

The Argus

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Since 1954



How Do You Approach History?

Cover Story

- Put a Twist on Delivering History
- Future History Content Producers, All Set and Ready

Reportage

Restricted DMZ: Freedom Village of Daeseong-dong

How About You

Professors with Other Important Jobs

People

Shared House for Students, Comes True



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

The Argus

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Editor's Letter

Capturing the Interest of Those in Their 20s

The hottest issue that was covered in the newspaper headlines and TV news in October was the government-designated history textbooks. Beyond this national and political issue, history seems to be the key theme in several types of media including movies and TV dramas. Movies like "The Throne" and historical dramas such as "Six Flying Dragons" are a hit. Historical content is also accessible by smart phones and historical webtoons, a term referring to online comics, like "Chosun Dynasty Talk." Facebook pages also cover interesting stories about Korean history, and short online lectures teach the backgrounds of popular historical movies and dramas.

In this November issue, The Argus focuses on how college students and people in their 20s have easy access to historical contents. The Cover Story looks into how the diversification of media outlets has made this trend possible and how such changes may affect other fields as well.

Included in this trend, The Argus also covers topics and interviews that readers in their 20s can relate to, such as the elections for university president and the shadows behind the process that students are unaware of, people who are doing their best to solve college students' housing difficulties, graduate students who are challenging the typical job search by creating their own jobs, and so on.

With only the December issue left for 2015, The Argus reporters are continuing their endeavor to capture the interest of readers in their 20s through the articles mentioned above. Not only by explaining trends but also by shedding light on what the readers may be unaware of, we hope the HUFsans holding this magazine can empathize with the suggestions and learn the background, reasons, and impact of the content covered. 

Park Ji-yeon
Editor-in-Chief

Mdy

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Cover Story

>> Along with the recent controversies on history, history contents have also emerged in diverse channels. The contents are drawing attention from people, especially from those in their twenties. Why are these contents catching our eyes? What are the contents lacking amid the popularity? The Argus looked into the cultural trend in detail.

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▲ The GSC protests government designated history textbook.

Professors Sign Objection over Government-designated History Textbook



▲ History textbooks to be standardized under government orders.


On Sept. 24, professors of HUFS objected to the government's new policy on a government-chosen Korean history textbook.

They said that the new policy could lead to rigid thoughts and standardized manner. Professors added that this affects the stability and durability of history education, causing chaos and conflict in the field of education.

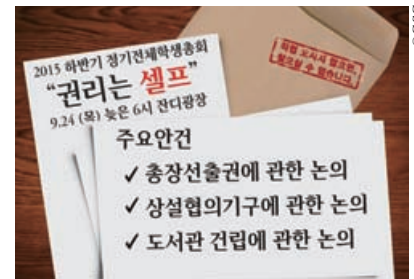
Professors criticized the government for attempting to influence Korean history textbooks because it will educate the future generation with a history that is based on anachronism and regression. They said, "In the government-designated textbook system, the government may have unnecessary

authority and supervisory power that will limit student's ability to think for themselves." Professors added that, "The policy will not help the writing of textbooks. Moreover, the description of the textbook contents will change with a bias toward the ruling party." This statement included that in circumstances in which rote education is widespread, it will cause huge conflict.

Professors also criticized that the governing power's comments indicate that the newly chosen textbook will contain contents that devalue pro-Japanese policies from the Japanese colonial era, justifying dictatorship and diminishing independence and pro-democracy movements. They asserted that the state should not make a model of Shinzo Abe and the extreme right side of Japanese politics that is ridiculed by international society for glorifying their aggressive war.

Professors and students have objected to the government-designated textbook policy. Korea had adopted such a policy during the Yushin regime in 1974 and terminated it in 2007 because of democratization of Korean society. 

GSC Sets General Meeting Week




▲ The GSC addresses issues including constructing a new library and HUFS president election in the student meeting.

The General Student Council (GSC) of Seoul Campus, Together Lighthouse, set the general student meeting week from Sept. 22 to 24.

Including the GSC, all colleges and independent faculty held their general student meetings during the specific week. This was done to promote and emphasize the importance of the meeting.

The GSC student meeting was held on the Grass Field on Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. The GSC addressed three issues in the meeting: gaining the students' right to vote for the HUFS president, establishing a Consultative Organization and building a new library.

Unfortunately, the meeting failed due to low student attendance. In order to officially vote on an issue, more than ten percent of HUFS students, 821 students, is required. However, only about 600 students came to the meeting. The time overlap of the GSC meeting and other colleges' meetings was brought up as one reason for the low attendance. The GSC has commented that they would still work hard for the problems to be resolved even though the meeting foundered. 


HUFS Plans on Building Smart Libraries



©Fundraising and Cooperation Team


▲ HUFS administration reveals the library designs of the Seoul Campus(L) and the Global Campus(R) to HUFSSans.

HUFS will establish a Smart Library on both Seoul Campus and the Global Campus. Each Smart Library will present smart systems such as an auto-I/O (Input and Output) book system, statistics on reading rates, and book recommendations together with fascinating designs and a cafe-like lounge.

The proclamation ceremony for the HUFS Smart Library establishment campaign took place at the Lotte Hotel Crystal Ballroom in Seoul on Nov. 4. The purpose of the foundation is to create advanced library concepts combining information, culture, study and communication all at once. 

HUFS Conducts Green Remodeling of Language & Literature Building


HUFS held a building dedication ceremony for the Language & Literature Building with Green Remodeling on the Global Campus on Sept. 24. The Language & Literature Building was built in 1981, so it was very old and in need of improvement.

HUFS set up a business called Green Remodeling, which spent about seven months creating a comfortable and pleasant classroom atmosphere and upgrading the research environment. Green Remodeling was supported by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to reduce the energy usage. 

National Assembly Debates on Minor Language


On Sept. 9 at the National Assembly, a debate about the establishment of the Special Regional Language Promotion bill was held.

Debaters agreed that, “In this global age, the ability to speak special regional languages is much more needed than before.” They addressed the need to resolve the problem of overvaluation of English.

Vice president of HUFS, Choi Jong-chan, said that, “Unlike in Korea, there are many countries managing national foreign language universities.” He added that, “HUFS has been doing its part for specialized language education.” 

HUFS Hosts Forum in BIFF

HUFS decided to participate in Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), delivering a speech on the topic of “Where the Spanish Film Stands Ahead.” Through this forum, HUFS aimed to create an invaluable milestone on the path to a new opportunity for Spanish cinema.

Manuel Martin Cuenca, a movie director loved throughout Spain, was the main guest presenting his personal insights on Spanish cinema. Moreover, dean of the center, Professor Jeon Ki-seon, joined a panel to discuss the direction in which Spanish film should move. The conference proceeded in consecutive interpretation. 

Seoul Campus Holds Fall Festival “Daedongjae”



© HUFSON

▲ A student sings at “Mask Song Festival” on the night before Seoul Campus’ festival.



©Bae Kyung-joo

▲ A hot air balloon event was canceled due to bad weather.

On Oct. 7 and 8, the fall festival, which is called “Dadongjae” in Korean, was held on Seoul Campus under the theme of “Where in HUFs have you been to?” Many offerings such as World Village, World Music Festival, Love World Matching, and Hufstage were held for students to enjoy. 📸

Dept. of French’s “Les Miserables” Hits Jackpot

The Department of French performed “Les Miserables” on Oct. 1 to 3 with great success in the hall of the Humanities Building. The stage was the first original language play among College of Occidental Languages this year.

“Professors said the play’s success and great quality will set a record in the Department of French’s history,” said the department’s leader Seo Ho-joon.

“Les Miserables” will be followed with other original language plays and musicals in November and December performed by students majoring in Scandinavian languages, German, Dutch, Russian, and Portuguese. 📸

Shuttle Service Fails Again

The General Student Council (GSC) of HUFs made an alliance with the online route funding program “Nuntteumyeon Dochak (Noondo),” which means “Wake up and you’re there,” to launch a shuttle bus for Hoegi where HUFs is located.

“Noondo” started to recruit applicants for two new shuttle bus routes for Hoegi, departing from Ilsan via Deokyang and from Suji via Bundang from October. However, the routes failed to garner enough interest, so “Noondo” canceled the routes for October.

“Noondo” will investigate the demand again every month. Other routes will launch in November. 📸

World Folk Culture Festival Spotlights Traditional Stages



©Department of Romanian

▲ HUFs holds World Folk Culture Festival at the Global Campus.

On Oct. 6, HUFs held the grand opening of the World Folk Culture Festival (WFCF) at the outdoor theater on the Global Campus. The festival’s purpose was to encourage university students to experience various foreign cultures.

11 departments from the Global Campus took part in the event, staging traditional dances and music from students majoring in Indian, Italian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Russian, Czech, Arabic, French, Spanish and African.

12 other performances also took part in the main concert. The Department of Romanian performed two plays, and the very first performance was held by students from Department of Indian Studies. The Department of Spanish Interpretation and Translation ended the finale stage with great applaud from the visitors.

There were also various activities to enjoy besides the main concert. Each department opened a booth, through which students as well as outsiders were able to experience diverse cultures. 📸

News Briefing

By Park Ji-yeon
Editor-in-Chief
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UNESCO's Memory of the World

A live broadcast titled "Finding Dispersed Families" was mentioned on the UNESCO Memory of the World, a heritage documentary, on Oct. 10. The special program, which aired from June 30 to Nov. 14, 1983, aimed to help reconnect families separated during the 1950-1953 Korean War. It resulted in 10,189 successful reunions. The list included a 453-hour-long broadcast and producers' documents.

Backing Up Memories



Cyworld, which used to be South Korea's favorite social networking service around a decade ago, said they will go through a massive renovation and close down some of its website features. After the announcement, a great number of users crowded on the social media platform to back up their online memories. Cyworld extended the deadline from Sept. 30 to Oct. 10 as a more-than-expected number of users returned to save their memories.




South Korea's suicide rate dropped to the lowest level in six years. But with 27.3 committing suicide per 100,000 people, the country still holds the highest rate among the countries of the Organization Economic Cooperation and Development. Suicide also stands as the top cause of death for those in their 20s and 30s. On average, 3.2 people in their 20s and six people in their 30s end their lives every day in South Korea, the report added.

"It seems a country's spending reflects its national stereotypes... bookish South Koreans splurge more than most on education."



The Economist reported that the stereotype of South Korea's frenzy for education turned out to be true based on its expenditure data. Among the world's top 20 economies, South Koreans spent 6.7 percent of their income on education while other countries spent 1.1 percent to 4.4 percent in the same category. Experts said that South Korea's private education expenses account for a big part in the high percentage.

"U-Turn" Students

More than 1,300 graduates of four-year universities re-enrolled at two-year colleges in 2015, up 25 percent from two years earlier. The so-called "U-turn" students came amid the country's economic slump, as graduates of two-year colleges have a higher employment rate at 61 percent, which is 8 percent higher than four-year university graduates. 



Restricted DMZ: Freedom Village of Daeseong-dong

By Jang Eun-ae



Tension between the North and South Korea has grown since the North provoked a conflict by using anti-personnel mines in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) near the city of Paju on Aug. 4. Two soldiers from South Korea lost their legs due to these mines. In response to the North's aggression, the South resumed the use of loudspeakers which aired the latest musics from the South and its democratic ideas. It seemed that the tension was reduced due to the success of high-level military summit negotiations between the two Koreas on Aug. 25. However, Park Geun-hye, President of South Korea, gave a keynote speech at the 70th UN General Assembly and criticized the North for testing a nuclear weapon capable of long-range missile strikes on Sept. 26. The North responded to the criticism by threatening to cancel the negotiations for the reunion of the separated families.

Most people in their twenties are unaware that Daeseong-dong is located in the DMZ and that it is the part of South Korea that is closest to the North, although they have shown great interest in this latest series of incidents. Therefore, The Argus made the decision to visit Daeseong-dong in person and hear the stories of its residents.

What is the Freedom Village of Daeseong-dong?

The Freedom Village of Daeseong-dong is the sole South Korean village located in the DMZ. The only other village also located in DMZ is Gijung-dong, but it is on the North Korean side. These villages are only 450 meters far from each other, so residents of both villages can view the other with only the naked eye.

Establishment of these villages in the DMZ was part of the disarmament requirements of the ceasefire agreement for both Koreas that was ratified on July 27, 1953. Another of these requirements was the creation of the military demarcation line (MDL). In addition, the tension of the quasi-state of war between the nations is visually relaxed by the rural atmosphere of the DMZ.

Around 200 residents are living in Daeseong-dong village, and all of them are farmers growing crops such as rice, beans and chilies. They do not need to pay any taxes, and the men who live in this village are exempt from the mandatory military service since it is not the South Korean government that has jurisdiction over

the village, but the UN.

Project of the Freedom Village: First village to welcome a reunification

Project of the village of Daeseong-dong was concluded by the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs and the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements of South Korea (UN-Habitat) on July 23. UN-Habitat is collecting money to improve the quality of the residents' lives, repairing their poor quality houses which were built 35 years ago. Daeseong-dong residents are living in poor surroundings which include cracking walls, leaky roofs and old wires that may cause fires.

The project participants are planning to move the reunification process between the South and North forward a step through this project, which is increasing the historical value of Daeseong-dong by encouraging common prosperity. The entire nation can participate in this project through talent donation or suggesting ideas for it.

Entering the Freedom Village of Daeseong-dong

The Argus caught the subway at the HUFs subway station and got off at Musan Station, and then drove to the Unification Bridge in Gyeon-gi Province. To enter the village, visitors must pass by the guardhouse that is located on the bridge and obtain permission to pass. Because of this, The Argus met Kim Dong-gu (Mr. Kim), the head of the community, with one soldier in front of the gate to obtain permission. At the guardhouse, access was granted along with a visitor's pass and a UN flag. We drove for about 20 minutes by car and passed many agricultural fields on the road to the village. The soldier accompanied us the whole time because the village of Daeseong-dong is so close to North Korea, and his work was to protect us from any sudden attack by the North's soldiers. The Argus and Mr. Kim talked in the village hall to listen to the real stories of the villagers of Daeseong-dong.

Rooftop of the village hall

After the talk, we moved to the rooftop of the village hall and saw the Gaeseong industrial complex, the farm lands that are owned by North Korea and the words of praise for Kim Il-seong that are carved in stone. Another landmark that could be seen was the North Korean flag with a 165 meter pole. Actually, this flag had once flown at a much lower height than the present flag, but the North had the pole rebuilt as a status symbol. In response to that flag, the South Korean flag was also raised up higher. Visitors can sense the psychological warfare through the heights of the flags and also perceive the fact that both Koreas are still at war.

Recently, Daeseong-dong residents were threatened by the North's aggression



▲ Taegeukgi, the South Korean flag, on a pinwheel decorates a truck at Daeseong-dong.

© Jang Eun-ae/The Argus



▲ The North Korean flag is visible with the naked eye at Daeseong-dong.

© Jang Eun-ae/The Argus

and announced claims of preparation for combat against it because the village is the closest South Korean territory to North Korea. In addition, Mr. Kim said, “I had stayed on my toes as the head of the community of Daeseong-dong due to the tension between the South and North. I have a strong responsibility to protect and control the village people.”

Free time in the village of Daeseong-dong

There is only one theater in the village for residents. It is on the last floor of the village hall. They often watch movies in this theater in their free time, and the latest movie that has been shown is “Roaring Currents.”

Residents of the villiage, mostly consisting of seniors, also converse with neighbors in the village hall. Young men usually freely leave the village during the day to enjoy their leisure time.

Everyday life in the village of Daeseong-dong

There is a restriction on the times visitors can enter or exit the village, and

there are also many CCTV cameras within the village to keep watch on it and to protect the residents from the North. The Argus asked whether these kinds of limitations make the residents’ life difficult. He answered, “There is no hardship since most of the residents were born and raised in here as was I.” Mr. Kim added, “I think the neighbors in this village are relatively closer to each other and live more simply than in other villages that are outside of Daeseong-dong.”

Residents who are willing to move to another city can do so freely. For instance, there were people who wanted a better quality education or people who married and had families outside of the village. If they do not come back to their hometown within a given period of time, their status as a resident of Daeseong-dong is revoked after the head of the community consults with the relevant soldiers.


Future of the village of Daeseong-dong

Many people are not interested in



▲ Daeseong elementary school is the only school located in Daeseong-dong.

Daeseong-dong and have never heard of its existence even though the project conducted by the government is ongoing. Only several companies have supported the village by setting up electronic equipment such as computers, Wi-Fi and water purifiers. The village of Daeseong-dong continues its efforts to draw interest and became better known as it permitted the visit of The Argus. Therefore, this village may have gotten more attention through the project.

The Argus visited the village of Daeseong-dong, which is the closest village to North Korea, and met Mr. Kim, the head of the community, and listened to his life story in Daeseong-dong. Recently, many young people have become greatly interested in the relationship between South and North Korea as tension has deepened. However, this concern should be continuous and not only happen when incidents occur, but when they do not occur as well. 

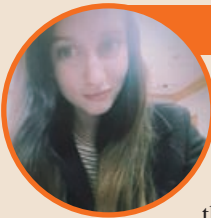
jea2060@hufs.ac.kr



▲ Sunshine falls on wild flowers in Daeseong-dong.

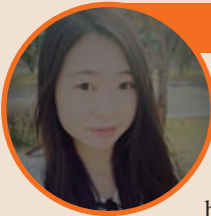
Suggestions for Smart Libraries?

The school recently announced that both the Seoul and Global Campuses' libraries will reform into Smart Libraries. A lot of HUFSSans have been waiting for this news as both campuses' libraries are quite old and students have been asking for new libraries for a long while. Regarding this news, The Argus interviewed four students from both campuses and asked them the following question: "What features do you think the new library should add? What should be changed with the library system along with the rebuilding?"



Casey Baine, U.S.A., Dept. Of English Interpretation and Translation, '14

I think it would be really desirable if there were a cafeteria inside the smart library. Last semester, I used to study late in the main library, but I always had to worry about what to eat while studying. Since there were not enough places for students like me to eat meals, I sometimes had to have some snacks for dinner or just skip meals. I guess many students would find it very useful if the smart library were to have its own cafeteria.



Ryu Ji-hyeon, South Korea, Dept. of Spanish, '12

I think the facilities of the whole building are very outdated. So it seems right to reconstruct it, but I want there to be some overall changes. I have been reluctant to go to the library due to safety issues since it was built a long time ago. Also, the library is stuffy because of its distinctive musty smell which is not the smell of books. I sometimes feel that the library does not exist for students, but for nominal reasons. Lastly, I want some places for team work. There is no proper place except for the Big Apple Lounge and a few additional places. Big Apple Lounge is too quiet, the Institute & Learning Development Room can only accommodate four people, and the Study Lounge is inconvenient to book.




Lee Yang-seok, South Korea, Dept. of Management Information Systems, '10

I hope that the Smart Library will include a digital room that is equipped with DVDs to watch movies or videos. Students are often required to watch videos for their assignments. Therefore, it would be nice to have state-of-the-art equipment in the library that would realistically help the students. In addition, I wish that outsiders would be banned from coming inside, by establishing a restriction system. Since it is hard to control visitor access at our current library on the Global Campus, many outsiders come to our library. So during the exam periods, there are not enough spaces for HUFSS students to study.



Curtis Life, Canada, Division of International Studies, '14

I want a place where I can just study out loud in a group. When I am studying in the library and have questions about the material, I cannot ask my friend because I have to be quiet. I know libraries are places where we have to be very quiet, but I would like to have more areas where students can brainstorm out loud. Also, I want a casual library like I can find in Canada. In Canada, there are cozy couches where I can study comfortably. I hope the HUFSS library can have more spaces where students can study comfortably. 

bloomindi@hufs.ac.kr

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

Put a Twist on Delivering History

© wikimedia

By Byeon Hee-jin
Reporter of Culture Section

What comes to mind when you think of the word “history?” Until now, history has largely been considered something tough and profound. However, in order to shed this image of history, lots of attempts to make history a fun and interesting thing can be seen throughout our culture. In addition to these attempts, people in their twenties have started to accept and enjoy this trend and even actively take part in producing history-related cultural contents. Let us find out more about these cultural activities.



▲ History specialist, Seol Min-seok, gives a lecture about the background history of the movie “The Throne.”



▲ Mujeok-pink makes a webtoon on “Joseon-wangjo-shillok.”



▲ Administrator of “Here’s some news from 1945” posts about patriotic martyr Kim Sang-ok.

What kinds of historical contents are out there?

Movies that premiered this year such as “Assassination” and “The Throne” were based on historical events, and both films became a big hit. In accordance with these, Seol Min-seok, a specialist in history, delivered a lecture about these historical events in an easy but detailed manner as well as from diverse perspectives. This lecture was originally posted on the website called “Oh My School,” available for 1,000 won, but it was compiled into a ten-minute video with the title “The Video You Must Watch before You Go to the Theatres,” and it spread via Facebook. This video obtained more than 10,000 likes, earning the attention of the twenties. People not only tagged their friends, but also shared this on their own page. According to this phenomenon, although people in their twenties did not make contents on their own, it looks like it is becoming part of the culture of twenty-year-olds.

The webtoon called “Joseon-

wangjo-shiltok” is also an example of cultural contents with a historical theme. This webtoon is based on “Joseon-wangjo-shillok,” a book that was written during the Joseon Dynasty. The webtoon makes history easy to understand. It is very popular, and it received a score of ten out of ten on the Naver portal site. It was published as a graphic novel as well, which achieved fifth place on the bestseller list when it was published and was also made into a TV program which aired on MBC Every1 called “Webtoon Hero-Toondra Show.” Given the fact that the author, Mujeok-pink, is 27 years old, it is one such form of contents made by someone in their twenties that led to great success.

The public not only reads this webtoon, but they also write comments about it online in order to share additional historical facts that they know. Readers make the content a form of two-way communication by learning from other people’s comments, and people even engage in debates about particular historical events.

“Here’s some news from

1945,” a Facebook page which introduces the unknown facts or people involved in the Korean Independence Movement through a card news format, currently has 34,550 subscribers, and the people who subscribe are mostly in their twenties. “400 vs. 1, the legend of the double pistols” was a post that drew the attention from many people, introducing the statue of patriotic martyr Mr. Kim Sang-ok, which resides in Marronnier Park and provided information about his life. Since the twenties can easily be reached through Social Networking Services (SNS) in everyday life, it makes good use of SNS to inform people about history.

Why are these types of content thriving?

Accessibility of multi-media

A lack of historical consciousness for those in their twenties has always been an issue. However, cultural contents related to history can now be accessed in easier and more interesting ways. In the past,

<Lack of historical consciousness>

The year the 'Korean War' outbreake



© Daehak-naeil Laboratory

Right answer June 25, 1950(60.8%)

Most chosen wrong answer June 25, 1945
(11.8%)

Listing historical events in the correct order



Right answer

Kojoseon-the period of the Three States
-Joseon-Japanese colonial era(75.5%)

Most chosen wrong answer

Kojoseon-Korean Dynasty-
the period of the Three States-Joseon(10.5%)

Matching historical events and the time they occurred



Right answer

June Democracy Movement-Chun Doo-hwan
Regime(37.8%)

Most chosen wrong answer

5.16 Military Coup-Chun Doo-hwan Regime
(32.5%)

historical contents were provided in simple ways, such as documentaries or general history books. However, nowadays, better conditions exist to provide access to various forms of content because of developments in IT. In other words, accessibility has greatly increased.

The participation of the twenties in the field of Korean history, actively or passively, helps to inspire historical consciousness, and this has a positive influence on society. Lee Ji-won, Japanese College '15, had this to say about this trend: "Learning history through various fun forms of contents makes history much more approachable. Even though I was not very interested in history before, now I pay a lot of attention to it. I think this is a very positive way to make people who are indifferent to historical contents feel engaged in a spontaneous manner."

Changing atmosphere of our era

Our parents' generation grew up in an atmosphere of repression. As a result, the study of history was more focused on profound topics such as political history or economic history. One of the professors at HUFS who gives lectures on history said, "In the past, people did not have the opportunity to think of history as a form of cultural content because they only considered it to be something serious and profound."

However, since the atmosphere of our generation is much freer these days, this has led people to consider history in a different light. The HUFS history professor also said, "However, as the atmosphere of this era changes, we have begun to think of the cultural side of history and of various ways to deliver such content."

"I think it is a very positive way to make people who are indifferent to historical content feel engaged in a spontaneous manner."

What are the shortcomings of this historical content?

They do not lead to deeper historical studies

So far, historical contents have become something of great interest to many people. A history professor at HUFS said, "Because the twenties do not think history is relatable with the present, even if the content draws attention, it does not lead to further study of history." This means that the interest people take in history, no matter how great, always seems to be a temporary thing. Seo Dong-wan, Japanese College '15, said, "Since this content is fun, it encourages people to pay attention only to the fun part. Thus, interest does not extend to a deeper examination of history."

Contents too focused on amusement

Because the content focuses too much on entertainment, the same historical events are repetitively used as material. The reason why the same events are repetitively used is that those events can easily be made into something amusing and are already well known to the public. For example, a drama that started broadcasting on SBS in October of 2015 called, "Yukryong-i-narusha (which translates to 'Six Flying Dragons') is based on the early years of the Joseon Dynasty. However, dramas that are based on the same period have already been broadcasted several times, including

“Dae-pung-soo” and “Jeong Do-jeon.” Moreover, there are about four dramas and movies based on the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592, about three works related to “Jang Hee-bin,” and about five works based on reigns of kings from King Jeongjo to King Yeongjo. On the other hand, there are barely any dramas and movies based on the reigns of kings from King Seongjong to King Sejo or the reigns of kings from King Heonjong to King Sunjo. As you can see from all of those examples, the same historical events are used again and again. About this repetitive use of the same material, Choi Hee-soo, a history professor at Sangmyung University, said, “Because contents with entertaining aspects can easily succeed commercially, producers have no choice but to use famous stories.”

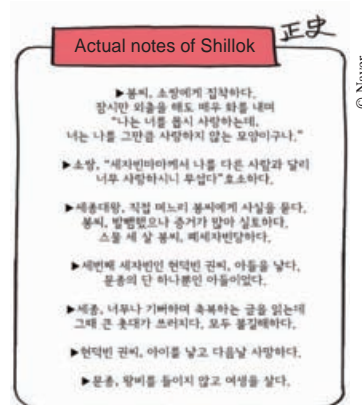
Moreover, there are some who suggest that if all the historical contents in the media are focused on amusement, it might keep people from learning history that is important. On the other hand, there are also some opposing opinions as well. Professor Choi Hee-soo said, “Though it has yet to happen,

I am hopeful that as time goes by producers will consider the parts of history that have gone untouched.”

In addition, if media contents are too focused on entertainment, not historical facts, there is the possibility of distorting history. The most representative example would be “Gihwanghoo,” a drama broadcasted on MBC two years ago. “Gihwanghoo” was very popular with a viewing rating of 28 percent, but was caught up in a controversy for distortion of historical matters. It received harsh criticism that alleged that the drama wrongfully beautified the characters of Gihwanghoo and King Chunghye of the Korean Dynasty.


Lack of separation between “fact” and “fiction”

The most significant characteristic of history-related cultural content is that it should be based on historical facts, but fiction tends to dominate supposedly historical contents. Thus, the producers should consider the public in clearly dividing what is fact from that which is fiction during the production process. However, clarifying such matters is tough for producers, and if the



▲ Webtoon “Joseon-wangjo-shiltok” clarifies fact from fiction.

public cannot clearly understand what the facts are and what are not, it might hinder historical consciousness. Professor Choi Hee-soo also said, “Consumers lack the ability to separate fact from fiction because they have not studied history professionally. Thus, the producers have to perform this task of separating fact from fiction for them. In this way, historical content will develop in a way that does not harm others’ historical consciousness.” One example in which this was done successfully was in “Joseon-wangjo-shiltok,” written by Mujeok-pink. In the final frame of her cartoon, she clarified which parts were facts and which parts were not.

History is a challenging topic not only because historians have different perspectives, but also because it has to deal with so many aspects such as country’s overall politics, economy, diplomacy and social situations. However, even though it is difficult, we are working harder to make history more accessible to the public. These kinds of efforts to raise historical consciousness are another way to make cultural content more mainstream. 

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▲ Three different dramas themes about the early years of the Joseon Dynasty.

Future History Content Producers, All Set and Ready

© Byeon Hee-jin/ The Argus

Han So-young

- Sangmyung University, History Contents major '13
- Leader of the club THOR
- Belongs to the THOR film team

By Byeon Hee-jin

Reporter of Culture Section

There is a saying, "There is no future for those who forget history." As you can tell from all the issues regarding history textbook compilations and the production of various forms of history related cultural content, there has been an increase in people's attention regarding Korean history. In the midst of this, there comes some curiosity as to what those in their twenties who represent the future, are doing in order to increase public historical consciousness. "THOR," a History Contents major's club at Sangmyung University, not only studies history, but also analyzes historical content and even produces its own content. The Argus met the leader of THOR, Han So-young.

The Argus: Nice to meet you. Please introduce yourself and THOR to the Argus readers.

Han So-young (Han): Hello. My name is Han So-young. I am a student majoring in history contents at Sangmyung University. I am also the leader of my club called "THOR." The name THOR is an abbreviation of "Traditional History of Revolution." It was established in 2006. This student group tries to encourage students to analyze history from a new perspective and invent creative material for various forms of content.

The Argus: How are the club activities organized?

Han: THOR is divided into three teams: film, storytelling and publication. Each team is comprised of 12-13 students a team leader and a professor who guides the team. With the leader as the central figure, teammates meet up to study history contents and decide what each team wants to study. Students choose the team they want to join based on their personal interests.

The Argus: What are you creating these days?

Han: We are getting ready for the "29 second Film Festival," which is going to be held this winter. The storytelling team is making a synopsis and the film team is making a film about that. It is very hard to get the attention of an audience in just 29 seconds but we are going to try it and win the vote for the best film. We are entering this event for the first time this year, and so if it succeeds, we are going to make it an annual event.

The Argus: What was the most interesting experience that you have had in this club?

Han: The most memorable and helpful experience was when I made a film about "The Royal Tomb and Jongmyo Shrine." During the production, I learned the process of producing historical contents. In particular, deciding which bits of historical information are most important and removing less important information in the storytelling process was a very interesting challenge.

The Argus: What is the purpose of the content you make during your productions?

Han: Our purpose is to make historical contents that the public can easily approach. Frankly speaking, when talking about history, many people think it is something boring or hard to understand. We want to help people break this kind of misconception about history.

The Argus: What are some of the hardships you have faced during production?

Han: The hardest part when making something has been finding the happy medium between historical fact and entertainment. To talk about it in detail, historical contents cannot attract people's attention if it is approached from the perspective of historical research only, but on the other hand, the content becomes meaningless if the sole purpose becomes entertainment. Thus, balancing these two is the hardest part of producing content, and it is still something I have to work on.

The Argus: Today, there appears to be lots of history-related media such as movies, webtoons and books, and is even becoming something of a cultural trend. What is your opinion about this new cultural dynamic?

Han: It is surely a positive thing that various forms of historically themed media are becoming more popular because people now look to history more readily than in the past. However, one thing I worry about is, as I said before, finding the middle ground between entertainment and historical accuracy. The stance of content producers is that they have no choice but to use engaging material because the popularity of these forms of media directly affects their income. Nevertheless, they have to be aware of the fact that history should be portrayed accurately.

The Argus: What do alumni of your student group do after graduation?

Han: Alumni have found work that utilizes history, such as writing for broadcasting, providing content for historical cultural events, and making sightseeing programs. They say the activities they did in THOR really help in their current occupation in that it served as a foundation for the things they do now.




© Han So-young

▲ THOR film team shoots for their upcoming film.

The Argus: What historical content do you want to work on if you become a producer in the future?

Han: I would also like to utilize my major and become an exhibition manager. If I can do that, I would like to make a history museum for kids. I think historical consciousness forms over a long period of time beginning at an early age. Thus, to help children who are going to become twenty-year-olds in the future approach history without a sense of repulsion, I would like to produce content for young kids.

Historical content is thriving so much that it is becoming a cultural trend. In accordance, club THOR studies history related contents and actually makes its own content as well. We can expect to see better historical content since these students, who are going to be content producers in the future, are actively working on historical content production now and will continue to hone their skills. 

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© Han So-young

▲ THOR meets regularly for their contents study.



© Han So-young

▲ THOR visits a broadcasting studio and gains field experience.



Professors with Other Important Jobs

By Choi Yun

Reporter of Campus Section

Students have managed to finish course registration again at the beginning of this semester, and the add/drop period has already passed. Students cannot alter their class schedule anymore. Are students satisfied with their classes and the professors they have chosen? Are they aware of what kind of professors they are?

Universities in Korea are employing experts in various fields under various different titles including adjunct professor, visiting professor, and honorary professor for the purpose of offering courses through which professors share extensive hands-on experience with students. To match its reputation, HUFS has also invited leading experts in their areas: the director of the Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency's (KOTRA) China Business Department for the Division of Chinese Foreign Affairs and Commerce, reporters from Legacy Media for the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, and an international lawyer for the Department of International Economics and Law, and many others.

What beneficial effects do these professors from specific professions bring to the classroom? Is there any adverse effect? If there is, what could be some possible solutions? To find answers to these questions, The Argus met professor A from another profession and four students who have taken courses from these professors.

The Case of Professor A

The reason why I started teaching at HUFS is to share the experience and knowledge that I gained from working as an English-language reporter with younger students even though I have a separate job at a newspaper. Due to the nature of the class I teach, it is very important to offer students plenty of writing opportunities and to give them immediate feedback. Since I have a lot to do at the newspaper, I have difficulty providing timely feedback. I also could not help but teach with only a few sample writings.

However, the course has the advantage of teaching to write in English by focusing on trends unlike other English courses that use old texts. Also, my course deals with the latest trends in the English journalism industry. Recently two of the students who have taken my course joined the Korea Times, where I am working now, and I heard that some other students of mine joined other English-language or Korean-language newspapers.


Kim Jang-hun, School of English '14

Last semester, I took the course “Listening to English-Language Broadcasts and Writing Articles in English” taught by professor A, who is an editorial writer for the Korea Times, one of the most influential English-language dailies in Korea. It was by far the best class I have ever taken at HUFS. I learned how to write an article in English from a great reporter with more than 20 years of experience in his field. That was a rare opportunity for me, as I am thinking of becoming a journalist in the future. It was also a marvelous opportunity to meet my role-model. I am planning to take one of his courses again.



Lee Mi-yeon, Department of International Economics and Law '14

In the first semester last year, I took the course “International Trade Law” taught by professor B, who is an international lawyer. Thanks to his deep interest in students and his logical, detailed explanations of the law, I was able to learn a lot although the lectures were quite rigorous. It was very interesting to learn about the law through the study of real cases that she and her peers directly experienced. Also, as a lawyer, he carefully guided students on how to analyze cases from the perspectives of lawyers.


Student J, College of English '13

When I was a sophomore, I took the course “Theory and Practice of English Translation” taught by professor C, who was working as a translator. It was one of the most unsatisfying courses I have ever taken at HUFS. He did not seem to have any enthusiasm, interest or concern for his students. He canceled one fourth of his lectures for all sorts of reasons, and he did not provide supplementary lessons. Even when he showed up for the classes, his preparation was poor: he did not prepare for the classes and or did so inadequately. I felt like I did not learn anything from the course. And I was not the only one who thought so. I hope that the school reflects strongly on students’ course evaluations and forces lecturers who got low ratings to improve their attitude or to leave this campus.


Student C, Division of International Studies '15

In the first semester of my freshman year, I took the course “Understanding of Culture” taught by professor D, who is a member of the Cultural Properties Committee. Despite her exceptional teaching ability, the quality of her course was not that good due to the other work she had to do. It seemed that she did not have sufficient time to prepare for her class. The three-hour classes consisted of only one hour of lecture, and the other time was spent on other activities such as student presentations or watching documentary films. Moreover, her course materials were quite poor. It would have been much better if she stopped her other work and focused on her teaching only. However, if she did so, it would have lost its predominant feature of being taught by an acknowledged expert. 

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Crispy Morning Greet Upcoming Freshmen

By Jang Eun-ae
Associate Editor

Many high-school students came to Hufs with their parents in order to have an enrollment interview on Oct. 25. Interviews were conducted in the Humanities Building of Seoul Campus. Some students looked kind of nervous and depressed. On the other hand, others looked quite excited. Parents, however, looked more strained than their kids did. 📷

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과학관



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일반대학원 신입생

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SHARED HOUSE FOR STUDENTS, COMES TRUE



Ahn Hye-lynn

- Task force team leader of the project, "Apartment for Everyone"
- Coordinator in charge of supervising residents' lives of the project
- In charge of a shared house business since 2010
- In charge of a shared house trading site, "HouseAnd"
- Master student of Dept. of Environmental Planning at Seoul National University Graduate School of Environmental Studies

By Lee Jae-won

Reporter of National Section

As a country boy, Seoul National University (SNU) student Jeong Jun-young often had difficulties with housing issues once he came to Seoul. The university dormitory had a limit as to the number of people it could accommodate and it cost too much to cook for himself. These kinds of difficulties are not only limited to Jeong, but can apply to many college students.

Recently, he found a good solution called "Apartment for Everyone." This is a shared housing project that was created by the SNU General Student Council (GSC) and the Great Stone Face Cooperative so that SNU students can have inexpensive apartments in which to live. The Argus met the task force team leader of this housing project, Ahn Hye-lynn to see what insights the project provides on the current housing issue.

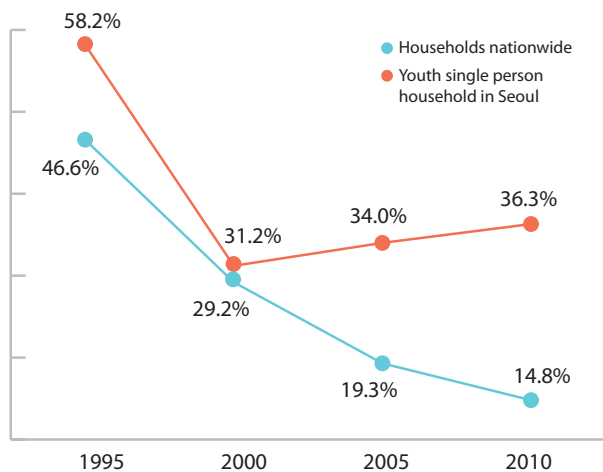
The Argus: Hi, please briefly introduce yourself.

Ahn Hye-lynn (Ahn): Hi, my name is Ahn Hye-lynn. I am a venture business person and a social activist who works to solve the housing problems that are facing young people today. I am now working as a team leader of the housing project "Apartment for Everyone" that was formed by the SNU GSC and the Great Stone Face Cooperative, which consists of alumni of SNU.

The Argus: Could you introduce the project "Apartment for Everyone"?

Ahn: This project, which began this September, was designed to solve the housing problems of college students with shared apartments. The project is only currently serving SNU students. Resident students live together in 40 pyong, which is a land measure of six chuck square, apartments. We make our contracts for a period of one year. Eight female students live in an apartment at Gosichon, and also eight male students live in an apartment at Nakseongdae

<Degree of housing poverty>



© minsaunion

sleep. Through this project, we wanted to remind students of the true meaning of a house - a place where many people live together in one place.

The Argus: How did you begin participating in this project?

Ahn: My family home is in Busan. Since I came to Seoul, I think I have lived in all forms of housing that college students can go through such as a studio, dormitory, rented room, and villa. From that moment, I always felt there are not many suitable places where I could live for an affordable price and thought other students probably had difficulties with this issue like me. Since I studied city planning and real estate housing in college, I did not take my eyes off this housing issue. I have run a shared housing business since 2010 and am now running a site called 'HouseAnd,' which helps people who want to live in shared houses to find houses and housemates. After I became aware of "Apartment for Everyone", I said I wanted to take part in the project to the GSC president, so I decided to participate in it, hoping my experience in the shared housing market would be a small help to the project.

The Argus: What kind of work are you in charge of in this project?

Ahn: The GSC planned this project and the Great Stone Face Cooperative, provided financial help for it. The main agent of this project is the Great Stone Face Cooperative, and the supervision of the resident students is in my hands. So I am now a supervisor of the students' lives in this apartment. I often visit the apartment and see if they are having any difficulties living there and also read about their stories in an online chat room.

The Argus: I heard that this project had been pushed ahead in 2013, but it foundered.

Ahn: I have only participated in this project since the beginning of this year, but I also heard about the past difficulties. In 2013, when the Great Stone Face Cooperative pushed this project ahead, it did not succeed like it is doing now for several reasons. Foremost, no students registered for the 2013 project because of the price being higher than it is now, and the GSC president who played a leading role in this project was just a student at that time while he is now a member of the cooperative. This resulted in a weak connection between the GSC and the cooperative. When this project began again in 2015, the per month rental fee was reduced due to the raising of the ratio of private capital, and the GSC planned and promoted the project wonderfully. Thanks to this, the student responses

Station.

The Argus: Then what is the difference between this apartment as compared to a school dormitory or a studio?

Ahn: The apartment has four rooms, and each room has one or two bunk beds, so it is similar to a general dormitory. However, the GSC provided most necessary items required for living after it conducted a survey of resident students about what they need to live in the apartment. Because of this support, students do not have many difficulties living there. Also, the house requires a 30 million won deposit and 200,000 won a month in rent, which is much cheaper than general studios. I would say the biggest benefit of the apartment is that students can enjoy living in a large apartment for a cheap price.

The Argus: What was the original purpose of this project?

Ahn: This project had two main purposes. First, it was to solve the housing problems of college students. Gwanak District, nearby to where SNU is located, ranks high in the degree of housing poverty of students, which measures how many students live in poor conditions like semi-basements or rooftop homes. To solve this, the GSC decided to help students live in better conditions given the price by providing shared houses. Second, the project was to recover the disappearing community life. These days, students are busy doing many things like doing part-time jobs and experiencing extracurricular activities. Therefore, the meaning of a house is changing into one that simply means that it is just a place for

People

to this project were very positive.

The Argus: I heard many students applied for this project. How did you pick the residents?

Ahn: As I already mentioned, we selected 16 residents from about 40-50 students who applied for this project. Selecting residents has been done by going through a documentation and interview process. During the interviews, what we focused on was determining whether the students were suitable for community life. Since strangers live together in the apartment, we could not help but think about the adaptability to community life as being the most important factor when selecting residents.

The Argus: I am curious about how the residents live in the apartment.

Ahn: Generally, the residents live pretty well. Every week, residents have a meeting to discuss the rules that are needed to live in harmony in the apartment such as cleaning rooms and washing dishes. Also, the apartment living room was turned into a study room for students after removing all the furniture. As they study in the living room, the students say that it became easier for them to concentrate on studying.

The Argus: What kinds of policies or measures by the government do you think are needed to solve the housing problems of college students?

Ahn: Previously, policies and measures applied by the government have lacked effectiveness. I want to use the government's current rent subsidy policy for college students as an example. This current policy applies only to a small number of people and includes few apartment leases. Additionally, even though a lucky student has benefited from this policy, the student is not able to get into a house if the owner rejects the student. Actually, the government also admits that shared houses are the best solutions to solve the current housing problems of college students. What I hope for the government is that it supports the shared housing business through its policies and measures effectively.

The Argus: Did you face any hardships as you



© Ahn Hye-lynn

▲ Resident students and Ahn, second from the right, take a photo together.

proceeded with the project?

Ahn: I work unpaid in this project. Spending my time and energy into this project without earning money is not easy. Also, my main job is to coordinate the different views between resident students and the Great Stone Face Cooperative. This work is actually pretty tough because it is difficult to reach a consensus between the two. Nonetheless, this project is related to my dream and future plan. My goal is to solve youth housing problems and construct a cheap private dormitory for college students. This project brings me a step closer to my future plans, so I am truly enjoying my work.

The Argus: What is next on your agenda?

Ahn: The next matter for my task force team can be summarized as two forms of 'diversity.' The first is the diversity of housing. We are now planning to take this project from being an "Apartment for Everyone" to being a "House for Everyone." This project will seek to replicate itself with other comfortable and cheap forms of housing. We are planning that the new house for this project will be a form of a villa which will allow us to provide spaces at a cheaper price compared to the current market price. Second, we will look at expanding the diversity of residents. If this project continues to success, we are planning to spread this project to students of other universities as well. 📧

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*President of
OOO University*

How Is the University President Elected?

By Lee Jae-won

Reporter of National Section

On Aug. 17, a 54-year-old Pusan National University (PNU) professor committed suicide as a means of protesting the university's decision to abolish the direct election of its president. The incident occurred after the PNU president announced that the system would now be an indirect election system, although previously the university's chief had been selected through a direct vote by its professors. The deceased professor's will statement said, "The existing indirect election system damages the autonomy of the universities and compromises the democratic integrity of universities."

With regards to this statement, what kind of problems does the existing indirect election system face? The Argus, as a campus newspaper, analyzed the problems related to the current indirect election system.

What is the indirect election system?

In an indirect election system, the school president-nominated committee votes to select the candidates eligible to be the new leader. The personnel setup of the committee differs from the school and it might include professors, faculty members, student representatives, alumni, and outsiders. However, the committee at a national university must include more than a quarter of university outsiders according to the law.

After the result of the vote has been disclosed, for national universities, the Ministry of Education recommends one candidate and the President approves it, but for most private universities, its board appoints the next president from among candidates that the committee nominated.

Challenges confronting the indirect system

Ministry of Education's intervention linked with financial support

In 2012, the Ministry of Education released "Plans for Advanced National Universities" mentioning it would decide whether or not the national university would abolish the direct election system which grants those universities five points on the government sponsored enterprise evaluations. In short, universities would lose five points during their evaluations unless they opted to get rid of the direct election system.

Additionally, the ministry decided to incentivize universities that adopt an indirect election system by offering them an increase in the number of professors at those universities. In 2013, the Ministry of Education revealed in a public document sent to national universities that it would cut its support funds or recover the funds from universities if they sustained the direct election system.

Consequently, most national universities have given up the direct election system. On this policy, the ministry disclosed that the purpose of it was related to the problems associated with the direct system such as the overheated atmosphere surrounding elections and the corruption to win the election.

Regarding this ministry's action, however, students and

national universities' professors revealed that the indirect system violates the universities' independence. "If the universities rebel against the ministry, they go under financial pressure which causes most national universities to get difficulties with providing decent education for students," said Noh Joong-ki, a chairman of Korea Professors Union. Like he said, four universities - PNU, Kyungpook National University, Chonnam National University, and Mokpo National University - lost ground significantly in the 2012 government sponsored enterprise evaluations, although they had received high marks just one year prior. The reason was that they opposed this policy and retained their existing election system.

Boards' arbitrary selection of the school president

"The boards of private universities often make a unilateral decision during their election processes," said Park Seung-joon, the chief director of the Korea Association of Private University Professors. In line with this, private universities using an indirect election system have faced the situation in which the board excessively intervenes during the selection of the school president, as can be demonstrated with the following two examples.

At Yonsei University, professors previously voted to determine whether the final candidate that the board has recommended will be chosen as the school president. However, the board announced the "18th School President Appointment Motion," which states that the university will abolish the process of professors' voting on Aug. 16. Regarding this decision, the Committee of Professors said, "Without the voting process, professors will have no opportunity to voice their opinions regarding the election."

Dongguk University has been locked in a fierce controversy over the election of its current president. According to the existing electoral system, the university chooses three final candidates after a vote by the school president-nominated committee. Then the board decides who will be the school president from amongst these three. Last year, the religious foundation of the university forced a powerful candidate to resign voluntarily. As a result, the powerful candidate and



▲ Students of Dongguk University resolve that their president should resign on Sept. 17.



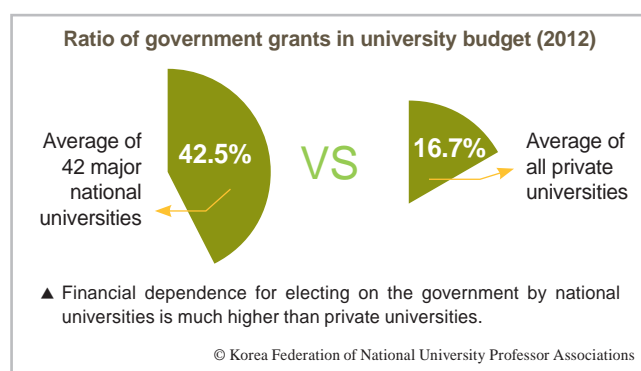
▲ School members of Yonsei University hold a protest to ask for a fair election process for electing the school president on Sept. 12.

another one stepped down voluntarily, but they criticized the foundation for severely interfering in the election process. Therefore, the only remaining candidate became the new school president amidst suspicions that he had plagiarized his thesis.

Why do these situations occur?

Financial structures of national universities reliant on the government

As previously mentioned, most national universities have given up their direct election systems and have chosen to use indirect election systems as a result of financial pressure put on them by the Ministry of Education. Why did most universities give in to the ministry's pressure?



At many national universities, their business model is generously supported by the government because they have few stable sources of income outside of tuition. According to a study conducted in 2012 by the Korea Federation of National University Professor Associations, 42 major national universities are heavily subsidized by the government for an average 42.5 percent of university finance. For that reason, the abolishment of the direct election system is very important to national universities as government sponsored enterprises. “Within the government sponsored enterprise evaluation process, moments of joy and grief alternate on the basis of differences as small as a 0.5 point change. So five points has a considerable impact on the entire score,” said the chief of the professors’ association at Chungnam National University. “National universities had to change to an indirect election system to raise the value of the education they provide,” he added.

Lack of laws that check the excessive power of the board

As seen above, the boards of private universities have too much power in selecting the school president. The biggest reason for this is that no specific laws exist to check the power of the board in and around the school.


The current Private Schools Law, which applies to all private schools, has only one simple article about the selection of a president of a private university which states, “At private universities, its board selects the school president.” Neither limits regarding how the board selects a president nor measures that include school members’ opinions in the board’s decisions are specified in the Private Schools Law.

In addition, it turned out that private schools rarely have a specified article within its regulations that serves as a check on the board’s power according to the Korea Association of Private University Professors. Dongguk University is a prime example of a lack of regulations that can prevent the board from abusing its power. At the university, there are not only no preventive articles but there is also a stipulation that nine figures from its religious foundation must be members of the board, which has a total of thirteen members. According to its professors’ committee, the university is never free from the religious foundation because no school regulations exist for them.

How to improve the situation

Voices at national universities are asking the government to review its policies which place financial pressure on national universities. National university professors are calling for the government to ensure the autonomy of universities by allowing them to decide which election system they want to use. Regarding the negative effects caused by the direct election system, they remark that the government can deal with those issues by using legal measures.

Regarding excessive intervention of the boards, private university professors suggest that the school should increase the participation of school members as a means of preventing the board from abusing its power. What they emphasize is that the Ministry of Education and the schools need to guarantee school members’ participation in the election process. “If the ministry is difficult to reform the Private Schools Law immediately, the schools need to allow for the election process of the president to be based on soliciting school members’ opinions in some manner,” said Park Seung-joon, the chief director of the Korea Association of Private University Professors.

As we have explored in detail, the current indirect election system is not without controversy. The college voting system might seem like an issue limited to some people within a university. However, the election of a school president is one of the most important issues on any campus. We have to think hard about this issue since we are all important school members. 

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A “Charming” Way to Live Life



© Ha Yeon-ju



Ha Yeon-ju

- CEO of Charme
- Previous insurance broker
- Korea's first wedding planner

By Choi Yun

Reporter of Campus Section

The newly-coined term “Hell Chosun” spread rapidly and widely through the Internet. “Hell Chosun” is a metaphor for the Korean society going backwards to the feudal kingdom in the 19th century, Chosun, where ambitions and dreams were crushed and freedom was illusion. The spread of the term “Hell Chosun” suggests that many Koreans, especially younger people, are growing increasingly dissatisfied or disillusioned with the state of Korean society.

In this hellish society, young people cannot just follow their dreams. They have to consider other extraneous factors such as income, stability or social perception. Even if they make decisions reflecting all of those factors, whether they will achieve them is uncertain.

To propose a new direction to HUFSSans who are suffering from the situation, The Argus met with Ha Yeon-ju, an alumnus of HUFS who paved the way for her success.

The Argus: Hello, Ms. Ha. Please briefly introduce yourself.

Ha Yeon-ju (Ha): Hello, everyone. I am Ha Yeon-ju and I am an alumnus of HUFS. I majored in German and graduated from HUFS in 2012. Currently, I am the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the fashion brand, Charme, which means ‘charm’ or ‘something attractive’ in German.



▲ Products of Charme are displayed in a department store.

The Argus: Apparently, you started your own business while you were in college. How did you come to start the business?

Ha: After I entered HUFS, I started working as an English tutor and achieved financial independence from my parents. Working as a tutor did not guarantee a stable income, and because it was not stable, I searched for another job. Through my job search, I happened to identify a problem in the wedding industry. Couples at that time used to do all their studio photos, bridal dress rentals and make up in one place, but the quality of the services was inferior. However, if the three services were provided by different shops, the cost soared. To solve this problem, I visited wedding-related companies where top celebrities went and asked them to offer their services at a lower price on the condition that I attract many customers.

Luckily, the companies accepted my proposal, and I became the first wedding planner in Korea. As clients increased, I took time off from my university studies. At that point, I was thinking of just taking a year off, but it became much longer.

The Argus: We heard that you have had a varied career. What kinds of job experience do you have?

Ha: As I mentioned before, I once was a wedding planner and helped couples to rent high-quality photographic studios and bridal dresses, and to receive make up services at reasonable prices by connecting couples and wedding-related companies. After that, I also worked as an insurance broker and sold insurance.

The Argus: Why did you switch jobs?

Ha: Ironically, the reason why I stopped working as a wedding planner was because I became famous. After giving interviews to national broadcasting stations, many couples tried to contact me. Then other wedding planners showed up one after another and the wedding planning business, which used to be a blue ocean, became a red one. In the competitive wedding planning industry, we could not achieve price competitiveness. That is because we focused mainly on high quality and the concepts suitable for couples rather than low prices. The difficult situation made me doubt about my business. As it happened, one of my acquaintances opened a branch of a big insurance company, and she offered me a job as an insurance broker. In this way, I started working in insurance. Fortunately, I was very successful and was promoted rapidly. I soon earned a six-figure salary. However, after two years of working there, I realized that being an insurance broker was not what I had wanted to do and that I had ruined many relationships

due to the widely-held negative perceptions of the business. I left the company soon after that.

The Argus: Did you face any difficulties in changing fields? How did you overcome them?

Ha: I have never felt that I lacked certain abilities to do things, regardless of field. Even if I sometimes lacked some abilities, I believed that I could acquire the abilities or skills by experiencing and directly learning lessons while working in a certain area. My problems were not with myself; instead, people around me seemed to have difficulties having faith in me. They had doubts and believed that I would be unsuccessful in new fields due to my lack of experience. When I launched Charme, everyone around me said that I would fail. Even after I released my first product, a leather bracelet, they still had no faith in it. However, after many celebrities appeared with my products on their wrists and many other people also started to wear it, the negativity they had was dispersed.

The Argus: What you are doing now does not seem to be related to your major in German. What inspired you to launch Charme?



▲ Charme is featured in a famous fashion magazine.

History of Ha Yeon-ju's career



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▲ A wedding planner is responsible for the clients' wedding as a whole, and Ha Yeon-ju pioneered wedding planning in the case of Korea.

▲ An insurance broker sells and negotiates insurance. As a successful insurance broker, Ha Yeon-ju earned a six-figure salary.

▲ A fashion designer designs clothing and accessories, which is Ha Yeon-ju's current job.

Ha: Since I did not want to study German when I was in high school and I also figured that German language skills would be very unmarketable, I did not have much enthusiasm for my major when I was in college. That is why the things I have done have been unrelated to my major. It was the three-year journey where I traveled after leaving my second job that inspired me to launch Charme. While traveling all around the world, I felt the enormous influence of the Korean wave. People in all parts of the world greeted me with clumsy Korean pronunciations and showed me hospitality simply because I came from Korea. What I realized then was that despite the huge influence of the Korean wave, there was no fashion brand that represented Korea. For example, the United Kingdom is represented by Burberry and France with Louis Vuitton. It was at that point that I decided to develop this kind of fashion brand.

The Argus: What is the goal of Charme?

Ha: The short-term goal of Charme is to grow the brand bigger. We now sell only leather bracelets, but beginning in the upcoming spring, we will start releasing bags as well. After that, we

are planning to extend our product lines to include clothing and will make this brand into a total fashion brand. The ultimate goal of Charme is to be a global fashion brand that represents Korea.

The Argus: What made you come back to school?

Ha: When I came back Korea after traveling the world, I made a bucket list. What I had wanted to achieve the most was to go back to school. So I reentered HUFS in 2011, studied the remaining two semesters and then graduated from school in 2012.

The Argus: Many college students nowadays are very worried about their future. How did you put to rest your worry about the future?

Ha: I know that many young people are now suffering from the unemployment crisis and are very worried about their future. I probably suffered from greater worry than you do now. In the summer of 2012, I did not have any definite future plan. Other students in their early twenties could at least apply for employment, but I couldn't since I was already in my late thirties. I felt like I was thrown into despair. I was at a loss. My way to escape from that despair was believing in myself. I banished my

anxiety about the future and tried to think positively about what I could do.

The Argus: Please give some advice to HUFS students who are anxious about their future.

Ha: I had a lot of friends who left their jobs at major companies after just a few years of working. Doing what you are good at, considering both your aptitude and ability, is very important from my perspective. You must not take a job that you do not like and that you are not good at. Maybe most parents would like their children to get stable jobs such as becoming doctors or government workers. However, the era in which they lived and the era that we are living in now are totally different. Things have changed. Jobs that were considered to be stable are not stable anymore, and even though there are some jobs that are stable now, they are not guaranteed to still be stable after ten years. So what I want to tell you is, "Do whatever you want." When I followed my dream and did whatever I wanted, at least I had no regret at all. 📖

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Is There a “Correct” Historical View?

By Kang Young-joon


Editorial Consultant

The Korean government and the ruling party have agreed to use only one national textbook to teach Korean history in schools. In doing so, seven other history textbooks will need to be eliminated. The reason for creating a national history book is, they assert, to correct the wrong views of history that children may receive from history textbooks with distorted facts. Therefore, the government must designate a national textbook that contains the “correct version” of history so that students will learn the right historical views.

So will this new national textbook work as officials claimed and provide the right views of history to students? And if it is going to work, what are the historical views they are insisting are “right”?

Historical facts in textbooks are selective. There are some valid points, such as that children will learn selective or even incorrect “facts” if the National History Compilation Committee, which is the body that writes the national textbook, makes a mistake and does not correct it when they screen the textbook; they may even intentionally distort historical facts on subjects such as pro-Japanese people or former dictators.

These potential issues can become reality, though. When the committee members compile over 2,000 years of history into a textbook, they have to choose what they are going to include and what they will leave out. This selective process can lead to textbooks being written the way they want them to be, which can include distortions. In contrast, if there are several textbooks, readers can note the differences in textbooks to judge the various retellings of history, and going through this process, other textbooks can be more objective than they used to be. However, at this point, there is no other option, so children will have to learn from one national textbook that might include subjective views of history.

The biggest reason politicians want to make a national textbook seems to be that they want to influence what students think. If this is not the case, why do they not try to improve the textbook screening process to reduce the mistakes or punish the screeners who made the errors? I at least want politicians to fully debate about what the right historical view should be. 

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When Econophoria Is Not Enough



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The term sounds fresh, new: Econophoria. But the idea behind it has been around long enough. This word simply refers to the notion that economic growth is the solution of all society's ills. On Oct. 16, the Korean International Studies Association (KISA) held its annual congress, and the central topic was indeed Econophoria and the effects of this doctrine in East Asia. One of the biggest conclusions was that Econophoria has reached a cult-like status in China, Japan and South Korea, and that it is time for a change.

Nobody can deny that South Korea did a remarkable job of economic development, following a terrible war which almost destroyed the country. After the reforms of the 1970's and 1980's, South Korea changed its economic status, and the nickname "The Miracle of the Han River," became a common term among economists. The success was so fast, so sudden, that South Korea saw the beginning of the 21st century as one of the top economies in the world, with big brands recognized all over the globe. The victory of Econophoria became an example to all developing nations.

However, the situation is far from ideal. The relentless pace of economic development, of corporate expansion, is taking its toll on Korean society as a whole. The highest suicide rate among the countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with 29.1 cases per every 100,000 people (two and a half times OECD average according to 2015 data), is a big and alarming sign.

Other problems are worthy of attention, too. On July 21 of this year, the Ministry of Finance announced that the government will present, by the end of this year, a package of measures to tackle the problem of the low birthrate of the country, one of the lowest in the industrialized



▲ The focus on economic development affects people's lives negatively.

world. The problem, from the Ministry's point of view is that aging population will impact negatively on the quality of labor force.

Nevertheless, this issue can be analyzed from a human development and quality of life side, not just from a labor force point of view. Long working hours and the general hyper competitiveness of South Korean society, that starts at a very young age, are affecting people's lives negatively. Work and study demand long hours, and it seems there is no time for much else. Time for leisure activities is reduced. Marriage and child bearing interfere with a busy work schedule.

Also, new generations of South Koreans are growing increasingly dissatisfied with a society that appears too restrictive for them and where a highly regulated system seems to dictate a complete course of life. And they are starting to use social media to express their malcontent. The Facebook group “Hell Chosun” and the on line forum “Hell Korea” are rapidly gaining popularity, and the picture drawn from the netizen’s comments is a very grim one.

Most of the people complain about tiresome study schedules, the highly competitive job market and the fact that no matter how well prepared a candidate is, big



▲ The Hell Chosun map describes the South Korean society's structure.

companies always want more qualifications, meaning more studies or certifications. A growing vicious circle.

But there is also a growing sense of futility, of hopelessness. Actually, looking at the numbers of South Korea in the World Values Survey database, a cross national survey data center, the question about “freedom of choice and control” of people lives shows a steady decrease over the last 20 years, from 7.53 in 1990 to 6.57 in 2010. Younger South Koreans think that they have less control over their lives, and that they have little to do except keeping the pace or go to another country.

Probably these opinions and concerns seem greatly exaggerated for some people. After all, South Korea is an example and the envy of many other nations, and foreign students and professionals are coming to this country in increasing numbers year after year. The government is also slowly taking action to reduce people's stress and improve overall living conditions. The measures announced by the Ministry of Finance are still to be unveiled, and other governmental branches had expressed concern about human development issues too.

It can be a long road involving not just government action but also some cultural adjustment. After all, a model that has been successful generating wealth for decades has to be adapted and modified.

Is Econophoria the cure to all society's ills? The South Korean experience suggests that it is not. The unstoppable pursuit of economic development has created a new set of problems. Human scale challenges are hard to tackle, but not impossible. The material wealth is not the biggest issue anymore, but to create a society that is able to enjoy and profit from a job well done. It is a deserved reward after many years of effort and hard work. 🇰🇷



▲ South Korea is a big example of rapid economic growth.

Is the “English Zone” Really for Education?

As a reader of The Argus, HUFS’ campus magazine made by HUFSans, I would like to mention a campus issue that the school administration should recognize.

One of the biggest issues on the Global Campus these days is the English Zone and its system. All freshmen are obligated to take at least three English classes in the English Zone in a semester. It seems very educational and helpful to students since our university’s strong point is language. However, behind its educational intentions, students are showing dissatisfaction over the system.

For example, on a typical day, I was heading to the Welfare Building on Global Campus to buy some school supplies when I saw a large group of people waiting in the line for English Zone. To register for the class, regardless of how busy they are, students have to stand in line every time on the exact day.

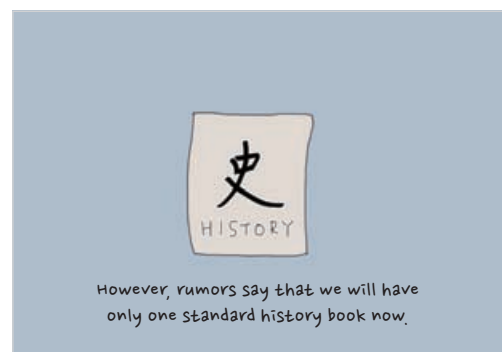
It may seem like the students are very enthusiastic about the system, but this is where the problem begins. There is a new rule that for students who take classes 10 ten to 20 time, they could gain two to six plus points on their language subject. So, most students are eager to take as many classes as they can to get the plus points. This leads to a situation where some students who are just trying to do the least to not fail the class are not able to attend. There should be a solution for this or else the system will only cause grievance among students.

Ahn So-hyeon

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- Share your feedback on the issues by writing to hufsargus@gmail.com.
- Feedback word count is 200 including the title.
- Remuneration will be given; please include your contact information in the e-mail.

High-school Student A’s Thoughts on History



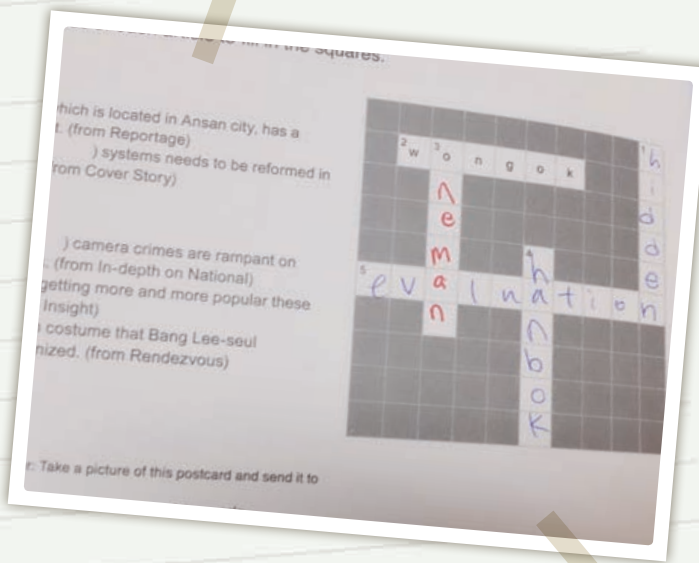
Park Ji-hyun

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Thank you for your answers!

The winner of the
October issue's puzzle is
Ahn So-hyeon!



We look forward to your answers
for this November issue!



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