



## The Argus

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# Between Green Laughter and Green Sorrow

April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.

(...)

hus begins one of the works that define modern poetry: T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*. Through the seasonal anarchy our natural order presents, Eliot's assessment of April obliterates the redemptive hope that spring might evoke. Personally, I have always admired how these hopeless lines delineate the uncertain glory of April. It is interesting to question why there is something in us that pushes us to anticipate the analogous resurrection of our being in some final consummation, submitting ourselves gladly to the arrival of the temporal spring.

Usually, at this point, we impatiently await the birds to chirp rebirth and hope; the resilient leaves and adorable blossoms to unfurl; crisp air to reawaken your first emotion of love. Nobody remembers the melancholy of decay before this very herald of renewal, perhaps numb of the sense of futility, the groundlessness of aspirations, and the vanity of endeavor that our cruel nature provides. We just miserably desire eternal greenness, projecting the possibility of life into the future.

However, the emptiness of such magical promises is soon revealed, cruelly breathing out any expectations that remain unfulfilled. While winter was an eider down or a duvet to hide underneath, this season of rebirth prods us to keep moving, maybe too quickly. Perhaps, we are not ready to be pulled back to life.

Besides, the emptiness we feel is ever magnified by the current crisis we are going through. In our usual cycle through the seasonal year, life at least provides our empty souls with an external source of life. Nonetheless, COVID-19 has taken even this away. Everyone is at death's door. We are now fighting this microscopic warrior by locking ourselves down in our homes for the sake of collective survival, stripped of our seasonal freedom which is something that seemed to be an unalienable right. In this sense, it seems that we are always engaged in war, in some form or another.

Life truly is the perennial source of death, and your spring unexpectedly comes and goes between the green laughter and green sorrow. Our spring is not stolen, but it is just as it was. It is just that we are the species that are clearly wired to survive trauma, who wait out the blackout every day, and reproduce our evolutionary past repeatedly. In this April issue, The Argus captures the warfare of life, continuing with our second steed of the book of Revelation's four horsemen, the matter of life and death: WAR.

By Kwak Hyun-jeong

Editor-in-Chief

Kwak Hyunjeong













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**Cover Story** 

### >> What is war good for anyways?

It is good for absolutely nothing. It does not happen because people want to die, but because people let down their guards long enough to be fooled into killing people. War, however, has always accompanied humankind. 2020's April issue of The Argus introduces to our readers the Rwandan Genocide in detail and briefly discusses what pushes humans towards war. By doing so, The Argus hopes that readers are reminded of how easy it is to let hate and fear control our lives and how important it is to keep ourselves in check.

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### Yoo Eun-hae Visits HUFS for Inspection

On Feb. 18, 2020, Yoo Eun-hae, the Minister of Education and ex officio Deputy Prime Minister of Korea, visited HUFS Seoul Campus to inspect how the university is managing the situation of COVID-19. HUFS was the third university visited by the minister following Sungkyunkwan University and Kyunghee University. Different from the previous two universities, Minister Yoo held a meeting with



▲ Yoo Eun-hae (L) and Kim In-chul (R) is holding a meeting with school faculty and students



▲ Yoo Eun-hae is measuring her temperature before entering Globee Dorm

not only Chinese but also other international students studying at HUFS. The minister asked the opinions of students living at HUFS and listened to their concerns and demands. This may have been for the purpose of preventing future conflict. The minister emphasized that although students may be uncomfortable, considerate yielding is essential.

After the discussion with international students, Minister Yoo's temperature was measured at the COVID-19 CLINIC on the first floor of Globee Dorm. Accompanied by school faculty, the minister inspected the student hall and dormitory facilities. She added that student participation and cooperation is vital. In addition, measures to financially aid universities are being currently looked over.

Oh Ju-yeon, EICC '17, commented on Minister Yoo's visit to HUFS. "I wish Minister Yoo will continue to communicate with transparent information with students and the public in the future." She added, "The coronavirus is spreading rapidly in Seoul as well. Maybe the first day of school needs to be looked over once more."

By Jang Soo-hyun soohyun1207@hufs.ac.kr

### **HUFS Library Suspends Function**





▲ After a long haul, the Smart Library construction is finally finished waiting for a debut

The HUFS library of the Seoul Campus decided to shut down all services including returning and checking out books till April 13th for the opening of the Smart Library.

The library was already managed with shorter working hours due to the coronavirus. This time, the library is closed because of the relocation of all facilities to the Smart Library from the temporary location, B1 of the Cyber Building.

The library has announced that only searching service of the new homepage will be available. Also, the due date for returning books during the closed period will be postponed and late fees occurred during the closure will be waived.

By Yoo Chan-heum rabbit0326@hufs.ac.kr

### **HUFS Completes First** of the Songdo Campus **Buildings**



Student representatives members of the school faculty, and special quests stand in front of the newly constructed buliding.

On Feb. 10, HUFS held a ceremony celebrating the completion of the HUFS International Education Center at Songdo.

During the ceremony HUFS President Kim Inchul said, "The vicinity of the campus to global biomedical institutions such

as Samsung Biologics and Celltrion makes it the ideal place for synergy between government, industry, and academia."

The Songdo campus has been in the works for over a decade now, but this new decade seems to be the official start of the Songdo settlement. The campus is located in the Hightech Industrial Cluster of the Songdo International Business District. The campus sits on 43,595 square meters of land sectioned for research and education. The newly constructed building, designed to be a multi-purpose lecture hall, takes up about a fifth of this area.

> Park Chang-Hwan chhwpark@hufs.ac.kr

### **HUFSans Experience Difficulties Accessing** E-class



▲ HUFSans were not able to connect smoothly to e-Class server.

On March 16, HUFS e-Class server was down as it was overwhelmed by a rush of hits. It was the first day of classes after HUFS postponed the opening of the spring semester by two weeks to block the spread of COVID-19.

Earlier in the day, HUFSans had difficulties accessing e-Class and downloading lecture material. In response, HUFS blocked e-Class's material download tab for a while, embarking on the server restoration work. The university also uploaded a notice apologizing for the server delay on its e-Class website.

An anonymous HUFSan said, "At first, I thought my computer was acting up, but soon I realized that the server itself had a problem. I hope the school restores the server as soon as possible." Meanwhile, similar problems occurred nationwide, causing inconveniences for college students.

> By Na Geum-chae nak3096@hufs.ac.kr

### Global Campus Adds E-commerce to Its List

HUFS Global Campus was selected as one of the seven E-commerce Specialized Universities by the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Startups, and Korea SMEs and Startups Agency in last January.

The E-commerce Specialized University project was first launched this year with a total of 350 professional aspirants in E-commerce trained for a year. In line with this change, Global Campus established a "Global e-Business Lab" course at Global Business & Technology department, which is run both in the spring and fall semester. Students who dream of being global sellers are expected to experience online export and marketing practices through global E-commerce platforms, such as Amazon.

This semester, an e-Business Lab course for undergraduates has garnered the interest of many HUFSans. Competition was fierce as 98 students applied for a chance to be a part of the selected 25. The recruitment plan for the second semester will be announced on the HUFS website in June.

> By Na Geum-chae nak3096@hufs.ac.kr

# News Briefing

By Kwak Hyun-jeong

Editor-in-Chief

## The Parliamentary Passage of the Anti-Tada Bill



On March 6, the revision bill aimed at banning Tada, the rental van-hailing service launched in late 2018, has been passed into law by the National Assembly. Tada has been renting out 11-seat rental Kia Carnival vehicles with outsourced drivers and has gained explosive popularity with over 1.7 million registered users. However, Tada's carpooling service had to face angry backlash from the taxi lobby and regulators, who criticize Tada for disrupting the transportation ecosystem and chipping at a portion of their earnings.

Thus, the revised law entitles each van to operate for at least six hours, limiting its use to tour purposes only, and be rented or returned at limited pickup points like airports or seaports. Since Tada exploited its legal exception through rental cars that were originally designed to boost local tourism, the parliament impugned them for abusing a legal loophole.

Company CEO Park Jae-wook remarked that the lawmakers seem to have favored the existing taxi industry, wary of their votes in the upcoming April general election. He adds that their main service Tada Basic, which accepts calls for rides through the firm's designated app, will be indefinitely terminated from April 10, unfortunately.

## North Korea Steps Up Missile Testing



Earlier in March, North Korea carried out their first and second m i s s i l e

launch of 2020, firing unidentified projectiles over the East Sea, as if to indicate that the regime has a specific goal. It seems to be that not only is North Korea boasting their newly improved military capabilities, but also exploiting the weakness of countries suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

# WHO Recognizes Dokdo as Japan's Territory



On March 7, Voluntary Agency Network of Korea (VANK) revealed that they have found the WHO (World Health Organization) website's country profile section has been labeling Dokdo and Ulleungdo Island, South

Korea's easternmost islets, as Japanese territory. Since WHO is the UN agency charged with spearheading efforts against COVID-19, VANK worries the website might have misled the international community. Professor Seo Kyungduk of Sungshin Women's University, a dedicated Dokdo campaigner, has also affirmed that the map requires modification, and provided WHO with an adjusted map on March 10. Nevertheless, despite their exertions, WHO remains unstirred.

## 1.5 million Sign Petition to **Impeach President Moon**

On March 5, six weeks into the coronavirus outbreak, the petition demanding President Moon Jae-in's impeachment submitted to the Blue House system has closed off with the support of nearly 1.5 million people. After the government lost control of the infection rates, Moon's approval rating is constantly falling.

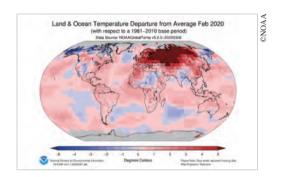
Currently, many Korean netizens are criticizing Moon's decision of not imposing a full entry ban on all travelers from China and providing high-quality face masks, hand sanitizers, and meal boxes to the Chinese citizens. They feel their leader does not take top priority in protecting the country's own people. A similar petition was submitted to the legislature's online bulletin board receiving 100,000 votes in just four days, which is enough to be considered a legitimate bill by a lawmaker. The National Assembly plans to put the bill to the standing committee deliberation.





## **Earth Sweated Out This Winter**

NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) declares that February 2020 ranked as our planet's second warmest ever, since climate records began in 1880. Significantly, all the 10 warmest winters occurred since 1998. Statistically, the scientists predict 2020 to be among the five warmest winters, surpassing the previous record that goes in the order of 2016, 2019, 2015, 2017, and 2018, starting with the hottest.



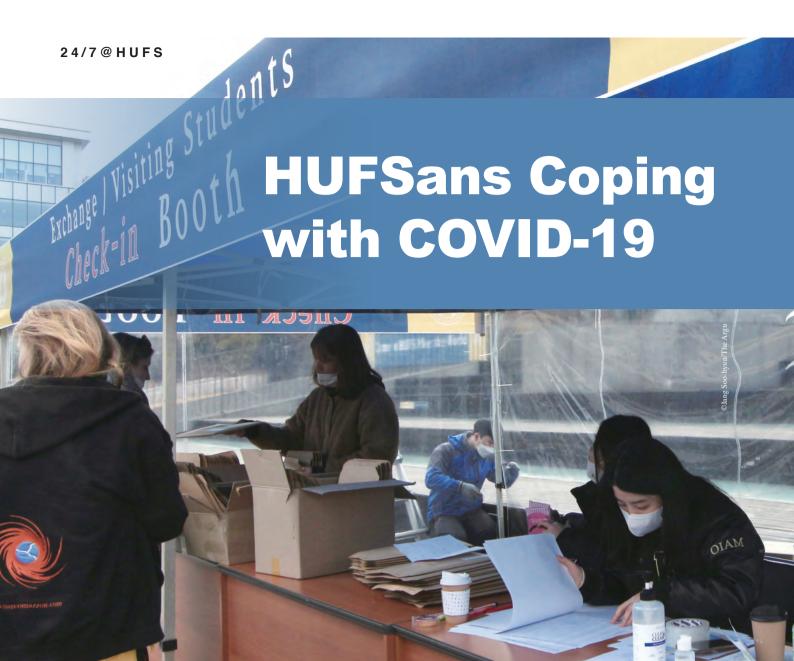
## **Desert Locust Swarms Threaten Food Security**



Starting out from mid-2019, the ongoing spread of hundreds of billions of locust swarms are advancing across the Horn of Africa to the Persian Gulf region, continuing their trail of destruction. In January the U.N. agriculture agency has alarmed a call for financial assistance since it is a timely treatment, but still, the resources are too slow in coming. Most of these regions are impoverished and are relying on agriculture activities. They urgently need to combat these ravaging pests, which can consume its own weight in vegetation a day and so breeding real fast in numbers. A swarm is known to eat the same amount of food as about 35,000 people, per day, threatening the locals' livelihood.

The main culprit of the rapid breeding is the cyclones over the past two years and extremely warm weather at the end of 2019, combined with a prolonged and exceptionally wet season. According to the U.N. officials, the current locust infestation is the worst in 25 years and "unprecedented in modern times." In just a few weeks, crops will be ready to sprout, but each day, more countries are affected. What is worse, due to the latest coronavirus outbreak, the imposed restrictions that limit traveling from country to country is making the situation tough to manage, more than ever.

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▲ OIAM opens a check-in booth for incoming international students.

### By Jang Soo-hyun

Associate Editor of Social Section

s the spread of the coronavirus continues, voices of worried students and parents are growing louder. Due to these concerns, the school has made several efforts to put worries to rest. School has been delayed for two weeks, followed by two weeks of online classes. Also, entering the dormitory has been pushed back two weeks.

Freshmen orientation, freshmen orientation retreats, and graduation have been cancelled, and alternative events will be planned in the future. Also, freshmen medical checkups, and freshmen English testing has been replaced with individual checkups and online testing.

HUFS has limited entrance into the school to the main front and back entrances. Multi-use facilities and services around campus have been closed including the library, cafeteria, health services, classroom reservation, student spaces, and more.

The joy that used to fill the first two weeks of March, which is excitement of the new semester, is now nowhere to be found. The Argus looked around the campus to speak with HUFSans to hear their worried voices and members of HUFS contributing to calm the fear of the virus.

In late February, in the midst of the coronavirus's rapid spread in Korea, exchange students from all around the world are pouring into HUFS. Regardless of the worries that a student may feel about coming to Korea, they decided to spend this spring semester at HUFS.

First, The Argus visited the Office of International Admissions and Management (OIAM), which held a checkin booth for incoming exchange and visiting students coming to HUFS. Not only were they giving out HUFS goods, but this year, they updated their distribution to exchange students by giving out packets full of information, face masks, hand sanitizers, and more. "Compared to other semesters, activities such as the welcoming or other group activities will be cancelled, which is why we are handling more students oneon-one and giving more information such as important dates to the incoming students," said the exchange student manager of OIAM. She added, "A lot of exchange students withdrew from the semester last minute. Approximately 20 exchange students cancelled last week, and about eight out of ten new Chinese exchange students cancelled."

The President of the Global Student Association (GSA), Magloire Mukendi commented on what the GSA has been doing to help out the regular international students entering HUFS this semester, "Normally, every semester, we help the OIAM organize the orientation, the campus tour, and the welcoming party for new international students, but due to the coronavirus we are limited. As an alternative solution, the office will be providing handbooks and releasing videos to introduce new students to their academic life in Korea. GSA is ready to lend a helping hand whenever."

Regardless of the growing concerns of international students, some decided to spend the semester at HUFS. The Argus asked Kristiana May Bautista and Christian Tandoy from the Philippines about their first impression and what they had prepared beforehand. "We were worried about the virus," Kristiana shared. "We brought some hand sanitizers and face masks," Christian added.

Among the international students, opinions varied. The Argus asked more exchange students about their experiences before coming to Korea and their opinions about the situation.

Yvonne Bolhar-Nordenkampf from Austria shared that she has obtained 150 masks before coming to Korea but added her reasons for coming to Korea "Some people view the situation to be very threatening, but I think the main problem does not lie in Korea but in how the international media portrays the



▲ Exchange students from the Philippines are busy taking care of their belongings.

situation here and what is going on, and it is misinforming us students. Some students were forced to cancel their whole semester because their university or parents are forcing them to do so. However, people are taking numbers out of context and assuming things, and that is the main issue. There is a lot of misinformation going on."

Maia Honold from Germany shared that she bought a lot of hand sanitizers and was told to avoid big crowds. She added, "I think there are a lot of different opinions. I have some Korean friends living here. If I ask one person about the situation, they say it is not a big deal because I am young and there is nothing to worry about. Then there is another person that says that I should cancel the semester and not come."

Lisa Depaifve from France added, "A lot of people are thinking about postponing or cancelling the semester," pointing out another perspective.

GSA President Mukendi confirms these worries among exchange students. "We are aware that some international



▲ Lisa Depaifve (L), Maia Honold (C), and Yvonne Bolhar-Nordenkampf (R) are smiling for The Argus.

students are still in their home countries and are planning to come back to Korea by the end of March if things get better. We have gotten notices from other students who were in Korea but left in late February or early March." Mukendi noted, explaining the uncertainty international students may feel.

When The Argus asked how the school has been helping out, Yvonne answered, "My home university has been very troublesome. They wrote me emails and called me several times saying that they 'do not want to force me, but will recommend that I cancel the whole semester,' even though I tried to explain that it was what I considered safe a situation. So I asked HUFS if they could send out an email, and two days later my home university sent me an email explaining that HUFS was well-prepared. I feel like all universities out there need to send out an email from the very beginning."

Exchange students or not, all students entering the Globee Dorm need to go through the COVID-19 CLINIC organized by the HUFS Health Center. All those passing will go through a screening with an exothermic check. Wondering how the health center is managing with the coronavirus before school begins, The Argus asked the student health center some questions beginning with what will happen if there is indeed a coronavirus suspect. "First, we need to check if the student objects to being inspected. The student will be put in contact with a doctor, and the two will talk about the student's symptoms and the doctor will decide if it is necessary for him or her to be examined. The student will be asked if he or she has a place to be self-quarantined because the results take approximately six hours. Most of the time, the results are sent out the next day through a text message. Even if the student is considered safe to leave, the health center will keep in contact for the next 48 hours because symptoms may have a long



▲ A HUFSan is wandering in front of COVID-19 CLINIC

incubation period," the health center answered.

Continuing, the health center added that the center has been busy compared to other semesters. "In the past years, freshmen medical checkups were carried out in big numbers. However, now this is handled individually. From a parent's perspective, there are a lot of questions: when, where, and what kind of examination this is. Although most of the information is on the school website, because it is a situation that we are all dealing with for the first time, we still need to inform people. In addition, a lot of parents are questioning if it is safe for their kids to go to school, how much screening is done, and if the students are indeed safe."

The health center concluded by adding, "Every individual's efforts can make a difference in these kinds of situations, such as not going to places with large crowds and reporting if something is suspicious, along with basic things such as washing your hands and wearing a mask."

When the Argus asked GSA about their thoughts or worries about the coronavirus, Mukendi lastly added that, "We wear masks and sanitize our hands. But as you know, masks are becoming scarce in Korea. Many international students expressed their concerns: they are running out of masks and they only have the Health Insurance provided by the school."

Mukendi also added that GSA has been busy lately. "Everyday, news, updates, and changes are abounding on the university's notice board. Most of the time and especially if it is urgent, our school shares information only in Korean. Our members had to work hard; we could not spend a day without checking for updates, translating them into English, or sending them to international students. So far, GSA has been taking responsibility to help international students stay informed, but we have limited resources, so we have to choose the most urgent and most critical among all those notices and official documents."

The faculty at HUFS is contributing in some way to help ensure the safety of the students at HUFS. Different parts of the school are helping students move shiftily across the difficult times or contributing to stop the spread of the coronavirus coming into the school. However, it is also the individual HUFSan's responsibility to stay healthy and prevent the spread of the virus. One way or another, The Argus believes that everyone has a way to help and together, we can find a way to stop the virus.

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uman beings basically grow up to be the Pinocchio, the very name that becomes the byword for lying. You may remember as a child, The Blue Fairy from The Adventures of Pinocchio advised us, "Pinocchio, a lie keeps growing and growing until it is as plain as the nose on your face!" Now that you are all grown up, The Argus questions whether you still have a nose as long as Pinocchio's. Who is our Pinocchio Boss here at HUFS? Celebrating the triumphant return of April Fool's Day in this issue, four HUFSans prepared interesting lies to share. They tell The Argus it is their biggest one, but be sure to remember that the "real" one cannot be told! But, let's be fooled, since that is why this silly day exist!



### Hyun Ye-won(Dept. of International Economics & Law '16)

I once had a boyfriend who cheated on me. He secretly chatted with another woman online and even asked her to a date, telling her that he was not in a relationship. I was totally stunned by this discovery, but with no doubt, I dumped him and called him all kinds of four-letter words in front of my friends. Steely determined, I told them, "I am never getting back with him. This is official!" But as days went by, I realized I was lonely and depressed after leaving my ex and ended up going out with him again. I was too big of a coward to admit this reunion to my friends that I kept on lying that I will never date such a bastard. I would like to say sorry to my beloved ones who kept standing by their laughably naïve friend through thick and thin.



### Park Jae-min(Dept. of Spanish '19)

Ever since I bought my iPad, I keep on watching Netflix shows instead of doing my daily tasks. Before the purchase, I figured the iPad would serve as a document carrier and study aid, but in reality, I am faced with a video player surrounded with cup noodles, beer, and snacks. In my defense, I have only been allowing myself TV time only while I eat a meal. However, as the screen time lasts longer, so does my meal time. Time seems to speed up, with an hour passing by in a blink of an eye. Am I only the one who uses an iPad to only play Netflix?



### Kim Ji-won(Dept. of Economics '18)

"Being a morning person" is tough as an undergraduate. Seriously, I remember myself to be a diligent high school student who woke up at 7:00 a.m. every morning, since I was supposed to arrive at my classroom before 8:00 a.m. After entering university, I had confidence in myself that taking four days of first period classes in a row will be a pushover. As my first semester began, I came to realize that something was wrong. My body certainly could not handle everything it used to, entering the twenties was completely different from the teenage years. From then on, I chose to turn into a night owl, breaking my promise to continue on as a morning person.



### Nam A-jin(Dept. of Russian '17)

I have been having a hard time dragging myself out of the bed to begin exercising before breakfast, and I recall my failure to be in the dozens. I had this ambition to readily lose weight, being well aware of the fact that cardio on an empty stomach can burn more fat during exercise. Nonetheless, I could not stop shutting off my wake up alarms at 6:00 a.m., which rings every fifteen minutes annoyingly. When I wake up to the last call, I take a look at my alarm clock just to find out I have overslept four hours. Eventually, my exercise routines fell off track. But at least I work out later in the day and that plays as a small consolation for me, I guess.

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### By Jang Soo-hyun

Associate Editor of Social Section

ave you ever been to the Balkan Peninsula? Well, there are HUFSans at Global Campus that study the language and culture of the Balkan Peninsula. The Argus met with Park Kyung-min, a student in the Dept. of South Slavic Studies, wondering how this uncommon major has played to the student's advantage. The Argus questioned his unique experiences, lifestyle, ways of thinking, and much more to answer the concerns that students of minor majors may hold.

### The Argus: Can you please introduce yourself?

Park Kyung-min (Park): Hello, my name is Park Kyung-min. I am a rising senior studying in the Department of South Slavic Studies '15 at HUFS Global Campus. In particular, we study Serbia and Croatia. Currently I am the president of the department's study group Danica.

## The Argus: Please tell us about Serbia and Croatia.

Park: Serbia and Croatia were a part of Yugoslavia.



▲ Serbia (T) and Croatia (B) are a part of the Balkan Peninsula (L).

Yugoslavia is a country created by the Southern Slavic people after World War II. However, in 1991 the country collapsed, creating the current six countries, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Serbia and Croatia are a part of the Balkan Peninsula in Eastern Europe. They speak Serbian, Croatian, and Bosnian, which are linguistically the same language but politically differentiated. Due to the small differences in the language, HUFS teaches the two languages separately.

## The Argus: How did you choose the Dept. of South Slavic Studies?

**Park:** I wanted to learn a foreign language, especially a unique one that not many have learned. I started gaining interest in Serbia and Croatia when I learned about the countries' history and culture. At first, I thought abstractly about the two Balkan countries as they seemed so different from Korea, but as I learned more about Serbia and Croatia, I found they shared great similarities with Korea. Then when I visited Serbia, the Serbians were so friendly

and fun, and their way of living seemed so similar to that of ours.

### 🌅 The Argus: What are some similarities between Korea and the two countries?

Park: First of all, Serbia and Croatia are on the Balkan Peninsula, whereas Korea is on the Korean Peninsula, so living on a peninsula is a big similarity. Second, dwelling on a peninsula, we have been more prone to external invasions. The Korean Peninsula has gone through so many hardships in history and the Balkan Peninsula as well such as by the Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire, Ottoman Turks, Austria, and Hungary. Next, regardless of the frequent invasions, individuals created and formed their own culture. Lastly, the people of Joseon and the people of Yugoslavia share a history of fighting their neighbors. When I watch movies about the civil war in Yugoslavia, they are so similar to the movies of the Korean War. This may be because both the Korean War and the Yugoslav Wars occurred with historic similarities. We fought against our friends, so we share the same pain.

### The Argus: How did you study the language of a country you have never visited?

Park: In Korea, I created a YouTube channel and practiced talking in Serbian. "I am a Korean studying Serbia, and I want to practice Serbian." Some viewers commented on my mistakes so that I could learn from them. I would also communicate with people in Serbia to continue using the language.

In Serbia, I actively made an effort to talk to the native people. I wanted to speak the local language that was actually used, so I would go to cafes and sit at any table and talk to any person nearby. I would say "I am from Korea. I am studying Serbia, and I want to be friends." The people were very friendly, and I think the idea of a Serbian speaking Korean may have been amusing.

### The Argus: What made you start your own YouTube channel?

Park: I received inspiration from Josh, the Korean-Englishman. It was so interesting watching an Englishman speaking Korean. Thinking vice versa, would not a Korean speaking Serbian be as interesting? So I started a YouTube channel, through the channel I introduce Korea in Serbian.

After starting my Youtube channel (@Korejac Park), I visited Serbia. Just when I was walking down the street, someone recognized me. That was a memorable moment I will not forget.

### The Argus: When did you first visit the South Slavic countries? Are there any memorable moments you can share?

Park: My first visit to Serbia was in August 2018. I went to study liberal arts at the University of Belgrade in Serbia after receiving a scholarship from the Serbian government. The Serbian government invited students to study, and when the opportunity came to our department at HUFS,



▲ Park is preparing to shoot for his Youtube

### Dating on Sunday



▲ Park is posing with his friends in Serbia after singing Arirang

that year I was the only student selected.

During my study at the University of Belgrade, an unforgettable experience was singing Arirang with my Serbian friends. As I have mentioned before, the Korean Peninsula shares many similarities with the Balkan Peninsula; we share common ways of thinking, so as I wondered what we could share emotionally, I thought of the song Arirang. When I told my friends about Arirang and made them listen to the song, they all liked it! That was when I thought of singing it together with my friends. I told more of my friends about the song and taught them the lyrics. We sang the song together outdoors, and I uploaded it online.

## The Argus: What else did you do in your time in Serbia?



▲ Park worked at KOTRA in Serbia.

Park: I stayed in Serbia for 11 months until July 2019, six months as a student and five months as an intern at Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA). I studied international markets and wrote reports. Also, I played a connecting role between Korea companies and Serbia industries.

During my stay in Serbia, I was given the opportunity to work as a translator at a meeting by the Korea Customs Service. It was a meeting where the Korea Customs Service was studying the administration of developing countries. I was luckily the only person living in Serbia to speak both Korean and Serbian.

## The Argus: Could you introduce your recently published book "Blossomed Youth in Gray Serbia"?

**Park:** Many people have a stereotype against the countries in the Balkan Peninsula. When they think of Serbia they think of a country at war, so Serbia may have a gray image. However, I wanted to change this bias, so I carried the story that in this gray area, one's youth can blossom. The book conveys stories of real life in Serbia. There are not many Koreans that have studied in Serbia, much less read a series of essays of Serbian anecdotes. I wanted to tell Korea about the stories of Serbia.

## The Argus: Recently you also published "Danica's Stories." Could you introduce what Danica is?

**Park:** Danica is a study group in the Dept. of South Slavic Studies, and currently I am the president of Danica. Senior students collaborate with younger students in learning together. However, we do not stop at learning, but we try to transform our learning into something more. We have made collections of literary works, created videos, conducted plays, and more media and artistic activities. That is how we began the book of poetry "Danica Stories."

I thought of the idea because I wanted more Koreans to know about Serbia, and most of all, no Korean had done it before. After I brought forth the idea, we wrote poems in Serbian along with a translation in Korean. I, along with other senior students, helped other students.

## The Argus: You recorded lectures for ECK Education. How did this opportunity begin?

Park: There are many academies teaching foreign

languages, including unique languages such as Indonesian and Mongolian, but there is no Serbian language academy, so I wondered to myself "Why not Serbian?" I wanted to introduce Serbia to more Koreans. At that time, ECK Education was recruiting new lecturers, but not for Serbian, so I contacted the company, "I am studying Serbia, and give me an opportunity to teach Serbian at your academy." Then the president of the academy contacted me saying that although they did not have plans for Serbian, they would make it happen. So the first Serbian internet classes were created in Korea. Most of the people taking the lessons are resident employees or people going on business trips to Serbia.



Danica published "Danica Stories."



▲ Park is making an appearance in an Israeli Coca-cola commercial.

## 🏴 The Argus: Could you tell us about your future

Park: Currently I am helping out the East European and Balkan Institute at HUFS, so it will help me continue my studies of Serbia at graduate school. I want to be Korea's expert on Serbia. I want to inform more Koreans about Serbia, and vice versa, Serbians about Korea. I want more exchange between Korea and Serbia, so the two peninsulas can have a visible connection.



▲ Park is interviewing with The Argus.

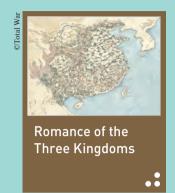
### The Argus: Do you have any last words for The Araus?

Park: There are many students studying various languages at HUFS, and I know that many students share the concern of not studying a so-called "common"language. However, because there is not much interest, and because we are HUFSans, the only people studying the country or language, we can pioneer, enlarge the country, and develop something new.

HUFS is famous for its unique department and majors. Many students may share the concern of studying an unfamiliar language and culture and furthermore want to know what to do after graduating from HUFS with a major in a lesserknown language. However, Park Kyung-min has found his own way of studying and learning the fresh history and culture of a new country. In addition, this uniqueness plays to his advantage. Maybe Park Kyung-min is truly one of the students that HUFS wanted for its unique majors.

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## This month, in War...



Luo Guanzhong's 14th-century historical novel, "Romance of the Three Kingdoms," is a must-read. The 120 chapters containing a hundred years' worth of life and battle stories have had incredible influence on East Asian culture. Countless novels, comics, games, and movies root themselves in the masterpiece; so much is its significance, that it is widely known as one of the Four Great Classical Novels in Chinese literature. The stories in the book are rich with lessons or are sometimes incredibly thrilling. So rich is the book that every re-read gives entirely different lessons. The Argus recommends it to anyone who wants a better understanding of East Asian culture. But be careful! It is extremely long!





Civilization is a turn-based strategy game in which you attempt to build an empire to stand the test of time. The players compete with each other by establishing and leading a civilization from Stone Age to the Information Age. Except that each civilization has its own leader and civilization characteristics, every user is under the same conditions. The players wage war, conduct diplomacy,



advance their culture, and go head-to-head with history's great people to win a victory over other civilizations. Build your own strategy, and gain supremacy in the world. Now begins your greatest quest: from this early cradle of civilization on towards the stars.



A map of Earth is divided into 42 territories. Players take turns to control their armies and battle other players for territory with the role of dice. Up to six players can play, and they are free to form or dissolve alliances at will. Backstabbing or surprise alliances spice up the game as each player strives to eliminate all and conquer the entire world. The last one standing wins the game.



Risk is a strategy board game of diplomacy, conflict, and conquest. It requires some quick and manipulative thinking. If that is your thing, then gather some friends, leave your schedules free, and stockpile a bunch of snacks! This game takes long to play, but is heaps of drama and fun!

## The Platypus: Not a Clumsy **Attempt on Nature's Part to Produce Something Better**

By Na Geum-chae Editorial Consultant

ustralia has a very unique ecosystem because of its relatively isolated geographical background. There are many endemic animal species, such as the kangaroo, koala, and emu. And each of them has its own special traits. Among them, the platypus, nature's most unlikely species, is usually illustrated as a hodgepodge of more familiar species; the duck, beaver, and otter. The platypus, which provides clear evidence that God or evolution truly has a sense of humor, is enjoying cult popularity around the world. For example, "Ogu," a platypus emoticon, took the Korean market by storm after it was launched in 2018.

However, we may no longer be able to meet platypuses in reality. Last January, a study led by a research team at the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney) called for national action to protect platypuses, facing the risk of extinction due to habitat destruction. In particular, the extinction of the species is a great loss to mankind in that the platypus is one of the world's most evolutionarily distinct mammals, and the only living species within the family Ornithorhynchidae. Marking Earth Day, an annual event celebrated on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection, The Argus offers up the secrets of the platypus.



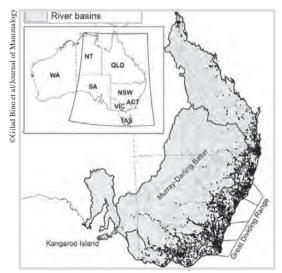


### Discovery of the platypus that sent shock waves through the world

The modern platypus is endemic to eastern mainland Australia, Tasmania, and the adjacent King Island, with a small introduced population on Kangaroo Island, South Australia. It is also widely distributed in permanent river systems from tropical to alpine environments. However, relatively little is known about the species' history and present condition because of the low recapture rats and the substantial effort required. Platypuses have many Aboriginal names such as Mallangong, Tambreet, Gaya-dari, Boonaburra, and Lare-re-lar. They were hunted for food, providing a food resource rich in polyunsaturated fats. Since the platypus was a mysterious animal to the aborigines as well, there are still some intriguing tales passed down from generation to generation.

A dreamtime story begins with a female duck. While venturing down the stream far from her tribe, she was kidnapped by Biggon, a large water-rat who took the duck as his wife. The duck eventually escaped and returned to her tribe, where she laid two eggs which hatched as platypuses. A second tale begins with the Ancestor Spirits deciding on totems. Other animals including the birds, marsupials, and fish implored the platypus to join their family, but the platypus graciously declined, explaining its wish to remain friends with all of them. Aboriginal people also developed a deep biocultural or ecological knowledge of platypuses, but it was largely neglected by early naturalists.

Europeans first encountered the platypus in 1797, when John Hunter, the second Governor of New South Wales, sent a pelt and sketch back to Britain. The first scientists to examine its attributes believed that they were the victims of a hoax. George Shaw, an English zoologist who described the platypus in the "The Naturalist's Miscellany" in 1799, stated that it was impossible not to entertain doubts as to its genuine nature. In addition, Richard Owen, a pre-eminent comparative anatomist for much of the 19th, century, and the leading authority on the anatomy of monotremes, argued that platypuses lactated but could not possibly lay eggs. It was because conservative scholars hardly dared to show the boundaries between animals, which were believed to be erected by God, were incomplete.



▲ The map above shows the distribution of the platypus based ▲ The chimerical appearance of the platypus was enough to on 11,830 records between 1760 and 2017.



bring the people into chaos.



In 1797, First encounter

Europeans first encountered platypuses, and anatomical studies were conducted



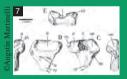
**Ornithorhynchus agilis** 

A Pliocene platypus was the oldest fossil record at that time.



In the 1970s and 1980s

Studies of physiology, ecology, and health began.



In 1992, Monotrematum sudamericanum

A new platypus fossil was found from deposits in Argentina. It became clear that platypuses once lived far beyond Australia.

- Governor John Hunter's drawing
- 2 A platypus fur cape made in 1890
- 3 An imaginary picture showing the landscape of the Pliocene epoch
- 4 Obdurodon insignis, holotype right posterior upper molar





Until 1912, Fur and sport They were legally protected in all states by 1912.



In 1971, Obdurodon insignis Two well-formed teeth were found in Oligocene deposits.



Teeth and a skull were discovered in Middle Miocene freshwater limestones.



In 2020, Unsolved mysteries

None of the older monotreme fossils known from Early Cretaceous such as Steropodon. T. trusleri, the oldest known monotreme, does not have features of ornithorhynchids.

- **5** A drawing of a pair of platypus
- 6 The reconstructed fossil skull of
- 7 Distal end of the left femur of Monotrematum sudamericanum
- 8 The hypothetical reconstruction of Steropodon galmani

### The unique biological characteristics of the platypus

Together with the four species of echidna, the platypus is one of the five extant species of monotremes, the only mammals which lay eggs instead of giving birth to live young. As one of the three main groups of mammals, along with placentals and marsupials, monotremes are warm-blooded and have hair on their bodies. Also, female monotremes produce milk to nurture their young. The major anatomical difference between monotremes and other mammals is their body parts. Monotremes have only one opening called a cloaca at the rear of the body, which is used for both reproduction and excretion. This is why those species got the name "monotreme," referring "single opening" in Greek.

The platypus is a semiaquatic mammal. They mostly live in freshwater lakes, rivers, lagoons, and the riparian zone. They have complete reliance on aquatic invertebrates as a food source, and their daily food consumption is 13 to 28 percent of their body weight. Platypuses dig their burrows between tree roots and construct two kinds of burrows for different purposes. A very simple burrow just serves as a shelter. The other one is a nesting burrow made by the female during the breeding season. At this time, the female platypus makes a more complex and more elaborate nesting burrow. It consists of multiple openings, long tunnels up to five meters, a nesting chamber, and "pugs," the selections of burrow backfilled with soil. In an ovoid chamber, the female creates a nest of wet vegetation.

After the female finishes making a nesting burrow, it lays one to three eggs and incubates them for around 10 days before the young hatch. Hatchlings suckle for 120 to 140 days, and due to the lack of nipples, they have to lick or slurp milk lactated from their mother's skin. However, this process directly exposes the milk to bacteria in the ambient air, making the young susceptible to microbial infection. To solve this problem, the platypus came up with a brilliant idea. In 2010, scientists revealed that platypus milk contains a special antimicrobial protein to mitigate infection. This finding became clearer in 2018, when researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), and Deakin University identified the unique structure of protein in platypus milk.

A month after juveniles leave the burrow, the poorly formed molar teeth are replaced by mandibular keratinous grinding pads. With a pair of cheek pouches and grinding pads, platypuses store prey items collected underwater and return to the surface. Foraging dives in the wild last 30 to 140 seconds, and the frequency of foraging dives is around 75 dives per hour. Unlike most aquatic mammals, the platypus swims using alternate strokes of its large webbed front limbs, swimming at 0.7 to 3.6 kilometers per hour. The pelage is composed of an undercoat of dense and short hairs, and an outer layer of guard hairs. During dives, the undercoat retains air, providing efficient insulation against heat loss.

### The mysterious abilities of the platypus

When it comes to portraying the platypus, many people first think of a duck-billed animal. The bill of the platypus is not just unique in shape, but also has a number of functions that differentiate it from that of other species. In particular, specialized sensory structures housed in pores on the skin over the bill and frontal shield are the key elements in hunting. Through electroreceptors and mechanoreceptors providing electric and tactile senses, platypuses navigate and locate weak electric fields produced by prey species. The signal is amplified by a lot of receptors stimulated at the same time, and platypuses detect the exact location of prey by comparing signal strength during side-to-side movements of the bill.

### Caduceus

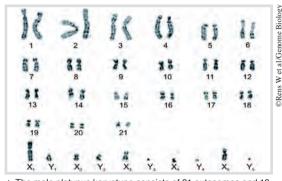
Electric signals are relatively constrained compared to light, sound, or chemical signals. Not only is it hard to transmit them far away, but they are also especially difficult for terrestrial animals to use, as air itself is excellent at insulation. Thus, animals that use electric signals usually live in freshwater or the sea. In the case of the platypus, it is nocturnal. Moreover, the senses of sight, hearing, and olfaction are absent or reduced when the platypus is submerged, as skin furrows on both eyes, external ear openings, and nostrils are closed. Therefore, for the platypuses, which forage in the dark and murky water without the help of five senses, their electric sixth sense is a highly suitable and strategic ability.

The platypus's eccentricities extend beyond its sixth sense. Male platypuses are one of few extant venomous mammals. They have paired venom glands, which are connected to the spurs on each hind leg. Because the male venom gland is enlarged during the breeding season along with increased venom production and aggressiveness, it is presumed that the primary use of venom is for competition for mates. The venom has a chemically complex composition and causes excruciating pain in humans. However, scientists at the University of Adelaide and Flinders University discovered it contains a hormone that could help treat type 2 diabetes. The evolutionary product of platypuses gave a clue to overcome an incurable disease by chance.

The platypus is also a frequent subject of research in evolutionary biology, because of its early genetic divergence from therian mammals. In 2004, researchers at the Australian National University found that the platypus has 10 sex chromosomes, unlike two in most other mammals. These 10 chromosomes form five unique pairs of XY in males and XX in females. For example, males have X<sub>1</sub>Y<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>Y<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub>Y<sub>3</sub>, X<sub>4</sub>Y<sub>4</sub>, and X<sub>5</sub>Y<sub>5</sub>. Originally, scientists had believed that the sex-determination system of birds and mammals evolved independently. However, as the platypus's system had elements of both, it raised a question to the widely accepted view. Meanwhile, this mystery of the platypus's sex chromosomes is still under study.



▲ Male platypuses have a poison apparatus on their hind legs.



▲ The male platypus karyotype consists of 21 autosomes and 10 sex chromosomes.

### The platypus in danger and its uncertain future

In spite of the biological and evolutionary value of the platypus, an anthropocentric set of values is driving the platypus into catastrophe. In the late 19th century, platypuses were extensively hunted for fur and sport. A single rug that would require more than 50 platypus skins made their skins more valuable than any other animal. The slow reproductive rate of platypuses, which bears 1.5 young per year, with only half of females breeding in a given year, was insufficient to cope with the massacre. As a result, the platypus population plunged, and platypuses became vulnerable to other threats.

Use of small mesh net sizes for fishing also impacted platypus numbers. In Victoria, 56 percent of 186 platypus mortalities from 1980 to 2009 were caused by drowning in illegal nets or enclosed traps. Additionally, platypuses can get stuck in in-stream structures, such as pipes or hydroelectric turbines. Platypuses are incapable of using their webbed feet to remove litter wedged around their body, and it leads to deep lesions. Indeed, nearly 40 percent of animals captured in streams near Melbourne were rescued from plastic or rubber loops, such as cable-ties and hair bands, which were caught around their neck or torso.





The destruction of platypus habitat cannot be ignored, either. Gilad Bino, a researcher at the University of New South Wales and the lead author on the January platypus report, said, "The key threats are destruction of habitat as a result or riparian clearing, bank erosion, and sedimentation both at local and at the catchment scale." Dr. Gilad Bino is acutely concerned about the development of water resources deeply related to the survival of platypus, saying, "Water resource development, in the form of building of dams and water abstraction is also impacting populations as the platypus is dependent on freshwater and connectivity."

Australia's bushfires and heatwaves are another threat. Last year, Australia suffered severe drought and record-breaking heat. Once platypuses' habitats are vaporized by the bushfires, platypuses have no choice but to travel over land to search for their new refugia. It exposes them to predators: red foxes, feral dogs, and native Tasmanian devils. Lingering heat, even at night, also could be fatal, as platypuses are not able to withstand environmental temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius. What made matters worse, January and February are the time of year when baby platypuses emerge from their mothers' burrows. As you might expect, devastated habitats are more lethal for the young, which are more vulnerable to threats.

Lead author Dr. Gilad Bino warned about the far-reaching adverse effects of climate change, saying, "Climate change, leading to increased frequency and duration of droughts is already impacting freshwater ecosystems, including the platypuses. It will also increase competition with humans for fresh water." Dr. Bino also stressed that the damage caused by fires is not an unavoidable disaster. "The impact of fires is very much dependent on the river conditions. If rivers are flowing and the river banks are stable allowing platypuses to hide in their burrows, then the fire will not have as much of an impact as it would if the rivers were dry and the banks were decimated by erosion," Dr. Bino said. Active measures to protect the ecosystem and conserve the species are urgently needed.

In a busy modern society, the general public focuses solely on their own problems. Complex and serious issues which do not concern them directly are usually ignored or unrecognized. It is a poignant reality that only a small number of people pay attention to nature when it is in danger, and many species are going extinct in obscurity. Mankind is helpless against mother nature, and human intelligence is far from sufficient to understand its laws. Nevertheless, arrogant and small-minded humankind repeats the same mistake.

It is all about action. Humans do not know what butterfly effect will occur after a certain species vanishes. Successful coexistence with other beings based on affection, respect, and consideration—that is the ultimate goal of an environmentally sustainable society. While it may be difficult to make significant changes right away, continual endeavors will certainly produce successful results. The Argus hopes that a harmonious world, where the mysterious platypus and other endangered species flourish, is actualized in the near future.

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The platypus must become a priority at a national and state level. Conserving freshwater ecosystems, including maintaining the natural hydrological regime and habitat quality is a must. Also, monitoring of platypus populations and their threats to address knowledge gaps is much needed. Citizen science initiatives are very useful. Especially, young people must make the necessary changes to transition human societies to become sustainable by prioritizing the conservation of nature. Economic growth and a society focused on consumption is not sustainable in a world with finite resource. Go out to nature, appreciate the natural world around you and the many services and wellbeing it provides us.

- Special message from Dr. Gilad Bino

Bino et al. "The platypus: evolutionary history, biology, and an uncertain future." Journal of Mammalogy, 2019.



ometimes we dehumanize other people to the point where we justify ruthless murder and engage in war. For most of us HUFSans, this kind of murder is very distant. How could people have the audacity to take the life of other people on an imperceivably large scale as they do in war? In times of peace, such acts are stories to be read from history books, and though the threat of ruthless killing always exists, it has been numbed down to unalarming background noise.

Nevertheless, humankind is aware of the subset of war known as genocide: the Nazi Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, and countless more smear our history. And to some, the wounds of genocide are still fresh. April 7th, 2020 marks the 26th anniversary of the start of the Rwandan genocide. Just as the Korean War was part of the identity of many Koreans following the ceasefire of the Korean War, the genocide is still fresh to the people of Rwanda. The Argus, through the film Hotel Rwanda, looks into the 100 days of killing that happened to the Tutsi and moderate Hutus of Rwanda, then carefully sifts through the events to decipher what led to genocide.



▲ The Rwandan genocide left behind mass graves.



▲ Machetes were used to murder Tutsis and moderate Hutus.



▲ This Rwandan cemetery holds 6,000 genocide victims.

### History of Rwanda, a nation meddled with

In order to understand the Rwandan genocide, it is necessary to know the history that precedes the incident and some basic facts about Rwanda.

In Rwanda, there are three ethnic groups: the main two groups known as the Hutu and the Tutsi, and a pygmy people called the Twa. Why they emerged as two distinct ethnic groups is unknown. There are several theories, all without substantial evidence that they are, in fact, different people. Some believe that the Hutu and Tutsi have different ancestors from different lands. Others believe that this distinction comes from their occupations. Either way, Tutsi are traditionally pastoralists who grazed cattle, while the agrarian Hutus grew crops. It is believed that Tutsis amassed enough wealth and power to become the ruling class of the Kingdom of Rwanda, a pre-colonial state that controlled Rwanda.

When the Germans took over in the late 19th century, they did not actively participate in the rule of Rwanda but supported the rule of the Tutsi. During World War I, the Belgians took over Rwanda. In the process of modernizing Rwanda, the Belgians promoted Tutsi superiority. It was during Belgian colonial times that people were given identity cards labelling them either Tutsi, Hutu, Twa or Naturalized. This widened the gap between Hutu and Tutsi.

Meanwhile, the Hutu were not completely marginalized. After the end of World War II in 1945, Hutu elites developed in power to counter the Tutsi. The Catholic church had close ties to the Hutu elite, some of whom were clergy in high ranking positions. They were voices that called for Hutus emancipation, which eventually led to the Rwandan Revolution in 1959. In the power struggle between the Hutus and Tutsis, the former rioted and burned down Tutsi homes, forcing hundreds of thousands of Tutsis to flee to neighboring countries as refugees.

The exiled Tutsis formed militias and executed numerous, but unsuccessful attacks on Rwanda over the next few decades. In the 80's, many of the Tutsis who had fled to Uganda joined the Ugandan Bush War (also known as the Ugandan Civil War) and helped the side that eventually secured power. They tried to get the Ugandans to start a war with Rwanda, but when this failed, Tutsi Fred Rwigyema formed the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) in 1990. With an experienced fighting force, Rwigyema



▲ Service flag of the Reichskolonialamt(Imperial Colonial Office), German Empire 1892-1918



▲ Flag of Belgium, the other country that colonized Rwanda

led troops into Rwanda, starting the Rwandan Civil War. The RPF's leader died early in the war, which led to a leadership change. Paul Kagame, Rwanda's current president, took power.

At that time, Rwanda had been ruled by Juvénal Habyarimana for 17 years. He was a moderate Hutu with extremists, such as his wife, by his side. This small group of Hutu extremists called the Akazu spread anti-Tutsi propaganda. They vilified Tutsis and moderate Hutus who maintained good relations with the Tutsis. In August 1993, the RPF and Habyarimana's government, with the help of France and the USA, agreed to a ceasefire called the Arusha Accords. This divided the government into two parties, Habyarimana's ruling party which was called the MRND (National Republican Movement for Democracy and Development) and the RPF.

Many Hutus, however, were angered by this peace treaty. An ideology known as Hutu Power, spread by government-controlled radio stations, radicalized many Hutus. They instructed people on how to deal with the Tutsi. Many groups, including the Interahamwe, the youth wing of the MRND, became militant. The various militias were receiving training from the Rwandan armed forces.

These were the events that led to the Rwandan genocide.



▲ This is the movie poster for "Hotel Rwanda."

### Plot of the film "Hotel Rwanda"

Hotel Rwanda is a 2004 film based on true events that happened during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. It depicts the actions of a hotelier named Paul Rusesabagina and his efforts to save over 1,200 refugees who were doomed to be victims of genocide.

In April 1994, the tension between the Hutu and Tutsi had reached a breaking point. The peace that followed the Rwandan Civil War was brittle. Paul Rusesabagina, born to a Hutu father and Tutsi mother, was leading his life as a hotelier, often gaining favor with the various elites that visited the hotel in which he worked. Though of mixed origin and married to a Tutsi, Paul's identity was ultimately Hutu, which he utilized to maintain good relations with wealthy Hutu suppliers and generals. Rusesabagina's interpersonal skills had him rise through the ranks to become the House Manager of the Hotel des Milles Collines in Kigali, Rwanda. This four-star hotel owned by Sabena, Belgium's national airline, catered mainly to westerners.

Upon the assassination of President Habyarimana, the brittle peace between the Hutu and Tutsi broke. Though the assassins were unknown, the event was enough to throw the nation into disorder. The Hutu started their ethnically motivated killing of the Tutsi. The Rwandan Armed Forces and the Interahamwe set up roadblocks and members of the Hutu Power went from door to door, killing the Tutsi and any Hutu trying to protect them.

As the unrest began to unfold, Rusesabagina negotiated the safety of his neighbors and family with the access he had to hotel vaults in Kigali. He brought the refugees, a mix of Tutsis and Hutus, to the Hotel des Milles Collines where they joined westerners and wealthy Rwandans who were staying there. UN Peacekeepers stood their guard at the Milles, which led Paul to believe that they were there to protect all refugees including the natives. Red Cross and foreign press were present, and the entire world called for humanitarian intervention. Rusesabagina was sure that he and his refugees would soon escape the nightmare. However, he could not have been more wrong.

French and Belgian troops came to the rescue, but to Paul's harrowing realization, they were only interested in the non-Rwandans stuck in the hotel. Buses came to



Paul and the refugees stuck at the hotel helplessly stare as the buses containing expats leave the hotel compound.



▲ Bodies littered the grounds of Rwanda from April to July, 1994.

take only those with foreign passports, mainly white westerners. How indifferent were they to Rwandans? As the select few were about to leave the hotel, a van full of children pulled up, and a priest stepped out, begging the people on the bus to take them. The soldiers would not allow this, and the expats left, hearts shattered that they could not do anything. The world had seen what was going on in Rwanda, but the foreign governments stayed detestably neutral.

In the ensuing days, it was up to Rusesabagina to make the hotel look like it is under normal operations to the radicalized Hutu who were looking to kill the refugees. By doing so, he warded off potential killers. This was necessary as everyone had identification papers that labeled them either Hutu or Tutsi. By this point in the genocide, Hutu extremists were sometimes killing people who failed to promptly provide ID. Like usual, Paul managed the hotel, all while trying to find a way to save everyone.

The hotel at this point had run out of supplies, so Rusesabagina went to the workplace of a Hutu businessman who he had often traded with. The businessman had turned into a warlord and was leading Hutus who were going around killing the Tutsi. There were Tutsi sex slaves and weapons at his compound. Because of their Hutu ties and prior acquaintance, the businessman gave Paul a pass and gave him supplies but blatantly asked if he knew the location of any Tutsis or Tutsi-protecting Hutus. It was almost as if he knew that Paul was harboring Tutsis at the Milles. The hotel manager stoically said no. In response to this, Paul's once close business-partner recommended Paul to take a certain route back to his hotel. He took the advice, and on this road, he found hundreds of massacred people – it was a clear warning to Paul about loyalty.

With even more motivation to escape, Paul's efforts to negotiate his way out of the situation doubled. Some of the members of the hotel, being a part of the Rwandan elite, had connections to the outside world. Using all their connections, they started reaching out to notable acquaintances and friends abroad to let the world know that they were trapped. One by one, different countries granted visas to the refugees, and on paper, they were finally allowed to leave Rwanda.

However, they were still surrounded by marauding murderers. Radio stations promoting Hutu Power were

continually calling for the murder of Tutsis and anyone protecting them. Even when the refugees tried to secretly leave on UN trucks, the information of their escape was leaked, and they were attacked by Hutu militia. This was only stopped by Paul's bribing, then blackmailing of General Bizimungu of the Rwandan Army. (Bizimungu was later tried for war crimes at the UN War Crimes Tribunal and sentenced to 30 years in prison.) This convinced the general allowed Paul and the refugees to leave. The refugees left the hotel in a UN convoy and finally met freedom.

All throughout this ordeal, it is preconditioned in the movie that horrible acts of murder were concurrently happening outside the compounds of the Hotel des Milles Collines. According to the UN, the three months of killing claimed more than 800,000 lives. On average, 8,000 people died each day.

### Controversy and facts surrounding the film

This film has received praise from many but was also on the receiving end of rather harsh criticism. Various critics included it on their list of the top 10 best films of 2004 and the film won several awards in the humanitarianism category. Indeed, the film is a testimony of Paul Rusesabagina's experience of the horrifying genocide in Rwanda. However, many came forward after the film's release to criticize its plot as historical revisionism and put Paul Rusesabagina under scrutiny.

A Hutu worker of the hotel Rusesabagina managed was villainized in the film. Pasa Mwenenganucye was portrayed as a traitor to the refugees of the hotel. However, the Rwandan created a website where he put together anything that demerits Rusesabagina and accounts of other survivors that deal with his actual role at the hotel. However, the site Mwenenganucye once ran is no longer active.

The New Times, Rwanda's largest private media corporation established in 1995, often criticizes Mr. Rusesabagina as well. One must look at the situation as objectively as possible, however. The New Times calls itself "private," but according to the non-governmental organization that conducts research and advocacy on human rights called Human Rights Watch (HRW), the New Times is a "state-owned" newspaper that often



 Paul Rusesabagina receives the Medal of Freedom from President George W. Busch in 2005



▲ President George W. Bush (R) exchanges a glance with Paul Rusesabagina

contributes to government censorship of certain facts. Articles regularly include quotes from Kagame that attack Rusesabagina.

Paul Rusesabagina continues to give speeches at various human rights events, but his non-profit organization, Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation no longer has an online trail. According to a letter from Rusesabagina to the UNHCR commissioner in 2017 published by "La Tribune Franco-Rwandaise," the human rights advocate was exiled from Rwanda into Belgium, then had no choice but leave Belgium due to threats on his life by those working for the Rwandan government.

Countless reports can be found of Rusesabagina's humanitarian effort as well as reasonable criticism. Some parts of the movie were exaggerated for the Hollywood audience and Rusesabagina's motives are questioned from time to time. There is no universal consensus on whether the former hotel manager's ultimate motives and intentions fit in line with those depicted in the film. It is clear, however, that only the western media seems to be portraying him as one of the main reasons so many refugees made it out alive of the Hotel des Milles Collines. One may question the lack of other survivor testimonies of "Hotel Rwanda." Other sources criticizing Rusesabagina are obscure and do not leave behind enough trails for fact-checking.

### Rwanda today: getting better?

It has only been 26 years since the gruesome events unfolded, but Rwanda is steadily recovering. Its Human Development Index has been on the rise along with a decrease in poverty rate which sits at around 39%. According to the Cato Institute's Human Freedom Index, however, Rwanda ranks 107 out of 162 worldwide for Personal Freedom and according to Reporters Without Borders' Press Freedom Index, Rwanda ranks 155 out of 180, showing that Rwanda has a long way to go in terms of human freedom.

Notable figures of Rwandan history actively participate in its current-day affairs, as well. Paul Kagame is currently in his third term as the president of Rwanda, which he won in 2017 with a whopping and suspicious 99% of the vote. The RPF is the dominant party. As mentioned in the history brief, Paul Kagame played a key role in the Rwandan Civil War. Having grown up in a Tutsi family exiled from Rwanda, he was able to find his rise to power in the Ugandan Army. He holds the power of Rwandan presidency, which entails broad executive powers and command of the military.



▲ Flag of Rwanda, adopted on Oct. 25, 2001.



▲ Paul Kagame was a leader of the RPF and is now the president of Rwanda.

Efforts to reconciliate the victims and perpetrators of the genocide are ongoing. The Rwandan government and the UN currently run numerous programs where Rwandans identify with each other as Rwandans rather than Tutsi and Hutu. The Rwandans are making the effort to fight discrimination and solidify an identity that unites them.

### How could such atrocities happen in Rwanda? (Or anywhere?)

The inhumane events of the Rwandan genocide are unthinkable, but the reality is that it happened. One may question how it is possible for human beings to commit such acts of atrocity. The circumstances laid out above have all the details. The genocide did not happen overnight, but it was a long-brewing ordeal. Even before the colonial times, the Tutsi and Hutu were in different castes.

The colonial government that solidified this identity helped bolster the animosity amongst the Hutu against the Tutsi. It held a vicious status quo, and when the colonists left, the rules and regulations that contained the human emotions that perhaps kept everything in check absolutely came down in ruins. Oppression of the weak stressed the social fabric in which the Tutsi and Hutu coexisted. When the Rwandan revolution happened, some of the Hutus took to themselves the vengeance that they had longed for. The Hutu's desire for freedom and emancipation manifested itself in the revolution. The colonial masters fled the scene and did not clean up the mess they made.

Hate breeds hate. Without proper communication

between the Tutsi and Hutu, the once pompous ruling class became victims themselves, being pushed into exile. The Tutsi wanted revenge as well. Though it seems natural to take an "eye-for-an-eye" approach in any case, this meant war in Rwanda. Amid this, propaganda was used to push people into action. An easily influenced young population called the Interahamwe was radicalized and given weapons. Previously oppressed people were empowered by ruthless killing. The killers let themselves get fooled that "it is okay to kill."

This all comes back to the dehumanization of others to the point where they are no longer human. What people must always be mindful of is that this very act dehumanizes the offender as well. From then on, it became possible to kill without thought. The massacre may have killed 800,000, but it left millions more scarred for life.

Long after the massacre ended, the Roman Catholic Church also admitted in 2017 that its Rwandan priests and nun either looked the other way or even participated in the genocide. Even those who profess love and the life of peace succumb to the evils of dehumanization. The Roman Catholic Church has one of the most powerful voices in the world. Their call for action may have changed outcomes. Their complicity before, during, and after the genocide played a role in letting the genocide happen.

In sum, the Hutu and Tutsi people chose harmful ways to vent their emotions rather than the communicative high road, and third parties just watched as the two built the spiral of hate. It ultimately came down to people letting the hate brew.

What happened at Rwanda is a lesson for the rest of the world to take to heart. For those that meddle with the internal affairs of other entities, Rwanda shows that acting solely in the interest of one entity creates a butterfly effect that leads to events as macabre as genocide. Those that are being pushed around can learn that they ought to see through the hogwash their oppressors frame their lives in and overcome their given realities.

The Argus hopes that readers take in the story of what happened at Rwanda and realize how little actions crescendo into the chaos that took place there. The details regarding the massacre are so confuddled and skewed that only tremendous facts exist, and nobody knows the truth. The one thing that remains constant is the fact that almost a million people were murdered – people were hurt emotionally, physically, mentally, and permanently. Look at your world and notice the small injustices and details. Amplify the good details and kill off the injustices.

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### By Yoo Chan-heum

Associate Editor of Social Section

he two masters of Western literature, Shakespeare and Cervantes, coincidentally died on the same day, April 23, 1616. The paper books they spent their whole lives with were also expected to come to an end with the masters of literature when e-books were released, but they only seemed to be flustered for more than a decade in Korea. But the wind has changed. The e-book market is aflame again as a new driving force, as the e-book startup Millie's Library announced last year that it would launch original services from February this year, declaring to be the next Netflix in the e-book industry. The Argus wants to analyze the ignited e-book market from various angles on the occasion of World Book Day on April 23 so that its readers can interpret the changes in cultural elements in accordance with social trends in an insightful way.

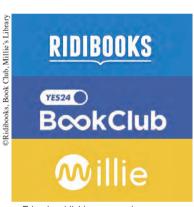


### Tremendous rally in e-book market

### The Appearance of Monthly Subscription Services

You could easily come across unlimited monthly subscription services on the likes of Melon or Netflix, but what about the book market? Thanks to the spread of the subscription economy, the e-book market is looking for a growth path. Unlike the past when the company was shunned due to poor content and higher-than-expected prices, it has come up with measures to differentiate its digital content and secure monthly fixed-price users.

Unlimited monthly subscription services have become a trend, especially across the content market. The five leaders of Korea's e-book market, such as Ridibooks and Millie's Library, have launched unique subscription services, to compete for content. The new era of the e-book market has opened showing off their own distinctive subscription system. For instance, the Book Club's strong point is a low subscription price of 7,700 won(US\$ 6.05) per month, which



▲ E-book publishing companies are competing against each other with different strengths.

is way lower than the average market price of 9,900 won(US\$ 7.78) per month. Millie's Library has creative contents such as audio books and chat books as strengths. Ridibooks' forte is the volume of various books such as bestsellers. Like this, the e-book industry is at fierce war to please subscribers better.

### **Innovative E-book Content Appears**

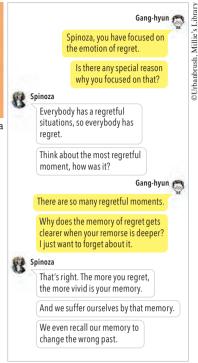
The introduction of new content to readers that paper books can never accommodate also played a part in the rise of the e-book industry. First, a new page of audio books has opened. The audio books were formerly read by TTS, a simple mechanical voice, but now, dubbing artists, actors, and even writers have become storytellers of the book. Originally, the storytellers covered the whole book's story. But now, they also point out what they think is important about the book. As a result, people not only just listen to the voices of their favorite celebrities, but also communicate by sharing thoughts.

Second, they introduced a new type of chat book. A chat



▲ Fresh content made a new era for the e-book industry.

book is literally a type of content that melts the content of a book into conversations on messenger mediums such as Kakao Talk. There has been a steady stream of content in various media including YouTube, but it was the first time that this concept has been introduced to books. The book has melded in light contents like chatting,



greatly reducing the burden of reading or repudiation.

Kim Ga-ram, a freshman at the Korean Bible University, said, "Although I have used e-books for a long time, I just used them to extract the lines that I liked. The content was just not attractive enough. Especially, the audio book service was not tempting to use. I liked the fact that I do not need to read it myself, but listening to a robotic tone was not so charming. But after the service changed, I often use the audio book because it feels like I am listening to the real live author of the book."

### The New Weapon of the E-Book Market: Paper Book

Anyone who used a platform service like Netflix would have had an uninteresting experience of Netflix's original works called Only on Netflix. E-book startup Millie's Library has become the front-runner and has launched a subscription service for paper books. The company took out a "paper book" card as a competitive advantage to



▲ The Millie Original project is expected to become a new opening for the industry.

### Culture Insight

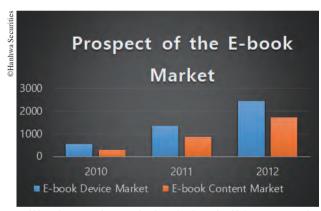
expand its number of users, as its big online bookstores, such as Ready Books and Yes24, offer an e-book monthly subscription service similar to Millie's Library.

Millie's Library's "Millie Original" is the product that combines the company's curated content into a book and sends it every other month, priced at 15,900 won(US\$ 12.49), including the existing e-book rental service. The limited edition paper books supplied by Millie's Library are said to be supplied by publishers who signed contracts with the authors and reissued to other publishers over time. However, they will not be sold in general bookstores. With the exclusive sale of these original works as paper books, the company has launched a new business that captivates paper book readers.



### How did e-book become sensation?

### **Untie the Tied up Market**



▲ Although expectations to e-book market is getting higher every year, it always failed to meet the standards.

The e-book market has been expected to be a "golden egglaying goose" since the late 1990s. But the goose has not laid eggs for well over 10 years. While Amazon in the U.S. has grown to take up 25 percent of the local publishing market by launching Kindle Unlimited, South Korea's e-book market has remained flat.

It is relatively recent that statistics on the e-book market have begun to emerge. There have been many predictions for the e-book market since the early 2000s, but the content has always been an abstract and groundless rosy outlook of 50 billion won(US\$ 39.27 million) this year and 500 billion won(US\$ 392.77 million) five years later. Recently, the size of the market increased but it is still shabby. While the local

publishing market is estimated to be worth about 7.8 trillion won(US\$6.21 billion), Hanhwa Securities estimated the market to be 29.9 billion won(US\$ 24.08 million) in 2010 and there were only faint increases. It is a devastating record compared to domestic coffee industry sales, which started out as a little market like the e-book industry, reached about 7 trillion won(US\$ 5.57 billion) as of 2018.

Kyobo Bookstore and Yes24, the number one bookstores in offline and online, also struggled. The combined sales of the nation's two leading companies are only 14 billion won(US\$ 10.99 million), which means the combined sales of the two companies are less than 10 percent of the total market if the total market is around 170 billion won(US\$ 133.54 million). Therefore, the e-book market's bid for victory was inevitable.

### **Change of Perception Through Familiarity**

The rapid growth of the digital content market is attributed to two main reasons. The first would be the rapid shift of the content market. Many offline content marketers turn their attention to the online market following the trend. This change gave a great chance to the e-book industry to turn things around. Also, the improved perception of "charged content" is also playing a part. In particularly, enterprises such as Netflix met the consumers' standards with a high quality, so they are now willing to pay for monthly subscriptions. "In the past, consumers had a stereotype that digital content must be free. But things have changed a lot. Now you can see the form of subscription economy across the whole digital content market like Melon and Watcha Play. Naturally, the consumers lost the hostility about paying for digital content and got used to it," an industry source said.

Of course, the improved perception about the e-book itself contributed to the industry as well. The e-book industry was at stake not only in Korea but also worldwide. Especially, the e-book industry stumbled upon the world's biggest e-book market, the United States. According to a statistics from Association of American Publishers(AAP), the U.S. e-book market's profit skyrocketed every year starting 2007. But from 2016, e-book users complained about the fatigue of using e-books and turned their backs. From that point, the profit decreased about 16.3 percent. How did they find a way out from this mess?

"The e-book industry could not compete with paper books in the old-fashioned way. People were interested in e-books because they were new but that was it. People realized that e-books were just books in a screen. As a solution, we made our charming points by ourselves. We lowered the price by designing the unlimited subscription form and designed the content that can give great experience to the readers. That way, the e-book regained the freshness and its usage time slowly expanded. Since then, people naturally got used to the usage of devices when they are reading e-book," said an authority in the publishing world.

#### Web Novel, the Trend of Genre Literature



▲ Web novel became the new leader of the publishing industry.

Some say that genre novels, webtoons, and web novels are driving the e-book market. According to the Korea Creative Content Agency's January 2019 report, "The Year of the Content Industry's Settlement and Prospects for 2019," shows that the production of serials and rental web novels continues to increase as non-finished story contents rather than e-books.

The size of the web novel market, which stood at around 10 billion won(US\$ 8.05 million) in 2013, has exploded to 270 billion won(US\$ 21.74 million) in 2017. Sales were estimated at 400 billion won(US\$ 322.19 million) last year. It has grown 40 times in five years.

If one looks at the mobile page of Kyobo Book, Romance, BL(Boy's Love)/GL (Girl's Love), Fantasy/Light Novel, and Comics are placed at the top of the list of general books in such categories as Fiction, Poetry/Essay, Economic Management. Redibooks also categorized their main page with General Book and Romance, Fantasy, Cartoon, and BL. This is because genre literature and web novels have become new trends compared to existing literary works. The e-book market quickly caught up with this trend and quickly managed to attract web novels and genre literature.

Shin Hyun-ho, a student at Kyunggi University, said,

"These days, traditional literature is not a genre that can catch people's attention. It is not as attractive as YouTube videos. I was looking for something like webtoons to kill time. The chivalrous novels and web novels met my desire perfectly. It is much lighter to read and interesting to read for killing time like YouTube videos. Also, many pieces from those genres were filled in e-book publishing company so I naturally led to using e-books."



### Back ally of the popularity

### **Concerns of Service Monopoly**

Limited edition paper books supplied by Millie's Library are said to be supplied in advance by publishers who signed contracts with the authors and for reissue by publishers over time. Therefore, it is also considered a win-win model that helps publishers. However, it is a model that alienates publishers, bookstores, libraries, and non-members of the Millie's Library readers. The same has been true of the production and sale of limited edition books by Internet bookstores, who argue that this model does not work because books are more than just goods.

In fact, Amazon has been at odds with the publishing industry over similar issues. The U.S. publishing industry criticized Amazon for its low-end e-book policy using its dominant market position, calling it a threat to the publishing market. In the same vein, some of the Big Five publishers in the U.S. do not offer content for Amazon's unlimited services.

"Millie's Library's original service is a structure that holds paper books hostage for e-book subscriptions," said Baek Won-geun, head of the Book and Social Research Institute. "To date, the paper book industry has not managed exclusive services and is a model for fair sales to those who want them. Such exclusive services, however, could destroy the market ecosystem. I think Millie's Library should present a model that can put forward a little more of the strengths of e-books."

### The Rising Problem of Royalties

The e-book market has, in fact, had no problem with royalty issues. According to a survey conducted by the Institute of Literature and Communication and NewsPaper on creators with experience in publishing e-books, the rate of royalties paid for e-books was 49.6 percent, 23.6 percent higher than that of paper book publishers, because it costs

### Culture Insight



Many creators are not satisfied with the current subscription system's royalty.

less to produce than paper books, and it is easier to directly connect them to profits as they find authors that are popular in serial platforms. As a result, 92.1 percent of the creators who published e-books through e-book publishers said they received royalties and regular reports about it.

When asked how much they agree with the unlimited streaming service for e-books, however, 43.2 percent said they had a negative view. The creators, who answered negatively, cited "reduced writers' income," "forced sacrifices to creators with platform-oriented policies," and "uncertain and unfair ways of distributing profits," as their reasons.

Chung Se-rang, the writer of "Jain, Jaewook, Jaehoon," said, "Unlike e-book sales, monthly subscription services are not clear. For example, how many books readers are considered to have read, and whether profits will be distributed to publishers varies among companies. Therefore, if a novel is released with unlimited subscription services, people will be able to read more than the entire circulation of e-books sold in singles, but considering that the share to the content producers is too small."

### **Trick to Avoid the Book Price System**

Subscription services can serve as a trick for retailers to avoid the book price system. Until now, e-book distributors have provided long-term loan services for 10 to 50 years. In the case of e-book sales, the discount rate is limited to 15 percent under the application of the book price system, but in the case of lending, retailers can set the price autonomously. E-book distributors offered long-term loan services, which are "virtually purchased," at a discount of 50 percent or more from the sale price of e-books. For example, books priced at 8,000 won(US\$ 6.44) for e-books were found at 3,000 won(US\$ 2.42) for 50-year long-term loans. This is why some pointed out that the long-term loan service is a trick to avoid the book price system.

When the outcry grew that long-term loans would undermine the purpose of the book price system, the publishing industry, the distribution industry, and consumer groups signed an autonomous agreement for the development of sound publishing and distribution. The agreement calls for limiting the rental period of e-books to up to three months (within 90 days). Coincidentally, marketing of subscription-based services has been on fire since May when the agreement was implemented.

"It is true that the e-book market is currently priced at books and there are certain areas that do not fit," said Baek Won-geun, head of the Book and Social Research Institute. "However, if the original book price system is applied to the e-book market, the characteristics of the e-book market could die down. That is why I think the e-book market should create and apply a fixed-price model for books that can be applied."

In Bohumil Hrabal's novel "Too Loud a Solitude," the main character Hanta, became a cultured person by working as a paper crusher in Prague. In the end, he commits suicide by getting into the paper crusher after he despairs because nobody cares about the philosophical values and they are just used to throwing things away. Like the ending of this novel, these days, we are numb to the real values of the world and turn our eyes to entertainment. The Argus hopes that the readers to understand the e-book not as a destroyer of paper books but as areinforcement to revival. How about either swiping or turning over to the next page to rewriting Hanta's future?



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# Frenemy of Korean Film:



By Yoo Chan-heum Associate Editor of Social Section

n 1988, an absurd incident occurred at a theater in Seoul when a South Korean Hollywood direct shipping company started a full-fledged business in Korea. Snakes were spotted in the movie theater! The person who committed this bizarre act of releasing snakes into the theater where the first Hollywood film film "Dangerous Love" was playing was Jung Ji-young, a director of the recent film, "Black Money." As he was thinking of something more effective than the protests to protect the screen quota system at the time, he gathered non-venomous snakes and released them in the theater. He was sentenced to six months in prison. After all of the efforts to protect the screen quota system including this absurd incident, it has been maintained to this day, and Korea's films have expanded to even win an Academy Award. What impact has the screen quota system had on the film industry in Korea, and what would have been drawn without it? The Argus hypothesized about this situation through the examples of other countries and looked at the opinions of experts to see how the screen quota system has had an effect on the nation's film history.

### Korean film: dramatic growth like Vegas

The screen quota system, which we know in earnest, was implemented in 1967 under the pretext of protecting and promoting Korean films. At that time, Korean movies were far behind foreign films in terms of quantity and quality. According to the law at the time, theaters were required to show six Korean films a year, more than one every two months, and more than 90 days of total annual screening. Also, movie companies producing films were obliged to produce more than one Korean film a year. As a reward, the government gave the authority to exclusively distribute foreign movie import rights to film companies that produce Korean films on a loss-making basis.

However, the theater community and the film industry, which had enjoyed more profits through overseas films than Korean films, which were far less popular, were not very pleased by the system of increasing the number of boxoffice Korean films and limiting the import and screenings of foreign films. In response, theaters conducted expedient operations by hanging Korean films on signboards and screening foreign films behind them. The screen quota system, which had not settled in well, has since been repeatedly reduced and expanded in screening limits several times. Until then, however, the screen quota system was nothing more than a nominal one.

The reason why the film industry became interested in the screen quota system is because of the revision of the film law in 1986, which resulted in the liberalization of production and imports. Under the measure, dubbed the "open film market," it has become possible to establish a film company and import, distribute, and screen foreign films as long as it meets certain requirements. The most sensitive part was the fact that major foreign film companies could directly distribute their films.

Film companies, which were complacent under the protection of the government, were overwhelmed by the sudden changes. Previously, American films were a key cash cow for film companies, but high-profile films were a losing game, as they made it difficult to earn money and competed against them.

Moviegoers faced with a survival problem had to follow the rules of the screen quota system. In 1993, the Korean Film Institute formed the Screen Quota Watch Group. They claimed that the screen quota system was an act of protecting cultural sovereignty, and they reduced violations by expanding monitoring of the screen quota system in theaters. Since then, the number of Korean films has increased and developed every year, producing box-office hits such as "Shiri" in the 1990s and early 2000s, and the first film with 10 million-views, "The King and the Clown," was released in 2005, with a domestic film screening ratio of nearly 50 percent.

But what would have happened if there had been no screen quota system at that time? Let's take a look at the film industry in many countries and imagine what it would look like.

### Portugal: artistic but unwanted film

Portugal's movie industry is like a late blossoming flower. Similar to the situation in Korea, the Portuguese film industry was also under the control of a dictator until April 1974, when the left-wing coup called the Carnation Revolution freed the nation. Films could not deal with political debates, and those made in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union could not even be screened at all. After the revolution, the abolition of a capitalist-oriented economic model made it possible to produce non-commercial films with political voices.

Portuguese films are not well-known in countries other than France, but they are well known for their artistic ability among critics and fans. Famous movie



Portuguese movies are considered artistic and famous for charming European critics.

directors like Manoel de Oliveira and Pedro Costa introduced Portuguese movies to the world by getting nominated by many film festivals

Kwon Ki-soo, the Chairman of the Dept. of Portuguese, said, "Portugal's film industry itself is solid. Its cinematic quality is considered great to many critics. But the box-office power is dramatically inversely proportional to its artistic quality. Only about 1 out of 100 Portuguese audiences want to see their movie since the Hollywood movies has cast their anchor deep. But the Instituto do Cinema e do Aediovisua(ICA) are discussing for solutions to this problem and keep investing into film industry so it can find a way in this hardship."

In fact, the Culture Ministry established ICAM (former ICA) for audio-visual multimedia in 1998 to establish public policies and support the audiovisual sector, including movies. It provided full support for all funding related to film production costs as long as it filmed its own films and was actually supported by ICAM, except for just two of the total 14 feature films released in 1998. The problem, however, is that compared to the well-organized system, its performance in the domestic market has been minimal. The number of films produced has steadily increased, surpassing 20 local films every year from 2008 to 2010, but the share of local films has hovered around 2 percent even in the 2000s. Still holding more than 90 percent of the Portuguese film market are Hollywood films and other European films. While propaganda is being tried with a system built with support from a powerful state, the lack of a system that can protect local films such as the screen quota system and buy time to grow is still troubling the Portuguese film industry.

### India: movie kingdom with singing and dancing



▲ When you first look at Bollywood movies, it is fancy in everyway.

Anyone who has seen Indian films can summarize them with three words: exaggeration, dance, and song. People either love it because of the glamorous visual beauty or hate it since they seem messy, but there is a valid reason for all of these fabulous effects in an Indian movie.

Indian movies have grown with the people of India. After India's film industry enjoyed a golden age with the silent films under the control of the British, India's movie industry was at stake. At that time, many of the Indian people were illiterate, and the number of TV sets in use was low. Also, India had a multilingual culture of 600 languages, but when the vocalization of films appeared,

there was no way for all of the audiences to understand all of the lines, so it fell into a slump. To solve this problem, Masala, a form unique to Indian films, has been introduced.

Masala refers to a movie that puts more emphasis on singing and dancing than on screenplay, just as Indians add various seasonings when cooking food. The storyline of colorful dances, catchy songs, and simple story lines such as promotion of virtue and reproval of vice and happy ending has bundled up all Indian people without distinction of language or generation.

Shin Min-ha, the HK+ research professor of HUFS Institute of Indian Studies, said, "The Indian films have a great meaning to the Indians at that time. Films produced in the 1950s, which were preparing for the launch of a new state shortly after independence, served as mediators to resolve the conflicts and anxieties created between the haves and have-nots. As a result, it grew up with the full support of the Indian government, which wanted to use films to promote the goals of the Indian constitution of secularism and democracy. Later, from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, this unknown of the so-called 'angry young man,' reflecting the Indian people's distrust and frustration of a society that did not change as much as expected, and the action-added films formed the mainstream on the basis of romance films. Since then, from the late 1970s to the late 1980s, hopes, dreams, frustrations, revenge, and heroic stories, which were dealt with previously in poems, were dominated by the so-called 'masale films,' a combination of action, romance, comedy, and melodrama elements."





▲ Bollywood movies are speeding up their development by expanding genres and adding new factors in the film.

Today's Bollywood has been upgraded with diverse genres and listens to the alienated voice of women. Through "Pad man" and "The Dirty Picture," the audiences can experience the evolution of Bollywood movies.

Now, India is a movie giant that produces about 700 to 1,000 movies every year, and more than 100 million people enjoy movies at 13,000 theaters every week. Indian films have a market share of more than 90 percent in their country. The Indians have created a kingdom as great as Hollywood where there is always singing and dancing.

### Japan: faces the world with an open door

Japan implemented screen quotas in the early days of the the Shōwa era(1926-1989), but abolished them in 1945. In most cases, it is natural to be swept away by the wave of Hollywood because it is inevitable. But Japan stood strong creating their own movie style.







▲ Japan's passion for theater naturally led people to go to cinema.

Ogilhara Saeko, a professor in the Division of Integrated Japanese Studies at HUFS, said, "I think Japan's long history of appreciation of the theater and comic books have affected cinema. People in Japan have enjoyed going to the theater to appreciate many different types of performing arts, such as Noh, Kabuki, Takarazuka plays,





▲ Most of the Japan's animations are comic book based, which spontaneously successes the popularity.

Rank	Title	Gross(¥ billion)
1	Spirited Away	30.80
2	Titanic	26.20
3	Frozen	25.48
4	Your Name	25.03
5	Harry Potter and the Philosophy's Stone	20.30
6	Howl's Moving Castle	19.60
7	Princess Mononoke	19.30
8	Bayside Shakedown 2	17.35
9	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	17.30
10	Avatar	15.60

▲ Animation movies are dominating the box office of Japan.

and comedies, so it may be that going to the cinema is just a continuation of their love of theater. Also, as you probably know well, many people in Japan (not only little kids but also adults) enjoy reading comic books. I would assume that their love of comic books has contributed Japan's domestic box office earnings. We can see how animation movies are popular in Japan by looking at the list of box office rankings. I think that these two factors have contributed to the growth of the Japanese movie industry to some degree."

Like this, if you see the all-time box office ranking of Japan, there are four animations movies in the top 10. But if you

simply consider that Japan has only strength in animation movies, it would be a great misjudgment. Before "Parasite" made the great entrance in the Cannes film festival, Hirokazu Kore-eda's "Shoplifters" won the Palme d'Or. Although Japan's reality-based movie scales are still weaker than the animation movies', Japan created a system which allocates the same number of screens to each films, giving the same chance for the relatively unpopular movies. In this way, Japan made the award-winning film at Cannes.

Also, although Japanese movies have been on the decline since they had a 65.7 percent market share in their countries in 2012, they have continued to show more than a 50 percent share, continuing the trend of weak foreign films and strong Japanese films. In particular, Japanese films are filling all the top 10 list of box offices, and this trend is expected to continue.



▲ "Shoplifters" shows reality based Japanese movies are improving their quality.

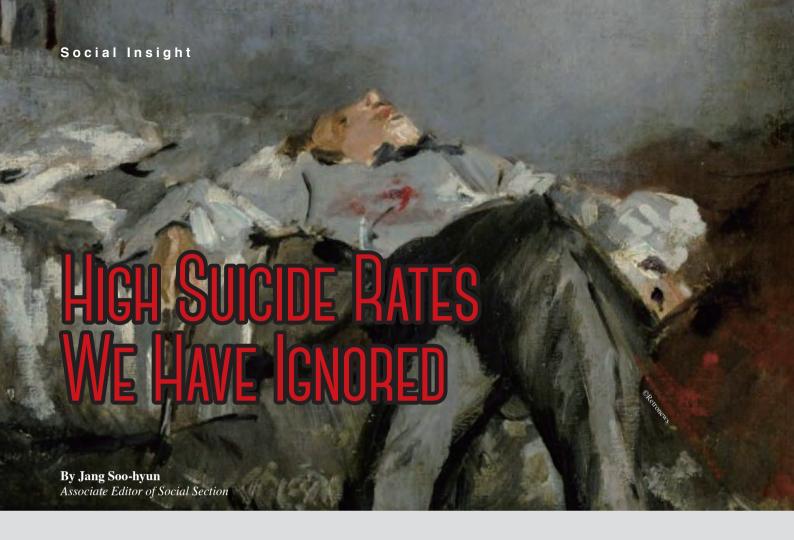


Now let's see Korea's case again. Many people in the film industry, including director Bong Joon-ho and actor Lee Byung-hun, staged a one-man demonstration, and a poll of 1,000 adults aged 20 or older nationwide by the Korea Society Opinion Institute showed that 75.6 percent of the respondents said the screen quota system should be maintained. Those in favor of maintaining the screen quota system claimed that Hollywood films would otherwise monopolize the local film market.

However, these concerns have proved to be unfounded. Indeed, the viewership of Korean films in the country has been on the decline from 97.91 million in 2006 to 76.47 million in 2009, and its share has also slowed down since it fell from 63.8 percent in 2006 to 48.8 percent in 2009. Since then, however, it has recovered its share to over 50 percent, and the quality of work has also increased.

To sum up the situation in one sentence, Korea's film industry flourished even after the downsizing of the screen quota. The finishing touch was the moment when director Bong Joon-ho's "Parasite" won four Academy Awards. The Argus wants to tell the readers that it is true that the screen quota system has been a diligent guardian, but it is time for the Korean movie industry to take off the auxiliary wheel and take the next step.

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ot only Korean citizens, but also K-pop fans all over the world were shocked to hear the news that K-pop idol Sulli was found dead in her home in October 2019. Sulli had been the target of online abuse and negative comments for several years. A month later, her close friend Goo Hara committed suicide. Soon, the actor Cha In-ha was also found dead in early December 2019.

Three deaths within two months shocked the worldwide audience. One may question: why is this happening? However, these tragic incidents are just a few of the well-known examples representing the high suicide rate in Korea.

Korea has been ranked at the top among the OECD countries for suicide rates. How high is the suicide rate in Korea, and what are the reasons behind it? The Argus looks deeper into this psychological problem in Korea.



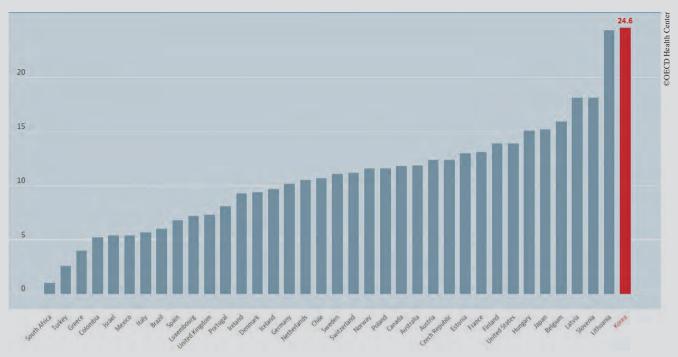




▲ Korean celebrities Sulli (T), Koo Ha-ra (L), and Cha In-ha (R) committed suicide in 2019.

## Before reading,

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), close to 800,000 people die of suicide every year, this is approximately one person every 40 seconds. In the case of Korea, Korea's "cause of death statistics" in 2018 states that Korea's suicide deaths reach 13,670 and an average suicide rate to 26.6 per 100,000. In this context, the suicide rate is deaths caused by suicide divided by resident registration population times 100,000. Korea's suicide rate exceeds the OECD average suicide rate which is 12 people per 100,000. Korea has been ranked the highest in suicide rate amongst OECD countries for 15 of last 16 years from 2003 to 2018. Currently, amongst OECD countries, Korea and Lithuania are the only two countries that have a suicide rate above 20 people per 100,000. Despite these high statistics, the WHO states that "suicide is most commonly misclassified as 'deaths of undetermined intent,' 'accident,' 'homicide,' and 'unknown causes.""



▲ South Korea has the highest suicide rate amongst OECD countries

## What is the problem of suicide in Korea?

## High barriers in front of young aults

Korean Millennials have to give up too many things. That is why there is a newly coined Korean word "3-po generation;" a generation that gives up three things: courtship, marriage, and giving birth, for a better opportunity. Derived from this term, the terms "5-po generation" and then "7-po generation," add whatever is next and the word has developed creating 'N-po generation' raising the question of how many things one has to give up to gain another. Lee Jun-woo, majoring in Scandinavian languages, say "We choose to give up something for something more important, but sometimes it does not turn out to be more important, leaving young adults to feel lethargic and depressed." As if N-po was not enough, the next word is 1-po generation, meaning that the only thing left to give up is one's own life.

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRC) published 'A Study on the Human Rights Situation of Poor Youth.' Within, it conducted a survey and found that among 1,000 young adults ranging from the age of 19 to 34, the average scale of depression was 9.34 on the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) where 10 is 'depressed.' The report goes on to explain that the number one reason for death of those in the ages of 20s and 30s is selfharm, also known as suicide. There are several barriers young

adults are faced with along with high expectations, they tend to give up option after option, leaving them with less hope for a brighter future. Lee, Jun-woo, adds, "The transition period from school to work is the first time 20s and 30s are in society without a safety net, but the stakes are too high for just a beginner in society."

## Social isolation driving one to the edge

The Korean elderly population has the highest suicide rate, not only in Korea but also among all OECD countries. According to the Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS) elders 65 years and above have a suicide rate of 50 people per every 100,000; whereas the OECD average elder suicide rate is 18 people. Eom Tae-wan, a professor of the Dept. of Social Welfare at Kyungnam University, says that "Social isolation is the problem. As a senior citizen, friends, family, and acquaintances leave one by one. In this situation, living a boring and dull life alone can lead to the possibility of one questioning the purpose of life." Recently, due to society's moving away from the Korean tradition of family support and weakening social integration, not all individuals are a part of family and even less so of society.

People from various age groups may feel socially alienated, one of those groups being the working class. Kim Min-jung, a psychology major from Sogang University, says, "There are many subsistence suicides of people in their 30s and 40s.

## Social Insight

Subsistence suicides may include those who cannot earn enough to feed their family, but also people who have doubts about their ways of making a living feeling more like robots instead of human beings." Individuals who are socially isolated may include heads of households, especially of kirogi families, which are Korean parents who are living in separate countries: one to carry the financial burden in Korea and the other to devote his or her life to their child's education in an Englishspeaking country, and more.

## The flower that never blossomed

Not so often, the Korean people share their remorse for the students who committed suicide around the time of seneung. Now exam supervisors lock the rooftops during testing, and police patrol after seneung increases around the bridges of the Han River.

Seneung is a once-a-year college entrance exam all Korean high school students take. It is also known as the College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT). However, 20 percent of all Korean students do not enter straight into university, but instead spends another year studying for this exam. Seventy percent of graduating students from the Gangnam-gu district re-take the exam. Ahn Chae-yeon, studying Fine Arts at the Virginia Commonwealths University, shared "Students in their last year of high school have to take care of their condition by staying healthy and keeping a strong mentality for the seneung, because it takes place only once a year. It is too much pressure for the students."

According to KOSIS, in 2017 the number one cause of death for teenagers was suicide at 7.7 per 100,000. Young students, who could be searching for their likes and dislikes, are forced to study endless hours for their college entrance. Due to this, Korean students can be viewed as "studying machines." Professor Eom explains the importance of focusing on teenagers, "Teen depression prevents teenagers from concentrating on their duties and doing what is right during this period of their development. Depression is for a temporary period; however, severe teenage depression may become a more serious problem as one matures into an adult and causes additional negative effects, changing a person's life completely."

## Why does suicide continue?

## The heavy economic burdens one carries

Recently, the four Oscar-winning movie, Parasite, shocked worldwide audiences due to its depiction of the severe wealth gap between the rich and poor in Korea. So where does this gap begin that leads one to even take their own life?

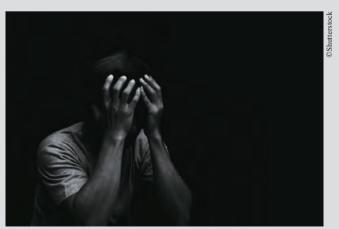
According to KOSIS, 1.8 trillion won (rounded, 1,485,000,000 USD) worth of student loan debt was made by a total of 630,000 students, averaging up to 2.88 million won (2,375 USD) per student. Lee Jun-woo shares, "Students are in debt even before they start to earn money. In order to solve this problem, we need to be employed, but getting employed is difficult; and even if you are employed, nothing gets any easier," explaining how Korean society is an upward stairwell getting steeper. According to KOSIS in 2019, there was a 44 percent employment rate for those between the ages of 15 to 29; and among young adult irregular workers, the rate exceeded 50 percent.

Due to economic reasons, the suicide rate of those in their 40s and 50s is high. Economical situations and community life are changing rapidly without time for adjustment. Professor Eom adds on to the economic burdens. He said, "In 1989 8.9 people committed suicide each day. After experiencing the IMF in 1998, in 2010 the number rose to 42.6 per day and in 2018 37.5 people committed suicide every day." He adds, "After experiencing the 1998 IMF financial crisis, Korean society completely changed. Since then the Korean society has been in infinite competition. At the end of the competition, there is 'money' and without this money people assume the end."

According to the OECD, 43 percent of Korea's elderly are below the poverty line; which is half the median household income of the total population, recording the worst poverty among OECD countries. Professor Eom explains that "Korea's public pension is not enough to sustain a living, so when one reaches old age and has no income or assets he or she will be pushed into poverty."

## The bandwagon effect, one after another

The suicide rate increased drastically when the American



▲ Everyday, someone commits suicide



▲ Marilyn Monroe while filming "The Seven Year Itch"

actress Marilyn Monroe was found dead in her apartment in 1962. This phenomenon was first coined as the Werther Effect by David P. Phillip in 1974 through the researcher's report 'The Influence of Suggestion on Suicide: Substantive and Theoretical Implications of the Werther Effect,' after he noticed that "two months following Marilyn Monroe's death, there were

303 excess deaths by suicide in the United States and 60 in the United Kingdom." In addition, the effect may be called the "copycat suicide" or "suicide contagion."

The name "Werther Effect" has originated from the book "The Sorrows of Young Werther" where the main character Werther kills himself with a gun after his true love does not succeed, and readers of the book mimicked his death by shooting themselves as he did.

Choi Jin-Sil, a South Korean actress nicknamed "The Nation's Actress," committed suicide in 2008. Her younger brother followed her in 2010, then her ex-husband and next her manager in 2013. The Korea Association for Suicide Prevention said that in the two months after her death, there was a 70 percent increase in suicide making it the worst Werther Effect in Korea in the past two decades.

When a celebrity commits suicide, the news is immediately reported and continuously repeated. If the audience feels as if the celebrity has been in a similar situation as oneself, or sometimes triggering those who have not had previous depressive symptoms, often repeating the method of death, or going to the same location to follow the action portrayed by the media. This phenomenon is not limited only to celebrities. According to a study report by the Korea Insurance Research Institute in 2017, the dangers to family survivors following a suicide increases by 8.3 times.

### Mental illness goes ignored and often uncured

There are indications that Korean citizens do not seek for psychological help needed. In addition, pessimistic opinions against depression prevent patients from opening up.

According to the 2018 OECD Health Statistics report on Doctor Consultation, Korea is first with 16.6 per capita before Japan and the Slovak Republic of 12.6 and 10.9 respectively. In simple words, the average Korean citizen visits a doctor 16.6 times a year. In a survey by KOSIS, 95 percent answered "NO" to "Did not visit the doctor due the pressure of costs."

In another survey questioning whether respondents "have had experience with a specialist for a psychological consultation" only seven percent answered "psychiatrist" which was 365 people.

There are not enough precautions taken against for depression. In 2015, according to OECD health statistics regarding pharmaceutical market, Korea consumes 20.3 antidepressants, defined daily dosage (DDD) per 1,000 inhabitants per day, whereas the OECD average was 66.5. In 2017, the Korean average rose to 22, which has been the highest number recorded yet. Korea's consumption of antidepressants is lower than the average of OECD countries. Ironically, although doctor consultation is high in Korea, suicide rates show that mental health is often ignored and goes uncured.

However, the answers were could be found in individuals' attitude. In the same survey "I do not understand how people can take their own life" 46.8 percent agreed and 12.2 percent agreed strongly. In addition, "Especially cannot understand young adults because they have infinite opportunities ahead of them" 19.8 percent strongly agreed and 45.1 percent agreed.

## Where do we go from here?

## What can we do to help the growing elderly population?

According to Statista, Sweden has a comparatively lower suicide rate of 12 people per 100,000 inhabitants, which approximates to 1,272 people in 2018. However, it is noteworthy to see that above the age of 15, 75 years and older has the lowest suicide number out of a total of 159 people.

Several different reasons may account for this phenomenon, but one may point out the well-built welfare system and elderly care Scandinavian countries possess. Northern European countries pursue a person-centered welfare system by local



▲ The elderly receving home care in Sweden

## Social Insight

municipalities for the growing elderly population to be capable of a normal and independent life. Over the years, Sweden has moved away from the hospitalization of the elderly and given rise to more home care services around the clock. According to Sweden.se, the official site of Sweden, in 2013 private care provided service for 24 percent of all elderly people getting home help. In 2014, home help staff assisted around 221,600 people aged 65 or over.

The Swedish receive a national retirement pension based on one's income; according to Sweden.se in 2014 the national retirement pension was SEK 11,093 (1,142USD) per month. In addition, most people employed in Sweden also get an occupational pension. The working population over the age 65 in Sweden is 33 percent according to OECD 2016, holding the highest elderly working population in the European Union. Comparatively in Korea, the amount of one's retirement pension can receive depends on the number of family in the household and income, and the elderly population the lower 20 to 40 percent receives approximately 250,000 won (205USD) per month, which may explain the financial burden elderly populations carry.

## What is wrong with Koreans sitting down for so long?

Korea is known for its long working hours and low productivity. Korea has been ranked second in having the longest working hours among OECD countries until 2018, recording 1,993 hour average annual hours worked per year, whereas the OECD average is 1,734 hours. Total hours worked is recorded as the total number of hours actually worked per year divided by the average number of people in employment per year. Although some negative consequences of shorter working hours may exist, there are several potential benefits of a shorter work week, such as workers having less exhaustion, better health, and a better balance between work and life, which are essential factors for exhausted Korean workers who are giving up their personal lives to achieve something more. Not only does a shorter work week come into question, but also Korean students suffer from long hours of studying at school and academies.

For example, the Danish are well-known for their happy lifestyles, and value one another's 'work-life balance.' The Danes have a 48 hour rule that states that during the period of four months the average working time per week cannot exceed 48 hours, allowing flexibility between weeks; however, Danes work less than this, raising the question of the 33 hour work week. The Danes recorded an average of 1,392 hours worked annually, the second lowest among OECD countries. Their work and life balance may be one of the reasons for their healthy lifestyle recording and only a 9.2 suicide rate.



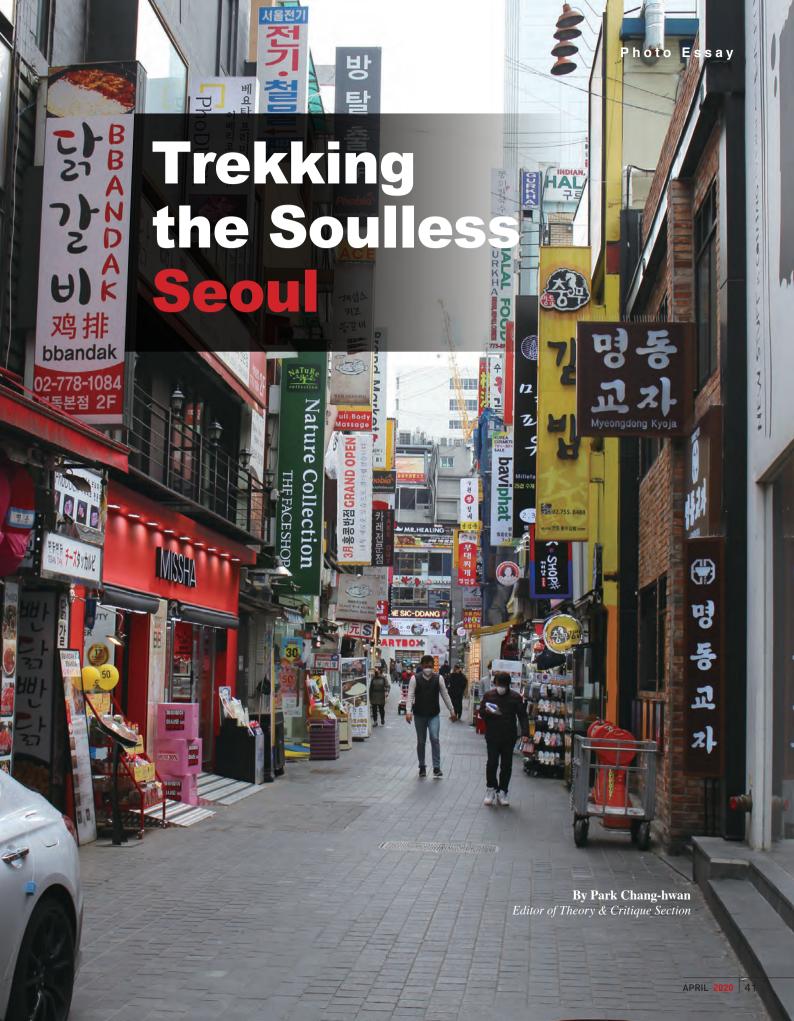
▲ There is always a way to prevent suicide.

## Can basic income be a thing?

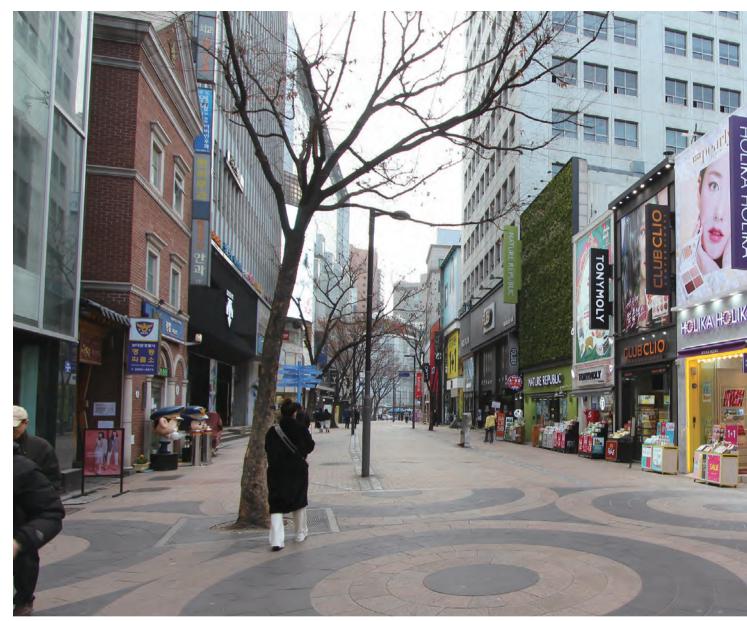
As the United States is preparing for their 2020 presidential election, a former Democratic candidate Andrew Yang came up with a policy that got the attention of many: \$1,000 per month for every US citizen above the age of 18, also known as the Universal Basic Income. He came up with the policy as technologies are replacing jobs. A universal basic income will help workers to lessen the burden of financial needs. This policy may also help Korean students who are getting student loans as soon as they graduate high school, or adults that are getting loans to support their everyday lives. Although it relieves the stress of those who do not have an income, it doesn't stop people from working as it only supports the bare minimum needed in life. Better welfare will surely lessen the burden and help the lives of individuals. Han Seung-woo of the Division of International Studies '18 shared, "There are workers who are too burdened at work that ends up committing suicide. However, if basic income was a thing, maybe they could just quit their jobs without worrying about money."

Every day in our lives, we are faced with war: war against academic achievement, financial burdens, social isolation, and more personal matters. Everyone is going through it, so the Argus believes there is no need for one to be embarrassed by these psychological worries. The suicide rate seems to be an unraveling problem in Korea; however, Korea cannot continue to keep these numbers so high and need to make more effort to make changes. One step at a time, to unravel the problem of psychological turmoil in Korea, one step at a time, we can lower this suicide rate bit by bit.

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# Photo Essay















OVID-19 has kept residents in and kicked tourists out. The streets of Myeong-dong, Samcheong-dong, and ✓ Insa-dong – all key tourist destinations – are no longer bustling with curious travelers. Such a sight would have been unimaginable not three months ago. Spring is in the air and it is prime time for tourists to soak in what Korea has to offer. The virus, emotionless, claws not only at the lives of those infected, but also the livelihoods of those not. Shop owners are seen either aimlessly standing in front their stores or sluggishly looking at their phones. The few people in the streets seem to even be avoiding any unnecessary eye-shopping. How are we going to revitalize the halted lives of these shopkeepers? Likewise, how and when is everyone going back to life as we knew it?

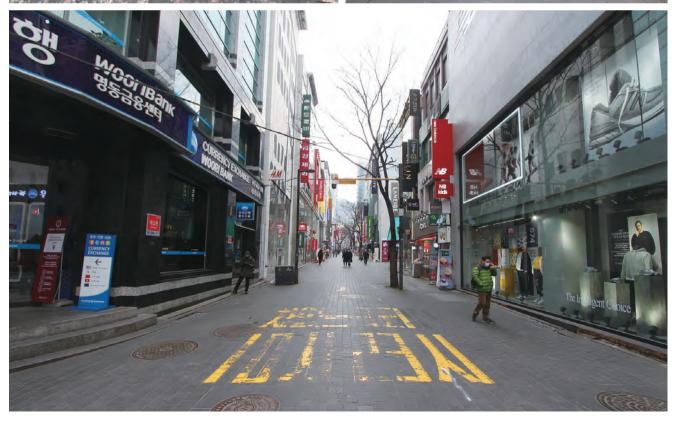
## Photo Essay



The situation makes it seem like we've lost our bearings. Life is in a limbo and we're playing Whac-A-Mole with the coronavirus. Just when it seems like the virus is under control, it pops back up somewhere unexpected. Nevertheless, let it not suck up the essence of our lives. Let us continue to stay strong, in spirit and mind, and perhaps, just be a little bit more mindful of what we can do to fill our souls. While these empty roads might just drain us of our energy, if we rough it out a little, better roads will eventually greet us.

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# **Reliving Chernobyl**

# Within Chernobyl

We will never know the actual human cost of Chernobyl. Most estimates range from 4,000 to 93,000 deaths."

"The contaminated region of Ukraine and Belarus, known as the Exclusion Zone, ultimately encompasses 2,600 square kilometers. Approximately 300,000 people were displaced from their homes. They were told this was temporary. It was forbidden to return.



By Jang Soo-hyun Associate Editor of Social Section

n April 26, 1986, at a city in the North of Ukraine, a nuclear plant exploded; today we call this incident, Chernobyl. There was nothing like such an accident, so no one knew what to do. Thousands of lives were lost and others had lifelasting or generation-transcending radioactive effects. However, there are no solid numbers as the official Soviet death toll is, even today, 31 deaths. Chernobyl remains the largest nuclear accident that many scientists are studying. This April, in memory of the man-made catastrophe that happened 24 years ago, The Argus will review the HBO miniseries Chernobyl released in the summer of 2019.

## 1:23:45

There are mixed feelings about the accident. The supervisor of Chernobyl is refuting his workers and denying the nuclear power plant has actually exploded. Workers themselves are not sure of what is happening even when it is happening before their own eyes. Refusing to accept that this is not a big accident, authorities claim that there is no need for false information to spread and unnecessary panic to occur among town residents.

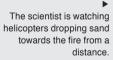


Workers of Chernobyl are in panic.

Lyudmilla Ignatenko (Jessie Buckley)'s husband is a firefighter and he is sent to the power plant after the explosion. Lyudmilla anxiously awaits her husband as the fire and smoke, impossible to ignore from miles away, grows and rises. While firefighters gather to control the fire, Lyudmilla's husband watches his colleague screaming in agony when he touches the rocks on the ground, later revealed to be radioactive graphite.

## Open Wide, O Earth

The scientist assigned to Chernobyl tries to explain the indescribably painful death when exposed to high radiation. Various methods are tried to minimize the enormous radioactive effects the Chernobyl nuclear explosion will bring. Helicopters are dropping sand into the fire, three divers are sent in to empty the water tanks to minimize future radioactivity, and hundreds of miners are installing ventilation to prevent contamination of ground water which will leak into larger waters. But there is always something new that is miscalculated.





The scene continues to switch on and off between Lyudmilla, who has finally found her husband, but burnt badly. He screams at night pleading for the pain to stop, and his burns worsen, turning him into someone unrecognizable. After Lyudmilla tells her husband about their baby, he passes away from acute radiation syndrome (ARS). The episode ends, as Lyudmilla watches her husband get buried with other deceased victims of ARS.

## Vichnaya Pawmyat

The accident goes to court to blame the ones at fault. The episode goes back and forth between the court and flashbacks of the day of the accident — lost, frightened, inexperienced workers unsure of what to do while their superiors are shouting behind their shoulders. Knowing the danger, they had continued the experiment on the power plant, unknowing of how grave the danger actually was.



Lyudmilla's husband is a firefighter.

## Please Remain Calm

Higher authorities are having a hard time figuring out how serious this accident is. However, it is no secret to scientists that the explosion at Chernobyl is incredibly dangerous. Not only were the scientists the only ones to know; now countries such as Germany and Sweden are detecting spikes of radiation blown by the wind. As the news spreads, is decided that Chernobyl is to be evacuated.

Lyudmilla, looking for her husband in the hospital, finds out that the firefighters were moved to the hospital in



Lyudmilla stands beside her husband, who is unrecognizable.

## The Happiness of All Mankind

Streets are undergoing decontamination, and animals in the nearby areas are told to be killed as they are considered contaminated by radioactivity. Humans cannot go into the power plant as it is considered too dangerous, so they receive a robot sent by Germany. However, the robot does not last one minute in the radiation as the Soviets had not fully informed the Germans about the severity of the situation.

Lyudmilla is in a postnatal ward. Among the other mothers and their crying babies, Lyudmilla is sitting alone with an empty crib. The radiation Lyudmilla had received was absorbed by the baby, only letting the baby girl live four hours after birth.





▲ Lyudmilla sits alone, after losing her husband and her baby.







▲ Miners in Chernobyl



▲ People are cleaning radioactive graphite.

An honorable mention for *Chernobyl* is that it casts light on a different side of the accident that the audience may not have deeply thought about. First, the firefighters who were in the frontlines risking their own lives, before anyone realized the depth of the accident. There were divers who volunteered to go inside the power plant, even though they knew how dangerous it was. There were miners, working around the clock in harsh conditions, unsure of when the nuclear meltdown would fall from above. There were more. Nurses and other volunteers who were willing to sacrifice their lives to contribute. The details of these small individuals are how the miniseries conveys the immensely dense story of Chernobyl: A worker shoveling graphite feeling dizzy and tripping over himself; a scared young boy unable to shoot the unharmful dogs in front of him. The stories of each person bring out emotions of empathy, sadness, anger, and more; something that simple numerical death tolls cannot carry. Concentrating on one individual at a time and how the accident touched them as a single person is how *Chernobyl* goes back 24 years to tell the story so vividly.



▲ The scientist is delivering the gravity of Chernobyl.



▲ The scientist is uncovering the truth of Chernobyl in court.



▲ People are looking at the fire of Chernobyl on "the bridge of death."

## "What is the cost of lies?" The message Chernobyl is

trying to deliver is the "truth." Throughout the story, there are two groups of people: those who are trying to cover up the story, and those who are trying to uncover the truth. In "Chernobyl" the people trying to uncover the truth, were the scientists and others who were at the scene and witnessed the meltdown. The others, who were trying to hide the truth, are the higher authorities of USSR who cared more about the country's reputation. The scientist assigned to the accident understands the importance of the accident and the deadly impact that it may have on ordinary citizens. Regardless of the truth, the scientist also understands the consequences of speaking the truth, which is risking his own life. After his long dilemma, he finally does speak up and states the facts in court, only for the unreported press stories and his eternal isolation. However, looking at the consequences of Chernobyl, it is plausible enough that that we do comprehend the "cost of lies." Nevertheless, lies continue. There are incidents where the general public has not been informed, or misinformed. Originally for the purpose of whatever protection, when the truth is uncovered, it brings out discontent, instability in society, and betrayal of faith. So a question to ponder upon is this: "What is the cost of lies?"

# From HBO miniseries Chernobyl

Gorbachev presided over the Soviet Union until its dissolution in 1991. In 2006, he wrote 'the nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl was perhaps the true cause of the collapse of the Soviet union.'

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By Lee Jae-won

Editorial Consultant

uring February, I was busy seeking a part-time job. In order to get a job, I sent my resume to 80 English academies and had seven job interviews. When I went around for the interviews, South Korea had just started suffering from COVID-19. Due to the new coronavirus, all academies that I visited were temporarily closed. The academies were uncertain about how long they would need to stay closed, so they were not quick to tell me of the result of my interview. After a few days, I received a call from a director at one of the academies where I had an interview: "You passed the interview. You are going to start working with us beginning next week." The next week, however, I could not go to work.

The day after the director's first call, I got one more call from her, saying, "Sir, because of COVID-19, we will close our academy for more days than expected, so it would be too burdensome to hire one more part-timer. I am so sorry." At first, I was so angry, but soon, what came to my mind was anxiety: "I lost a job in just one day. Can I ever get a part-time job?" While seeking a job, I do not earn money, but I spend time and money on printing my resume, preparing for a job interview, and other demanding activities. This demanding work is ironic: when I need money, I must spend money first in order to earn money later.

I sent my resume to ten academies and I have been legally hired by one academy. The academy's director said that he is also fighting against COVID-19. Owing to the novel coronavirus, every academy in his town has been closed for two weeks; despite this two-week vacuum, it constantly costs to rent a building and maintain an academy, the director mentioned. The director, similar to my situation, had to spend money without earning money. From then on, I could understand the the position of the director who previously cancelled my employment. For the directors of academies, when income is consistently being decreased, they cannot help but cut down personnel expenses—the expenses that they can most easily reduce.

As of the first week of March, in accordance with the slowing spread of COVID-19, several academies resumed their classes. The government asked the academies to close, stating that the academies could make prevention measures against the virus become useless; academies stood against the government, arguing that they cannot close their businesses anymore unless the government supports them financially. Unfortunately, financial aid by the government is impossible due to lack of a legal basis for that aid.

I am not insisting that either the government or the academy is right. It is fully right that we must overcome the COVID-19 situation by following the government's guidelines: we should refrain from going out and take care of our own sanitation. However, the burden of such "right" conduct is not the same for everyone. In a capitalist society, for independent businesspeople and irregular workers, work is not just work but the only means of living; how much time they work means how much money they earn. For those with unstable work, working rights for an emergency—working at home or family-care leave that regular salary workers can enjoy in the current situation—are not available.

Seldom do these unstable workers predict their own futures now—they earn money today but cannot predict that they are able to still earn money tomorrow or next week or next month. Confronting this situation, can we just blame the academies for reopening? Rather than blaming the academies, the government must make a policy regarding emergencies to help the unstable workers financially, sufficiently, and for a sustained period. If not, we might stop the spread of COVID-19 that infects our body; but we will not stop the spread of anxiety that infects every part of our vulnerable mind.

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©No Mans Land, Flanders Field, France, 1919. Photo by W. L. King, Millersberg, Ohio; by courtesy of Military Intelligence Div., General Staff, U.S. Army.

## Kwak Hyun-jeong

I feel the Spring far off, far off, / The faint far scent of bud and leaf-- / Oh how can Spring take heart to come / To a world in grief, / Deep grief?

The sun turns north, the days grow long, / Later the evening star grows bright-- / How can the daylight linger on / For men to fight, / Still fight?

The grass is waking in the ground, /Soon it will rise / and blow in waves-/ How can it have the heart to sway / Over the graves, / New graves?

Under the boughs where lovers walked / The apple-blooms will shed their breath-- / But what of all the lovers now /Parted by death, / Gray Death?

-Spring in Wartime by Sara Teasdale

#### Na Geum-chae

As humankind is a part of nature, its war against nature is inevitably a war against itself. We do not know the price we have to pay, nor does it end up with a generation. Nevertheless, people continue the war against nature. Why? The answer is simple. We often do everything we can to satisfy our greed. However, let us think about it this way. Desire for something means something is lacking, therefore endless desire entails eternal scarcity. You will be peaceful once you abandon your greed. Going back to nature may be an answer for today's serious environmental issues and harsh lives. As Rachel Carson said, there is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.

"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us the less taste we shall have for the destruction of our race. Wonder and humility are wholesome emotions, and they do not exist side by side with a lust for destruction."

- In the speech accepting the John Burroughs Medal, Rachel Carson.

## Park Chang-hwan

Everyday is a battle with myself. Trying to beat bad habits, overcoming limits, and refining personal qualities is to me one battle after another. These battles add up to become what I know as the war called "life." Sometimes I lose a skirmish or two, but with the right mindset and effort, I know that I can come out on top.

But, we know that war is not a good thing. There are casualties in war. We also know that life does not need to be so fierce. The true win, the only way I can come out on top, just may be one where I stop thinking that life is a war, and just let life be. Maybe that is when I will stop being the casualty.

## Yoo Chan-heum

When we ask people do you hate wars, most people would say yes. Because wars can kill many people and create disasters. But what we do not really know is there is a war happening right under our noses. Just look at our daily lives. There are war between genders, races, religions. Except the wars that I mentioned earlier, we also stamp on others just to go higher, destroy everything that is blocking ourselves. Face it, we are veteran soldiers of endless wars that we created. Let me ask you one last time, do you really hate wars?

"All war is a symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal"

-John Steinbeck

#### Jang Soo-hyun

War is caused by a small group of people which brings out the consequences to the larger group of people. A war hurts individuals who do not want to be involved by forcing them to fight, volunteer, or contribute in some form or shape. Resulting in physical, psychological, economical damages and more butterfly effects that we cannot imagine. After all the damages that require decades of restoration, is there a 'win' in war? After a war, is there truly a winner?

