

The Argus

No. 475 DECEMBER 14, 2015

Since 1954

Behind the Screens

Cover Story

- The Perfect Way to Steal a Screen
- Independent Movie Director Tells His Story

How About You

President's Promises in Compromise

Culture Trip

Ikseon-dong, a Place with Traces of Life



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

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

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Editorial

Marking the End of 2015

“Everything I learned, I learned from the movies,” said the famous movie actress Audrey Hepburn who starred in “Breakfast at Tiffany’s.” Though the actress was commenting from her point of view, it isn’t only actors and actresses who learn from the movies. Films have a lot to deliver to the people who watch them as well, from the implications of the plot to the social background of the story, and many other aspects.

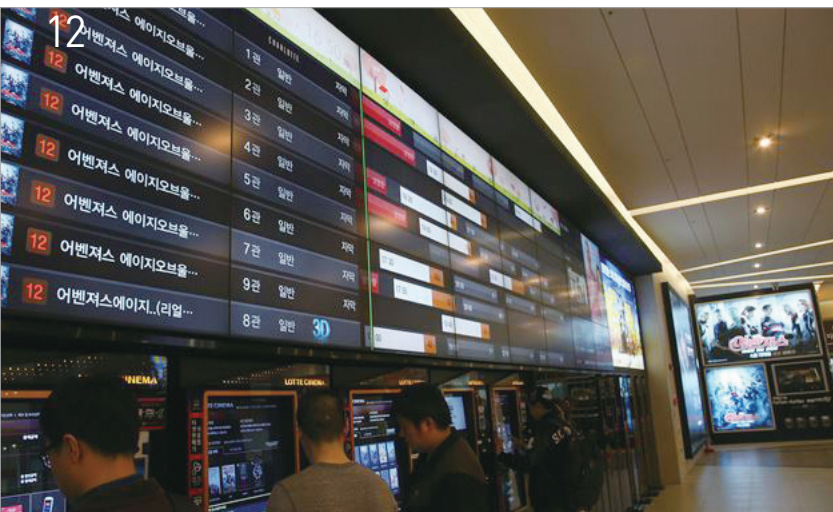
Christmas is coming, and so is the peak season for movies. Many diverse movies, however, seem to be failing to deliver in terms of meaning due to the domination of commercial films within theaters everywhere. The Argus readers will agree, as do people in their 20s, that when going to the theater to watch a movie, the timetables are full of commercial movies featuring comic book heroes and action rather than issues that provoke thought. The Cover Story of this December issue will look into this problem at the theaters and see how it may affect our cultural life.

In the following pages, The Argus reporters share a joyful talk between international HUFSans about their diverse Christmas traditions, and an in-depth report on how HUFs campus safety is ensured by the student patrol. Including holidays, December also marks the second year since HUFs President Kim In-chul took office. Straightforward comments on the leader’s work from both the Seoul and Global campuses’ General Student Council are covered in this issue as well, hoping it will lead the readers to evaluate the previous two years according to their own experiences, too. Taking a step off campus, reporters also went out on the main streets of Seoul to deliver the history of the alleys in the city and met people who are trying to make a difference in the world.

Putting a twist on Audrey Hepburn’s words, I would like to say that, “Everything I learned, I learned from The Argus.” From my freshman year to my senior year, I have met so many people who shared their stories, visited exciting places, and discussed how to develop ideas through numerous meetings, thanks to The Argus. This December issue, which is officially my last issue of The Argus as the editor-in-chief, marks the end of my journey leading The Argus after a year of sailing through the high and sometimes calm waves. I hope the readers have enjoyed the ride as much as I did, and I look forward to my upcoming adventures as well. 



Park Ji-yeon
Editor-in-Chief



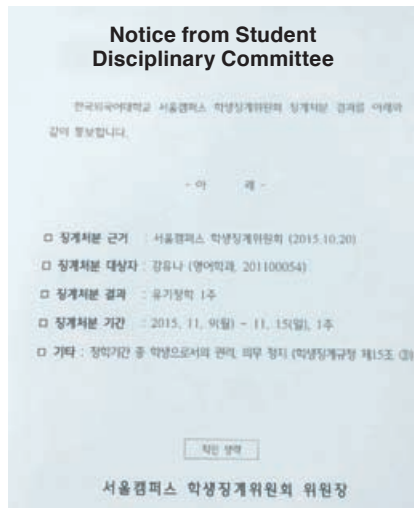
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Cover Story

>> What kind of Korean movies have you watched this year? How many were popular movies? This year, several Korean movies showed huge success. However, behind these successful films, the dark side of the screen oligopoly exists. Looking back on 2015, The Argus looked into how the screen oligopoly has influenced the Korean movie industry this year.

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▲ The official document regarding the disciplinary action is posted on Seoul Campus.



▲ The Seoul GSC clarifies their position on Facebook.

GSC Gets Involved in Controversy

On Oct. 20, the General Student Council (GSC) held its representative conference and discussed the new history textbook published by the government.


During the meeting, one of the representatives who is the delegate of the College of Education made a personal statement about the specific issue. By the time the discussion was over, a student in the General Education Department raised a question about whether such a personal statement was appropriate. However, the GSC did not take proper measures regarding this matter; they set out to figure out who actually leaked the details of the conference, and even used the term "informant." This became the center of controversy.

On Oct. 26, the president and vice president of the GSC acknowledged the fact that there had been an attempt to find out who actually leaked the details from the meeting. On their Facebook page, the GSC posted that they would

resign from their positions as the president and vice president, if asked to.

Even though the GSC made their position clear, it is apparent that uproar over the inappropriate actions they took is not going to blow over soon.

However, although it is stated clearly in the whistle blowing of Oct. 26, the GSC has changed their position not to excuse themselves. The vice president of the GSC said, "The statement in which we said we were going to resign was quite misleading. We surely will follow what was written on the post, but we did not mean to resign from the positions for real."

Two representatives of the school council were suspended for a week, and the commissioner of the council is also under probation. Additionally, more than eight students engaged in the whistle blowing are under probation as well. 

Talk Concert Advises HUFsians on their Future




▲ Speaker Oh Hyeon-ho gives a lecture in the talk concert "Introduction to Youth Life."

A talk concert, "Introduction to Youth Life," was held in Obama Hall on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. to encourage students by advising them on their problems.

The talk concert was held with two speakers' lectures and 100 Q&A's. Each lecture was named '1st period,' '2nd period,' and '3rd period' as it took place at the university. The first speaker was Oh Hyeon-ho, a private pilot, and Jang Jeong-hun, former CEO of Johnson & Johnson Korea, was the next speaker. They shared about their life experiences that were full of challenges. Also, they strongly advised students not to underestimate their abilities and to challenge themselves to strive for everything they want to do. Comedian Kim Suk acted as the host, and girl singer group EXID came to give a congratulatory performance after the lectures.

However, due to poor promotion, many students did not know about the existence of the talk concert and showed low participation.


Various audience members from freshmen to student job seekers, came to hear speakers' real-life success stories and ask them for advice.

The talk concert was co-sponsored by Chosun News Press and HUFs. 

HUFSans Share Ideas on Campus Improvement

HUFS held the final competition of the speech and presentation contest called “HUFS Talk” on how to improve students’ satisfaction on campus on Nov. 26 at Minerva Complex.

Around 30 HUFSans took part in this competition, which was divided into two categories: individual speeches and team presentations.

Ondo Boris, who is in the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy, received the grand prize for his speech, and team EXAMA was awarded the top prize for their presentation. They were granted 500,000 won and 300,000 won respectively. 




▲ Students share diverse ideas on how to improve HUFS.

HUFS Alumnus Gives Dept. of English Scholarship

A graduate named Park Sang-woo from the English Department donated one million won for his juniors, which is a big burden for a graduate who just graduated last year.


Having been a diligent student, he managed to receive a scholarship for six semesters. However, when he was told about a classmate who worked seven days a week to pay for his tuition, he asked himself if he was receiving the scholarship which was intended to support students in need.

To give back what he received during his time in university, he donated one million won, which includes money he earned as well as money his father had saved for his tuition fees that were covered by his scholarships. He showed his appreciation for what he received by donating the scholarship in his father's name. 

GSC Inaugurates National Election Commission

The General Student Council (GSC) of both the Seoul and Global Campus organized a National Election Commission at the beginning of November.


The National Election Commission was notified ten days before the registration deadline for electoral candidates. The main purpose of the inauguration was to manage the election so that it was run fairly and democratically.

The election for the next president and vice president of the GSC was conducted by the National Election Commission, which took over control to ensure the elections are fair and square. Even with the bitterly controversial events that happened last month, students say the GSC should retain transparency and stability of its operations. 

HUFS Holds Humanities Debate Competition

HUFS held a debate competition over issues regarding the humanities every week from Nov. 2 to Dec. 2 on both campuses to raise interest in the humanities among students.


The HUFS president hosted this competition, which was conducted in the formation of a tournament. Communicating with one another and improving logical and critical thinking ability along with debate skills were the aims for these rallies.

The winning team from the competition was granted 700,000 won, the second place team got 300,000 won, and 100,000 won was given for the best speech. Also, all participants were granted certificates of award bearing the presidential seal. 

Dept. of Arabic Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Department of Arabic celebrated its 50th anniversary on Nov. 5 with many events.

The ceremony focused on the department's growth over 50 years. When they established the department, they did not have any textbooks to use while now they have reached the maximum number of freshman at 180 students. Despite its tough start, the department progressed in time with the growing needs for the Arabic language.

The Department of Arabic also held an Arabic history exhibition from Nov. 5 to 20. 



©Department of Arabic




▲ Students perform traditional stages and nanta to celebrate the department's anniversary.

Plans for HUFS Songdo Campus Uncertain

HUFS does not have any specific plans for building a Songdo Campus yet, according to the HUFS Strategy Planning Team.


The establishment of a HUFS Songdo Campus was first mentioned by former President Park Chul in 2007 as one of his plans. Its purpose was to construct a specialized international complex including an Interpretation and Translation Center, an International Business Center, and a Korean Cultural Education Center.

However, there is no construction or any plan in progress at present. A land contract for building a Songdo Campus has not even been properly solidified between HUFS and Incheon Metropolitan City yet. 

HUFS Appoints Michael Honda Honorary Professor

On Oct. 8, HUFS appointed U.S. congressman Michael Makoto Honda as an honorary professor of Diplomatic Studies.

The president of HUFS said that he made such a decision given that he has worked hard for Korea in several areas. Michael Honda has tried his best to figure out the truth about the Korean history and also struggled to rectify what is known to be true, but is in fact false.

Michael Honda is partially responsible for the passing of almost 55 amendments covering the controversial matters of comfort women during World War II. 

Minister of Unification Gives Speech about Unification




©Park Se-in

▲ The Minister of Unification gives a passionate speech to HUFSSans.

The Graduate School of Politics, Government, and Communication invited the Minister of Unification, Hong Yong-pyo, to host a special lecture about reunification.

It was held from 5 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 10 in the International Conference Room of the Minerva Complex. The minister gave a lecture about the changing situation on the Korean peninsula and North-South relations.

The minister started the lecture with the current state of the relationship between North and South Korea. He talked about how the government is preparing for reunification and emphasized the trust-building process as a way that can lead us to reunification. He asked HUFSSans to be positive in regards to reunification, not to consider other negative effects and to dream of a bright future. He said, "The government is the one who has to consider the negative effects of reunification, such as economical problems."

It was a part of an event which the Graduate School of Politics, Government, and Communication implements every semester to motivate students and raise research power. 

News Briefing

By Park Ji-yeon
Editor-in-Chief
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Gold or Dirt Spoon

People in their 20s and 30s are referring to their pessimistic situations using expressions of “Gold, Silver, Copper, and Dirt Spoon.” Gold spoon means those with rich parents, while dirt spoon is for those born into a poor family. The “spoon class” is sardonic about how one’s social success depends on his or her parent’s wealth and status. The expression is said to be from the saying “born with a silver spoon in your mouth.”



“No-Show” Rate



The rate of people not showing up after making reservations is still

high, according to Chosun Ilbo’s recent survey. The average no-show percentage reached 15 percent for services including restaurants, hospitals, and beauty parlors. The rate is three times higher than that of North America and Europe. Storeowners are reported to have trouble finding who the “real” customers are due to many broken reservations.

Re-released Movies



Blockbuster movies from more than ten years ago are screening in theaters again from November, attracting large audiences again. “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind,” which was screened in 2004, is the most popular re-released film, with its strength in its romance story, according to critics. Such movies also played a role by warming up the off-season of the theater industry.


I.SEOUL.U?



Seoul’s new brand was designated as “I.SEOUL.U” around a month ago, meant to imply that Seoul is between you and me and that the city connects people.

However, many people have criticized the new slogan. Unlike the intention, with the absence of a clear image of Seoul, experts say the new branding only causes confusion on what it intends to convey to visitors and citizens.

“Piecemeal Third World War”

Pope Francis warned that the Paris attacks on Nov. 13 were a part of a disorganized World War III. The series of bombings in Paris took more than 130 civilians’ lives and wounded many more, marking a great loss of people and leaving the international community in shock and fear. 





A DAY with HUFS Care Patrol

By Jang Eun-ae
Associate Editor

Since September, HUFS has been operating the HUFS Care Patrol along with the HUFS Police on the Seoul and Global Campuses separately, trying to prevent safety accidents and improve the academic atmosphere of the campuses. These police patrol the campuses and their surroundings from 7 to 11 p.m. when people are the most vulnerable to crime. Thus, students often witness the police on and off campus. However, they really do not know what the police do or how they patrol the campus. Therefore, The Argus decided to get in-depth coverage of the HUFS Care Patrol for a day.

What is the HUFS Care Patrol and the purpose of its establishment?

The HUFS Care Patrol was established in September to relieve the anxiety regarding public security and to prevent incidents at the school as well as to protect facilities which are located on campus.

The patrols are comprised of 24 HUFSSans of whom there are in 22 men and two women who are ROTC. They are divided into two teams, Team A and B, and work every other day for two hours. As compensation for their work, they

receive a scholarship of one million won after the fall semester.

The HUFS Care Patrol had been conducted in 2002 but was abolished shortly after due to the lack of applicants and subsidies. The reason for the resumption of the HUFS Care Patrol in this semester is that it was an opportune time for its re-establishment based on a convergence of the needs of the students, school authorities, and Dongdaemun police officers.

Starting point: Imun-dong police substation

Patrol officers congregate in front of the Imun-dong police substation. They are divided into Team A and B, in order to increase patrol efficiency. Team A should arrive at 6:50 p.m., and Team B has to arrive at 8:50 p.m., roughly ten minutes before their patrols begin.

They start a daily record of their work and then put on vests, emblazoned with “The HUFS Care

Patrol.” Afterwards, they each collect a reflective bat and a walkie-talkie used when a team asks for support. They are then able to begin a patrol in earnest with one police officer from the Imun-dong police substation.

First patrol area: Alley of the back gate

They first patrol the back alleys where Heroes Cafe and Yeong-sin Villa are located. These alleys have the highest exposure to crime because the houses have been densely built and these streets are very dark and narrow. In the past, a murder was committed near this alley. Thus, a police officer on the active list accompanies the patrol, to ensure the



▲ HUFS Care Patrol catches an adolescent trying to smoke on campus.

safety of the patrol. Residents living in the alley give thanks to the patrol for improving the atmosphere of safety.

The patrol can check the alleys since they are all connected to each other, starting at the back alleys near Yeong-sin Villa, the restaurant CIBO and the alley near the back gate of Kyung Hee University. Afterwards, they come onto the campus, passing behind the dormitory.

Second patrol area: Vulnerable areas on Seoul Campus

The most vulnerable areas to crime around Seoul Campus are behind the Graduate School, an area containing a bus garage and the back of a playground; the thicket behind the library; cafe Grazie behind the Humanities Building; the smoking area and Minerva Complex; and the underground parking lot.

All of these locations are hiding places between big buildings, so it makes them dark and concealed places. Therefore, crimes on campus can be prevented as long as the patrol checks on the areas, according



▲ HUFS Care Patrol starts patrol with a police officer.

to HUFS Care Patrol. Also, the patrol officers are a good help in increasing the security of the campus by creating a sound atmosphere and catching minors who are drinking or smoking on campus, the patrol added. Kim Do-yeong from the Department of International Economics and Law '15, said, "I could feel that the security of the campus is improving when the access of outsiders is decreasing thanks to the HUFS Care Patrol these days."

The Argus witnessed five middle school students who tried to smoke behind the Graduate School while covering this case. The patrol waited until the students lit cigarettes and arrested them at the moment that they lit up. In addition to this, after an hour, The Argus also came upon a drunken man who was sleeping on a bench that was located around the library. The patrol talked to him, checked his condition and notified him that he should not sleep on campus.

Third patrol area: Alley by the front gate

The patrol usually watches the back alleys located between Baskin

Robbins and the Chinese restaurant Hong Kong Ban-jeom by the front gate. They also patrol the alley between the restaurants Imun Si-jang and Donenu. The area they patrol stretches from around the front gate to the railroad at HUFS station because another patrol team, which consists of Imun-dong residents, takes over and thoroughly patrols Imun-dong. Coverage around the back gate goes up to the restaurant COZY that is located on the way to Korea National University of Arts.

Ending point: Back at the Imun-dong police substation

When working time is over, they finish writing up their daily records at the Imun-dong police substation regarding significant events or the number of incidents encountered while patrolling outside and inside the campus for two hours.


The Argus briefly interviewed Ku Hyo-bon, who is the head of the HUFS Care Patrol. He is a student in the Department of French Education '11 and applied to the patrol to make the campus safer and more pleasant.

The Argus asked him whether the patrol received any safety education. He said, "We received education from a booklet related to the laws that we need to pay attention to from the Dongdaemun police station to become better patrol officers before



▲ HUFS Care Patrol wakes up a drunken man sleeping on a school bench.

beginning patrol." He added, "For example, when we arrest underage students, we should not use physical violence or explicit language with them because they are underage, while we are adults." Another question was whether there have been any unforeseen occurrences during patrol, and his reply was, "So far, we have had no accidents."

The Argus followed the HUFS Care Patrol for one day and observed the role of the patrol and the level of safety demonstrated by the Seoul Campus security. Shin Myeong-seong, Department of International Economics and Law '14, said, "Actually, when I saw the HUFS Care Patrol, it looked like they were just walking around, talking with each other." He added, "So, I do not think that there is improvement about the level of safety on campus." In this way, negative opinions do exist, so HUFS has to make more effort to continuously work on improving the atmosphere for students. 

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▲ HUFS Care Patrol poses in front of the Imun-dong police substation before they patrol.

How Did Your Freshman Year Go?

This year was the sophomore, junior, or senior year for most HUFSSans, but it was also the freshman year for a large group of students. As freshmen, everyone had a preconceived notion of the campus life that they would experience. Now that a year has passed, some may have achieved their goals, while others may be experiencing hardships. The Argus questioned four freshmen who are becoming sophomores in several months about their first year of college life and how their dreams were reached or changed.



Park Seok-jun, Dept. of Russian, '15

When I was in high school, I wanted to do several things with an undefined sense of reality. I thought about just traveling somewhere alone, for example, or making foreign friends, and so on. But after entering university and experiencing reality as a young person, I became involuntarily depressed. I am trying to get over these dark thoughts by giving shape to plans that are more practical and definite. To do so, I am planning a trip to Europe this winter.



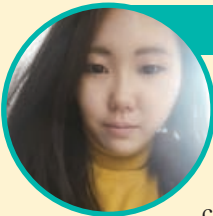
Kim Rosa, Dept. of Russian Studies, '15

My dream was to be a teacher, so I wanted to go to a university of education. However, my College Scholastic Ability Test score was lower than I had expected. Even though I did not make it to the university I wished to, I applied to HUFS where language education is its biggest strength. After I got in, I liked the scholastic atmosphere and the Russian language, which is my major. By learning more about my major, I changed my dream and now I want to work in a company where I can use the Russian language. I will develop my language skills to achieve my goal.



Han Hyo-jeong, Dept. of International Finance, '15

Before I entered HUFS, my goal was to have a standard and stable job such as a tax accountant or customs broker after I graduated. However, as I met many people and had diverse experiences after enrolling, I made up my mind to be more adventurous by participating in more varied experiences. In the future, I will resolutely experience many things and find my goal in life.



Kim Ji-yeon, Division of Language and Trade, '15

I had no dreams before I came to this university. I was just a normal student who had an interest in animation and math. However, since entering my major of Language and Trade, my dream is to become a content trade expert. My major studies helped me a lot to establish my dream. As I started to study about trade and its global cases, I noticed that Korea has high quality and competitive animation content and thought that they have considerable potential. Now my goal is to disseminate Korean content to the world. 🇰🇷

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

President's Promises in Compromise



©imujet.com

By Choi Yun

Reporter of Campus Section

It has been two years since Kim In-chul was elected as the 10th Hufs President. His four-year term is almost half spent. How much has President Kim achieved during his term during the two years? What is left of his pledges? To find the answer, The Argus interviewed the Seoul and Global Campus' General Student Council (GSC), the organizations that represent Hufsans, to find out the progress made on his pledges in detail. The Argus listened to their opinions as to how well the Hufs President has been dealing with his promises.

<President Kim In-chul's pledges>

Pledges for Seoul Campus	Pledges for Global Campus	Pledges for Professors
Expansion of school territory by purchasing land or buildings around the campus: From Heogi Station to Korea National University of Arts	Remodeling of Humanities & Economics & Business Building, Language & Literature Building, Natural Science Building, Engineering Building until the end of 2015	Pay raise of ten million won on average until the end of 2014 and of 20 million won on average until the end of 2017
Extending University Library and connecting it with Law School Building and Minerva Complex through underground pass	Construction of third dormitory that admits 200 students and remodeling of existing dormitory for male students	Construction of Faculty Building with 50 apartment units on Global Campus
Construction of second dormitory that admits 662 students and Business Building with a 12-story structure on the site of Woori Bank	Purchase of six shuttle buses and more than 20 large-sized buses that run all day, passing through Jukjeon-dong, Jeongja-dong, Seohyon-dong and major transportation points	20 percent increase of faculty supplement ratio

The GSC of Seoul Campus

How well has President Kim been putting his promises into action?

Taking over the Woori Bank building shows that President Kim is achieving results in terms of his land purchase plan, and we think he made the right decision to use the building as an alumni association as other major universities in Korea have done. The commencement of the fundraising campaign for a smart library also suggests that President Kim has been making efforts to build a second library. However, the efforts have not led to tangible results due to the deep-seated budget problems of our school, which is also the reason why his third promise, the construction of a second dormitory and the Business Building, have not been kept yet. To successfully fulfill his promises within the two years left in his term, he should spend the budget wisely and focus on accomplishing the pledges left behind.

General evaluation of President Kim's two years


When looking back over the two years of President Kim's two years of work, it seems he has far cleaner hands when compared to ex-president Park, but there are still some issues in question. The first issue is that the majority of his policies are aimed at professors. The pay raise for professors earlier this year is a key example of how he seems to consider professors' interests more than those of other school members like students, alumni and school personnel. Another issue is that HUFSSans can occasionally feel how President Kim sometimes puts his priorities on the ratings of the Ministry of Education and the press. Though it is difficult to evaluate HUFS in a manner similar to other universities, students have felt that some of the changes hold the potential of diminishing our school's own values. We hope that in the coming two years, President Kim will take a step further in representing every group's interests and retain the school's values.

The GSC of Global Campus

How well has President Kim been putting his promises into action?

Generally, we feel he has made efforts to keep his promises. Even though there was a delay, the school started remodeling the Language & Literature Building this summer and is going to expand the work on the Humanities & Economics & Business Building this winter. And he also tried to keep his other promise to rearrange the shuttle bus schedule considering demands, and he achieved results in reducing commute times, but this improvement cannot be felt during all hours of the day. The third pledge regarding the construction of the third dormitory has been put off due to budget problems.

General evaluation of President Kim's two years

The Global Campus falls behind the Seoul Campus in terms of facilities and development strategies. As we said above, we can see proof of President Kim's efforts to improve the Global Campus' facilities, and we are seeing changes more than ever before. However, to be a school that students are proud of and a school where students can realize their dreams, the Global Campus should be improved not only in terms of facilities, but also in terms of development strategies. The outcome of the president's two years of work hopefully will lead to accomplishing his agenda in his two remaining years. 

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<Seoul Campus>



<Global Campus>





The Perfect Way to Steal a Screen

By Lee Jae-won

Reporter of National Section

In 2015, Korean movies were very successful. At the beginning of this year, “Ode to My Father” recorded 13 million viewers, and “Assassination” and “Veteran” also lured more than ten million moviegoers during the summer session. In addition, the independent movie “My Love, Don’t Cross That River” became the highest-grossing film in the history of independent movies. However, these movies received criticism in that their success came from the screen oligopoly of the big companies, causing a gap between movies. During this period that many people said was the best time for Korean movies, The Argus examined how the screen oligopoly of major companies recently has increased the polarization of the Korean movie world.



"Miss Granny"



"Ode to My Father"



"The Con Artists"

▲ The above three movies, released through big companies, hit the box office.

How does polarization occur?

Discrimination of commercial movies from small film distributors

There are three major multiplexes in Korea: CGV, Lotte Cinema and MegaBox. According to the Fair Trade Commission, these big multiplexes are suspected of giving preference to movies that they distribute, while they treat movies from small film distributors with discrimination. The following examples are about how multiplexes show two-faced attitudes to certain movies depending on whether the movies are from their own distributors.

"Miss Granny" was distributed through CGV's affiliate. When this movie was released on Jan. 22, 2014, its market share of number of screenings with CGV was 21.4 percent, which was higher compared to Lotte Cinema with 18.6 percent and MegaBox with 16.8 percent. After that time, this movie's market share moved slightly from 20 percent to 10 percent, and it finally drew more than eight million viewers by March 29, when its market share dropped to zero percent. In contrast, "Shoot Me in the Heart" from a small distributor named Little Big Pictures, faced a completely different situation with CGV. On its premiere on Jan. 28, 2015, it recorded 14.7 percent of the market share of number of screening at CGV. However, after one week, its

share with CGV remarkably reduced to 3.8 percent.

Another movie, "The Perfect Way to Steal a Dog," that Little Big Pictures distributed, also suffered from the discrimination of multiplexes. This movie, based on a novel with the same name by Barbara O'Connor, received favorable reviews from both the audience and movie critics. However, people had difficulties in watching this movie because it was only allotted about 200 screens across the nation. "This movie was so heart-warming that many children, including mine, and parents also wanted to watch it. I do not understand why people cannot easily watch this movie," said a viewer. Conversely, two movies that were released during the same period as this film, "Ode to My Father" from CGV's affiliate and "The

Con Artists" from Lotte Cinema's affiliate, monopolized a large number of theaters nationally, about 900 for the former and roughly 500 for the latter.

Big companies' heavy influence on independent movies

As previously discussed, commercial movies from small distributors face difficulty in finding screens because major multiplexes linked with large companies discriminate against certain movies. Unfortunately, it is inevitable for independent movies to be significantly influenced by big businesses.

The independent movie, "My Love, Don't Cross That River," was released through its distributor, CGV-affiliated CGV Art House, which is focused on independent and art movies. Thanks to this sponsorship, the film held 97 screens nationally in CGV theaters, 46 in Lotte Cinemas, and 32 in MegaBox on its release date. In stark contrast, for another independent film, "Thuy," which was released on the same date as "My Love, Don't Cross That River," CGV and Lotte Cinema only assigned three screens and two screens respectively and MegaBox offered no screens. On the release date of the two films, "My Love, Don't Cross That River" was played 360 times, but "Thuy" was shown only four times. In addition, these four screening times were in the morning, when people rarely go to

<Independent movies' number of screens on release date>

Movie	Release date	Distributor	Number of screens(Number of screening)		
			CGV	Lotte Cinema	MegaBox
Set Me Free	11/13	CJ	40(122)	9(27)	15(38)
Mot	11/20	Sitamountain Pictures	9(14)	5(8)	0(0)
My Love, Don't Cross That River	11/27	CGV Art House	97(360)	46(64)	32(36)
Thuy	11/27	Indieplug	3(4)	2(4)	0(0)

▲ Independent movies from big distributors, colored in red, take a large number of screens compared to ones from small distributors, colored in blue.

watch movies.

Although “My Love, Don’t Cross That River” and “Thuy” both received favorable reviews, the difference between the two was clear. The former was distributed through a big company’s affiliate, while the latter was not. Regarding this situation, culture critic Kim Seong-su said, “Independent movies that big companies select enjoy popularity and make huge profits, while unselected movies feel a sense of relative deprivation.”

What makes this situation possible?

Vertical integration of big companies

How is it possible for movies linked with big companies to occupy a greater number of screens than others? The secret

is that big companies combine the distribution, investment, production, and screening of movies. For example, big companies such as CJ and Lotte have entertainment companies in charge of investment and distribution; CJ Entertainment and Lotte Entertainment. Furthermore, they both have their own nationwide multiplexes; CGV and Lotte Cinema. According to a report in 2014 about the Korean film industry, the national number of the three major multiplexes; CGV, Lotte Cinema and MegaBox, account for 92 percent of the entire national theater count. By using the integral structure and abusing their dominant position in the theater market, big companies are able to receive benefits from the movies that they distribute and discriminate against others.

What do film experts think about the screen oligopoly?


... CGV official

The U.S. has more than 40,000 screens nationally. However, the national screen number of South Korea is no more than 2,500. About 1,000 movies were released in 2014, and of those, 230 were Korean movies. It is difficult to screen all the released films because there are too many films as compared to the number of screens. CGV holds a cinema preview with a focus group to decide how many screens it will assign to certain movies after considering their feedback from the focus group. As for “The Perfect Way to Steal a Dog,” CGV assigned 40 to 50 screens to this movie in accordance with its low expected final number of viewers because of its poor promotion.

... Um Yong-hoon, producer of “The Perfect Way to Steal a Dog”

The current screen oligopoly in Korea is derived from the vertical integration of big companies. The United States was also encumbered by this vertical integration issue. The U.S. started to severely regulate this integration when they passed the Paramount Law, which ruled that the vertical integration of major movie companies was illegal. In many countries including the U.S., the government and the movie industry itself strive to prevent the negative effects of the screen oligopoly in the multiplex system. However, without specific regulations, the oligopoly in South Korea not only threatens the opportunity of viewers to watch the movies that they want but also violates the diversity of movies. The screen oligopoly, in which quantity of supply creates demand, is certainly a dark shadow of the Korean movie industry.

... Lee Dong-yeon, professor at Korea National University of Arts’ School of Film, TV & Multimedia

The reason for the big companies’ screen oligopoly is that they want to quickly receive benefits from their movies using multiplexes. As a solution, we need to adopt a variable proportion system like the U.S. In this solution, the proportion means a ratio as to how a theater and film producer/distributor split the profits. Currently, within the Seoul area, the Korean movie industry adopts a fixed system that requires the theater and film producer/distributor to share the revenue in the proportion of 5.5 to 4.5. However, the U.S. uses a variable system that changes the proportion over time. For example, if a theater takes two and the producer/distributor takes eight during the first week of a release, then the theater receives more revenue over time. To accomplish this, theaters try to screen movies as long as possible rather than assigning many screens during the first week when the proportion is low. As a result, viewers can watch the movies they want even if time has passed since the release date. Also, it is possible to ensure a minimum amount of revenue for producer/distributor companies. 

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Independent Movie Director Tells His Story



By Lee Jae-won
Reporter of National Section

On Nov. 27, 2014, an independent movie “Thuy” was released by a small distributor. Despite acclaim from reviewers, it disappeared from theaters after only a few screenings among movies from big distributors. It is never easy to make an independent movie in competition with big companies that monopolize investments, distributions, and screenings. The Argus met the director of the movie “Thuy,” Kim Jae-han, to hear his story about how he overcame difficulties in the current movie industry while he makes independent movies.

The Argus: Could you briefly introduce yourself?

Kim Jae-han (Kim): Hi, I am movie director, Kim Jae-han. I made my debut with a low-budget movie, “Quiet Family,” in 2009. After my second film, “Thuy” in 2014, I have been preparing to make a new movie, “Oh Jang Goon’s Toenail.”



◀ “Thuy” is an independent movie.

The Argus: What is “Thuy” about?

Kim: Thuy, a Vietnamese national, marries a Korean man from a small village. One day, she is informed that her husband has died in an accident. As she starts probing into the details of his death, she is faced with discrimination and people stereotyping her as an immigrant wife. To distinguish this movie from other movies dealing with

immigrant wives, I created a story in which a woman probes into her husband’s death to create an atmosphere of suspense.

The Argus: I heard this movie received a lot of support in Gyeongnam province where you live.

Kim: Yes, I live in Changwon, Gyeongnam province. Changwon has few theaters and it is rare to make movies in this district. As I planned to make this movie, many people around me were curious about it. Therefore, the governor of the province became aware of the fact that I was planning to make a movie as talk of the movie had gone viral in Gyeongnam. At that time, I did not have the money to make the movie, but with the governor’s help, Gyeongnam Bank invested 100 million won into making the movie. Additionally, we lacked personnel, so I recruited Gyeongnam locals to work for us although they lacked training. I put every Gyeongnam locals in the film’s ending credits, which was 4 minutes and 50 seconds long. I call this “The miracle of 4 minutes and 50 seconds.”

The Argus: Did you face any difficulties while making the movie?

Kim: First and foremost, I was very pressed for time in making this movie. Since this is an independent movie, I had to shoot about seven to eight scenes per day. Additionally, we were delayed during filming due to untrained staff members. From a financial perspective, production cost increases were necessary as I shot scenes and the movie went through its editing process. Luckily, I was able to secure these additional funds thanks to a project called “The Busan International Film Festival Asia Fund,” which provides promising young directors with financial help in making movies.



▲ Kim shoots his film, “Thuy.”

The Argus: I heard this movie had few screenings at the time of its release.

Kim: Before its release, I worried about whether or not I should release this movie. However, I decided to release the film because I thought there is an obvious difference between a director who releases a film and one who does not. Actually, I wanted to meet many audience members through the screening of this movie. At its premiere, CGV nationally assigned three screens to this movie and played it four times. However, all of those four times were in the morning, so it was not easy for people to watch my film. Accordingly, “Thuy” disappeared from the theater quickly in comparison to other movies from big companies.

The Argus: How do you view the current state of independent movie making?

Kim: Currently, big companies control everything: investment, production, distribution, and screening, like CJ and Lotte, and heavily influence the world of independent movies. Frankly, it is impossible for a movie to succeed without the big companies’ distribution chain. For example, “My Love, Don’t

Cross That River” hit the box office because it was released through CGV Art House, which is affiliated with CJ. However, independent movie producers lament this reality while not actively voicing their concerns. They are critical of the reality that a small number of independent films distributed by big companies are monopolizing profits, but they also want their movies to become successful movies.


The Argus: What do you think is the solution to this problem?

Kim: I think government regulation can serve as a solution to this problem. The government’s existing policy, which encourages big distributors to help small distributors, is ineffective. The main goal of big distributors is to make money, so I doubt it is possible for big companies to pursue something other than profits. Instead, I hope the government will prohibit big companies from controlling the entire process of making and screening movies, along with regulations that can keep certain movies from being shown on an excessively large number of screens. Hence, films from small companies could get the opportunity to be screened.

The Argus: How are you preparing your new movie?

Kim: My new movie titled “Oh Jang Goon’s Toenail” is about events that happen as the character Oh Jang Goon becomes a double agent. I am seeking to get production costs for this movie through a crowd-funding project in which laypeople invest money in making movies. My plan is to secure 100 million won by receiving a 100,000 won per investor. I also name every investor “Oh Jang Goon’s Toenail’s Sale Staff” to signify that we are all equally participating in the film making process. As of right now, about 400 people have invested money in this project. In addition to the financial side of things, I expect that a high public relations effect from the staff involved will spread word of this movie to other people before its release.

The Argus: How would you like the current Korean movie industry to change?

Kim: Korean movies are good enough to compete with other movies in the world. However, more diversity should be guaranteed. Recently, if one concept or one genre gets popular, numerous moviemakers often follow that trend. I expect the Korean movie world to change into one in which diverse movies can coexist at the same time. I hope as a director to be a voice amidst the diversity of the Korean movie world. 

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Sharing Culture in 'Shared' Housing

© The Argus / Byeon Hee-jin



By Byeon Hee-jin
Reporter of Culture Section

Along with the increase in single person households, shared housing is becoming a new popular type of residence. Beyond the simple economic advantage, shared housing is also meaningful from a cultural aspect. In order to gain insights into this unique phenomenon, The Argus met Shin Ye-ji, manager of Woo Zoo, a shared housing company.

The Argus: Nice to meet you. Please introduce your company and yourself to The Argus readers.

Shin Ye-ji (Shin): Hi, it is a pleasure to meet the readers of The Argus. I am Shin Ye-ji. I work at Woo Zoo, a shared housing company, as the marketing and promotions manager. Along with marketing and promotions, I am also in charge of handling resident needs and managing our shared houses.

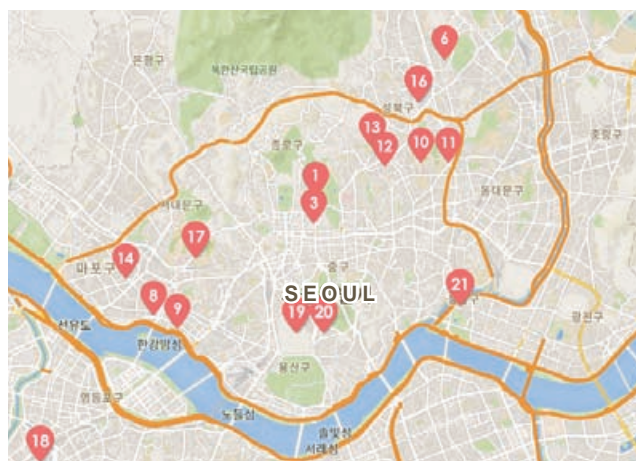
Woo Zoo is a company that sets up and manages shared houses which are targeted at people from age 20 to 35. Woo Zoo currently has 21 branches across Seoul and about 100 residents.

Share house Woo Zoo

- Started in 2012 by CEO Kim Jeong-hyun
- Officially recognized as a social enterprise in 2013
- Currently has 21 branches in Seoul



© WOOZOO



© WOOZOO

▲ Woo Zoo manages a total of 21 branches in Seoul.

People

The Argus: Could you tell us more about what shared housing is?

Shin: A shared house is a kind of shared community house that provides personal rooms for each resident but also has areas such as kitchens or bathrooms that are shared with the other residents. In this sense, residents get a chance to cooperate in living and make their own house culture with others.

The Argus: What is the difference between a boarding house and a shared house?

Shin: If you glance at a shared house, you might not find a big difference between it and a boarding house. However, the biggest difference is that a shared house does not have a host in the house. Thus, residents have to divide their housing duties such as cleaning the bathroom or fixing meals and take responsibility for the duties that a host would have performed if the residence were a boarding house. Through this process, residents create their own house culture, and this is the distinguishing feature of a shared house. In the case of Woo Zoo, the owner of the house is not the company, but other people. But we are the ones who rent the houses and convert them into shared homes.

The Argus: Each of the shared houses of Woo Zoo has a different concept or style. Is there a special reason for offering special concepts?

Shin: Yes, our shared houses have different concepts. For example, these concepts can include travel, books, movies, cafes, and, most recently, we established a recycling concept as well.

The first reason why we offer different concepts in each of our

houses is to design and arrange furniture by the theme. With each shared house having a different interior and furniture, we are able to differentiate ourselves from other shared housing companies.

Moreover, by having various styles of shared houses, the residents can choose whichever concept they want to live in based on their own interests or desires. We are giving residents a chance to talk and become friendly with fellow residents who share similar interests. However, even though the concepts exist, it is not mandatory for the residents to follow the concepts.

The Argus: Woo Zoo is pretty much targeted at college students and youths. Why is the company focusing on them?

Shin: When my boss first started this business, the purpose was to help solve the residential problems experienced by young people. Managing 21 branches nowadays, shared housing is not only helping the residential problem, but it also helps youths from an emotional side as well. These days, young people are very busy with matters such as employment or marriage, so they do not get a chance to pay attention to their neighbors' lives. However, by living in a shared house, they get a chance to be exposed to and share neighbors' lives. For example, there are opportunities for residents to ask about their fellow housemates' days and hang out. I think this helps them emotionally.

The Argus: Compared to other residential types, what are the benefits of shared houses?

Shin: Compared to other residential types such as dormitories or one-room apartments, which are common residences for

Shared house concepts



▲ 14th branch of Woo Zoo shared house with a concept of "camping."



▲ 9th branch of Woo Zoo with a concept of "movies."



▲ Shin Ye-ji works for the shared house with her coworkers.

college students, shared houses are not only economical, but also have lifestyle advantages because they contain areas like kitchens or living rooms, which are areas that dormitories or one-room apartments do not have.

In addition, shared houses are also advantageous in that residents can meet people with various characteristics and lifestyles. By becoming acquainted with unique people, the students can experience other fields in a roundabout way. Our residents start living in shared houses because they have a desire to experience these advantages. Moreover, learning how to be considerate is also a great aspect of shared housing.

The Argus: What are the drawbacks that shared housing still has to resolve?


Shin: The fact that the idea of a shared house is still unfamiliar to the public should be resolved in the future in order to establish them as a form of residence and culture. Many people do not think shared housing is an actual residential option for them, but think of it more as a kind of residence that you can only see on TV shows such as the variety show “Roommate” or the drama It’s Okay, It’s Love” Moreover, repulsion to the idea that sharing a house requires people to live with total strangers is also something that has to be resolved.

The Argus: What are the plans of Woo Zoo from now on?

Shin: Currently, we have 21 branches, but they are all spread across Seoul. Thus, we are going to locate shared houses nearby one another when we start opening new branches. Residents gave us some opinions that they would like to experience the cultures of other branch houses as well, but never get a chance to because they are so far away from each other. The company accepted their opinions and decided to give this idea a try with future branches.

The Argus: In what way do you hope the shared housing culture develops?

Shin: I hope shared housing becomes a cultural experience that college students and young adults believe they need to experience during their youth, similar to the phenomenon of backpacking, in which everyone hopes to participate. Overall, I hope many people experience the advantages of shared housing and it becomes part of our mainstream culture.

Shared housing, one type of residence that was originally created to effectively help young people, helps with both economic and cultural aspects. Moreover, residents get to learn how to live along with other people. This form of housing helps people in their twenties find new ways of respecting and considering others in a world full of desolation and individualism. 

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▲ A resident makes food to share with the people in the shared house.

Ikseon-dong, a Place with Traces of Life



▲ The tour course with the Artee Ride goes from : Ikseon-dong → Gyodong Primary School → Bukchon Hanok Village.

By Byeon Hee-jin
Reporter of Culture Section

You must have heard about places like Insa-dong or Bukchon Hanok Village at least once. These places are popular not only for tourists from other countries, but also for South Koreans. Thus, it is certainly true that these places have become commercialized.

The effects of this commercialization are spreading to the surrounding areas that are struggling to maintain their connection to the past. The Argus visited areas that are still holding on to their history on a brisk autumn day.



© The Argus / Byeon Hee-jin

The Argus' choice of transportation: Artee Ride (Rickshaw)

An Artee Ride is a unique way to tour Seoul. The Artee riders, who are young people, give people rides via pedicabs and explain the significance of the sights in Seoul.

What kind of place is Ikseon-dong?

“Ikseon-dong” is located in Jongno, Seoul. The neighboring areas to Ikseon-dong are Jongmyo, Insa-dong, Jongno and Changdeok-gung. However, unlike these neighboring areas, Ikseon-dong is desolate and does not get much attention from tourists. This place is the site of the first hanok residential complex in Seoul, developed in the 1920s-1930s. According to the Artee rider who guided The Argus through Ikseon-dong, house owners divided single homes into three to four residences in order to solve the lack of accommodation in the area. It has been going through a redevelopment crisis since 2004, but the plan has not come into action yet.

Cultural destination Ikseon-dong



▲ Residents at Ikseon-dong live in remodeled hanoks.

The entrance to Ikseon-dong was so small that the rickshaw could barely pass through it. Inside the village, the hanoks are densely positioned. The people there are mostly elderly. The atmosphere is quiet and calm, particularly in comparison to the neighboring areas. Many of the residents tend to do their household affairs or work in small stores that they own. The Artee rider said as he peddled down the street, “This area has yet to be redeveloped, and I think after the elderly leave this place, the redevelopment will get underway. So what you are seeing now is probably the

end of an era in Ikseon-dong.”

Moreover, the appearance of the hanoks in Ikseon-dong is quite different from the way we usually think of hanoks. The walls were all attached with tiles. About this distinguishing aspect of the hanoks of Ikseon-dong, the Artee rider said, “There have been trends in hanok styles as well, just like other cultural trends. I think the hanoks in Ikseon-dong were remodeled according to the lifestyles of the residents.”

Elementary school located nearby Ikseon-dong: Gyodong Primary School



▲ A monument marks the entrance of Gyodong Primary School.

Gyodong Primary School is located only three minutes away from Ikseon-dong by the Artee rickshaw. This elementary school was the very first primary school in Korea, established on Sept. 18, 1894. It was established during the reign of Gojong, the last king of the Joseon Dynasty, for the purpose of educating the children of noble families.

Since it was the very first elementary school, it possesses historical meaning but is also in a state of crisis just like Ikseon-dong. It was going to become a parking facility because of low student rates and a general lack of parking in Jongno, but so far nothing has been decided.

The future of Ikseon-dong


The Argus also visited Bukchon Hanok



▲ Artee rider explains about Bukchon Hanok Village.

Village in order to determine how it differs from Ikseon-dong. The two hanok villages had very different atmospheres. Bukchon Hanok Village uses hanok as a facade, as it appears to be designed for tourists rather than to maintain a historical atmosphere. On the other hand, the hanoks of Ikseon-dong looked like real residential purposed hanoks.

However, Ikseon-dong is being considered as the site for a new business district. Unlike Bukchon or Insa-dong, Ikseon-dong does not have many stores such as cafes. As a result, this place caught business people's attention as a new place for business. Some people react negatively to that possibility because Ikseon-dong may also become very commercial, and its value as a place that maintains traces of the past may be damaged. About this possible change to Ikseon-dong, the Artee rider said, “I haven't been here in a while, and I can already see some cafes have started to enter into Ikseon-dong. Also, recently, after a food TV show called ‘Tasty Road’ did a show about this place, many people started to visit here.”

Even between the two similarly located villages, there were huge differences in terms of development. Ikseon-dong was quite different from the other hanok villages straightaway; very calm and quiet. Looking around Ikseon-dong, where all the traces of the past and the people who worked there yet remain, there is a unique sentiment there that cannot be found in other commercialized hanok villages. 

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How was 2015 for You?

By Jang Eun-ae
Associate Editor

The end of the year is coming again just like it always does. How was your year? It may have been full of bittersweet memories.

“Thanks for your work and take a breath,” 2015 says, “You are a great person who has struggled with many difficulties, so you fully deserve it.”

Our reply to this year is, “Goodbye, 2015. We had a great time.” 📷

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The Way They Spend Christmas



By Choi Yun

Reporter of Campus Section

Christmas has come again this year without exception. Christmas was once a religious holiday during which Christians commemorated the birth of Jesus Christ, but it has now become a big world festival that people all over the world enjoy. To discuss Christmas culture all over the world, The Argus met with four HUFSSans: Teresa from Mexico, Sebastian from Chile, Matthew from the United States and Hyun-jung from here in South Korea.



The Argus: Please briefly introduce yourself.

Maria: Hello, my name is Maria Teresa Davalos Ruiz, and I am from Mexico. I came to South Korea as an exchange student, and I am continuing my studies in International Business here.

Sebastian: I am Sebastian Mujica from Chile, and I am here to take a doctorate course in International Politics.

Matthew: I am Matthew Hinshaw from Las Vegas in the United States, and I am here studying to acquire my PhD in International Relations with an emphasis in Cultural Comparative Studies.

Hyun-jung: Hi, my name is Kim Hyun-jung, and I am living here in Korea. I am a senior now, majoring in English Interpretation and Translation.

The Argus: How do people in your country usually spend Christmas? What does Christmas mean to them?

Maria: People in Mexico celebrate Christmas for a whole month from Dec. 12 to Jan. 7, although the official holidays are just two days, the 24th and 25th. All the relatives gather in their grandparents' home and enjoy Christmas together, eating delicious food and listening to music. When the clock strikes 12 a.m. the moment it changes to the 25th, we open the presents we received.

Sebastian: I think Mexico and Chile have similar Christmas culture since they are both Latin American countries. As a country in which the national religion is Christianity, we have a big celebration with all the relatives gathered. It is a very

important event, even for the people who do not believe in Jesus.

Matthew: The ways people in the United States spend Christmas are as diverse as its population. Schools are closed for two or three weeks for various traditions including the Jewish Hanukkah and African Kwanza. Protestants like my family eat Christmas ham as a tradition.

Hyun-jung: I think South Koreans, except for people who believe in Jesus, do not think Christmas is that important. So Korean people tend to spend the day with lovers or friends, rather than family.

The Argus: What did you do last Christmas?

Maria: Last Christmas season, I was in Phoenix in the United States, attending an English program, and it was six hours away from my home. I was so sad at that time because I thought I had to spend Christmas alone, but my parents and grandparents came to my aunt's home near Phoenix to see me. It was a touching Christmas.

Matthew: Last Christmas, I was in Gumi, North Kyeongsang province, as an elementary school teacher. One of the teachers gave me a small Christmas tree with the Korean flag, and a cafeteria lady gave me Christmas ham with Tteokbokki sauce on it. It was so sweet. And my father visited me here in Korea so that we could spend Christmas together.

Sebastian: I spent last Christmas in Chile happily with my family, and that was the first time I had spent it there in the past six years. Six years ago, I had to spend Christmas alone in Korea, and it was a very hard time for me. It has become much easier since I have a girlfriend now and I am getting used to life here.

Hyun-jung: After going on a date with my boyfriend, I came back home and spent the rest of the day with my family. We just took some rest and watched TV like we do on a typical weekend.

The Argus: What do you think is the difference between the Christmas culture of South Korea and your country?

Sebastian: I have lived in Korea for six years, and I think Korean people just regard Christmas as a couples' day. They just spend the day with their boyfriend or girlfriend. I just cannot understand how the birthday of Jesus became a couples' day.

Maria: I think that is because the history of Christianity in Korea is very short, but I agree with Sebastian's point that it would be much more meaningful to spend the end of the year with your family regardless of religion. Why do not you start by bringing your boyfriend to your home, Hyun-jung?

Hyun-jung: As a Korean, that sounds very awkward.

Koreans are quite conservative compared to people in western countries, and it is very difficult to introduce your boyfriend or girlfriend to your parents.

The Argus: In Korea, the commercialization of Christmas has been an emerging issue. Is there any problem in your country?

Matthew: Recently, there has been some controversy surrounding Starbucks' decision to say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas." Starbucks did so to respect cultural diversity, but some people who believe in Jesus strongly opposed this and even boycotted the stores.

Sebastian: The population of Chile is not that diverse, so it is hard to find a religious conflict like that. However, the commercialization is a big problem also in Chile. Companies release tons of products, and children require their parents to buy those as a matter of course. So parents get into fierce battles to get the products their kids demand.

The Argus: So what are you going to do this Christmas?

Sebastian: I will probably spend time with my girlfriend and my dog dressed in reindeer clothes so that we can take a picture of him. She loves to take pictures like every Korean girl. As we have done before, we are going to eat dinner, take plenty of pictures and exchange gifts on Christmas.

Maria: I am not sure what I am going to do this Christmas, but I think it will be quite hard to be here alone. Apparently, many other friends of mine in Korea are going to go on a trip or go back to their home country. So maybe I can just go hang out with Matthew.

Matthew: That sounds like a plan. Actually I am planning to host a Christmas party, and for that, I have already rented a whole theater on Dec. 17: the day when Star Wars comes out. I am going to invite my friends and let them pay whatever they want for the tickets. What they pay will be gathered and given to charity. 🎁

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© The Argus / Choi Yun



We Know Wine, “Assemblage”

By Choi Yun

Reporter of Campus Section

As the joyful day of Christmas approaches, winter is already upon us biting us with freezing winds and cold air. Despite the harsh weather, the reason why we love this season is probably because the season brings us together with the ones we love. And musts for those meetings are food and drink. The Argus visited the HUFS wine club ‘Assemblage.’

The Argus: Please briefly introduce Assemblage.

Seo Jun-won (Dept. of Public Administration ‘12): Assemblage is a French term that refers to the winemaking technique of blending various wines prior to bottling. Most of the world’s best wines are assemblage wines. We named the club ‘Assemblage’ with the hope of making it the best club where students from different departments can harmonize.

The Argus: What are the advantages of drinking wine compared to soju or beer?

Kim Ba-ro (College of Chinese ‘13): Compared to soju or beer, there is far greater variety of wines both in terms of flavor and type. Moreover, wine is not only a low-calorie drink, but it also contains antioxidants called polyphenols.

Lee Yae-rim (Dept. of Advertising and Public Relations ‘12): I think drinking wine facilitates conversation. Since people drink wine more slowly than soju or beer, they can communicate on a deeper level, and the wine itself can also become the subject of conversation.

Lee Bong-gun (Dept. of Business ‘09): As Ba-ro said, the flavors of wines vary greatly. But I want to add that you can taste different flavors within the same wine. As wine is exposed to the air and as the temperature changes, the taste of the wine begins to change. So you can have a variety of experiences with a single bottle of wine.

The Argus: Would you recommend some wine for HUFSans who are going to spend time with their friends, lovers, and family?

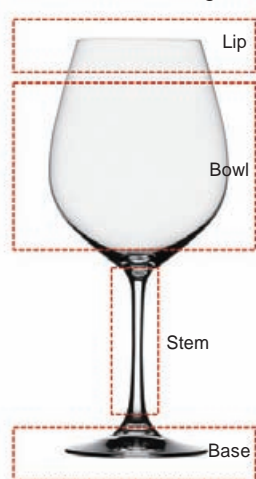
Lee Bong-gun: For students who plan to spend time with their friends, I recommend boxed wine. You can enjoy a large amount of wine at a low price.

Lee Yae-rim: For females, I suggest sweet white wine, especially ‘Rocca Cerrina Moscato d’Asti,’ which has received a prime grade in Italy. It is very light and smells like peaches and apricots.

Seo Jun-won: For people who are drinking red wine for the first time, I recommend ‘HobNob Pinot Noir.’ Red wine is usually heavy and has a large amount of tannins, so many people dislike the taste. However, Pinot Noir is very light and contains just a small amount of tannins, so I recommend it for wine beginners. 🍷

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Structure of a wine glass



© Assemblage

Wine etiquette tips



© twitter.com

▲ There is no standard for holding a wine glass.



© blog.daum.net

▲ To show your respect, touch the base of your wine glass.

The Argus Essay Contest 2015



• Winners :

- 1st place - Park Da-won, Dept. of Arabic '12
- 2nd - Na Yoo-kyeong, Dept. of English Education '15
- 3rd - Jeong Hae-lee, Dept. of Scandinavian '13
- Park Ji-hae, Division of International Studies '12

• Topics / Keywords

- 1) College students' housing problems
- 2) Sampo generation (which refers to people in their 20s giving up on dating, getting a job, and raising a child)
- 3) Dating violence
- 4) University press
- 5) Opening campus grounds to the public
- 6) Putting off graduation

• Judgement standards : Creativity, logic, and fluency

• Announcement of winner : November 19, Thursday (on theargus.org website)

- **Prize** : 1st place- 400,000 won
- 2nd place- 200,000 won
- 3rd place- 100,000 won

The Argus held The Argus Prize 2015- English Essay Contest on topics covering campus issues in November. Students wrote 800 word essays choosing from one of the six topics of 1) college students' housing problems, 2) “sampo generation,” which refers to people in their 20s giving up on dating, getting a job, and raising a child, 3) dating violence, 4) university press, 5) opening campus grounds to the public, and 6) putting off graduation.

The first and second place essays are published in the following pages.



The 21st Century Renaissance: It starts from universities opening their gates



Park Da-won
Dept. of Arabic '12

The lives of most individuals in industrialized nation-states are dominated by the hustle and bustle of daily, mundane routines, from getting fresh cups of coffee early in the morning to rushing from one meeting to another throughout the day. In particular, the technological revolution has engulfed individuals into a sphere of precision, where every single minute of someone's day is carefully calculated and accounted for. Society has become centered around principles of individualism and has, in turn, sidelined the values of collectivism that were prominent during much simpler times. It is imperative for societies in these industrialized nation-states to revive community-centered values and create a sense of communal belonging for everyone. Universities are especially important in facilitating this twenty-first century renaissance in order to build a relationship based on stability and reciprocity between members of that institution and the greater community they belong to.


To date, and not including community colleges, the dynamic city of Seoul has approximately sixty-four universities. This means that these universities have taken an enormous amount of land from the greater Seoul community, yet these universities have no significant relationship with that community. Unlike the universities in the United States and Canada where they initiate programs that engage both students and staff with the rest of the community, South Korean universities restrict the usage of the library to anyone other than their own students. Walking around the campuses is one thing that is not restricted to the general public.

What people usually tend to forget is that living in a community is about reciprocity and contribution. Communities are social units that socialize children from a very young age, providing them with various services to use (like health care and education) as well as tools that influence their social identity. When these children go to university, it is their duty to reciprocate to the community and give back to them. In this way, not only are they getting a more holistic and fruitful education, they are also involved with helping the community grow and work towards things like poverty and reduction. This might be a different case in Korea where people's sole aim are to go to the top universities and that might mean majority are not from Seoul and are from a different town or a city. However, contributing to a new community will benefit both the students and the townspeople in great ways.

The majority of the town will benefit if universities open up facilities, provide service learning, and send student volunteers to town or charity events, and have the faculty and support staff also involved. The people in the community will be able to gain more access to books from the library and maybe a bit of health care. They would be able to learn new things and understand from the perspective of the students. Little children will be exposed to a greater deal of information, and (which is a very vital thing in Korea) a different approach to education. During a town event, when students assist the community building friendships among with the townspeople will be beneficial too.

The townspeople will naturally warm up to the students and the staff as they would be able to notice the effort the school is trying to make. It would therefore create a less hostile environment for student housing, and foster better relationships between the landlord and the students. Through communicating with the townspeople, students will be able to experience a different approach to education too: like being able to experience in different events, talking to people who are experienced in diverse backgrounds. More job opportunities might be open to them from the communities. And overall the climate of college life will improve gradually from these changes which will brighten the attitude of the campus.

Students in University of Alberta, make long term relationships with the community through programs like the Golden Key Honor Society. The society supports the town people by planting trees, helping out in the soup kitchens, offering tutoring programs and more creative ways than we can imagine. In return students receive economic benefits and friendships as well. Implementing programs like this in Korea could help the neighbors in great measures too however, just by opening the library and other university facilities to them and allowing them to listen to some courses would be taking the initial steps to changes of the town and gown relationship.

This is a situation where both sides will reap the benefits of building a greater, sustainable between the community and the universities, and achieve desired goals. Although this seems like a challenging endeavor, establishing the programs that will foster and nurture this relationship is attainable. This relationship is necessary for the ultimate development and sustainability of the social fabric in Seoul. 



Why it came to present and how it can be rooted out




Na Yoo-kyeong

Dept. of English Education '15

To a typical question “What do you do?” which people often ask others when they first meet them, “I am just a chee-jun-sang” has become somewhat common answer to many people today. Cheejunsang is a coined and short term for ‘job seekers’ in Korea. This word is being widely used among Korean people especially in their twenties, and many university students indeed prefer to stay as ‘students’ in order to avoid such title and get disadvantages in getting jobs. This form of university students taking their universities as ‘shelter’ is called ‘putting off graduation,’ and this has become problematic for several reasons that it is worth exploring to find out how it occurred and how it can be rooted out.

To begin with, why did students procrastinate their graduation and why is it so problematic? First, main culprit of the phenomenon lies in ‘getting a job.’ Due to increasing number of university graduates and fierce competition among them, it has become increasingly difficult for many students to find a job. A bachelor’s degree is no longer a privilege of few people; almost half of the population has it. Then people started to do other things such as earning certificates, volunteering, doing extracurricular activities, and such to stand out. However, owing to the prevalent social environment in Korea like ‘No Falling Behind’ or ‘I do if everyone else does it,’ those so-called ‘specs’ do not matter much anymore as well. What they have to do is to find and have other unique but at the same time related to the field experiences, which is extremely hard for students to simply gain in just a four-year period, considering the fact that they also need to take care of their GPA. Thus, amid this highly competitive atmosphere in which thousands of people compete for a small number of seats, students should not, at least, do something that can be counted as ‘minus’ for their qualification, one of which includes graduation in this case. This is because when they graduate and have a long period of blank, which is often the case by the way, companies have a tendency to question this period, especially if any notable or productive results were not made during this time. In fact, it has been found out that many companies are indeed prone to ask ‘uncomfortable’ questions to those long-been-graduated students and that they actually prefer fresh from universities. Hence, because of this fear that they might get disadvantages in the battle full of skilled, young men, let alone the anxiety that they are going to be back after they graduate, many students choose to remain as students and put off their graduation.

However, this status quo holds several problems. Firstly, it undermines the ‘role’ of universities. Universities are supposed to be the places for students to learn and develop intellectually as to become a matured, responsible citizen. However, if students are not attending any lectures and therefore not learning anything, it cannot be said that they are actually university students or that universities are serving the right roles. In addition, it gives a great, unnecessary financial burden to students. Most of the universities require students a small portion of tuition during the period of procrastination although students are not using the school at all. And universities in fact collect quite a sizable sum of money from them, since there are many who delay their graduation. It is hard but to think that those authorities who are in charge of graduation are taking some profits out of poor students who are just too afraid to take a step toward the society, yet. Lastly and most importantly, this system of putting off graduation does not solve any problem that students are facing. It is true that their early graduation and the period of blank may be ‘bad’ for getting employed, but we need to see the root cause of this. Simply lengthening the period of attendance at school will not likely to help their situation any better. Rather, schools need to find other ways that students can do effectively and productively in order to get a job.

So, what can be done to diminish the numbers of students putting off their graduation and unemployment problem in general? From the perspective of the government, it should lead education in a way that students can find their true interest. In Korea, schools from elementary to high schools put too much emphasis on academic learning. However, it should acknowledge the fact that people have different talents and various interests. The government should help students find their true interests and develop them without stress and pressure from any teachers or schools. Then companies, too, need to realize and understand the dire situations that many students face and should give fair opportunities. They need to conduct ways that can pick out real qualified potential workers. Lastly, for universities, rather than just suggesting ‘procrastination’ as a solution, it should give other more productive programs so that students can broaden their perspectives and find the real company they would like to work for. 



Improvement Rather than Restriction

By Kang Young-joon

Editorial Consultant

The Ministry of Strategy and Finance was said to deliver an opinion to domestic beer companies about seeking ways to prevent the industry from being hurt by imported beer, which is sold at relatively low prices. Imported beer will be treated the same as domestic beer which has been restricted from having lower retail prices than wholesale prices and also prevents them from providing freebies whose costs are over five percent of the beer's price.

There has been a lot of public opinion on the Internet about the law to restrict the price of imported beer 'Maectongbeob' after news about it became known. Some of the opinions voiced sentiments such as "How about domestic beer being less restricted if their sales drop due to steeply rising sales of imported beer?" or, "The biggest reason for buying imported beer is because it is tastier than domestic beer. So isn't it better for the quality of domestic beer to be improved rather than restricting imported beer?"

Also, a simple economic theory states that if there is competition, it is advisable to have fewer restrictions on domestic beer and let them seek ways to improve their beer quality. It is ironic that the government, which aims at maintaining a market economy, has been trying to enact a price floor.

What is worse is that the government has a superficial reason to introduce more restrictions. The one-year-old law aimed at restricting phone subsidies had a more "reasonable" superficial excuse justifying its enactment. The government explained that it is trying to help customers who suffer from a huge amount of communication expenses. Although the main reason for creating these laws was the same, it makes the law the target of criticism because it has an unreasonable superficial reason.

Whenever I see the show "Non-Summit," I hear people from other countries say that the best beer in the world is made in their country. This makes me so curious that I want a sip of that beer. It is better to help our domestic beer develop greater quality so that we can say that our country's beer is also good, isn't it? 🍺

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Can the Government Make a Correct 'Unified' History Textbook?

Before opening the November issue's cover, I was deeply touched by the cover's picture. It was a hand print of Ahn Jung-geun, a fighter for Korea's independence in the colonial era. His hand print shows our fighters' spirit for independence from Japan.

In fact, I am really interested in the history textbook issue these days. Nevertheless, I was impressed with 'Eye of The Argus' which covered the controversy about government-designated history textbook.

From my point of view, the government's purposes for this decision is somewhat contradictory. They say that they are trying to correct the historical fact to protect students from being educated by wrong views of history. However, when they make their 'unified' history textbook, they have to choose the facts that will be included in the textbook. At this point, the problem is evident. If the National History Compilation Committee has a distorted view, it will have a bad effect on students who will only learn the distorted facts of history.

I hope the government makes the right decision for our students.

Kwak Hae-ri

Dept. of International Finance '15

Overall Review of the November Issue

The November issue of The Argus was a delightful read. I especially enjoyed reading the historical themes that were presented.

As always, many of the materials within the issue, such as the university library talks, and the section about a former Hufs student, Ha Yeon-Ju, who is now the CEO her own brand, Charme, was eye opening, and to a certain level, comforting to read about.

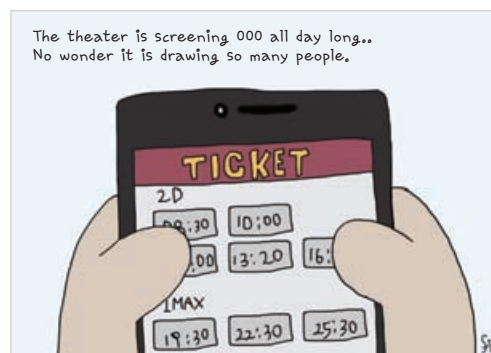
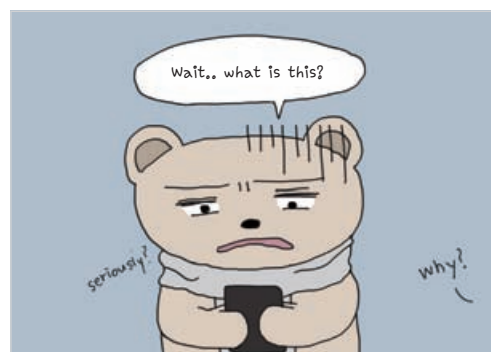
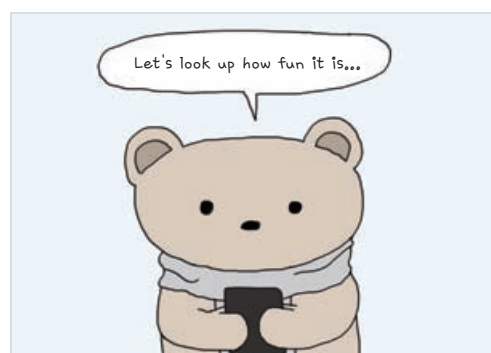
I also enjoyed reading about the current political agenda, covered in, 'Is There a "Correct" Historical View?,' which analyzed the single textbook enforcement by the Korean political party in power at the moment. With such a vast array of relevant and engaging topics, I found myself reading the November issue with deep enthusiasm.

Huh Jong-hyuk

Dept. of English Linguistics '11

- Share your feedback on the issues 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.

The Secret Behind Blockbusters

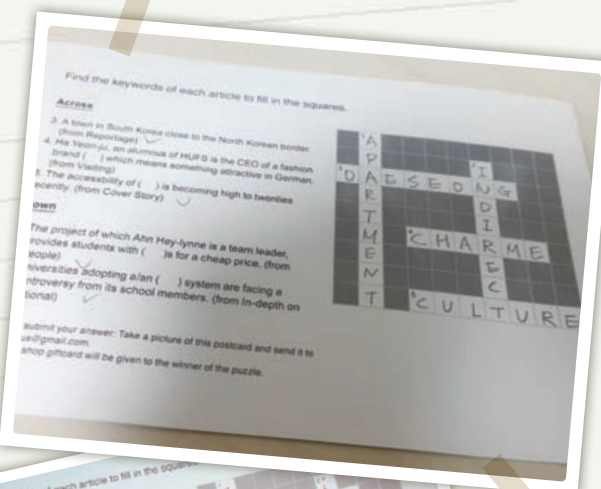


Park Ji-hyun

Department of English Linguistics '10

Thank you for your answers!

The winner of the
November issue's puzzle is
Kwak Hae-ri and Kevin Huh!



We look forward to your answers
for this December issue!



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