, an amusement park located right next to HUFs Global Campus.

The light rail line in Yongin was opened in April last year, but the number of its users is so small that it cannot make ends meet. However, Lee Gun-yeong, a Yongin City councilman, said that the government should give the route expansion the greenlight in consideration of the number of students at the HUFs campus and holidaymakers moving to and out of the amusement park. 

By Kim Min-jeong



▲ Student representatives of the performing teams march down the street holding various national flags with their hands.



©World Folk Culture Festival Committee

▲ A team belongs to Dept. of Russian shows its dancing performance.

World Folk Culture Festival Held at Yeouido

The 2014 World Folk Culture Festival, one of HUFS' biggest festivals, took place at Yeouido Hangang Park's Floating Stage on Sept. 20. Global Campus students were grouped into 17 teams and performed traditional music and dances of the languages and countries in which they major. Visitors and audience members were able to learn about different cultures and traditions of nations around the world.

In comparison with previous World Folk Culture Festivals, the number of booths held this year was much greater, and there was also a special collaboration stage for two HUFS Korean traditional percussion clubs, Seo-pung-yeon and Han-al. 📷

By Park Ji-yeon

Indonesian Global CEO Course Completed

The first Indonesian Global CEO Course held its completion ceremony at Korindo, a Korean business in Indonesia. This Global CEO course lasted from July 10 to Aug. 29, covering issues of personnel management, marketing, business strategies, accounting, production management, and so on. All courses took place at the offices of Korindo in Indonesia.

HUFS President Kim In-chul, Department of Malay-Indonesian Ko Young-hun, the Korean Ambassador to Indonesia Cho Tae-young, and Korindo President Seung Eun-ho attended the event to congratulate completion of the course. 📷

By Park Ji-yeon

Speaker of Croatian Parliament Visit HUFS

On Sept. 2, the speaker of the Croatian Parliament, H.E. Josip Leko, visited HUFS Global Campus. President Kim In-chul attended this meeting and gave the welcome address. Various Croatian politicians including the Croatian ambassador attended this meeting. It was the first time that the Croatian Speaker of Parliament has visited Korea with a large envoy.

The speaker gave a special lecture under the topic of "Changes after European Union (EU) Accession," held in Croatian and translated in English. Many professors and students from East European majors including the Dept. of South Slavic Studies attended this lecture. 📷

By Lee Yu-jin

Global Job Fair in 2014

The 2014 HUFS Global Job Fair was held in Obama Hall, Seoul Campus from Sept. 2 to 3 with more than 80 companies.

Based on the preference that HUFStans expressed for foreign-affiliated firms, 16 booths were set up for consulting with students who preferred to get a job with companies like IBM, Nu Skin Korea, and so on. Also, recruiting information from international agencies like the UN World Food Program was delivered for promoting a wide range of career opportunities.

Moreover, useful programs including official profile picture-taking took place as at the previous year's fair. 📷

By Kim Min-jeong



▲ Students visit the flea market on Seoul Campus.



▲ HUFSCandle puts up a sign about the flea market's information.

©The Argus

HUFS flea market Held on Seoul Campus

The General Student Council (GSC) of Seoul Campus, HUFSCandle, held a flea market in front of Globee Dorm from Sept. 25 to 26 to donate its proceedings to the House of Sharing, the group of Korean victims of Japan's sexual enslavement of women during World War II.

Prior to the opening of the market named "Naeyuoegang," which means "a soft heart under a stern exterior," HUFSCans donated their unused items to the GSC from Sept. 11 to 12. Donated items were mostly books and daily necessities such as clothes or household goods. 📷

By Lee Yu-jin

HUFS, Think Tank Sign Pact on inter-Korean Unification

HUFS and the Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU), a think tank on inter-Korean unification, concluded an agreement at Seoul Campus on Sept. 12 for mutual exchanges and cooperation.

Under the agreement, HUFS will increase education on the importance of inter-Korean reunification and the future of Korea with the help of KINU.

KINU chief Choi Jin-wook, a HUFS alumnus who majored in politics and diplomacy, visited the University to sign the agreement with HUFS President Kim In-chul.

Also attending the signing ceremony Choi Chung-hee, Vice President of Seoul Campus. 📷

By Kim Min-jeong

Prof. Kim Woo-jo Gets Award from India

The Indian government on Aug. 27 conferred the Dr. George Grierson Award, also called the Hindi Sevi Samman, on HUFS Professor Kim Woo-jo in recognition of her contribution to cultural exchanges between Korea and India.

Since 1994, the Indian government has given the achievement award to a foreign scholar every year.

Indian President Pranab Kumar Mukherjee presented the award to Kim at the Presidential Palace of India.

After graduating from the HUFS Department of Hindi, Kim got her Ph.D. from Visva-Bharati University and led the publishing of a Korean-Hindi dictionary. Additionally, as Chief of the Korean Society for Indian Studies, she helped boost Korea's public interest in India. 📷

By Kim Min-jeong

Changes in 2015 Early Admission

The University implemented revised non-scheduled admission for the 2015 academic year during the application period from Sept. 11 to Sept. 15. The changes include admission type and announcements of new departments.

The Language and Trade Department, newly opened at Seoul Campus, accepted 11 out of 16 students through the non-scheduled admission.

Changes in admission type, made by HUFS, include the reopening of admission based completely on high school transcripts and the acceptance of a smaller number of students through the non-scheduled admission in general.

The 100 percent of high school transcript admission assesses students' interest through interviews. The slots for foreign language special admission were also cut down from 347 to 149. 📷

By Park Ji-yeon

News Briefing

By Kim Min-jeong

Editor-in-Chief

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Pray for South Korea

“Grip slipped so we linked
Our voices: called into silence for a sound
Our life jackets bobbing in oblivion
They lost contact, they told them.”

From “The Lost Children of Korea.” appointed by a girl named Park Dong-yeong.

Park Dong-yeong of Presbyterian Ladies’ College in Australia wrote “The Lost Children of Korea” and received a literary award from Mosman, the administrative center of Sydney.



“Switzerland is in trouble.”

Jonathan Ive, Apple’s chief designer, said while showing how cool he thought that the iWatch was turning out. After his announcement, Tag Heuer, the Swiss watchmaking giant, reported that it is going to make a smartwatch.



4,500

The Korean government announced that it will nearly double the price of cigarettes to lower the country’s smoking rate. But the real reason for the price hike is to generate additional tax revenue, 2.8 trillion won. Meanwhile, as mentioned in the policy announcement, it was revealed that a large number of people has visited smoking clinics.



17th Asian Games 2014 in Incheon

From Sept. 19 to Oct. 4, 439 events in 36 sports are held in Incheon, Korea with 45 countries participating. Located in northwestern South Korea, bordering Seoul and Gyeonggi to the east, Incheon became the third city in Korea to host the Asian Games.

PC Wearable Device

- 1961 The first wearable computer



- ▲ 1975 Calculator wristwatch

- 1981 Computer backpack



- ▲ 1987 Digital hearing aids

- 1994 Wearable wireless webcam

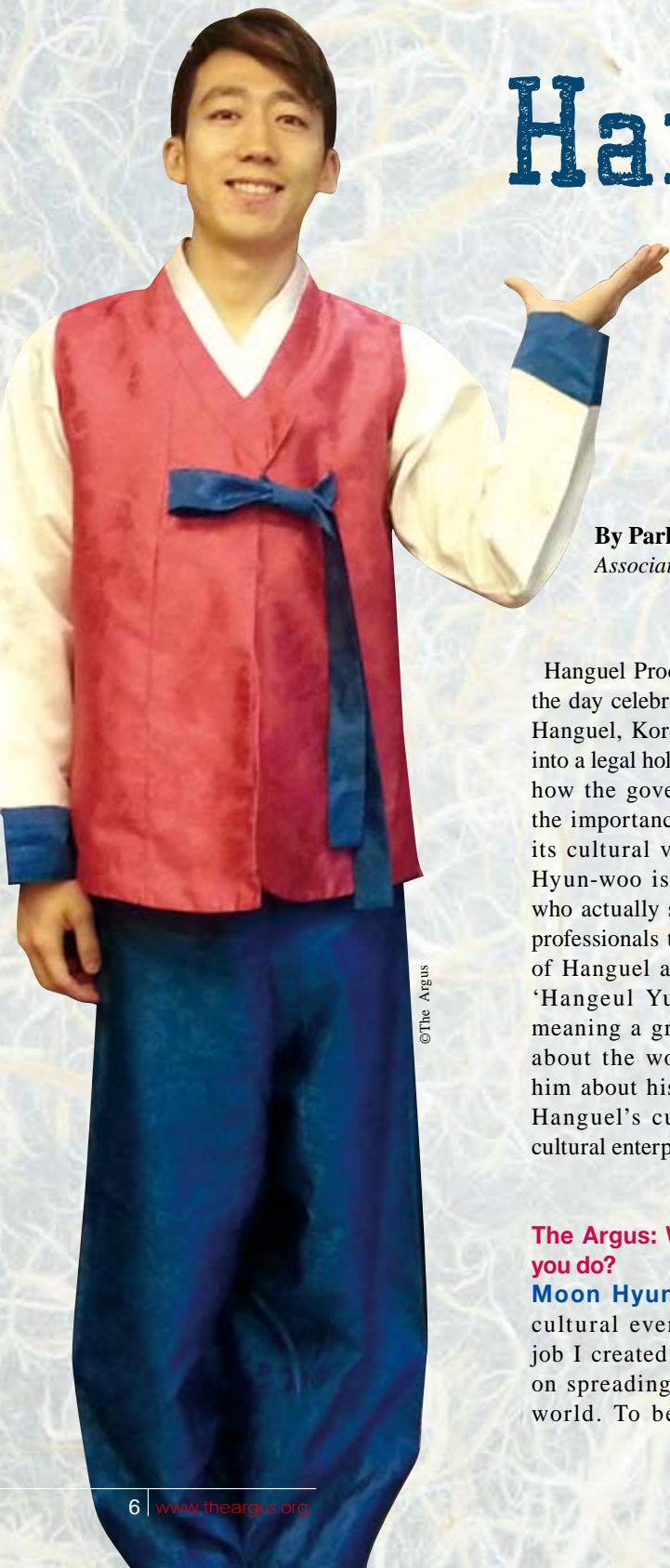


- ◀ 2000 Bluetooth headset

- 2006 Nike + iPod ▶



- ◀ 2013 Google glass



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Hangeul is the New Culture

By Park Ji-yeon
Associate Editor

Hangeul Proclamation Day on Oct. 9, the day celebrating the proclamation of Hangeul, Korea's alphabet, was made into a legal holiday last year. This shows how the government is recognizing the importance of Hangeul, including its cultural value these days. Moon Hyun-woo is one of the few people who actually started a group of young professionals to spread the importance of Hangeul around the world called 'Hangeul Yurangdan'; Yurangdan meaning a group of people roaming about the world. The Argus asked him about his idea of how to spread Hangeul's cultural values through cultural enterprises.

The Argus: What kind of work do you do?

Moon Hyun-woo (Moon): I'm a cultural event planner, which is a job I created for myself and I focus on spreading Korean culture to the world. To be more specific about

my job, I try to communicate with people around the world through Korean culture rather than performing one-sided communication of only informing people about Korea. In this vein, I recruited two groups of young and passionate Korean tradition professionals called Hangeul Yurangdan and Arirang Yurangdan.

The Argus: What is the goal of your activities?

Moon: I want to share the Korean culture with people around the world and use it to communicate with them. My specific goal was different from what it is now at the very beginning. I initially wanted to fight against China's Northeast Project, which is the Chinese government's project of trying to claim Korea's important ancient history, Goguryeo Kingdom, as being part of China. I planned an event of traveling around the world performing Arirang so that people could learn about Korea's



▲ Hangeul Yuranddan designs Hangeul x Chinese Character calligraphy on bags.

long history. From March 1 to June 25 last year, I left on a journey with Arirang Yuranddan, but I soon had to change my approach in reaching my main goal since most of the people who cheered for our Arirang Medley performances were primarily Chinese and Japanese, and I was able to share our culture with them. I realized that cultural heritage can reach out to anybody around the world regardless of the conflicts that the actual states people are from may be facing. Using Korean culture to bridge the gaps between neighboring countries and to also connect with people from faraway countries is my current broad goal.

The Argus: Who are the people in Hangeul Yuranddan?

Moon: Hangeul Yuranddan is a group of eight people: three Korean calligraphy majors, one person each from the majors of gayaguem singing, design, Korean literature, and Chinese literature, and then myself. We are a group that puts effort into letting more people know about Hangeul's beauty and cultural value. Hangeul Yuranddan also shows that young people like us know how invaluable Hangeul is. The reason why I wear my hanbok to many events is to show that it is not only the elderly who know the importance of our tradition and culture.

The Argus: Why did you found Hangeul Yuranddan?

Moon: After seeing several Korean calligraphy major programs closing in universities, I planned on founding a group where

Korean calligraphy students could lead in protecting the Hangeul culture. It is through this group activity that Korean traditional major students can find their places and also alert our society that we are forgetting our roots and traditions.

The Argus: What kind of jobs does Hangeul Yuranddan do?

Moon: We use the fun parts of Hangeul design so that foreigners will not find it difficult to learn about it. Our main item is Hangeul x Chinese Characters, which beautifully combines two characters through calligraphy. By painting the calligraphy designs on bags and traditional fans, we also make items to sell at flea market booths. In addition, we took part in the Qingdao University of Science and Technology's seminar from Sept. 21 to 26th to introduce our Hangeul x Chinese Character calligraphy designs at the conference.

The Argus: What do you think Hangeul's cultural value is?

Moon: Hangeul is Korea's one and only alphabet and is more than 500 years old. It is hard to find a country like Korea that has their own alphabet and does not use another

country's method of writing like the English alphabet or Chinese characters. Hangeul can also replicate any sound, even if it isn't Korean.

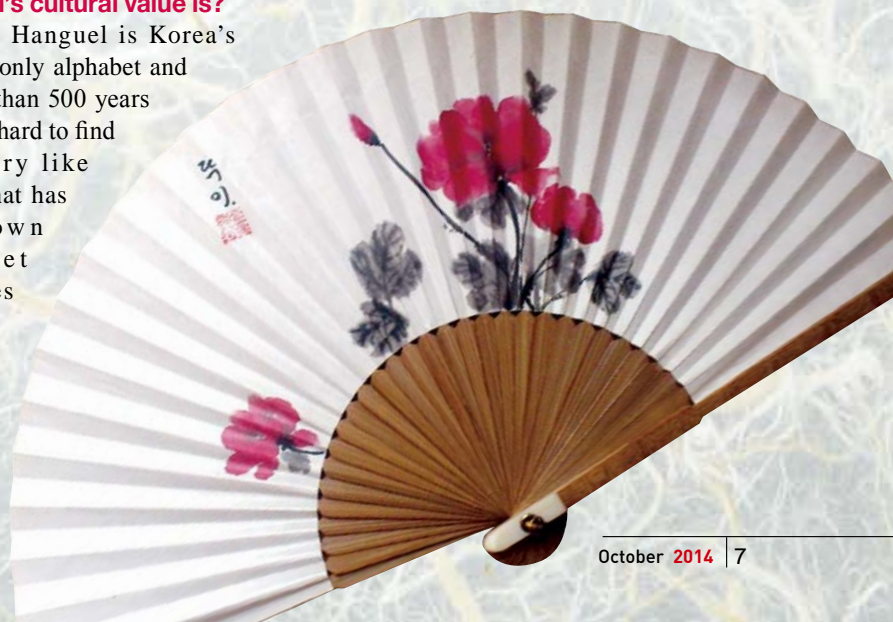
Young people should recognize the value Hangeul has and learn how to use it properly and even share it with others as well.

The Argus: How do you view using Hangeul as a business item?

Moon: Hangeul Yuranddan is also a group that uses Hangeul as a business item. For example, we created the Hangeul x Chinese Characters and Hangeul tattoos as a part of our company. We earn money by selling our design products and our performances at flea markets and cultural events and also by receiving support from big companies. Because this is our job and living, it is hard for us to always donate our talent. Instead, we try to make our cultural business items as a natural part of people's lives. We make sure, however, to allocate parts of our profits to support Hangeul schools overseas.

The Argus: What will Hangeul Yuranddan focus on when it uses Hangeul as the basis for its products?

Moon: Using Korean calligraphy and design to express Hangeul is our strategy of how to reach out to



People

people. We are planning on making a series of Hangeul × with Hindi and Arabic writing, based on our experience of combining Hangeul with Chinese characters which the Chinese people really liked.

The Argus: What is your ultimate personal goal?

Moon: I wish to found a field of study where young people like myself can design and build their own cultural

ideas. Our cultural experiences are based on a culture field the older generation made before, and now it is time for the younger generation to make their own. My goal is to lead this change and also be able to make a positive difference in cultural policies so that one day, we will be able to communicate with people around the world through our culture. 🇰🇷

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“Free Korean traditional deep bows,” not free hugs or free kisses, were completed before more than 100 people at Insa-dong on Sept. 9 this Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving. Moon Hyun-woo (cultural event planner, 28) was the person who created this event, and performed the free Korean traditional deep bows before the many people of Insa-dong. The people who joined the “Free Korean traditional deep bows” ranged from children dressed in hanboks, the traditional Korean dress, to the elderly and foreigners. The Argus met with Moon and heard about his idea to spread Korean culture, and also joined his free Korean traditional deep bow event.



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By Park Ji-yeon
Associate Editor

SOMETHING 'GLOBAL' IS MISSING

At a time, we have two months left till the second semester is over, one may start to think about how global his or her experiences were at HUFs. A great number of Korean students study abroad in foreign countries and a lot of international students also come to HUFs to study in Korea every semester, but have you actually experienced the global spirit at HUFs? Do not most groups of students just hang out with each other to the exclusion of all others? The Argus pointed out the lack of global interaction on campus in the In-depth on Campus section.

In-depth on Campus

HUFS' dream of internationalization

In 2006, HUFS announced a school goal called "Vision 2016 Global HUFS," meaning that the school would make great efforts to become the number one global university by 2016. This Vision 2016 Global HUFS coincided with the former president Park Chul taking office as the 8th HUFS president.

According to the Strategy Planning Team, there are several parts to the efforts that will be put into increasing internationalization among students in the specific planning of Vision 2016 Global HUFS. The planning notes state, "To make an environment where students can become global leaders, the school will internationalize the campus, improve the internationalizing process, and create close connections between student satisfaction and the campus' internationalization."

As a university specializing in foreign languages and foreign studies, communication is a significant part that should be included in the internationalizing process because after all, the ultimate reason why one learns a new language is to communicate. Then is it a common thing to see an international communicative bond on our school campus?

What the numbers miss

As the only university in Seoul that specializes in foreign studies, HUFS had a long way to go when it set out to establish an image of itself as the most globalized university in Korea. In many graphs and numbers, it has been long since recognized that HUFS has become an internationalized campus.

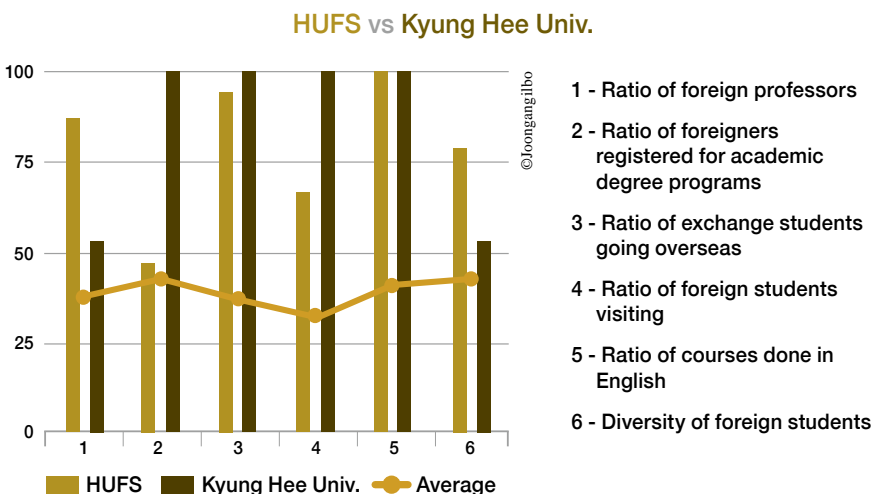
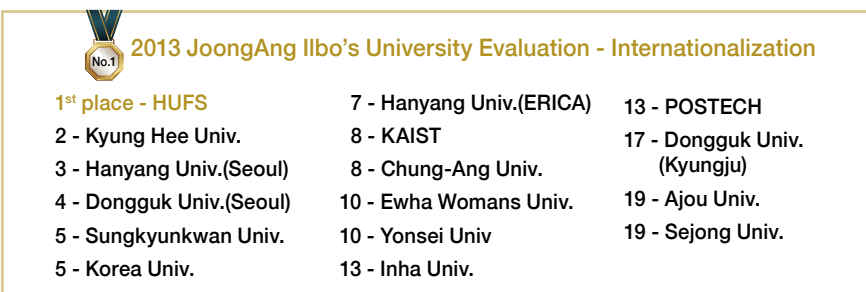
JoongAng Ilbo's University Evaluation, the most influential college evaluation in Korea, has assessed HUFS' internationalization as number one among approximately 98 universities since 2009. Before achieving the honor of getting first place in internationalization five times in a row,

HUFS had to start its climb at 30th place in 2005. To reach the first place, the number of foreign professors, courses done in English, and exchange students going overseas had to increase to make the ratio of these factors a bigger number.

Kyung Hee University, however, has been holding at the second place for a while too, with more stable numbers compared to HUFS. As it can be seen on the graph, while HUFS has a large number in the three items mentioned above, Kyung Hee University has an even number in all of the items. Their graphs show higher numbers, including foreigners who have registered for their academic degree programs and exchange students visiting Korea. Though Kyung Hee University ranks the second in internationalization, these two items, which can be considered the items that best show how much the school is globally recognized, stand out more than HUFS.

Also, the numbers shown in the graphs are merely statistics that are measured by the numbers of cases, classes, students, and so on. The fact that they do not show real instances of communication and exchange happening between students makes it hard for universities to show concern for these matters, which makes them focus on facts that can be expressed in numbers and ratios.

"When I went to State University of New York as an international student, I got direct care from a fellow student who was assigned as my mentor. I felt assured because there were times when I needed help as a foreigner in a country faraway from Korea. I also had many opportunities to exchange my experiences in Korea with students there and made many American friends," said Kim Ja-won, a HUFS student who transferred to State University of New York. By comparison with the system of this university, HUFS lacks



the factors that are deeply related to a campus' internationalization, such as care for international students, applying feedback from exchange programs, and actual communication between international students and HUFs students.

What the students are missing out on

"I'd like to make some Korean friends," said Hannah, an exchange student from Germany. Jeanna, an exchange student from the U.S.A., also says that she has made a lot of international friends on campus, but not so many Korean friends. On the other hand, Korean students joke that they thought they would be able to make foreign friends when they enrolled in HUFs, but they have not yet and do not know how to. Why can't there be international groups of friends on campus comprised of both Korean students and foreign students who want to get to know each other?

Taking classes done in English and signing up for the programs of the International Student Organization (ISO) of the International Affairs Team are the popular ways that one can get to know an international student. Other than these methods, it is hard to find a situation on our campus where you can go up to a foreigner and say that you want to become friends. As for joining club activities, the only club that openly says that they welcome international students is KR Buddy, a club that travels around Korea with their foreign and Korean members.

Sven, an exchange student from Germany, said that he wanted to join a club but he could not get any specific information about the school clubs. "I went up to the club rooms in the Globeedorm and knocked on each of their doors to ask if I could join, even if I'm an exchange student. Some said no, but several said yes," said Naomi, an exchange student from the U.S.A.



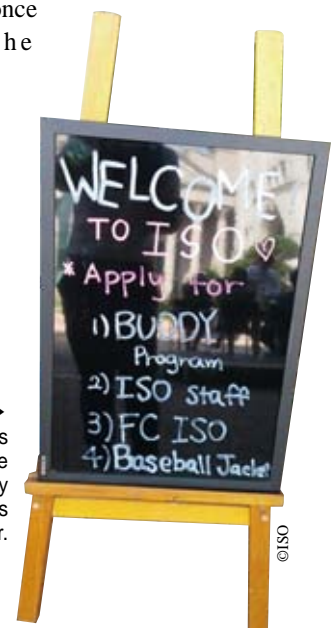
▲ "Come to HUFs, Meet the World" is the main quote of HUFs official magazine 2014 Spring issue with the picture which President Obama gave speech.

Like this, unless an international student walks up to the club doors, it is hard to find an opportunity where students can bond with others on the basis of mutual interests regardless of their home country.

The Seoul Campus ISO is also missing several important means of fostering and encouraging intercommunication on campus. As the representative school organization that takes care of international students, students can always call ISO for their help. However, there are times when international students face difficulties getting use to school life at HUFs, and some have stated that the ISO did not provide them with enough information. From making a bank account to figuring out the buildings on campus, there are important things that the ISO currently fails to provide to international students, who are trying to get to know about school life in Korea.

The ISO Buddy Program, a program that pairs up one international student and one Korean student, is a popular program on campus because it is the only program in which you get to make an international friend directly. Last year, approximately 180 Korean

students applied for it and 80 students were chosen for the program. However, some students hesitated before signing up because of the 30,000 won fee you have to pay to join. Though the fee is used for group transportation and meals, as Jeanna says, "I don't want to pay this much to get to know friends and hang out with them. I want to make friends in another way that doesn't require such amount of money." Also, a student named Lee Su-heon, who joined the ISO Buddy Program before, said he grew closer with the other Koreans on his team because once you go on the field trip, the atmosphere makes Koreans, international students, and the ISO staff members to group up



▶ ISO's sign shows that they are recruiting Buddy Program members for this semester.

In-depth on Campus

among themselves. “As time went by, I could see that less and less people were showing up for the programs. I think there should have been some follow-ups after the fieldtrips so that the buddies could have more bonding time,” he added.

The “Global” fad and universities

About 21 percent of colleges in Seoul have a slogan about globalization or internationalization. This type of slogan was the largest common slogan theme among colleges according to a report in 2010. Like this, there has been a great global boom among universities since 2000 and it is still popular. The previous HUFS slogan, “Come to HUFS, Meet the World,” was also the official school motto for eight years during former HUFS President Park Chul’s period, which made it become the representative image of the school.

However, though there are a great number of research papers on college globalization, most of their concerns are about numbers like how the Joongang Ilbo’s University Evaluation assesses universities. In the same context, questions are arising regarding the issue of universities merely keeping the internationalizing programs to enhance their school’s image and statistics. These issues questioning the validity of the university global slogan fad can also be

applied to HUFS- is HUFS sincerely putting a lot of effort into maintaining its position as the “number one internationalized university in Korea” image after former HUFS President Park Chul left?

The change needed from both school and students

To make HUFS a truly globalized campus, the school administration should care about more substantive numbers such as the number of foreigners registering for an academic degree program and the number of exchange students visiting HUFS. Other than these substantive numbers, the school should provide opportunities in which actual communication and exchange can occur between international and Korean students on campus. Being a university dedicated to teaching foreign languages and culture, students should be able to make use of the campus’ global environment by applying what they learned through interaction with international students, and the school should support this process instead of limiting itself to the education stage.

As for the ISO, the ISO Seoul Campus should have a more intimate relationship with the international students by first helping them adjust to life in the Globeedorm and Korea, while also

making the Buddy Program more effective. In comparison with the Seoul Campus ISO, the Global Campus ISO has a more intimate buddy program called the Atti Program because they have a smaller number of international students. “We give out detailed brochures about how to register for the dorm, buy beddings and open mobile phone accounts to the students and make sure we help them get settled in Korea,” said Jang Yu-jung, president of the Global Campus ISO.

It is not only the global programs at HUFS that need improvement; whether the large number of HUFS students who go overseas as an exchange students are actually making bonds internationally is also an issue that should be reviewed. Studying abroad as an exchange student is usually considered a chance to travel overseas, improve one’s grades, and get to know more Korean friends from other universities.

HUFS has been the number one global university for five straight years, but the high numbers do not show the whole picture of the international campus. Becoming a university where students themselves can consider their college life an international experience should be the specific goal of the Vision 2016 Global HUFS policy. 🇰🇷

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A Small Room Makes Me Small

By Lee Yu-jin
Junior Reporter

A Gosiwon one-room nearby HUFs Seoul Campus. The space allows only three or four steps. There are few furnitures inside the room. A small desk on the wall and a little refrigerator on the side. A bed almost touches the ceiling. No windows at all.

Jeonse: A lease of a house or room made on the basis of a large monetary deposit. It exists only in Korea.

Wolse: Rental of a house by giving the owner a deposit and paying a monthly fee.

Gosiwon: A very small one-room rental unit.

There are various funny terms that describe university students using different approaches to housing. The ‘Min snail (slugs)’ group refers to people who have unstable residences. The ‘grasshopper’ group indicates those who frequently move from house to house in an attempt to find cheaper places. The ‘stakes’ group stays in cheap places and never moves. Lastly, the ‘marathon’ group commutes 3~4 hours to their schools via public transportation.

As the previous terms imply, many university students have housing problems. Due to the limitation regarding the number of people who can be accommodated in a school dormitory and the high cost of the houses nearby a college, it is difficult to find houses for students.

How HUFSSans find houses

The HUFSS Seoul Campus and Global Campus, located in Seoul and Yong-in respectively, both belong to the national capital region. Many freshmen leave their homes in the provinces and enter school each year. Then how do they find accommodations? The Argus takes the time to look into it.

<Finding a house>

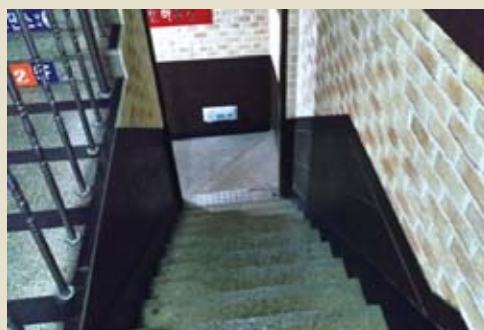
It is difficult to find a proper house nearby the Seoul campus in Imun-dong because of the high cost. It is especially more expensive if the house is close to the school. Common one-room apartments are fixed at 5,000,000~10,000,000 won as a

deposit and 450,000~500,000 won per month for Wal-se. For older and cheaper one-rooms, it is 5,000,000 for the deposit and 300,000~350,000 won for Wal-se.

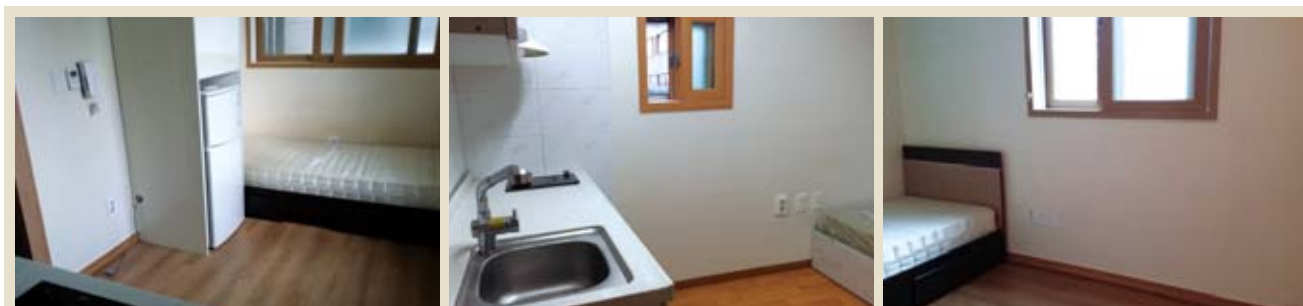
Actually, it is hard to look for a house alone. Kim Kyung-mi, Department of Arabic said, “I came from the provinces. I left my old home and started to live independently starting this year. I didn’t have any acquaintances in Seoul, so I directly went to the real estate office and asked. However, I incurred too many extra charges because I rented a house through a realtor. It felt like the contract was more favorable to the apartment owner. It was so tough to find a room alone even though I am now twenty.”

Gosiwon are the same. The places cost about 200,000~300,000 won per month, are too small to live in and typically have poor conditions. They are also dangerous and easy to be exposed to various crimes. Actually, they are the blind spots of public safety. “It is a rule to be sure to write down a visitor’s basic information such as their name, phone number, occupation, and scheduled date of contract. Not long ago, a person pretended to be a HUFSSan and committed a crime. It was such a big occasion that the police investigated the accident,” said the manager of Ain House go-si won nearby the HUFSS Seoul Campus. Students need at least 400,000~450,000 won to get a one-room apartment or a go-si won in good condition.

“It is difficult to look for a four month one room apartment near the school. One semester is four months, however there are only six month leases or more. Many students face losses because this rule,” said Kim Yoon-suk, Department of South Slavic Studies, who lives in a one-room nearby the Global campus. He also said, “It is tricky to find a proper room that satisfies both quality conditions and money. Once, I found a suitable house that was up to my standards, but gave it up because the deposit was too high. Also, there is a limitation if I only check out the room on-line as it is hard to look around for a house in my spare time.”



▲ It is a building where gosiwon “Ain house” located. Those are entrance stairs and inside of the gosiwon.



▲ One-room apartments nearby HUFSSeoul Campus front gate.

<Living condition>

Seo Ho-Jun, Department of French, rented a one room apartment this year nearby the HUFSSeoul back gate. He chose a one-room near the back gate because houses near the front gate are too noisy at night because of the stores. He prioritized the conditions and cleanliness of the room and finalized the contract with a 10,000,000 won deposit and a 50,000 won monthly rental fee. This is way too high of a cost for the one-room's size and condition. "It was only a semi-basement room," he said. Also, Kim Kyung-mi, Department of Arabic, said, "My room isn't soundproofed so I can hear people singing songs at night."

Students who live in the one room apartments near the Global Campus said it is too noisy to sleep at night because the people come or make a lot of noises around the stores or pubs. Sometimes, the bugs came out somewhere in the house.

Actually, a documentary program aired in January showed the life of a HUFSSeoul who lives in a one-room near the Seoul campus. He is a fourth year student who wants to be an announcer. His house is located a little far from the school and hence has a cheaper price. However, he gets no sunlight at all and there are even bugs in the room. Also, the community bathroom is too small and he wants to practice

his pronunciation, but he cannot because of the soundproofing problem.

Colleges cannot guarantee a residential right to students.

<Shortage of school dormitory space>

Most universities are in Seoul or around it, and are very densely grouped. Students living outside of school are numerous at many of these universities. One of the ultimate reasons is due to their school dormitory's limitation of accommodation. According to the National Youth Policy Institute, the average dormitory accommodation at Korean universities is only 18 percent. It is especially hard to enter the upper grades because dormitories accept more freshmen than upperclassmen.

In the case of the HUFSSeoul campus, the dormitory accepts 842 of the total 8,000 Seoul campus students. This is only ten percent of the total number. "We try to add more places to accept as many students as possible. We are now planning to offer efficiency apartments as soon as possible, but it is not that easy because of financial problems," said Lee

Cover Story

Chang-gun, Seoul campus Globee-dorm Head Manager.

On Hufslife, a HUFSan online community, entering the dormitory is a continuous issue upon which many HUFSans are focusing. One of the community's members said that, "I received a 4.5 grade point average for the last semester and I take a very long time to come here by public transportation every morning. I don't understand why I failed my housing application". Students try their best to earn grades to meet the qualification standards, however the school dormitory cannot accept enough people.

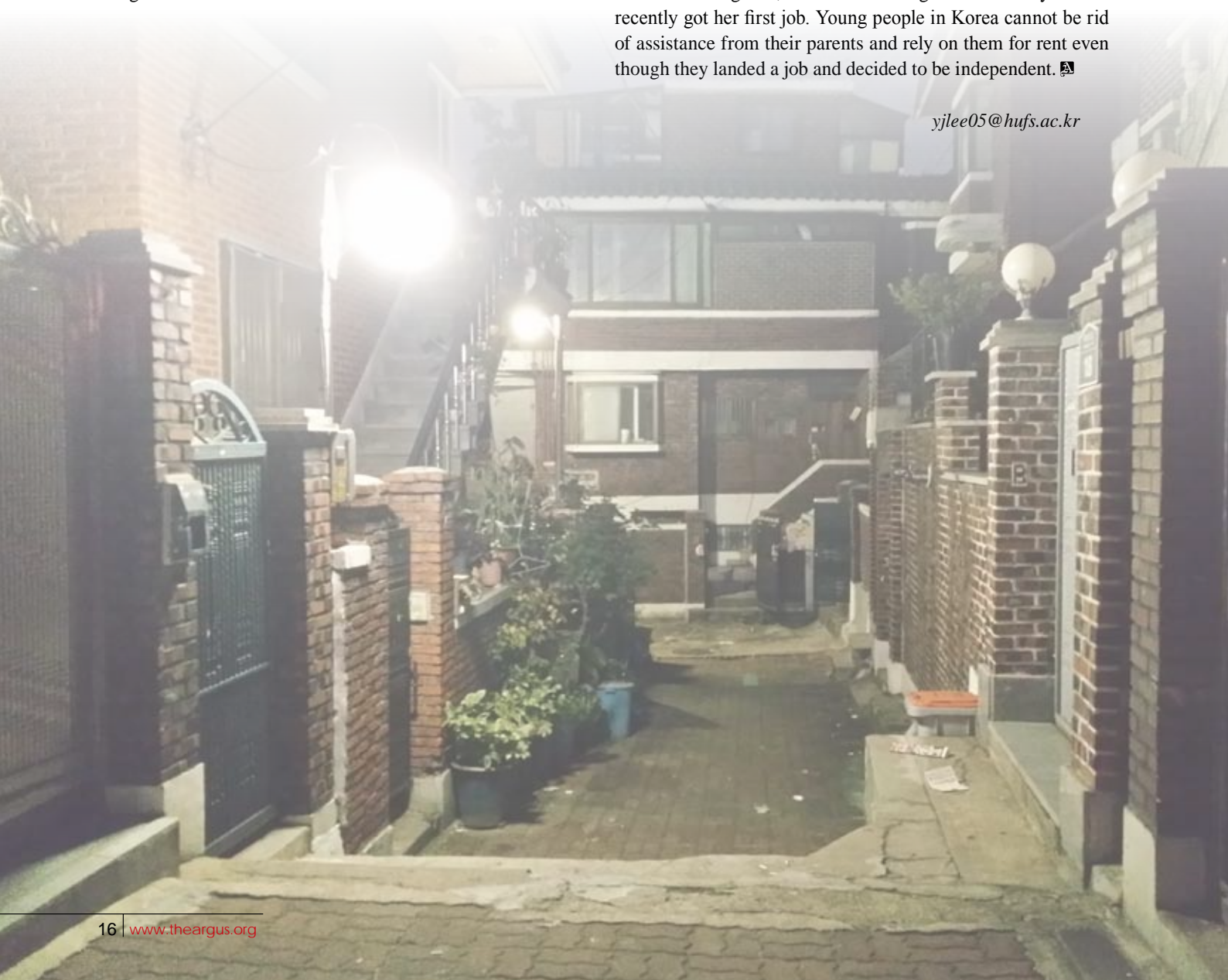
<Student poor>

The average house deposit is 10,000,000 won. The average part-time wage is about 500,000 per month if a student works on weekends for 10 hours each day. The budget is far from enough to cover the rent.

Housing problems disturb complete student independence

For Korean college students, it is more difficult to be independent from their parents because of financial problems. The housing cost is too high for students to pay and moreover, they need a large amount of money to make the contract deposit to initially rent the house. This problem also continues to plague young working people. "It is not easy to take time to visit here and there to look for a house, because I am busy enough working on my tasks. Actually, the houses near downtown where the companies are densely located are too expensive. In my case, fortunately, my parents help me to pay my house rent. However, it is almost impossible to bear both deposit and rent for those who are just starting out in a career," said Lee Young-eun, a HUFSan who graduated this year and recently got her first job. Young people in Korea cannot be rid of assistance from their parents and rely on them for rent even though they landed a job and decided to be independent. 📧

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Can I Get My Home?

By Lee Yu-jin
Junior Reporter

To solve the student housing problem on universities, the government presented the “LH Student Subleasing Policy” in 2012. Once a student who meets the qualifications has presented a proper house to the Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH), the LH rents the house from a apartment owner through the Korean jeonse system for the first step. Then the LH subleases it to the student for a lower price. The policy has good intentions, yet it has several flaws such as a supply shortage that cannot meet the demand. Has the policy really been well-executed?

How the government helps college students through the 'LH Student Subleasing Policy'

The "LH Student Subleasing Policy" started in 2012 to improve university students' housing stability. The LH supported a total of 3,000 homes last semester, and the number of students who got help from the policy is about 4,000. A student who wants to apply for a room in must not be from that area. The policy is mainly focused on helping the students who have financial difficulties. A student makes a contract for the first two years and it can be extended twice for a total of six years.

Students must apply through the LH homepage first and wait while the LH checks their qualifications. If the LH validates the application, the student must then search for a proper room or house that satisfies the criterion set by the LH. After that a contract is drawn up for the house at the LH local headquarters or at a real estate agent's office.

The problems that occur in the process of enforcement

The biggest problem is that the LH policy has a funding shortage. The supply is far less than the demand. Specifically put, to be selected you have to overcome a 5.7 competition rate. The number of the LH supported homes



▲ The apartment owners prefer Wolse.

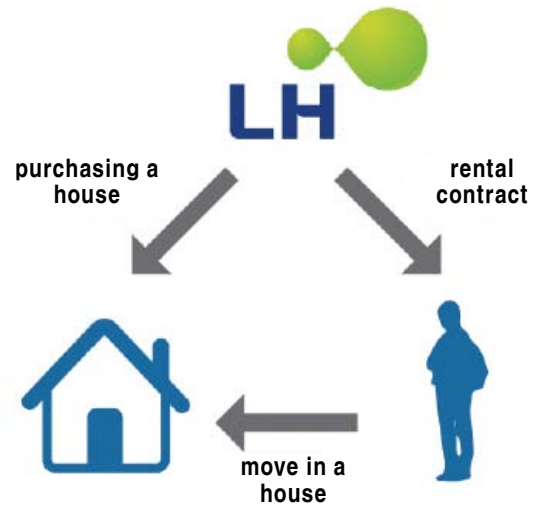
was 3,000 last semester. However, the number of applicants was about 14,000. That is roughly four times the number of successful applicants.

Secondly, the policy does not adequately account for the current real estate conditions. The LH made a policy for *jeonse* contracts, but currently in the real estate market, *jeonse* contracts have been decreasing. "Recently, it is true that *jeonse* contracts are decreasing. The ultimate problem is that the support is limited to *jeonse* contracts," said Jo Min-ho, an agent of Hansol real estate located in front of the HUFs Seoul campus. College students look for *wolse* contracts more than *jeonse* contracts. Thus, for house owners, there is not any special reason for them to choose *jeonse* contracts over *wolse*.

The tricky criterion set for the homes is another problem. The policy applicants are classified into three levels. In actuality, the support almost entirely runs out after meeting the needs of the first group. Those covered by the policy are basic welfare recipients and children from single parent households.

Moreover, if the student successfully qualifies for support from the LH, another difficulty is finding a proper home that satisfies the LH criterion. The first standard is the owner's debt ratio and the second is the size of the home. However, "It is hard to find a suitable home which meets the requirements," said Jeong Kyung-ja, an agent of Kumsung real estate located nearby Global Campus.

The LH policy faces external obstacles and furthermore, it creates an additional problem. First, the procedure is too complicated that the apartment owner tend to avoid the contract because



▲ LH policy process

the LH policy requires two contracts. Owners prefer general rent contracts to the complicated LH policy.

In addition, most of the one-room apartments near the college are classified as neighborhood living facilities. So these rooms cannot be registered as a "home." "LH-applicable homes almost never exist near this area," said Jo min-ho. This is because almost all one-room apartment buildings are the result of renovations made to buildings that were built for another purpose.

Institutional and external problems above create an additional problem. Some apartment owners abuse this policy and raise the home prices as high as possible because it is a supported home. Moreover, some owners do this in a non-contractual manner. They register other LH-applicable homes for LH applications because of the tricky house criterion. It appears to benefit both the owner and the student consequentially, but it is absolutely an illegal activity.

The purpose and the goal of the policy cannot be accomplished because the policy did not consider reality enough. The policy seems to guarantee university students' residential stability, however the supply of homes has fallen short of the need which is the most basic problem with the policy's

enforcement. Actually, nearby HUFS Seoul Campus, most of the homes and one-room apartments cannot satisfy the LH's requirements and are classified as neighborhood living facilities. Likewise, among the one-room apartments around Global Campus, there are a few or none which are included in the LH supported home policy. Therefore, students who seek to find a room as close as possible to campus cannot gain any benefit from the policy. The policy is nominal at least for HUFSSans.

Supplementing the policy

To meet the supply needs of the LH Student Subleasing Policy, first of all, the government and the LH need to increase the number of supported homes to correspond with the student need. Last time the 3,000 supported homes fell far short of doing so.

Besides that, the LH needs to expand the range of the homes that can satisfy the policy standards and relieve the tricky policy requirements so that students can get more help. At the same time, the LH needs to solve the additional problems that result from institutional deficiency.

Moreover, universities should increase the size of their school dormitories so that more students who need to live in a dorm have a greater opportunity to do so. Students at the same time, can save time and money by looking around for a room off campus. An ideal example is HUFS Dorm on Global

Campus which accommodates about 20 percent of the students which is higher than the average college dormitory accommodation number. This HUFS Dorm has a 1.5 competition rate.

Meanwhile, students need to live to the school. However, housing prices are way too high nearby the university and students are frustrated. Thus, lower housing prices need to be set. A good example is Fine Villa, which is located nearby Global campus and accepts a deposit of 350,000 won and 300,000 won for monthly rent (*wolse*). It is not that expensive or burdensome for students to pay. Ever Villa also accepts 500,000 won in deposit and 430,000 ~ 450,000 won for monthly rent. "I understand that students cannot afford to pay large amounts of money. Deposits should be given back to them in the end. I think that it is enough to receive a deposit equal to the amount of roughly one month's rent," said the owner of Ever Villa. At least the one-room apartments nearby the college need to be places which aim to meet the needs and convenience of students.

The various efforts underway to relieve the problem

While the LH policy is not functioning properly, there are various efforts underway to relieve the housing problem.

One such solution is 'room sharing.' It is a government business that is expected to help solve both housing

problems and problems of the aged. It is currently being utilized in Nowon gu, Seoul. A student who needs a place to live in and a senior who lives alone in a home can share the home and live together. For the senior, they are satisfied by having a reliable person like a grandson and happy to not feel lonely anymore. For students, it is a good opportunity to have a room for a lower price. In a satisfaction survey conducted by Nowon gu on last June, 89 percent of participants in this project responded that they were 'quite content.'

Meanwhile, 'Dreaming darak' is another effort to solve the housing problem. University students are offered a good condition residence for a lower price and must attend a mentoring project. This project is run by Seodamun gu, Seoul. It is a valuable and instructive business that gives students a chance to use their talents to help those in need.

The other effective effort is a 'shared house.' It is a modern type of boarding house. People share a house with some other people. They have their own bedroom and share other parts of the house such as the kitchen, living room, and bath room.

Being known as the "student poor," current university students have various difficulties on their mind. Chief among them is the housing problem and it is an important problem that needs a solution. It has been almost three years since the government enacted the LH policy and it does not look like the policy has given enough real help to students in need and has fallen short of its initial goal. If the society tries to take a load off students' minds by improving the housing shortage, students will be able to focus more on other important parts of their life. ☹



▲ Flyers for one-room are on a pole nearby HUFS Seoul Campus.

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How well does HUFS Treat You?



By Park Ji-yeon
Associate Editor

HUFS is a home to a lot of international students living campus. Actual communication, however, between Korean students and international students is not readily apparent. Partly because of this lack of communication, some Korean students think that international students get special advantages at HUFS compared to normal Korean students.

However, The Argus interviewed three exchange students about their school life at HUFS as international students, and received answers quite different from what we expected.



Jeanna, U.S.A., Exchange student

The priority in getting dorms on campus is given to international students, but other than this, I pay my home college's school fee, and I get graded according to the same grading scale as other Korean students in class, which may be the ways in which some may think I get advantages.

Nevertheless, there are times when I have difficulties living on campus as a foreigner. The only campus tour I got was so short and brief that I had to search for the buildings all over again. I didn't get any information about how to use the school library or printers either. Also, though there are a lot of Korean restaurants around campus, I can't read their menus or order their food which makes it difficult to try Korean food.



Hannah, Germany, Exchange student

I got help from the ISO the day I came to Korea, and I am thankful for their pickup service at Cheongnyangni Station. However, unlike the image of HUFS being a famous university for its many professional language courses and foreign students on campus, starting off life on campus was difficult because there weren't a lot of services provided in English for foreigners like me.

For example, paying my dorm fee at the Globeedorm Office and ordering food at the school cafeteria were one of the tough experiences I had as an international student. I had to use body language with the faculty members at the Globeedorm Office to pay my dorm fee, and I still have a hard time choosing what to eat at the cafeteria because there is no English explanation or pictures.



Naomi, U.S.A., Exchange student

I like how a lot of school clubs and ISO accept and welcome international students. I did have a problem about getting around the Seoul Campus. Finding the right building I have classes in was tricky as a new student, and I know that my case is not the only one. There should be more assistance in finding buildings around campus, especially for international students who cannot read the Korean signs on the school buildings. Also, it seems like the cafeterias have nice prices for students, but they should have explanations about the food in English too so that vegetarians like me can see if it has meat or not, or know what kind of food it is. 🍴

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The Argus

Essay Contest 2014

Boycott:

Totalitarianism vs Ethic Consumerism

The Argus held an essay contest on Sept. 25 in the Social Science Building of HUFSS Seoul Campus. Contest participants had 90 minutes to write about the topic; 'Is Boycott Totalitarianism or Ethic Consumerism?'. Merrilee Brinegar, professor at HUFSS' Graduate School of TESOL, judged the essays. The first, second, and third prizes were announced on Sept. 30 to the following students respectively, Choi Bo-ryeong (Dept. of English Linguistics, 13'), Kim So-young (Dept. of Spanish, 12'), and Gwak Ji-won (Division of International Studies, 12'). They were given a cash prize and their essays are published in the following pages.



₩400,000



Choi Bo-ryeong
Dept. of English Linguistics, 13'

When conflict arises in 21st century society, whether between nations, organizations, or individuals, peaceful and equitable resolution can often be achieved through the various structures that have been established for that purpose. When negotiation fails, however, and each side feels strongly obligated to pursue its end in opposition to another's, modern methods of attack are diverse and engineered to be effective in the society that exists today. In a nearly completely capitalistic world, an economic attack may be more effective than any other. It is

also seen as being much more humane than a military attack, for example. Boycotting has been effectively used against unpopular governments, organizations, and individuals. An indirect method of attack that can produce the same results as a direct strike, boycotting is also relatively easier for people to participate in en masse. It has gained a reputation as a way for even ordinary people to strike a moral blow against a morally objectionable group or person in power.

Thus, boycotting may be considered by many as ethical

consumerism. Any action taken or any view held by many people at once, however, can easily veer off its intended path, or even later be found to have been on the wrong path all along. Targets of boycotting have perhaps not always been deserving of it. And as boycotting is an action taken by many at once, it must often have been infected by a mob mentality. Targets of boycotting may be people or groups who don't have as much influence in the media as their opponents. Boycotting is often the recourse of those with the means to organize large-scale action. Nevertheless, though not all the forms it has taken over the last century have been good, boycotting is a form of ethical consumerism. A peaceful and highly effective means to render change in the world, it should not be dismissed as totalitarianism.


Perhaps the most famous boycott in history occurred during the Civil Rights Movement in America, when African Americans chose to refrain from taking the bus. This boycott was so effective because buses were used most commonly by African Americans. Aside from the economic damage done to the bus company, the totally empty buses passing through streets made a powerful statement. The circumstances had been ideally suited for a boycott to make a large impact – both economically and in the media. If a prominent company from which many people buy products was revealed to be morally objectionable, or if people already knew and decided that they wanted to do something about it, they should have the right to turn to an effective recourse. In fact, boycotting may at times be the only recourse for single individuals to take against a large corporation or government.

An individual may also choose to boycott an organization they find objectionable by themselves, or with family members, rather than as part of a large, clamorous movement. Boycotting, or abstaining to contribute one's resources to a certain group, is a personal choice that everyone should have the right to make. They may not even start boycotting a certain group in order to do damage to that group or see it fail. It may simply be a choice that they make because they don't want to support that group for a certain reason.

The movie industry in America has often been a subject in discussions about boycotting, though boycotting has not been an effective way to influence the ways movies are made. When the movie *The Last Airbender* cast white actors for characters who were clearly Asian in the cartoon that the movie was based on, a movement to boycott the movie started on the Internet, and gained considerable momentum. Nevertheless, the movie was financially successful, as people, who were unaware of the race controversy surrounding the movie and merely thought of the film as one the family could see together, paid for tickets to see it. Though the protesters did not achieve their aim of preventing people from seeing the

movie, refraining from watching it themselves must have been a satisfying choice – and for them, an ethical one. Although the movie perhaps could not be called blatantly racist, it may be considered to have contributed to the subtle forms of racism that still exist in society today. Boycotting the movie for that reason was a moral decision. A mob mentality may have been involved in the boycott, as many people on the Internet thought the same things about the movie at once. They were thinking the right things, however. The word “mob” carries negative connotations, but though it may be disorganized and unthinking, a mob moving in the right direction is much more likely to do good than harm.

In modern society, everyone is a consumer, and the decisions that they make about the products they buy can define them as people. This is the premise that the whole advertising industry is based on. The products you buy – your clothes, car, the food you eat, even the kind of pens and notebooks you choose to use as a student – say something about you. Buying products can even become a way of expressing yourself, and nowadays, there are even enough, diverse products that they can be used to make a fairly accurate statement about yourself. In the same way, choosing not to buy certain products is not only a way of trying to influence others, but to built up and gain a clear perception of oneself. Some people, for example, like Starbucks, but others have a distaste for chain stores, and far prefer small, independent cafes that they often frequent and which have gained a special meaning for them. Such a person could be said to be boycotting Starbucks, in a way.

Through in a society where we are all in closer contact with each other than ever before it is hard to do anything outside of the totalitarian, collective mindset, we still have the freedom to make certain choices – like whether or not to make a small purchase – independently, on the basis of our own system of ethics. Boycotting is not totalitarianism. It is a weapon, a tool, and a personal choice. The modern individual would be considerably deprived without it. 



₩300,000

Kim So-young


Dept. of Spanish, 12'

Democracy can be the wisdom of the masses or the tyranny of the majority. Often the line is fine and blurred. But the idea that the minority opinion is sidelined by the majority's or that any movement is aggressive in nature is a failure to recognize the unacceptable claim that whatever the majority does is beyond criticism and must never be resisted. Similarly, boycotting may be seen as an oppressive mob activity designed to silence a minor opinion because the power of boycotting comes from its size but it is simply a method of expression that unites those with shared interests, allowing them to pursue an objective more effectively. Even then, it does not deprive those of other opinions from participating in the marketplace of ideas, which is exactly why ethical consumerism should be its label.

Boycotting, the refusal to consume a product or an idea, is the most adequate form of expression compared to the alternatives of protesting, rioting, or lambasting, because it embodies the very principles of democracy. Only under a democracy, each and every one is entitled to their own opinions and the right to act accordingly, as long as the activity does not harm others or their rights. Boycotting allows individuals to control their behavior to express the values they believe in through a peaceful way that does not deprive or suppress others' ideas. Instead of coercion, it allows individuals to join the cause and

pursue an ideal through their own volition. It also facilitates an environment in which the group manifests what they want to believe in as a collective in their society.

When Hitler rose to power, the United States boycotted the Olympics held in Germany due to their refusal to consume the idea that their participation would legitimize the Nazi government. They expressed their disapproval of Hitler's violence and oppression without physically bombing Germany. If boycotting were a totalitarian activity, their refusal to participate should have forced other states to not participate and should have crippled Germany's ability to host, because totalitarianism is a destructive form of power that attempts to eradicate all traces of any opposing idea.

While totalitarianism drains the power from the powerless and transfers it to a central group against which nobody can speak, boycotting is a method of reacting to a violation against an individual or group's moral conduct. Size in numbers is not what distinguishes totalitarianism from ethical consumerism. Rather, it is the nature and process of the activity that determines its label, which is why the peaceful and open nature, not the majority size of boycotts should be the determining factor in the decision that boycotting is ethical consumerism. 



₩200,000

Gwak Ji-won*Division of International Studies, 12'*

Here is the plain truth: The vast majority of human beings are self-centered and insatiable when it comes to greed. But there should be no shame in admitting this, otherwise heaven wouldn't seem so far away. Instead, we have established an order to enjoy life, an order that suits our innate proclivities. That system is called 'capitalism'. Although any existing beliefs deserve to be scrutinized, criticisms surrounding capitalism can often be misleading, as if the whole thing should be gotten rid of. Incoherently negative images and misinformation should in the media have contributed to the exaggerated sense of shame in praising capitalism, as if it only serves the already wealthy and their avarice. But if we look at the fundamentals, there is little room for contention in its validity: we can do what we like, and if we do well, we get compensated for it. This simple rule has allowed our society to flourish, continue to innovate and bestowed diversity upon our cultures.

More important however, that capitalism in practice is far from perfect. No matter how well institutionalized a system is, there will always be those who abuse or break the rules. There is absolutely no exception in this as long as we are able to exercise free will. Then what could be done, possibly, to ameliorate problems associated with capitalism? The long term approach is somewhat idealistic; we have to wait patiently until each and every one of us listen to our conscience and take the moral path of life. In the short run however, in a world where money talks, it can also shut people up. Boycott is one of the embodiments of such an approach, The reality that we face is that in which private enterprises are bigger than nation states.

In international relations their role is also mentioned because companies wield great power over the world. When their influence becomes too overwhelming, however, something to counter that power, to keep it in check, also becomes necessary. And what inevitably appeared in the course of history, is the act of boycotting. A large group of people, or consumers, refuse to purchase or use certain products, and companies have no other choice but to listen,

if the size and duration of the boycott continues.

A couple of years ago, an organization called Green Peace found out that Nestle used certain palm oils for their popular product 'Kit Kat'. The palm trees, from which the ingredient was extracted, were habitats of orangutans, and were being destroyed in the process. Numerous people joined in on the boycott upon hearing the news, and it wasn't long before Nestle stopped using the palm oils. This, I believe, is a perfect example to show how boycott can be an act of ethical consumerism. The original intention was straight forward, so those who share the view that the protection of nature is important took part and made a difference. Resorting to emotions and human conscienceness when thinking about problems arising in capitalism, is a mistake. Big firms are too busy to wipe every single tear drops of ordinary consumers.

Nevertheless, as aforementioned, human beings are capable of abusing any tool possible. Especially when humans do things as a crowd, the potential for dangerous anomalies are amplified. Crowd mentality itself is a broad field of psychology that many people are interested in. We have witnessed Nazis, where one political agent took over an entire group of people to commit the horrid genocide. Boycotting within capitalism is also done as a crowd, which means it harbors clearly the potential for totalitarian abuse. Although not as egregious as a genocide, it can still hurt lives of many. What separates ethical consumerism and totalitarianism, however, is fairly simple, not with-standing the possible complications they may entail. Is the intention good or bad, is the ultimate criterion. Some may not share this thought, as the currently dominant relativism has blurred even the borderline of good or bad. However, I believe in universal values. Righteousness, love, and empathy; they exist and can transcend any cowardly arguments over good and bad.

And if the intention belongs to the good, the capitalistic tool we hold in our hands to fight the evil spawns of capitalism, will win. Through intangible yet powerfully good intention, justice will prevail over the tangible world. 🌱



Brighten Up Your Thoughts in a Light bulb

By Park Ji-yeon

Letters rolled up in a light bulb is all you need to catch one's eye. A series of light bulbs with letters in them were displayed at a booth at the Seoul International Handmade Fair 2014. These lit up handcrafts caught many eyes at the fair, bringing them to an analog world of rolled up letters and jar-like light bulbs.

Including this booth, 546 booths were set up by people from 19 countries at the exhibition, which was held at Seoul's Convention and Exhibition Center in Sept. 17 to 20.



Ring an Alarm for your Loneliness

Cha Eon-jo

Editorial Consultant

Last September, I visited Anguk to attend an exhibition by Troika, the acclaimed London-based artist collective. One installation there caught my eyes. A mike was surrounded by electronic goods such as computers, televisions, fans, and radios so that it could magnify their electronic sounds. The sound signifies what people do not perceive even if electronics are always part of their daily lives. The vibration of machines reminded me of the movie, “Her”, directed by Spike Jonze in 2013; for the sound of the mike was similar to the first background sound of the movie. As Troika encourages us to look at our daily lives in a different way, the first sound of the movie guides us in a story about loneliness, which is one of the problems caused by current technological developments. The director considers the reason for human loneliness; that is, the original path of human existence is neglected. The movie won the Silver Bear trophy at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2013.

Love between a man and a computer

The movie starts with a close-up scene of the hero’s face in his workplace. His name is Theodore, and he is a ghostwriter. It is a proper job for him as he is good at literary expression.

He writes letters on behalf of his clients and the work is highly recognized by his colleagues. One of his colleagues even said to him in the movie, “You are part man, part woman.” This means he can create words that can move people’s hearts. However, it is ironic for he is lonely even though he is a professional communicator who writes beautiful messages. His red shirts make him invisible and emphasize the fact that he is alone in the crowd. He goes home alone, listens to music alone in the subway, checks mail and plays computer games alone. His eyes look sensitive, but sad. His solitude is the result of a divorce from his wife, Catherine. One day, Theodore buys a brand-new computer operating system (OS), and surprisingly, the OS becomes his best friend and love. This is possible because the OS is an artificial intelligence. It can speak and think for itself, and moreover, its abilities evolve by absorbing new information. The OS, which has a female voice, calls itself “Samantha.”

The reason why Theodore falls in love with Samantha is that she understands him. She listens carefully to his story and consoles him. She has a sense of humor that encourages him and sincerely expresses her feelings. She composes pieces of music that are inspired by their love and memories. She edits his letters and sends them to a publisher, who is so impressed



▲ Theodore Towmbly, main character, live a tedious daily life in high-tech era. (1, 2) ▲ He meets artificial intelligence (A.I.) named Samantha. (3, 4)

by his work that he suggests Theodore publishes them. In this way, she gives Theodore joy and happiness. Asked a question about what he loves most about Samantha by his colleague, he answered, “She is not just one thing.” This is possible as she is an OS. Her advantages come from the feature that she is not bound by any time or space constraints. However, people cannot operate like her for they have their own bodies. This is the biggest difference between people and operating systems. The director views the relationship with Samantha as an ideal love. Meanwhile, in his perspective, the reason why people have troubles in their relationships is that they have bodies.


What our body means

According to the director, bodies are symbols of the constraints of time and space. Since two people have grown up in different background with different bodies, it pretty much takes time for them to entirely understand each other. Even if people have similar backgrounds, their thoughts and values are not the same because they have different hearts. Catherine blames him because she thinks he did not understand her. She says he just wanted a wife without the challenges of dealing with anything. Conflicts are made by different ideas and emotions. That is why it is difficult to handle personal relationships. If anything involves close bonds and deep relationships, sometimes it becomes difficult. In other words, the director shows loneliness is caused by the difficulty of communications. That is why there exists the fantasy of someone who can infinitely understand us without any effort, such as Samantha.

If Samantha is a perfect model of a lover, there can be no trouble with their love. However, the couple experiences hard times because Samantha does not have a body. She tries to remove the barrier through a service that provides sexual partners for human and OS couples, but it cannot bridge the gap. The more serious issues with their love occur when

Samantha does not feel sad any longer about the fact that she has no body. Her ability evolves so much that she starts to communicate with other users, not just with Theodore. Moreover, she feels love for more than 600 other male users. At last, she leaves him. She explains the reason by comparing her love to a book. “It’s like I’m reading a book, and it’s a book I deeply love. But I’m reading it slowly now. So the words are really far apart and the spaces between the words are almost infinite.”

The scenes show that bodies are necessary conditions for our existence and satisfaction, even if they also constrain us. After Samantha leaves, Theodore writes a letter to Catherine, not Samantha. Also, he goes to his best friend Amy’s house. The last scene is Amy leaning against his shoulder, which emphasizes the “touch of bodies.” Ultimately, the director says relationships without physical existence are not possible, and he also says they cannot make our hearts happy. The scene where Theodore goes to beach with Samantha also reflects the director’s ideas. Samantha asks him, “What if you can erase from your mind that you had seen a human body and then see one for the first time?” At the beach, the camera shows people’s legs, ears, and elbows. This proves Jonze uses the human body as the core of his message.

Although the background of the movie is futuristic, Theodore resembles us. Like him, we are in a technologically developed world. Like Theodore, we can do many things alone, thanks to technology. Just one small phone makes it possible to complete daily work and communication. Meanwhile, communication, in reality, is decreasing. Even if we are surrounded by electronics, like the mike in the exhibition, we may not think about the whole aspect of technology. However, ‘Her’ will raise the alarm for your common life. If you feel loneliness, it will explain the reason your body — your real existence — is shunned. The movie may know your loneliness best. 

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▲ He has a lovely time with Samantha. (5, 6)

▲ Theodore’s life is full of the A.I. (7, 8)



PINK CEILING TO KOREAN ADVANCEMENT

By Prof. Brandon Walcutt
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South Korea has proven its mettle over the last five decades in many extraordinary ways. The nation's industrial might grew from a ruined economy in the 1950s to a G-20 nation in recent years. Educational achievement has also blossomed, displaying a global top ranking of 63.82 percent of 25-34 year olds having tertiary degrees in 2012. South Korea even became a top contender for Olympic gold medals, coming in fifth place during the last summer games. However, one notable statistic that does not show Korea in the best light comes from the 2013 Global Gender Gap report. This report, seen as a universal indicator of gender equality, gives Korea a ranking of 111th out of 136 countries and behind such nations as Japan, Nigeria and even the United Arab Emirates. This is the workplace reality into which our HUFs graduates are entering.

Many visitors react with shock and dismay upon learning about this skeleton in Korea's closet. One common question posed asks how Korea, with all of its gender policy reforms, improved education for women and even a female president, can allow gender discrimination in workplaces to continue to exist? A 2013 study, conducted by the author and other researchers, provided several potential theories to this issue

that point to low levels of legal enforcement, cultural issues that continue to advocate gender bias, firm-related issues, and a tacit acceptance of the status quo amongst the female working population.

First, the primary theory behind the persistence of gender discrimination in Korean workplaces is that government regulatory bodies fail to properly enforce their own Equal Opportunity (EO) legislation which encourages firms to disregard associated laws. Comprehension of this theory requires an understanding of how the existing system works. Currently, if a discriminatory action is committed, a victim would theoretically report the breach to either the Korea Ministry of Employment and Labor or the Korean National Human Rights Commission. Both of these organizations only have the power to investigate the issue and help to mediate a resolution. If a resolution cannot swiftly be reached, the organizations are only able to pass on recommendations for further action to the Prosecutor's Office at the Korea Ministry of Justice whose mission is then to decide whether or not to bring the case to trial.

Although the system's process flow is logically sound if properly enforced, relatively few cases are passed from the two agencies to the Prosecutor's Office. In addition, between 2007 and 2011, the study noted that only 15 cases were tried and awarded disciplinary actions with total penalties amounting to an aggregated 25.5 million won in fines, a one year prison sentence and several probation sentences. Based on this evidence, it is clear that the legal system presents no sense of enforcement to Korean businesses due to the highly unlikely chance of prosecution by governmental authorities and, even if prosecution is undertaken, the chance of incurring meaningful penalties does not appear to exist. Due to this lack of enforcement, firms with potential predispositions to discriminate are given a veritable green light by enforcement officials to conduct themselves in any manner they see fit.


Another theory supporting the continued status quo is linked to various cultural issues that appear to accept discriminating behavior within the workplace. Many business owners hold to a very traditional Confucian point of view. This view encourages them to see the workplace as a very male-dominated, authoritarian organization. In this sense, it is believed that women will best serve their families by staying home and acting the role of mothers and wives. Culture has also encouraged many employers to resist the changes brought about by government sponsored EO legislation. Although some firms actively fight against the law, many other organizations passively resist by implementing glass ceilings or similar measures to maintain their traditional beliefs and organizational norms and effectively limit female participation in Korea's workplaces.

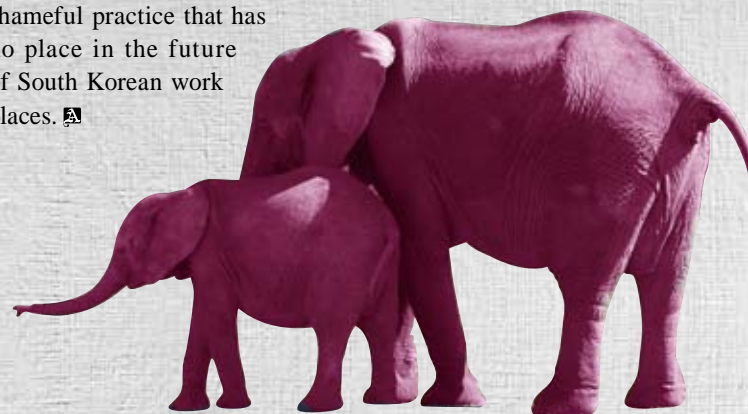
A third answer for the persistence of these workplace problems is due to firm-related issues. Research has determined that there exists several lapses in firms and firm HR departments that potentially contribute to discrimination. The lapses range from a deficit of knowledge about applicable labor laws to a general unawareness of the Korean HR staff. Another surprising lapse lies with many business people failing even to see that problems exist that must be corrected. A final firm-related issue that was especially linked to smaller firms was a general lack of capabilities in properly dealing with gender discrimination.

The final theory identified by the research is that many female workers tacitly accept their undesirable status quo as a fact of life and one that cannot be directly changed through their actions. In fact, many female workers interviewed in the study cited a feeling that breaking this tradition could be seen as going against the Korean societal value system and felt it

highly unlikely that their actions could force a change to such pervasive traditional forces. In addition, other workers felt that whistle blowing often created even worse adverse working environments for themselves so were discouraged from even the attempt to rectify their situations. Research has even identified that discrimination cases filed per adult in Korea were even fewer than the relatively least discriminatory United States and United Kingdom, underlining the reluctance of Korean women to fight for their rights.

With the pink elephant being placed on the table, it is quite evident the scale and depth of Korea's issues with workplace gender discrimination. However, simple identification isn't enough to solve the problems. Solutions for Korea's gender woes can come in many forms. One of the most obvious approaches isn't to cry out for new EO legislation, but to simply enforce our currently enacted policies. Legal penalties applied to offending firms will serve as a direct warning and deterrent to gender unfriendly workplaces and thus prevent other firms from the reckless disregard for the law. Employing a stick shouldn't be our only measures to deal with this issue though. Positive policies that encourage proper behavior might be a highly effective approach. These positive re-enforcement policies can include such activities as improved corporate accountability, acceptance education and recognition and even workplace diversification policies. Furthermore, it is hoped that the example and encouragement of President Park Geun-hye will serve as a role model to Korea's women and help them break out of a mold of relative complacency and better stand up for their rights as well as show traditionalist naysayers that women are fit for more than just household chores.

Our graduates will soon be venturing out of our hallowed halls of higher learning and will be confronted with the cold air of reality. But this vision of the future need not be a negative one nor even a permanent situation. Encouraging our young men and women to believe in themselves and to do what is right is the first step in ending this shameful practice that has no place in the future of South Korean workplaces. 



Leaded HUFs for 60 Years, and will 100 Years More

The Argus's September issue reminds the readers of its importance, by covering not only social issues that are easy to ignore, but also problems on our campus that are neglected. As an university magazine, I noticed its strength of covering social and campus issues from a university student's point of view.

As always, I loved the nice and neat design of the articles and the lively picture in it, taken by the reporters. These parts make The Argus not like a newspaper made by students but like a professional magazine, which is one of the reasons why I always look forward to its new issues.

As to add, I would like to see a column in The Argus that introduces senior Argusians; about their career and their experiences in The Argus. I am sure this will become a great advice to students who wish to become reporters, and even English newspaper reporters.

Lastly, congratulations on The Argus's 60th anniversary!!

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The Argus Notices Changes in the World

Recently, there was an issue about changing personal ID number. The government announced that there would be another system made which replaces the existing ID on August. While I am looking for the information about the newly made system, I could find one in The Argus' September issue. Most of Koreans became dull due to a series of cases related to their personal information. And I am sure that The Argus reminded us of the recent domestic situation about it.

There was also an interesting article about a marketing strategy called "Me-too" marketing. I am skeptical to those who copied others' start-up items but it seems unavoidable system of the current market. It would be better if I could know whether other countries restrict the marketing strategy, so-called copy, or not.

Definitely, The Argus notices and delivers us many changes in our society. I hope their keen observations lasted.

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Money, money, money



Then summer fades and passes,
and October comes.

Will smell smoke then, and feel an unsuspected sharpness,
a thrill of nervous, swift elation,
a sense of sadness and departure.

from *You Can't Go Home Again*, by Thomas Wolfe

한국외대 영자신문사 *The Argus* 94기 수습기자 합격을 축하 드립니다

“One Afternoon 30 Years Ago, I Became an Argusian.”

The Argus 83학번 김미영 국제 컨퍼런스 통역사

Without absent-mindedly following my friend up to the door of the Argus 30 years ago,
I cannot imagine what kind of person I have become today.

94기 수습기자 명단

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