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The Argus

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"So, The Argus' reporters unanimously agreed with the idea of changing the print format with one voice. Moreover, The Argus wants to go with the current of the times and satisfy readers by looking good and keeping up with the times"

lways a new start is accompanied by a little nervousness. Two months have already elapsed since the New Year of 2007, so a fresh semester has just started. Are freshmen full of expectation for the new life of university? Likewise, The Argus also has a new life now. The Argus' heart is now fluttering just as much as a freshman on their first day. Because of this year, The Argus has been reborn.

The Argus has changed significantly as readers can see now; so we look forward to your feedback. There were so many challenges and limitations in making a traditional paper that The Argus, Korea's oldest university English newspaper, has transformed itself into a magazine.

The Argus has worked so well as a student press. However, we had grown tired of the previous newspaper format. We had grown tedious of restricted space in our paper. The limitation often led reporters to face difficulties, such as positioning pictures, or even having to take them out. Many great photos should have been seen by readers but had to be picked out of editions, so there were feelings of something lacking. We had so many things that we wanted to share with readers. However, the format of a daily paper had some critical weak points. So, The Argus' reporters unanimously agreed with the idea of changing the print format with one voice. Moreover, The Argus wants to go with the current of the times and satisfy readers by looking good and keeping up with the times.

The new-look Argus, now being published in a magazine form, was really ready for a face lift. We will endeavor to put important messages and journalists' passion into articles with pictures to enhance the impact of the stories. We will assume a critical voice for society as student journalists. As a university press, The Argus also promises readers that we will deliver in-depth articles. The Argus will continue its best efforts to report useful information for readers. We want to become more accessible and closer to HUFSans.

We had been brimming over with ego; that may crumble by these changes. We have been concerned about maintaining the traditions of The Argus. However, we thought that the most important thing is The Argus members' current desire. So we have ended up making a decisive determination. It is not degeneration at all; it is an evolution.

Our passion, what has made this newspaper, will never fail to ignite, even if The Argus' outward appearance has changed. The Argus now looks forward to new challenges and is giddy with excitement. At first glance, readers may feel unfamiliar but they will certainly be fascinated by The Argus!

Editor in Chief Anna

A press conference of a fire in Yeosu foreigner's shelter



On February 2, a press conference to denounce the fire accident of a foreigner's shelter in Yeosu was held in the Integrated Government Building. The Emergency Measure Committee hosted this press conference. The topic of this press conference was compensation to migrant worker. Lee Hae-sun, a member of the supreme council of the Democratic Liberal Party, made a start on that conference. "Nine migration laborers died on account of that fire accident. In Korea, rights for migrant workers fall short of the standards of the UN. The Ministry of Justice should take

responsibility for this matter."

Joo Mong-hee, Vice-Chairperson of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, said "We will fight for the rights of migrant workers from now on. Although working everyday in Korea, they do not have safety nets, such as health insurance."

After this conference, migrant workers gave testimony regarding this situation

Mashen who is a migrant worker said, "We couldn't have set the fire in the protective shelter. Migrant workers are not the culprit. Protective shelters in Korea should have nine public officers, but actually, there is only one public officer." Anowart, a former chairperson for the migrant workers, said, "I lived in a protective shelter for a year. There are no differences to a prison."

This conference ended successfully, and many Koreans who are interested in this situation will strive to solve this problem.

By Park Yeon-jun

Double major in effect

The double-major system came into effect in 2007. The system is one of the revised academic regulations. The school has admitted students applying for double majors who entered the school in 2004 and 2005 as well as in 2006. In addition to the double-major system, the students, not applying for double majors, who want to study their original major more closely are allowed to complete more major credits, or 54 to 75 credits.

The operation of the system was decided upon and released last May. Due to this, every student who entered the school in 2006 does not have to apply for a double major. Whether they apply for it or not absolutely depends on their choice. However, all of the students who are admitted to the school in 2007 are obliged to be in this system. Once students apply for double majors and are qualified to complete them, they may not cancel it. Moreover, double-major students must pass FLEX to graduate from the school. At Imun campus, a total of 730 students have applied. Four of them were excluded, for they did not meet the criteria, and 10 of 726 students failed to be selected.

About fifty percent of the students applied for the majors of the College of Business and

Economics: 225, 71 and 85 were permitted to specialize in Business, Economics and International Economics & Law respectively. 113 students applied for majors of the College of English: 69, 32 and 12 were authorized to specialize in English Language, Interpretation & Translation and English Literature respectively. 70 students applied for majors of the College of Oriental Languages: 45 and 22 were granted permission to specialize in Chinese and Japanese respectively. Most of the students specializing in languages tend to prefer the majors of the College of Business and Economics. At Wangsan campus, relatively fewer students, 131 to be precise, applied for double-majors compared to those of at the Imun campus. All of them succeeded in gaining qualifications to complete double majors. 30, 23, 15, 10 and 12 were allowed to specialize in International Business, Interpretation & Translation, English Language, Chinese and Japanese respectively. 47 and 37 students who belong to Imun and Wangsan campus respectively chose to closely study their original majors by completing 75 major credits.

By Yun Ji-hun

Third campus of HUFS

The Mayor of Incheon and HUFS President Park Chul reached an agreement about a Translation Center (a temporary name) on January 9. The agreement was about a substantial third campus of HUFS inside Songdo, Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ).

It contains the construction of Translation Center, International Business Information Center, Education Center of Korean Language and Culture and a dormitory facility etc. The third campus has a floor space of about 21000 pyeong, in Songdo.

A convention center in Songdo will be completed on August, 2008. Therefore, dising of Translation Center is scheduled to finish this year. Also for the purpose of training capable translators, a dormitory will be constructed, with the capacity for about 300

Talented translators who educated and trained in this center are going to assist the international events in progress. Furthermore they support translation service of official document of non-Korean national languages. The International Business Information Center is for supporting the gathering and classification of information on international business and construction of expanding systems. So it will contribute to the development of the international business hub of Northeast Asia in Songdo city.

The Education Center of Korean language and culture offers the training of language and cultural art while propagating the Koreanology to the foreigners living in the international city. The center also aims at making foreigners and a foreign enterprise have possitive attitude towards investment in South Korea.

President Park Chul explains in detail that HUFS is constructing the actual third campus in Songdo, and with that it will equip a higher competitive power domestically and internationally as specialized university in foreign languages. He added that it will give maximum supporting to Songdo in order to make IFEZ become an international spearhead.

By Tae Yu-mi

New HUFSans are ready to fly

HUFS in Imun campus had its freshmen orientation workshop from the 21 to 23 of February. HUFSans had gathered at the Open Air Theater 10 a.m.. At around 5 p.m., HUFSans had arrived at Daemyung Resort Sorak in Sokcho. And they arrived at their lodge and had dinner. Outside the resort, there were placards written in each language representing each major of HUFS. This kind of scene can only be seen in HUFS.

First day in orientation, each college had a festival and an event for the freshmen. On second day, each department and college had their own programs. The Daemyung Resort Sorak offered a gorgeous scene with a fresh air. At night of the second day, there was the general meeting at Sokcho gymnasium. There were various public performances at this festival. And Park Chul, the president of HUFS, visited the orientation and told the freshmen congratulatory remarks.

Kwon Hyun-jin (I-06), a member of "Dawn Ring," a song club consist of italian major students said, "The hero of this orientation is new HUFSans. Even though exercise was too hard, I am so happy to sing a song for new HUFSans."

This year, the invited singer is Lee Ssang.

With them, the last night of orientation for freshmen was heated up hotter. At the end of the show, president of each college and of the Student Council was introduced. As this, the orientation has ended well.

HUFS in Wangsan campus had its freshmen orientation workshop from 20 to 22 of February. HUFSans watched many performances after they arrived at Yongin gymnasium. The undergraduates prepared all of performances for New HUFSans. There were dances, musicals, songs, and cheering. When Yongin gymnasium was getting more and more heated, Rumble Fish, the invited singer, came leading to a climax.

After all of performances was finished, the president and the vice-president of General Students Council introduced a new organized major, Division of International Sports & Leisure. New HUFSans majoring in International Sports & Leisure came out on the stage and saluted with other HUFSans and arrived at I'park condo Sorak in Sokcho around 9 p.m.. They spent three days in order to communicate each other more friendlily. The orientation has finished successfully.

By Cha Hyun-jin

New division of HUFS

At Wangsan campus of Hankuk University of Foreign studies, a Division of International Sports & Leisure is established newly since 2007. As a subordinate Department of Liberal Arts, it is an independent college, and the entrance quota is 30.

The significance of this establishment of new division is to unite the HUFS with to enlarge field of diplomacy and administration in sports on the era of globalization. On the basis of creativity and challenging mind, this new division expects to cultivate professional ability in sports industry, management and sport leisure education.

The main curriculums of this division are sport leisure marketing, sport diplomacy, sport administration and management etc. And it requires mandatory enrollment in foreign language subjects. After their studies, the graduates are expected to work in various fields of sports, related industries and marketing companies.

New establishment of this division will expand the working area of HUFSans. Also, it plans to develop diverse fields of culture, which will provide chances to trainees for broad experiences.

By Kwon Eun-jung

"Free Burma" against the veto of China

Last February 13, National League For Democracy (NLD) Korea branch held a press interview in the embassy of China. They struggle China to exercising the power of veto over "The un resolution of a charge of Myanmar (originally burma)." January 9 the U.S. present "The draft UN resolution of a charge of Myanmar (originally burma)" to the UN. The U.S. have claimed the reform of democracy about the military government of myanmar, releasing the political prisoner, the stop of systematic rape, and to release Aung San Suu Kyi who is the leader of an antiestablishment movement. In an amendment the U.S. said, "The situation of Myanmar would go from bad to worse. And we have had a grave concern about the fact that the peace of a region and stability go from bad to worse." The government of China and Russia exercised the veto to the resolution for the underground resources of Burma. 9 nations agree but china and Russia, a permanent seat on the UN Security



Council, exercise the vote. So the resolution would canceled. China and Russia said, "Myanmar is not the problem which un debate, because Burma could not threat the peace of the international society." They are shown aiming at the underground resources of myanmar. After the devote China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) could acquire the 3 rights to develop the oil and the natural gas in the shore of Rakhine west Burma. At first CNPC and "Myanmar Oil and Gas"

(MOG) which is a government enterprise have agreed the permission of exploring for 10,000 square kilometer in the shore of Burma. according to the "Xinhua News Agency" which is China's news, it is known that 510 billion cube meter of the natural gas and 3200 million barrels of oil existed. Russia also have concluded a contract related with the energy.

Choi Chul-gyou, coordinator of Citizens' Solidarity For Human Rights, said. "The problem of myanmar is the matter of the international society. In case of principle, it will help democratization of international society. And materially it would help to solve the a drug of asia. After the military government grasped political power, the government producted the drug for growing income. So recently, burma is the largest nation of making the drug in asia. the drug which is producted in burma would disturb the international society.

By Yu Byung-ho

For whom

is the increase intended

HUFS' increased tuition adds burden on students again

By Jo Min-jeong

Reporter of The Argus

■ he constitution stipulates that the nation, society, school, and students are all responsible for the right to be educated. It is a principal for these four groups to equally share the educational expenses. However, the principal doesn't seem to be applied to HUFS. According to the HUFS budget draft in 2006, almost 76.1 percent of the entire school income was generated from tuition fees. Only 0.9 percent from the university foundation, 1.7 percent from the government, and 3.5 percent from donations were contributed. It means that HUFS, relying on few financial resources, makes students pay more tuition fees to cover the increased university budget.

Furthermore, as the Committee on Adjustment of Tuition Fee (CATF) increased tuition fees again by 9.86 percent for freshmen and 6.58 percent for other undergraduates respectively, students are groaning under the heavier burden of the tuition fee.

Background of HUFS scholarship opportunities

First, HUFS announced a plan to expand scholarships. The university developed new student aid systems including scholarships for supporting students who take the "7+1 program" and the "overseas volunteer program" in 2006. And now HUFS is proposing to expand scholarships for freshmen, called freshmen's merit-based scholarships and for existing students, called need-based scholarships.

However, the additional expenses for the new scholarship policy were generated from students themselves again, because the total amount of scholarship reached around 2.7 billion won that actually contributed to tuition increases.

Second, the university insisted that the number of scholarship beneficiaries was increased to support more students. It is estimated that the total 29 billion won will be spent on students (as compared to just 1.8 billion won the year before). However, it is not the large amount considering the other budget allocations: 70 billion won on the staff wage of HUFS (more than 9.5 billion won as the previous year), 14.9 billion won on construction expenses (more than 2.2) billion won). Considering that almost 80 percent of the budget gap is covered by tuition fees, students actually can not be benefited as much as they financed a sizable share of school incomes.

Third, the university announcement on a plan to increase the number of recipients of need-based scholarships does not reflect student voice and in turn, is not a voluntary act. Hwang Hee-ran, the researcher of Korean Educational Research of University Institute said, it can be related to "The Law on Tuition and Entrance Fee," modified on July 2006. The law refers to the percent of tuition-exempted students and requires schools to grant the needy scholarships at least 30 percent of the total beneficiaries. Such a school's advertisement is not voluntary but obligatory based on the law.

Finally, a differential tuition fee HUFS offered can cause some problems. The university insists that the tuition fee should

increase for two reasons. It is reasonable to charge higher tuition fees on freshmen who would use new facilities longer than existing students. Also, freshmen will be benefited by the increased merit-based scholarships. The number of beneficiaries rose from 4 to 40 for four-year period of scholarships, from 14 to 47 for two-year period, from 4 to 100 for one-year period, and from 136 to 350 for one semester.

However, the university brings freshmen in a disadvantageous position. Freshmen cannot protest themselves from the high tuition fee as existing students can do. So it can cause incompatibilities among students. Moreover, the huge increase in tuition fees will likely add burdens on students shoulder.

What is the tuition for?

To define the problem, it is necessary to know about the decision making process of adjustment for the tuition fee first. Every December, the school holds the CATF meeting for about one month to estimate and draft the university budget for the following year. Under the leadership of the vice president, representatives from all departments and programs attend to this committee meeting: Two presidents of General Students Council (GSC) on each campus, staffs or authorities from Graduate School, the Professors' Council, and the Labor Union. The committee reviews the university planned budget draft and revises unreasonable financial allocations through discussion.

"In fact, the university already determined the increase rate of the tuition fee before the CATF meeting was held and notified



unilaterally it to other committee members. Under this structure, students are just committee members who are not directly involved in decision making process and just are required to accept the new tuition-related policy," Lee Se-young who is the president of the graduate school and represents student voice said, with his regret. "Two different interest groups of students and the university just can discuss the size of tuition fees based on the year's university budget in the committee meeting, assuming the weak support from the foundation and other financial resources. Therefore, students have never reached to a satisfactory compromise." CATF is a consultation organ not a legislative organ. No matter how much students are disadvantaged, CATF has no reinforcement power. Even with the high tuition fees, students cannot speak out their voices.

To reach an agreement

Sahmyook University is considered as a great example of the tuition agreement between the university and students. The university holds a public meeting to explain the needs and adequacy of the tuition fee increase every year. In the meeting, after reporting the university's current financial

and management condition, the president proposes the required increase rate based on the short and long term plans such as a specialization strategy and an improvement in educational equipment and facility. And then, the students carefully review the report, collect student's opinions, and present these to the university. Sungkyunkwan University this year formed a "Fact-finding Committee" consisting of 400 students and reflected students' opinions for the tuition fee negotiation.

HUFS students, however, cannot reflect their voice relatively to those university's students. Students should have presented the greatest influence on the decision making process of the university budget including the frequent interactions with the university administrators as well as strong arguments on tuition fee increase.

At this time, it is important to notice "The private school bill," revised last July. This bill mandates all private schools including universities to form a council and fill the quarter of the board of directors with parents and faculty members in an effort to ensure more open and democratic school management. According to related articles, the board also has the right to deliberate on school budget and financial accounts. If this

system settles down well, it would be a sensible solution for the current one-way communication structure on the process of CATF.

Another possible alternative is provisional regislation system which allows freshmen to pay tuition fees of the previous year first and then pays the increased fees later until one quater period. "HUFS Graduate School already operates it. If the school does not care for negotiation with CATF, tuition would be freezed to the previous year's. So the school will discuss in CATF more vigorously. I think the GS' case should be adopted for HUFSan."

Students should be first considered in the decision making process for the tuition fee increase. So the university should consider practicing new way out. Students also should recognize the negative effects of tuition fee increase and try to present their rights for better solutions.

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By Kim Eun-hye Associate Editor of The Argus

hese days "Korean Waves" are breaking all around the world. The world is becoming more interested in Korean culture and Korean language. This time, The Argus meets with a student, Yamamoto Misaki (KE-04).

"How do you do? My name is Yamamoto Misaki." When we met first, she was greeting brightly. Three years and four months has passed since she came to Korea. Originally, she entered a trading company in Japan. The company was for trade between Japan and China. A senior, whom she met in the company, made her interested in China. She then went to Beijing Language and Culture University to study Chinese for a year. Still at that time, she did not know about Korea and was not interested in Korea either.

Then, why did she fall into Korea? "I met three Korean friends in China. In addition, they made me fascinated about Korea. I was very close to them and we traveled to the Silk Road for 17 days together. At that time, we spoke in Chinese because of me. I could not speak Korean. So I thought that I needed to study Korean for my valued friends."

She said that there were two chances which changed her. The first one was the senior who had turned her onto China at the trading company. The second one was Korean friends who she met in China. The two chances encouraged her to the challenge. If there were no two chances, she might not have now figured.

After she met Korean friends 10 years ago, she went back to Japan and kept a steady job. And six years later, she came to Korea to study Korean. "I reached Korea and went to the Seoul National University Language School. At the language school, I got a degree in Korean and entered the special class to enter university. Moreover, I had assisted a study of cognitive science at the Seoul National University. After that, I found a Korean teacher training course for foreigners and entered a university, HUFS."

How could she come to HUFS? While she was acquiring a degree in Korean, she met a teacher. He was a professor at HUFS. He recommended her to enter our school if she wanted to study Korean. In addition, one of her Korean friends was a student from HUFS graduate school of Chinese. Therefore, she considered that, and became a HUFS student.

"There is nothing as difficult as an old student. Friends call me, 'King Sister.' During my first orientation, I sang a song. It was the best memory in my school life. Now, I am studying Korean education as a Korean for foreigners." It is certainly easy to think that she had a challenging school life because she is older than most students and she is not Korean. However she did not feel any hardship. There is nothing special of her

school life. She is just like other students, but she has s p e c i a l experiences.

In HUFS, there are many students who learn language. She hopes that they have a confident and positive mind. "When I was in



Misaki is writing her motto, "Life is going."

China, Korean students shared with Koreans only. Meeting Korean friends is also possible in the Korea. But making Chinese friend is possible in China. If you want to learn another language, you need a more positive mind to get close to people and their culture." She showed her strong will behind a soft impression. In addition, it was her mind to get her results.

"My goal is to be a Korean teacher in Japan. In the future, I want to be a professor. After graduation, I will be entering the graduate school. My motto is "Life is going." This means that I will always try my best because time is being continued. I hope to continue on my path even if it is not fast." She is not afraid of being challenged. Her advanced step for her dream is beautiful.

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Soap cleanses ody and heart

By Yun Ji-hun

Associate Editor of The Argus

inubangul" is an interuniversity dongari that helps the physically challenged with matters of hygiene and washing. It consists of students from HUFS, Korea, Kyunghee, Sungshin Woman's and Ewha Woman's University. They go to Sanggye, Junggye and Wolgye-dong, Nowon-gu where many physically challenged people live alone and do voluntary bath services for them. They give their true love to the neglected with small but priceless soap.

Reporter (R): How about the current lives of the people who receive the voluntary bath service?

Lee: Most of them live in rental apartments. The room is narrow and crowded with only two people; likewise bathroom is.

Jang: I visited a middle-aged man, who can not move at all or take a bath by himself. In addition, two or more people are needed in lifting and taking him to bathroom because he weighs one hundred kilograms, so he could not take a bath often. He was very glad that we visited, washed and talked to him.

Oh: We visited a family of four. The family consists of a grandmother, a father, a grandson and a granddaughter. The grandmother injured her waist slipping in the bathroom three months ago. She has just



From left, Shinsol (I-04), Oh Ji-su (C-03), Jang Dong-min (PA-06), Lee Sang-jin(L-03)

been bedridden in her room all day long. Nevertheless, other members of the family seem not to care about her, and even her health and hygiene.

Jang: They can not go outside and meet their friends or neighbors. Perhaps, they are missing them. What a pity!

R: How much does the government send aid to them?

Lee: The physically challenged need a person who looks after them all day. They can not do anything without assistance. In developed countries, they are attended by the person all day. In Korea, however, only a few of them are supported. What's more, most of the physically challenged tend to avoid letting people know their current situation. Maybe the number of whomever we assist will be very small.

Oh: They should hire a person paying their own money without the government's support. So, they come to financial burden.

Shin: Moreover, few people pay attention to them. Other social organizations have done voluntary bath work ahead of us, but their activities were limited.

Jang: They can not earn a living by themselves. Even though the government provides them with some money to live, the money, which is about 300 thousand won, is not sufficient. They can spend only a little money from government aid.

R: What do you feel and think about after you do voluntary works?

Lee: He, whom I visited, was very healthy and active. Even he had not expected himself to be in poor condition. I think that it is true that "No one can tell what future brings us forth." I will keep it in mind.

Oh: A grandmother whom I helped was hurt only three months ago. She also did not anticipate her being in her current condition. She frequently expressed her sad feelings. That was too bad.

Shin: So do I. And one day, a grandmother bought us some beverages. We all knew that she had little money. We did not expect her to treat us so. I was really moved. I felt her like my grandmother.

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Join in

A reporter of The Argus went to "Mujigye" Apartment which is situated in Junggye-dong with three members of "Binubangul." They are An Seok-chan (KE-02), Lee Chul-woo, and Park Sanghoon. They visited a middle-aged man who is paralyzed from the waist down. He was just lying on the hospital bed and his old mother was sitting by him. He welcomed us smiling brightly. They asked after each other and had a talk for a while.

He could not move by himself. When he tried to get up, the lower half of his body was heavily trembling and his face was turning red. Then, Mr. An and Mr. Park lifted together and seated him on a wheelchair. They pushed the wheelchair into the bathroom and washed him. Sitting on the wheelchair, he was getting washed. They should be careful and were careful in washing him since carelessness might provoke an unpleasant reaction. The bath continued for about 30 minutes. After it finished, they dried his body and the wheelchair. They again lifted and laid him on the bed. He had a bedsore on his back because blood does not flow through and air is not across his back. Therefore, Mr. An cleaned his back, especially the bedsore, and dried wet hair. Mr. Park applied lotion

cream over his face. He really looked refreshed.

It is easy for nonchallenged people to bathe everyday, but it is a very special event to whoever can not move like them.



They can not enjoy everyday life that we take for granted. How about applauding "Binubangul" for its altruistic activities that bring ordinary but invaluable happiness to people in such poor condition?



By Mun Hyeon-gyeong / Song Dan-ah

Associate Editors of The Argus

taffy seller in the air sells pumpkin taffy with a pair of scissors. An old woman who sells hot steamed bread with sweet bean jam. A shop owner and a customer argue for price cut, "Pick out! Here is everything you want," this is a typical scene and affectionate sound in traditional markets. The market is a place not only for selling and buying but also for heart warming. There are several stores on both sides of the roads and some old women sit in front of those stores. It sounds noisy that merchants' shouting "try this" here and there. The roads are crowed with people. However, this market image is only remembered. Most traditional markets are gone and do not exist. Should the traditional market be a place in memory as it is described above?

Downfall of Korean traditional markets

Some market reports showed that the number of the large sized discount retail chain such as E-mart increased at an average annual rate of 12.4 percent. However, as large retailers grows, the total sales of small-scale local stores and other small-medium markets decreases to two trillion and two hundred billion won year after year. This amount is equivalent to the sales decline rate of 114 stores. (In this article "market" means the Korean traditional place for buying and selling goods). The number of markets in Korea is 1,660 at present, but in the light of giant retailer penetrations and continued growth, all traditional markets in Korea are most likely to disappear within 15 years.

Causes of the downfall

With the opening of the capital market, since giant retailers with great financial conglomerates penetrated on the local market, small-scale traditional markets faced challenges. Giant retailers attract customers not with a lower price. Convenient shopping facilities that are not found at traditional markets motivate customers to visit at giant retail stores.

Second, people believe that the quality of merchandise at big stores is better than traditional markets. Because in the large retail store, all goods are standardized and facilities are clean, while in traditional markets, those are superannuated and decrepit. As the number of a dual-income family increases, two-paycheck couples want to purchase goods with a large quantity. However, traditional markets cannot provide satisfactory service and product and thus, fail to induce customer purchase power. Moreover, young customers tend to use credit cards, but most traditional markets do not allow a credit card payment. Many people complain about the insufficient parking lot. In addition, the popularity of the Internet stores takes customers away from Korean traditional markets.

The downfall's result

- Vanishing market for the social weak class

Kang Sung-han, a researcher of the education training institute in Market Management Support Center (MMSC) said that the traditional market is

considered as the place for low income groups; the elderly and the people who do not have wealth and much money. "Someday, you will be a senior citizen. For a while, you will see yourself work hard, earn money, park on a big discount store's large parking lot and back home with seeing your mountainous goods. However, when you are older, can not drive, and have the limited income source, you will turn your steps toward small local market. However, it will be too late. By then, no small traditional markets will survive anywhere and you will have to transfer the bus two times and then, walk on the big mart for just purchasing a bean curd and soybean sprouts (which it already occurs in Japan now)," he mentioned emphasizing the importance of market. To predict the existence of markets in the future, it is the first step to think who shops at the traditional market.

- Bankruptcy of small-scale business organizations and other small-medium suppliers and increase in the number of part-time jobs

When big discount retailers enter the local market, small merchants without competitiveness become bankrupt and subsequently, small-medium suppliers worked with small merchants also go into bankruptcy. The downfall of traditional markets is not just a matter of some small retailers. All related businesses in the supply chain can face with bankruptcies. It is reported that giant retailers created 19,000 new job openings last year, whereas the number of traditional markets declined to 130 markets and about 26,000 people lost their jobs at the same time. To put it in another way, with the new giant retailers presence, 7,000 people lost their jobs. Moreover, people in the big discount store were hired in a part-time or temporary position. Kim Su-am, the head of education training institute of management innovation who support MMSC, mentioned, "The fact is the quality of employment. The employments in small local stores or traditional markets are family-oriented. take on his family's own shoulders. In contrast, 70 percent of positions in the large discount stores are not full-time." Thus, giant retail stores result in employment shortages as well as provide lower quality of employment positions.

- Local economic crisis

Since Seoul-based large sized discount retailers dominates the market, penetration on local zones causes local economic breakdown. "Big discount markets are damaging regional economies by growing a wealth drain of out of the area. Instead of regional employment creation, the large sized stores get small markets under control and lead them to bankruptcy," said Mr. Kim, the head of education training institute in MMSC.

In the traditional market, customers made a deal with small-medium merchants and then, the merchants do a business with other regional retailers. In this process, local currency circulation is formed. However, giant retailers disturb and cut the local economic stream. The money which is ready to go in small local entrepreneurs' pocket flows to chaebols. For the long run, the market situation can make the poor-get-poorer and the rich-getricher.

Moreover, the amounts of income tax paid by the local discount stores are so insignificant. For the government, the corporate tax contributed to the primary source of taxation. The best example comes from Jeonju city which is a county town of Jeollabukdo with 620,000 residents. Citizens in Jeonju consumed 12,970 million won at E-mart (one of the Korean large sized discount stores) in 2002. E-mart's local income tax reported in 2002, however, was only 54 million won integrated with the property tax. The big discount mart paid only 0.4 percent of their total income for local tax in Jeonju.

- disappearing of the places for culture and experience of objecteconomy

The head Kim mentioned that traditional markets are the cultural places where people share joys and sorrows of life. "In the traditional market, people can buy everything from food such as boiled fishpaste and popped rice to hard goods such as notebooks, shoes, and satchel! That is the very thing that we can experience in the object-economic," he

said. The small and traditional markets provide free selection, small quantity, and a plastic bag. In the market, local particularities are transmitted from generation to generation. However, when the traditional markets become bankrupt, the unique culture only observed in the traditional market will also disappear.

Solution to this problem

The traditional market is not competitive as compared to the big shopping mall. Big shopping malls provide good facilities such as shopping accommodations, parking spaces, rest areas, and toilets. Thus, customers are more attracted to the big shopping mall which challenges traditional markets. It is necessary that the governmental support for inferior traditional markets is expected. The government should not formulate a faceshaving short term plan; rather draw a detailed plan which can revitalize traditional markets through investigating the reasons of traditional market downsizes. Also, renovations and modernizations of old facilities and improvement of the road condition can activate the traditional market. In addition, traditional markets are often located in the relatively accessible residential street, but suffer from the lack of parking spaces. If the market access is getting easier and more convenient through increase in public transportation, it will attract more shoppers. Traditional markets should develop pleasurable shopping environment for the competitiveness and can cooperate with big shopping malls. For example, planning some special events or making an effort to sell goods with lower prices through a partnership with suppliers will make traditional markets more competitive than the big shopping mall.

However, there is no participation of citizens who provides strong support on traditional markets for existence. Sincere effort from the government, citizens, and merchants can reactivate traditional markets.

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David VS Goliath

By Park Yeon-jun

Reporter of The Argus

-mart opened in the vicinity of Gwangmyeong traditional market (GMM) on January 24. Gwangmyeong traditional market modernized facilities one month ago. Nevertheless. E-mart invaded Gwangmyeong. It deprives traditional market merchants of their livelihood. There's strong likelihood that smaller stores will disappear with the opening of major discount stores. As well, it can cause a debacle local economy.

E-mart, "No comment."

On February 7, the weather had cooled off a lot. The first mini E-mart located in Gwangmyeong intersection station. Shinsegae, a major Korean company, announced a business expansion plan not only large discount stores but also smallscale discount stores. Has the mini E-mart a great ripple effect? An old woman said, "I go shopping at both traditional markets and Emarts. But if I have a lot of things to buy, I go to one of those mega marts."

Unexpectedly, a manager prohibited us from collecting news. He said, "The head office decides on every policy. They do not permit the media in E-mart."

Traditional Gwangmyeong Market "Never gives up"

GMM located at exit 10 at Gwangmyeong Sageori Station. The E-mart is located 30 meters further away. Outside of GMM, many anti-E-mart signs are posted there. Using government incentives of 5.7billion won, the market has introduced modern facilities like an arcade, fire thoroughfare and so on. What do merchants have to say about this matter? A Ga-rak fruit shop proprietor said "Sales were hard hit by E-mart's opening. Actually, the sales have decreased by 40 percent after E-mart's open." Mi-po rice-cake shop owner said, "To support my life, we should run a store. So recently, the merchants in Gwangmyeong traditional market do not stage an assembly." Choi-ik, who has lived Gwangmyeong since birth, is owner of ban-seok mart. He said, "From a small market to the larger scale markets in Korea, merchants of Gwangmyeong have made a persistent effort to flourish.

E-mart than make an investment in 5.7 billion won for making modern facilities."

Mini E-mart to be Big E-mart

According to a study, ten traditional markets will go out of business when one mega scale discount store opens. Although they opened small-scale store, E-mart's destructive power is even more beyond imagination than we might think. Why on earth did Mini E-mart start their businesses in the vicinity of the traditional market? Their exculpatory statement that we all depend on consumer's choice is unforgivable.

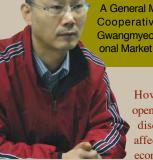
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Gwangmyeon g market and E-mart is fighting up against each other.

Government would rather not interfere with

Jeong Jun-sik A General Manager of Cooperative Gwangmyeong Traditi-



How will new opening of large discount store affect the local economy?

A. The effects of a new opening of a large discount store on the local economy will be an increasing unemployment rate and decrease in sales, extremely serious. When large discount store's size increase by 10 percent, prices of commodities will increase by 0.37 percent.

Back in 1996, the opening of the local retail market, there were only 28 megascale discount stores. However, in 2006, the number of large discount store is 302.

What do you think about E-mart's attitude?

A. Shinsegae should do ethical management as they said. As there is a lot land in Gwangmyeong, we do not understand why in the world they've located in the vicinity of our traditional market. Besides, all of us are fed up with traffic problem. After E-mart's opening, the traffic problems have worsened. The Gwangmyeong traditional market is the outcome of our constant effort for thirty years. Shinsegae should know about our history.

Is there a way to solve this problem using legal action?

A. There is no way to solve this problem using legal action. It did not do us any good turning in a petition. On the other hand, restriction laws exist in foreign countries. We think that it should be an indispensable law to Korea.

What kind of work do you plan to solve this pending issue?

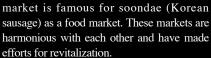
A. It is just beginning in earnest. Our ultimate goal is to make a realistic policy. Therefore, we try to prevent large corporations from damaging other traditional markets.

Renewal of traditional market attracts people

By Kim Eun-hye

Associate Editor of The Argus

t Paldal Gate, there are two traditional markets, Jidong Market and Youngdong Market. These markets appeared naturally from the early 1900s. Also, they have a legendary history. Youngdong market sells mainly Korean clothes and bed clothes. Jidong



On February 8, 1 p.m., a welcome rain fell after a long time without it. After a while, the rain stopped but everything got wet. As soon as getting off a bus, it's easy to find a signboard of Jidong market. The signboard is hung on the walls like a castle. There is Youndong market on the way to Jidong market from Paldal Gate. Jidong market and Youndong market are opposite each other. These two markets are referred to as Paldal Gate market. Paldal Gate market is the most revitalized market of the traditional markets.

Youngdong market is like a long tunnel. Because of its shape, it is okay even though rains drop. There are many shops through the



Paldal Gate information center



Youngdong market

inside of the tunnel. Many stores have clothes on sale. Youngdong is famous for Korean clothes and bedclothes. The market is not dirty and crowded any more. It is clean and well-arranged.

There is a consumer protection center, a tourist information center and a public restroom across from the entrance of Youngdong market. In the tourist information center, two old men were sitting on the

chair. "What's going on? Are you visiting to Paldal Gate market? If you want to seek the food court, go to Jidong market. There are many types of food in Jidong market."

an old man says.

We walked to Jidong market. Jidong market has facilities for getting away from the rain. Instead of a roof, the castle shelters the market from the rain. Jidong market is famous for soondae. In the soondae town, there are many stores of soondae and they are preparing for customers. Round signs on each shop catch guests' eyes. Stores were filled with many customers who find soondae. Most customers ordered pork soup mixed with sliced soondae. Stores have some menu: soondae, slices of boiled meat, chitterlings and roasted food of soondae etc.

A shopkeeper cuts slices of boiled meat busily and customers see her keeping in line. When she catches the camera, she says with a smile "Are you taking my photo? No thanks. Please take a photo of our meat." Meat makes people waiting mouths water. While walking through soondae town, shopkeepers shout, "Welcome, I will treat you our best meat."

We went to a dried goods store. It was the

oldest store of the many dried goods stores. "It was changed for the better, compared with the past. But I miss the past. I feel the lack of image as a traditional market. That is plentiful, abundant, benevolent, and crowded through many people's visiting. In the past, many people who lived behind the castle visited here. Now, almost nobody particularly visits the market. I was in here passing over the decades. Now, there is a shuttle bus and merchandise coupons. Also, a customer call center and an on-line shopping are possible without visiting the market. But I want an improvement of the parking lot. Customers say that parking charge is too expensive. If the charge is lowered, people will visit the market more."



Jidong market

It was a hard to feel the traditional market's past spirit in the Paldal Gate market. However, people visit the traditional market with memory of past markets. Also, they are almost 40 to 50 years old. Traditional markets are not places just for buying. To people, a market is a place containing memory and feeling of comfort and warmth.

About 6 p.m., the welcome rain comes again. There were not many people because of the rain. But merchants were waiting for customers with opening doors.

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Misdirected policy on traditional market

By Jo Min-jeong Reporter of The Argus

mall and medium scaled businesses have been on the decline since the local retail market was opened in 1996, on account of the rapid increase of the urban population and diversification of circulation channels.

So the Small and Medium Business Administration (SMBA) has practiced various policies to enlarge the size of traditional markets' selling. Recently, the government announced that it has drafted a "Comprehensive plan of revitalization" which is the set of measures to improve the conditions of traditional markets in 2005 and has provided a total of 126.8 billion won as financial support: 106.8 billion won to improve equipment, 20 billion won to modernize management systems. However, according to a report named "Numerical index of sales amount classified by store types in 2006," released by the National Statistical Office, while sales of large-scale marts climbed to 232.6, traditional markets dropped to 94.4. (as of 100 in base period 2000)

This showed a lack of efficacy in government's assistance programs to raise the amounts of traditional markets' sales. Also, this revitalization plan made for markets and its vendors destroys their livelihood actually. The policy is taken without drastic measures for vendors. Heucksuck Market, located in Heucksuckdong, Dongjak-ku, Seoul, is a case in point. In 2004, Seoul approved reconstruction of this market in order to build a 25-story residential-commercial plaza. Demolition of existing stores in Heucksuck market is in process since 2006. The problem is the redevelopment association is wayward in process of reconstruction doing forcible shutdowns on other shops illegally. Moreover, even if the market is revitalized by building a residential-commercial plaza, it is difficult for a small-scale merchant to pay at least tens-of-millions won to hundreds-of-millions won at most to get settled in that plaza. For these reasons, salespeople in Heucksuck market have been launching sitin protests, saying that this plan is only for the redevelopment association and construction company. They also assert that the Dongjak Ward Office which should arbitrate between contractors and tenants about this problem actually takes side with the association.

There are also issues concerning compensation matters proposed to vendors for being ousted from their workplace. When the traditional market is reconstructed, salespeople who have no business licenses cannot be paid from the government. Allowing that they have the licenses, it will be equal unless if they have mortgages. The screening criteria given by a banking agency is also fastidious. The report of the Environment and Labor Committee said that among the budget of 329.1 billion won that the government has supported, some billion won is left unused for these particular reasons, but hinted that recently the SMBA received 34.7 billion won profit purely from interest. It also said that the SMBA actually gathered its interest income by depositing the budget for market improvement in a bank.

Squandering of the nation's resources like this is another problem. It is because of half-baked proposals. Daegu city allowed two billion won worth of gift certificates for traditional market to be distributed in September 2005, as one of their comprehensive plan of revitalization. But these gift-certificates are still largely unknown to Daegu people, so the city authorities has been aggressively promoting them to purchase gift-certificates, offering premiums

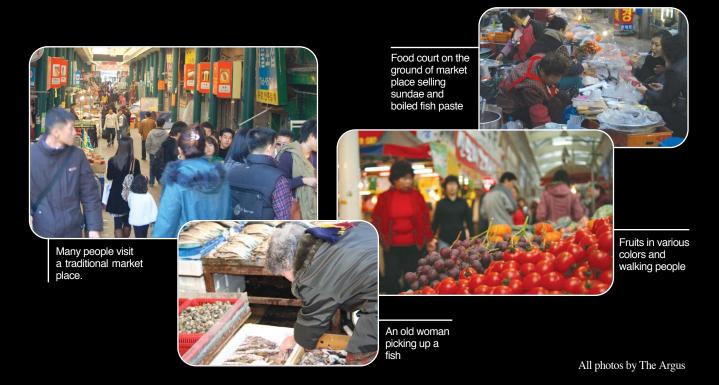
such as TVs and luxury cars. Concerning this, critics say that the budget is being wasted on unnecessary projects that failed to draw spending back for traditional market.

Besides, there have been many cases of squandering of the budget. SMBA spent two billion won in September 2005, to establish Everymarket (www.everymarket.co.kr), an online traditional market site. Also 19.7 billion won since 1996 to construct Integrated Freight Terminal which will be used as a distribution warehouse for traditional markets in Daegu city. Kim Suam, the head of Education Training Institute in the Market Management Support Center said, "Supporting the small-scale salespeople, who become weak before the largescale marts and online shopping malls by the government, is to encourage them. Through funds by national programs, they can find a way out by raising the standard of marketing understanding." However, Everymarket was closed after just eight months in May 2006; Integrated Freight Terminal industry also went into liquidation in August 2006, wasting the national treasury.

The government's campaign to revitalize the traditional market has thus far failed to produce any tangible result. This was largely due to the government's way of accomplishing policies in short bursts, and allocating budgets like the proverb "pouring water over a duck's back." The number of branches of large-scaled markets, such as E-mart and Homeplus will reach 140 and 50 respectively nationwide, at most to 2010, according to preliminary data released by the headquarters of an anti-E-mart movement. This calls for a fundamental solution on a government basis, to confront the economic penetration of many cut-price stores.

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Truthful feature through boisterous marketplace



By Kwon Eun-jung
Associate Editor of The Argus

t 6 a.m., traditional marketplaces start to be thronged by people opening their stalls. All of them are always diligent. They keep their store open everyday from early dawn till late night. An old woman lays greens on the ground, a man carries some boxes of fish, a shop owner arranges his store and his wife makes some food to sell... Because of these people, the market is always energetic and busy. It is animated.

As a day is breaking, the market places become crowded by people who sell and buy. A little child grabs his mother's hand having skewered boiled fish paste, a mother haggles to cut the price down to a shop owner, the shop owner seems to have against a customer but never forget a handful of free addition. It is very interesting even just watching such sights. The more people come, the more the market place becomes noisy.

Suddenly, someone blows a whistle and everyone puts plugs their ears. Following the whistle, the popping corn machine booms with an explosive sound. A plumpy corn grain, like a cotton flower, spatters. A silence prevails for a little while but it become noisy right away.

There are decent men. They are not just sellers and customres but neighborhoods giving pleasure. All the stuffs are not as expensive as those of a department store's and there are warm hearts with giving an apple that has a small scar. Without tidy wrappings there are fresh flopping fish with a belly laugh. Everywhere, there are people's lives. Getting darker after sunset, lamps are on and night falls, they close their day. Let the sellers behind, customers feel inconvenience.

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By Yu Byung-ho

Reporter of The Argus

he number of applications for the personal bankruptcy system was 300 in 2000 and over 1,000 in 2002. However, in 2006, the number increased by 90 times compared to the one in 2002 and finally, exceeded over 100,000. "The reason for this rapid increase is that more people came to know the personal bankruptcy system." Lee Seon-kuen, a director of operations of "Economic Democratic Center" (EDC), said. The Bank of Korea (BOK) recently reported that the number of credit defaulters is 3,600,000 and latent bankrupts reaches 1,000,000 in Korea. This resulted from relaxed ownership criteria of credit cards and the second banking authorities', as insurance and securities companies, becoming loan sharks. Their interest rates reach to 59.8 percent per year, which is similar to those of private money lenders, 66 percent per year. Because of the high interest rate, the private money lenders are usually blamed. Secondly, since the prior regime of Kim Dae-joong strongly encouraged credit card use as a payment method, people used credit cards instead of cash, and delayed their responsibility for payment for their convenience. Credit Counseling & Recovery Service investigated about 1,000 excess debtors in main seven cities in 2000 and found that 77.4 percent have used credit cards for clearing out the delayed account for other credit cards.

This phenomenon is not "moral hazard"

When people can not pay off their debts, the debtor or their representative declare bankruptcy and ask exemption from the debt payment responsibility to the court of justice.

Some people misunderstand that the applicators would have had the debts from deception and gambling. However, the personal bankruptcy system has a careful consideration process. Once the debtor submits an application to the Court of Justice and meets the requirement, it could be announced that his or her debts will be written off. Cases of disallowance are written on the application form. The cases include "In case of deception and gambling." The rate of exemption from payment responsibility is 99.8 percent. It means that the cases of bankruptcy are appropriate to be qualified for the rescue

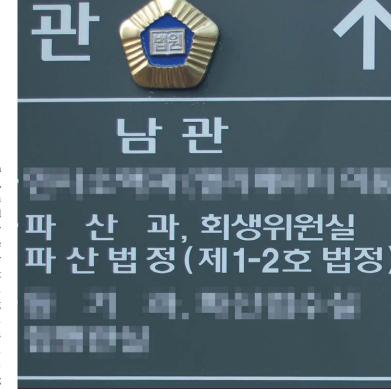


piled up the documents which attest the exemption from the debt

system. Lee Seun-kuen, a director of operations of EDC, investigated credit defaulters during two years using the press interview on December 11, 2006. Among 5,452 heavy debtors, only 1.4 percent, or 119 people, mentioned that the reasons of debt are deception and gambling referred to "moral hazard."

Importance of personal bankruptcy system

As the number of excess debtors grows, the crime rate also increases. The crime rate rose from 141,101 people in 2005 to 156,250 in 2006.



Escapeway for Personal bankuptcy sy protection device

"The National Statistical Office" reported that the excessive credit card issues and a big social gap between low income and high income groups accelerated credit management failure and latent bankruptcies. Kim Jin-hee, a director of EDC, said, "It is possible that the heavy debtors can become a member of the society to recreate value, if we regard once more about the expense that they will bring out."

Kwon Jung-soon, a lawyer, stated, "In the past, it was hard to get loans. The organs that get into debt were not made well. However, it is now getting easier to get into debt from credit card companies and the second banking authorities. Thus, it is rather natural to observe a growing number of heavy debtors." Lee Seun-kuen related, "Anybody could fall in failure. If one's life would end with only one failure, who would have a challenge? The society should give a chance to the person. At this point, the personal bankruptcy system is the meaning of refresh."

Limit of a personal bankruptcy system

To increase the allowance for bad debts could make common people be heavy debtors with ease. "Though the debt is cleared out in the court, the bank institutions can not be damaged and stay with financial stability with a safety device." Lee Sun-kuen, a director of



credit defaulters stem hoping for social

operations of EDC, mentioned. The safety device is the fund which the bank would reserve for negative events. It keeps the financial status. Usually, banks reserve from one to ten percent of loaned money for the security and safety to cover uncollectible money. If a loan bond outweighs the reservation for irrecoverable debts, the financial status would be damaged. Hence, the bank tends to set up a high interest rate for loans in order to save fund for debt recovery.

Then, it is getting more difficult for people to loan from banks. In most inevitable cases, people come to loan sharks for loan. Using loan sharks and private lenders, people tend to have a high potential to become a heavy debtor. Thus, the personal bankruptcy system can ultimately increase the number of debtors instead of reducing the number.

Solution is a "community reinvestment act" *

"A system named 'the community reinvestment act' is carried out in the U.S.. Banks are responsible to return some profits to their community and society for social appreciation. Banks should loan 10 to 20 percent of the total amount of loans to the person who has low credit." Lee Sun-kuen related.

The best bank operating a "community reinvestment act" is the

Bank of America. Sujan Retski, a department manager of the department of community development, said, "Support for the community and citizens to work hard to get more money are valuable to stabilize earnings for the bank."

Unreasonable treatment to person who get exemption from responsibility

"The purpose of the personal bankruptcy system is to help a member of the society who falls in a failure to rebirth and recreate value in our society." Lee Suen-kuen related. However, the person who receives exemption from the debt is still mistreated.

"It is hard to get the insurance for my kids under my name. We also could not get a car rental service. Moreover, I cannot open an account for a cell phone service as well as financial aid in school." Huh Jin, the host of the on-line community "meeting of the person who was released from the debt", mentioned.

The reason for the mistreatment is the "cord 1201", which Korea Federation Of Banks developed a credit collection system to control the individual credit information. In the system, those who get exemption from debts are identified with the highest 10 level for credit rate that is worse than the heavy debtors who are classified as eight or nine levels of credit rate. The credit information for individuals who have no credit issues does not show up in the system. However, the person who has exempted from the debt payment responsibility have the space for the credit history presented "1201". According to Huh Jin, "The special number, '1201' makes us a precriminal. We could not get basic public services that we need for living such as financial aids and telecommunication service."

"1201" should not be used for discrimination

In the United States, one who gets exemptions from the debt payment responsibility could use the finance service, if they would save 1,000 dollars. However, in Korea, actually credit failures can not receive the finance service during seven years.

The telecommunication and insurance companies check the credit history, when the customer would apply for services. The credit information system was devised for two years from 1997 to 1998 when Korea experienced an economic crisis.

"In the past years, when one would like to get a loan, they needed a sponsor or a guaranteed guardian. The credit history was useful to protect people from becoming heavy debtors. However, it needs to get more soften!" Kwon Jung-soon, a lawyer, related.

Anybody can become a debtor. "The personal bankruptcy system gave me a hope π " Ms. Jeon, who got exemption from the debt, mentioned. Of course, the system still has some limitations. "Of course, I have been discriminated since I got exemption from the debt. However, it is better than living with debts and under pressure. I wish heavy debtors would be saved through the personal bankruptcy system." Huh Jin said.

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^{*} The content was adopted from the Hankyoreh 2005.6.20.

Our priceless land is not VOUR CUSTOIN The column, "Reportage" deals with the issues of some places suffering from government's inappropriate policies. ...ed

By Park Yeon-jun

Reporter of The Argus

eturned five U.S. military bases in the northern Gyeonggi area did not receive an environmental pollution investigation. Thus, the environmental pollution problem of returned U.S. military bases will be in disputes again. It was years ago that Maehyangri was returned U.S. military base. From the case of Maehyangri, we can find the way to cope with this particular issue.

Maehyangri, No more cry

In February 2, 2007, Maehyangri was peaceful. Maehyangri was used for the U.S. air base, about a five-minute walk away from the local resident area. Noise and environmental pollutions made local resident painful. Now, no particular problems were observed around the base. Because residents made an effort on removing the U.S. military's vestige, the U.S. base in Maehyangri is now neat and clean.

Hurt from government

Kim Hyeon-bok, who lives in



Road-map of Korea and bullets lie in the emergency measure committee.

Maehyangri, said, "I don't want to remember that. The government support is very short and weak." The Korean government negotiated with the U.S. military regardless of our environmental safety. An emergency measure committee for Mehyangri's issue was located about five minutes walk from the U.S. military base. There are many bombers and bullets that the US military used for practice. Jun Man-gyu, a chairperson of the emergency measure committee, experienced enormous despair. His father committed suicide because of serious noise from the US military base. There are many graffiti works on the wall of the building where the emergency measure

committee is located. Most of them said, "We have a right to live in the clean environment."

Problems have just begun

In 2007, 40 U.S. military bases were returned to Korean government based on Status Of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and Land Partnership Plan (LPP) negotiations. According to the SOFA negotiation, an agreement between the U.S. army and Korea government has no environmental inquiry.

Now, most U.S. military bases are contaminated. The government did not request any support on purifying the environment from the U.S. and only made an exculpatory statement that the returned U.S. military bases are not polluted. The unfair environmental negotiation for the returned U.S. bases will cause increase in the amount of citizen tax because environmental purification expenses are covered by Korean government. If the government would not make a strong response and action on this issue just like they have done in the past, other 40 U.S. military bases would be returned with the same issue in the future.

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Interview



Ko Lee Ji-sun A assistant administrator of Green Korea United

How do you think about the government response?

A. The government

did not reveal the treaty process. Thus, members of the National Assembly did not recognize the problems. So I think government did not present strong energy on this issue.

What kind of work are you planning to solve this problem?

A. Now, we are bringing an administrative litigation against Ministry of Environ-

From the citizen's standpoint, we claim that the government should reveal their environmental investigation information to the public. However, the ministry of Environment declined. We won a lawsuit at first trial. The second trial will be progressed due to an appeal from the Ministry of Environment.

Where is the most polluted U.S. base

A. Actually, we estimate that the most polluted U.S. base is the U.S. military headquarter in Yongsan. Because the public is not allowed to enter the U.S. military base, we don't have detailed information. However, the U.S. military headquarter in Yongsan has already ten oil spill cases. The environmental problem in the U.S. military base is getting more serious than we thought. In Philippines, children died for the U.S. military's environmental problem.

Released criminals suffering

By Mun Hyeon-gyeong

Associate Editor of The Argus

his article (right) was inspired from an item from "The Sheaf," the campus newspaper of the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. A documentary appeared in the article concludes that reasons of offenders' fail to adjust are the nonexistence of rehabilitation support and the indifference of the general public. This situation is similar to that of Koreas.

According to statistics, compiled by 42 jails in all parts of Korea, 65 percent of the sixty-thousand inmates is second-time offenders. For the aforementioned numerical values, it shows that the rate of recidivism is increasing by the failure the systems for the support and rehabilitation of criminal offenders. Jang Jae-young, an administrative official in the Korean Probation and Parole Office, related that the actual condition of the probation and parole systems is so poor. "To return to civilian society for offenders means that they have to get an ability and skill to assist them tiding over difficult situations. However the social systems for their selfsupport are not implemented properly."

As a consequence of an ineffectual rehabilitation system in a prison, the vast majority of cases of released offenders are suffering from adjusting to the outside world. Actually, interviewing with The Argus, one offender who had finished up with a longterm sentence in Cheong-song Corrections Bureau and now stay at the Dam-an Rehabilitation Facility said that rehabilitation systems in prison were not useful after release. "The process to obtain a masonry certificate in jail is just to lay bricks and cement. In comparison the workers who have stepped the process of technique at normal society, we prisoner's bungling skill is worthless. No one in the outside world would acknowledge our skills obtained in prison. Moreover, in a course for computer training, involved typing a keyboard. We could not take any jobs through this short term and unskilled training after release from prison."

Useful programs for training prisoners are

believed to be conducive for rehabilitation into society after the sentences.

One fact that makes it difficult for offenders to adjust in society is branding of people as criminals. Social apathy and aversion of the general public towards released criminals are largely due to the fact that people regard offenders as social outcasts and a lack of sympathy because criminals injured many people and broke social order. "I hoped to prove myself and begin a new life after release, but I couldn't take a job when people knew my convict record. In beginning of my first job, cleaning tableware, ladies questioned me about my age, former life and the reason I still stay as an old bachelor. I felt anxious but could say nothing to hide that I was a criminal. I thought if they know my former life as criminal they wouldn't talk to me anymore." The offender interviewed by The Argus described his genuine feelings with tears in his eyes.

The administrative official Jang mentioned, "Some private corporations and facilities for the relief and rehabilitation are maintaining the support systems for discharged offenders. Even so, it is still inadequate and the number of remaining prisoners is too many to enumerate. Thus among other things, it is required we get over negative views and prejudice against released criminals and show consideration for them. People are not aware of terrible effects that inhospitable attitudes and negative perception to prisoners could cause them to fail in social adjustment."

"Condemn the offense but not its perpetrator," as the proverb goes. Criminal's offences ought to be punished, but when it comes to the social background in which offenders commit crime and the social responsibility of rehabilitation of offenders, society can not make criminals purely responsible. It is society's duty to implement rehabilitation systems for prisoners and convert the negative perceptions of them. After all, they've already been punished in prison, to punish them again after they've been released is unfair double-jeopardy.

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Capturing their 100 Days of Freedom

By Wendy Gills | news editor of The Sheaf



When a convicted criminal is released from prison after years of incarceration, society's primary concern is not usually over the wellbeing of the offender. However, a new documentary

made by U of S Ph.D student Karen Parhar takes a different approach in tackling the sensitive issue of recently released criminal offenders.

100 Days of Freedom follows newly-released criminals Wayne, Gloria, and David as they struggle to adjust to the outside world after several years of imprisonment. All three offenders were finishing up long term sentences in a half-way house, but still experienced an overwhelming sense of freedom upon their release from prison.

After many years of being in prison, inmates become institutionalized to prison life, having had little change in their daily routine during their sentence. This can cause offenders to fear their release, and lead to confusion about small, everyday things, says Parhar.

In the beginning, each of the three inmates had aspirations for their release, and wanted to prove to themselves and their loved ones that they could stay out of jail. But despite having high hopes for their newfound freedom, within the time frame of only one hundred days, all three offenders had returned to jail.

Parhar says she learned that even though it may appear that a person is on the right track, it does not take much to make an offender go back to old habits.

Tremendous rising of price

Redenomination as fundamental monet

By Tae Yu-mi Reporter of The Argus

n January 22, the government and the Bank of Korea (BOK) published new paper currency that applies an up-to-date forgery prevention system. Because counterfeit note were increases rapidly in the market and it is difficult to distinguish the various denominations just with eyes. Last December 22, it passed the stimulation resolution for the higher value banknote of the BOK from Ministry of Finance and Economy. Thus, also the publication of the 100,000 won bills currency became feasible to be established.

Necessity of fundamental monetary reform

The issue of a higher value banknote was propelled with continuing inflation. But the large use of checks, which is just an instant payment method, will continue as will the higher-denomination bills. It will result in increasing costs of living day after day.

When one takes a look at the chart of the

consumer's price index, there is no doubt that the monetary value has seriously fallen with intense inflation. It is the time when fundamental monetary reforms are necessary.

Definition of redenomination

Redenomination is a method of basic monetary reform. It involves the changing monetary values of the paper currency with smaller ones by an identical ratio that alters the nominal amount of the money of one country scaled down all of marked numerical value on paper money by an identical ratio, without any loss of monetary value. Hypothetically, it could change 1,000 Won to 1 Hwan, a new currency unit. When the numerical value of the monetary expression becomes larger, the process of calculation or payment process becomes complicated and inconvenient due to the regular inflation rate.

"Denomination," as used by the media and the general public, means a monetary unit value. But this is not the proper expression. Essentially, the word "denomination," means the nominal charge of the money, bonds and stocks. Hence, the usage in layman's terms is incorrect. "Redenomination" or "Amendment of denomination" is the proper expression.

In fact, the form itself does not make a substantial change in economic life. It changes neither the monetary value nor any quantitative amount expressed by on the bills or coins. Merely it could be titled as an amendment of a monetary unit without a substantial value fluctuation. Namely, it is neutral to substantial variables of the national economy such as income and price and so on.

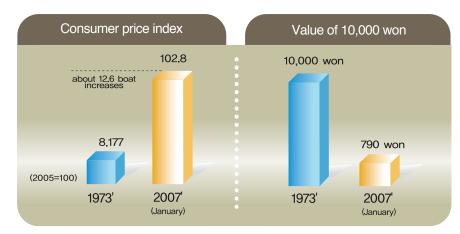
Dark side of redenomination

All policies will have its opponents, even to the redenomination. The first thing is the social expense followed in the changing of computer systems. And the money's manufacturing expense followed by new publication as well as the replacement expense of Automated Teller Machines or Cash Dispensers. In addition, there is a possibility which will bring about insecure psychological state of the citizens. Especially the opinion, that people in opposition assert, that prices will rise. This is called, the "Rounding Up" effect. For example to understand, a loaf of bread which from one bakery of Germany was sold for three marks, will be exchanged to 1.53388 euros following the exchange rate. However, the bakery will sell bread for 1.60 euros because it is easier to measure.

Putting together the dissenting opinion, it can be considered as two branches of social expense and inflation.

Objection to reverse opinions

However, the social expense is a temporary thing and will be able to be solved in a short-term period. In the case of European Union (EU) countries, there was no inflation



ary reform

caused after redenomination. EU countries have used the euro since January, 2002, when existing currencies of the 12 countries expired. According to EUROSAT, Statistical Office of the EU, the effect of the conversion to the euro caused on inflation of the first half of 2002 was about 0 to 0.16 percent. It did not exceed around 0.2 percent.

Italy, which used the lira, exchanged 1936.27 lira to one euro. Germany, changed 1.95583 marks with one euro. In spite of this kind of monetary reform, which includes also redenomination, the inflation rate of the EU in 2002 was 2.3 percent the same as the previous 2001 price level. The next year it fell to 2.1 percent. Namely, generally there wasn't even a slight effect on price levels.

Bright side of redenomination

First of all, the strong point of the redenomination is that transactions and the record of the account book processing come to be more convenient. Secondly the public image of one's national currency could be advanced. Generally, it is said that high nominal exchange rates creates an image of relatively low-end currency value. Consequently, the exchange rate against the dollar gets lower and the international status of the domestic currency will be higher

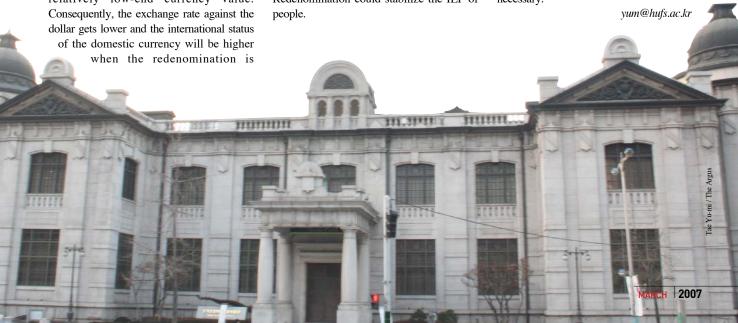
executed. Furthermore, the rehabilitation of dormant funds, which are personal savings hidden in wardrobes and desks etc., are possible because people will exchange this with the new money. Also social expenses will decrease which is wasted with the use of checks, almost 400 billion won per year.

Above all, the most important prospect is the Inflation Expectation Psychology (IEP), the anticipation of the continuous rising of prices during inflation, of citizens will be stabilized. In case of IEP spreading out in the society, people forecast inflation and increase their spending as a countermeasure. Also people purchase more tangible properties, such as real estate and accordingly, the enterprises increase investments so that the consuming demand and investment demand increase and both of them stir up inflation. When a country maintains high inflation redenomination can cut off various nominal incomes or the amount of transacted money. Redenomination could stabilize the IEP of



The germany children play at brickwork with a mark at 1923, after First World War.

Inflation is continued and the monetary value is depreciating day after day. Publishing higher denomination banknote as a temporary expedient against inflation will aggravate the monetary depreciation. Finally, the social expense will continuously increase and the vicious cycle could be repeated. It is now the time when redenomination, a basic monetary reform with a broad outlook, is necessary.



Wizard blowing spirit into ours

By Song Dan-ah

Associate Editor of The Argus

ave you ever seen the TV commercial that Choi Ki-young appeared? He said in the advertisement "A fit joint between parts of structure makes it possible for the structure to survive for thousand years." The CF presents master spirit. Choi Ki-young is appointed as a Daemokjang of human cultural assets. "Daemokjang" means a distinguished carpenter who builds the house with wood and takes in charge of designing and supervising the whole construction process. The number of cultural assets decreases day by day. In this circumstance, He restores and reconstructs the damaged or old buildings to the original appearance by using the traditional architecture method.

Reporter: When did you start this work and why did you choose this job?

Choi Ki-young: I became wise very early because of my poor family background. I thought often why I lived poorly. One day, when I saw a executive of a construction company who drived a jeep, I decided to become like him. I went straightly to Sudeoksa in Yesan Chungcheong Nam-Do and met two instructors, Kim Deock-hee

and Kim Jung-hee who taught
Korean architec-ture. I was
just seventeen years old. I
jumped up in the wall of
Sudeoksa many times and
stayed up all night studing
for the carpenter. I worked
harder than others did because
I'd like to understand what
the style of the ancient
palace is.

Choi is talking about the value of Korean cultural structure

R: What do you think about your job? Do you have any difficulties in your iob?

Choi: The past everything was completed in the old-fashioned way and by hand. Hand work made everything difficult including financial problems. Although I did not have enough financial support, I have not even thought to give up this work in any moments. An master must have energy and talent. Deep attachment to art and diligent are needed. And one should be diligent. I might not have been succeeded if I enjoyed private life just like others. I studied harder than others. Endless efforts should be returned back to me.

R: When are you overwhelmed during working and what are most reminded in memory?

Choi: I often received this question from other reporters. My answer is "No." What matters is always what I am doing now. My heart beats when I made constructions successfully. Now, I am putting my heart and soul for restoration of Baekje cultural properties and structures. The restoration project began from 1998 and will be completed in 2010. This project is challenging to be accomplished because there is few data from the Backje period. The restoration can not be perfectly made because I have not lived in the Baekje period. It is impossible that I may fully recognize the architectural style of Baekje and thus, possibly can distort the structure. I have studied the architecture of Baekje through the literature. Also, I am currently working on developing a school for the hand-down process in Namyangju, GyeongGi-Do with great effort on restoration of Baekje's cultural assets and structures.

R: What do you think about the charm of Korean traditional architecture?

Choi: Korean house is magnificent. House provides people with shelters, foods



A constructing frame of training school

and clothing. Soils, trees, stones, and window papers are breathing. These materials are safe and harmless to people and blocks electromagnetic waves. There are no buildings and houses with these natural materials in other cultures. Japanese architecture is similar to Korea's in terms of wood use. However, Japanese uses dadami that is very cold and dry. Korean traditional building prevents catching a cold and keeps our body healthy.

R: What makes you to write a Korean architecture dictionary?

Choi: When I taught students, they asked me several Korean architectural terminologies which evokes strong motivation and serves as a momentum for the dictionary needs. The nature of workmanship in our country was distorted under the Japanese rule for 40 years thoroughly. For a long time, I intended to make on the dictionary, but it was not easy. Finding and using the appropriate words for Korean architecture was needed.

R: Finally, do you have any advice to HUFSan?

Choi: Students in HUFS should continue to learn languages and culture of other countries. I advise that you never forget what we are, where you are from before learning other culture foreign languages.

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Alley behind history

By Kwon Eun-jung

Associate Editor of The Argus

fter opening some ports of Korea on late 1800s under the rule of Japanese imperialism, several Japanese traditional style houses were built in cities. One of the cities that have such houses is Incheon, especially in the areas of SinheungDong and YulmokDong. In the district, there are many ordinary Japanese traditional houses where people still live in. To get to Sinheung Dong, you will need to take off at the Dongincheon subway station and go out to a way of the Shinpo market through the Dongincheon underground shopping center.

The first thing that stands out on the road is several old houses that look different from Korean traditional houses. After Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialism in 1945, it seems that Korean traditional buildings and houses were built enough. However, there are still Japanese style houses

remaining even some houses renovations. Japanese houses made of wood tend to have one or two stories due to the frequent earthquakes in Japan. Some old generations of Koreans are still living in the village that is mixed with Korean, Japanese, and Western styles.

On the way getting out of Sinheung Dong, there is an Incheon commercial girls' high school which was built in 1945. In the garden of the school, there are two masonries and one pagoda. These stoneworks are made for the Incheon shrine which was removed in 1890s. They do not mean just stoneworks. Many Japanese who lived in Incheon made the shrine as a symbol of Japan. There is not a shrine anymore, but some marks

are still there. Although Korea is now independent on Japanese rule,



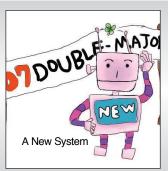
the stoneworks still show the dark side of Korean history.

The opposite side of Sinheung Dong across the road, there is another village called Yulmok Dong. There is a famous park called Liberty park built in the era of opening of port. Several rich Japanese and Koreans used to live near the park. Yulmok Dong has bigger tile-roofed houses more than Sinheung Dong has. The Incheon metropolitan library was built in early 1900s with the Japanese style and the garden in the library has some stoneworks as well. Also, some Japanese-built structures such as the old government office and 18 bank, the bank was registered as the 50th tangible cultural national property, remain in the city.

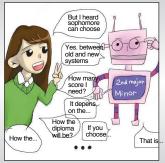
These Japanese structures and stoneworks made under the Japanese rule do not mean only old historical houses but also vestiges of history. It has been very long time since the dark past was gone but it must be still a big pain for some people who lived in that period. Looking at the past and tracing the dark side of Korean history in the village would be very valuable experiences.

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Whereabouts of national heritage

By Cha Hyun-jin *Editor of The Argus*

here is a TV advertisement that people hold a board written "74434" in the nude. It was frequently presented on the television or screen. This campaign directed by a TV show spreads out nationwide. "74434" means the number of historical and cultural properties that is lost and should be returned to the original place in Korea.

The great heritage 74434 project was accompanied with several international campaigns. For example, the project supported getting back books of Oegyujanggak from the Paris National Library in France.

Oegyujanggak that is an attached structure to Gyujanggak, the royal library of the Joseon Dynasty was placed in Ganghwa Island. When France invaded Korea in 1866, French soldiers stole over 270 books in Oegyujanggak. The books have been stored in Paris; moreover, the copies of 63 books did not exist in Korea.

The project works with public interest in cultural properties that have their origins and should be placed in their own place. Especially historical heritages have a value only when it contains their predecessors' spirit and also, will be preservable if it is studied and succeeded to the future generation. Accordingly, the books of Oegyujanggak in the Paris National Library are merely several articles on exhibition from a foreign country which were accidentally obtained by French, rather than a historical treasure.

On February 14, the National Museum of Korea announced vision 2020' as a long term developable plan. The goal of the plan is not to exhibit only Korean heritage but to take the cultural leadership in Asian regions until 2020. The museum will present separate sections for each region in Asia.

However, the National Museum's vision may not follow the idea of 74434 project. The 74434 project tries to locate all cultural properties to their original place, while the National Museum of Korea tries to collect more heritages regardless of their original locations. The logic that Korean Museums hold some heritages from overseas can provide good justifications for foreign museums to keep Korean historical treasures.

It is a contradictory practice because the National Museum puts effort on getting back historical remains from overseas on one side, but at the same time, still gets foreign ones in Korea on the other side.

Historical treasures are valuable measures for the nation's culture, art, and history. Historical assets can have cultural significance only when they are located in their original place. Those are considered as a human common property. The project, "74434" has its aim for cultural exchanges reciprocally. If one nation makes efforts to send back foreign cultural treasures to the inherent countries, then the 74434 project would be a communicational bridge between the original nation and the foreign country.

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A good dog will run until its heart explodes



Prof. Mark Nicholson

pring is here. The road to Wangsan is lined with the gorgeous pink flowers. The trees at Imun have budding pretty white flowers. Fresh-faced freshmen, arrive wearing new clothes, have butterflies in their stomachs. Battle-weary seniors, out of bed early for the first time in months, meander to class. Clubs rally for members. Residents of the dorms mark out their territory. Birds sing. The sky is blue. And everyone looks forward to membership training.

For a New Zealander, where my home's climate can be so mild, I find the diversity of the seasons mind-blowing!

"Korea is a land of four distinct seasons, each beautiful in its own unique way," is a sentence that all Korean high school students learn. I have come across this line in so many conversations with students and their essays. While it might be a cliche, it certainly paints a true picture of the seasons here.

In Korea, spring is a time of rebirth and warmth. This spring, I hope that students do the same. Rebirth; forget your past, it does not determine your future. If you were shy in high school then decide to be bold this year. If your assignments were always late last semester then make a schedule to manage your time better. Drop your hang-ups and become a new and better person. Warmth; be warm and kind to your follow students. Helping other students not only feels good but also it will ensure that the favor will be returned in the future and you'll really appreciate that when you're struggling with your studies. Helping others is a great way to gain new friendships. If you're struggling with your something, ask your peers or teacher.

If you're struggling or not this semester, meet with your professors. Speaking as a professor, I can assure you there are only upsides to getting to know your professors. Moreover, later in the semester, this will help you if you find yourself in a pickle.

How can we make 2007 the best year of our lives? Set your goals now. Break them down into small achievable parts, things that you can start right now. Students should become experts on course requirements and due dates.

An Englishman once said, "Life is a comedy for those who think and a tragedy for those who feel." Your thoughts cause your feelings. Keep your emotions under control. Don't get too upset by challenges or love, it won't help your studies nor your relationships. Meet a lot of people. It is unlikely that campus couples will marry, so don't let your love-life affect your studies. Detach yourself from wasted negative emotions, yours and others.

Most importantly, Enthusiasm. It brings happiness and success. Enthusiasm will give you energy. List reasons why you love what you do; if you love what you're doing, you will be successful. Everyone loves enthusiastic people, it is attractive to everyone. Contrary to popular beliefs, neither sleeping-in nor energy-foods will promote energy. Surround yourself with people who also work and play hard. Get involved on campus, you can join a club or play a sport. It will give you a balanced lifestyle and further expand your network of friends.

There are no secrets to success, only preparation, hard work, and learning from your failures. So, quit your computer game or soap opera addiction and get active. One semester is so short, only a few months. The more you do, the more you can do. Students should hit the ground running. A good dog runs until its heart explodes.

I hope my rant helps to rev students up. Welcome back students. Fighting!

English Department HUFS, Masters Candidate

Who's responsible for smokers' death?



ecently people paid much attention to the first decree on the cigarette lawsuit between victims of cigarettes and the KT &G Corporation selling cigarettes composed of about 4000 toxins. Victims argued that firm which had sold cigarettes without distinct warnings have to take

responsibility for them. According to their argument, they wouldn't have smoked to such an extent so as to cause serious illness and that their lives got so threatened. However, the judiciary stood against them, declaring that it absolutely depends not on the firm's conscience but rather users feeble will.

I guess the judge was quite right enough because these days it seems to be much more toxins in our life than what is in a cigarette. It will be difficult to attribute their poor health condition only to the

confined toxins of cigarettes. In line with the judiciary's judgment, I think that their problem lies more in their lacking self-control. They must have been smoking constantly, with little will, even though they were conscious that a myriad of toxic ingredients are contained in cigarettes.

They are preparing an appeal in tough opposition to the first judgment. Though I am wondering if they could, with such demonstrably little reasoning power, win the appeal. I am almost convinced that the judiciary will turn down their final appeal. Instead, in order to live a little longer, they'd better find well-known hospitals or doctors and better medical treatments as soon as possible. It must be the fastest way for them to get their health back not their money back.

Ahn Soo-min (ELI-04)

Young wayward children



here was a period when people said "Sell the cow and send the children to university." In spite of poverty, our parents sold the cow and wished their children success. In this stage, there were little worries about getting a job after a university graduation and a price of a cow

was enough to pay one year's tuition.

But now, an epoch of ten million won tuition came. These days the price of a 600 kilogram-weighing-cow is less than 6 million won. It has become difficult to educate children at a university by selling a

A student in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, was unable to pay 3.7 million won for tuition fees; with tearful eyes, she tore up her university acceptance certificate and her notice of tuition fee. She is working part-time in a restaurant. And, in accordance with her father's opinion, she is determined to get a job.

The Ministry of Education formulated a "School Expenses Loan" charging about seven percent in interest. Then how much should we repay? For example, in the case of a private university, supposing that a student borrowed about 30 million won over a "four-year program", according to the repayment rules, they have to pay back about 60 million won until they're 40-years-old.

Today's universities produce masses of young-undutiful students who are heavily in debt and out of employment. We hope for the return of the days when students could go to university without concerns about money and employment. It is time for the Korean Government and the universities to make desperate efforts to stop turning youth into undutiful children.

Ahn Jun-sung (EAS-02)



Han Gyu-hyun Cartoonist of The Argus



