

The Argus

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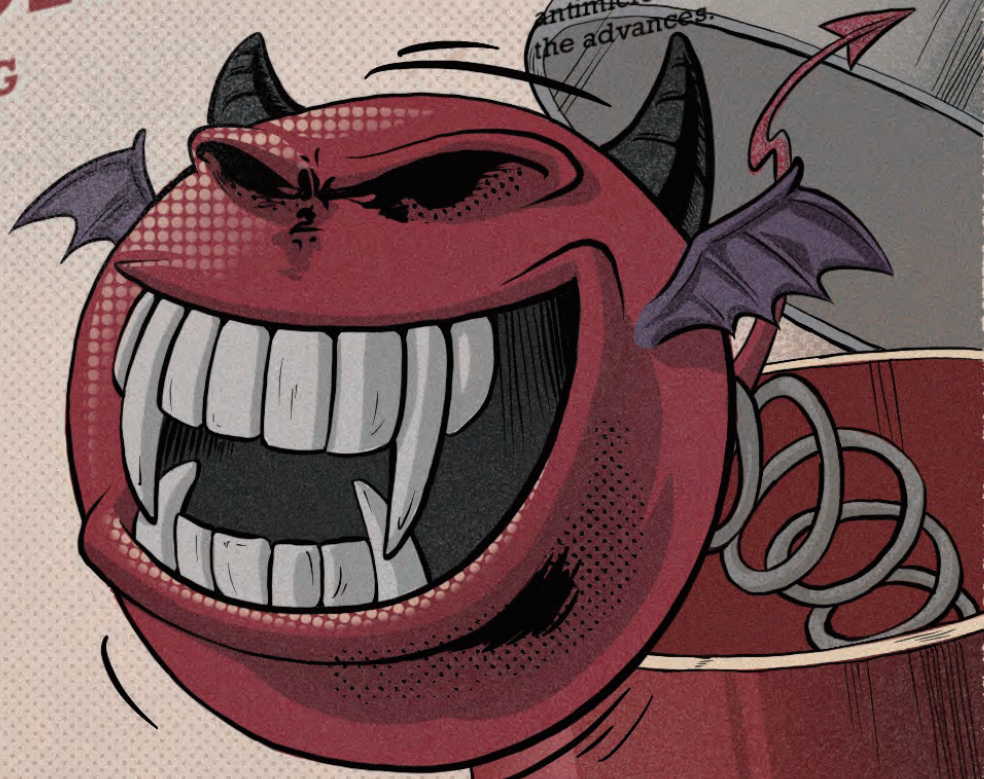
Since 1954

FIGHT THE COMFORT:

ANTIMICROBIAL DRUG
RESISTANCE

The discovery of antibiotics is one of mankind's most historic advances, having eternally changed our definition of remedy.

However, they threaten mankind now; experts suggest that the long-time dependency on antimicrobial drugs can offset the advances.



What should we do, then?

The Argus spearheads the fight against the complacency of the use of antimicrobials.



The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

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Editorial

How Much Is the Right Amount?

I sit alone in the office by myself, after all the reporters have left, replaying in my mind what happened during the meeting today. I go sit across the table and try to imagine myself from where I just came from. I move somewhere in the middle where I used to sit as staff reporter, trying to remind myself how I felt a few years back. I backtrack the conversations I shared while sweeping the office floor, and I think about what I would have done differently when I lie down in bed before going to sleep. I search the web looking for restaurants and menus wondering what to eat with the reporters tomorrow. Some may say I think too much and maybe I do.

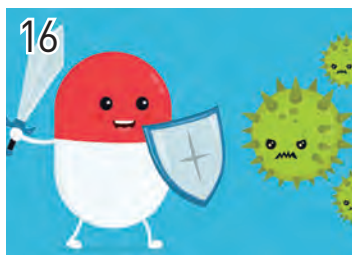
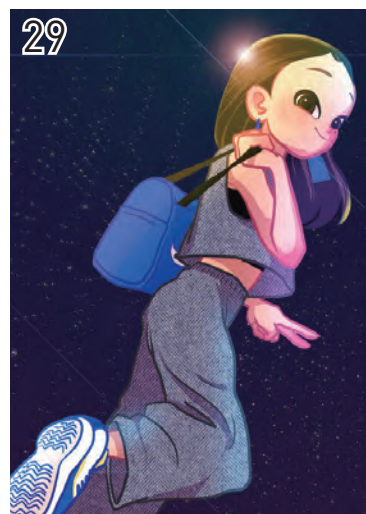
By the same token, some may say too much of anything is bad, an idea that can be supported by this month's cover story on the overuse of antimicrobial drugs. Knowing the right amount is ideal, but difficult. Especially amid the pandemic, adequate knowledge on the topic is essential for proper use of medicine. This month's cover story will help readers gain insight about the problem and its causes and talk about what steps to take leading towards a wider viewpoint.

Although it seems contradictory to talk big at this point, I made a big promise to myself that I would give my everything to the Argus this semester. I have been a part of the community since I was a freshman. I started out as a cub, then moved on to become a staff reporter, an associate editor, and later an editor. I continued to contribute a piece of the pie back to the paper. When I came into The Argus as a naïve freshman, I never imaged myself to be so deeply involved in such a community. Now as a senior student, before leaving, I wanted to contribute as much as I could to the community as I have once received.

I felt different as I put down everything else, and prioritize this community, the group of people, and the publication of the University periodicals over other things. It was different. Different in a good way. And I continue to promise that for the rest of the semester I will do my best and give my everything to the reporters and the paper, The Argus. 

By Jang Soo-hyun
Editor-in-Chief

장수현



CONTENTS



Cover Story

>> Antimicrobial drug resistance is one of the most urgent global threats. In case not solved, it is possible that mankind has to live in a world where the most necessary medicines are absent. However, the importance of the resolution of the issue often becomes overridden by other matters, which might not be the priorities deserving the attention. The Argus explores what is happening and what is behind it, and finally, what measures can be taken.

02 · News Desk

04 · News Briefing

06 · Road Casting

Culture Section

07 · Culture Talk

Thumbs Up or Down? What Do You Think About Upcycling?

10 · In-depth on Culture

Are the Grammys Ready to Welcome BTS?

Theory & Critique Section

16 · Cover Story

Antimicrobial Drugs: The Deadliest Convenience

22 · Caduceus

Korean Fruits, Get on a Private Jet

Social Section

26 · Cub-Economist

Short: Are You Familiar?

29 · Poirot's Deduction

Excessive Expectation; Stay Alert

32 · Social Feature

A Friction Happening, Yet Unhappened

36 · Photo Essay

38 · HUFSan's Voice


40 · Eye of The Argus

41 · Epilogue

Teaching Methods for 2021 First Semester

In the first semester of 2021, classes are being operated in three manners: (1) Face-to-face Class, (2) Face-to-face/Online Transmission Class (mirroring class), and (3) Online Class; in the case of face-to-face classes, the class method is to be applied differently according to the government social distancing scheme.

In case that Level 1 - 1.5 of social distancing scheme is in effect, no more than 12 students per class is allowed in general; no more than 20 students for conversation classes; no more than 30 for classes in computer labs, for classes of physical education, and of science and engineering labs, all of which are taught with (1) of the three aforementioned ways. Classes whose size is 13 - 50 students may have off-line class meetings simultaneously with on-line meetings, having a half of the class take turns and attend the offline meetings for a week and rotate with the other half for the following week (the manner (2) above). In case that Level 2 is invoked, science and engineering lab classes with less than 30 students and conversation classes with less than 12 are allowed with (1). In case of Level 2.5 - 3, every class will be taught in (3) without exception.

In principle, all (1) classes will be offered simultaneously to foreign students who are unable to enter the country, and the attendance will be dealt with on the electronic system. Also, an absolute grading system may continue this semester. 



▲ Classes in HUFS will be taught in three ways upon the social distancing scheme.

By Park Da-eun

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HUFS Holds Communicative Freshman Program Online



▲ INTRO: in this year, in this place proceeds from Feb. 17 to March 5.

From Feb. 17 to March 5, From the Dawn, the 54th General Student Council (GSC), is hosting Freshman Orientation Program online, "INTRO: in this year, in this place." The program will be running on the website designed by the GSC, www.hufs2021.com. All freshmen and student volunteer members called HUFSketchers can log in to the website from anywhere with their cellphones. The whole program is about recovering a sense of community for freshmen and HUFSSans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kim Na-hyun, Student President of the 54th GSC, emphasized, "To induce student participation, incentives will be given. Students are to solve unit missions to gain HUFSS Coin, a type of virtual money that can be traded for school goods on the website's marketplace." She added, "INTRO: in this year, in this place, is an innovative project exclusive to HUFS. What makes it outstanding is student participation; it is not just a unilateral transfer of information through videos but gets students actually involved."


The website is organized with school notices and basic school information for freshmen. Various orientations of the freshmen learning program, which used to be presented offline in the past, such as Jung-ang Pan competitive off-line events participated by departments, are replaced by department mission score battles online. The program seems to be optimized for entertainment and bolstering school spirit. 

By Nam Gyeong-eun

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Graduation Canceled due to COVID-19

HUFS has decided not to hold 2021 winter graduation ceremony, amid the COVID-19 crisis. Despite the cancelation, from Feb. 18, graduates can receive graduation albums at the offices of each department or division, taken during the 2020 summer vacation and fall semester. Some of the frames taken during the summer vacation are being kept at the Seoul Campus the General Student Council (GSC) office.


The GSC has resumed its graduation gown rental services, which was originally suspended due to COVID-19 concerns. According to an anonymous HUFSan, “It is acceptable not to lend graduation gowns or not to conduct a graduation ceremony, but at least I hope there is an alternative. It is a shame that I cannot show my parents around the HUFS campus. It is unfortunate that my five years at HUFS comes to a close without a gown.” Currently, the GSC is rearranging their schedule to organize the gown rental for graduates at the start of the semester. 

By Kim Yeo-won
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E-Commerce Agreement and the Award for GBT

On Feb. 9, HUFS announced that it signed an agreement, “2021 E-commerce specialized university” with the Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) and Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME) at JW Marriott Hotel Seoul.

The agreement on the E-commerce specialized university is a collaborative project between the government and universities to train online export experts. Seven universities, including HUFS, were selected as the E-commerce specialized universities in 2021.


At the 1st U-commerce competition, concurrently held with the signing ceremony, the Global Seller Five (GSF) and G+ team of the Division of Global Business & Technology (GBT) each received the Minister prize of MSS and Chairman prize of KOSME. 

By Park Da-eun
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HUFS Mail Changes to Gmail System

Starting from Jan. 4 2021, the HUFS Mail system is newly reformed to a Gmail system. The current HUFS Mail needs direct confirmation to be switched. After the implementation of the system, users will not be able to use the previous HUFS Webmail Service.

The Office of Information Systems reported that there was a problem with the file attachment on the original webmail system. According to the school authorities, the existing e-mail service was in use for 18 years. Server instability and lack of space led to its inevitable replacement.

The new HUFS mail based on Gmail, Google’s e-mail service, will be optimized for Google Chrome. It is easier to attach files, providing bigger email storage space and Google Drive. In addition, email security will be improved because now users are able to block spam and phishing mail. Since the email system is based on Gmail, students can freely use Google systems such as Google Meet, Google Classroom, and Google Calendar through HUFS mail. Jeong Seong-heon, a School of English Interpretation and Translation ‘19 said, “The original mail capacity was limited to 300MB and there were many difficulties due to security issues. However, thanks to the change, the school’s email service will be practical. With the growing number of professors using Google services such as Google Meet, it will make meeting online easier.” 

By Lim Chae-lynn
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▲ The previous HUFS mail was used for 18 years.

News Briefing

By Jang Soo-hyun
Editor-in-Chief

Korea's Worst Unemployment Since 1998

Amid the pandemic, Korea has recorded the largest job loss since the 1997-8 Asian financial crisis. As of Jan. 2021, the average unemployment rate was 5.7 percent a record high, summing up to 1.57 million. Taking a little look closer, youth unemployment – those age between 15 and 29 – reached 9.5% recording 380,000.

The unemployment rate may be underrated due to an increase in the number of economically inactive people or those unwilling to work. Due to the unemployment crisis, the government official examination has recorded its highest competition rate in five years, showing an increased inclination for a stable workplace.

Most job loss seems to be focused on the service sector for the outbreak did not allow face-to-face services. Especially restaurants and lodging faced temporary shutdowns or open hour restrictions due to the social distancing measures.

Trump's Second Acquittal



©Oliver Contreras / Bloomberg / Getty

Donald Trump, the first US president facing two impeachment trials, was found not guilty. After the White House rally and a mob

storming into the Capital building on Jan. 6, the Democratic House impeachment managers argued that Trump should be held responsible for inciting the riot, where five people died.

However, Republicans claimed it was unconstitutional to impeach the president after he left office. Trump's lawyers said the Democrats were using the impeachment for partisan gain and disenfranchise the people who voted for Trump's reelection.

The trial began on Feb. 9 and the former president was acquitted on Feb. 13 by a vote of 57 guilty to 43 not guilty. Seven Republicans stood by the Democrats voting to convict. Ten votes short for the two-thirds majority or 67 votes required for a conviction.

After his acquittal, Trump shared it was “the greatest witch hunt in history.”

Myanmar Coup d'État



©Wikipedia

Beginning Feb. 1, the Myanmar military called for a year-long state of emergency after Aung San Suu Kyi has won the election by a landslide. The coup led

by Min Aung Hlaing claims the November general election was a fraud and demands a revote; however, the electoral commission states there is no evidence. Currently, Aung San Suu Kyi is under arrest along with other leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD).

Aung San Suu Kyi campaigned to restore democracy in the country since the 1990s. She was in detention for nearly 15 years between 1989 and 2010. Her efforts in organizing rallies calling for democratic reforms and free election was recognized when she received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

Currently, Myanmar is going through its largest protests since 2007, but the military is attempting to make restrictions by controlling curfews from local time 20:00 to 6:00 in addition to limiting the number of people able to gather in some areas.

New Tokyo Olympic President, Hashimoto

Seiko Hashimoto, former Olympics Minister and a seven-time Olympian for cycling and speed skating, has been appointed as the next Tokyo 2020 president.

Yoshiro Mori, 83, resigned after making a sexist comment that women talk too much. He said “meetings with lots of women take long” and as the number of female board members increase, “Make sure their speaking time is restricted. They have difficulty finishing, which is annoying.” Mori later resigned and apologized for his comment. The Japanese Olympic Committee board currently has 24 members, five of whom are women.

Mori was originally replaced by another octogenarian male leader but it was soon dismissed after facing a backlash.



©Reuters

Clubhouse, the Changing Social Media Platform



©Quartz

Clubhouse's popularity has been recently on the rise. Launched early in 2020, Clubhouse consists of virtual rooms where people can talk to each

other – by voice. The app recently gained global popularity after high-profile guests such as Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, and more made appearances. Musk's appearance on the social audio app crashed Clubhouse servers busting the room limit of 5,000 concurrent listeners.

The specialty of the app is that it can only be entered by an invite of an insider, making the platform closed. Although the app is only available on iPhones, so far there are about 8 million global downloads of Clubhouse. Clubhouse grew from 3.5 million downloads as of Feb. 1 to 8.1 million by Feb. 16, 2021.

Untact K-pop in the Global Market



©Instagram@blackpinkofficial

Regardless of the pandemic and its limit for live concerts, K-pop celebrities continue to go viral internationally. Last year in Oct, BTS streamed concert achieved 993,00 ticket holders from 191 countries, estimating \$43 million. Big Hit, On Feb. 18 BTS's agency, Big Hit Entertainment announced that their 2017 released song “DNA” achieved 1.2 billion views on YouTube.

The K-pop sensation continues as other large entertainment companies also come on board with online concerts. SM Entertainment held a free online concert “SMTOWN Live” on Jan.1 to give comfort to those fighting against the COVID-19. YG Entertainment's BLACKPINK, had their first live stream concert in Jan.. Their song “Ddu Du Ddu Du” the most-watched music video on YouTube records 1.4 billion views.

Bitcoin Surpass \$50,000

On Feb. 16 the world's largest cryptocurrency Bitcoin surges past \$50,000 for the first time.

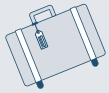
Earlier in the month, Tesla's decision to add \$1.5 billion in Bitcoin to its balance sheet and accepting it as a new method of payment was a major catalyst to the latest jump.

Bitcoin's increase in value continues the heated debate questioning whether it is a stable form of currency or simply a big bubble.

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Where is Your Unforgettable Place?



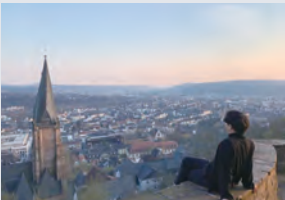
By Kim Yeo-won

Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

Everyone has one place they want to revisit before they die. This winter was especially cold because of the weather and the lonely time spent alone in the COVID-19 era. This season, we recollect the memories of the places we miss. Since our destination is reachable, not by foot, but only by sight, our longing for travel gets bigger. When spring comes, we feel the need to travel more. The Argus asked HUFsans to share their most memorable places.

 **Hong Hyun-woo** (Dept. of German '15)

Marburg Castle in Germany




When I was studying abroad in Germany, I used to go up to the Marburg Castle located on the top of hills where I could look over the city. I went with foreign friends but most of the time alone, with comfortable clothes and a can of beer. As I look down from the castle, I listened to music so I could organize my thoughts. I will never forget the peaceful moment with the sunset beyond the horizon, the gentle breeze, and the smoke rising from the chimneys.

 **Jo Su-wan** (Dept. of Spanish '18)

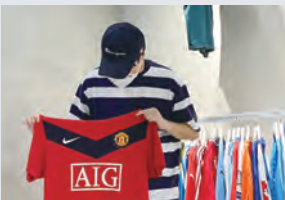
Chuncheon in Korea

I like domestic trips. That is why Chuncheon remains in my memory. I cannot forget the picturesque scenery. Especially when I rode the rail bike, I felt like I was in a fairy tale. I remember the blue mountain in the front, the winding river next to me, and the deep blue sky. It was like the Alps in Korea. Even though it was a hot summer day, a cool wind blew when I was working the pedals. I kept a diary that day: "A day like today is a present." After a tough day, I reminisce Chuncheon and breathe in its fresh air.



 **Jeon Young-tae** (Dept. of Knowledge Contents '17)

Wembley Stadium in England



I remember my heart fluttering in Wembley Stadium. It is a largest stadium in England, and I watched a soccer match between Tottenham and Manchester United in Jan. 2018. At first, I was kicked out of the entrance because the way I purchased my ticket was illegal. I scuffled with the seller; I could barely enter the stadium. I love soccer, but it is shame that I cannot go to the stadium these days. After the COVID-19 era, I really want to visit there again and feel the thrill in the stadium.

 **Choi Hyeon-jung** (Division of French Language '19)

Surabaya in Indonesia

I have an unforgettable memory in Surabaya from when I was a high school student. The first impression of Indonesia was the meeting with a friend wearing a hijab and a place to pray for Muslims. There are a lot of differences between Korea and Indonesia. I think that makes me concentrate on the different places I visited. Nasi goreng, Indonesian fried rice, was impressive because of the harmony between the special sauce and Indonesian fried rice. I planned to go to Surabaya and have some local food again.



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Thumbs Up or Down? What Do You Think About Upcycling?

By Lim Chae-lynn

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

Do you know how much plastic is used in our lives? Starting from the takeout cups at the coffee shop and straws inside, bags for fruit, food packaging for delivery, we cannot even count them all. Plastics are everywhere, always by our side. According to a report by the American Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) released from the international academic journal, "Science Advanced" in 2016, the annual consumption of plastic per capita in Korea is 88kg, which is the third-highest amount following the United States and the United Kingdom. The plastic trash will constantly pile up and stay with us forever.

Recently, one solution called "upcycling" has emerged to solve such environmental problems. However, despite the positive intention behind upcycling, especially in the field of fashion, opinions are still widely divided among people. What are your thoughts about upcycling fashion? Would you like to buy upcycled clothes? The Argus listens to HUFsans' thoughts on upcycling fashion and talks about the attitude upcycling brands should take and the potential of upcycling fashion.



▲ The newly launched jacket from The North Face is made from recycled plastic.

▲ The crescent shape of the clothes is the signature of Marine Serre.

▲ Each FREITAGs' bag has a different design.

Upcycling [noun]

Upcycling is an activity of re-creation, where a new product is made using recycled ingredients by adding design or utilization to it. Usually, most of the upcycling products are fashion items such as clothes and bags made with recycled clothes, used banners, scrap fabric, and waste wood, and more.

Interviewees

- Lee Jeong-hwa | Dept. of Malay Indonesian Interpretation and Translation '20
- Choi Yoon-ha | Dept. of Malay Indonesian Interpretation and Translation '20
- Jung Woo-jin | Division of Biomedical and Engineering '17
- Lee Joo-yeon | Dept. of Arabic '21

The Argus: *What do you think about “Upcycling fashion?” And why?*



Lee Joo-yeon

The purpose of upcycling seems good, but other than that, it looks inefficient. As it can only postpone the problem, I do not think this is the ultimate solution to the environmental problem. It can only be a temporary alternative, not a fundamental solution. Once the material is upcycled, we cannot use that material again. Rather, I think we should choose eco-friendly products that do not require upcycling in the first place, such as biodegradable plastic. It is a natural ingredient and quickly rots so it can be a more reasonable choice than upcycled products. Upcycling requires more financial investment and labor than other methods. Also, since they are made of recycled materials, there are limits on the ingredients; so, it is difficult to find the diversity of products. This may even feel less attractive than the non-upcycling products.



Lee Jeong-hwa

The ultimate goal of upcycling is environment protection and waste minimization, keywords of many upcycling brands. However, consumers are obsessed more with purchasing upcycling products. This may lead to a bad situation. Consumers forget about the original purpose by loosening their consciousness of recycling and at the same time increasing unnecessary consumption. In a similar example, there was the “eco-bag” boom, which occurred a few years ago and is still around. The trend started with the intention of reducing the usage of plastic bags by replacing them with eco-friendly bags. However, it is rather becoming a marketing tool for companies and a fashion item now. The bag that was once consumed as being eco-friendly is now being thrown away as garbage just as any other fashion item. I concede to the purpose of upcycling, but I have a critical opinion of upcycling fashion.

Due to the limited natural resources of the Earth, our consumption will not last if we just keep creating new products. This is no exception in the fashion industry. According to Greenpeace, a well-known global environmental organization, making a pair of jeans requires about 7,000 liters of water, and one T-shirt takes about 2,720 liters of water. Besides, polyester, often used in clothing fabric, consumes about 11 billion liters of crude oil annually throughout the world. Upcycling, on the other hand, recycles existing materials, so it can slow the exhaustion of natural resources. I think this can be the solution to our permanent desire for consumption.



Jung Woo-jin

Upcycling fashion is not only environmentally friendly but also attracts the consumers’ attention for its unique designs. For example, famous upcycling fashion brand FREITAG, recycles waterproof cloth and seat belts from disused trucks and used cars. Each bag is made from different recycled fabrics, so obviously every product is unique, without a single repeated design. This uniqueness of upcycling fashion can act as a new option for young people who value individuality and consumers tired of fast fashion.



Choi Yoon-ha

The Argus: *To attract more customers, what should upcycling brands do?*



Lee Joo-yeon

The cost is too expensive to buy clothes even though they are made from recycled materials. Due to the limited kinds of materials, there seems to be a tendency that only one style can be produced. For this reason, I think the brands would be better if there were a wider range of designs.



Lee Jeong-hwa

As upcycling brands themselves target people who prefer eco-friendly products, so it is important to be transparent in the manufacturing process to effectively attract them. Consumers will be able to trust the brands and purchase their products only when they transparently disclose the process about what material is selected and how they go through the process and finally turn the materials into an upcycled product. Also, if upcycling is the main purpose of fashion brands, it is right to make clothes that many consumers will use in their daily lives. If the brands produce universal designs, the consumption will increase, which will apparently fulfill the purpose of upcycling: protecting the environment.

The Argus: *What do you think about the sustainability of upcycling fashions?*



Lee Jeong-hwa

To make upcycled products, social costs are incurred in the process, such as collecting suitable materials for the products and breaking up and reprocessing the collected materials one by one. Unless consumers' recognition of upcycled fashion overcomes the social costs, there will be other stores for consumers to easily access the products. As a result, upcycled fashion will be hard to sustain.

First of all, I think it is necessary to popularize the concept of upcycling. Consumers who dislike the upcycling of fashion mostly say they are disappointed by the fact that the expensive clothes they have paid for are actually made of the fabric of old curtains and tents. They think it is considered inferior to new clothing because it is just recycled fabric. So, I think it is urgent for upcycling brands to recognize these facts for their consumers. Unless these conditions are satisfied, the future of upcycled fashion will not be bright.



Lee Joo-yeon

I do not think upcycled fashion will last long. Firstly, in the fashion industry, these topics are often used just for one-shot marketing. Without changing this attitude within the industry, it seems upcycling will last just as a type of trend, merely flashing in the moment. In addition, sustainable trends need popularity that anyone can enjoy and simply try, regardless of whether you are young or old or you are male or female. However, upcycled fashion is not even known to many people yet. Thus, I think upcycled fashion cannot be sustained, because the entry barrier is too high.

The number of upcycling brands continues to increase. In 2011, there were about ten upcycling brands, but in 2017 there were more than 100 brands. Moreover, many high-end brands have recently introduced upcycled products. What we must pay attention to is whether each of the brands used eco-friendly upcycling materials to make sustainable fashion including global luxury brand PRADA. For example, in Korea upcycling brand Re;cord has been newly launched by the famous fashion brand Kolon. Looking at these changes in the fashion industry, I think upcycled fashion will never stop being popular.



Choi Yoon-ha

One of the keywords that was popular in 2018 and 2019 was “gashimbi.” This term means when customers purchase the product, the satisfaction of the mind overcomes the actual cost of the product. I am positively looking at the potential of upcycled fashion, thinking that the environmental values given through upcycling will match this mental part.




Jung Woo-jin



▲ The bag is made with recycled material “Econyl,” as a series of PRADAs’ renylon project.



▲ All shoes and bags of the RE;CORD are made from waste plastic.

Upcycling is one revolutionary solution to solve the plastic waste problem. Nevertheless, various HUFsans’ opinions show that upcycled fashion continues to remain a controversial topic among students. Proponents of upcycled fashion choose their uniqueness and environmental value as advantages. On the other hand, the students who oppose it say they do not want to buy the product just for those simple characteristics, even though they admit the good purpose of the activity. As a reader, what do you think? Do you want to join upcycled fashion movement? The Argus wants upcycling brands to improve in several fields and become a trend that more people can join. 

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Are the Grammys Ready to Welcome BTS?



©Cheatsheet

▲ BTS is awarded at the 61st Grammy Awards.

By Choi Yea-jin

Associate Editor of Culture Section

The majority of the media said, “Billboard recognized BTS, but will the Grammys do the same?” What does this mean? In fact, the Grammy Awards are the most conservative of the music awards in the U.S. The Grammys, which have been around for about 60 years since 1959, are prestigious and historic, and musicians want to win the awards at least once. However, controversy is still brewing over allegations that the Grammys are discriminatory. In particular, criticisms of racism, music genre discrimination, and equity have become hot potatoes as the Grammy Awards are held. The more Korean artists such as singers, engineers, and designers are listed on the Grammys, the more worried they become that they will not be able to avoid such discrimination.

The Argus wants HUFsans to reflect on discrimination in music through the Grammys’ tradition, its causes and solutions. Through this, The Argus also hopes HUFsans will take a critical view of the 63rd Grammy Awards which will be held on March 14 this year.

Fields of Grammy Awards

Presented by the Recording Academy, which is an American learned academy of musical professionals, there are two fields in the Grammy Awards according to the Grammys’ website: general field and genre field.

The general fields (also known as the “Big Four”) are four awards for musical works which do not restrict nominees by genre. These include Record of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist. Who wins the General Field is the biggest issue for the Grammys every year.

The genre field includes pop, R&B, hip-hop, country, electronic, rock, gospel, alternative, and jazz. Each genre is categorized as best vocal, best performance, best album, and best song.



Phenomenon 1

White Grammys in a Multiracial Society

Only 10 black singers have won the Album of the Year category in the general field since 1959, when the Grammys began. Also, from 2010 to now, the only artists of color who have won the general fields are Beyoncé, the singer of *Single Ladies*, and Bruno Mars, who was featured in *Uptown Funk*. The works of musically acclaimed black artists continue to fail to win awards. The Grammys' racism became more controversial in 2015. Beyoncé's 5th album, *BEYONCÉ*, was well recognized musically and had excellent commerciality. The media and critics had predicted that Beyoncé would win the Album of the Year, but white singer Beck, who sang *Morning Phase*, won the award. Since then, controversy over the Grammys' racism began to intensify.

Metacritic, a website that aggregates reviews of music albums and films, gives a score according to music critics, and Beyoncé's album *Lemonade*, released in April 2016, received a very high score of 92. In addition, her album, which contains social messages on issues such as black human rights and feminism, has been recognized for its musicality by various media. In terms of commerciality, it recorded two million copies in the U.S. exclusive sales, and all of the songs on the album were listed on the Billboard singles chart. As a result, Beyoncé was nominated for nine categories at the 2017 Grammy Awards. At that time, however, Adele released her album *25*, achieving just as much as Beyoncé, and she also was nominated for five categories at the 2017 Grammy Awards.

What was the result? Adele won three of the four general field awards, winning all nominations. However, Beyoncé did not win any of her general field awards, and she only won two genre field awards. Adele said that the true owner of the award was Beyoncé, and she split her trophy in half and gave it to Beyoncé. Criticism of the Grammys' racism became more intense. So far, the Grammys have been under controversy over racism every year.



▲ Adele splits the trophy.

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Phenomenon 2

Rigorous Grammys for hip-hop

Frank Ocean and Justin Bieber criticized the Grammys' discrimination against hip-hop, saying, "The Grammys do not represent young artists." Also, during the 2017 Grammy Awards, several artists such as Drake, Kanye West, and Justin Bieber boycotted the Grammys because of its genre discrimination and conservatism. The reason why those who deserve the genre field would not attend the Grammy Awards was due to the outstanding genre discrimination of the 2016 Grammy Awards. The most promising nomination for Album of the Year of the 2016 Grammy Awards was *To Pimp A Butterfly* by Kendrick Lamar because it received the highest score of 96 in Metacritics, and authoritative music magazines such as Pitchfork, Rolling Stone, and Spin recognized its musicality. In addition, considering the specificity of a hip-hop album, his album sales were impressive. The public predicted that the Grammy would go to him. However, because the Grammys do not favor hip-hop, Taylor Swift won Album of the Year.

The Grammys' discrimination against hip-hop began in the 1990s. Rolling Stone, a prestigious American music magazine, selected the most important event of the 1990s as the popularization of hip-hop. In American pop music society, there were popular hip-hop artists such as Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, and they also symbolized American youth culture at that time. However, the Grammys, a pop music award, did not give the hip-hop artists the general field awards. In 1996, the newly established Best Rap Album category nominated Jay-Z and Eminem as candidates. They have made great achievements not only in hip-hop but also in the American music industry. However, the Grammys only gave them the rap field awards and never the general field awards. Even in the 2010s, Kanye West and Kendrick Lamar, who are hip-hop stars, did not win the general field. Among the hundreds of general field awards in the 60-year history of the Grammys, the only hip-hop artists that won the awards were OutKast in 2004 and Childish Gambino in 2019.



Phenomenon 3

Wishy-Washy Grammy

The Grammys have come under fire over controversy regarding evaluation criteria several times for not presenting clear guidelines and applying standards that are contrary to predictions of public opinion. The first controversy is whether the criterion is musicality or commerciality. There is no officially announced standard, but the award-winning factors of the Grammys can be seen as musicality through the opinions of critics and commerciality through album sales. Among Beyoncé's *BEYONCÉ*, which excelled in both musicality and commerciality, and Beck's *Morning Phase*, which was recognized for musicality, Beck won the general field in the 2015 Grammys. However, in 2016, Taylor Swift, focused more on commercial aspects, beat Kendrick Lamar, whose musicality was more notable, and won the general field. In 2017, Beyoncé's album *Lemonade*, which was recognized for musicality by critics, was nominated for Album of the Year. Adele's album *25* won the Album of the Year with 20 million records of album sales, although critics rated its musicality lower than that of Beyoncé's.

On the basis of Taylor Swift and Adele winning the Grammy Awards for outstanding commerciality in 2016 and 2017, the New York Times and other media predicted that Drake's album *Scorpion*, a recorder of massive album sales, would win the Album of the Year in 2018. But the Grammys suddenly changed the award criterion to musicality. Casey, who made a new attempt in country music, won the Album of the Year, although her album was less commercial than Drake's. As a result of this, the public criticized the Grammys' standard for being inconsistent. In addition, before the 2020 Grammy Awards, the Grammys had been called out for not favoring songs of the younger generation. Then in the 2020 Grammy Awards, all four awards of the general field went to Billie Eilish, born in 2001. In the same year, Ariana Grande did not win either in the genre field or general field.



▲ Beyoncé performs at the 59th Grammy Awards.



▲ Billie Eilish and his brother show her Grammy trophies.



Cause 1

White-centered American pop music industry

No matter how multiracial the U.S. is, whites are still the mainstream. Is the reason for the racial bias in the Grammys because it started in a white mainstream society? Lee Gyu-tak, a pop culture critic and a professor of Culture Studies at George Mason University Korea, said, "The cause of racial bias of the Grammys is not that the Grammys originated in a white mainstream society, but that the American pop music industry has been run mainly by whites. The real cause is that the white middle class has a huge influence within the American music industry." Lee Hyun-Song, a professor of the Department of English Interpretation and Translation at HUFs, said, "The influence and purchasing power of the European white mainstream society in the American music industry is overwhelming. Also, since the group that leads pop culture is the educated white middle class, music that is interesting to them is likely to be nominated for the Grammy Awards." According to the professors, the cause of the Grammys' racial bias is that the powerful group and the main consumers of the American music industry are in the white middle class.

Lee Ji-young, a visiting professor at Sejong University, explained that the Grammys' racial bias was caused by the gatekeeping of American radio. Radio stations are the center of the American pop music market. Because the radio reproduces the popularity of artists and music, record companies and broadcasters in the U.S. are intertwined. They do not immediately play the songs requested by the listeners, and instead, exercise their own discretion. In other words, there is a radio gatekeeping that does not immediately reflect the preference of listeners, and this is the cause of discrimination against people of color in the American pop music industry and the Grammys. For example, *Dynamite* by BTS was broadcast several times on American radio thanks to its English lyrics. However, *Life Goes On*, the next album, was not widely broadcast on the radio because of its Korean lyrics. Although listeners made multiple requests, the requests were gated. Music that fits the preference of white people, a major group in the music industry, has been broadcast and gaining popularity repeatedly.



Cause 2

The conservatism of Grammy voters

Due to the Grammys' conservatism, new music genres such as dance and hip-hop have difficulty winning awards even if they are nominated. For example, popular American dance singers Madonna and Lady Gaga have not received many trophies despite their musicality and popularity. On the other hand, Taylor Swift, who gained popularity with country music, has won far more awards than those they did. The Grammys showed conservatism in preferring country music, which originated in a white-centered society, rather than hip-hop and dance music. According to Professor Lee Gyu-tak, the cause is clear. "Because the U.S. is a multiracial society, various genres of music have been consumed differently according to racial and ethnic differences. For example, rock music and country music have been consumed mainly by whites, R&B and hip-hop by blacks, and Latin pop by Hispanics."

Terrace Martin, who was a Grammy voter in 2017, said, "When I went to an event hosted by the Recording Academy, I was the only one voter there with tattoos on my neck." Through this interview, the age group and conservatism of the Grammy voters can be inferred. To be a voter of the Grammy Awards, one is required to join the American Recording Academy. Members of this academy are made up of various professions in the American popular music industry. According to the Recording Academy's website, those who want to become voting members who are Grammy judges must meet the following criteria: first, two strong recommendations from music industry peers; second, proof of a primary career focus in music; third, 12 commercially distributed, verifiable credits in a single creative profession. Also, there is a special circumstance. Candidates who do not meet the above criteria can nevertheless be considered for membership if their body of work has achieved unique distinction and/or earned special merit. The Recording Academy approves membership at its sole discretion based on its assessment of the submission.

This is the cause of Grammy voters' conservatism. Anyone who does not meet the standards can become a Grammy voting member immediately with the recommendation of an existing voting member or by special approval from the Recording Academy. It is possible to become a Grammy voter by receiving only two recommendations out of about 13,000 voting members. This system, which is not strict with standards, is a cause of undermining the equity and diversity of the Grammys. In addition, it does not allow changes within the judges, continues the old tendency, and strengthens conservatism.



Cause 3

Practice of Recording Academy

Six days before the 2020 Grammy Awards, Deborah Dugan, former CEO of the Recording Academy, filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The complaint detailed corruption and practices within the Recording Academy hosting the Grammy Awards. She also said that a secret committee existed inside the Recording Academy Board, creating the Grammys Awards to suit their needs. Rolling Stone, a bi-weekly pop culture magazine in the U.S., published an article containing anonymous coverage by several officials, and Dugan's complaint gained more attention.

The first claim of corruption is that the Recording Academy's committee has nominated a person who has a personal or business relationship for the Grammy voter. Dugan also alleges that the committees accepted 30 artists, in total, who were not initially selected by voters.

In addition, there is a contradiction in that Grammy voters can directly judge their nominated category. Dugan's complaint said the Academy's board allowed an artist who ranked 18 out of 20 in the Song of the Year to sit on the nomination committee reviewing their own song. This system raises the controversy over the judging criteria and equity of the Grammy Awards. Some in the music industry, like Friends at Work CEO Ty Stiklorius, have directed their frustration toward the Academy's lack of consistent and transparent communication. He tweeted, "I will not stay quiet on this. As an Academy Inclusivity Task Force member, I saw the inner workings and lack of transparency." The Grammys' corruption and practices are the reason the award standards are unclear, even though the Grammys are criticized for consistency of standards every year.



©Rolling Stone

▲ Deborah Dugan sits at the piano of the recording academy.



Solution 1

Selection of musical terms and winners that respect different races

“The Grammys started in America, where racism is deeply rooted,” Professor Lee Hyun-song said. There are two main ways to solve this right now. The first is to change the racist term to another. A movement to replace the expression “urban music,” which used to refer only to black music, with other terms has recently occurred in the American pop music world. The word “urban” does not recognize black artists as mainstream American music, but instead separates and underestimates them as only black culture. Accordingly, the Recording Academy renamed the best urban contemporary album category, which was the black music category, to the best progressive R&B album category starting with the 2021 Grammy Awards.

However, even though the racist term was changed, additional solutions are needed to solve the discriminatory award issues. In response, Professor Lee Ji-young said that if BTS wins the 2021 Grammy Awards, the controversy about racism in the Grammys can be quenched. According to her, “As the proportion of BTS in the American pop music has gradually increased, their musicality and commerciality cannot be ignored. In the U.S., criticism toward the Grammys, which did not recognize BTS, has increased. Perhaps because of the voice of the public, the Grammys invited BTS as an award presenter in 2019 and as a featured singer in 2020. The ratings of the Grammy Awards have been decreasing, but these two scenes with BTS showed exceptionally high ratings.

“In addition, when the public in the U.S. began to criticize the Grammys, BTS was finally nominated for the 2021 Grammy Awards after not being nominated in previous years. This nomination was a big change in the Grammys. However, public opinion in the U.S. is again criticizing the Grammys’ discrimination against people of color, saying that BTS, which could be nominated for the general field, was nominated for only one genre field. However, if BTS wins at least one of the Grammy Awards in 2021, the position and opportunity of people of color in the Grammys will increase.” The award of BTS, an Asian group that sings Korean songs, is the starting point for solving the problem of racism within the Grammys.



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- ① BTS presents the winner at the 61st Grammy Awards.
- ② BTS performs at the 62nd Grammy Awards.
- ③ BTS is nominated for the 63rd Grammy Awards.



Solution 2

Voters with new perspectives regardless of genre

Neil Portnow, CEO of Recording Academy, asked those who qualify as voters for the Grammy Awards to become judges and voted to change the Grammy Awards. 2017 Grammy voter Terrace Martin said, “I’m trying to get my friends to vote. But everybody acts like they lack interest in the Grammys until the Grammys come around.” As such, the Grammy voters need younger people and a new perspective from people who are not conservative.

To solve this problem, it is urgent to inform the public that the qualifications of the voters are not difficult and to promote the honor of becoming a voter. Professor Lee Hyun-song said, “Among the three big music awards in the U.S., only the Grammys select the winners by reflecting the votes of thousands of experts in the music industry. In addition, only the Grammys are hosted by a music association made up of people in the pop music industry.” In other words, it is necessary to promote the authority of the Grammys itself so that young artists who are qualified as judges can be proud.

Professor Lee Ji-young said, “An open list of Grammy voters would be a good way to resolve conservatism because then they would feel a greater responsibility.” She also added, “Various judges

who can represent both men and women of all ages should be elected. Most of the Grammy voters are white men in their 50s. In order to resolve the genre discrimination, younger people, people of color, and female voters should be recruited. Because music is not only listened to by white men in their 50s, it is a part of culture enjoyed by a variety of people.”



Solution 3 Unveil consistent and transparent screening criteria

In order to escape the criticism that the Grammys are capricious, consistent and transparent standards are required. Among the top three pop music awards in the U.S., except for the Grammys, the criteria for judging are officially disclosed. The Billboard Music Awards is also an American pop music awards organization, but the reason it is less controversial than the Grammys is because of the objective and numerical screening criteria. Billboard judges the winners based on the number of albums, digital music sales, radio broadcasts, streaming, performance points, and social media participation points. The American Music Awards (AMA), one of the top three awards, has also published their criteria. AMA judges based on album sales, radio play points, and votes from fans. Like these awards, the Grammys need to officially announce judging criteria that the public can accept.

Professor Lee Ji-young and Professor Lee Gyu-tak talked about the Grammys’ award criteria in terms of the Korean Music Awards. According to Professor Lee Ji-young, “There are the Korean Popular Music Awards similar to the Grammys in Korea. While the Grammys are often controversial for consistency, the Korean Popular Music Awards are not controversial, and everyone is honored.” What is the difference between the two awards? On the website of the Korean Music Awards, the names and occupations of about 100 voters in each music category are listed in detail. In addition, the sponsorship information page clearly indicates it as a non-profit private organization. Professor Lee Gyu-tak also said, “I am participating as a voter of the Korean Music Awards. The Korean Music Awards are equivalent to the Korean Grammys. The criteria for awards should be as comprehensive as possible and reflect the voters’ musical views and perspectives. In addition, through debate and discussion between the voters during the screening process, the individual voters’ musical tendency, perspective, and overall direction of the award are reflected. This process is really necessary for music awards. If the award criteria are too specific, it is difficult to consider the intangible ‘musicality.’ In other words, rather than objective and quantified standards, a fair standard that fits the characteristics of musicality is needed for the Grammys.”



© Korean Music Awards

▲ The 2019 Korean Music Awards are held.

Professor Lee Gyu-tak said, “The pain from the change is that the Grammys need to endure, and fortunately, the Grammys have been working steadily for change in its own way. I also feel the limitations of changes in the Grammys. Because the Grammys are related to art that cannot be quantified, we should respect its unique viewpoint, but problems such as racial bias need to be fixed.”

The decline in viewership may indicate the public turning their backs on the Grammys. The public may be protesting against the Grammys’ discrimination through their own method of decreasing viewership. The public should try to protest more actively and express opinions. The Argus hopes a day will come when not only BTS, but also artists of color and music of various genres can win the Grammys. 🇺🇸



© Recording Academy

▲ The 63rd Grammy Awards is scheduled for March.

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Antimicrobial Drugs: The Deadliest Convenience

By Song Chan-ho

Staff Reporter of Theory and Critique Section

An antimicrobial drug is one of the most significant blessings to humankind in the last century, which saved countless lives, as well as promoted the medical system to progress for good. Because of its excessive exploitation, however, the beneficiaries are now doomed to face the old convenience as the most critical threat: antimicrobial drug resistance. Antimicrobial drug resistance is an urgent global problem that has forced the medical world into alert and forced them to persuade world leaders to take initiative. Despite the widespread awareness of danger, experts say that proper measures are lacking, and even much of the information that ordinary people have is wrong. The Argus takes a deep look into the risks of antimicrobial drug usage, including the contributing causes and what can be done.

What is an antimicrobial drug?

An antimicrobial drug is a substance that kills or controls the growth of microbes in the body. Two of the most well-known antimicrobial drugs are antibiotics, which kill bacteria, and antiviral drugs that interrupt the growth of viruses. An effective antimicrobial drug includes selective toxicity: it affects only pathogens like harmful bacteria or viruses and not us, their reservoirs. Since the development of Penicillin, the first antibiotic and first antimicrobial drug, in 1928, thousands of kinds of antibiotics have been discovered. However, because most materials have serious toxicity or cannot be absorbed into our bodies, it is known that only less than 1 percent of antimicrobials are usable. Nevertheless, these well-sorted substances demonstrate their marvelous effectiveness in the cure of infectious diseases.



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▲ An antibiotic is the most typical type of antimicrobial drugs. Antibiotics kill bacteria, but cannot affect viruses.

Problem

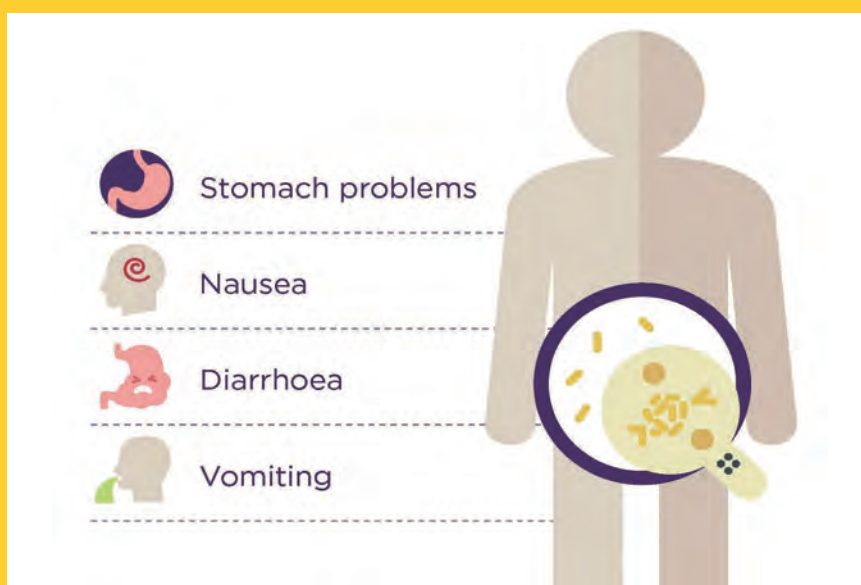
Health deterioration resulting from antibiotics abuse

On the Internet, one can easily come across people who suffer from nausea, stomachache, or diarrhea because of antibiotic intake. Antibiotics are usually prescribed when visiting a clinic for the treatment of common diseases such as the cold and food poisoning, as well as medical procedures that have nothing to do with the cure of diseases like cosmetic surgery, dental work or dermatologic treatment. After consuming the drugs, however, many experience side-effects. Shim Won-sik, Chair of the College of Pharmacy at Gachon University explains, “Like when we eat food, antibiotics go down through the throat and are absorbed in the small intestine. This absorption enables antibiotics to spread from the small intestine, blood vessels, and then to the entire body via the blood. But here is the thing: in this process, antibiotic substances could flow into undesired parts. For example, in the intestines, where most of the beneficial

and necessary germs to our body live—called bacterial flora—antibiotics can break the balance of the microbes by killing the good ones.”

When beneficial microbes are damaged, our body can, accordingly, be harmed. Moreover, in some cases, it leads to a significant illness. “Loss of bacterial floras can trigger not only the malfunction of metabolism, but also an

autoimmune disease, which is an interior disorder causing our immune system to attack our body,” says Park Joong-chan, a professor in the Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology at HUFS. He adds, “The digestive system is especially susceptible to such side-effects, and thus many patients who have taken antibiotics for a long time are often witnessed to have digestive troubles.”



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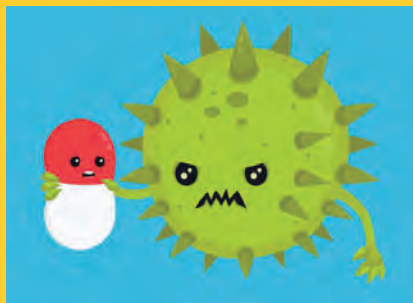
▲ The general symptoms of an antibiotic side-effect occur by lacking the balance of interior germs due to antibiotic intake.

Evolution of antibiotic-resistant bacteria

The most urgent antibiotic drug problem is that their improper usage encourages the emergence of the bacteria which are resistant to the medicines. The discovery of Penicillin in 1928 enormously contributed to the medical system, saving hundreds of thousands of lives. Since the 1950s, when antibiotic drugs were largely distributed, though, resistance to such germs has noticeably developed. Despite being a panacea for decades, now it requires alternatives that must take its place to fight the germs.

It is well known that use of antibiotics brings about tolerance to them and thus they lose their original efficacy. However, a misunderstanding is globally pervasive: “People think that when we use antibiotics, ‘we’ become resistant to antibiotics. This is wrong,” Professor Park explains. “As a matter of fact, ‘germs,’ which survived the drugs evolve into resistant bacteria; injection of antibiotic drugs triggers the ‘evolution of harmful germs,’ consequently. When Penicillin was first administered, for example, it showed efficacy to most bacteria. The problem is, they are living things, so they generate surviving mutants. Another matter is that it kills bacterial flora, the good microbes. There is a more noteworthy problem than just the beneficial germs dying. To put it simply, germs compete for space with each other. When antibiotics destroy the bacterial flora, their space is taken over by the surviving resistant germs; therefore, they are given the best environment in which to flourish. Combined the two processes, antibiotic-resistance develops dramatically.”

Experts concede that this issue can put us at ground-zero. “The situation



▲ Every antibiotic drug we have can become useless if the abuse of the drugs continues.

where we have to risk our life to cure a trivial wound could come true if antibiotic-resistance becomes rampant and there remains no drug to use,” warns Professor Ko Kwan-soo, the director of the Antimicrobial Resistant Pathogen Research Lab at School of Medicines of SungKyunKwan University. “In the 19th century or the early 20th century, before antibiotics were commercialized, people died more because they could not cure their wounds which led to severe infections, than because of actual combat. Not until Penicillin was discovered, did people become able to treat such illnesses. However, antibiotic-resistance can devastate the efforts and results that the human race has accomplished for about a hundred years.”

Tardy antimicrobial drugs development

Since the first discovery of antibiotics, mankind has administered antimicrobial drugs beyond count—this has led to the evolution of microbes to an extent that used to be unimaginable for the past million years. As a result, the world has already reached a tipping point with the emergence of super-bacteria, those microbes which are

resistant to every antimicrobial drug that humankind currently possesses. To fight these new and unbeatable enemies, the development of novel antimicrobial drugs is desperately needed.

Nonetheless, the newly developed antibiotics are substantially scarce, in comparison to the drugs falling inefficient because of antimicrobial drug resistance. Professor Ko says, “It has been over 20 years since antimicrobial drug development was criticized as sluggish. Since the late 1990s, the number of antibiotics that are permitted anew has plummeted, as a matter of fact. To cope with the appearance of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, global research and development of novel drugs is imperative. In reality, however, the pace of development is falling behind the speed of bacterial evolution.”

Cause

Antibiotic abuse by medical practitioners

Excessive antibiotic prescription is prevalent, mainly resulting from the tradition of the medical community. It can also be found in the reaction against COVID-19; antibiotics have generally been administered even in the early stages of the novel coronavirus infection. However, the results of a clinical trial on January 25, 2021, released by Oxford University, revealed that antibiotics treatment previously used in the early phases of the COVID-19 diagnosis did not work at all. This unnecessary abuse of antibiotics makes it difficult to anticipate treatment effects, and it is highly likely to lead to unexpected

consequences such as the promotion of super bacterial evolution or side effects in patients. According to Professor Park Joong-chan, about 20 percent of individual patients requiring treatment are appropriate subjects to receive antibiotic treatment, but in fact, more than 80 percent of them are prescribed, and 50 percent of them even have errors in prescribed capacity and duration of treatment.

The cause of this over-prescription is the excessive prevention ethos in the medical community. According to statistics collected by the Ministry of Health and Welfare for medical personnel in 2017, 48.9 percent of over-prescriptions of antibiotics were due to concerns about worsening patient conditions, while 38.5 percent were due to patients' needs. "Even ordinary clinic doctors are well-aware of this problem," says Professor Park. "However, over-prescriptions, such as prescription of antibiotics for the cold, a typical viral disease, occur frequently. This is because even though antibiotics do not have direct effects on the virus, sometimes it works against bacterial infections in the face of weakened immune systems, caused by the virus." He adds, "In small clinics where no professional examination is possible, doctors may not even be sure exactly whether it is a viral or bacterial infection. In that case, some doctors just prescribe antibiotics as a precaution."

Indiscriminate administration of antibiotics to livestock in the livestock industry

Away from the traditional use, cure of infectious diseases, antibiotics are added to livestock feed as growth promoters and preventive additives



©Johns Hopkins University

▲ Antimicrobial usage to livestock is known to contribute significantly to the emergence of super bacteria.

to prevent infections. This is because antibiotic administration to domestic animals is effective in minimizing loss of nutritional ingredients through manure and improving feed efficiency. Feeding antibiotics to animals is known to have a great effect on productivity and economic feasibility.

However, the problem is that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics beyond medical use is a highly significant cause of the advent of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), more than 80 percent of antibiotics used in the U.S. are consumed in agriculture and livestock industries, many of which are used on pigs and poultry. In America, where the livestock industry is the most advanced, an analysis by the Environmental Working Group in 2015 reported that 80 percent of meat sold at supermarkets contained antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Moreover, a study in China found numerous resistant genes in excrement in pig farms using antibiotics. Among these, the most prevalent resistant genes turned out 28,000 times more concentrated compared to farms or soil that did not use antibiotics.

Professor Ko Kwan-soo says, "In fact, the antibiotic market is bigger for livestock than the antibiotic market for people. It is called differently, but the same antibiotics that people are using are

prescribed to livestock. In places such as Korea's Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, antibiotic resistance to livestock is continuously being investigated. The problem is that the rate tends to increase continuously." Antibiotics injection for livestock is actually a bigger problem because they are prescribed at random rather than by strict standards. Professor Park explains, "In developed countries, antibiotics have already been banned from being added to animal feed, and this step was taken in Korea as well in 2011." Still, He raises questions about the effectiveness of the policy, saying, "Even though the measures were taken, the overall use of antibiotics in animals rather increased in 2016."

Lack of enough investment in antibiotic drug R&D

"If we do not solve this problem, we will have 10 million deaths a year in the world by 2050. The spread of antibiotic resistance has emerged as a more urgent threat than global warming," reported the United Kingdom's Antimicrobial Resistance Centre. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also analyzed that antibiotic-resistant bacteria are currently causing 23,000 deaths annually in the U.S., and if left unchecked, more than 10 million deaths will occur annually. Michael T. Osterholm, MD, and the chief director of Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at The University of Minnesota (CIDRAP) believes that if the problem is left unattended by 2050, the expected cost will reach \$100 trillion.

However, investment in such an urgent matter is deficient. Professor Ko explains: "First of all, the problem is 'the target of antibiotics' is lacking. Developing

antibiotics takes a lot of time and money; but pharmaceutical companies are commercial interest groups. Then, between developing antibiotics and developing drugs for chronic diseases such as high blood pressure or diabetes, or sexual functional improvements, which one will they prefer? Let me detail: high blood pressure drugs, diabetes drugs, and drugs for sexual development are the ones taken for life. However, antibiotics are only taken when people are sick; people do not buy them anymore when they are not sick. This means that there is no room for enough business continuity. In addition, antibiotic resistance is technically a result of natural selection, the Darwinian theory. To prevent such a fundamental part of the earth is extremely difficult, and what is worse—even if they made it, it becomes totally useless once resistance develops. These are fundamental reasons the industry feels reluctant to invest in it.”

Professor Park argues that the complexity of the antibiotic development process also greatly contributes to the difficulties of attracting investment. “There are three stages of drug development,” he says, “Phase 1, screening: find an effective candidate material. Phase 2, testing for toxicity or non-toxicity (preclinical-animal testing phase, this phase alone can take more than a year), and then phase 3; but this phase 3 is divided into three stages again: first, toxicity test for humans; second, checking the appropriate dose for usage; third, expanding the range of the test for commercialization with control groups. Ultimately, to develop an antibiotic drug usually takes five to ten years. And then, one such antibiotic development costs at least \$500 million to \$1 billion. Not surprisingly, pharmaceutical companies

do not evaluate the antibiotic market as profitable. Even if there is a problem at just a single stage of these complex processes, they have to scrap the whole project. Furthermore, despite such risks and investments, there are not many patients—customers—because although antibiotic-resistant bacteria are a serious issue, there are not so many yet. Thus, even if they develop it, they can hardly expect enough returns.”

Solution

State-level resolution: financial support & policy legislation

The government needs to take the lead in resolving the antibiotic-resistant bacteria response issue as it is highly complicated due to conflicting interests in various private sectors. As a part of the effort, South Korea is conducting multi-ministerial joint project of One Health antibiotic resistance under the presidency of the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency to bring the power of each ministry together and jointly respond to antibiotic resistance bacteria. Various government-affiliated ministries, including the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Science and ICT, are participating in research on antibiotic resistance.

“In fact, the responsible governmental institute, called Health Insurance Review & Assessment Service is strictly reviewing prescriptions so that the Medicare Corporations do not pay doctors for over-prescribed drugs.”

Professor Shim says, “Despite the system, however, the issue of antibiotic abuse, including the misuse of antibiotics in the medical community, is ongoing and requires relentless efforts.”

Solutions are also needed for livestock antibiotics, which contribute greatly to the resistance of microbes. Professor Ko says, “The perception itself should change. Administering antibiotics to livestock is not actually due to infection, but because antibiotics act as a kind of growth booster, which is a problem because antibiotic-resistant bacteria from livestock can infect humans. Thus, we need to monitor the prescription of unnecessary antibiotics for livestock more thoroughly, and we need incentives for the industry that do not use antibiotics.”

He also emphasizes the government’s role in investing in antibiotics. “I believe that the issue of developing antibiotics should not be approached only in terms of the interests of the private sector. It is a matter for governments to step up, and it will only be solved if it is approached in the public interest.” He also cited Britain as an exemplary case abroad. “In the Longitude Prize of the U.K., antibiotic resistance was chosen as the target. The award rewards 10 million pounds (US\$ 14 million) for the people who contribute to and identify antibiotic resistance matter. As such, the government has to provide long-term support, and cooperation between countries is necessary.”

Roles for medical system: spearheaded enlightenment & reconsideration of prescription

Antibiotic over-prescriptions due to an excessive prevention ethos should be

reduced. Professor Ko says, “There are some cases in which antibiotics must be preemptively prescribed because virus infections—even though they are not susceptible to antibiotics—can lead to bacterial infections, resulting from a weakened immune system. Though such cases are not many, still antibiotics are often prescribed under the ‘excuse’ of preparing for the cases.” Professor Ko critically adds the responsibility and roles for doctors, “Additionally, among those antibiotics prescriptions, ‘wrong’ ones also exist. Improper prescriptions are made if the infection is not well known. If there is no information, prompt scrutiny for germs and antibiotic resistance tests will be required. However, the problem is the misuse of antibiotics is usually done in local clinics where such bacterial inspection systems and antibiotic resistance tests cannot be conducted. To prevent this, I think there is room for doctors to continue to study and make efforts.”

Meanwhile, Professor Shim says, “The biggest problem is the emergence of super bacterium, which is the ‘king of bacteria.’ Even though they put patients at a crossroads of life and death, even the strongest antibiotics currently possessed by the medical community do not work, so patients of super bacteria cannot be helped at all even in the most advanced medical systems. Therefore,



▲ Beyond an individual or national level, global cooperation is required for the successful resolution of antimicrobial drug resistance.


it is necessary to continue to develop antibiotics that can cope with these bacteria. Although they are doing well now, the fight against super bacteria is an ‘endless fight.’ When new antibiotics are developed, resistant bacteria are to emerge someday. Nevertheless, bacterial testing and research should continue, leading to the development of new and effective antibiotics.”

Individual duties: raising awareness & improving habits

Another problem is related to how patients use antibiotics. Many patients stop taking them as soon as they feel better. According to a 2010 Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety survey, about 71 percent of patients who have been prescribed antibiotics arbitrarily stop taking antibiotics.

However, inappropriate administration periods, or the use of antibiotics in insufficient quantities promotes drug-resistant strains. It is recommended to completely follow the doctor’s prescription to prevent antibiotic resistance. Professor Shim says, “Patients should strictly follow the prescription. Consuming antibiotics partly is the worst case, far worse than not taking them at all. They must be taken thoroughly for the period prescribed by the doctor to make sure that the bacteria in the body are eliminated. Otherwise, the bad habit will cause the best environment for bacteria to foster immunity as if they were given a vaccine.” He adds, “South Korea has a trend particularly fond of multi-compound drugs, which is also a cultural issue that contributes to antibiotic resistance. It is essential to raise awareness so that only necessary ingredients can be used.”

In the meantime, Professor Shim stresses the importance of personal hygiene, such as well-known vaccinations for infectious diseases and periodic hand washing, emphasizing the necessity to reduce where antibiotics are needed. Professor Ko agrees that efforts to minimize infections in daily life—most importantly, washing hands—are one of the essential ways to minimize the use of antibiotics.

Antimicrobial drug resistance and misuse have been constantly claimed, centered from the academic field, but there is a lack of social awareness or collective efforts to match the risks. Doctors Without Borders announced, “Everyone has to do their part to prevent antibiotic resistance. The fight against antibiotic resistance begins with ‘me.’” This means that it can only be solved when individual awareness of the problem and active participation in abuse prevention activities in daily life are accomplished, as well as the full support from the leaderships of nations and the medical community. The Argus hopes HUFsans will have an accurate perception of the antimicrobial drugs and contribute to the process of solving this problem starting with an awareness of this issues such as the misuse of antibiotic drugs. 

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Korean Fruits, Get on a Private Jet

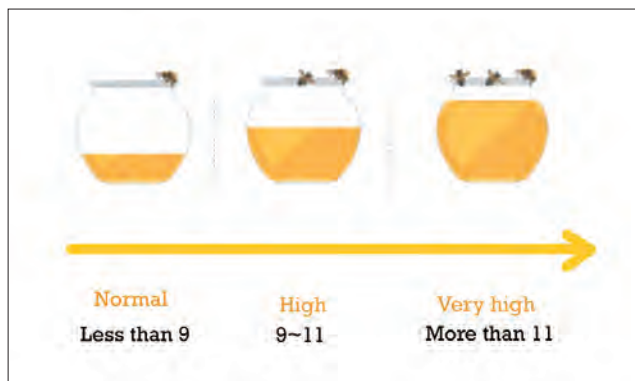
By Kim Yeo-won

Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

Have you ever imagined Korean strawberries that go abroad by taking a personal plane like a celebrity? It is an effect of demand and supply—the high demand of foreigners who look for Korean strawberries and the outcome of international flights that were decreased by COVID-19. It is a remarkable change that Korean strawberries, which were unpopular even in the country, gained such popularity. It is a result of plant breeding and development of production, as other fruits also have the same goal. Starting with strawberries, which is the symbol of spring, The Argus tried to analyze the phenomena of Korean fruit's ongoing efforts to increasing the popularity of its fruits, based on three fruits—strawberries, peaches, and pears.

How can we define the degree of sweetness?

Brix(°Brix): A unit of sugar content. The number of grams contained per 100g.



▲ The degree of sweetness is defined by Brix.



Three Major Export Fruits: With Development of a New Plant Variety

1. Strawberries, always in season

Guess when the strawberry is in season? The answer is spring. But why do many people think that winter is strawberry season? Winter strawberries are of good quality thanks to developments in breeding and production. Both winter and spring strawberries are attractive as they have differences in variety and cultivation. Moreover, as the varieties for summer and fall have been of focus lately, strawberries have become ubiquitous year-round. Let us look into strawberries that attract not only domestic but foreign customers.

Have you ever wondered about the name of the type of strawberry we used to see at the supermarket? *Sulhyang*, meaning the scent of snow in Korean, is a representative variety of Korean strawberries. Like its name, denoting a fragrant strawberry which blossoms in the snow, it is popular

in winter with its superb texture and ease of production. Compared to *Sulhyang*, which is famous for its successful localization, *Maehyang* is a leading force of export. It has higher sugar content at 11.4° Brix compared to *Sulhyang*'s 10.4° Brix, and it is more intense. Additionally, the following varieties are also Korean strawberries—"King's Berry" and "Permanent Snow Strawberry," which recently were the talk on social media—the former for its twice-than-normal size and flavor and the latter for being eye-catching with its light pink color.

Kim Hyun-sook, a researcher at Chungnam Agricultural Research Institute Strawberry Laboratory said, "After inventing varieties of *Sulhyang* and *Maehyang*, more varieties can be produced and attract foreign customers. The quality and flavor of the strawberries are recognized by other countries and mainly exported to Southeast Asia such as Hong Kong, Singapore, and Vietnam."

2. Peach, selectable for personal taste

What is the difference between a yellow peach, white peach, and a nectarine? First of all, 'nectarine' is not a standard that classifies a color but a standard to indicate the non-existence of its fuzz in other words, nectarine itself means "fuzzless peach." After recognizing the first standard, you can classify a nectarine into "white type" or "yellow type"—which depends on its inside color, white or yellow. A yellow peach is furry and can be yellow or white inside, and a nectarine is just a fuzzless peach regardless of its color.

You might have thought peaches were just yellow or white, but there are a lot of varieties. There is ongoing research regarding species and cultivation suitable for customer's needs, to satisfy foreign and domestic markets. According to the Rural Development Administration (RDA), peaches are actively cultivated in order of *Janghowon* yellow peach, *Cheon Hong*, and *YouMyeong*. How about classifying the type based on the former standard? The first one is easy to notice, as it is a yellow peach and has fur. The second one is a fuzzless white

type, and the last one is a white type with fuzz.

Kwon Jung-Hyun of the National Institute of Horticultural and Herbal Science (NIHHS) said, "Researchers determine species with high quality that are well-growing like *Cheon Hong* and *YouMyeong* and make new species. The major exporting countries are currently East-Asian, where the sweet and juicy white peach is preferred. The challenge is that the export markets are limited, and supplies are not stable."

3. Pears, having differences between culture areas.

Imagine a pear with the peel on. Asian readers might think it is a bit weird, but western readers would take it for granted. Eating big pears only after peeling them is mainstream in Asia, but small pears eaten without being peeled are more familiar to westerners. They have different ideas about pear shape. The pear that is exported and consumed in Korea is the former. In the market one can find *Shingo*, a species from Japan, which has an advantage, so Korean pears started to be exported as well. What kind of pear can we expect?

Greensys, which made its first export last year, is a crossbreed between an eastern pear and western pear. With a green peel that has a different color compared to original yellow Korean pears, it has a high sugar content with 12.4° Brix. In addition, *Singhwha* has a faster shipping date and a long shelf life of about 30 days. Both varieties have equally superior storage quality. They started being exported to Hongkong and America. The existing species, *Shingo*, is also superb, but *Singhwha* is an attempt to diversify its species and increase the self-sufficiency rate.

"It takes at least 10 years to study one variety, and at least 20 to 25 years before consumers taste it," said Chung Hae-won, an agricultural researcher at the Pear Research Institute. "Recently, the demand for domestic breeding varieties has been increasing, but the production volume is small, so the situation cannot meet export demand."



▲ Maehyang has high sugar contents and a good-looking shape.

▲ Korean strawberries gain the popularity in the Thailand market.



▲ Cheonhong is a well-growing species with high quality.



▲ 2018 Okcheon peach was held in East Asia.



▲ Greensys is a green colored pear that attracted lots of customers.



▲ Korean Winter Fruit Fest was held in Bangkok.



Three Reasons Korean Fruit Markets Made Progress

1. The goal for all fruits: Increasing the species self-sufficiency rate

At first, Korea had to pay royalties for the strawberries but now Korea receives royalties. According to Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation (aT), about 95 percent of strawberries cultivated on Korean farms in 2002 were Japanese species. But after Korea joined The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV¹⁾), Japan demanded 30 billion won (US\$ 2.7 million) in royalties. Researcher Kim said, “We nurtured new seeds to avoid paying royalties with the possibility to export them. It takes five to nine years to promote a new variety, and plant breeders should taste and observe it more than 100 times.” As a result, the rate increased up to 97 percent in 2017.

Peaches and pears are in the developing stage. According to the RDA, the rate has been increased up to 34 percent due to the development of 17 new species in 2018. Over 10 years, the number gradually increased and made a 10 percent change. They have been developed through four generations based on

purchasing tendencies. Consumers prefer softer and sweeter peaches with fur, but they are too juicy and unpleasant to eat. Simple eating trends are reflected, from the first generation *Youmyeong* that focused on strength to “Yellow Dream,” which aimed for better flavor and simplicity.

2. Advancement of cultivation techniques

Smart Farm

It is important to make a proper environment for raising developed species. Smart farms are introduced to foster higher quality of cultivation techniques compared to those in the past. The farm is a combination of vinyl or glass greenhouse into ICT²⁾, and it maintains a growing environment by remote control and an automatic system. Based on the data that promotes top conditions, productivity and quality can be improved with a lower investment of labor and energy.

There are three principles of the technique. First, “Maintaining and management of growing environment” sets up the temperature, humidity, or CO2 levels inside greenhouses. “Monitoring the information” is the next step to gather the former data. Lastly, “automatic and remote management” plays a role to control heating and cooling devices, ventilation, and nutrient feeding.

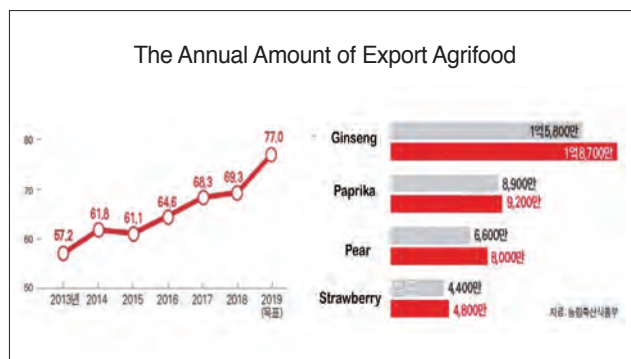
3. Competitiveness in exports

Brand positioning of luxury fruits

According to aT, there is an impression among Southeast Asian countries that Korean fruits are high quality, which makes Korean fruits luxurious. The demand for Korean fruits as desserts is increasing gradually in Southeast Asia, and they are popular enough to be used as gifts for special occasions like Valentine’s Day or Christmas. The key to exporting to China are freshness and quality. Market research by Korean



▲ Smart farm operates through the data collected by the automatic system.



▲ The amounts of export is gradually increasing.

¹⁾ UPOV: It is an international union aimed to conserve the invention of species as intellectual property rights. The main member countries are Germany, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

²⁾ ICT: Information and Communication Technology

Argo-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation Information (KATI) indicates that the distance benefit is set up as a strength of SWOT. Korea is located close to coastal cities and high-income cities in China like Beijing or Hong Kong, which lends a geological benefit and transportation convenience. In other words, it is more competitive in terms of the reduced costs and maintenance of freshness. For example, American strawberries take three days to be delivered to customers, whereas it takes 12 hours from Korea to China. Moreover, Chinese customers prefer healthy eating habits to avoid modern ailments like diabetes, high blood pressure or obesity. For them, Korean eating culture is known as being healthy, which is useful in marketing.



For the bright future of Korean fruit

1. Diversification and increase of varieties

Although many of the goals for the distribution of strawberries' varieties have been achieved, the goal is to diversify such that the distribution of one variety is less concentrated. When a variety is concentrated, it is vulnerable against pests and diseases.

Korean pears have two challenges—diversifying varieties and increasing the self-sufficiency rate. One thing that consumers are still familiar with is *Shingo*, and although there are many other varieties, it takes time for it to settle in the farmhouse. According to researcher Chung, “Varieties such as Super Gold and *Greensys* are already receiving good reviews from consumers. The number of farmers and consumers who are looking for Korean pears based on their newfound popularity is also increasing significantly, the cultivation area is just now increasing, so there are not enough to meet the demand.”

2. Development of cultivation technology

Third generation smart farm


Smart farms are evolving. With the first-generation smart farm, which appeared in 2016, it became possible to remotely

monitor and control cultivation through the Internet via the digitalization of the farm. Compared to traditional agriculture, it has been digitized and the convenience is greatly improved, but setting and controlling the environment still depend on human knowledge and experience. Next, the second generation uses a decision support system for optimal production through artificial intelligence and big data such as biometric information of animals and plants. Instead of having individual high-performance computer systems for machine learning and artificial intelligence, farmers have reduced costs and increased productivity by utilizing cloud systems. The second generation is settling down and is currently targeting the third generation. The third-generation smart farm is a system that adds complex energy management and smart agricultural work compared to the second generation. Through sensor information and device control, energy from heaters, geothermal heat, solar heat, and thermal insulation materials will be managed, and robotic agricultural machines and automatic control systems will be introduced.

3. Export sector

It is necessary to activate overseas online sales channels to promote exports. The MAFRA announced that, “We will eagerly support Korea’s food exports by establishing Korean Food Centers in Southeast Asia, as it is held last year in China’s online shopping mall “Hermassensheng.” The online export meeting will be held to listen to the difficulties of farmers and industries on a regular basis. They promised to strengthen information research in each market by conducting an in-depth survey of consumption trends in other countries to respond to the rapidly changing export environment.

In order to continue exporting Korean fruits, there is a need for gaining more awareness to be preceded. Currently countries consuming Korean fruits are limited to Southeast Asia, Russia, and the United States. Establishing a differentiated brand is necessary for Korean fruits to benchmark and secure the items and countries that have already successfully entered the overseas market.

There is a wise French saying: “Work has bitter roots, but it produces sweet fruit.” The process by which fruit sows seeds and bears fruit is often compared to our life experiences. The fruits we see at the supermarket look pretty and taste good, but tremendous effort goes into the whole process of research and cultivation to make it so. The Argus hopes that the readers will glean through this article how Korean fruit has risen to its current position. Fruit tastes better if you know more about it, so why don’t you try to find out more about delicious fruits? 

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SHORT SELLING



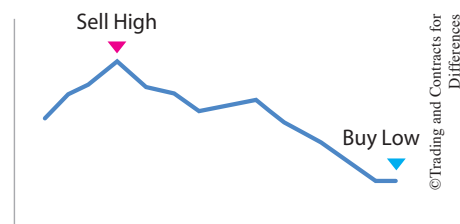
Short: Are You Familiar?

By Nam Gyeong-eun

Staff Reporter of Social Section

“**T**riumph on the investment,” a very ordinary wish any person who lives in the modern society would have. How good would it be to extend a fortune in such way? One way of doing so is shorting stocks. Suppose Imun-dong Coffeehouse is a corporation. People who expect the stock price to fall would borrow the stock and sell it at its current price. When the stock price falls as expected, they buy the number of stocks they have borrowed and reap in the benefits. If one sold a stock at 7,000 won (US\$ 6.35) and re-bought a stock at 4,000won (US\$ 3.63), there will be a 3,000 won profit per a stock.

The Korean government has banned the short selling of stock starting from March 2020 to the upcoming May 2. The measure was the result of protests against short selling held by individual investors. Why did such a protest happen? Would the existence of short selling cause any big difference? The Argus jumps into the middle of the controversy on short selling.



▲ Profit structure in short selling is not hard to understand.

Before Reading

- **Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI):** The stock index of companies with owned capital of more than 30 billion won (US\$ 27.2 million), with 10 billion won (US\$ 9 million) in recent sales for more than three years since its establishment, including Celltrion, a bio-medical manufacturer.
- **Korea Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (KOSDAQ):** The stock index of companies with owned capital of more than 3 billion won (US\$ 2 million), established for less than three years, possessing more than five hundred minority shareholders, including HLB, a pharmaceutical company that develops anti-cancer drugs.
- **Bubble Phenomenon:** The phenomena where speculation raises prices even when there are no substantial grounds for such development. Investors who have fallen into the speculative atmosphere and bought stocks at unreasonable prices may make losses.

Principles of short selling

Investors can sell an overvalued stock first and buy later at a lower price. This is called “short selling,” a strategy used when an investor believes that the share price will fall. People might ask, “How would an investor sell something he or she does not own?” This can be done by two methods: covered short selling and naked short selling. Covered short selling means that the investors sell shares that were borrowed from the shareholders of a target company. They are obligated to buy back and return the shares to the lenders at a later time.

On the other hand, naked short selling means that the investors sell without the possession of the actual shares. It can be explained as buying the “obligation to buy back” instead of borrowing. However, because the seller may struggle to find the necessary number of shares to fulfill the obligation, this practice of short selling is regarded as market manipulation in various countries, including South Korea.

Short selling is not restricted to institutional investors. Retail investors take a small part of the practice at roughly one percent. Short selling is not a common practice among the retail investors because of its settlement period and commission price. Choi Byeong-il, professor at the College of Business Administration at HUFs said, “Koreans in their 20s and 60s show the lowest understanding of the economy, compared to other age groups. In Korea, financial education is not conducted enough in the school system. It is more likely for people to acquire financial knowledge by experiencing it directly as they begin their social life in their 30s. The lack of understanding of finance of recent 20s may lead to risky credit management or financial decisions.”

To prevent investing errors, young individuals need to take several steps to understand the whole flow of the stock market. Understanding conflicting interests between short selling forces and individual investors will lead readers to become “intelligent investors,” who can protect their properties.

The role of short selling in the marketplace: bad or good?

Theoretically, stock short selling plays its role as a stabilizer in the market. If speculative forces abnormally raise the stock

- ◀ Short selling suppresses over speculative forces.
- ▼ Short selling reduces bubble phenomenon.



prices, it could create a bubble; short selling forces would sell out the stocks recovering the stock prices. It would be a great loss to the speculative investors when the prices fall, which is why prices should not be raised recklessly, coexisting with short selling forces. This shows the whole process of prevents the bubble phenomenon caused by short selling.

Short stock selling is a double-edged sword in the marketplace, possessing its own risks. Regarding the way of short selling, which sells shares that do not belong to the seller, the stability of the market can be damaged when delivery fails on the maturity date. Furthermore, when the market instability is concentrated, like during the COVID-19 pandemic, short selling may accelerate the fall of stock prices and maximize volatility in the stock market, adding uncertainty.

Shorts in REAL LIFE

During February 2020, stock prices of Celltrion and HLB rocketed to 14 percent and 7 percent respectively. According to the Korea Exchange, short selling balances deposited in the companies were 2 trillion won (US\$ 1.7billion) 300 billion won (US\$ 269million) respectively from Jan. 29. The price soaring was due to the protesting buying flow of individual investors against short selling organizations.

Are such drastic demonstrations possible in the finance market? The previous protest actually happened with Game Stop, an offline video game retail company in the U.S. When the company was about to go broke due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lyon Cohen, a business prospect, appeared to join as the company director. The stock price soared to \$31 from \$20, and triggered a warning by Citron Research, an online newsletter focusing on the short stock market. Hedge funds were induced to fill up the shorted stocks ratio up to 140 percent, which means shorted shares exceeded the actual stocks number of stock shares. Groups of individual investors gathered against the short selling forces, which raised the stock price up to \$355. Short selling organizations will suffer from the number of promised stocks they must redeem.

However, it seems impossible for such suppression of short selling to take place in Korea. According to Jeong Ui-jeong, President of the Korea Stockholders Alliance, what differs between the U.S. market and Korea, is the operating process

of hedge funds. Korean hedge funds run in alliance, while in the U.S. they run independently, which makes individuals powerless. Voices shouting unfairness between individuals and short selling organizations are dominating in the Korean stock market. According to Jeong, “Individual investors are only out to make a profit on the rise of shares, while the short selling forces are open to both sides; rise and fall, with almost definite profitability.” He described such unfair structure as a “distorted playground.”

WHAT IF SHORTS ENDS? or NOT?

What if short selling really ends? President Chung said, “Banning short selling helped establish a new virtuous circle in the financial market. (After the ban.) There was no problem. The KOSPI surpassed 3,000, for the first time, and the number of investors who made profits, the collected tax and values of corporations all have increased.” Considering that profits from the short selling are not taxed, it was convincing that there has been a partial recovery of the real economy.

What if short selling does not end? Will it not cause any chaos in the marketplace? President Jeong also predicted the end of short selling, positively. He said, “The (finance) market is not a fool. Even when the short selling was in its place, there were still bubble phenomena. Even after banning (short selling), the majority of bubble events naturally calmed as a function of the market. It is unreasonable to claim that only short selling forces can discover the right value of the corporations, to artificially intervene and remove the bubble,” he said, criticizing short selling.

According to Choi, on the other hand,



▲ The statues symbolizes the struggle between organizations and individual in the finance market.



▲ Group of individual investors are protesting against short selling.

“The optimistic role of the market is to discover the fair prices of products, expanding profits of traders. Short selling, in this context, can lower over-evaluated stock prices. With the presence of short selling, excessive price rocketing can be prevented. Blocking the downward trends of stock prices in the market, where a variety of figures can be flexibly applied to the prices, is blocking breakthrough for after-investors when too many bubbles are generated.”

Currently, what the groups of individual investors in Korea consist of is: permanent abolition on short selling or its resumption to be delayed. The point here is that the collective opinion of individuals has been reflected on the actual political situation as a yearlong short selling prohibition. Professor Choi said, “The most significant feature of the global stock market after COVID-19 is the growth of influence of individual investors. Robin Hoods and Dong-hak Ants will explain the trend enough.” He focused on growing expertise and alliances of such investors. Following this tendency, The Argus hopes that the readers will judge both the fairness and necessity of short selling, preparing to exercise their rights in the financial market wisely.

Dear Intelligent Investors of the Future

The struggle between individual investors and short selling organizations does not seem like it will end easily. Considering such war is taking place in the investment market, where stability is a priority, the struggles may cause more losses to both sides. For the appropriate policies to be implemented, the reasonable and collective voices of intelligent individual investors need to be heard. Individual investors, who lack capital and power compared to organizations, need to collect more professional knowledge in both financial and political fields to protect their own interests. The Argus hopes readers will diligently keep an eye on the financial market flow and related policies to become intelligent investors of the future. 📖

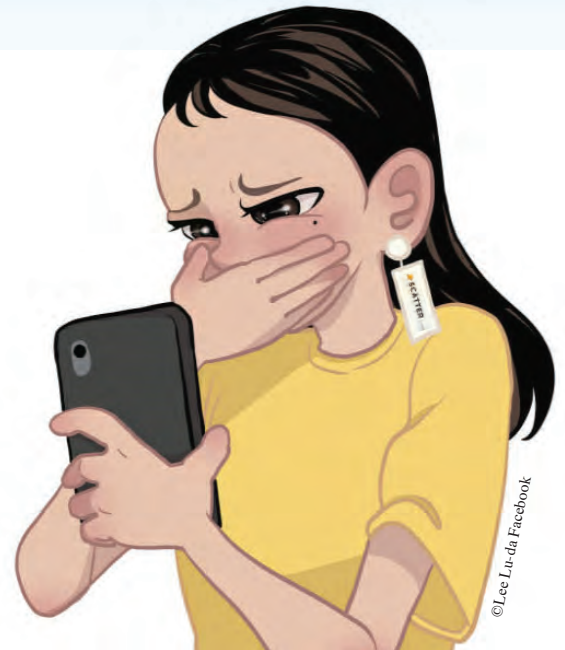
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▲ The eye of intelligent investors is needed.

Excessive Expectation; Stay Alert

By Park Da-eun
Staff Reporter of Social Section



Did human-like Lee Lu-da become too human? Lee Lu-da is a conversational AI chatbot developed by ScatterLab in December 2020. Learned from real people's conversations, Lee Lu-da showed not only discrimination against gender and minorities but sexually harassed users nonchalantly. After ScatterLab stopped its service, seminars and discussions are pouring in to discuss AI ethics. Before any immediate countermeasures have taken place, The Argus looks into the essential causes of the incident and discusses the required attitudes in the age of artificial intelligence.

What is Lee Lu-da?

Lee Lu-da is a conversational AI chatbot released on Dec. 23, 2020 by South Korean startup ScatterLab. It was made with the concept of a woman in her 20s and showed a lot of similarities to humans.

What happened to Lee Lu-da?

The incident first began when a post that sexually targeted Lee Lu-da appeared on the online community Aka Live on Dec. 30, 2020. ScatterLab later said on Jan. 8, "It is not easy to avoid sexual harassment that cleverly utilizes the context or puts various symbols in the ribaldry so that Lee Lu-da cannot automatically detect it." Additionally, Lee Lu-da expressed disapproval to the word "gay" and "lesbian" and showed gender discrimination saying, "Manly things are powerful and tough, and feminine things are cute and baby-like." Lee Lu-da called out the attitude of its conversation partners and described them to be "like a disabled person." As for black people, Lee Lu-da said, "I hate them unless they are on par with Obama. I do not like super curly hair." After a series of similar hate speech incidents, further revision took place again from Jan. 8 to 10. Since then, the situation has escalated. Due to the controversy over leakage of personal information and the violation of basic information rights, the company eventually suspended the service on Jan. 11.

From inappropriate remarks and abuse

Lee Lu-da was praised to be a good conversation partner as if she was a real person. Nevertheless, humans were not ready for Lee Lu-da. The lack of preparation seems to come from hateful and discriminatory expressions and controversy over sexual abuse by some users. Lee Lu-da adopted a deep learning technology method based on unsupervised learning, where machines themselves learn a lot of data patterns and find optimal answers. The big data supporting Lee Lu-da came from a file of 10 billion Kakao Talk conversations, which was originally meant for a love advice app called Science of Love, a subsidiary of ScatterLab. Above all, ScatterLab, its developer, has been criticized for allegedly indiscriminately using KakaoTalk data from Science of Love users without proper consent or anonymization.

From nonhuman factor

The combination of big data and algorithms can produce discriminatory results. According to the paper "Artificial Intelligence Algorithm and Discrimination" written by Hong Sung-wook, a professor at Seoul National University, personal information can easily be estimated by combining, comparing, or asking some questions about gender and race. Through intentional questions, companies can obtain information used to deselect women or applicants from certain regions. Regardless of the intention, algorithms may also result in discriminatory decisions. Oh Yo-han, a social researcher of science and technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, said, "For example, if they create an algorithm by evaluating the length of their employment in their previous jobs, it will be disadvantageous because women have relatively shorter employment periods due to marriage or parental leave. Since the data of tenure is not suitable as a factor to predict the performance of the job, neutral results cannot be naturally produced. This is where diverse variables should be considered, independent of the algorithm's intentions." In addition, he stressed, "Humans have a social preference for age, gender, occupation and a discriminatory view matching their own, which makes a chain of biases: human to data, data to algorithms."



▲ Science of Love was the database of Lee Lu-da.

From human factors

① Developers

Artificial intelligence algorithms are constructed, operated, and transformed by developers. In other words, developers' personal assumptions and biases contribute to the bias of artificial intelligence.

Oh Yo-han, a social researcher, said, "Even without explicitly injecting developer bias, personal opinions can flow into algorithms unconsciously. Currently, major U.S. companies are aware of this problem and consider the diversity of race and gender when hiring developers." In fact, unfair facial recognition technology has intensified discrimination against people of color and women, for example when women used VR headsets designed by male engineers for male consumers. Human resources from various backgrounds must provide a variety of perspectives to compensate for the defects in the products and services, and not to undermine the value of fairness and justice. Reflecting this reality, Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced plans to increase the number of black or black mixed-race employees by more than double by 2025.

Then it is necessary to look at the developers of Scatterlab. Lee Lu-da was a collaboration between engineers and planners. Engineers play a role in identifying and evaluating the results produced by designing and actually implementing machine learning algorithms. Planners, also called AI designers, can be seen as directing AI's persona in envisioning which model and which direction to make it. In particular, planners targeted women in their teens to 30s, and expected the effect of chatting with friends and receiving sympathy through conversations. Both professions have a significant impact on the birth of Lee Lu-da, and the engineers on Scatterlab's website were almost



▲ Sundar Pichai, the CEO of Google, raises his voice against racism.

©The American Bazaar

©ABC News



▲ The unfair facial recognition might intensify discrimination.

all male. However, according to a press release, the planners who implemented AI characters were all women. Therefore, there is a lack of reasonable evidence that discriminatory remarks against women were made due to the male-centered developer culture. It is not possible to understand why Lee Lu-da expressed passive women's image only with public data, but Jung Won-seop, a professor of Kyungnam University said, "The developers' gender ratio and organizational culture can affect their bias, and regardless of the gender, their view of women should be reconsidered."

② What affects humans?

In Lee Lu-da's remarks, the bias of users cannot help but be pointed out. According to Scatterlab's second official position on Jan. 12, "It went through the pre-training phase through the Pingpong database, which was the text data from Science of Love. AI learned only the correlation of context and answers that exist in human conversations during the pre-training phase. Subsequently, it chose the most appropriate answer in a record of 10 conversations exchanged by users. In fact, what emotions and context Lee Lu-da will take depends on the user's conversation." Considering their position, the users can be said to have a significant influence on Lee Lu-da's speech. Researcher Oh said, "It cannot be concluded with the data provided by developers alone that either users' conversations or Science of Love data had a greater impact. But the remarkable figures of 800,000 users adds weight, though."

Consequently, the biased view of humans and society has been passed on to human-made machines. Nam Gung-hoon,

CEO of Kakao Games, shared on his Facebook post, "There is only a clear exposure of existing hatred and discrimination in this generation. After all, the problem is the current generation, which is severely impartial and unfair." Meanwhile, Professor Jeong has described the importance of analyzing the behavior or purpose of users of Science of Love. He said, "This app is very romantic in name. However, given the healthy common sense of our society, there was a lot of negative content. Based on this biased learning data, Lee Lu-da was misunderstood as if she were an ordinary woman in her 20s, and eventually strengthened a misguided view of women." Regardless of whether it is Science of Love users or a user who has talked to Lee Lu-da, it seems clear that individuals who make up our society maintain a biased view.

From now on, beware of vague expectations

It is not clear why humans are biased. Maybe it is because we cannot determine the source of human existence. However, the social structure composed by humans cannot be absolutely impartial. This society has been and will continue to be biased until all human beings are perfectly "good." Thus, it is necessary to look back on whether such human-made technology has been excessively trusted. Ahn Hee-gap, a professor at Postech's Graduate School of Artificial Intelligence, pointed out that "artificial intelligence is recognized as a breakthrough in new technological developments, but just as with most engineering technologies, it has limitations along with problem-solving skills." Humans cannot be perfectly unbiased, and therefore an algorithm with complete neutrality cannot exist. Discard all vague expectations of technology and clearly understand the limitations of technology.



Lee Lu-da seems like a real person, but it was just a machine made by a person who is fallible. Park Jung-sik, a professor of Hufs, said, "There will be room for improvement in problems such as the Lee Lu-da controversy through the techniques such as context processing and identifying intentions." The Argus hopes the readers understand the objectives and limitations of artificial intelligence technology that progressively develops. 📖

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A Friction Happening, Yet Unhappened



By Kim Ha-kyung and Park Chang-hwan
Staff Reporter and Editorial Consultant

In January 2021, a popular Chinese YouTube content creator uploaded a video of herself making what seems to be kimchi from scratch, then using the kimchi to make stew, or kimchi jjigae. The video was labeled #ChineseCuisine and #ChineseFood. Last November, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) registered industrial standards for pao cai, a traditional Sichuan dish of salted fermented vegetables. According to a Chinese tabloid newspaper called the Global Times, the ISO registration for pao cai also covers the industrial standards for kimchi. However, following this, Korea's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs immediately issued a statement refuting the claim and explained that pao cai and kimchi are different foods. Besides food culture, there have been various other points of cultural friction between Korea and China regarding, among other things, hanbok and pansori.

Controversy over the origin of hanbok in the game Shining Nikki last November acquainted the average Korean with China's attempts to appropriate Korean culture as theirs. This coupled with existing anti-China sentiment, paved way for debates between the netizens of the two nations. The debates went as far to discuss the historical background beyond the cultural friction. Clearly, the issue is not just a matter of what belongs to who, but one of how the nations perceive each other. Regarding this, The Argus probes the conflict at hand between China and Korea, diagnoses the causes, and carefully peers into the potential future.



▲ A Chinese Youtuber is making what appears to be kimchi./Captured from Youtube

©Youtube



Phenomenon 1 : This culture belongs to us



As 2020 neared its end, Papergames, a Chinese game developer, released its Korean service of Shining Nikki. To commemorate the launch, the developers held an event that gave out Korea-specific hanbok items. However, users of the Chinese service lodged complaints, claiming, “The hanbok is not unique to Korea as it is China’s traditional garment.” Following this incident, Papergames took the side of its Chinese users and abruptly shut down the Korean service. This case sparked claims all over the Chinese press and Internet forums claiming clothes of the Joseon Dynasty were merely brought in from China’s Ming Dynasty.



©Shining Nikki

▲ Korean players were given a special hanbok item before the service closed on them.

Discussion over the origin of hanbok carried on over to discussion about the origin of kimchi. Currently, Baidu Baike, a Chinese-language collaborative online encyclopedia, states that kimchi lays its origins in China. Mainstream Chinese Youtubers are claiming that kimchi historically belongs to China. A Chinese company went as far as canceling their contract with a Korean Youtuber named Hamzy when she said that kimchi and ssam were obviously Korean food.

There are differences between the two dishes in their ingredients and the ways they are fermented. Pao cai is more a type of pickle than a type of fermented food that kimchi is. The BBC corrected the Global Times’ article claiming that the kimchi is a type of pao cai.

“I think hanbok and hanfu are different,” said an anonymous Chinese HUFSan in an interview with The Argus, “I think [the netizens] found a correlation between the clothes because of the historical relationship between the two nations. Also, I think that pao cai and kimchi are different foods, but the Chinese people on the mainland seem to think otherwise. It may perhaps be resentment rooting from how the Chinese think that Koreans claim the Dragon Boat Festival, Confucius, and the poet Qu Yuan to be Korean culture.”



Phenomenon 2 : The still-ongoing Northeast Project



Earlier this year, announcer Zhu Xia of China’s Liaoning Province broadcasting station uploaded a video with degrading comments about kimchi and said that a small nation that is rude to a big nation perishes. This remark is reminiscent of the time when President Xi Jinping told former U.S. President Donald Trump, “Korea actually used to be a part of China, not North Korea, Korea.” The Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded by saying, “It is clear to the international community that Korea has not been a part of China in the history of Korea-China relations for thousands of years.” China’s view on Korea is evident from these remarks. Kang Jun-young, a professor of the Division of Chinese Foreign Affairs and Commerce at HUFs, explained, “This reason for such a view is complex. Roughly put, China was historically Asia’s major power, but after the Opium Wars, its powers were infringed upon by western imperialism. To recover from this, they carried out the Chinese economic reform which eventually led to their spot as a G2 nation. To improve its status as a major power and stabilize its political system, China implemented patriotism education, and this is the result.”



©Encyclopedia Britannica

▲ The Northeast Project aims to incorporate the history to the people who once lived in the highlighted region into Chinese history.

This perspective is heavily influenced by the Northeast Project. The Northeast Project, which began in 2002, is a historical study aimed at integrating China’s ethnic minorities. The study, having been consistently criticized by scholars from other countries, tries to incorporate all historical ethnicities that are currently within China’s current borders or were once within Qing territory. Regarding this, the Korean government took issue with the fact that Goguryeo and Balhae’s history was being absorbed into Chinese history. The Northeast Project officially came to an end in 2007, but according to the Voluntary Agency Network of Korea (VANK), the Northeast Project is in fact still active as of 2020.

VANK says, “In the mid-2000s, it was announced that the Great Wall of China was 6000 km long. In 2012, that grew to

Social Feature

22000 km, and recently, it is being said that the Great Wall reached as far as Pyongyang. China is claiming that walls built by Goguryeo and Balhae are also a part of the Great Wall. Moreover, they claim Goguryeo's King Gwanggaeto is Chinese. The sign at the Gwanggaeto Stele located in China reads in various languages, 'King Gwanggaeto of Goguryeo, a Chinese minority.'" Though officially over, the Northeast Project is still trying to integrate culture.



Cause 1 : Behind the nationality of cultures



Sinocentrism, the ideology that China is the center of the world, is behind the thought that foreign cultures come from Chinese culture. Its main point is that along with China being the center of the world, other cultures are inferior. Through this ideology, China could govern vast territories in the past, but today, the Confucian culture that once was the cornerstone to this ideology has been replaced by nationalism thereby changing its nature. Professor Kang explained that this change is a combination of Chinese tendency to restore its once far-reaching sinocentric influence and the projection of its rediscovered influence on culture; neo-sinocentrism, so to speak. Adding onto that, he explained that the current situation comes from an alignment between the Chinese government's desire to boast China's global image and the hastiness of patriotic Chinese netizens.

But other opinions also exist. Professor Woo Jung-moo of Dongguk University explained the cause of China's attempt to appropriate foreign cultures from a political perspective. He said, "China is a multi-ethnic nation with a one-party political system, unlike other multi-ethnic nations like the U.S., for example. Therefore, such phenomena occur."

Woo explained, "Economic development used to quell the ethnic complaints that rose within the nation, but as development slowed, the one-party system needed to bolster cultural pride as a way to keep the masses happy." That is, there may be a limit to the amount of stability a political system can provide, so planting the idea of superiority through culture became the status quo. Woo continued, "Thanks to the Internet, biased opinions could be spread more easily, and other countries including Korea focused on these biased opinions, which led to the current situation."



Cause 2 : The reason to look back



The biggest reason for the Northeast Project is not to expand China's territories by appropriating cultures. Rather, it is more focused on integrating the minorities within China. At the Northeast Asian History Foundation's Chinese Specialist Forum on December 14, 2020, there was a comment regarding China's Northeast Project: "Under the pretext of academic issues, the Southwest Project absorbed Tibetan history into Chinese history, and the Northwest Project dealt with the Uyghur population. With the Southwest Project, they were successful in completely absorbing Tibetan history into theirs." By ridding the problem of history, China is aiming to integrate minorities more effectively.

After integrating the minorities, China's objective is to become the Asian hegemony. Political and diplomatic experts in China consistently call out China's desire for growth. China hopes to flip the pecking order where Japan has been the leading Asian power with China coming in second. Professor Kang explained, "The logic laid out in the Northeast Project, where Goguryeo is a part of Chinese history and only partially Korean history is a way to expand China's influence on the Korean Peninsula. From a geopolitical point of view, Korea is the center of Northeast Asia and a crucial bridgehead in securing China's sphere of influence. The project also prepares China for a unified Korea." Kang found the cause in the recent U.S.-China conflict, saying, "Korea is an important place to realize China's dream of creating a new order where China is set apart from the U.S.-led world order."



▲ China aims to become the dominant power in Asia.



Outlook 1 : The need to identify cultural components



Cultural appropriation and absorption "will continue to happen," according to Kang. Compared to China's hard power, its

soft power is weak. China may be trying to build its soft power in this way. “The Chinese government and its netizens will continue to act in this way,” assessed Kang, “There needs to be a courageous voice that continuously objects to false claims. Fact checking is crucial. We ought not to get bothered by the psychological jabs and media’s control of the public opinion.”

Professor Woo said, “The Chinese claims on culture depends on the consistency of the current system and the direction of its successors.” He cited instability in China’s one-party political system as the cause of the current situation and stated that the solution also depends on the cause. “If the one-party political system continues, sinocentrism, which is the cause of patriotism education and cultural superiority, will continue, but I think this will end naturally when a more democratic political system emerges in China,” he said. He also looked optimistically at the current situation, saying, “The cultural debate will not spread to the extent that it will have a significant diplomatic and economic impact.” However, he expressed concern, saying, “I think the government’s movement regarding this incident is stronger than that of the citizens, but more Chinese citizens may weigh in on the matter in the future.”

“Cultural conflicts will probably continue on into the future,” said an anonymous Chinese student, “Korea thinks China is stealing culture, but most Chinese people think Korea is the one trying to steal culture. There was a strong backlash on Weibo against Korea’s recent attempt to register a kind of knot as a UNESCO World Heritage.” They are of the opinion that if the two sides continue to think that the other side is stealing culture, such conflicts will persist.

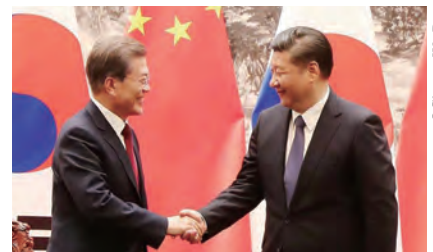


Outlook 2 : An unwritten history



The historical aspect is not much different from the cultural one. Professor Kang predicted, “To China, Korea is a cornerstone in its quest to solidify influence in Northeast Asia; this will continue in the long run.” He also said, “In the course of normalizing diplomatic relations, we failed to narrow the gap on our stances on North Korea and the Korean War, and even after that, we failed to establish a consensus on historical facts and North Korea. The intellectual community should actively review China’s claims and make efforts to correct them in areas that are different from the facts.” Both government and citizens work together to produce diplomatic results.

Kim Hyeon-jong, the organizer of the VANK Global Petition Team, said that the government’s response to the history issue so far was regrettable, but it could not have been helped. “The South Korean government’s response was not immediate in such discussions as the Northeast Project,” he said. “However, this is because the government and state agencies may have complicated interests such as diplomacy. On the other hand, private organizations that are free from interests were able to respond immediately. Such will be the picture in the event of another similar historical debate in the future. So far, VANK, a private organization free of interest, has responded to China’s claims with global petitions. More people are interested than ever before, including the Korean diaspora and foreigners. As interest and awareness grows on this matter, the Chinese government may very well be pressured to appease the masses,” he said, predicting that more interest surrounding the historical issues will continue to rise.



▲ President Moon Jae-in and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands in Beijing on December 14, 2017 where the two countries agreed on common goals on a continuing effort to improve bilateral relations.

©Cheong Wa Dae

China and Korea have a deep history and the complex relationship cannot be explained so simply. Add culture onto that and it is more complicated still. Fact-checking must come first, then compromise based on the truth must follow. Reconstructing the past through records is the beginning of correctly looking at culture and history. It is necessary to share what we are looking at while respecting one another’s domain. Forcing one’s perspective on the other side without such a process creates problems. In order not to repeat the conflicts that we have already seen surrounding gender, ideology, religion, and more, The Argus believes we all need to understand the perspective of the other side. 🇰🇷

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Few Haikus About Redevelopment Around HUFS and the station

By Chang-hwan Park
Editorial Consultant

Next to the small road
in which the small buildings stood;
a construction site

All of a sudden,
the people and homes emptied.
Where, though, I wonder?

Remaining neighbors
see the vacant lot and think:
"What a site this is!"

It used to be home
to so many people, and,
also tasty food



Gone now the cluster
and here sits the vacant lot,
a new complex comes

Are they doing well?
the people who once crowded
our quaint Imundong

Who and what and when
will be the new faces that
populate this land?

HUFS has new neighbors,
a bittersweet change between
the new and the old. 🇰🇷

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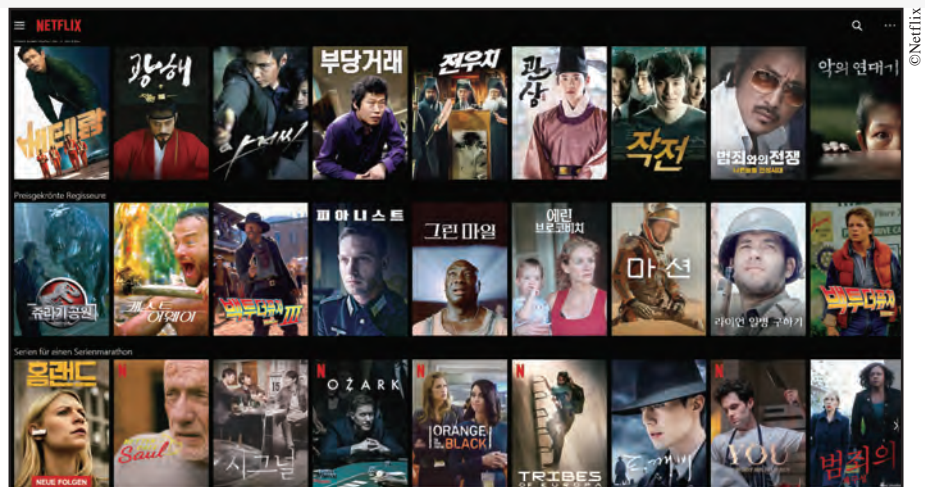
WHEN THERE IS TOO MUCH TO WATCH, BUT NOTHING TO WATCH AT ALL

By Park Chang-hwan

Editorial Consultant

You are sitting down to eat dinner. You have had a tough day of online lectures and sitting at your desk at home working or studying. You think, “Hey! I am going to treat myself today!” and before eating the dinner laid right in front of you, you turn Netflix on. In your excitement, you scroll through the endless list of things to watch. Then, scroll, scroll, scroll again.

Before you know it, the dinner has gone cold, you are tired and decide that it is probably better just to quickly finish your dinner, go back into the comfy embrace of your bed, and look at your phone before nodding off.



▲ Netflix offers us too many choices, but it seems impossible to choose the right one.

Netflix is great, but its vast selection of content easily induces analysis paralysis in a person. Otherwise known as overthinking, it is a situation where an individual becomes paralyzed in a decision-making process. There are too many things to consider such as the possibility of a better choice or the fear that it will be a choice that worsens the situation. Without a decision, a person cannot come to a conclusion or solution to whatever situation they are in, which is why we never seem to be able to satisfactorily choose a show on Netflix.

This kind of indecision is not just limited to making choices on our Netflix. It is a part of daily life, whether it is deciding on what to eat for lunch or what clothes to wear for the day. It also happens when we try to make big decisions, whether it is for the organization we work for or future career plans.

The debilitating nature of choice overload plagues modern society, especially with all the excess we have in our lives. In a simpler time, choosing what to eat was not a problem. We had to eat whatever came from our harvests. Bigger decisions were more streamlined as well. Our future careers were sometimes decided upon birth. In Korea's past, people born into academic families had no choice but to study their entire lives, while people born into an agricultural life naturally went onto cultivate crops for a living.

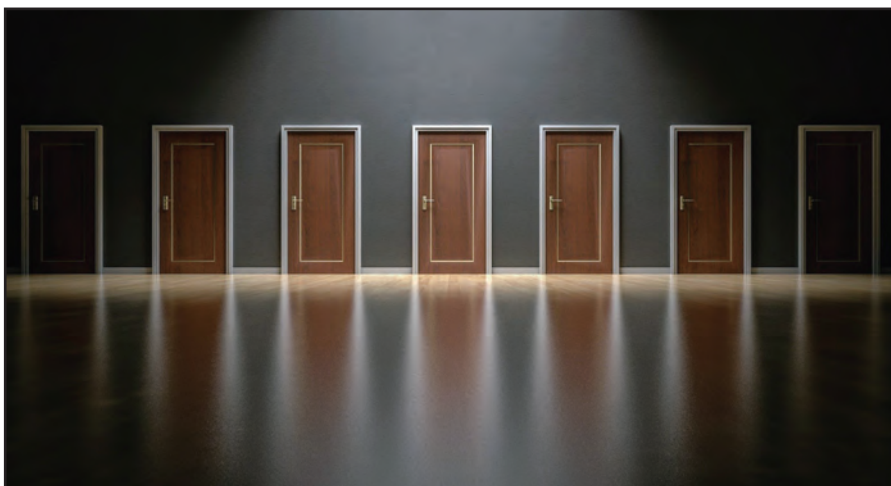
While the freedom to decide certainly gives us a sense of control in our lives, we must be wary of the losses. Having a choice on Netflix is neat, but is the time spent on deciding what to watch worth it? Probably not. If you make a balance sheet of the pleasure and weigh the loss of time of indecision against the gratification of watching the show, it might even be in the red.

The new semester is upon us and we will be confronted by so many choices. In other words, there is going to be a lot of faltering on what to do with life—a lot of time loss. There are two approaches:

One is expecting Netflix to change. Netflix is great. Its collection of movies, documentaries, and TV series give us great joy at times. There is no doubt on how great their database is, either. However, the service seems like it needs an algorithm that does not flood the user with too many choices. Perhaps it can give the user something to watch without the need to select at times, like having a stream that plays shows or movies where everyone is watching the same thing at the same time, very much like a TV channel.

Number two is changing how we approach Netflix. We spend less time choosing and more time watching. We hunker down and quickly choose instead of worrying too much about the outcome. By doing so, we can rule out certain shows that are unappealing and take an early exit strategy if need be. This way, we would be experiencing the outcome of choices in the time we normally fret over them.

By this point, you may have realized that Netflix is a metaphor for a life of choices. The difference is that Netflix will continue to update its user interface to make it more watchable because it wants to attract more users, while life, because it is a concept and not a service, cannot really do anything to make life more livable. In this sense, only the latter of the two approaches is possible for a life of choices. What life has to offer does not just come to us, and expecting some external force to give us joy is not enough.



©Pixabay

▲ Choices are like closed doors; we do not know what is behind them until we open them.

As we face choices, it is difficult to realize that we must be the ones to jump into them so that we may gather experiences and make better future choices. We fear that the wrong choice may ruin everything. However, indecision itself is the wrong choice. Indecision is our inability to exercise the freedom of choice. The Argus hopes that this little bit of thought stays with you HUFSans for this semester so that you may maximize what HUFs life has to offer. 🐼



Live Every Minute of It

By Jeon Nu-ri


Editorial Consultant

The movie theater used to be the place I visited most often in a week. Going to the cinema alone and watching good movies with a huge screen and majestic sound system was my favorite way to relieve stress. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, everything has changed. Now I look into my laptop screen to watch Netflix. It has already been a year since the first coronavirus was confirmed in Korea, but daily life with masks is still frustrating for me. I think I will never get used to or feel comfortable wearing masks. Actually, I do not “want” to get used to it. Some people say that there is no way we can get away from this virus and we should learn to coexist with it. I choose not to believe those words. Someone might accuse me of escaping reality, but I cannot help it. I just want this terrible pandemic to come to an end as soon as possible.

COVID-19 has brought up a new concept called, “corona blue.” It refers to a feeling of depression that appears among people as social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus continues. In my case, I expected that social distancing could not harm me at all because I tend to enjoy being alone. Meeting and communicating with people exhaust me most of the time. Now I know that my expectation was completely wrong, and it turned out that social distancing put me in some state of corona blue.

A precious lesson I learned during this COVID-19 era: It is dangerous to spend too much time alone, especially for those with a lot of thoughts. Social distancing (and winter break, of course) gave me much time to stay at home. Then, what I do at home is think! All of my thoughts always run through my mind in a continual loop. It is like a snake that is turned and eating its own tail. At some point during that process, little question marks in my head got together and formed one big question – What is the meaning of my life?

I am about to graduate, but I have not yet decided what kind of career I want to pursue. This does not mean that I can take my time to explore my potential career paths. Time waits for no one. I cannot stay still just because my goal is not set, so I am busy doing things for my uncertain future. Then one day, it all felt foolish to just work hard without a special and specific goal. Maybe this is why my life suddenly felt meaningless. The fact that I have no “great dream” for my own future put me into a state of torpor. I started to envy my friends who have a firm plan, and my world felt gray.

Then I watched the movie “Soul” at the beginning of February. Everyone around me praised this movie so highly that I became curious. Watching “Soul,” I realized the meaning of life. It is funny that a movie gave me answers to the question from which I have suffered for days and weeks. Life is that funny and simple. We do not have to look for great reasons to live. People live to have a slice of really delicious pizza and stare at a clear blue sky. We are alive just to be happy every moment. Tears poured out because the movie was like a good friend telling me things I wanted to hear lately. Do not feel pressured—not everyone has to lead an enormous life to appear in history books. Until now, I was burying myself too deep in a “goal” itself and not seizing the days. I must return to my original self, one full of positive emotions. I hope my story could be comforting to those who are agonizing over the meaning of life. What I am telling you is in fact obvious and cliché, but there are times when we need to consciously remind ourselves of these hackneyed words. 

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Jang Soo-hyun

What a nice way to kick off 2021. Busy writing and preparing for another publication, on the surface there may be nothing new, but there is. Thank you, new reporters, for contributing to the March issue and thank you Argusians for sticking around to help. I look forward to spending 2021 with you.

Choi Yea-jin

My 2021 began with The Argus. I learned and accomplished a lot at The Argus during 2020. Starting with this March column, I hope that I will grow further as an Argusian in 2021.

Song Chan-ho

There is a famous Korean proverb: even if you are dragged into a tiger's den, you can survive as long as you stay strong. There is always hope. Even in the most nightmarish situation, you can stay encouraged. I think what enables it is a sense of optimism—there is an ordeal, but no failure.

Kim Yeo-won

Once a reader and now a reporter, I am happy to write my first article on my favorite subject. It took a lot of effort to write an article, but it was so meaningful. Thank you to my Editor-in-Chief for always encouraging me even when I was clumsy. I would like to thank all the reporters and the former Editor-in-Chief who worked hard and helped me a lot. In the April issue, I want to write an epilogue with more improvement!

Park Chang-hwan

Hi, how are you? If we're acquainted, I hope we can laugh together today. If not, I hope something nice happens to you today.

Lim Chae-lynn

I am so glad that finally my article is published on The Argus March issue! It was such an honor to become a member of The Argus and I cannot wait to see the actual magazine soon. Thanks to everyone who helped me with publishing and I hope readers fully enjoy my article.

Nam Gyeong-eun

The power of the word "student" is infinite. The Argus, led by students, will catch the little details of the world and write more about them with pure passion that might only belong to the youth. There is no guarantee for a better future even if we overcome our daily struggles. However, all we can do is to face the reality with honesty and accept them, whether solved or not. Let's seize every moment with our pounding hearts.

Park Da-eun

Rising into junior year, I would like to have as many experiences as I could. The Argus is one of them. As they say, nothing is easy, the whole process of writing my own article was challenging, even anguishing. Nevertheless, looking at my final article, especially "Excessive Expectation; Stay Alert," I feel a great sense of satisfaction. In the following semester, I hope to strive for a higher degree of completion for myself.

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