

The Argus

No. 476 MARCH 9, 2016

Since 1954

Books Are at Hand

Cover Story

- The Coming New Reading Trend
- Libraries in the Cinema

Dating on Sunday

Review the Old, Learn the New, and Widen Your Vision

In-depth on National

Intern Guidelines: Will They Eradicate Passion Pay?

Rendezvous

"Spirits' Homecoming," the Unending Story



The Argus

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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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What We Must Never Forget

There is something that we must never forget. I think it is history. We are living in the present composed of the time that has already occurred, which is called the past. At the same time, we who live in this moment will be the past or history from the future generation's viewpoint. All of the past consists of every second of the present, which creates unique traditions and memories that transcend time, although this can be a bitter or sad thing; all the more reason to remember the bygone days because bitter history should never reoccur.

The film "Spirits' Homecoming" is one of the best examples of that which arises from bygone days. This film finally debuted on Feb. 24 after ten years full of many hardships such as funding problems, finding a distributor and opposition from various parties.

The Argus watched the movie before it was officially released by the invitation to an advanced screening. We felt particularly frustrated and contemplative after watching young comfort women's anger and fear portrayed in the movie. After watching an advanced screening of the film, we had a chance to hear about the process of making the film when we met with Cho Jung-lae, the director of the movie, who is trying to portray the days of the past in a clear manner.

All the parties concerned including actors, actresses, the director and even the staff cried every single day during the production of this film. In particular, they had cried out in sorrow and felt chilled to their bones despite the hot weather outside when they made a movie scene that portrayed how the Japanese military burned dead comfort women. I think the reason why they felt chilled is because the place was full of the comfort women's resentment.

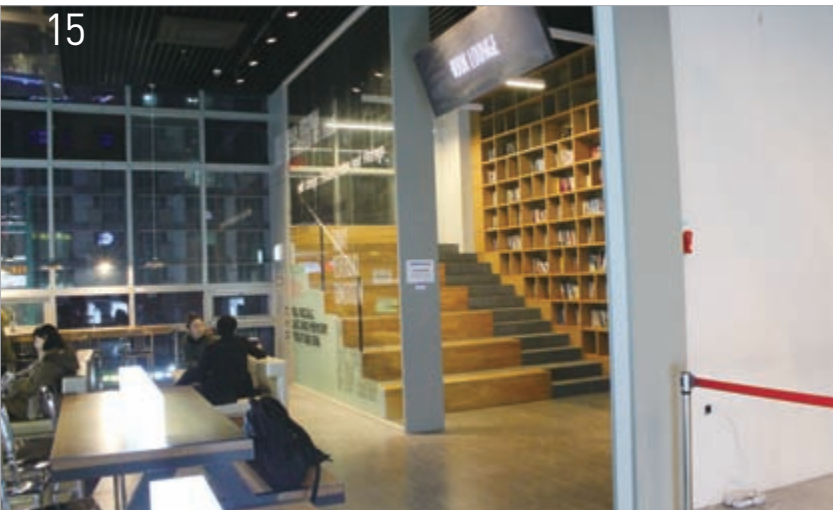
Also, he said that the movie "Spirits' Homecoming" would serve as a kind of 'cultural evidence.' That means that whoever watches this film and whenever and wherever they watch it, the past will forever be remembered through this 'evidence.'

I hope more and more people from all around the world become more interested in history and the comfort women through the film "Spirits' Homecoming," which serves as a kind of cultural evidence as mentioned by Cho Jung-lae. 🇰🇷

Jang Eun-ae
Editor-in-Chief

Jang

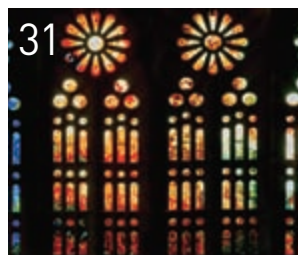
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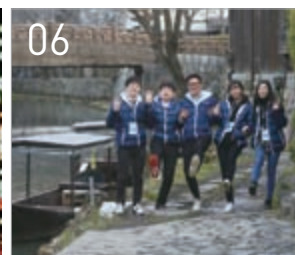
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Cover Story

>> How many books do you read these days? Do you know the best seller of this month?

Adult's annual reading volume showed low figure at one survey, but several businesses and services that encourage you to read books exist. You can now easily find books around you without going typical place to read such as library. The Argus looked into how books come closer to our daily life.

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▲ The President of HUFS, Kim In-chul(L), and the CEO of The Korea Times, Lee Chang-seop(R) shake hands after signing the MOU.

The Korea Times Joins Hands with HUFS to Enhance English Education

HUFS and The Korea Times signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve English education in the head office of the newspaper company on Jan. 19.

The MOU was about co-hosting a nationwide English essay contest and co-working to make quality English education contents in order to discover and nurture talented students in the global era.

“I hope that HUFS and The Korea Times, the two most global institutions, can produce competent people through cooperation,” said Kim In-chul, the President of HUFS.

It was also agreed that The Korea Times would offer short-term internship programs and fieldtrips, especially for the students of HUFS.

Not only focusing on education for

college students, both institutions also set plans to develop education for students across all ages, from elementary school students to high school students, on behalf of public education, which does not seem to be on the right track from the perspective of Lee Chang-seop, the CEO of The Korea Times.

“Public English education in Korea is on the wrong track,” said Lee. “The Korea Times will join efforts to foster development in English education, providing English news articles of the newspaper to HUFS so that it develops effective educational contents,” he added.

The contents will be developed with both online and offline versions available. 📖

By Choi Yun

HUFS Employees Offer Students Scholarships



▲ The scholarship students pose together at the award ceremony.

The first award ceremony of HUFS employee scholarships was held at the Historical Archives on Seoul Campus on Jan. 12 to give students financial aid and opportunities to work toward their dreams.

This scholarship program, a so-called “seed scholarship,” began in 2013 by several HUFS employees who raised funds to support students’ tuition. Based on the proceeds from the funds, it first awarded four students scholarships of two million won respectively.

The program selected recipients considering their school records and participation in voluntary work and diverse activities in and around school.

“From this application process, we wanted students to fully commit to their dreams rather than only to focus on employment and grades,” the program officials said.

They added that they will strive to provide scholarships to more students and asked HUFS employees to concern about the program.

The seed scholarships will also be presented to four students in the first semester of 2016, and their information will be displayed on the school website in early May of this year. 📖

By Lee Jae-won

HUFS Freshmen Membership Training “Sae-teo” Held

2016 Membership Training for freshmen, which is called “Sae-teo” in Korean, was held from Feb. 15 to 17 for Seoul Campus and from Feb. 22 to 24 for Global Campus to help freshmen adapt to their new campus life.

“Sae-teo” for Seoul Campus was done under the theme “Sketch Your HUFS, Paint Your Dream.” About 2,500 students attended the camp this year. Students of Seoul Campus stayed at Ocean Valley Resort and Osaek Green Yard Hotel in Yangyang and students of Global Campus in Del pino Resort in Sokcho for three days. Freshmen from each department attended many events including introduction of the college and its club activities as well as performances of HUFS clubs or Dongaris. 📷

By Byun Hee-jin



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▲ Freshmen gather with the college they belong to in the Obama Hall for departure.

HUFS Reduces Tuition by 2,500 Won

HUFS lowered the tuition fees by 2,500 won per person for both Seoul and Global Campus on Jan. 23.

The Tuition Deliberative Committee determined to cut the tuition fee in its two rounds of meetings held in January. “HUFS decided to cut tuition to keep an average cost and secure legal budget support from the Ministry of Education,” said the Dean of the Budget Coordination Team.

HUFS tuition fee had been frozen for two years in a row. However, with the restructuring of the Department of French, Division of Language & Trade, Economics and Department of Biomedical Engineering, the university gained additional tuition income to cover this year’s budget. 📷

By Byun Hee-jin

Prices in the Student Cafeteria Rise

HUFS Seoul Campus raised the price of dishes in the student cafeteria to lower the financial loss after several negotiations with the GSC since March.

Seoul Campus followed the results of the final negotiation held on Jan. 15 and increased the price of all menu items about 100 to 300 won except gimbap and toast.

As the students asked for improvement in the quantity and quality of dishes, the university decided to make students to scoop rice out of a pot themselves and added one more side dish of which students can take as much as they want when the menu is Western food. 📷

By Park Se-in

HUFS Holds Starting Ceremony for KOTRA Intern

On Jan. 13, the starting ceremony for Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) foreign interns was held at 1 p.m. on HUFS Seoul Campus.

The total number of interns is 76, and they are going to be sent to 53 different countries as foreign interns. They are going to stay in the designated countries for six months, being in charge of investigating data, drawing up reports and translating.

Ever since 2008, HUFS has supported a large number of students to have better opportunities and experiences as preliminary traders, and the number of interested students has increased over the years.

In addition to the starting ceremony, Yang Hee-seon, the University Support Officer, gave a presentation explaining about the internship. 📷

By Chung Hae-yun

HUFS Holds First Mobile Application Contest

The first HUFS' mobile application contest was held on Seoul Campus on Jan. 15 to find ideas to improve HUFS' existing official mobile application "HUFS +," which was released at the end of August 2015.

Seo Seung-beom (English Education '11) and Park Seo-yun (Business Administration '14) won the first prize among more than 140 participants with the idea 'HUFS Remote Controller.' 📱



▲ Winners from the smart phone application contest are holding certificate with smile.

By Choi Yun

22 Universities in Seoul Broaden Credit Exchange

On Jan. 21 at The Seoul Press, Lee Yong-gu, the president of Chung-Ang University, announced that 22 universities in Seoul have agreed to expand credit exchange between universities.

The conference was held with presidents of universities located in Seoul. According to the agreement on credit exchange, more academic exchanges such as academic conferences are expected. Students of 22 universities are now able to register for up to half of their total credits.

President Lee Yong-gu indicated his high expectations, noting that more and more academic exchanges are going to be available through the agreement. 📅

By Chung Hae-yun

DIS Students Hold English Camp

The chair of the Division of International Studies (DIS), Kim Bong-chul, held an English camp with five DIS students at Oegan Elementary School located in Geoje City, South Gyeongsang Province to provide English education programs as a part of voluntary community service.

The camp, which was held from Jan. 4 to 8, ran from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day. During their stay, DIS students taught English to kids by having conversation, singing songs and playing some games in English.

Led by foreign students, the camp has been held during the vacation in areas where kids cannot easily get access to English programs. 📅

By Ahn So-hyun

HUFS Holds Open Campus



▲ Attendees listen to the first session of the Open Campus at the Obama Hall.

HUFS Seoul Campus promoted the HUFS Open Campus, on Jan. 30, at the Obama Hall for high school students, school parents and school teachers nationwide. HUFS created this program with the purpose of offering attendees a chance to experience HUFS curriculum in advance and helping high school students find a major and career path that fits their desire.

The program was composed of two sessions, with the first session mainly about HUFS in general with Yoo Ki-hwan, the Dean of Admissions, briefly introducing HUFS and Lee Seok-rok, the Executive of the Admissions Office, informing attendees about HUFS' entrance process in Obama Hall. In the second session, professors from 31 majors from Seoul Campus gave lectures and explanations in different classrooms.

Student attendees could choose two majors at most and meet professors. By participating, students could get answers to their questions related to their majors of interest and get an opportunity to consider their career choice. HUFS is further planning to diversify programs, aiming to cultivate global talent. 📅

By Byeon Hee-jin

News Briefing

By Jang Eun-ae
Editor-in-Chief
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N.K. Conducts Nuclear and Missile Tests

North Korea conducted a nuclear bomb test on Jan. 6 and received severe criticism from the international society. However, about a month later, on Feb. 4, N.K. tested a missile that can reach the U.S. These two tests resulted in tension between nations, including the two Koreas, the U.S. and China. Additionally, Gaeseong Industrial Complex, cooperatively operated by South and North Korea, is in crisis, and it puts many South Korean corporations and businesses in difficulty.



Economy Activation



President Park Geun-hye called on citizens to sign a legislative

plan for economy activation. She also joined the signature campaign on Jan. 18 in person at Pangyo station. This president's participation in the campaign was a first for South Korea.

Spring Begins



Spring flowers including Cherry blossoms, forsythias and azaleas are going to be in full blossom on April 2 in Seoul. Other regions located in the south such as

Je-ju Island, Busan and Daegu are expected to see blooms around the middle of March. The flowering times are earlier than on average because the temperatures between March and April will be higher than average year-temperatures.

Ease in Syrian Civil War



The U.S., Russia and 17 other nations agreed to implement a plan for a cessation of hostilities. The plan covers humanitarian aid to isolated areas in Syria and refugees in

Germany, Jordan and Turkey. Also, a U.N. task force team will be formed to establish a long-term cessation and reduce the pain of war. However, the peace agreement will not include IS and terrorist groups.

Oil Price Drops

Iran has undersold their rival, Saudi Arabia, because it was released from international sanctions. Iran offered a cheaper price than Saudi Arabia, by as much as \$1.25 per barrel of oil. However, the rival rejected OPEC's suggestion to reduce its oil price to retain the market quota. 📉





Review the Old, Learn the New, and Widen Your Vision

By Byeon Hee-jin
Associate Editor of Campus Section

The new year has come, and still controversies remain within the Korea-Japan relationship. Korea and Japan are close in proximity but not in terms of their feelings toward one another. Because of this, both countries are indifferent to each other's cultures. In order to change this narrow point of view, there is a HUFSan who went on a field investigation to experience Korean-Japanese culture this winter break. Bae Su-yeon, a sophomore at HUFS, experienced a modern version of the "Joseon-tongshinsa," a diplomatic envoy, with an aim to widen her vision by experiencing the relationship of the past in culture and by thinking about the future cultural relationship between the two countries. Let us hear what she experienced.



▲ “New Joseon-tongshinsa” listens to a lecture from the museum.

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

Bae Su-yeon (Bae): Hello. My name is Bae Su-yeon and I am a sophomore studying Japanese literature and culture. I participated in a program promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chosun Ilbo called the “New Joseon-tongshinsa, following the steps of Joseon-tongshinsa” from Jan. 21 to 29, representing HUFS.

The Argus: Could you tell us more about the program you participated in?

Bae: The program I took part in for eight nights and nine days is a field investigation program that actually follows the footsteps of the real Joseon-tongshinsa. First of all, the “Joseon-tongshinsa” is a diplomatic envoy that went to Japan a total of 12 times from 1607 to 1811 to improve relations between both countries. In this way, the new Joseon-tongshinsa examines Japan in depth and seeks better understanding for the future of relations between both countries.

30 different universities selected one student each. Those students were divided into six teams, with five people per team, and all of them have been previously educated about the history of the era and what to learn. During the real investigation, we went to 12 different places including Daemado, Fukuoka,

Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo. Unlike typical tourists, we only went to places related to the Joseon-tongshinsa like Akama Shrine, which is a place the Joseon-tongshinsa visited before going to Tokyo. While visiting these places, historians, monks and professors gave us lectures about these places as well.

The Argus: What made you want to participate in this program?

Bae: I had always felt I did not know much about the exchange of culture between two countries, even though I had lived in Japan for several years. While studying Japanese literature and culture, I wanted to know more about Japan. Also, besides thinking in terms of politics, which is usually the most handled area of the Korea-Japan relationship, I wanted to broaden my thoughts about what the relationship is like with regards to culture. My acquaintance, who knew I always wanted this kind of experience, suggested that I try out for this program, and I decided to participate in it.

The Argus: What is your most cherished moment from your trip?

Bae: I think what the Joseon-tongshinsa did in the past was mostly to act like a diplomat. During my field investigation to Japan, I had a chance to experience what diplomacy would be like. There once was an interview request from Osaka TV, and only two out of 30 people could be interviewed. Since I major and can actually speak in Japanese, I was chosen as one of the two. So, I prepared for the interview with the expected questions they gave me, but in the actual interview, they gave me totally different questions. The questions that they actually gave me were critical questions that I had to carefully answer since I was representing Korea as a college student. After having this experience, I learned that diplomacy is never easy and came to admire the Joseon-tongshinsa more.

In addition, Korean Japanese Professor Bae Gwang-ung from Osaka Kyoiku University, Professor Son Seung-chul from the Department of History of Kangwon University, and monks from Tomonoura Temple gave lectures. Since some of them spoke in Japanese, we received simultaneous interpretation from an interpreter.



▲ Bae Su-yeon has an interview with Osaka TV.

The Argus: What did you learn from those lectures?

Bae: Though we went by the name of the “New Joseon-tongshinsa,” we not only followed the past, but we also got a chance to hear about the situation of third-generation Korean Japanese and the future direction of cultural exchange.

The most memorable lecture was the lecture from the monks of Tomonoura Temple. They showed poetry and drawings that Joseon-tongshinsa left behind and explained them one by one to us. The monks said that in the past, their ancestors treated the Joseon-tongshinsa with all of their heart and that they are very happy to actually share these precious relics with us. I was very impressed with their attitude of cherishing every little detail.

Moreover, in order to give us a chance to think about the Korea-Japan culture exchange relationship, Professor Nakao Hiroshi from the Kyoto School of Arts not only gave us a lecture but also invited his students to his university, and we freely talked about present-day culture. The lecture was mainly about how they treated the Korean diplomatic envoys and what they did during their stay. The records preserved were far more specific than expected. Also, with Japanese students, we got to know how Japan today thinks about Korean culture, what their thoughts are and what the future of exchange might be like.

The Argus: It must have been special for you since you study Japanese language and literature in Korea. How did you personally feel after visiting those places?

Bae: Last semester, I took a class on Japanese history. In fact, there were a lot of history majors from other universities in the program, and so I was relatively unaware of the relationship between the two countries or of the “Joseon-tongshinsa” compared to them. However,

it was very interesting that during the field investigation and through talks with Japanese people, I could understand some of them better than others since it was something I had already learned about during that class. Moreover, I felt like studying Japan only in a literary sense before, but after this experience, I realized the importance of experiencing things firsthand.

The Argus: What new things did you learn after this program?

Bae: I was very inspired by the way Japanese people preserve all details, even very small things. I think Korea can learn from this. Also, for the improvement of cultural exchange between the two, I noticed that we should pay more attention to the culture of modern Japan.

During this program, not only was my vision about the exchange between Korea and Japan widening but I was also able to share my thoughts about specific issues with other students from other learning environments.

The Argus: How would you like the cultural relationship of Korea-Japan to improve in the future?

Bae: Since Koreans pay a lot of attention to Japan, positively or negatively, I thought the Japanese would also be like us. However, when we communicated with Japanese students, I noticed that they did not pay attention to Korea as much as we do. Because understanding each other is essential prior to the improvement of a relationship, I think they should have more interest in Korean culture.

The “Joseon-tongshinsa” is listed jointly in UNESCO world heritage lists. Like this, as we are neighbors, I hope our relationship will develop in a positive way so that both countries can grow together. Not just in terms of modern cultural expression like music; I hope



▲ Bae Su-yeon and her teammates talk with Japanese students.

exchange in terms of traditional culture can develop as well.

The Argus: In regard to this experience, what are other things you want to challenge?

Bae: It was an honor to be a representative of HUFS and to represent Korean college students in an interview on Japanese TV. This experience made me interested in diplomacy. Therefore, I would like to try anything related to Korea-Japan diplomacy. For example, this is not diplomacy exactly, but I want to start from the bottom like volunteering at Gyeongbok Place by introducing Korean culture to Japanese tourists or meeting Japanese exchange students who come to HUFS and be their friends.

The Argus: Is there any message you especially want to share with HUFSAans?

Bae: One professor from the program said, “A sincere trip is not just about doing sightseeing at new places. It is about learning those new sights. Also, the true journey starts after the trip.” Like this saying, I think it is important to make newly learned visions my own, and to not just be satisfied with the trip. I hope other fellow students keep the active attitude of trying to share their new visions through a new experience and of making it their own. 🇰🇷

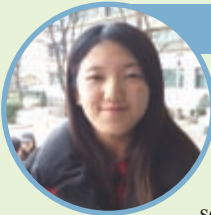
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What Are Your Goals for New Semester?

By Byun Hee-jin

Reporter of Campus Section

A new semester came along with the new year, and people are starting to plan for the future or to set many goals for the new semester. The goals students want to achieve may vary depending on their age and grade. The Argus met four HUFSans ranging from a freshman to a senior and heard about their various goals for this semester.



Kim Bo-kyung, Korea, China Area Studies, '13

The first goal is to participate in class diligently and get good grades. Other than that, I want to find an internship that fits me. I was planning to go to China to study this semester, but I thought it would be better to find internships in Korea before going abroad. Also, I hope I will do a good job working as a teaching assistant for the department this semester since it will be my first time doing so. I do not have a specific dream although I am an upper classman. Thus, I will have some time to sketch out my future life this semester.



Oleg Em, Russia, Division of International Studies, '15

My goal this semester is to learn English and Korean. People in my major are all English speakers, so I want to make more friends by communicating with them in English. Also, I want to learn Korean enough to talk with my Korean roommate and understand information on the HUFs website. When I came to this university, I did not know much about an education system like how to take courses because it was all in Korean. From this year onward I want to do it myself without bothering my Korean friend anymore.




Hong Seok-jin, Korea, Dept. of Russian, '16

The first priority for me is to get used to the new environment. I believe university life will be a lot different from high school. I want to adjust to campus life by making new friends and joining some club activities such as the school newspaper or an academic society. I think university is a place not only for studying but also for gaining new experiences by meeting various people. Another goal is to achieve what I could not do when I was a high school student. I will read many books, hang out with my friends, and study my major.



Lee Yun-kyu, Korea, Dept. of Spanish, '16

I want to socialize with various people in my first semester of university. Since people from all over the world are gathered at HUFs, I think it is a good place to meet diverse people and share worldviews. First, I want to become closer with seniors and friends in my department. It was nice to get closer to people I had never seen before by playing games without any hesitation at the freshmen orientation back in February. Likewise, as the semester begins, I want to see more seniors who I have not met yet. 

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

What Do You Think about School Cafeteria?

By Chung Hae-yun

Reporter of Campus Section

Sound #50791: “I was studying at the school dormitory during the whole winter session, and a number of students, including myself, were having difficulties finding a place to have each meal. Due to the geographical drawbacks the Global Campus has, the only place students can eat is the school cafeteria. However, the cafeteria stops its sales during the vacation. We have to find a place to eat every time we get hungry.”

This is a recent post on HUFS Global Campus Bamboo Forest Facebook page. More than 20 students liked the post and comments are still being made. The problem with the school cafeteria on the Global Campus has been raised for a long time, but there seems to be no absolute key to resolve the problem. Such claims regarding the management of the school cafeteria are not only a problem on Global Campus, but also on Seoul Campus as well. Students staying at the Globeedorm, Seoul Campus dormitory, have desperately raised their voices to show the need for a cafeteria inside the dorm. Students on Seoul Campus find it very inconvenient that they always have to visit other places for meals, even when they have no class or during weekends. Besides, students from other areas, including exchange students from overseas, have to stay in the dormitory for the whole semester, so they have no choice but to eat out three times a day on weekends. The Argus decided to have a deeper look into the problem through several interviews with students from each campus.

Seoul Campus

Bae Lee-ji, Department of English '14

I lived in the Globeedorm last semester. Since there is no cafeteria or a place where people can buy food, I always had to visit other cafeterias or eat out. It was especially hard when I was in the middle of studying during the examination period, so I sometimes skipped meals. On weekends, the problem became more intensified since the school cafeterias in the other departments closed, so the only choice left was certain restaurants outside of campus. It is inconvenient, and to state the obvious, the cost does not come cheap. If it is hard to manage a cafeteria inside the dormitory, at least setting up a place where students can cook would really be a help.

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

Because it is forbidden to cook inside the Globeedorm, students have to eat out. Personally, I think the real issue is on the weekends when all of the school cafeterias and half of the other eateries are closed. Whether it is during the term or vacation, students do not have many choices for meals during the weekend. Last semester, my friends and I spent hours to find a place to eat lunch on Sunday, but most of the restaurants were not even open, so we could only go to a convenient store and buy some snacks. It is a pain in the neck to choose between the different menus every time, and providing a cafeteria inside the dormitory is the only sure solution for the inconvenienced students.

Global Campus

Lee So-jeong, Department of German Interpretation and Translation '14

As I have worked in a department office ever since I was a freshman, I have always stayed at school during the vacation period. While working in the office, I have to eat lunch and dinner at school. However, all the school cafeterias on the Global Campus discontinue their operations during that time. Moreover, due to the geographical location of the campus, there are not many restaurants where students can eat or that deliver food. That is why so many students on the Global Campus have called for a school cafeteria to be continuously provided. The last time I worked in the department office was two weeks ago, and there were only three people including myself, so the delivery service, as well as food from other stores, was not available. So we decided to skip lunch and dinner that day, and when all of the work was done, we took one of the Red Buses to Bundang. There, at around 9 p.m., we had our first meal of the day. This issue has been discussed for a long time, but it does not seem like it will be resolved soon.

Kwon A-ra, Department of English Interpretation and Translation '14

I took a required subject for my first major during the winter session at Global Campus. This was my first time to stay on campus during vacation. The problem I first faced was that during the vacation, the school cafeterias on Global Campus temporarily stopped operating. Instead, the lunchroom for the school faculty was open, but it was 2,000 won more expensive than the average meal at the school cafeteria. I tried to eat somewhere cheaper than the lunchroom, but there was no such place. The cheapest meal in the lunchroom was over 5,000 won and I could not spend that amount of money on every meal, so I bought snacks for lunch and ate in the lunchroom only when I really needed a complete meal. 🍱

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The Coming New Reading Trend

By Park Se-in
Reporter of Culture Section

In March 2016, a new semester started again. When universities begin, students are accustomed to habitually making plans, and continuing or increasing their volume of reading is often listed as a part of those plans. Even if you are not a student or do not make a plan, you might think, “I should read books,” at least once. Various factors that encourage reading are prevalent in our lives these days. Let us find out more about a new reading trend that is approaching us.



▲ Books are arranged in a bookshelf of the Dokseobaram train.

New reading trend

Books and equipment are supplied in the spaces which are close to the daily lives of people. There is a new reading trend that fosters an environment of reading and is receiving favorable responses.

Dokseobaram train

The Dokseobaram train, which means a train that encourages people to read, has been running full-scale since February after its opening ceremony, which was held on Jan. 30. The City of Paju, Korail, the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) and some additional societies cooperated to establish the special train that encourages the growing rate of reading. If you pay general rail fares, you can take the train. Excluding rush hours, the train runs four times a day, which was its existing schedule. There is a natural reading environment offered on this train that people routinely use. It seems that the train will encourage passengers' interest in reading by providing books and a reading environment and will contribute to create the culture of reading books while taking train. According to the Reading Promotion Department

of KPIPA, about 300 people have been using the Dokseobaram train every day, and Paju and the other organizations are planning to add one more train later on when they secure necessary funding.

Huge pine desk at the Kyobo Book Centre

Gwanghwa-mun Kyobo Book Centre uncased huge desks made out of Kauri pine that lived about fifty thousand years ago in November 2015 after some remodeling work. Each desk accommodates almost 100 people reading books at the same time, and the Gwanghwa-mun Kyobo Book Centre installed two of them. Kyobo Book Centre officials said, "We decided to arrange desks to provide the cultural complex where customers can read books comfortably and experience various cultures." The remodeling, which seemed like a move, allowed

the centre to try to secure a long-term reading population by providing reading spaces to customers. This change provided customers with an open space that encouraged the opportunity to read.

Libraries in the cinemas

A reading space named Cine Library opened at Myeong-dong Station CGV last year. The library, created by re-fashioning one existing theater out of six, has desks, chairs and sofas for reading books comfortably. This new space created an environment where people can read books while providing a lot of books will help the readers in understanding of the films. There is also a book lounge at the Sangbong Station Megabox. The book lounge has bookshelves on one side and stair chairs, so people can sit as reading books. Cinema audiences are now given the possibility to come by the library to read books before and after watching movies. The cinema is arousing the interest of the audience in books and encouraging reading by changing their cultural space from one in which we can only enjoy films to a new cultural space where we can encounter books as well.

How did the new reading trend begin?

Busy life of modern people

Contemporary people are often not able to make time for reading as they are being swayed by their busy lives these days. However, many facilities and services are being created. These



▲ People read books on the train.



©Instagram/jiyoun_121

▲ A man brings books to the desk at the Kyobo Book Centre.



©yonhapnews

▲ People sit on the chair to read books at the Kyobo Book Centre.

are encouraging people to read books in their daily lives. For example, people can read various books when they take a subway or visit theater to watch a movie. These facilities help people to read by having books and reading spaces easily accessible to people's daily lives. When a reading environment is easily accessible in daily life, it makes people more concerned about books and implants within them a will to read by naturally approaching their lives.

Return to analog

Recently, a return to analog forms from digital ones has become an important cultural trend. For example, people who have more affection for paper books than Internet media and are again looking for paper books still exist. In spite of the advent of e-books, many people prefer paper books to e-books for several personal reasons. The Argus interviewed two people who prefer paper books to e-books.

"I like paper books because I have a strong attachment to the texture of paper books which I cannot feel with e-books. It is more comfortable and natural to read a paper book than an e-book. E-books are easy to possess, but make me tired easily when I read them," said a female college student. Another female teacher also said, "Paper books are comfortable to read and I love the feeling of turning pages. I also like the analog sensibility. These are why I prefer paper books to e-books. Reading e-books does not make me feel that I am reading a 'book' and feels like reading documents for work. Besides, they make my eyes tired."



Influence and limit

The new reading culture is changing people's daily lives. People who used to only look at their smart phones while taking a train have started to read the books they find on the

train. They are also moving from simply visiting bookstores to enjoying reading with strangers in the bookstore. Some people who usually go to the cinema to watch movies are starting to read the originating books before and after viewing films.

The influence of the new reading trend is not yet that large. There are fewer daily lives that have been changed than those that have not changed, and there is also a question of whether the influence of the reading trend can spread or not. Furthermore, there is a concern that only people who used to read books are going to use the newly provided services. According to the result of the 2015 National Reading Realities Survey from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the average reading rate of adults was 65.3 percent, which was the lowest record since the survey started in 1994. It remains to be seen whether the new reading trend can resolve those difficult situations in the future.

According to the survey, the yearly reading volume is 70.3, 19.4, 8.9, and 9.1 books for elementary school students, middle school students, high school students, and adults, respectively. We can see that people are becoming alienated from books by watching the decrease in reading volume as people become older. Their will to read, which is represented by the reading plan that often appears in their plans, is easily bent by reality.

The new reading culture facilities help people who have their minds set on reading to read books in their daily lives. The hearts which desire to read and the movies that encourage the reading of books meet in this way, and they are creating the new reading culture that directly enters a person's life even if they do not make time for reading. 📖

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Libraries in the Cinema

©The Argus/Park Se-in

By Park Se-in
Reporter of Culture Section

A cinema is a really familiar cultural space that everyone might visits at least once. Theaters once looked very similar to each other and only had a few differences. New things are happening to the uniform appearances of theaters, though. Little libraries have moved into cinemas to furnish film audiences with new cultural spaces and lives. The Argus visited three cinemas which possess own little libraries.

Myeong-dong Station CGV Cine Library

The CGV Cine Library is located near Myeong-dong Station. Since there are two CGVs near Myeong-dong Station, you should distinguish between the CGV Myeong-dong Station and CGV Myeong-dong. CGV created it by renovating a theater and opened it in April 2015. It has a lot of books related to films. You can enter by showing a movie ticket stub from the CGV Myeong-dong Station, paying with 1,000 CJ points, or being a member of the CGV Art House Club or CGV VIP. The facility has a

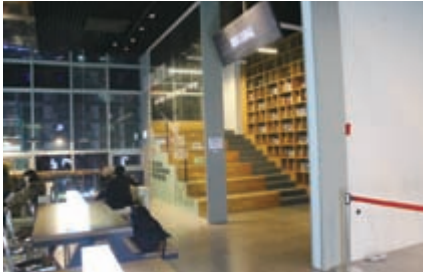


©The Argus/Park Se-in

▲ Books, sofas and lamps in the Cine Library provide people good atmosphere.

maximum occupancy of 50 individuals and a minimum age of 14 to maintain a pleasant environment.

Although only one theater was renovated, the whole floor is allocated



▲ Book Lounge is not big but cozy.



▲ People constantly come by to read comics.



▲ It is corridor to Manhwabang Under the Stairs.

to the Cine Library. When you enter the library, after satisfying yourself with the somewhat unique conditions, you can see bookshelves along the stairs to the entrance. As it is a complete reading place, the library projects an atmosphere of calm antiquity. You can comfortably and conveniently read books as reading spaces on the stairs are set up with sofas and individual desk lamps. All books are related to films and categorized into three sections. The first section, Section C stands for “Creativity in Cinema” and has many original movies and the second section, Section G, or “the Cinema Guide section”, consists of film-related books dealing with scenarios and comic books in which scripts and concepts of all scenes are recorded. The third section, Section V named “Visuality & Arts” contains books on the arts and humanities that inspire films. It is easy to find the books you want to read or are interested in as the books are arranged neatly. One male customer said, “It is good to read books there as it has a good atmosphere. I can find books related to

films there that I could not find in other places.” On the other hand, one female high school student said, “I am sorry that I had to meet several conditions to enter. Because of that, it did not seem to be a completely open space.”

Sangbong Station Megabox Book Lounge

Sangbong Station Megabox is located near Jungnang Station and Sangbong Station. The Book Lounge is at the side of the rest area next to the ticket office, and there are no entry requirements.


The Book Lounge is not a big library, but it has lots of books. As the Sangbong Station Megabox has only one rest area, audience members consequentially see the Book Lounge. People look around and freely read books as the lounge is completely open. Unfortunately, the lounge seems like it is not properly maintained. Megabox needs to add more books or remodel. An elementary school student said, “I like the Book Lounge because people, regardless of age or gender, can read books and take a rest.” A university student said, “I used to read books during my spare time when I was in the cinema. It is good that people can read books when they have some time.”

Coex Megabox Manhwabang Under the Stairs

Manhwabang, a comic book library,

is located under the stairs at Coex Megabox in Coex Mall and opened in August 2015. It has comic books that are related to films. You can enter by paying a Megabox membership fee of 1,000 points or by being a VIP member. There are a maximum number of attendees and also an age requirement. You must be at least 13 years old to use the Manhwabang.

Manhwabang Under the Stairs is literally under the stairs heading to the cinema. Unlike CGV Myeong-dong Station Cine Library, this library only has comic books that are concerned with movies as its name suggests. Compared to typical libraries, Manhwabang creates a light mood in that it has comic books only and an infrastructure where it is possible to see the exciting atmosphere of the cinema through the panes of glass. Seats fill fast as there are more users than at other cinema libraries; however, the facility is a little small. The library received so many favorable comments that a Manhwabang Under the Stairs has also opened at the Mok-dong Megabox.

Each cinema underwent various unusual trials to create its cultural reading space. The spaces appealed to people as they can enjoy another aspect of culture other than movies at the cinema. 

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▲ Anyone can read books anytime at the Book Lounge.

Intern Guidelines: Will They Eradicate Passion Pay?

By Ahn So-hyun

Reporter of National Section

On Jan. 1, the government established the Intern Guidelines to clamp down on companies exploiting young workers for little or no money. These guidelines were suggested by the government and the ruling Saenuri Party at the National Assembly. However, only days before they announced the implementation of the plan, congressman Kim Jang-sil of the ruling Saenuri Party hosted a party using university students working without pay. The work the students did was nothing related to their majors, and all they did was greet the participants and act as guides. The officials took an equivocal stance by claiming, "We do not know the details about the party." Despite the fact that the government and the Saenuri Party established the guidelines, some have already shown an indifferent attitude toward the problem. Can passion pay be eradicated? The Argus looked into the problem and suggested solutions.



Why the Intern Guidelines were made

“Passion pay” refers to the practice of companies taking advantage of people’s passion to work as an excuse to pay them very little or even nothing. Especially in 2014, the term “passion pay” began to emerge due to news reported about famous fashion firms and social commerce industries taking advantage of passionate young workers and offering them work experience in exchange for little to no pay.

Generally, these kinds of bullying acts are rampant in international organizations and state institutions where students cannot easily get a chance to experience a particular job. This phenomenon is also conducted in social enterprises and human rights groups, which recruit interns with no pay or only provide the least amount possible to cover the intern’s food and transportation expenses.

To solve the problem of passion pay, the government implemented the Intern Guidelines as of the first of January so that young people can receive what they deserve.

What are the Intern Guidelines?

Volume of Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies should not recruit over a certain ratio of regular employees to interns. This rule can be flexible considering the characteristics of the industry and company size.
Training Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The training period should not be over six months. If the difficulty level of the work is low, the training period should not be over two months.
Training Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training hours should not extend beyond eight hours per day and 40 hours per week. There should be no extended night or holiday work.
Style of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interns should be managed through a designated person in charge. There should be a daily record of their work.
Industrial Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All work that is dangerous and harmful should be excluded. Appropriate accident compensation should be given as well as private health care. Education for preventing sexual harassment should be conducted with the manager’s supervision.
Other Responsibilities of the Business Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The owner should support the intern’s expenses for food and transportation. Welfare facilities for interns should be provided, and the environment should allow the interns to speak freely if there are any difficulties. Effort should be made to ensure preferential hiring for the interns.

▲ Source by Korean Ministry of Employment and Labor

What are the doubts about the Intern Guidelines?

Ineffective Guidelines

The initial problem with passion pay is mainly about wages. The owners of companies offer little or no pay to young job seekers desperate to find employment and gain work experience to brighten their job prospects. Through employing young workers as interns, firms enjoyed a cost savings effect. However, even though the wage problem is the main issue of passion pay, the Intern Guidelines do not provide any clear solutions to end the vicious cycle of abuse.

These guidelines suggest that if an intern is considered to be a worker, due to their level of employment or time on the job, the company should follow the Minimum Wages Act. At this point, the effectiveness of the guidelines seems very remote because the number of last year’s exposed cases violating the Minimum Wages Act were identified to be 919.

Also, the owners are just “recommended” to provide money for food and transportation expenses. Even if they do not, these guidelines do not have the force of law behind them. Based on the actual guidelines, without stringent rules regarding wages, which is one of the main reasons why passion pay should be eradicated from our society, it seems very hard to prove its effects.

Bad habits are not corrected

The Intern Guidelines were put into effect roughly a month ago, so it is too soon to say whether the guidelines are working or not. Therefore, The Argus interviewed a few young students who work as interns and found out not much has changed since the guidelines became operative.

“I heard that the guidelines were enacted, but there is nothing really going on. I still go home late from work,” said a student, surnamed Yu, who is working at a marketing company in Gangnam. She also bitterly mentioned that she has no choice since writing about additional job experience is important when applying for a job.

“Working overtime is not a usual thing, but I do not get paid for work. I just get food expenses,” said a student Sim Na-young. She works at a hospital as a

dental technician intern. The student said that she did not expect payment because former interns were never paid, so it is like a custom that has spread throughout the medical society for interns and trainees.

Moreover, one of Yu's managers said, "In reality, it is unlikely that any company will perfectly follow the guidelines."

Rampant passion pay even exists in the National Assembly

The government vowed to take stern actions to root out employers' intentional and habitual exploitation of young workers through the guidelines, but it turns out that they are ignoring the passion pay that is prevalent within the National Assembly. According to the National Assembly Intern Union, an organization that is striving to improve the working environment for interns and legislative assistants, There are about 1,000 workers who labor as interns and legislative assistants that are currently working at the National Assembly.

Some university student interns mentioned that they often work on the weekends with no pay. What these interns do is not that different from an aide of an assemblyman who handles legislation with expertise as well as examines, investigates and organizes audits. Although interns are given similar work, they suffer from low or nonexistent wages just because they are not formally employed.

Causes of the problems

Guidelines on paper only

Passion pay has been a problem for years, and young workers are still voicing their complaints. There has not been any clear resolution in the past. Only in 2014 were the voices raised from the public due to the drama "Misaeng", which showed how non-regular workers are treated at work. In December 2014, the so-called "Jang Geu-rae Law" came out. It was meant to solve the unfair treatment of temporary position workers. The main point was to expand the contract period from two to four years for those workers who are over 35. Nevertheless, the comprehensive countermeasures for casual workers did not eradicate passion pay or provide tangible results.

Without clear ways to separate the subject of the

“
In reality, it is unlikely that
any company will perfectly
follow the guidelines
”

regulation, the Intern Guideline that the government is emphasizing causes a concern of existing simply for appearances.

Lack of compulsion and legal force

The guidelines are strongly encouraged to be used but without coercion. Also, because they do not suggest a specific range of application standards, the guidelines might overlook some areas that should be thoroughly investigated.

For those young workers who are looking forward to getting formally recruited, it will be especially hard or even impossible for them to accuse their boss of exploiting their wages. According to student Yu, even if they are not seeking to become permanent workers, most interns would never think of voluntarily reporting any unfair treatment they receive.

Due to the lack of compulsion and legal force, it seems very hard for the Intern Guidelines to eliminate passion pay.

Lee John, a professor of Hufs Department of Law, said, "Because interns are vulnerable members of society, I am not sure if the government labor office



▲ Presidential Committee on Young Generation gives a presentation about the reality of youth's passion pay issue.

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will show an active move towards the injustice of the situation.”

Lack of government willpower

Since the government established the guidelines to eradicate passion pay, it should be a great role model. However, in politics, it is illegal to give out payments to university interns and legislative assistants. Each member of the legislative body can recruit interns, but official agents with contracts are subject to the Secretariat of the National Assembly. Under the existing law, each office of the legislative body can employ two salaried legislative assistants with no limits on unpaid assistants. The problem is that if each office pays young interns with their own money, they will be breaking the law, as it is illegal according to the Political Fund Law.

“Except for when employing the interns in institutional terms, it is violating the Labor Standards Act to not pay the workers who are voluntarily employed by each office,” said a policy director of the Youth Union. The guidelines were implemented by the government, but there is a contradiction in the law against the guidelines. The government’s willpower seems to be lacking to resolve the legal contradiction that hinders the eradication of passion pay in the political sphere.

What are the solutions?

Guidelines for handling actual problems

The ultimate goal was to solve the payment issue in passion pay. Aside from the ambiguous target of the guidelines, at least a minimum wage should be assured to young workers so that these interns are treated fairly during their several months of labor. There were many cases where companies watched for a chance to employ interns while balancing between labor and education.

In addition, to address the wage problem, it is necessary to figure out what exactly the interns’ assigned tasks are and if any complaints exist.


Reinforcement of the regulation

To effectively use the Intern Guidelines, the government should increase the number of labor supervisors. By doing so, the supervisors are required to form a better assessment of what is happening in the field to improve the working environments for young workers.

John Lee, a professor of Hufs Department of Law, said, “Right now, there are a very limited number of labor supervisors in our society, and they have so much work to do beyond thoroughly investigating interns’ unfair treatment. So, it is pivotal to take complementary measures both quantitatively and qualitatively in regards to labor supervisors.” Also, some experts mentioned that due to the limited enforcement, the guidelines only exist as a form of first aid. To eradicate passion pay, the guidelines should be legalized and enforced.

Exemplary action from the government

If the government is not abiding by the law, then companies will not take the guidelines seriously. Therefore, the government is asked to act as a role model so that the guidelines will not become a temporary measure that will only come and go. Since each office’s payment is different, the Secretariat of the National Assembly should research the actual conditions. The government itself should comply with the guidelines to create a strict atmosphere for companies to follow.

These days, for students seeking job opportunities, it seems like it is beyond our reach to keep our rights at work. But clearly, efforts should be rewarded whether the workers are permanent or temporary. Temporary workers are also engaged in providing benefits to companies. There should not be any owners exploiting the innocence and desire of young workers. To achieve a better working environment for youth, the government, firms and youth all have to put forth efforts into changing the world around them. 

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By Ahn So-hyun
Reporter of National Section

In the last quarter of 2015, Samsung did not make any records within the top five of the world's biggest smartphone market: China. Korea, known as an IT market leader, finds itself in a state of crisis. However, throughout Korean society, young people who play an important role in the development of the nation tend to prefer stable jobs due to an ongoing economic depression.

According to the Korean Trade Association, over the last ten years there has been a 70 percent decrease in the number of young people in their 20s to 30s challenging themselves by creating start-ups. It is urgent that the youth be encouraged to try to create their own businesses. While attention is needed, there is a center that provides help to young people trying to create start-ups, and it works with them through the entire process. The Argus met the head of the center, Kim Kwang-hyon, to see what this center provides regarding the current youth start-up issue.

The Rising Sun of Youth Start-ups



The Argus: Hi, please introduce yourself to The Argus readers.

Kim Kwang-hyon (Kim): Hi, I have been working as the head of the Dream Camp(D.CAMP) center for about a year and two months. I was a reporter of the Korea Economic Daily for 28 years before I came here. Currently, along with being the head of the center, I also share useful information on Twitter and Facebook about various contents.

The Argus: Could you introduce the center of “D.CAMP”?

Kim: D.CAMP is a foundation creator started by banks. The purpose of this center is to inspire enthusiasm amongst young adults for start-ups. It opened in 2013 and has had a large impact on the start-up ecosystem. There are people who are preparing to launch a start-up, and they meet with investors at D.CAMP. Also, we hold many events for young people to gain information. Even the government officials came and began benchmarking our progress. Soon after, the government created 17 innovation centers in Korea. This kind of act had never occurred before D.CAMP was created, so it is right to say that our center has greatly affected the start-up ecosystem.

The Argus: Could you tell us briefly about the programs that D.CAMP is providing?

Kim: First, everyone who registers for a membership is allowed to use the cooperative space on the fourth floor. There are computers, printers, and a conference room that allow people to work freely with whatever they need.

Also, there are living facilities on the fifth floor. To use these facilities, innovators have to achieve a good result on “D.DAY.” Generally 50 teams apply for this event that is hosted once a month. One or two teams are selected during the event for access to the fifth floor. Once selected, we promote their start-up, help to expand the business, and offer teams a chance to meet with investors. Another program is called “D.PARTY” and it is ran privately. Each time, one type of traditional enterprise comes to an event to give a presentation about their innovative service and also to network. Lastly, there is time called “D.TALKS” provided for communication with senior entrepreneurs and “D.MATCHING” a matching program between job seekers and outstanding start-ups. We support them to grow, and when they are big enough to operate on their

own, they finally leave our center full of hope.

The Argus: Could you tell us how you started working as the head of the center?

Kim: Formerly I worked online, which gave me a grasp of domestic and overseas trends. Currently, including Silicon Valley, the whole world is feeling the trend of the start-up boom, and I think it is not a temporary thing but a big change. In many business divisions, innovation is arising from here to there. This situation is a proof of a big industrial revolution, and it is affecting the industry as a whole. I think it is a priceless experience for me to help these young people who are eager to bring about innovation. D.CAMP is improving infrastructure, such as creating a link to venture capitals and global partners. And if my duty is to do so, the reason why I came here is that I have been observing trends and understanding start-up culture, which assists me in my duties here.

The Argus: What are the selection standards and the process for the members that get support?

Kim: As I said, the fourth floor’s cooperative space is open to everyone registered as a member. As far as supporting businesses is concerned, we offer support to the teams we think have promise. We select about 12 teams on a regular basis and give them designated seats. Members normally prepare for about three to six months while receiving supports from us. During such preparation, they give a presentation about their product and get continual appraisals from the experts to make sure they are ready to enter the market. All presentations take about two hours to be delivered, and after that a decision is made as to who will get full support from the



▲ At cooperative space on fourth floor, people search for information to create their own businesses.

© The Argus / Ahn So-hyun

center based 80 percent on the opinion of experts and 20 percent on opinions of the young entrepreneurs present. The winner gets a MacBook for prize and is placed in the hall of fame. Additionally, the winning team gets to enter the living space. For those who get into the fifth floor, the living space, seed money is made available with direct and indirect support from us.

Regarding the selection standards, it is all about how promising and bright the start-up product is. Through a thorough evaluation we pick ones that we think will be ground-breaking products.

The Argus: What are the present conditions within the start-up ecosystem and could you tell us about a successful case?

Kim: There are many successful cases. To talk about one, a car wash agency was here just about a week ago and they left. They won last year's July "D.DAY" event, and they were here for seven months to prepare their business for the market. This service is for people who are too busy to get their car washed and inspected. With only a few clicks on a smartphone application, a car manager shows up, provides all the car services requested and puts the car back where it was. This business can be done for any and all services related to cars. Currently, its business is expanding in the Gangnam area.

There is another company preparing a service in the manner of a fashion platform called "hot sauce." Its purpose is to connect Chinese merchants and Korean designers so that they can sell their clothes directly. This system targets the Chinese market in particular. Starting this month, the clothes sold at Garosu-gil Road of Sinsadong will be ready for sale in China.

The Argus: What do you think is the threshold for supporting business?

Kim: I personally think that rather than what D.CAMP is providing for the young entrepreneurs, the government's business support has reached its breaking point. Korea's dark ages for start-ups lasted for a very long period, so it is good to see that the government is trying. However, jumping into a start-up is about being smart enough to pick out the good products and to let go of things that do not seem promising. The government's economic support is unconditional. They do not distinguish between good and bad. If the ones that are not promising get support but



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▲ On the sixth floor, there is a space to hold meetings, seminars and other events.

fail, they end up not only losing money but also precious time. Therefore, distinguishing between the good and the bad when selecting a team to support is important.

The Argus: What is the last thing you want to say to the youth?

Kim: I think a business start-up is very difficult, so I would not suggest young people to jump into this industry. But if you are ready and interested enough, it is right to challenge yourself. You only have one life to live, and even if you get into major companies, you have to retire at some point in your life.

I hope students know there are more ways to make a living besides joining a major company or being a government employee. The world is changing and if we do not keep up with those transitions, we will be left behind. If we do not make an innovative change, we will have to use Alipay and Tesla cars.

I think it is a matter of when you are going to start your foundation. If you have to, then why not start earlier?

As we can see and feel everywhere, the preference for stable jobs is rising due to the economic depression. Even if young people know there are various roads in our lives to walk on, not many are willing to try. But it is our job to make it work, and it is essential to know that there are a lot of programs and support ready to be given to the youth. 📧

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How Important Is English in Your Country?

By Byun Hee-jin

Reporter of Campus Section



As the new semester arrives, Korean college students have set their sights on a good score on the TOEIC or TOEFL exams and plan on studying English. English is almost a mandatory subject in Korea. To prepare for university examinations, exchange student programs or employment, more than one English score is necessary. The Argus met with three non-Korean HUFsans to discuss the importance of English in other countries.



Irina Tsoy
Turkmenistan
Division of International Studies '15



Kajiyama Kodai
Japan
Exchange Student



Riikka Maeklin
Finland
Division of International Studies '15

The Argus: Please briefly introduce yourself.

Irina: My name is Irina Tsoy. I am 21 years old and from Turkmenistan. I am majoring in International Studies and minoring in Business Administration. I have been in Korea for two years.

Kodai: I am Kodai from Japan. I am 22 years old and have lived in Korea for a year. I am an exchange student, and I study Education in my home university.

Riikka: My name is Riikka. I am from Finland and 26 years

old. I have been in Korea for a little less than a year. My major is International Studies.

The Argus: What do you think about Korea's excessive English education?

Irina: I partly understand English education in Korea because I also learned English, but they are forcing themselves too much. I think Koreans learn English because they want to be more competitive to get into a good university or to get a job.

Kodai: It is hard to understand why Koreans focus on learning English so heavily. Koreans are much more eager to study English than Japanese people. I was pretty surprised when I first found out that they do whatever they can to study English, such as spending a lot of money to study abroad or setting a rule to speak only in English at school or at home.

Riikka: It is great that Koreans study English a lot, but it should not be so intense. It is unfortunate that many students practice English only to get a good grade. The system by which Koreans learn English is not effective. It should be more focused on using the language practically rather than on grammar and scores.

The Argus: How important is English in your country?

Irina: English is not important at all in my country. Most people cannot speak English well. Not many people learn English unless they can afford it. English is not of significance when speaking to foreign people. We think communicating with people is possible with hand gestures and body language.

Kodai: English is not important in our social life. Japanese think English is unnecessary because there are not many opportunities to use it in real life. It is important only when seeking a job, but useless after that. We do not study English so competitively because getting a job is comparatively easier in Japan than it is in Korea.

Riikka: English is important in cities because of tourism. However, if you go out to the countryside, then you will not need English because there are no tourists. The level of English in Finland is good in general. People in Finland do not think speaking English is special because it is a basic skill.

The Argus: How do people in your country learn English?

Irina: We have a special language center that teaches English different from Korean *hakwon*. It is more official and gives students a certificate when they finish the course. We cannot learn English well because the quality is poor. We learn English from Turkman who learned English, not native speakers.

Kodai: Japanese people go study abroad to learn English. There are not many places to learn English in Japan even though people want to learn it. Private educational institutes for English tests like TOEFL exist, but they are not very professional.

Riikka: We have a lot of TV programs in English with subtitles in Finland. Usually it helps us to learn English. I think traveling might be one of the easiest ways to learn a language.

The Argus: Does your English skill level affect your social life in your country like it does in Korea?

Irina: It depends on what your goal is. If you want to work at an international company or embassy, you need to learn English. You can still get a good job without knowing it. English scores are unnecessary when applying for jobs.

Kodai: A strong ability to speak English can be seen as nice by many people, but it does not influence one's social life. TOEFL or TOEIC scores are sometimes required by universities to graduate or get jobs, but the minimum score is very low. In Japan, independence, cooperation, and communication skills are more important for finding a job.

Riikka: Almost everyone in Finland can speak English, so it does not influence our social life in a sense when going to college or getting a job. English as a subject is just a part of normal classes, so it does not additionally help you to get a job. Working experiences such as internships and having an outstandingly good personality are considered important rather than English in Finland.

The Argus: Does your country have a foreign language that is required to learn for social purposes?

Irina: People try to learn Russian more than English because many Russian people are living in our country. Also, various and exciting Russian television channels exist in Turkmenistan.

Kodai: We learn Chinese characters from elementary to middle school as a part of our mandatory education because it is related to Japanese characters. Other than that, there is no specific foreign language that is required.

Riikka: Finland uses Finnish and Swedish, but people usually speak English much better. Swedish education is mandatory for three years, but English is studied for eight years or more, depending on the level of education. English is a more important and more widely used language than Swedish. 🇫🇮

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Rain Bringing in the Spring

By Kang Young-joon
Editorial Consultant

The fourth of last month was Ipchun and this signifies the beginning of spring. It rained a week after Ipchun and this seemed to bring on spring. On that day, the temperature rose by 10°C and it was almost spring weather. We could feel the spring weather even though the night was a little chilly. ☺

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“Spirits’ Homecoming,” the Unending Story

By Lee Jae-won

Associate Editor of Culture Section

Recently, there has been a boom in movies provoking social debate at the Korean Box office. Three of the big hits of last year - “Assassination,” “Veteran,” and “Inside Men”- respectively dealt with the Japanese Colonial Period, the wrongdoing of a Korean family-run conglomerate, and collusive ties among the political elite, the financial sector, and the media. Experts say this boom is driven by films seeking to point out unsolved social issues in our society.

At the beginning of this year, the Japanese government submitted an official comment to the United Nations claiming there is no direct evidence that Japan forcefully mobilized sex slaves, so called “comfort women,” for its soldiers in World War II. Additionally, no official apology or legal compensation was included in the agreement reached by South Korea and Japan at the end of last year.

On Feb. 24, the movie “Spirits’ Homecoming,” based on the real story of comfort women, was released. It has been receiving a lot of attention from people as the comfort women issue has yet to be resolved. The Argus met the director of the film, Cho Jung-lae to see what its message is for this period.

The Argus: Hello, please introduce yourself and your movie.

Cho Jung-lae (Cho): Hello, I am movie director, Cho Jung-lae. Based on the true story of surviving victims, “Spirits’ Homecoming” is a fictional story of two young girls who were forced to become comfort women during the war. This movie was designed to perform memorial rites for the women who died far from home. I would say it is called a “feature by the people” since many people invested money into its production.



▲ The picture “Burning Virgins” inspires director Cho to make his film.

The Argus: Why did you decide to make this film?

Cho: In 2002, I volunteered at the House of Sharing, a nursing home for surviving comfort women. As I became close with them, I became aware of their painful stories. Also, I was shocked by one of the survivors, Kang Il-chul’s painting titled “Burning Virgins.” This picture portrayed scenes of Japanese soldiers taking young girls to a burning pit that Kang actually saw.

To prevent such tragedies from recurring, I thought we have to know the stories of the victims. From that moment on, I began thinking about ways to let the world know about their pain. Since I had served as an indie filmmaker before, I decided to make a movie for them as well, and I started writing the script in 2002.

The Argus: What were some challenges in making the movie?

Cho: First and foremost, making a movie requires lots of money, but getting money was beyond me. Although I knocked on the doors of numerous film studios with my script, I failed. Therefore, I crowdsourced the film, and luckily crowds of people contributed. I cannot help but say completing the movie was a miracle because I finally could have adequate funding for my project, thanks to



© The Argus / Jang Eun-ae

▲ Students send their letters and paintings related to the movie.

those who funded it after 14 years went by since I first decided to make it.

Another difficulty was that several people expressed reservations about the film’s subject, as they considered it a taboo topic. Those who agree with Japan’s top leadership on the comfort women issue still exist in South Korea, though they do not often express this opinion publically. The fight for awareness among them was never easy.

The Argus: I heard that your feature received lots of people’s funding and care like you said.

Cho: As of right now, 75,270 people invested money to produce the film according to official statistics. By way of appreciation, I held a movie preview with supporters and put all their names in the film’s ending credits. Among people of all ages, students especially were concerned about the film. Some students sent papers on which they handwrote the title, “Spirits’ Homecoming” in Korean, some sent their own paintings of movie scenes, and some invested in this project with money they collected together in their class. Groups of students at Daejeon Foreign Language High School visited the set and came to the advanced screening.

The Argus: What did you focus on to express the comfort women’s pain in your movie and did you have any difficulties?

Cho: Japan currently insists that there is no evidence that the Japanese military forcibly took comfort women. I often referred to this movie as “cultural evidence.” Accordingly, I tried to show exactly in the movie that young girls were kidnapped by Japanese soldiers and experienced hardships but in a tempered manner. As very young actresses played the roles of the girls who were sexually abused by the military, they went

through psychological consultations during the filming. Nevertheless, the actresses were under a lot of pressure as they acted. We had a hard time completing every scene. Especially in the scene in which young girls were burned, actors and staff cried bitterly.

The Argus: Your movie is known to have been posted in the New York Times and screened at the U.S. Congress. What were viewers' reactions?

Cho: A short movie teaser that I filmed in 2014 was mentioned in the New York Times in March 2015. In July of last year, I screened this teaser at the celebration held at the U.S. Congress. The celebration was to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the passage of the resolution on "comfort women." The resolution, condemning Japan's sexual enslavement, was led by U.S. congressman Mike Honda in 2007. At the ceremony, many American politicians and even most of the Japanese press participated in it.

Reactions were very good. Audiences who saw the teaser cried, and the master of ceremonies cried so much that he could not continue to organize the event. Mr. Honda said, "The Japanese must watch this movie."

The Argus: Tell us how you have been promoting the movie to the international community.

Cho: This film was supported by lots of people in the U.S. and Japan. As I hosted an advanced screening with supporters in Korea, I gave advanced copies to various places in the U.S. Starting with Los Angeles on Jan. 23, advanced screenings were also held at the University of Connecticut and Brown University on Jan. 28, Northern Virginia Community College on Jan. 29 and finally in New York in February. I asked viewers in the previews to spread the story of "Spirits' Homecoming" to the world, and I am now seeking methods for the movie to be distributed by a U.S. company.

The Argus: What did you want to deliver through your movie?

Cho: Through this movie, I wanted to talk about "healing." In the film, I tried to reenact the scene in which the victims' spirits came back home as yellow butterflies, many of whom in fact never made it home. Every time I screen the movie, I think one soul comes back home.

Furthermore, older people and women usually suffer the most after wars. Wars are still now happening around the world. It is really sad that they repeat again and again.



▲ A viewer cries after watching Cho's movie at a preview in the U.S.

That is why I hoped for this movie to be a tool for peace hoping that no war will occur again on this earth.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing the victims get an official apology from the Japanese government as a result of this film. I expect that it will be shown in Japan like Mr. Honda said, so that many Japanese can watch the movie and know that comfort women underwent severe pain. Actually, five Japanese said, "I was really surprised. Japan should feel remorse about its history" after seeing the movie.

The Argus: Please give some final words to The Argus readers.

Cho: An elementary school teacher told her story to me. When she taught elementary students about comfort women, they asked her a question. "Were grandmothers taken by Japanese soldiers?" It is because young students are not aware of the fact that comfort women, with the survivors' average age being close to 90, were actually kidnapped by force when they were of a similar age as the students. I hope many people will realize that young girls struggled with intense pain and care much more about the comfort women issue via my movie.

"Spirits' Homecoming" ended with an unreal scene in which the comfort women's spirits came back home as butterflies. What is most needed to solve the comfort women issue? It is Japan's sincere apology and people's concern about the issue like director Cho said in his interview. In this way, the scene in which the victims' spirits come home will become real. And until then, the story of "Spirits' Homecoming" still remains unending.



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Connection of the Past and Present, the Sagrada Família

By Choi Yun

Associate Editor of National Section

The advanced technology of today enables us to talk with people half a world away as if they are right next to us and to construct buildings of more than 200 floors in just a few years. However, despite these technological advances, there is a building that has been under construction for much more than 100 years. It is the Sagrada Família and is located in Barcelona, Spain. Since building commenced in 1882, the Sagrada Família has been under construction for 134 years. The Argus visited this cathedral that has been under construction from the 19th century until today in the 21st century and examined not only its exterior, but also the hidden meanings, history and background behind it.

11:00AM_ Entrance of Sagrada Familia

Known for being a UNESCO World Heritage site, crowds of people line up to tour the Sagrada Familia. Among the groups of tourists, employees who work on the cathedral dress in very noticeable fluorescent clothing, shouting, "Buy a ticket first!" to the newly arriving tourists. In order to enter the cathedral, tourists must first buy their tickets on the opposite sides of the main gate box office.



▲ The designer of Sagrada Familia, Antonio Gaudi Cornet.

11:10AM_ Ticket Box Office

Many tourists line up in front of the box office like they would at a popular ride in a theme park. Tourists from all over the world come to this place, which leads us to wonder about what makes this cathedral so attractive that a structure, which is not even fully built as of yet, would draw so many people from so many different parts of the world to see it.

1976, and the construction of the Glory Facade began in 2002.

The interior of the cathedral and its stained glass that is commonly found in many cathedrals greets viewers, but the scale and beauty are said to be incomparable with any other cathedral.

The columns look like trees supporting the dome of the cathedral, and the ceiling is filled with geometric patterns resembling stars. One can feel and see Gaudi's love for nature on the walls of this cathedral.

The cathedral's architectural beauty and scale are amazingly beautiful, but for the construction to take more than 140 years feels a little long. Why did it take so long to construct? The construction of the cathedral was interrupted during the Spanish Civil War in 1936, and building only recommenced in the 1950s. It was also difficult to interpret the architectural plans without the original architect and to proceed with the building with fewer personnel.

1:00PM_ The Interior of the Sagrada Familia

The Nativity Facade, which celebrates the birth of Christ, greets the people at the entrance of the cathedral. The Nativity Facade, the Passion Facade and the Glory Facade express the life of Jesus. However, the Nativity Facade was the only facade to be completed before Gaudi's death. The Passion Facade was completed in

Explanation about the Cathedral



© documentarytube.com

In English, Sagrada Familia is called the Basilica and Expiatory Church of the Holy Family. As you can see, its name of "Holy Family" is derived from the family of Christ: Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Sagrada Familia was designed by a Spanish architectural genius named Antonio Gaudi Cornet who was in charge as the organizing director. Gaudi became involved in 1883 and took over the project, devoting himself to the building until he was killed in a car accident in 1926. Although incomplete, the cathedral is considered to be Gaudi's unsurpassable masterpiece. It is also called the only place where God resides on Earth because of its huge scale and delicately carved interior. Distinctly different in appearance from other European cathedrals, millions of people are overwhelmed by its beauty every year.

The whole cathedral embodies scenes and lessons from the Bible with decorations and symbols by artisans. This building not only venerates the greatness of religion but uses its decoration to symbolize nature with such things as stars and trees that are placed around the surrounding walls to highlight the greatness of nature.



▲ Christian traditional stained glass windows(L) and unique columns and ceilings that resembles trees and stars(R) reflect the designer Gaudi's love for both the religion and the nature.

2:15PM_ Top of Sagrada Familia

The three facades include four spires of which each one climbs up over one hundred meters and symbolizes the twelve apostles. The spires look like corn, and they are decorated with Catalonia's fruit shapes. Six additional central towers have been constructed and are dedicated to Jesus and the Virgin Mary. They portray Gaudi's devotion and love to his beliefs.

If you want to walk up to the top of the tower, you must purchase a ticket. The ticket salesman will let you know about the entrance time when you buy the ticket. Many tourists line up ahead of time in front of the elevators, waiting to go up and enjoy the beautiful view. Tourists are able to ride a small circular elevator, carrying six people at a time, to go up to the top of the tower.

When you get to the top of the tower, you will see the whole city of Barcelona. After looking at the beautiful view of Barcelona, the view as you walk down from the

tower is also beautiful. The stairs down from the tower are a gentle spiral, like that of a snail's shell, and they lead to the first floor of the cathedral. You can get a closer look at the decorations at the top of the building through the holes in the middle of the stairs, which cannot be seen as clearly from ground level.

Even today, the Sagrada Família's size and beauty are slowly accumulating. Initially, the cathedral was built with donations, but it is now being built with the proceeds obtained from the admissions of tourists.

The Spanish government recently announced that they are striving to complete the cathedral on the 100th anniversary of Gaudi's death in 2026. In ten years, we look forward to seeing the finished structure of the Sagrada Família where there are connections between past and present and religion and nature. 🇪🇸

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▲ Buildings can be seen at the top of the tower.



No More “Wild Cards” in the Job Market

By Park Ji-yeon
Editorial Consultant

Seniors in universities say that it takes a year and a half on average to get a job these days. Doing an internship, getting certificates, taking tests, and writing applications are all included in the average 18 months. Some politicians recognized this overly stretched job seeking period as a problem and announced new regulations that will hopefully solve the situation. However, questions are arising from the youth facing unemployment, regarding the effectiveness of the new policies.

For example, beginning in February, an intern guideline policy was put into effect to solve the so-called “passion pay,” which refers to the situation where interns or assistants are in unstable conditions; unpaid or paid less than the minimum wage. Politicians of the ruling Saenuri Party, announced the guidelines as a solution to help interns get paid properly while building up their experience. However, the intern guidelines turned out to be mere “guidelines” with no legal effect. In other words, workplaces do not take the guidelines seriously because there is no penalty even if the interns overwork or are unpaid.

Another example is a city mayor in Gyeonggi province who is giving out gift certificates to local citizens who are 24 years old to boost the social activity of the youth. All the 24-year-olds living in the city of Seongnam receive 125,000 won worth of tokens to spend in local markets every quarter beginning this January. The problem is that the tokens were found being sold illegally for real cash, not playing their role as a key to helping the jobless youth take a step into society.

One cannot help but wonder why such ineffective policies are being made considering these two recent cases. As the approaches are evidently not improving the situations of job seekers, some university students are making wild guesses that the politicians are using the unemployment problems as a way to improve their chances in the upcoming general election in April. Nevertheless, a sincere and effective helping hand is still needed in the job market. 📧

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Hell Joseon and Happiness

By Allan Rodrigues

Guest Reporter

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Until 1543, most of the world was confident that the Earth was the center of the universe and the sun orbits it. Similarly, today a crushing majority believe that happiness revolves around success. We say to ourselves: “If only I get that job,” “If I get into that school,” “If I get more money”; once you have success, only then happiness will suddenly appear. In fact, decades of research in positive psychology proved it works the other way around—happy people attract success.

Young Koreans are living a phase of “learned helplessness.” They believe the outcome of any of their actions will result in failure or pain, so they stop pursuing ways to change the things that *can* be changed. Instead, they adopt a complaining mindset and do nothing about their situation. The term “Hell Joseon” was coined to symbolize the average Korean: struggling with unemployment, “happiness,” pursuing over-qualification and being disappointed with romantic relationships. It is tunnel vision. Successful people focus on opportunities, and the rest focus on obstacles. For example, few invest money on books. We have a wide selection of scientific books that shows us how we can achieve personal growth, self-discovery and how a fulfilling life is possible. Unlike hours of meaningless repetitive *hakwon* lessons, those are qualities that actually shape our brains to be healthier, smarter and get ahead of everyone else.

The traditional knowledge in Korea is that one should get a job by studying hard. That was true 50 years ago, not today. In order to spend every waking hour studying useless subjects, Koreans are sacrificing sleep, health and valuable interaction with the real world. When confronted with the demands of real life and real human connection, they get desperate because their whole lives were inside a room. Leadership, adaptability, positivity, compassion, good communication—those are all characteristics of successful people, necessary to achieve financial and personal prosperity. Yet, Koreans dismiss the value of humanities. 📖

Sumimasen

For the short two nights three days in Japan, I have heard “Sumimasen,” which means “I am sorry” in Japanese over 20 times. What is strange is that the person who made a mistake is me, not them. Why are they saying sorry? What are they being sorry for? Soon I realized that it carries a meaning of “respect” to each other. Coming back to Incheon airport with full of shopping bags and luggages in hand, somebody ran into me without saying any excuses. This is quite a frequent case in Korea, especially when you are on the subway, and you can even hear insulting words from a complete stranger.

I do not mean to compare, and some people blame Japanese’ attitudes to be hypocritical. Still, I believe respect is a necessary factor for mature Korean society. Starting today, how about saying “Sorry” to people around you?

Lee Mi-yeon

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Evil Practices Held in Certain Universities

There have been diverse controversies surrounding certain universities’ evil practices. In fact, specific universities are still maintaining the excessive hierarchy, and all kinds of irregularities are tolerated in the name of “custom.” It surprised me that seniors’ exploitations of juniors’ labor force and money are continuously justified in these colleges.

Some of these universities have recently been issued because of their immoderate demand of public money. More to the point, the usages of those money are not clearly disposed to the students. It means that there is no way for payers to check why those excessive money are needed.

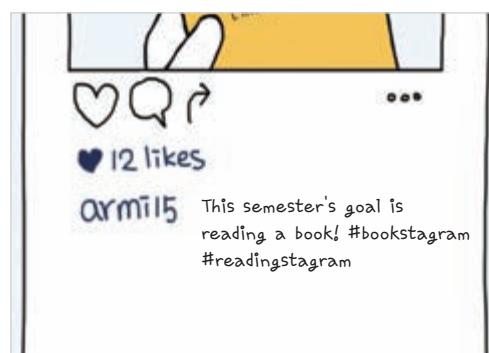
In my point of view, these evil practices are no longer a “custom,” and it is just a violence inflicted upon juniors. It can be difficult to eradicate the bad habit, but efforts should be accompanied such as other people’s steady interest. Violence disguised as custom should be abolished even by firm legal actions. I feel sorry to those students who are suffering from those violence, and hope every students enjoy their liberal college life.

Yoon Yoo-min

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The Goal for New Semester...



Park Ji-hyun

Department of English Linguistics '10



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